

## **October 13<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International issues:**

#### **- US and Israel quit UNESCO**

The United States and Israel have both withdrawn from the UN's science, culture and education agency UNESCO after accusing it of having an anti-Israeli bias.

Arch rivals Egypt and Qatar are competing for the director general's post, as is France. However Qatar's candidate is in the lead so far in the voting and he's opposed by both Israel and the US

Washington has already withheld its funding for UNESCO since 2011, when the body admitted Palestine as a full member.

The United States and Israel were among just 14 of 194 members that voted against admitting the Palestinians. Washington's arrears on its \$80 million annual dues since then are now over \$500 million

Under UNESCO rules, the U.S. withdrawal will become effective as of the end of December 2018.

**UNESCO:** UNESCO is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. It strengthens the ties between nations and societies, and mobilizes the wider public so that each child and citizen

Its Head Quarters is at Paris

Present Director: Irina Bokovo

#### **- Unity Deal Offers Hope for Palestinians and a Respite for Gaza**

Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah signed an agreement 12<sup>th</sup> October on ending a decade-long split following talks mediated by Egypt in Cairo, with President Mahmoud Abbas calling it a "final" accord.

Under the agreement, the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority is to resume full control of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip by 1 December, according to a statement from Egypt's intelligence agency, which oversaw the talks.

The Fatah–Hamas conflict was a conflict between the two main Palestinian political parties, Fatah and Hamas, resulting in the split of the Palestinian Authority in 2007

### **National issues:**

#### **- EC announces poll dates for Himachal Pradesh**

The Election Commission of India has announced polls in Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh will vote on November 9 and election results will be declared on December 18.

## **Economy issues:**

### **- IMF calls for broadening tax base under GST**

The IMF officials who deal with India have called for broadening the tax base under the GST and reducing exemptions.

IMF hailed the government's move to lower the compliance costs. According to Ranil Salgado, Assistant Director, Asia and Pacific, IMF...

- There is a scope to simplify the tax structure further and bring down the number of tax rates.
- Believes that the move will improve transparency of tax laws and also reduce disputes
- Expects corporate tax rate to be lowered with a broader base and fewer exemptions.

## **Sports:**

### **- India qualifies for 2019 AFC Asian Cup**

India have secured a direct qualification to the 2019 AFC Asian Cup for the first time since 1984 after getting the better of an ineffective Macau in their third round Group A qualifier at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore on 11<sup>th</sup> October

The 2019 AFC Asian Cup will be the 17th edition of the AFC Asian Cup, the quadrennial international men's football championship of Asia organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). It will be held in United Arab Emirates from 5 January to 1 February 2019. The United Arab Emirates was announced as the host for the tournament on 9 March 2015