

1-5 October 2018 Current Affairs



1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 October 2018 received the United Nations' highest environmental honour, the 'UNEP Champion of the Earth' award. He shared this prestigious award with whom? - **Emmanuel Macron (French President)**

Explanation: The award announced on 26 September, on the sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly at New York City, was presented by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on 3 October 2018 at a special ceremony in the PravasiBharatiya Kendra. PM Modi has got this award jointly with Emmanuel Macron, the president of France.

- Awarded annually, the 'UNEP Champion of the Earth' prize is given to outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.

- Macron and Modi are recognized in the "Policy Leadership" category for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action, including Macron's work on the "Global Pact for the Environment" and Modi's unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022.

2) The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been jointly awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo, as was announced on 1 October 2018. What is the field of study of these scientists? - **Cancer Treatment**

Explanation: James P. Allison (US) and Tasuku Honjo (Japan) have won the prize for their discovery of 'immune checkpoint therapy,' a cancer treatment. They have been jointly awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

- The discovery made by the two Medicine Laureates takes advantage of the immune system's ability to attack cancer cells by releasing the brakes on immune cells. While Allison studied a protein that functions as a brake on the immune system, Honjo discovered a protein on immune cells and revealed that it also operates as a brake, but with a different mechanism of action.

3) What are the names of the three physicists that have been awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics? - **Arthur Ashkin, Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland**

Explanation: American scientist Arthur Ashkin, French engineer Gérard Mourou and English professor Donna Strickland have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work in the field of laser physics. This was announced on 2 October 2018.

- Ashkin has been awarded the Prize "for the optical tweezers and their application to biological systems, while Mourou and Strickland have been awarded "for their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses.

4) Who were chosen for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2018, as was announced on 3 October 2018? - **Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter**

Explanation: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018 with one half to Frances H. Arnold "for the directed evolution of enzymes" and the other half jointly to George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies." This announcement was made on 3 October 2018.

- Dr. Arnold and Dr. Smith are Americans, while Dr. Winter is British. The trio has worked extensively in the evolution enzymes and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind. Enzymes produced through directed evolution are used to manufacture everything from biofuels to pharmaceuticals.



5) Which Indian-American economist was appointed as chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as was announced on 1 October 2018? - **Gita Gopinath**

Explanation: Prominent Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath was appointed as chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This was announced by IMF chief Christine Lagarde on 1 October 2018.

- Gopinath succeeds Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld, who announced in July that he would retire at the end of 2018. She currently serves as the John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University.

- A US citizen, she was born and grew up in India. She received her Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University in 2001 after earning a B.A. from the University of Delhi and M.A. degrees both from the Delhi School of Economics and University of Washington.



6) The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the takeover of housing finance major IL&FS board by government nominees on 1 October 2018. A new six-member board led by whom took charge of the entity? – **UdayKotak**

Explanation: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on 1 October 2018 approved the takeover of IL&FS board by government nominees, saying mismanagement at the crisis-ridden financier makes it a fit case of supersession of the board under Article 241 of the Companies Act. A new six-member board led by veteran banker UdayKotak took charge of the company.

- The other members are former SEBI chief GN Vajpai, ICICI Bank chairman GC Chaturvedi, Tech Mahindra's VineetNayyar, and former bureaucrats Malini Shankar and Nand Kishore.



7) On 4 October 2018 ChandaKochhar quit as CEO of ICICI Bank. Who was appointed the new MD and CEO? - **SandeepBakhshi**

Explanation: ChandaKochhar quit as CEO and MD of ICICI Bank with immediate effect on 4 October 2018.

The private bank appointed SandeepBakhshi, the current chief operating officer (COO), as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for five years, subject to regulatory approval.

- Kochhar was on an absence of leave from office, pending an investigation into allegations of her having favoured family members in lieu of providing loans to a corporate house. In June 2018, a panel was set up under retired Supreme Court judge Justice Srikrishna to probe allegations against ChandaKochhar.

6-9 October 2018 Current Affairs



1) The Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 has been awarded to two which two activists as was announced on 5 October 2018? - **Dr. Denis Mukwege (Congo) and Nadia Murad (Iraq)**

Explanation: The Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 has been awarded to Congolese gynaecologist Dr. Denis Mukwege and Yazidi Iraqi human rights activist Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. This announcement was made the Nobel Prize committee on 5 October 2018.

- Dr. Denis Mukwege has spent large parts of his adult life helping the victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dr.Mukwege and his staff have treated thousands of patients who have fallen victim to such assaults.

- Nadia Murad is one of an estimated 3,000 Yazidi girls and women who were victims of rape and other abuses by the Islamic State in Iraq. She is the founder of "Nadia's Initiative", an organization dedicated to "helping women and children victimized by genocide, mass atrocities, and human trafficking to heal and rebuild their lives and communities".

2) On 8 October 2018 which two American economists were announced as the winners of the 2018 Nobel Prize for Economics? - **William D. Nordhaus and Paul M. Romer**

Explanation: Two American economists - William D. Nordhaus and Paul M. Romer, were announced as the winners of the 2018 Nobel Prize for Economics. This prize is officially known as the "SverigesRiksbank Prize

in Economic Sciences” and has been awarded for work on climate change and sustainable growth.

- The Yale economist William D. Nordhaus has spent the better part of four decades trying to persuade governments to address climate change, preferably by imposing a tax on carbon emissions. On the other hand, New York University economist Paul M. Romer’s work has demonstrated that government policy plays a critical role in fostering technological innovation.



3) On 5 October 2018 India and Russia signed an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) for the supply of which iconic anti-aircraft missile system to India? - **S-400 Triumf**

Explanation: S-400 Triumf is the name of an anti-aircraft weapon system developed by Russia which is often been described as "one of the best air-defence systems currently made". On 5 October 2018 India and Russia signed an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) under which Russia will supply 5 S-400 Triumf missile shield systems to India for \$5.43-billion.

- The Triumf missile deal with Russia will give India's military a much-needed boost, which would act as a deterrent against China's growing presence in the region and a superior edge over Pakistan.

- The S-400 Triumf missiles are extremely efficient to track and hunt down combat aircraft, even stealth planes, at unprecedented ranges.



4) What was the real name of the eminent Gandhian who was popularly known as ‘Nagaland’s Gandhi’ and who passed away on 6 October 2018? - **NatwarThakkar**

Explanation: Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as ‘Nagaland’s Gandhi’, passed away after a brief illness in Nagaland on 6 October 2018.

- He was from Maharashtra and had made Nagaland his home ever since he had arrived in the State in 1955. A Padma Shri awardee, he had founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang. His efforts to spread Gandhian philosophy and peace had earned him the sobriquet ‘Nagaland’s Gandhi’. He was 86



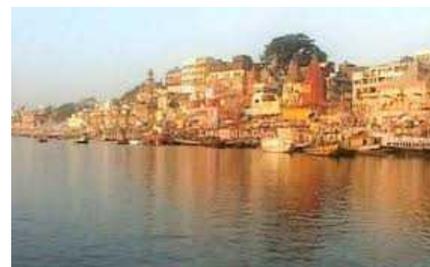
8) What landmark milestone was completed by the Boeing 747 aircraft on 30 September 2018? – **50 years of launch**

Explanation: The Boeing 747, one of the most significant machines ever built, completed 50 years of its launch on 30 September 2018. The plane, the original “jumbo-jet” rolled out of the hangar on 30 September, 1968.

- The Boeing 747, which changed aviation industry forever, was actually originally designed for the US Air Force. This plane provided economies of scale to airline companies with higher passenger carrying capacity.

- It was one of the aircrafts responsible for shifting air travel from being a mode available only for the wealthy to a mode affordable to the masses.

10-15 October 2018 Current Affairs



1) During October 2018, the Union Government came out with which first-ever regulations pertaining to flow of Ganga? – **The minimum quantity of water that various stretches of the Ganga must necessarily have all through the year**

Explanation: In a first, the Union government has mandated the minimum quantity of water that various

stretches of the Ganga must necessarily have all through the year. The new norms would require hydropower projects located along the river to modify their operations so as to ensure they are in compliance. This was announced on 10 October 2018.

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has laid down the flow specifications. The upper stretches of the Ganga - from its origins in the glaciers and until Haridwar - would have to maintain: 20% of the monthly average flow of the preceding 10-days between November and March, which is the dry season; 25% of the average during the 'lean season' of October, April and May; and 30% of monthly average during the monsoon months of June-September.

- For the main stem of the Ganga - from Haridwar in Uttarakhand to Unnao, Uttar Pradesh - the notification specifies minimum flow at various barrages: Bhimgoda (Haridwar) must ensure a minimum of 36 cubic metres per second (cumecs) between October-May, and 57 cumecs in the monsoon; and the barrages at Bijnor, Narora and Kanpur must maintain a minimum of 24 cumecs in the non-monsoon months of October-May, and 48 cumecs during the monsoon months of June-September.



2) Who was appointed the new Solicitor General of India by the Union Government on 10 October 2018? - **Tushar Mehta**

Explanation: The Union Government on 10 October 2018 appointed senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India, the country's second most senior law officer.

- Mehta, who was appointed ASG in 2014 after the BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) came to power, will hold the post till 30 June 2020, or until further orders.

- The post of Solicitor General was lying vacant since 20 October 2017, when Ranjit Kumar put in his papers.

3) Which private equity firm appointed former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya as an adviser, as was disclosed on 10 October 2018? - **ChrysCapital**

Explanation: Homegrown private equity firm ChrysCapital appointed former SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya as an adviser. She has joined her new designation.

- Bhattacharya will work alongside the PE firm's managing partner KunalShroff and others to advise the company on strategy. She will also be an integral part of the meetings for the PE firm's global institutional investors and will serve as a mentor to the team.

- Founded in 1999, ChrysCapital manages assets of around \$3 billion across seven funds. It largely provides growth capital to companies in India across sectors such as consumer goods and business services, infrastructure, manufacturing, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, information technology and financial services.

4) What is the name of the severe cyclone that made landfall between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of 11 October 2018 and devastated the two states resulting in death of at least 8 persons? - **"Titli"**

Explanation: "Titli" is the name of the severe cyclonic storm that made landfall between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of 11 October 2018. It devastated Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh and Ganjam district in Odisha with surface wind reaching speeds of 126 kmph. At least 8 persons were killed in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

- The cyclone triggered heavy to very heavy rainfall in Ganjam, Gajapati and Puri districts of Odisha, causing minor damage to power and communication. On the other hand numerous trees were uprooted and huge damage to property reported in Andhra Pradesh. More than 2,000 electric poles were uprooted by strong winds in the state.



5) On 10 October 2018 who was appointed the new chief of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)? - **Lt. Gen. AsimMunir**

Explanation: Lt. Gen. AsimMunir was appointed as the new Director General (DG) of Pakistan's spy agency ISI. This was announced by Pakistan Army's media wing on 10 October 2018. He replaced Lt. Gen. NaveedMukhtar. Mukhtar assumed the office of the ISI chief in December 2016.

- Munir has previously served as the head of the Military Intelligence (MI). He has also served as the commander of the Force Command Northern Areas.
.....

16-22 October 2018 Current Affairs



1) India’s longest river bridge will be built across which river as was reported during October 2018? – **Brahmaputra River**

Explanation: India’s longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra River and it will connect Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya. The 19.3 km, four-lane bridge will be built by 2026-27 and will cut road travel by 203 km as also travel time.

- At present, vehicles take an over-200 km-long detour using the Naranarayan Bridge, which is 60 km upstream. The new bridge will complete the missing link of NH127B from Assam to Meghalaya.

- Currently, the longest river bridge in India, at 9.15 km, is the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge which was opened last year. The Japanese funding agency Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has approved a loan for this project.
.....



2) Who won the Man Booker Prize for fiction on 16 October 2018 and became the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the prestigious prize? - **Anna Burns**

Explanation: Anna Burns won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction on 16 October 2018 for “Milkman”. The novel is a violent story about men, women, conflict and power set during Northern Ireland’s years of Catholic-Protestant violence.
.....

- Burns is the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the 50,000-pound (\$66,000) prize, which is open to English-language authors from around the world. This was the 50th edition of the prize.
.....

3) On 17 October 2018 who was named the winner of the New Academy Prize in Literature, an alternative award formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize that had been postponed over a rape scandal? - **Maryse Conde**

Explanation: Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde on 17 October 2018 won an alternative award (New Academy Prize in Literature) formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize, postponed this year over a rape scandal that came to light as part of the #MeToo movement.

- The New Academy Prize in Literature was formed in protest to denounce what its founders called the “bias, arrogance and sexism” of the venerable Swedish Academy, which selects Nobel laureates. The new award was founded by more than 100 Swedish writers, artists and journalists.

- The Swedish Academy was plunged into turmoil in 2017 over its ties to Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, who was jailed for two years in early October for rape.
.....



4) On 20 October 2018 China performed the full-fledged test of a huge amphibious aircraft that has been claimed to be the largest amphibious aircraft currently in operation. What is the code name given to this aircraft? - **AG600**

Explanation: AG600 is the code name of China’s ambitious amphibious aircraft that has been claimed to be the world’s largest amphibious aircraft in operation. It is equal in size to a Boeing 737.

- The first water take-off and landing of AG600 was successfully performed on 20 October 2018 outside the city of Jingmen in central China.

- The aircraft is designed for maritime rescue, long-range transport and firefighting operations. The machine can take up to 50 passengers on board and can take in some 12 tons of water in just 20 seconds.
.....

5) A consortium led by which global steel entity acquired debt-ridden Essar Steel as was announced on 19 October 2018? - **ArcelorMittal**

Explanation: On 19 October 2018, the lenders to bankrupt Essar Steel declared that the highest bid was from the joint venture (JV) of Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal, promoted by Lakshmi Mittal, and Japan's Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corp. Thus the consortium acquired the Indian steel maker and ensured that ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker, makes its entry into Indian steel sector.

- ArcelorMittal-led consortium had tabled a resolution plan that offered Rs. 42,000 crore to buy out Essar Steel's assets, which had accumulated debt of over Rs. 49,000 crore. Essar steel has a 10 million tonne (mt) per annum mill in Hazira, Gujarat. The company is a fully-integrated flat steel manufacturer.



6) Veteran politician and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Narayan Dutt Tiwari passed away on 18 October 2018 in New Delhi. He was 93. What unique fact regarding Chief Minister's post is associated with him? - **He is the only politician to serve as Chief Minister of two states**

Explanation: Narayan Dutt Tiwari was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for three terms - (1976-77, 1984-85, 1988-89) and served once as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand (2002-2007). Between 1986 and 1988, he served in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet, first as External Affairs Minister and then as Finance Minister. He served as Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 2007 until 2009.

- He had the unique distinction of being the only politician to serve as Chief Minister of two states (Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand). He died on his 93rd birthday on 18 October 2018 in New Delhi from multiple organ failure.



7) Who was elected the new Prime Minister of Bhutan in country's third democratic election, the results of which were announced on 19 October 2018? - **Lotay Tshering**

Explanation: Lotay Tshering, the President of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa party was elected the new Prime Minister of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan on 19 October 2018. His party won 30 of 47 national assembly seats in the third general election in Bhutan.

- Bhutan has now chosen a different party to rule at each election since the end of absolute monarchy in 2008. Tshering is a 50-year-old urology surgeon. He will replace Tshering Tobgay.

23 October 2018 Current Affairs



1) In which Indian state the diesel became costlier than petrol for the first time as on 21 October 2018? - **Odisha**

Explanation: A litre of diesel cost 12 paise more than that of petrol in Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar on 21 October 2018 with diesel being sold at Rs 80.69 per litre while petrol cost 80.57 per litre. This was the first instance of diesel becoming costlier than petrol in any Indian state.

- While other states have different VAT rates for petrol and diesel, Odisha charges a uniform 26% VAT on both.



2) A completely revamped National Police Memorial and museum was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which city on 21 October 2018? - **New Delhi**

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened a revamped National Police Memorial and a museum at Chankayapuri in New Delhi on 21 October 2018.

- Conceptualised in 1984, the earlier memorial, a 150-foot structure of steel, was brought down on the order of the Delhi High Court in 2008 because it violated environmental norms.

- The Prime Minister also announced a decoration in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary men engaged in disaster relief.



3) What is the name of India's first domestic luxury cruise liner that started its operations between Mumbai and Goa during October 2018? – **“Angriya”**

Explanation: “Angriya” is the name of the India's first domestic luxury cruise liner that that started its operations during October 2018. The cruise, operating on the Mumbai-Goa sea route, is a luxurious 7-deck, 131-meter long passenger ship built in Japan.

- Complete with bars, restaurants, swimming pool, spa and discotheque, the ship can accommodate about 400 passengers. It completes the journey between Mumbai and Goa in 14 hours.

4) What is the name of the smartphone payment service launched in Japan by Indian payments entity Paytm in joint-venture with SoftBank and Yahoo during October 2018? – **PayPay**

Explanation: ‘PayPay’ is the name of the barcode-based smartphone payment service that was launched during October 2018 in Japan by Paytm - India's largest payments service provider. This new service has been launched in a joint venture with SoftBank Corporation and Yahoo Japan Corporation.

- PayPay allows users to store money from a bank account in their “PayPay” wallet and aims to promote the use of cashless payment in Japan, which is heavily dependent on cash for payments. Japan accounts for only 20% of overall cashless transactions in the country.

- With the launch of “PayPay,” Yahoo Japan will terminate “Yahoo! Wallet” - its current smartphone settlement function.

24-26 October 2018 Current Affairs



1) World's longest sea bridge was opened to public on 24 October 2018 by China. This bridge primarily connects Hong Kong which two regions? – **Hong Kong and Zhuhai**

Explanation: China opened the world's longest sea-crossing bridge and tunnel for public on 24 October 2018. The entire length of this super structure is 55 km and it is thus the longest fixed link on the Earth. This bridge is officially called the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB). It was opened to the public after its inauguration a day earlier by Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China.

- The HZM Bridge connects Hong Kong with Macau and Zhuhai, three major cities on the Pearl River Delta. The governments of mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau contributed in this mammoth project that cost around USD\$ 20 billion.

- This project is primarily a bridge-tunnel system consisting of a series of three cable-stayed bridges and one undersea tunnel, as well as two artificial islands. The undersea tunnel ensures ships to pass unhindered.

2) The Union Government on 24 October 2018 constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the issue of sexual harassment at workplace. Who is heading this group? - **Rajnath Singh**

Explanation: The Union Government on 24 October 2018 constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at the workplace.

- The GoM has been set up in the wake of the recent #MeToo movement in the country. Former editor M.J. Akbar had to resign as Minister of State for External Affairs following allegations of sexual harassment against him by former colleagues.

- Other members of the GoM include Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister

tallest statue in the world. Who is sculptor of this gigantic statue constructed by L&T Limited? – **Ram Sutar**

Explanation: Ram Vanaji Sutar has designed the statue Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31 October 2018. The statue called “Statue of Unity” is the largest statue in the world.

- For designing this gigantic statue, Ram Sutar had prepared four prototypes of thermocol, out of the largest prototype was selected for this project. Work began four years in his 20,000 square feet, designed by in Noida near Delhi with a 3-feet prototype in clay. A few months later, he was ready with the giant thermocol model with the help of 3D imaging.

- For the main statue 1700 tonnes of bronze and 6,000 micro panels were used. With 182 meters, “Statue of Unity” overtook Spring Temple Buddha statue in China’s Henan province to become world’s largest statue.

.....
3) India jumped 23 places in the World Bank's latest ease-of-doing-business global rankings in 2018, as reported in the World Bank’s ‘Doing Business 2019: Training for Reform’ report released on 31 October 2018. What is India’s position in the index? – **77**

Explanation: India jumped 23 places to come in at the 77th spot in the World Bank's latest ease-of-doing-business global rankings in 2018. India jumped 30 places in the index last year.

- The World Bank’s ‘Doing Business 2019: Training for Reform’ report, released on 31 October 2018, showed India’s rank in ease of doing business jump up from the 100th place among 190 countries. India had broken into the club of 100 nations easiest to conduct business in last year when it managed to jump 30 places from the 130th position.

- India has been adjudged the fifth-best performing nation in reforming the business environment. The country improved its rankings in six of the 10 sub-categories used by the World Bank to judge business climate. It had delivered a similar performance last year.



4) An Indonesian aircraft with 189 people on board crashed into the sea and sank on 29 October 2018 killing all persons. This aircraft belonged to which private Indonesian airline company? – **Lion Air**

Explanation: Flight 610 belonging to Indonesian budget airline Lion Air crashed on 29 October 2018 killing all 189 passengers and crew. The aircraft was on a scheduled flight from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta to Depati Amir Airport in tin-mining hub of Pangkal Pinang.

- The aircraft involved in this accident was a Boeing 737 MAX that had been in service for two months and flown 800 hours. It was the first major accident involving the 737 MAX and the deadliest involving a 737 aircraft. The plane crashed in the Java Sea off the coast of Java just 13 minutes after taking-off.

- A preliminary investigation revealed problems noticed by passengers and crew on the aircraft's previous flight, as well as signs of instrument failure on previous flights.



5) It was reported during October 2018 that Uber has lost the tag of the world’s most valuable startup as its valuation was surpassed by another entity. Which entity is this? – **ByteDance**

Explanation: Six-year-old Chinese Internet start-up ByteDance, owner of news aggregator Toutiao and video sensation TikTok, is currently valued at \$75 billion against Uber’s \$72 billion. This was reported by CB Insights on 26 October 2018.

- ByteDance Ltd. has closed \$3 billion of funding from SoftBank Group Corp. and other major investors at a valuation of \$75 billion, cementing its position as the world’s biggest privately backed startup. The funding deal represents a major infusion of cash that will quicken the Chinese media giant’s expansion beyond its home turf.