

CURRENT AFFAIRS

UN day

UN day celebrated on 24th October every year as United Nations Organisation (UNO) was established on 24th October 1945.

With the ratification of UN Charter, the founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

The Permanent Mission of India to the UNO hosted the UN Day Concert 2018 exhibited the performance by the sarod maestro and his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash along with the Refugee Orchestra Project conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya at the General Assembly hall at the UNO headquarters.

The concert's theme this year is 'Traditions of Peace and Non-violence.'

Mahinda Rajapaksa is the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Former President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa sworn in as new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka amid political drama on 27th October 2018. He replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe.

This decision was taken by the President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena, as United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) withdrew from the National coalition government.

However the Political analysts say President of Sri Lanka Sirisena's move to install Rajapaksa as the Prime Minister could lead to a constitutional crisis.

The constitutional experts say 19th amendment to the Constitution would not allow the sacking of Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister.

World's longest sea bridge opened

On 23rd October 2018, the Chinese President Xi Jinping opened the world's longest sea bridge, connecting Hong Kong and Macau to the Chinese mainland Zhuhai. 55 km long bridge, situated in the Lingdengyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary, slash the journey time between Hongkong and Zhuhai from 180 minutes to 30 minutes.

The bridge is built with 400,000 tons of steel and can withstand natural calamities such as earthquakes (maximum 8.0 magnitude) and typhoons. The structure also has a 6.7 km submerged tunnel to avoid the busy shipping paths over the Pearl River Delta. The bridge has cost about \$ 20 billion.

It is part of China's plan to create a Greater Bay Area, including Hong Kong, Macau and nine other cities in southern China.

PM Modi unveils Statue of Unity

On 31st October 2018, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi unveiled the 182 meters, the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. It was inaugurated to coincide with the 143rd birth anniversary of Patel, India's first home minister.

It is a tribute to Patel who played a major role in integrating the princely states into the Indian Union after the partition of 1947.

The monument, named as the 'Statue of Unity' and built on an islet Sadhu Bet near Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat's Narmada district. This twice size of statue of Liberty, was built by Larsen and Toubro and the state-run Sardar. Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. There is a museum built beneath the statue and a viewing gallery created at a height of 135 meters inside the statue.

Costing about Rs.2,989 crore, the statue was completed in a record time of 33 months. Lakhs of the farmers from across India gave their tools in order to build the statue.

United Nations Human Rights Prize

United Nations Prizes in the Field of Human Rights were instituted by United Nations General Assembly in 1966. On 25th October 2018, UN human Rights prizes were conferred on...

- 1) Asma Jahangir – Pakistan’s late human rights activist
- 2) Rebeca Gyumi – A Tanzanian human rights activist
- 3) Joenia Wapichana – Brazil’s first indigenous lawyer
- 4) Front Line Defenders – A human rights organisation of Ireland

The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given to individuals and organisations in recognition of outstanding achievement in human rights.

First World Agriculture Prize to MS Swaminathan

First World Agriculture Prize conferred on MS Swaminathan, the renowned agricultural scientist and the chief architect of the green revolution in India. The award presented by Vice President of India at 11th Global Agriculture Leadership summit in New Delhi on 26th October 2018. The award carries the prize money of \$100,000. Vice-president called Swaminathan as Vishwaguru in Agriculture, a teacher and a scholar who continues to leave his inspirational, ideational thoughts and prints on the world. World Agriculture Prize has been instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture to recognise the contribution of eminent people who served the mankind through agriculture and allied services.

India Stood 77th place in Ease of Doing Index

India climbed another 23 points in the World Bank’s ease of doing business index to 77th place. Last year India’s rank was 100. Thus India became top ranked country in South Asia for the first time and third among the BRICS nations.

New Zealand topped the list of 190 countries in ease of doing business, followed by Singapore, Denmark, and Hong Kong. The United States is placed eight and China has been ranked 46th.

Arun Jaitley said India can crack into top 50 if it improves on time taken for registering real estate, starting business and enforcement of contracts.

The doing business report released by World Bank. It ranks countries on the basis of distance to frontier (DTF), a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. India’s DTF score improved to 67.23 from 60.76 last year.

The index ranks 190 nations across 10 indicators ranged across the lifecycle of a business from ‘starting business’ to ‘resolving insolvency’.

Apart from many reforms initiated by India, for resolving insolvency India has put in place a new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and time bound reorganisation procedure for corporate debtors.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. The permanent members of UNO Security Council are UK, USA, Russia, China and
 - 1) Japan
 - 2) India
 - 3) Brazil
 - 4) Australia
 - 5) France
2. Present Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations is.....
 - 1) Amina Jane Mohammed of Nigeria
 - 2) Henrietta Holsman Fore of USA
 - 3) Fang Liu of China
 - 4) Houlin Zhao of China
 - 5) Bishar Abdirahman Hussein of Kenya

3. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés is the president of UNO General Assembly. She belongs to...
- 1) Malaysia
 - 2) Indonesia
 - 3) Ecuador
 - 4) Australia
 - 5) New Zealand
4. First woman President of the United Nations General Assembly is...
- 1) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit of India
 - 2) Angie Elizabeth Brooks of Liberia
 - 3) Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of Bahrain
 - 4) Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka of South Africa
 - 5) María Isabel Allende of Chile
5. World Food Day observed on.....
- 1) 23 December
 - 2) 26 November
 - 3) 16 October
 - 4) 12 April
 - 5) 1 January
6. Theme of World Food Day 2018 is.....
- 1) Food Comes First
 - 2) Women in Agriculture
 - 3) Working together for an international alliance against hunger
 - 4) World food security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bio Energy
 - 5) Our actions are our future – A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible
7. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters located at...
- 1) Rome
 - 2) Washington DC
 - 3) Geneva
 - 4) Nairobi
 - 5) New York
8. Who is the President of China opened the world's longest sea bridge?
- 1) Mrs Carrie Lam
 - 2) Li Keqiang
 - 3) Xi Jinping
 - 4) Shinzo Abe
 - 5) Tsai Ing-wen
9. World's largest amphibious plane AG600 recently completed its maiden test. It was built by...
- 1) USA
 - 2) Israel
 - 3) China
 - 4) India
 - 5) France
10. Statue of Unity was designed by
- 1) Satish Gujral
 - 2) Krishna Reddy
 - 3) Meera Mukherjee
 - 4) Ram V Sutar
 - 5) E.Sridharan
11. The Sardar Sarovar Dam constructed on the banks of which river?
- 1) Godavari
 - 2) Krishna
 - 3) Ganges
 - 4) Brahmaputra
 - 5) Narmada

12. Who is the Chief Minister of Gujarat?
- 1) Manohar Lal Khattar
2) Vasundhara Raje
3) Vijay Rupani
4) Devendra Fadnavis
5) Yogi Adityanath
13. Statue of Liberty located in.....
- 1) Japan
2) Australia
3) China
4) USA
5) New Zealand
14. In the Modern History of India, who hailed as the 'Iron Man of India' and 'Indian Bismarck'?
- 1) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
2) Bhagath Singh
3) Bipin Chandra Pal
4) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
5) Jawahar Lal Nehru
15. President of the United Nations General Assembly for the 73rd session is.....
- 1) María Fernanda Espinosa Garces
2) Jim Yong Kim
3) Henrietta Fore
4) Yukia Amiano
5) Antonio Guterres
16. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a historic document that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its third session on...
- 1) 10 December 1948
2) 10 December 1950
3) 10 December 1951
4) 10 December 1947
5) 10 December 1952

KEY

1-5; 2-1; 3-3; 4-1; 5-3; 6-5; 7-1; 8-3; 9-3; 10-4; 11-5; 12-3; 13-4; 14-4; 15-1; 16-1.

Writer: Veeraswamy Amara