

**November 10<sup>th</sup> news:**

**International:**

### **Hong Kong is World's Top City for International Visits**

Hong Kong remains the world's most visited city by international travelers in spite of strained relations with neighboring China. In a report on the top 100 city destinations that highlights the growth in Asian tourism, market research firm Euromonitor International said 25.7 million arrivals are expected in Hong Kong this year.

The figure is down 3.2 percent compared with 2016, largely because tensions with China have grown this year as Beijing has sought to exercise more control on the territory.

Euromonitor expects the downturn to be short-lived and that growth will pick up again from next year and that arrivals to Hong Kong will reach a massive 45 million by 2025.

The research firm said London is set to slip down to sixth in the rankings in the coming seven year as a result of a rise in travel to Asian cities. Euromonitor expects 47 Asian cities to be in the top 100 by 2025, against 41 now and just 34 in 2010

In India, Delhi and Mumbai stood at 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> places

**National**

### **India 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Centre to come up soon in Chennai**

Union Government of India inked an agreement with Chennai's Anna University in order to establish India's second Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC). This would be done under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.

The main objective of the TISC is to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development by establishing a network of TISCs in India.

World Intellectual Property Organization:

The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN). **WIPO** was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of **intellectual property** throughout the **world**".

It focuses on copyrights, trademarks, patents, or other **intellectual property** law concepts

Intellectual Property Rights:

Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind: inventions; literary and artistic works; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. Intellectual property is divided into two categories: Industrial Property includes patents for inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications.

**Bilateral:**

### **Kolkata-Khulna train service flagged off**

A new passenger train service between Kolkata and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of Khulna was on 9<sup>th</sup> November flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina and the West Bengal chief minister. The three leaders launched the train through video conference.

They also inaugurated railway bridges over rivers Meghna and Titas on the main Chittagong to Dhaka trunk rail line in Bangladesh.

The fully air-conditioned weekly passenger train service 'Bandhan Express' will run every Thursday from both Kolkata and Khulna.

Railway passenger and freight services between India and the erstwhile East Pakistan, which had continued after Independence and formation of Pakistan in 1947, were snapped during the 1965 war.

India has extended soft loans worth USD eight billion to Bangladesh for different development projects, which included the two bridges that were inaugurated on 9<sup>th</sup> November, according to an Indian Railways communication.

End-to-end immigration and customs facilities were also inaugurated at Kolkata station for passengers of Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express and the newly-introduced Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express. The rail travel distance between Kolkata station and Khulna, the third largest town in Bangladesh, is 172 km, of which 77 km are in India and 95 km are in the neighbouring country.

**Economy:**

### **Central Government approves National Highway project**

Union government given an approval of the national highway to link the Sri Fatehgarh Sahib and Sri Chamkaur Sahib. The national highway would be constructed at the cost of Rs500 crores for connecting both the religious places. The approval 31 kilometer stretch of this national highway would be connected from National Highway-5 near Prem Nagar - Morinda - Chamkaur Sahib - Bela - Panyali with National Highway-344A.

**Environment**

### **CENTRE SETS UP PANEL TO MONITOR FIGHT FOR CLEAN AIR**

The Union Environment Ministry on 9<sup>th</sup> November set up a seven-member committee to monitor short-term and long-term measures being implemented to combat air pollution in the national Capital where air pollutants have touched calamitous levels in the past few days.

The Ministry held a high-level meeting with all regulators and decided to request respective State Governments to fully implement the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

Meanwhile, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said directions have been issued to project directors, contractors and field level officials working on highways projects around Delhi NCR to take stringent steps to check pollution arising out of the construction work.

Among the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are control of road and construction dust, garbage burning, control of power plants and industrial emissions, entry of vehicles and several other related factors.

Committee will be headed by Environment Secretary CK Mishra. Secretaries of Science and Technology and Biotechnology Department will be the members of the panel beside Delhi Chief Secretary, Additional Secretary Niti Aayog, Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board and representative of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy