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Current Affairs:- November 09 – November 17, 2018

- India and Singapore started the 25th edition of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
 - The Meghalaya Government announced Rs.378 crore investment in the second phase of the State's flagship aquaculture mission aimed at cutting down fish imports into the hill State.
 - Ayodhya Deepostav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya town - entered Guinness Book of World Records, when over three lakh clay lamps were illuminated at Ram Ki Paidi on Chhoti Diwali as part of Deepotsava.
 - November 7 was observed as National Cancer Awareness Day in India.
 - Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, was conferred with the honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde.
 - The Reserve Bank of India is likely to establish an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019 to take the load off the increasing number of complaints currently being handled by the banking ombudsman.
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- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed a strategic partnership to support efforts to eliminate hunger globally by 2030.
 - World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year on 10 November. The theme for 2018 is “*Science, a Human Right*”.
 - Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia touched a new high in his career by achieving the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category. He was also the only Indian grappler to be given a seeding at the Budapest World Championship.
 - Tamil Nadu has received the nod from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.
 - Palau has become the first country to ban reef toxic sunscreen by 2020 in an attempt to protect its coral reefs after the president of the country signed a bill into law.
 - Xinhua, China's state-run press agency, recently unveiled virtual newsreaders that combine the images and voices of human anchors with artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Xinhua unveiled two AI newsreaders, one that speaks in English and one in Chinese. Xinhua developed the robot anchor with Chinese search engine Sogou.com.
 - The ACC has approved the appointment of S. S. Deswal, IPS as Director General, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). Mr Deswal will hold the additional charge of the post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) till further orders.
 - An Indian freelance journalist, Swati Chaturvedi, famous for her investigative reports, has bagged the 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage.
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- Former IAS Officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Note: Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003.
 - Jawahar Lal Sarin, president of the governing body of Alliance Francaise, was conferred with France's highest civilian honor 'Knight of the Legion of Honour' in recognition of his outstanding contribution in enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.
 - The renewal of the early 20th-century 'Shijo-cho Ofunehoko Float Machiya' has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
 - Bangalore tops the index for the most congested city, and Mumbai in the second position, according to a recent research published under the US-based organization, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). In another index of traffic speed, Kolkata has been found to be the slowest city.
 - Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers H.N. Ananth Kumar passed away.
 - Mr Modi inaugurated an Inland Multi-Modal Terminal Port constructed at the cost of 207 crore rupees on river Ganga at Ramnagar in Varanasi. This is the first of the four Multi-Modal Terminals being constructed on National Waterways-I on River Ganga as part of the World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
 - Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe, the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
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- The 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting was held in Singapore as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summit Meetings.
 - The inaugural edition of Indian Navy- Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' began at Surabaya, Indonesia. Note: Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present chief of Naval staff of Indian Navy.
 - Indian Army inducted new artillery guns and equipment, including K9 Vajra and M777 howitzers, at Deolali artillery centre in Nashik, Maharashtra. Besides, M777 American Ultra Light Howitzers and the K-9 Vajra, the third gun system inducted is the 'Composite Gun Towing Vehicle' for towing some of the existing guns in service with the country.
 - Co-founder Binny Bansal has resigned as CEO of Flipkart Group. This was announced by Walmart, the new owner of the e-commerce company. Kalyan Krishnamurthy will continue to be CEO of Flipkart, which will now include Myntra and Jabong, continuing to operate as separate platforms within the Flipkart business. Note: US-based Walmart had completed its \$16-billion acquisition of India's largest e-commerce firm Flipkart.
 - The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
 - American comic-book writer and Marvel Comics co-creator Stan Lee passed away. Born as Stanley Martin Lieber in Manhattan, he is credited with co-creating several fictional characters including Spider-Man, the Hulk, Doctor Strange, the X-Men, Iron Man, and Thor.
 - Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Mishra was appointed as the new Enforcement Directorate Director (ED) in an additional capacity for three months.
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- The 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. This year the theme of the fair is '*Rural Enterprises in India*'. Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal will be the Focus Country. Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.
 - The Uttar Pradesh government has approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively. Earlier, the government renamed the Mughalsarai Railway station, another historic spot, as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction.
 - After the demise of Union Minister Ananth Kumar, Union Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has got the additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Narendra Singh Tomar was assigned the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Currently, DV Sadananda Gowda holds the portfolio of Statistics and Programme Implementation, while Narendra Singh is Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines.
 - The World Diabetes Day is organized on 14 November throughout the world. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018 and 2019 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.
 - Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh launched the '*Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme*' of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The scheme aims for attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.
 - Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated National Press Day (16 November) celebrations in New Delhi. The winners of National Awards for Excellence in Journalism were honored on the occasion. Eminent journalist and Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram has been selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award.
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- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years. An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported al-Shabab militants in Somalia.
 - The government will release a Rs.75 coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting the Tricolour for the first time at Port Blair.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 13th East Asia Summit in Singapore. The summit is a regional forum held annually by leaders of 18 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian regions, including Russia and the United States.
 - Ashok Chawla, chairman of Yes Bank Ltd, resigned with immediate effect from the lender's board after being named in a corruption charge sheet by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Note: Yes Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, CEO: Rana Kapoor.
 - Barcelona star Lionel Messi was named La Liga Player of the Year for 6th time.
 - The tenth edition of Women's World Boxing Championships began in Delhi. The championship is being hosted by India for the first time since 2006 when the country had topped the table with four gold, one silver and three bronze medals.
 - The United Nations Children's Fund-India (UNICEF) has appointed Asian Games gold-medalist sprinter Hima Das as India's first ever Youth Ambassador. Recently, Hima clinched a Gold medal in Women's 4x400 metre relay event at the 2018 Asian Games at Jakarta, Indonesian. She also won Silver in the Women's 400m Race event with a clock timing of 50.59 seconds. Note: Hima Das,
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nicknamed the 'Dhing Express', is an Indian sprint runner from the state of Assam.

- NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region. The Himalayan State Regional Council will be chaired by Dr. VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog.
 - 16th November was observed as the World's Tolerance Day.
 - Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the '*Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme*' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state. Moreover, farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.
 - Nongkrem dance festival, an annual event during which prayers are offered for good harvest, peace, and prosperity of the community was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm by the inhabitants of the Khasi Hills in Shillong, Meghalaya.
 - IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card, which empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS). The bank claims it to be the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons. Note: IndusInd Bank MD and CEO: Romesh Sobti, Headquarters: Mumbai.
 - Decorated war veteran Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri passed away. Chandpuri, who was an Army Major during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, had held his post through the night in the famous battle of Longewala in Rajasthan with just 120 men against a full-fledged attack by advancing Pakistani Patton tanks. The feat of Brig Chandpuri and his men was
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later featured in Bollywood blockbuster movie “Border” which was released in 1997. His role was played by actor Sunny Deol.

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