

## October 2<sup>nd</sup> news:

### International issues:

#### - **Burqa ban in Austria**

Austria's burqa ban comes into force on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The law is expected to affect just 150 women—that's 0.03% of the Austrian Muslim population and 0.002% of the entire population.

Under the new law, devout Muslim women wearing the full-face and body veil in public will be fined €150 (\$177) on the spot. The ban was part of a larger package of measures defended as a way to integrate migrants. The requirements include making all recent migrants participate in classes to learn the German language, as well as Austrian norms and values.

- The number of women who wear face veils is minuscule throughout Europe
- In France—the first European country to ban the burqa, in 2007—government documents showed the ban would affect 1,900 women, 0.04% of the French Muslim population and 0.003% of the total population.
- In the Netherlands, which implemented a partial burqa ban in 2016, there are 100 to 500 women who wear face veils.

### National issues:

#### - **President declares Urban Maharashtra as Open Defecation Free**

Indian President, Ram Nath Kovind on 1<sup>st</sup> October declared that Urban Maharashtra as 'ODF'. Urban Maharashtra is particularly relevant for the state as 49 per cent of Maharashtra's people live in urban areas.

#### **Back ground**

India has the highest number of people practicing open defecation, nearly 525 million people, or over a third of the population

In order to eliminate this, Union government started making schemes, to make India open defecation free

- The Government of India has taken up an initiative called Swachh Bharat Mission wherein a large scale drive has been initiated to construct toilets on mass level. Government has increased subsidy on toilet construction to INR 12,000. A number of industries in India are manufacturing affordable toilet rooms using pre-fabrication techniques to meet high demand of toilets created after this new legislation
- In 2015, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation announced it will give residents one rupee a visit in a bid to draw them into its 300 public toilets and away from open areas and public walls, which often reek of urine.
- In India, the State of Rajasthan became the first state in the country to make a "functional toilet" mandatory in the house of a contestant for contesting elections to Panchayati Raj institutions. The post of village head is called "sarpanch" in Rajasthan, India. A person cannot contest for the post of sarpanch unless they have a functional toilet at their residence

- Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh became the first states to declare their urban areas as Open Defecation Free (ODF) on the second anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016

#### **Bilateral issues:**

- **India opens two border crossing points with Myanmar, Bangladesh**

India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.

- The Central government has designated **Zorinpui land check post** in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar.
- The Central government has also designated **Kawrpuchhuah land check post** in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Bangladesh.
- Zorinpui was selected for a new land custom station along the Indo-Myanmar border in Mizoram for the Kaladan multi-modal project. Kawarpuchiah is situated in Mizoram along a riverine border with Bangladesh

#### **Economy issues:**

- **RCom, Aircel hang up on merger plans**

Reliance Communications (RCom) and Aircel have called off talks to merge their mobile operations due to regulatory and legal hurdles.

- RCom and Aircel had signed binding agreements in September 2016 for the merger of Reliance's mobile businesses with Aircel.
- For RCom, the merger was part of a plan to pare its Rs. 45,000-crore debt. Under this plan, post the merger with Aircel, Reliance was to sell 51 per cent stake in its tower assets to Brookfield for Rs. 11,000 crore.
- Without the Aircel deal, the tenancy ratio and the total number of towers will come down; the tower deal may therefore have to be renegotiated at a lower valuation.

#### **Science and Technology issues**

- **Fourth gravitational wave is detected**

A fourth gravitational wave has been detected — this time with help from Italy-based equipment — after two black holes collided, sending ripples through the fabric of space and time

#### **What are gravitational waves?**

Gravitational waves are 'ripples' in the fabric of space-time caused by some of the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe.

Gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago as part of his theory of general relativity, but the first hard evidence of their existence came only in 2015, when two U.S. detectors found the first such signal.

The latest space-time ripples were detected on August 14 at 10:30 GMT when two giant black holes with masses about 31 and 25 times the mass of the Sun merged about 1.8 billion light-years away.

**Sports issues:**

- **Female assistant referee in U-17 World Cup**

The U-17 World Cup will set a record of sorts as it will see for the first time a female assistant referee in a FIFA men's competition this time.

FIFA, the world governing body of football, said it's time for elite female support referees to be involved in a men's competition.

For the first-ever time, they have selected female referees for a men's tournament.

Seven female assistant referees from across the world, one from each continent, have been chosen by FIFA along with 70 male referees to officiate the 52 matches in the FIFA U-17 World Cup to be played in six Indian cities from October 6-28.

CLASSMATE ACADEMY