

November 9th news:

International:

Chennai added in the list of 64 Creative cities network

India's Chennai has been included in the list of 64 Creative cities list, chosen by the UNESCO. In total 64 cities from 44 countries have been designated as UNESCO Creative Cities. They join a Network at the frontline of UNESCO's efforts to foster innovation and creativity as key drivers for a more sustainable and inclusive urban development. This network attracts growing interest from local authorities. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network now counts a total of 180 cities in 72 countries.

While differing geographically, demographically or economically, all Creative Cities commit to develop and exchange innovative best practices to promote creative industries, strengthen participation in cultural life, and integrate culture into sustainable urban development policies.

Chennai have been listed in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network for its contribution to music. Chennai is the third Indian city on the list of UNESCO Creative Cities list after Jaipur and Varanasi.

UNESCO's Creative Cities Network:

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The 180 cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

National:

SC dismisses plea against delay in drafting MoP for judges' appointment

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on 8th November dismissed a petition against delay in framing of Memorandum of Procedure being heard by another Bench of the Supreme Court, saying the issue had already been settled by a Constitution Bench in the NJAC case.

Acting on a petition filed by advocate RP Luthra highlighting the inordinate delay that has adversely affected judicial appointments, another Bench of Justice AK Goel and Justice UU Lalit had October 27 issued notice to Attorney General KK Venugopal. It had appointed senior advocate KV Vishwanathan as amicus curiae to assist it and posted the matter for hearing on November 14.

But the CJI chose to transfer the case to his own Bench – which also included Justice AK Sikri and Justice Amitava Roy – advanced the hearing; took it up; and dismissed it.

Indian short film 'The School Bag' wins award in Montreal

Indian short film 'The School Bag', which tells a story based in Pakistan, has won the Best Short Film Award at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM). The movie's plot is based in Peshawar and

tells a story about the relationship between a mother and her seven-year-old son who wants a new school bag on his birthday, but fate has something else in store for him. The film recreates events that happened in Peshawar in December 2014 when terrorists mowed down hundreds of schoolchildren.

Economy:

India slips to 7th position in business optimism ranking

India has slipped in 'business optimism' index to the 7th position in the September quarter, from the 2nd slot in the previous three months, showing clear signs of lag in the economy, says a survey.

Indonesia is at the top, followed by Finland (2nd), the Netherlands (3rd), Philippines (4th), Austria (5th) and Nigeria (6th), as per Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR).

According to the quarterly global survey on business optimism, Indian businesses have expressed low confidence over revenue expectations in the next 12 months.

They also saw a drastic fall in confidence for profitability with 54 per cent showing optimism as against 69 per cent in the last quarter. Other parameters like expectations of increase in selling prices and exports have also suffered a slight fall in optimism in this quarter, the survey said.

Indian businesses however remained optimistic about increase in employment as 54 per cent respondents expressed the need to increase hiring in the next 12 months, a three-point rise from June quarter. Other areas where the optimism remained intact were investment in plant and machinery and Research & Development (R&D).

According to IBR, India tops the chart in citing regulations and red tape and lack of ICT infrastructure as the biggest growth constraints with 69 per cent and 46 per cent voting for it respectively.

Sports:

Mary Kom wins

Mary Kom won her fifth gold medal in 48 kg category in Asian Women's Boxing Championships at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam on 8th November.

HS Prannoy, Saina Nehwal win national titles

H S Prannoy defeated Kidambi Srikanth in finale to claim the men's singles title at the 82nd Senior National Championship in Nagpur on 8th November.

The pair of Satwik Sai Raj R and Ashwini Ponnappa showed defeated Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy and won mixed doubles crown.

Saina Nahwal clinches the women's singles title beating P.V.Sindhu in straight sets at the 82nd Senior National Championship in Nagpur.

Awards:

Dhaliwal: Dr MS Dhaliwal, Additional Director of Research (Horticulture and Food Science), Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), has been honoured with 'Dr Kirti Singh Gold Medal -2017' by the Horticultural Society of India for his contributions to the vegetable science

Persons in news:

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has replaced Subhash Chandra Garg, secretary in the department of economic affairs, on the board of the National Highways Authority of India (NHA). The reorganisation of the NHA board was made as part of the Cabinet approval for the ambitious Bharatmala programme.

Sanjeev Kaushik: Sanjeev Kaushik, a Kerala cadre IAS officer, has been appointed as SEBI whole-time Member. He has been appointed for a period of three years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Kaushik's appointment.