

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 20, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Government – forms a 10 member Sub-committee led by ‘Secretary, Public works department’ – to maintain high level of preparedness in case of any disaster involving Mullaperiyar dam**
- ✓ It is the fourth committee set up for the dam’s safety
- ✓ The Theni collector (in whose jurisdiction the dam falls) is the vice-chairman of the committee, while others are heads of revenue, water resources, police, forest, health services and fire and rescue services in the respective district
- ✓ Executive engineer of water resources department, Periyar dam special division, Cumbum, is the convener
- ✓ The committee will be headquartered in Theni
- ✓ The Supreme Court committee led by Justice A S Anand had earlier certified that the dam was safe in all parameters in May 2014

STATES

- **Kerala – becomes the 1st Smoke-free State in the entire country**
- ✓ The state has 100% penetration of LPG in its households
- ✓ With 3 bottling plants at Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kollam, LPG is being brought to 49.79 lakh customers through 308 distributors.

- **Assam – celebrates ‘Kati Bihu’ festival**
- ✓ It is also called ‘Kongali Bihu’ or ‘Bihu’ festival
- ✓ On the occasion of Kati Bihu, women try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by lighting earthen lamps
- ✓ The festival derives its name from the Assamese month of Kati
- ✓ This is the 3rd Bihu festival after ‘Rongali’ and ‘Bohagi Bihu’



- ✓ The festival is held at this time of the year when the granaries of the farmers are usually empty and therefore it is known as Kongali (poor) Bihu
- ✓ As part of the festival, farmers also tie a special kind of lamp, Akash Bati, to poles and the poles are placed in the paddy fields
- **One of Asia's longest river bridge between Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya - to be built across Brahmaputra**



- ✓ The 19.3km, four-lane bridge will be built by 2026-27
- ✓ It will cut road travel by 203 km along with the reduction in travel time
- ✓ Currently, the longest river bridge in India is the Dholā-Sadiya bridge (at 9.15 km) also named as Bhupen Hazarika Setu, which was inaugurated by PM, Narendra Modi in 2017

NATIONAL

- **National Commission for Women – unveils a new Email address 'ncw.metoo@gmail.com' – to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace**
- ✓ NCW is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 in January 1992

- **North Central Railways – launches 2 Mobile Apps ‘NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summarised Tracking Application) and Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) – for its employees and passengers respectively**
- ✓ NCR RASTA – will be helpful for railway staffs to locate its assets and reach them using Google Navigation, in case of any emergency
- ✓ Yatri RASTA – will be helpful for General public to locate the railway stations easily
- ✓ North Central Railways
 - ✓ It is one of the 17 railway zones in the country
 - ✓ It is also called as ‘Workhorse of Indian Railways’ and ‘Heartbeat of Indian Railways’
 - ✓ Headquarters – Allahabad
 - ✓ Divisions – Allahabad, Jhansi and Agra
 - ✓ Largest station – Kanpur
- **Prime Minister – to hoist the National Flag and commemorate ‘75th year of Establishment of Azad Hind Government’ on 21st October, 2018 at Red Fort, Delhi**
- ✓ The Azad Hind Government was a part of the freedom movement launched outside India to ally with Axis powers to liberate India from British rule
- ✓ It was inspired by Netaji, who was its leader and also the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile.
- ✓ The Azad Hind Government
 - ✓ Founded - 21st October, 1943
 - ✓ By - Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

INTERNATIONAL

- **United States – merges its ‘Consulate General’ and ‘Embassy’ into a single diplomatic mission in Jerusalem in Israel**
- ✓ US had earlier recognized ‘Jerusalem’ as Israel’s capital in December 2017 and shifted its Embassy from ‘Tel Aviv’ to ‘Jerusalem’ in May 2018

COMMITTEES

- **National Green Tribunal – constitutes Regional and State level monitoring committees – to regulate Solid waste management of local bodies across the country**
- ✓ Southern zone regional monitoring committee
 - ✓ Chairman - P Jyothimani, Former judge of Madras high court

- ✓ Member Secretary - S Krishnan, Principal secretary of urban development (Tamil Nadu)
- ✓ Members - Representatives of the central pollution control board and the state PCB
- ✓ State level monitoring committee
 - ✓ Chairman – Secretary, Urban development department
 - ✓ Members - Secretary, Environment department

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus - held in Singapore on October 19th and 20th, 2018**



- ✓ India was represented by Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman
- ✓ This was second time Singapore has chaired ADMM since its establishment in 2006 and first time to chair ADMM-Plus since its establishment in 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam
- ✓ ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations
 - ✓ Member countries (10) - Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos
- **7th Meeting of Education Ministers of SCO nations – held in Astana, Kazakhstan**
- ✓ India was represented by Minister of State (MoS), Human Resource Development, Satyapal Singh
- ✓ SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organization
 - ✓ Founded – June 2001
 - ✓ Headquarters – Shanghai, China
 - ✓ Founding Members - Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
 - ✓ Newly added Members – India and Pakistan (June 2017)
 - ✓ Observer countries - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia
 - ✓ Dialogue partners - Sri Lanka, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal

➤ **8th European Congress on SMEs – held in Poland**



- ✓ Alka Arora, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME is leading the Indian contingent of 32 companies
- ✓ Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) from around 50 countries are participating in the 3-day event, which was held till 19th October
- ✓ Main Theme of the event - “Business-Self-Government Together for Economy”

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Roudram – a new App designed by the student ‘Sudha Reddy’ of Porur has been launched by the Actor, Kamal Hassan at Chennai’s Sri Sairam Engineering College**
- ✓ The new App aims at giving assistance to women in times of emergency
- ✓ In times of emergency, the power button of the phone needs to be pressed thrice
- ✓ Then immediately, the emergency contacts, the call centre of the App and the nearby police station will be alerted via ‘Net and SMS’

DEFENCE

- **Combat Drills in November/December 2018**
- ✓ **Dharma Guardian** – between India and Japan military in Mizoram from Nov 1 to 14 - will be the first-ever joint land military exercise between the two countries
- ✓ **Indra** – a Mechanised infantry exercise between India and Russia at Babina from November 16 to 29
- ✓ **Vajra Prahar** - Combat drills between the Special Forces of India and US at the Mahajan field firing ranges from November 19 to December 2
- ✓ **Hand-in-Hand** – Army drill between India and China to resume after the Doklam stand-off in 2017 (Last held in 2016 at Pune)

APPOINTMENTS

- **Sajjan Jindal** – elected as ‘Treasurer’ of World Steel Association for a period of one year



- ✓ He is the Chief Managing Director of JSW Group of Companies
- ✓ Tata Steel MD, T V Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief, L N Mittal – are appointed as the members of World Steel Association (WSA)
- ✓ WSA
 - ✓ Founded – July 1967
 - ✓ Headquarters – Brussels, Belgium
 - ✓ It constitutes over 160 steel producers (including 9 of the world's 10 largest steel companies)
 - ✓ Its members cover around 85% of world steel production
- **Arundhati Bhattacharya** - has been appointed as an Independent director on the board of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)



- ✓ She was the former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)

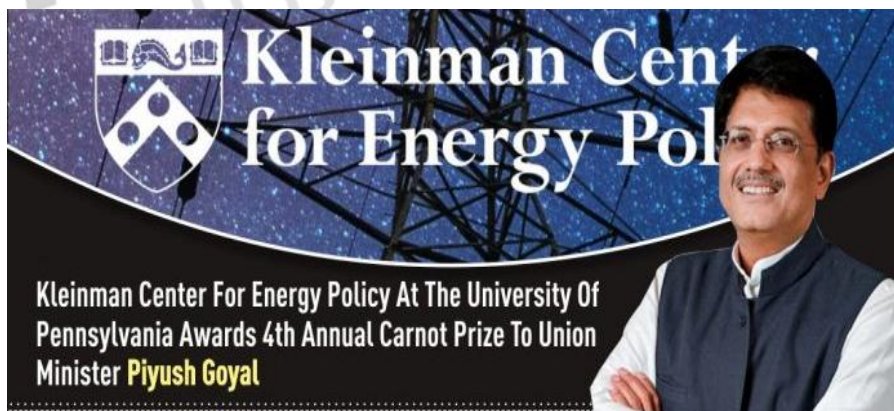
- ✓ She has been ranked no. 1 on the *Fortune India* 'Most Powerful Women' in business list for 4 consecutive years between 2014 and 2017
- ✓ She is the first woman from outside the Ambani family and only the second-ever to be appointed to the board of the company
- ✓ RIL Company Board
 - ✓ Founded - Dhirubhai Ambani (1977)
 - ✓ Chairman - Mukesh Ambani, the Richest Indian person
- **Maeen Abdul malek – sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Yemen**



- ✓ He was sworn by the President, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as the President stays there

AWARDS

- **Piyush Goyal (Minister for Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs) – conferred with 'Carnot Prize' – for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions**



- ✓ The former Power Minister will be awarded by the 'Kleinman Center for Energy Policy' at the University of Pennsylvania's 'School of Design'
- ✓ The Carnot Prize is the Kleinman Center's 'Annual recognition' of distinguished contribution to the energy policy
- ✓ The award in the energy sector is named after French physicist, Nicolas Sadi Carnot, who recognised the power of the steam engine

➤ **Minal Patel Davis (Indo-American) – conferred with Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking**



- ✓ It is US's highest honour in the field
- ✓ The award was presented to her by Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State
- ✓ Minal Patel Davis
 - ✓ She is a special advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor, Sylvester Turner, since 2015
 - ✓ She is currently implementing Mayor Turner's 'Anti-Human Trafficking Strategic Plan', which is the first comprehensive municipal response to human trafficking by any US city
 - ✓ She was also the past speaker at United Nations 'World Humanitarian Summit'

SPORTS

➤ **3rd Youth Olympics, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Oct 6-18, 2018)**



- ✓ India finishes 16th in the Overall medals tally with 13 medals (3 gold medals, 9 silvers and 1 bronze)
- ✓ This is India's best medal haul at the Summer Youth Olympic Games
- ✓ India had won 8 medals in 2010 and 2 medals in 2014

- ✓ A contingent of 68 members from India (with 46 athletes) participated in 13 sports during the event, making it the largest ever in the games history
- ✓ Manu Bhaker (Haryana – Shooting) was the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent during the inaugural ceremony
- ✓ Jeremy Lalrinnunga (Mizoram) was the India's flag bearer at the closing ceremony
- ✓ Jeremy Lalrinnunga – became the first ever Indian Gold medallist at the Youth Olympics
- ✓ Manu Bhaker - became the first Indian shooter and the first female from India - to clinch a gold medal at the Youth Olympics
- ✓ India's Medal winners

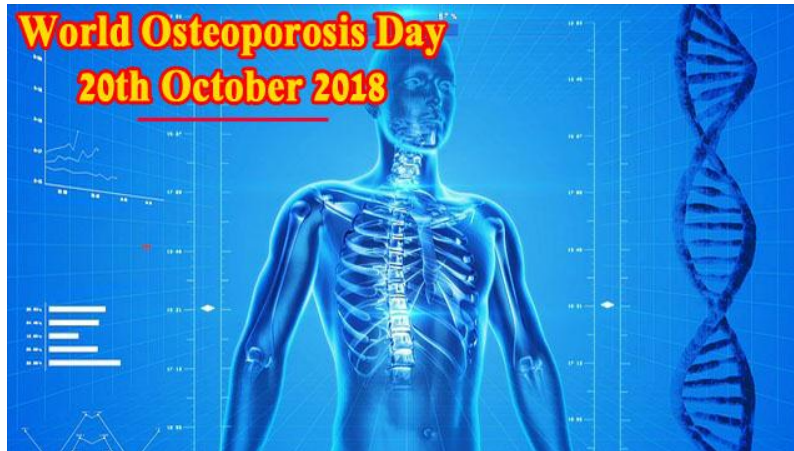
Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Gold	Jeremy Lalrinnunga	Weightlifting	Boys' 62 kg
Gold	Manu Bhaker	Shooting	Girls' 10 metre air pistol
Gold	Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting	Boys' 10m air pistol
Gold	Lakshya Sen	Badminton	Mixed team
Silver	Akash Malik	Archery	Boys' recurve
Silver	Tushar Mane	Shooting	Boys' 10m air rifle
Silver	Tababi Devi	Judo	Girls' 44 kg
Silver	Mehuli Ghosh	Shooting	Girls' 10m air rifle
Silver	Tababi Devi	Judo	Mixed team
Silver	Manu Bhaker	Shooting	Mixed 10m air pistol
Silver	Lakshya Sen	Badminton	Boys' singles
Silver	Simran	Wrestling	Girls' 10m 43kg freestyle
Silver	India	Hockey	Men's Team Event
Silver	India	Hockey	Women's Team Event
Silver	Suraj Panwar	Athletics	Boys' 5000m Walk
Bronze	Praveen Chitravel	Athletics	Boys' Triple Jump

- ✓ The medals in the Mixed events will not be added to the India's medal count
- ✓ The next Summer Youth Olympic Games will be held at Dakar, the capital of Senegal
- ✓ Overall Medals Tally – Top 20

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Russia	28	15	12	55
2	China	17	9	9	35
3	Japan	15	10	12	37
4	Hungary	12	7	5	24
5	Argentina	11	6	7	24
6	Italy	10	10	11	31
7	United States	6	6	7	19
8	Thailand	6	4	2	12
9	Iran	6	3	3	12
10	Ukraine	5	6	6	17
11	France	4	14	7	25
12	Australia	4	7	4	15
13	Colombia	4	3	3	10
14	Kazakhstan	4	2	2	8
15	Cuba	4	0	2	6
16	India	3	9	1	13
17	Uzbekistan	3	4	5	12
18	Germany	3	4	2	9
19	Mexico	3	3	6	12
20	Egypt	3	2	6	11

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Osteoporosis Day – October 20



- ✓ The day aims to create awareness about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis
- ✓ The day was launched on October 20th, 1996
- ✓ Since 1997, it has been organised by the 'International Osteoporosis Foundation'
- ✓ In 1998 and 1999, the World Health Organization acted as co-sponsor of World Osteoporosis Day
- ✓ Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become weak and brittle and increases the risk of the breakage

