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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 24 OCT 2018**

**General Studies- 1**

**Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**

**Why in News?**

Arrangements are in full swing to celebrate the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018, the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

**About Rashtriya Ekta Diwas:**

- **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)** was introduced by the [Government of India](#) and inaugurated by Indian [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#) in 2014.
- The intent is to pay tribute to [Vallabhbhai Patel](#), who was instrumental in keeping India united.
- It is to be celebrated on 31 October every year as annual commemoration of the birthday of the Iron Man of India [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#), one of the founding leaders of [Republic of India](#).
- National Unity Day "will provide an opportunity to re-affirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand the actual and potential threats to the unity, integrity and security of our country.

**Role Of Sardar Patel:**

- National Unity Day celebrates the birthday of Patel because, during his term as [Home Minister of India](#), he is credited for the integration of over 550 independent [princely states](#) into India from 1947-49 by Independence Act (1947).
- He is known as the "[Bismarck\[a\]](#) of India".
- The celebration is complemented with the speech of Prime Minister of India followed by the "Run for Unity".

**Monsoon and Hurricanes:**

**Why in News?**



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 24 OCT 2018

Strong monsoons in the Indian Ocean can induce easterly winds that push Atlantic Ocean hurricanes westward, increasing the likelihood they will make landfall in the Americas, according to a study.

### **Observations Made:**

- The study, published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, found that in years where summer rainstorms in India are stronger, Atlantic hurricanes move further westward towards land.
- In years where the rains are not as strong, hurricanes tend to curve northward earlier and fizzle out in the north Atlantic Ocean.

### **What is the relation between two?**

- Strong monsoons influence hurricane steering by enhancing the effects of the North Atlantic subtropical high, a centre of high atmospheric pressure in the Atlantic Ocean.
- When the subtropical high increases, stronger winds come from the east and push hurricanes westward.
- La Nina and the Indian monsoon are correlated, but the strength of the monsoon influences the steering of hurricanes independently of La Nina fluctuations, which are responsible for changes in hurricane frequency.
- La Nina fluctuations may result in more Atlantic hurricanes, but strong Indian monsoons steer them further westward, making it more likely they will make landfall in the Americas, researchers said.

### **Advantages of New Findings:**

The newly-discovered relationship could help scientists better predict the path of oncoming hurricanes, especially in late summer months like September, when Atlantic hurricane activity peaks, according to researchers.



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 24 OCT 2018

## General Studies-2

### **Public Interest Litigation:**

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Tuesday said public interest litigation (PIL) petitions was not a cure for all ailments in the country.

The court had limitations. Some PILs even wasted precious judicial time, he said.

### **What is PIL?**

- **Public Interest Litigation** is directly filed by an individual or group of people in the [Supreme Court of India](#) and High Courts of India and judicial member.
- It was felt that their interests are undermined by the government .
- In such a situation, the court directly accepts the public good.
- It is a new legal horizon in which court of law can initiate and enforce action to serve and secure significant Public Interest Litigation.

### **Importance of PIL**

- Public interest litigation gives a wider description to the right to equality, life and personality which is guaranteed under part III of the Constitution of India.
- It has introduced some kinds of reliefs or remedies under the writ jurisdiction.
- It also functions as an effective instrument for changes in the society or social welfare.
- Through public interest litigation, any public or person can seek remedy on behalf of the oppressed class by introducing a PIL.
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**"Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will interact with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals across India on October 24, 2018, on the occasion of the launch of the "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App.

**About The Portal:**

The portal, which works on the theme "Self4Society", will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.

In doing so, the portal is expected to help catalyse greater collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of society, especially by leveraging the benefits of technology.

It is also expected to generate wider participation of interested people who are motivated to work for the benefit of society.

**General Studies-3**

**Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)**

**Why in News?**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and all scheduled Banks (hereinafter referred as Banks) shall be the nodal Loaning Entities.

**Benefits:**

- Creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and Inland fisheries sectors.



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 24 OCT 2018**

- To augment fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonne by 2020 set under the Blue Revolution; and to achieve a sustainable growth of 8% -9% thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about 20 MMT by 2022-23.
- Employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakh fishers/fishermen/fisherfolk and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
- To attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- Adoption of new technologies.

### **Objective of FIDF:**

- FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc., for taking up of the identified investment activities of fisheries development.
- Under FIDF, loan lending will be over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 and maximum repayment will be over a period of 12 years inclusive of moratorium of two years on repayment of principal.

### **BepiColombo Spacecraft:**

European and Japanese space agencies said an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit on Saturday for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun.

The European Space Agency and the [Japan](#) Aerospace Exploration Agency said the unmanned BepiColombo spacecraft successfully separated and was sent into orbit from French Guiana as planned to begin a seven-year journey to Mercury.

### **About the Mission:**

- The BepiColombo spacecraft will have to follow an elliptical path that involves a fly-by of Earth, two of Venus and six of Mercury itself so it can slow down before arriving at its destination in December 2025.
- When it arrives, BepiColombo will release two probes — Bepi and Mio — that will independently investigate the surface and magnetic field of Mercury.



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 24 OCT 2018**

- The probes are designed to cope with temperatures varying from 430 degrees Celsius (806 F) on the side facing the sun, and -180 degrees Celsius (-292 F) in Mercury's shadow.
- The ESA-developed Bepi will operate in Mercury's inner orbit, and JAXA's Mio will be in the outer orbit to gather data that would reveal the internal structure of the planet, its surface and geological evolution.
- Scientists hope to build on the insights gained by NASA's Messenger probe, which ended its mission in 2015 after a four-year orbit of Mercury.

### **Importance of Study:**

- Mercury, which is only slightly larger than Earth's moon, has a massive iron core about which little is known.
- Researchers are also hoping to learn more about the formation of the solar system from the data gathered by the BepiColombo mission.
- "Beyond completing the challenging journey, this mission will return a huge bounty of science.
- The ensuing detailed observations of Mercury will help us better understand the environment of the planet, and ultimately, the origin of the Solar System including that of Earth.
- It is the second recent cooperation between the Europeans and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

JAXA's Hayabusa2 probe dropped a German-French rover on the asteroid Ryugu earlier this month.



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