

Today in History on 18 OCT

➤ 1898 - US takes control of Puerto Rico from Spain:

The US takes control of Puerto Rico in 1898 under the Treaty of Paris following the Spanish–American War. The treaty marked the end of Spain's American empire, with the US taking control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. Puerto Rico became a US territory, and remains so today. The annexation was seen as a significant step in US imperial expansion.



➤ 1922 - British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) founded:

On 18 October 1922, the British Broadcasting Company was founded, later known as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). It is the world's oldest and most prestigious public service broadcasting organization. The BBC has played an important role in radio, television and online media and is known for unbiased and high-quality journalism. It is a major source of information in Britain and around the world.



➤ 1980 - First Himalayan Car Rally:

In 1980, India's first Himalayan Car Rally was organised, which was flagged off from the Brabourne Stadium in Bombay (now Mumbai). This rally became a symbol of India's participation in motorsports at the international level. It saw many participants from all over the world braving the challenging conditions of the Himalayan regions.

This rally is considered an important event in the history of motorsports in India.



➤ 1995 - 11th Summit of Non-Aligned Countries:

The 11th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held in Cartagena, Colombia in 1995. This summit represents countries that were not aligned to any superpower camp during the Cold War. This summit discussed issues of global peace, security and development. NAM emphasized cooperation and self-reliance of developing countries, and this summit underlined the importance of non-alignment in global politics.



➤ 2007 - Allen Telescope Array (ATA) launched:

On 18 October 2007, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to her homeland after eight years of exile. During her return, a grand motorcar rally was attacked by a suicide attack, killing 139 people and injuring hundreds. Bhutto narrowly escaped the attack. The incident reflects the serious state of instability and terrorism in

Pakistan's politics. Her return was considered a turning point for Pakistan's democracy.



Important NEWS on 18 OCT

➤ BEML Secures Contract for India's First Indigenous Bullet Trains

State-owned BEML has been awarded a contract worth ₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) to design, manufacture, and commission India's first indigenously built bullet trains. This project marks a significant milestone in India's high-speed rail journey, as it will feature two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars, with a test speed of 280 km/h and an operational speed of 250 km/h.



➤ Omar Abdullah Takes Oath as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

Omar Abdullah, a prominent leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant political transition in the region. Abdullah took the oath of office in a ceremony administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

reinforce the bond between the Army and the people of Arunachal Pradesh.



➤ US Sends THAAD Missile Defense System to Israel

United States has announced it will send the advanced THAAD missile defence system to Israel. This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster Israel's defence capabilities and deter further aggression from Iran and other regional adversaries. The deployment underscores the US's "ironclad commitment" to Israel's defence and comes at a time of heightened geopolitical sensitivity in the region.



➤ Saluting Valor A Month-Long Tribute to 1962 Walong Heroes

The Indian Army is set to embark on a month-long series of commemorative events from October 17 to November 14, 2024, to honor the brave soldiers who fought valiantly in the Battle of Walong during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. This year marks the 62nd Walong Day, celebrating the courage and sacrifice of those who defended India's eastern front. The events aim to engage local communities and

➤ EAM Jaishankar Launches e-Migrate Portal to Ensure Safe Overseas Travel

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar inaugurated the revamped eMigrate V2.0 web portal and mobile app in Delhi, aiming to enhance safe and legal migration for Indian citizens. This initiative underscores the Indian government's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of workers abroad while facilitating their mobility and welfare. It aligns with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and reflects India's proactive approach to global migration dynamics.



➤ PM Modi Launches ITU Telecom Conference and India Mobile Congress 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever telecom standards conference organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in

India, alongside the eighth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) in New Delhi. This event marks a significant milestone for India as it hosts the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting India's growing role in the global telecom landscape.



➤ AI Centres of Excellence to Boost Research, Innovation, and Economy

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the establishment of three Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-COEs) focused on health, agriculture, and sustainable cities. These centres, located at AIIMS Delhi, IIT Ropar, and IIT Kanpur, will promote research, innovation, and economic development while addressing public welfare.



Current affairs MCQS on 18 OCT

Q.1. Which state has received the Best State Award in the 5th National Water Awards 2023?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (a) Odisha

The 5th National Water Awards 2023 were announced in New Delhi. Odisha won the first prize for the best state, while Uttar Pradesh stood second. Gujarat and Puducherry jointly secured the third position. The event, led by Union Minister CR Patil, aimed to recognize efforts in water conservation and management. A total of 38 winners were felicitated in various categories, promoting awareness about sustainable water practices. These awards underscore the importance of effective water management in addressing challenges related to water scarcity and sustainability.

Q.2. Who has recently received the National Kishore Kumar Award?

- (a) Ajit Sharma

(b) Alok Rai

(c) Rajkumar Hirani

(d) Ajay Mittal

Answer: (c) Rajkumar Hirani

Renowned screenwriter, film director and producer Rajkumar Hirani has been awarded the 2023 National Kishore Kumar Award of the Madhya Pradesh government. An official gave this information. He said that Hirani was given this prestigious award by Madhya Pradesh Tribal Affairs and Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Shah at a function held in Khandwa, the birthplace of the legendary singer.

Q.3. Who has recently been declared the successor of the Jamnagar throne?

- (a) Amrit Mohan Prasad
- (b) Anil Rai
- (c) Ajit Bansal

(d) Ajay Jadeja

Answer: (d) Ajay Jadeja

Former Indian cricketer Ajay Jadeja has been declared heir to the throne of Jamnagar, the erstwhile princely state of Gujarat. Current ruler Shatrusallayasinhji Jadeja has named his nephew and former international player as his successor. Ajay, 53, played 196 ODIs and 15 Tests for India between 1992 and 2000. He is a descendant of the royal family of Jamnagar, formerly known as Nawanagar. After his playing days, Ajay became a commentator and also coached the Afghanistan team during the ODI World Cup held in India last year.

Q.4. Which country has recently got the right to host the ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) Junior World Cup 2025?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Japan
- (d) Singapore

Answer: (a) India

International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President Luciano Rossi has confirmed that India will host the ISSF Junior World Cup in 2025. Mr. Rossi was addressing a press conference ahead of the ISSF World Cup Final Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in New Delhi. Mr. Rossi also lauded India's growing contribution to the development and growing popularity of shooting across the world. Mr. Rossi said India continues to be a significant force in the world of shooting not only with its talented athletes but also through its commitment to expanding the infrastructure and reach of the sport. National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) President Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo was present on the occasion.

Q.5. Which state has recently become the third state to start 'Caste Survey'?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (c) Telangana

The Telangana government has launched a comprehensive household caste survey to ensure fair distribution of resources among all communities. This makes Telangana the third state

to conduct a caste-based census after Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The survey aims to plan and implement various opportunities for socio-economic and educational improvement of OBCs, SCs, STs and other weaker sections. It focuses on increasing employment and political opportunities for these communities in the state.

Q.6. What is the name of the first ship launched by the Indian Navy under the two multi-purpose vessels (MPV) project?

- (a) Viksit
- (b) Kaveri
- (c) Samarthak
- (d) Samudra

Answer: (c) Samarthak

The Indian Navy recently launched the first vessel of the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) Project, Prakar, at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli. The initiative is part of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India programmes, which promote indigenous shipbuilding. Prakar, which means "supporter", is designed for a variety of roles including towing ships, launching targets and testing weapons. The vessel is 106 metres long, 16.8 metres wide and can reach a speed of 15 knots. The project reinforces the Navy's focus on self-reliance in maritime defence.

Q.7. Where has India recently inaugurated the first demonstration facility for biopolymers?

- (a) Nashik
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Pune
- (d) Bhopal

Answer: (c) Pune

The Union Minister inaugurated India's first biopolymer demonstration facility at Juri, Pune, Maharashtra. The facility focuses on developing technology for the production of polylactic acid (PLA) bioplastic. Biopolymers are made from biological sources such as fats, vegetable oils and sugars. They have advantages over synthetic polymers such as bio-degradability, allowing them to be easily decomposed by bacteria in the soil. They also promote carbon neutrality as the CO2 released during their decomposition can be reabsorbed by replacement crops.

Q.8. Who has recently launched the eMigrate V 2.0 portal and app?

- (a) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Dr. S. Jaishankar

Answer: (d) Dr. S. Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar inaugurated the revamped e-Migrate v2.0 web portal and mobile app in Delhi, aimed at promoting safe and legal migration for Indian citizens. This initiative underlines the Indian government's commitment to protect the rights and dignity of working citizens abroad as well as to facilitate their mobility and well-being. It is in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and reflects India's proactive approach towards global migration mobility.

Q.9. Who has won the women's singles title in the Bendigo International Challenge badminton tournament held in Australia recently?

- (a) Sunita Sharma
- (b) Kidabi Srikanth

- (c) Tung Siu Tong
- (d) Tanya Hemant

Answer: (d) Tanya Hemant

21-year-old Tanya Hemant of India won the women's singles title of the 2024 Bendigo International badminton tournament. She defeated Tung Siow-Tong of Chinese Taipei 21-17, 21-17 in straight sets at the INAAL played in Bendigo, Australia. This was Tanya's third international title after the 2022 India International and the 2023 Iran Fajr International.

Q.10. Atul Parchure passed away recently. Who was he?

- (a) Actor
- (b) Film director
- (c) Writer
- (d) Journalist

Answer: (a) Actor

Veteran actor Atul Parchure passed away at the age of 57. Atul Parchure was a famous Marathi actor who appeared in many Hindi television shows and films. He played a memorable role in The Kapil Sharma Comedy Show.

Q.11. Who has recently become Russia's second largest supplier of banned technology?

- (a) India
- (b) Japan
- (c) China
- (d) America

Answer: (a) India

India has stepped up supplies of critical restricted technologies to Russia, which are banned under Western sanctions. Exports to India have now become Moscow's second-largest export after China, according to Bloomberg. US and European officials have noted the growing difficulty in curbing restricted exports, which fuel Russian leader Vladimir Putin's war machine, allowing him to continue his aggression against Ukraine. According to recent data, Western officials say about a fifth of restricted technologies enter Russia's military-industrial complex through India.

Q.12. India has recently recalled its ambassador from which country?

- (a) Italy
- (b) Canada
- (c) France
- (d) Spain

Answer: (b) Canada

India has decided to recall its High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma and other diplomats following escalating diplomatic tensions between the two countries. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned Canada's Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheeler to protest the "baseless targeting" of Indian diplomats and officials.

Q.13. Who has recently become the first Indian to climb Mount Shishapangma in China?

- (a) Abhineet Maurya
- (b) Satyadeep Gupta
- (c) Ajit Kumar
- (d) Arjun Vajpayee

Answer: (d) Arjun Vajpayee

Arjun Vajpai, the youngest person to climb Mount Everest, has once again made India proud by achieving a historic feat. Arjun Vajpai climbed Mount Shishapangma and completed his eighth successful climb to a peak above 8,000 metres. With this feat, he set four new records, adding another milestone to his illustrious mountaineering career.

Q.14. In which state, the 'State Skill University' will be renamed after Ratan Tata?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Chennai

Answer: (c) Maharashtra

Maharashtra State Skills University has been officially renamed as Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skills University. The move has been taken in honour of the late industrialist Ratan Tata's immense contribution to industry and skill development. Announcing this, Skill Development Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha said that the decision honours the industrialist's tireless efforts and his support for the development of new and emerging industries.

Q.15. Who has recently taken over the post of DGMS (Director General of Medical Services)?

- (a) Kavita Sahay
- (b) Aarti Sareen
- (c) Ketaki Joshi
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Kavita Sahay

Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai took over as Director General Medical Services (Navy). The appointment comes just weeks after the Ministry of

Defence (MoD) appointed the first woman officer as Director General Armed Forces Medical Services. Prior to taking over as DGMS (Navy), Surgeon Sahai was the first woman Commandant and O I/C Records of AMC Centre & College, Lucknow, Defence Ministry officials said. She is also the first woman officer to be selected as Colonel Commandant of the Army Medical Corps.

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