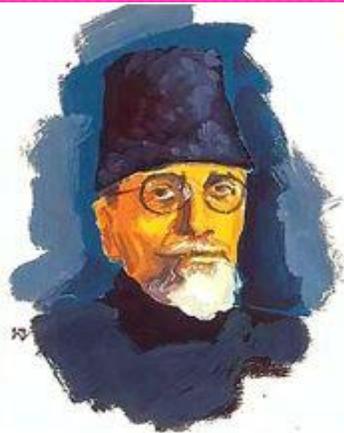


## NOVEMBER CURRENT AFFAIRS – 2018

### ENGLISH VERSION



**National Education Day**  
**11th November**



Noted Malayalam writer M Mukundan has been selected for 2018 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literacy prize of the Kerala government. The award, which carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and citation.

S S Deswal, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) for a period up to his superannuation on August 31, 2021. He succeeded R K Pachnanda.

Former Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid has officially been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame for his stupendous achievements in international cricket.

Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha, has recently launched ‘Soura Jalanidhi’ scheme which aims at increasing use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigation. ‘Soura Jalanidhi’ is a dug well based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode.

India has been ranked 77th in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index 2018. With this, India has jumped 23 places from 2017 in which it was ranked at 100th. World Bank stated that India improved its rank on six out of the 10 parameters relating to starting and doing business in a country.

19-times world champion Pankaj Advani has won the second leg of Asian Snooker Tour title by delivering a power-packed performance to outclass China’s Ju Reti 6-1 in the final at Jinan, China. With this, Advani has become the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.

The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world’s first sovereign blue bond – a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. The bond developed with the assistance of the World Bank & was placed to 3 investors: Calvert Impact Capital, Nuveen and Prudential.

Justice Debasish Kar Gupta has recently been sworn-in as the new chief justice of the Calcutta High Court. It is the oldest High Court in India and has jurisdiction over the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Satyajit Ray’s epic masterpiece ‘Pather Panchali’ has been included in BBC’s 100 best foreign language films list of the 21st century.

On October 31, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the ‘Statue of Unity’ in Narmada district of Gujarat on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Sardar Patel – who served as the first Home Minister of independent India – is credited with uniting all 562 princely states in pre-independent India to build the Republic of India. That is why it is called the ‘Statue of Unity’. It is the world’s tallest statue, with a height of 182m.

The Maharashtra Cabinet has recently approved the conversion of decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Viraat into a floating museum. It will be India's first-ever moored maritime museum-cum-marine adventure centre.

India has officially signed a \$950 million contract with Russia for the purchase of two upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates for the Indian Navy.

The first-ever Indo-Japan joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian- 2018" has started at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation. The focus of the two-week-long exercise will be to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase inter-operability between the two forces.

First time in Middle East, Qatar will host the 23rd edition of the World Corporate Games in Doha in 2019, which will provide an opportunity for corporations around the world to showcase their competitive prowess through sports.

On November 1, the Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to rename the Jharsuguda airport of Odisha after eminent freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai.

The five states of India – Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh – have recently celebrated their foundation day on November 1.

Simone Biles, an American artistic gymnast, has become the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals with victory in the individual vault competition in Doha, Qatar on Nov 2.

India and Japan has recently a Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1817 crore for the 'Project for the Construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I)' in the State of West Bengal.

Recently, the first-ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property was launched in New Delhi to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.

Mary Kom, a five-time World Champion, has been named the Brand Ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championships.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the India International Cherry Blossom (IICB) festival in Shillong, which is is scheduled to be held from November 14 and 17.

Under the provisions of Article 124 of the Constitution, the President has recently appointed four new judges — Justices Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi – of Supreme Court. Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi administered the oath of office to the four judges.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.

On November 4, the National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda was started at Dr. Ambedkar International centre in New Delhi.

On November 1, the Ministry of Railways has officially rolled out All-India Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility (UTS on Mobile) with a view to promote three C's- Cashless transactions (Digital payment), Contact less ticketing (no need to physically visit the point of sale) and Customer convenience and experience.

V. Rathinam (99), the veteran freedom fighter and member of Indian National Army (INA) led by Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose, has passed away in South Kodikulam, Tamil Nadu on November 4, 2018.

The first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health was held at World Health Organisation (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva on October 30, 2018. The theme of the conference was: "Improving Air Quality, Combating Climate Change- Saving Lives".

India's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge "Signature Bridge" has recently inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal across the Yamuna River.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has awarded the Assam Police for "good practices" under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), an e-governance project.

N. Ram, the veteran journalist and The Hindu publishing group chairman, has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award 2018 for his outstanding contribution towards journalism.

HSBC Holdings Plc has executed India's first trade financial transaction using blockchain for a deal involving an export by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to US-based Tricon Energy.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has recently approved the operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens to ensure availability of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) throughout the country round the year without price volatility. Operation Greens was announced in the Budget speech of 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs. 500 crore to stabilize the supply of TOP crops.

Gaddam Dharmendra (1990: IFS) has been appointed India's new Ambassador to Iran. He will succeed Saurabh Kumar, who was appointed India's ambassador to Myanmar.

In Tennis, Karen Khachanov has lifted the 2018 Men's Singles title at the Rolex Paris Masters with a stunning win over World No. 2 Novak Djokovic.

The book, titled 'The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India', is co-authored by sports journalists Karunya Keshav and Sidhanta Pathak.

The 2018 National Ayurveda Day is celebrated on November 5 with the theme "Ayurveda for Public Health" to create awareness on people's health. The days focus on strengths of Ayurveda and its unique treatment principles.

On November 6, Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has renamed the newly-constructed Ekana International Cricket Stadium after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The stadium will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.

In Boston, veteran actor Anupam Kher has recently been honoured with 'Distinguished Fellow Award' by India Global. He was given a fellowship at the 3rd India Global Summit 2018.

The Supreme Court of India has recently given nod for a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh and it will start functioning from 1st January 2019. It will be the 25th high court in the country and will initially function from a temporary structure till the permanent building comes up in the ambitious Justice City complex in the State's capital Amaravati.

In Bhubaneswar, the Odisha government has recently rolled out the technology-driven and citizen-friendly 'Mo bus' service featuring free Wi-Fi, CCTV surveillance, public information display system and on board announcements in the city.

The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalized farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another four-year term from 2019 to 2022.

On November 5, the United States imposed the toughest ever sanctions on Iran aimed at altering the Iranian regime's "behaviour". The sanctions cover Iran's banking and energy sectors and reinstate penalties for countries and companies in Europe, Asia and elsewhere that do not halt Iranian oil imports.

In the 8th Asian Shotgun Championship 2018 in Kuwait, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa has won the men's skeet gold with a perfect score of 60 — a World record — in the final on November 7.

The Union Cabinet has recently approved Amendment to the Central Universities Act – 2009 for setting up of a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh. The 'Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh' will be set up in Relli village of Vizianagaram district as provided under the 13th schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

The 5th edition of World Buddhist Forum (WBF -2018) was recently held in Putian, the southeast Fujian Province of China. Over 1,000 Buddhists, scholars and representatives from 55 countries and regions attended the forum. The WBF-2018 was jointly hosted by the Buddhist Association of China and the China Religious Culture Communication Association.

The 25th edition of bilateral maritime exercise "SIMBEX-18" has started between the Navies of the Republic of Singapore and India from 10th to 21st November 2018 off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. The SIMBEX 2018 will be the largest edition since 1994 in terms of scale and complexity.

In New Delhi, the Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities 2018 is organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during 9-11 November, 2018.

The first-of-its-kind solutions-focused event "Global Cooling Innovation Summit" will be inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on 12th November 2018.

China's state news agency Xinhua has recently launched the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) news anchor at the ongoing 5th World Internet Conference in Wuzhen. It was jointly developed by Xinhua and the Chinese search engine "Sogou".

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently approved strategic disinvestment of 100% Govt. of India's equity in Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. to consortium of four ports – Vishakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Paradeep Port Trust (PPT), Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust (JLNPT) and Kandla Port Trust (KPT).

Ashok Kumar Gupta, a 1981 Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer, has been appointed as new chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI). His tenure as the CCI Chairman will be till October 25, 2022.

Jawahar Lal Sarin, the president of the Alliance Francaise de Delhi's governing body, has been bestowed with France's highest civilian honour "Knight of the

Legion of Honour”. The award was presented to Sarin by Ambassador of France Alexandre Ziegler in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

The IIT Madras has recently developed a portable solar-powered cold storage device with a 500 kg capacity for storing vegetables, and fruits, among other items. The device will help farmers store their produce for sufficient time so that it does not get spoilt before it is sold, thereby preventing wastage of agricultural produce.

World champion Kento Momota from Japan has won the 23rd edition of Fuzhou China Open Badminton tournament 2018 on November 11. He defeated the 4th seed Chou Tien-Chen of Taiwan 21-13, 11-21, 21-16 in 66 minutes.

Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has recently touched a new high in his career by achieving the World number one rank in the 65kg category.

The new artillery guns and equipment, including K9 Vajra, M777 howitzers, have recently inducted into the Indian Army at the Deolali artillery centre in Nashik district of Maharashtra. Beside this, the third gun system inducted is the ‘Composite Gun Towing Vehicle’ for towing some of the existing guns in service with the country.

Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world’s first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has been recently awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university ‘University of Strathclyde’ at a graduation ceremony in Glasgow for her inspirational achievements in mountaineering.

On November 12, the International Conference on Yoga for Public Health has inaugurated at Kala Academy, Panjim. The two-day conference is being organised by the Ministry of Ayush with theme ‘Yoga for Public Health’.

The Delhi government is celebrating the “Jashn-e-Virasat-e-Urdu”, a festival to promote & preserve the Urdu culture and its heritage, at Central Park, Connaught Place. The aim of the 6-day festival is to keep the language alive and ensure its growth through larger participation.

In New Delhi, the 2nd edition of INSPIRE 2018 (International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency) has been inaugurated by R K Singh, the Union Power Minister. During INSPIRE 2018, EESL and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed pact for a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of \$13 million to establish an Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF) to support investments in new, innovative and scalable business models in India.

The 33rd edition of ASEAN summit 2018 has started in the city-state of Singapore on November 11 with theme ‘Resilient and innovative ASEAN’. The main event is being held at Suntec Singapore Convention Centre, wherein the ten ASEAN members will be discussing key issues on economic, security and cultural cooperation.

Ananth Kumar (59), the senior BJP leader, has recently passed away in Bengaluru on November 12th, 2018. He was in charge of two key ministries – serving as Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers since May 2014 and as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs since July 2016 in the Narendra Modi government until his death.

The Republic of Palau, an archipelago found in the western Pacific Ocean, has become the world’s first nation to ban the use of sunscreens that have been deemed harmful to coral reefs and ocean life. The ban, which will come into force by 2020, has been signed into law by the Palau govt.

“I am a Troll: Inside the Secret world of the Bharatiya Janata Party’s Digital Army” book author Swati Chaturvedi, an Indian freelance journalist, has won the 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage for her work.

The US-based National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) has recently published the report titled ‘Mobility and Congestion in Urban India’. In it, Bengaluru has been ranked India’s most congested city followed by Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Pune.

The book titled “Notes of a Dream the Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman” has been authored by Krishna Trilok.

Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, launched the Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) for higher education faculty in New Delhi on November 13.

The restoration of an aristocratic house from a state of partial ruin in Ladakh undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir’s LAMO (Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation) center has won the 2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation in the category of Award of Distinction.

The first-ever bilateral naval exercise ‘Samudra Shakti 2018’ has started between Indian & Indonesian Navy at the port of Surabaya in Indonesia from November 12 to 18. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.

Stan Lee (95), the legendary comic book writer and former chief of Marvel Comics, has passed away in Los Angeles, United States. Lee created the

Fantastic Four for Marvel Comics in 1961 and went on to create titles like Spider-Man and The Incredible Hulk.

Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta from Bengal has become the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe – the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea. He reached the summit of the mountain which is at an elevation of 4,367m on Nov 11.

On Nov 12, The 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting was held in Singapore as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summit Meetings.

Young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah has been honoured with the prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon' The annual award, which carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000.

On November 12, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) signed MoU with the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) to explore the possibility of storing ADNOC crude oil at Padur Underground Facility in Udupi district of Karnataka, which has a 2.5 million tonne (~17 million barrels) capacity.

The 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) has started at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi with theme – Rural Enterprises in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first multi-modal terminal on the Ganga River in his parliamentary constituency in Varanasi and received the country's first container cargo transported on inland waterways from Kolkata. This is the first of the four multi-modal terminals being constructed on the National Waterway-1 (River Ganga) as part of the World Bank-aided 'Jal Marg Vikas Project' of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.

The conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018 has started in New Delhi with focus on 'Asia Pacific region'. The 2-day conference will feature sessions on music, film, broadcasting and publishing, as well as collective management, emerging models and the implications for the market and policy makers.

The regional meeting of the World Customs Organisation has started in Jaipur, Rajasthan with representatives of 33 member countries of Asia attending it. The meeting is slated to deliberate upon various issues including the steps required for the capacity building and reforms in customs.

The 9th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 is scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar from 18th to 20th January with theme 'Shaping of a New India'.

Recently, Justice Sanjay Kumar Seth has been sworn in as the 24th Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Raj Bhavan. State Governor Anandi Ben Patel administered the oath of office to Justice Seth in a ceremony. He is slated to retire in June 2019.

India and United Kingdom (UK) have recently signed a pact on India-UK Cancer Research Initiative for affordable approaches to Cancer.

Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi. Dr. Farrell is being recognized for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women’s empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.

ISRO’s GSAT-29 telecommunications satellite was successfully launched into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) by the second developmental flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV MkIII-D2) from the the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has appointed Siddharth Tiwari as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Delhi Police has recently launched e-learning portal ‘Nipun’ to impart in-service training and provide up to date information to police officers. The purpose of the e-learning portal is to impart online training and information through specialized courses designed by experts.

The United Nations Children’s Fund — India has appointed Asian Games gold-medalist sprinter Hima Das as the country’s first ever youth ambassador as part of 2018 World Children’s Day celebration.

South African president Cyril Ramaphosa will be chief guest at the 2019 Republic Day parade of India. With this, Ramaphosa would become 2nd leader from his country to attend the event. Former president Nelson Mandela was the chief guest at the 1995 parade.

India is hosting the 2018 Women’s Boxing World Championships in New Delhi from November 15-24. This 10th edition of the tournament is set to be the biggest ever as more than 300 boxers from 72 countries will be taking part.

The 13th East Asia Summit (EAS -2018) was held in Central Area, Singapore on November 14–15. It was an annual meeting of national leaders from the East Asian region and adjoining countries.

The South Asian Regional Conference on “Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public & Private Partnerships and Municipal Finance

Innovations” was held at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi from November 15-16, 2018.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a statutory Corporation set up to promote and provide financial assistance to cooperatives. Its headquarters is located at New Delhi. Recently, NCDC’s new youth-friendly scheme ‘Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme’ has been launched to attract youth to cooperative business ventures.

Prof. Thirukodikaval Nilakanta Srinivasan (85), a distinguished Indian economist and a scholar, has passed away in Chennai on November 11, 2018. He was known for being one of the key advocates of the 1991 economic reforms.

In a bid to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region, NITI Aayog has recently constituted the Himalayan State Regional Council (HSRC). The council, which will be chaired by Dr. V K Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog, and will consist of the Chief Secretaries of the Himalayan States as well as the Secretaries of key Central Ministries.

On November 14, the 4th edition of Intex South Asia was inaugurated in Colombo by Mr. Taranjit Sandhu. It is the largest international textile sourcing show in South Asia.

The book titled ‘A Great Association-Glimpses into the Life of Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha’ has been authored by Swami Nirviseshananda Tirtha. It was recently released by Prasar Bharati’s CEO Shashi Shekar Vempati and Sreedharan. A book written on the life of Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha, the renowned saint of Narayanashrama Tapovanam of Kerala, is an outcome of the fundamental principle of ‘guru-shishyaparampara’ and the spiritual ‘saadhana’ of the author.

Kerala Chief Minister PinarayiVijayan has recently launched the ‘GauSamridhi Plus scheme’ to offer insurance coverage to dairy farmers in Kerala. The government subsidized scheme will give insurance coverage to dairy farmers at low premium rates. The farmers belonging to the general category will receive 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.

IndusInd Bank has recently launched the India’s first interactive credit card with buttons called the IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card.

India's first specialized hospital for elephants has opened by NGO Wildlife SOS (WSOS) in Mathura at Farah block's Churmura village.

The Oxford Dictionaries has been chosen "toxic" as its 'Word of the Year 2018'. Traditionally, the word "toxic" has been used to describe harmful chemical substances e.g. toxic waste and toxic gas. The dictionary defines "toxic" as "poisonous" with its roots derived from the Medieval Latin term "toxicus," meaning poisoned or imbued with poison.

Alyque Padamsee (90), the veteran ad film maker and theatre personality, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on November 17. He was widely called the Brand Father of Indian advertising.

The Government of India has set up a tribunal for adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the two Tripura-based militant outfits – National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) – as unlawful associations under the law. The decision has been taken by the Home Ministry exercising the powers conferred under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

In New Delhi, the Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$300 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) that provides long-term finance to infrastructure projects.

In Himachal Pradesh, the 26th edition of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) Conference was held at Dharamshala with theme "Quality Assurance in Official Statistics" on 15th and 16th November 2018.

William Goldman (87), the Oscar-winning screenwriter and novelist, has passed away in New York on November 16, 2018.

On November 19, the 8th National Conference of Women in Police has started in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The two-day conference is being organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development in collaboration with Jharkhand Police.

The Maharashtra government has recently cleared reservation to the Maratha community under a new category called 'Socially and Educationally Backward Class' (SEBC) in educational institutes & jobs. Hence, the Marathas will get reservation from an independent quota and this will not affect the reservations given to the Other Backward Class (OBC).

On 18th of November 2018, the Ministry of Ayush celebrated its first Naturopathy Day across the country with the aim of promoting the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.

The Government of India has appointed UIDAI CEO & GSTN Chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey as new Secretary of Revenue in place of Hasmukh Adhia, who is set to superannuate on November 30. Pandey will continue to hold additional charge of CEO of UIDAI and also Chairman of GSTN.

Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati, Director of Blue Bells Group of Schools, has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018 during the 2nd India-UAE Partnership Summit-2018 at The Atlantis, Dubai.

'The Third Wife', directed by Vietnamese director Ash Mayfair, movies has won the Best Film award at the 24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF-2018). Mayfair and her compatriot producer Tran Thi Bich Ngoc collected the 'Royal Bengal Tiger' trophy and Rs 51 lakh cheque.

After Maharashtra and Gujarat, Punjab has become the India's third state to legally ban hookah bars or lounges. The ban was announced through a law after President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018 recently.

The 10th edition of joint military exercise between Indian and Russia "INDRA 2018" on combating insurgency has started at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Babina Military Station, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) from 18th November 2018.

In Haryana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently laid foundation of India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University at village Dudhola in Palwal district via remote control. Its' campus would be developed over 82.7 acres at a sum of over Rs 1,000 crore.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the New Delhi (India)-based independent research and advocacy think tank, has won the prestigious 2018 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development. The CSE has been awarded for its pioneering pioneering work over almost four decades on various burning issues from air and water pollution, food safety, waste water management, climate change and so on.

The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out its Online Open Learning training platform 'KOOL'. The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.

Jalaj Srivastava, a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed the new chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Prior to this post, he was working as Additional Secretary in Ministry of Agriculture.

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan has been honoured with the 2018 Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of Indian Classical Music at the Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan (2001), and is among the tallest Indian classical musicians.

Dr. Thanjavur Santhana Krishna Kanaka (86), who was Asia's first & world's third female neurosurgeon, has passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on November 14, 2018. She served in the Indian Army as a commissioned officer during the 1962-1963 Sino-Indian War.

Brigadier (retd.) Kuldip Singh Chandpuri (78), who was known for his heroic leadership in the famous Battle of Longewala during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, has passed away in Mohali, Punjab on November 17, 2018. He was decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) for the heroic stand-off that forced the enemy to retreat.

In Uttar Pradesh, Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan (or Women Empowerment campaign) has been launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on November 20, 2018. The month-long campaign is aimed to empower women in the state through various programmes.

Tripura will host the 7th edition of International Tourism Mart (ITM-2018) in Agartala from 22nd November to popularise tourist destinations in the northeastern states of the country. The event would be organised with an estimated budget of Rs 2.60 crores, which would be provided by the Ministry of Tourism.

Lakshya Sen from India has recently won bronze in men's singles at the Li Ning World Junior Badminton Championship 2018, after suffering a narrow defeat to top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the men's singles semifinals at Markham in Canada. This was India's fifth boys singles bronze medal at the BWF World Junior Championships.

The researchers at IIT Kharagpur have devised a Decision Support System (DSS) to help maximize the number of LPG connections in Below Poverty Level (BPL) households in the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)'. A DSS is a computer programme that helps in making sound rational decisions using mathematical programming and operation research techniques.

The 14th edition of International theatre festival for children "Jashne Bachpan 2018" has started

in New Delhi from November 17. It is being organised by National School of Drama's (NSD) Theatre in Education (TIE) Company, which is also known as Sanskar Rang Toli. The 9-day theatre festival for children will see 21 productions from India and three foreign groups including Sri Lanka (nonverbal), Switzerland (English) and Indonesia (Javanese).

The Sulabh International has launched India's first sewer cleaning machine to put an end to the unsafe manual scavenging and to reduce sewer deaths. The machine will do away with 99% of manual scavenging in the country. With the help of sewer cleaning machine, a manual cleaner won't have to enter the sewers.

Kim Jong Yang, a South Korean police officer, has been elected the new President of Interpol for a two-year term. He succeeded Meng Hongwei of China. The decision was taken at the 87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai, UAE.

The Union Ministry of Environment has recently approved a project led by scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to induce artificial rain via cloud seeding to clear smog in Delhi. The Cloud seeding project will have an aircraft fly into the clouds and inject silver iodide, which will lead to the formation of ice crystals that will make the clouds denser, cause them to condense into rain and settle atmospheric dust enough to clear the sky.

The Indo-Japan Business Council (IJBC) hosted the first of its kind business festival "Konnichiwa Pune" in Pune, Maharashtra on 17th November, 2018. The aim of the 2-day fest was to promote exchange of trade, culture and educational ties between India and Japan in a friendly festive manner.

In China, the world's first underground hotel "the InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland" has opened in Shanghai, which is buried almost 90 meters deep in an old quarry. The 18-storey luxury hotel encloses 336 rooms and suites.

The 27th BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi, India, on 19-20 November 2018. The meeting was chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India. The BASIC Ministers urged the advanced countries to enhance their support to the developing nations in effectively implementing the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.

Professor Shyama Prasad Ganguly from India has been awarded the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico. He was decorated with the striking gold-yellow insignia by Mexican Ambassador Melba Pria at a ceremony in the India International Center (IIC) on November 19.

On 20th of Nov, the Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) clinched the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2018. In the final, BKSP defeated Amini School of Afghanistan by a solitary goal at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi. A total of 95 teams participated in the tournament, including 8 teams from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The researchers at IIT-Hyderabad have developed a smart phone-based system to detect adulteration in milk. The detector system can measure the level of acidity in milk using an indicator paper. The sensor-chip based method measures pH, which is an indicator of the acidity and the colour of the paper indicates different pH levels.

India's first National Institute of Inter-Faith Studies will be set up by the Government of India in Punjab to promote brotherhood and diversity as part of the year-long activities to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, for which the state Government will provide land free of cost.

Veteran cricketer Wasim Jaffer has become the highest run-scorer in the history of Ranji Trophy after scoring 11,056 runs in the competition. He surpassed Amol Muzumdar. Jaffer, who plays for Vidarbha, achieved the feat in the third round of the 2018–19 Ranji Trophy against Baroda by scoring 153 off 284 balls at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur on November 21. He played 31 Tests and two ODIs for India. He last played for India in April 2008.

The Andhra Pradesh government has recently launched web portal 'Bhuseva and Bhudaar' which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers just like Aadhar number.

India has slipped two positions to rank 53rd among 63 nations at the 5th edition of the IMD World Talent Ranking 2018, which is recently released by IMD Business School, Switzerland. The rankings are based on three factors: Investment and Development, Appeal, and Readiness.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India and its enforcement officer RS Sharath has won the Asia Environment Enforcement Awards under the organization and individual categories respectively for their outstanding contributions in combating the trans-boundary environmental crimes.

Fahmida Riaz (73), the noted India-born Pakistani poet and human rights activist, has passed away in Lahore on Nov 22. She always raised her voice for women rights and democracy in Pakistan.

Golfer Shubhankar Sharma from Chandigarh has become the first Indian to win European Tour 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year' award. He achieved the feat at 2018 World Tour Championship event in Dubai. No Indian has won the Rookie of the Year award in European Tour.

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank has been brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) act of 2009, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) guidelines and the State Legislature. The State Administrative Council (SAC) under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik approved the proposal for treating the J&K Bank Limited as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).

To mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November 2019, the Union Cabinet has recently approved the building and development of the Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab to the international border with Pakistan.

Emmy-nominated British actress Millie Bobby Brown (14) has been named the youngest-ever UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. The appointment was marked on 2018 World Children's Day (WCD) at United Nations Headquarters and the Empire State Building in New York on 20th November.

Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the northeastern region by UNICEF India to fight for child rights. The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as agents of change in society.

Ustad Imrat Khan, the noted Indian classical musician, has passed away in US. In 2017, was awarded with the award Padma Shri.

Actor Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured with the third Sayaji Ratna Award 2018 at Vadodara for his social contribution to pay off the loans of several farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. He had helped 1,398

farmers from Uttar Pradesh and 350 from Maharashtra through his contribution.

IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) has recently signed pact with Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to promote the startup enterprises in East and Northeast India. The pact will bring incubator and industry together in a more formal way.

The India Skills Report 2017 on employment scenario presents a quantitative and qualitative analysis of demand and supply in the labour market. The report takes stock of the talent landscape by analysing the employability of youth and the needs and expectations of employers.

Filmmaker Nandita Das will be honoured with the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award 2018 at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Brisbane on the 29th of November.

Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 49th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2018 in Panaji, Goa on November 20. This year, Israel is the Country of Focus while the State in Focus is Jharkhand. This is for the first time that any state has been made focus state at the festival.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain. The technology, called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach', which shows pre-event scenario, can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.

Recently, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup-2018 anthem in the presence of music director A R Rahman here who has composed the music for it. The lyrics for the Hockey World Cup anthem 'Jai Hind, Jai India' have been penned by well-known lyricist Gulzar. The 14th edition of the tournament will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from 28 November to 16 December, 2018.

The 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine 2018 has started in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal on November 21. The theme of 4 day congress is "Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas". The biennial event mainly focuses on science and research aspects of high altitude medicine. It will also include practical workshops related to trekking, expedition medicine and clinical education.

Ace Indian pugilist MC Mary Kom from Manipur has won the historic sixth gold medal at the 2018 Women's World Boxing Championship in New Delhi. In the

final, she defeated Hanna Okhota of Ukraine Hanna Okhota in the 48kg category at KD Jadav Indoor Stadium.

As per 6th edition of India Skills Report 2019, Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana. The report stated that around 70% of the youth face problem due to lack of professional guidance in finding desirable jobs that worth their skills.

India will host the 50th edition of Union World Conference on Lung Health 2019 in Hyderabad from October 30 to November 2. The conference theme 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' resonates with TB, but it will also raises awareness on all threats to lung health, including air pollution and tobacco abuse.

Sandeep Michael (33), the former international hockey player, has passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 23 November 2018. Michael captained the National Junior team to Gold in the Asia Cup before being inducted into the senior team. He was employed with Air India.

The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held at St. Petersburg in Russia on November 25, 2018. The Indian side is being led by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, with the Russian delegation headed by Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin.

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has nominated 12 movies for 2018 International Council for Film, Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal. Of these 12 films, two Indian movies competing for the honour are Tamil film 'Baaram' and Ladakhi movie 'Walking with the Wind'.

The Odisha government has come out with lexicons of 21 rare tribal languages to preserve vanishing native languages in State with largest tribal diversity. The bilingual tribal dictionaries will be used in Multilingual Education (MLE) initiated by the State government at the elementary level in tribal-dominated districts.

Bhavani Devi from India has won the gold in the Sabre event in the Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2018 held in Canberra, Australia. She defeated England's Emily Ruaux 15-12 in the final. With this feat, Bhavani became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Championship. Earlier, Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the Tournoi Satellite Fencing Championship in Iceland.

The Australian women's national cricket team has lifted the ICC Women's World Twenty-20 title for the fourth time. In the title clash played at Antigua in West Indies, the Aussies recorded an emphatic 8-wicket win over England.

Alyssa Jean Healy of Australia was the leading run-scorer in the competition, with 225 runs, and was named the player of the tournament.

The World-class autism township will come up near Kolkata, where children and adults suffering from the developmental disorder can receive training, treatment and boarding facilities. It's a one of-its-kind initiative in India and will be built as a joint effort by private firm 'Ratnabali Group' & the West Bengal government. The estimated cost for building the township is Rs. 500 crore.

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and Sashastra Sima Bal (SSB) have joined hands to provide full proof security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife. As per agreement, all security agencies including SSB on the border and the Dudhwa field staff will strengthen the patrolling in and around Dudhwa to check forest and wildlife crimes.

Sameer Verma has clinched the 2018 Syed Modi International Badminton Championships. In the men's singles final, he defeated China's Guangzu Lu by 16-21, 21-19, 21-14 against China's Guangzu Lu to retain the title.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) has termed 'Titli', the severe cyclonic storm that devastated Odisha in October 2018, as 'rarest cyclone'. In its latest report, RIMES stated that more than 200 years of cyclone track history in the Odisha coast reveals that the Titli cyclone is the rarest of rare due to the recurvature after its landfall.

Russia's state space corporation 'Roscosmos' has decided to venture into the Internet of things (IoT) with the launch of a new satellite system named 'Marathon'.

Harmanpreet Kaur has been named captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty 20 XI, which also featured opener Smriti Mandhana and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav. A selection panel of ICC in Dubai picked up the team on the basis of the players performances in the 2018 ICC Women's World Twenty-20 tournament, which concluded recently with Australia winning the title.

Renowned scientist Nageshwara Rao Guntur appointed as Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for the period of 3 years. Guntur is the chairman at Project Design Safety Committee, Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor and former distinguished scientist Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL).

Delhi-based artist Anupam Roy has won the FICA Emerging Artist Award 2018, which is granted by Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA) for his large-scale drawings and paintings speak about systemic violence and

injustice. As part of the award, he would receive a 90-day residency in Switzerland in 2019, supported by Pro Helvetia, which would help develop his practice and in forging further artistic collaborations.

On 26th November, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a centralized electronic Platform 'PaiSA' for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal AntyodayaYojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

The Croatia Davis Cup team has won the 107th edition of the Davis Cup tennis tournament 2018. In the final at Lille's Stade Pierre Mauroy, Marin Cilic clinched the title by defeating France's Lucas Pouille 7-6(3) 6-3 6-3 to give his side a decisive 3-1 lead. This is Croatia's second title. Their maiden victory happened in 2005 when they overcame Slovakia.

The Government of India has recently signed \$200 Million Loan pact with Asian Development Bank (ADB) in New Delhi for the Bihar State Highways III Project (BSHP-III). The pact was signed to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.

The United Nations has officially selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative. The twin-cities in Gautam Buddha Nagar district have been selected in the "University City" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as the only invitee from India. Overall 25 cities across the world have been selected in five categories.

The West Bengal Assembly has recently passed the West Bengal Green University (Amendment) Bill 2018 to rename the West Bengal Green University as Rani Rashmoni Green University. The Decision to rename the university was taken to commemorate the 225th birth anniversary of Lokmata Rani Rashmoni.

Varsha Varman from Madhya Pradesh has won the women's trap gold at the 62nd National Shotgun championship 2018 in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She shot 38 in the final to get the better of Junior World Cup finalist Soumya Gupta of Delhi, who ended with 37 hits for the silver medal.

Prof. Punyasloke Bhaduri was awarded the prestigious Swarnajayanti Fellowship by the central government for 2017-18 in the discipline of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Under this scheme, scientists are provided with generous support to pursue research in the frontier areas of science and technology. It is awarded for a period of 5 years.

The Kerch Strait is a strait that connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Its' also a narrow sea passage that divides Crimea from mainland Russia. The strait is spanned by the recently completed 11.8 mile Kerch Bridge, connecting Crimea to Russia. Recently, it is in news because Russia's coast guard opened fire on & seized three Ukrainian ships after a tense standoff in the Black Sea near the Crimean Peninsula.

Playback singer Mohammed Aziz (64) has passed away in Mumbai on Nov.27. Aziz, who has sung in Bollywood, Bengali and Odia film industries.

The International Gita Festival 2018 will be held at Kurukshetra in Haryana from December 7-23 to commemorate the birth of 'Srimad Bhagwat Gita', the sacred scripture containing invaluable advice of Lord Krishna that he proffered to Arjuna, in the battlefield of Kurukshetra on the first day of the famous 18-day battle in the Mahabharata.

Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde will be conferred the 2018 prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement (LTA) Award for Classical Music. The annual LTA award, Instituted by Maharashtra Government, honours maestros in classical music and singing. It carries a cash award of Rs 500,000, a memento and a citation.

The Karnataka government has launched an initiative 'DataCity' in partnership with France-based utility company Suez and a start-up accelerator Numa to foster innovation and solve global challenges.

In Kenya, the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference 2018 was held in Nairobi from November 26 to 28 with theme 'The Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The global conference was organized by Kenya, with Canada and Japan as co-hosts.

IIT Kharagpur has recently signed an MoU with Auckland University to foster academic exchange and research collaboration, faculty exchange and student mobility. The institutes will typically explore opportunities for research in healthcare technologies, new materials, cyber security and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The Ministry for Human Resource Development has launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to all 22 Indian languages of Schedule VIII of the Constitution. The initiative, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, was launched on 22nd of November and will continue till the 21st of December.

On 27th of November, Tamil Nadu has been adjudged the Best State in Organ Donation at the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Organ Donation Day in New Delhi by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. It's fourth time in a row, the state has received the best-performing state award for organ donation.

As per Article 316 of the Constitution, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Arvind Saxena as new Chairman of Union Public Service Commission, UPSC. The term of his appointment will be till 7th of August, 2020 when he attains 65 years. In 2015, he joined UPSC as a member. Prior to joining UPSC as Member, Saxena was working as Director of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC).

Ukrainian film 'Donbass', directed by Sergei Loznitsa, has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2018) in Goa on November 28. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs, a trophy and a citation.

Lijo Jose Pellissery has been conferred the Best Director Award for his 2018 film 'Ee.Ma.Yau'. The film is a stunning satire on death and how it affects human lives. The Best Director gets the Silver Peacock Award and a cash prize of Rs 1.5 million (Rs 15 lakhs).

'Walking with the Wind', directed by Praveen Morchhale, has won the 2018 ICFT –UNESCO Gandhi Medal. The award is instituted by the International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (ICFT), Paris and UNESCO.

Himachal Pradesh has become the first Indian state to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112' where all kinds of immediate help can be sought in urgent matters. Under this project, an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in Shimla along with 12 District Command Centres (DCCs), covering the entire state.

The 13th edition of G20 summit 2018 will be held at Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina on November 30 under the theme 'Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development'. The annual meeting is being attended by leaders of the top 20 economies of the world and will cover the entire gamut of economic issues, including the agricultural sector reform, the challenges climate change poses and health-care issues faced by the world.

On November 29, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its earth observation satellite 'Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) into orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Beside HysIS, The rocket 'PSLV-C43' successfully injected 30 small satellites of 8 nations into their designated orbits.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

World Cities Day - October 31

2018 theme: 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'

World Vegan Day - November 1

World Tsunami Awareness Day - November 5

National Cancer Awareness Day - November 7

National Legal Services Day - November 9

"Legal Services Authority Act 1987" came into force on 9.11.1995.

World Science Day for Peace and Development – November 10.

2018 theme: "Science, a Human Right"

National Education Day - November 11

World Pneumonia Day - November 12

2018 theme: 'Stop Pneumonia: Invest in Child Health'.

World Diabetes Day - November 14

2018 – 2019 theme: "The Family and Diabetes – diabetes concerns every family".

National Press Day - November 16

United Nations International Day for Tolerance - November 16

World Toilet Day – November 19

2018 theme: "When Nature Calls"

Africa Industrialization Day - November 20

2018 theme: "Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production".

Universal Children’s Day – November 20 (The day was established in the year 1954)

World Fisheries Day - November 21

World COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Day – November 21

2018 theme: ‘Never too early, never too late’

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - November 25

2018 UN theme: “Orange the World: #HearMeToo”

National Law Day - November 26

The day is also known as Constitution Day

National Milk Day - November 26

To mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of India’s White Revolution.

Indian Organ Donation Day – November 27

2018 theme: ‘Children are taking over and turning the world blue’.