

**September 4<sup>th</sup> news:**

**International:**

**India along with 23 other nations to participate in tsunami mock drill**

India along with 23 other nations will participate in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September which will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states. The exercise, known as IOWave18, is being organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of December 2004 tsunami.

Besides testing the SOPs and communication links at all levels of the warning chain, a primary objective of IOWave18 exercise is to enhance tsunami preparedness at community level. The purpose of exercise is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout the region.

Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), based out of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, is an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**National:**

**Panel urges plan to save springs**

A NITI Aayog constituted group of experts has urged the government to set up a dedicated mission to salvage and revive spring water systems in the country's Himalayan States given their vital importance as a source of water for both drinking and irrigation for the region's inhabitants.

Spanning States across the country's north and northeast and home to about 50 million people, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) has been heavily reliant on these natural groundwater sources, that are under increasing threat from the urbanization caused by a constant push for development and climate change.

The name of the report is-Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security

As per report almost half of the perennial springs have already dried up or have become seasonal and tens of thousands of villages are currently facing acute water shortage for drinking and other domestic purposes

Almost 60% of low-discharge springs that provided water to small habitations in the Himalayan region have reported clear decline during the last couple of decades

The extent of the crisis plaguing the mountainous region was recently evident when more than half a dozen districts of Himachal Pradesh and the State capital Shimla faced a severe drinking water crisis this May after major water sources either went fully or partially dry. While poor water management was said

to be the key cause, according to State authorities, they also attributed reduced snowmelt and depressed flow from springs as contributors to the crisis.

While Meghalaya with 3,810 villages with springs had the highest number of these water sources in the Eastern Himalayan States, Sikkim had the greatest density with 94% of its villages having a spring. In the Western Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir had both the highest number of villages with springs at 3,313 and the greatest density of 50.6%.

The task force moots an 8-year programme to overhaul spring water management. This includes: preparing a digital atlas of the country's springsheds, training 'para-hydrogeologists' who could lead grassroots conservation and introduction of a 'Spring Health Card.'

#### **Bilateral:**

#### **India, Cyprus ink two MoUs on financial intelligence sharing and environment**

India and Cyprus have signed two MoUs in the field of sharing of financial intelligence and environment. The MoUs were signed between the two countries after delegation-level talks in Nicosia on 3<sup>rd</sup> September

India and Cyprus agreed for the revision in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement made in 2016 to further enhance investment partnership to grow by strengthening the institutional framework to facilitate investment cross flows.

Both the countries have agreed to enhance business collaboration in the field of IT and IT-enabled services, tourism, shipping and renewable energy.

Cyprus for extended support to India's bid for permanent membership of the UN Security Council and membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

#### **Economy:**

#### **NCLT approves merger of Ahmedabad based NMCE with Reliance-anchored ICEX**

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of Ahmedabad-based National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE) with Reliance-anchored Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX).

This has created the third largest commodity exchange in India only after Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) and National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

With this, the boards of both the exchanges are set to meet this week to formalize and execute the merger process. NMCE will cease to exist post filing documents with the Registrar of Companies (RoC).

The merger is set to benefit both the exchanges. Post merger, all contracts of NMCE would automatically be migrated to ICEX to help boost the latter's inorganic growth.

The merged entity will have a wide and diverse set of shareholders, including Central Warehousing Corporation, Bajaj Holdings, Reliance Capital, Punjab National Bank, NAFED, Indiabulls Housing Finance, MMTC, Gujarat Agro Industries Corp, IDFC Bank, Kribhco and India Potash, among others

## **Sports:**

### **Virat Kohli retains top spot in ICC Test rankings**

India skipper Virat Kohli has maintained his top spot in the latest ICC rankings of Test batsmen. Cheteshwar Pujara remains the second highest ranked India batsman in the list as he retained the sixth position. Pacer Mohammed Shami climbed up three places to return to top 20 in the bowlers' table. His fellow fast bowler Ishant Sharma moved up one place to 25th position. Another pacer Jasprit Bumrah retained 37th position. Kohli achieved a career-high 937 rating points after innings of 46 and 58 in the fourth Test against England.

The Indian captain has scored 544 runs in his eight innings this series. He is 11th in the list of best ever in terms of rating points, just one adrift of a group of four - Gary Sobers, Clyde Walcott, Vivian Richards and Kumar Sangakkara.

Pujara's unbeaten 132, which helped India take the first innings lead in the fourth Test against England, lifted him from 763 to 798 points. Mohammed Shami's six-wicket match haul lifted him three places to 19th position. Jasprit Bumrah continued the strong start to his Test career, moving to a career-best 487 points after his fifth Test.

### **Anjum, Apurvi become first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Olympics**

Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela have become the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the 2020 Olympics. Moudgil finished second on the podium and won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea

Chandela finished fourth in the same event. The 24-year-old Moudgil shot a total of 248.4 in the eight-women final to open the Indian senior squad's medal account in the prestigious tournament.

Chandela aggregated 207 to finish fourth but still made the cut since a country can avail two Olympic quota places in this event. This is the premier tournament of the ISSF and assumes added significance as it is the first Olympic quota event for the Tokyo Games, offering as many as 60 berths across 15 events.

Though the two shooters have secured quotas, as per the stated policy, the National Rifle Association of India will take the final call on selection. This will be based on the aggregate scores of shooters leading up to the Olympic Games.

In the men's 10m air rifle event, Asian Games medalist Deepak Kumar cleared the qualification but finished sixth in the highly competitive final which was dominated by Russia and Croatia.

### **18th Asian Games: India finishes with biggest ever medal tally**

India ended their Asian Games 2018 campaign with the highest medal tally at the tournament ever, with a total of 69 medals which includes 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze medals.

India have thus surpassed their previous highest tally of 65 medals which they registered at the 2010 edition of Asiad in Guangzhou.

Indian women hockey captain Rani Rampal will be the country's flag-bearer. She has expressed her gratitude to the Indian Olympic Association and Hockey India for giving her the opportunity to lead the India contingent at the closing ceremony.

More than 10,000 athletes gave their best at the Asian Games 2018, winning medals for their respective countries. 465 gold medals were won by the athletes of 28 countries.

37 out of 45 participating nations were able to win medals at the Asian Games 2018. China finished on top of the medal tally with 132 gold medals.