



Current Affairs Year Book 2018 PDF (January to September)

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Current Affairs Year Book 2018 PDF for UPSC & PCS 2018 Exam January to September

Dear readers,

This PDF is a complete docket of important Current Affairs news and events that occurred in last **8 months (1 January 2018 – 13 September 2018)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like UPSC, UPPCS, PCS, State, and other Govt. Exams.

Schemes by Union/State Govt.

September

1. Delhi Government launches India's first scheme for doorstep delivery of essential government services

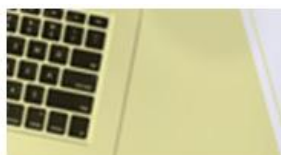
- Delhi Government has launched scheme for doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services like caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections.
- It is first home delivery scheme of various essential government services in the country.
- It will help to deal with corruption in delivery of essential government services and promote transparent governance.

2. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a new Umbrella Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA). The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

- **Aim** – The scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
- **Objective** – To empower farmers and strengthen the Agriculture sector.
- **Allocation** - The Cabinet has sanctioned **Rs 15,053 crore** to implement the PM-AASHA in the next two financial years, of which Rs 6,250 crore will be spent this year.

Components of PM-AASHA: Under the PM-AASHA, states would be allowed to choose from three schemes –

- Price Support Scheme (PSS),
 - Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
 - Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).
- #### 3. Govt. extends Atal Pension Yojana indefinitely - Union Cabinet decided to indefinitely extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018. To further incentivize people's participation in the scheme. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) –



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- It is a social security scheme launched by the government in 2015 to provide a defined pension between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.
- It had replaced earlier government-backed pension Swavalamban scheme.

Key features of the schemes:

- **Overdraft facility doubled** - The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.
- **Age limit increased** - The age limit has been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.
- **Accidental insurance cover raised** - The accidental insurance cover has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.

4. **Govt. revised Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** – The government has revised the PMJDY scheme, to further incentivize people's participation in the scheme.

Key points

- **Overdraft facility doubled** - The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.
- **Age limit increased** - The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.
- **Accidental insurance cover raised** - The accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh.

5. **Swadesh Darshan Scheme:** Tourism Ministry sanctions Rs. 80.37 crore for developing cruise tourism in Kerala.

Note:

- The scheme was launched by Union Tourism Ministry with an objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 'North East Circuit: **Imphal and Khongjom**' was inaugurated in Manipur.
- The project covers two sites i.e. Kangla Fort and Khongjom in Manipur.

August

1. **O-SMART' scheme** – The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences

Key points –

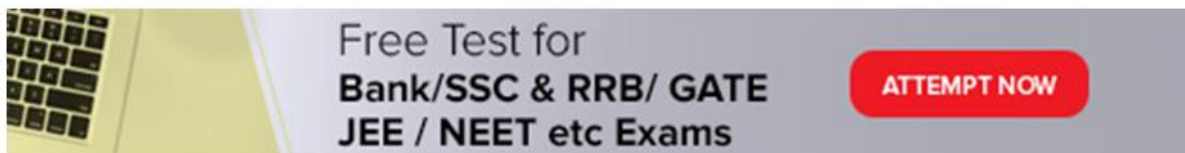
- (O-SMART) stands for - Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science.
- O-SMART scheme encompasses 16 sub-projects related to ocean development activities and science for implementation during 2017-18 and 2019-20.
- The CCEA approved the scheme for implementation during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of Rs 1623 crore.

2. **HRD Ministry launches Innovation Cell at AICTE** - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has established Innovation Cell at AICTE premises in New Delhi.

Aim - It aims to systematically foster culture of innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

3. **Government launches third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019** - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 (SIH-2019).

- Smart India Hackathon is world's biggest open innovation model which aims to provide



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students with platform to solve some of pressing problems faced by people in their daily lives.

4. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** – Govt. has appointed senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Key points

- It is farmers' welfare scheme launched in 2016 to ensure faster insurance services or reliefs to farmers.
- It aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.
- Under this scheme, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%.
- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by Government.
- Moreover, there is no upper limit on Government subsidy, so farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.

5. **PMS-OBC scheme** - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved continuation and revision of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes** Students for studying in India (PMS-OBC) till 2020.

Key points

- PMS-OBC is flagship scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in operation since 1998-99.
- It is fully centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide financial assistance to OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.
- Under revised PMS-OBC, annual parental income ceiling has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- Now onwards, 30% of funds will be earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.

6. **CCEA approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** – The scheme was launched on 25 December 2000.

- It aims to provide single all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas.
- Union Ministry of Rural Development is nodal ministry for implementation of Scheme.

7. **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** - Union Government, NABARD and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) have signed revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) through Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).

Key points:

- PMKSY was launched in July 2015 with overarching vision to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation for all agricultural farms in the country and to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity.
- It is implemented by Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development.
- It has outlay of Rs 50000 crore with implementation period of over five-year till April 2020.

Note:

- The government has approved a corpus of **Rs 5,000 crore** for the setting up of a dedicated **micro irrigation fund** (MIF) under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard).

8. **Govt. approves 122 new research projects under IMPRINT scheme:** Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its IMPRINT-II (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) scheme.

Note:

- IMPRINT is first of its kind MHRD supported scheme to address major science and engineering challenges and boost original scientific and technological

research in 10 technology identified domains in the country.

- It was launched in November 2015 with an aim to develop new engineering education policy and create road map to pursue engineering challenges.

9. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Government achieves 5 crore Free LPG Connections Target.

- Union Government has announced that it has reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) almost eight months ahead of schedule (i.e. in 27 months instead of 35 months).
- World Health Organisation (WHO) has recognised PMUY as one of decisive intervention by Government to address indoor air pollution which accounts for nearly 10 lakh deaths in year in the country.

Key points:

- Union Government launched PMUY in May, 2016 with tagline of '**Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.**'
- It aims at providing clean-cooking fuel to poor households, who are otherwise vulnerable to various health hazards associated with indoor air pollution and bringing in qualitative changes in living standards.
- PMUY is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

- Considering its huge success, government had revised target to 8 crores with budgetary allocation of Rs. **12,800 crore.**

Note: Uttar Pradesh has got the maximum number of LPG connections (87 lakh) followed by West Bengal (67 lakh) and Bihar (61 lakh).

10. Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam: Andhra Pradesh Government has approved Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide **Rs 1000 per month unemployed youth in state.**

- The allowance will directly credited in bank accounts of selected beneficiary through biometric authentication in transparent manner. It will not be applicable to those paying provident fund.

11. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) – NITI Aayog identified 117 Districts as Aspirational Districts for RUSA Scheme.

- During the second phase of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges(MDCs) in 'Aspirational Districts' identified by NITI Aayog and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and the Himalayan States.
- **Note: RUSA** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), launched in 2013 aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.

July

1. Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme: The Union Government has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from **Rs 1000 to Rs 250.**

- The minimum initial deposit to open the account has also been reduced to **Rs 250.**
- The move is aimed at enabling more people to take advantage of the girl child savings scheme.

Key points:

- **Aim** - The scheme aims to provide **financial security** to a girl till the time that she gets married.
- **Age limit** - The Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme is meant **for girl children below the age of 10 years.**
- The account matures in **21 years before** which it is in a lock-in period where funds cannot be withdrawn.
- Also, the interest rate for the July-September quarter is **8.1%.**

- **Flexible deposit amounts:** The account can be opened with a **minimum deposit of Rs.250** and in multiples of Rs.100 thereafter.
 - A maximum of **Rs.1.5 lakhs** can be deposited per account every year.
2. **MP Government launched Subsidised Power Scheme 'Sambal':** The Madhya Pradesh State Government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families.
- Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of **Rs 200 per month**.
3. **Govt. launches Student Police Cadet Programme:** Ministry of Home Affairs sponsored Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme was launched nationally in Gurugram, Haryana.
- It was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar.
 - The programme aims to build bridge between Police and larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.
4. **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018:** Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) has launched

Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in New Delhi.

5. It is a rural cleanliness survey to rank all states and districts on basis of qualitative and quantitative evaluation.
6. **Govt. selects 734 athletes for Khelo-India scholarships** - Sports Authority of India (SAI) under Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has cleared 734 athletes for the scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme.
- They will be provided with annual stipend of Rs. 1,20,000 on quarterly basis to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses.

Khelo India Talent Development Scheme

- The scheme was introduced by Ministry of Sports and Youth affairs to revive sports culture in India at grass-root level.
- Its objective is to build strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as great sporting nation.
- It aims to help scout young talent from schools in various disciplines and groom them as future sports champions

June

1. **Solar Charkha Mission:** President Ram Nath Kovind launched Solar Charkha Mission under which Government will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to thousands of artisans, generating employment in rural areas.
- It was launched during the event of Udyam Sangam (National MSME Conclave) on the occasion of World MSME Day (observed on 27 June).
2. **Suryashakti Kisan Yojana' for Farmers:** The Gujarat government launched a solar power scheme for farmers-Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well

as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.

3. **Seva Bhoj Yojna, Union Ministry of Culture** launched a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
- The Union Ministry of Culture has launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
 - Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) charged on the

raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.

- The scheme has been launched for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 with a total outlay of **Rs. 325.00 crores**.

4. **Swajal Scheme** launched in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.

- Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.
- It will involve outlay of **Rs. 700 crores** through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.

5. **Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018** for laborers and poor families: The Madhya Pradesh government announced

an outstanding power bill waiver scheme Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018 for laborers and poor families.

- Laborers falling under the unorganized sector in Madhya Pradesh will get power supply at a subsidized rate.
- The state cabinet also approved **Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018** (a scheme to provide subsidized power) in the meeting.

6. **Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana** a Health Insurance Scheme for Journalists: Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a new Health Insurance Scheme for the journalists launched by the state government in Odisha.

- This scheme provides Rs. 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists of the state.

May

1. **Samagra Shiksha scheme:** The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched Samagra Shiksha scheme to improve quality of school education.

Note:

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched Samagra Shiksha scheme to improve quality of school education.
- The scheme aims at improving quality of education, enhancing learning outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.

2. **Union Ministry of Power** launched the **PRAAPTI App** to bring transparency in electricity payments to Generators.

Note:

- The Union Ministry of Power launched web portal (www.praapti.in) and app namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).

- The webportal and app aims to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.

3. **IP Nani** - The union minister Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot **IP Nani** at the conference in New Delhi.

- Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson "Chhotu" aka Aditya.
- The IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among people, especially children, in an interesting manner.

4. **Gujarat govt.** launch free treatment scheme for the road accident victims.

Note:

- Under this scheme, the state govt. will bear medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of road accident in the state for the first 48 hours.

- Free treatment includes dressing of wounds, X-ray, blood transfusion, treatment in ICU and MRI, and all other treatment available in a hospital.

5. **National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy** - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy to promote new projects as well as hybridization of the existing ones.

Note:

- The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for the promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land.
- These projects can be set up anywhere across the country depending on feasibility and land availability with bidders.
- The MNRE is also in the process of launching a scheme for new hybrid projects under this policy.

6. **Digital India Internship Scheme** - In May 2018, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the website of **Digital India Internship Scheme** in New Delhi.

Key points -

- Under this scheme, **25 interns** will be inducted for a period of three months, paid a stipend of **10 thousand rupees per month**.
- The internship is an opportunity for a student to secure first hand and practical work experience under the guidance of qualified and experienced Supervisor and Mentor.

- It also aims at active participation in the learning process through experimentation and putting into practice the knowledge acquired in the classrooms.

7. **Rythu Bandhu scheme** - The **Telangana government** launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) scheme at Dharmarajupalle-Indiranagar village in Karimnagar district on May 10, 2018.

- The scheme is a first-of-its-kind initiative providing investment support to farmers, who own land.

8. **'SWAYAM'** - Human Resource Development Ministry has launched an initiative 'SWAYAM' to train teachers using digital platform.

- The government will use the Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM aims to update the teaching technique of 1.5 million higher education faculty with focus on new and emerging trends.
- To achieve this, in the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified to prepare online training material and keep the teachers well-informed of latest developments in their disciplines through the online refresher course.
- Several institutions such as Central, State and Open Universities, National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training, IITs, IIITs, NITs and other have been notified as NRCs in this regard.

April

1. **'Project Dhoop'** - In order to address rising incidence of Vitamin 'D' Deficiencies, particularly amongst the young people, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has launched a unique initiative, 'Project Dhoop' in association with NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools.

- This unique initiative urges schools to shift their morning assembly to noon time mainly between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to ensure maximum

absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority** of India is an autonomous body established under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**.
- Current Union Minister of Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.

- He is a member of Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh.
2. **UTTAM App** - for Coal Quality Monitoring.
 - The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring.
 - **UTTAM stands for** – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal
 - UTTAM App ensures accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in coal ecosystem.
 - It provides a platform for monitoring of sampling and coal dispatches.
 3. **'Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan'** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan' at Ram Nagar in **Mandla district** of Madhya Pradesh.
 - The objective of the scheme is to enhance capacities and effectiveness of Panchayats and the Gram Sabhas.
 4. **Atal New India Challenge** - On 26th April 2018, **NITI Aayog** launched **Atal New India Challenge** under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with an aim to bring-in innovations and technologies relevant to the people.
Key points –
 - **Grant** - Under the Atal Innovation Mission grants of **up to Rs 1 crore** will be provided to the applicants showing capability, intent, and potential to productize technologies.
 - **Objective** - The objective of this initiative is to solve problems in different 17 areas, which would have direct impact on improving lives of citizens and also generate employment.
 - **Partnership** - Under this new initiative, Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture and Family Welfare, Drinking Water & Sanitation and the Railway Board.
 5. **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** - The **Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)** launched the second edition of the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** in New Delhi.
 - The objective of this mission is to students from 750 colleges and universities across the country will adopt the nearby villages and visit them to get familiar with the life of the village people and the problems faced by them in the day to day life.
 6. **Study in India** - In April 18, the Government of India (GoI) has launched its flagship 'Study in India' programme to attract international students to study in India.
 - It was jointly launched by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Human Resources Development Satya Pal Singh in New Delhi.
 7. **'Rupshree Yojana'** - West Bengal introduced 'Rupshree Yojana' for marriage of poor girls of the state
 - In this scheme, there is a proposal to extend the financial assistance of Rs 25,000 to the girl's family, whose annual income is Rs 1.5 lakh.
 - The State Government of West Bengal had earlier initiated a scheme called Kanyashree Scheme to promote education among women.
 8. **'Atal Amrit Abhiyan'** - Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu launched an ambitious health assurance scheme 'Atal Amrit Abhiyan' in **Assam** state.
 - The scheme will offer free medical care of up to **2 lakh rupees** for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.
 - The scheme will cover 92% of the state's population with annual income below 5 lakh rupees.
 - The Assam govt. earmarked 400 crore rupees for the scheme in the financial year 2018-19.
 9. **Ganga Haritkala Scheme (Ganga Hariyali Yojana)** - started by the state of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The main objective of this scheme is to increase the green cover in the catchment areas of Ganga river and to control the erosion of land.
 10. **DARPAN-PLI App** - **Minister of Communications** Manoj Sinha launched the **DARPAN-PLI App** in New Delhi.

- The DARPAN-PLI App will help in the collection of a premium for PLI and RPLI policies at Branch Post Offices anywhere in India.

- DARPAN stands for - Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India.

March

1. **Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas** (Our Village, our development)" programme - **Odisha** state launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' programme -

- Aim - to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.

2. **KHUSHI' Scheme"** - Odisha government launched KHUSHI scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.

3. **Udyam Sakhi Portal** - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched the Udyam Sakhi Portal for women entrepreneurs of India.

4. **"SATH-E"** project - to introduce system-wide Governance Transformation in school education.

- The expand form of **"SATH-E"** is Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education.

5. **'Saubhagya' scheme – Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** union ministry partnered with the Ministry of Power to support household electrification scheme 'Saubhagya'.

- The Union Ministry of Power has partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states – Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh – for speedy implementation of its household electrification **scheme 'SAUBHAGYA'**.

- The purpose of the SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) scheme is to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country in a time bound manner.

Schemes launched in Union Budget 2018 February

1. **KUSUM scheme 2018** - Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan scheme announced in the Union Budget 2018.

- **Objective:** to encourage farmers for solar farming across the country.
- **Budget allocation - Rs. 48,000 crore**
- **Benefits** – Govt. will provide Solar Agricultural Pumps to the farmers.
- **Target** – Doubling farmers income by 2022.

2. **Ayushman Bharat Scheme** – In the Union Budget 2018 two major initiatives in health sector as part of Ayushman Bharat programme announced by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

(i) Health and Wellness Centre - Under this **1.5 lakh centres** will bring health care system closer to the homes of people. These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.

Budget - The Budget has allocated **Rs.1200 crore** for this flagship programme.

(ii) National Health Protection Scheme - National Health Protection Scheme will cover over **10 crore** poor and vulnerable families. It will have **50 crore beneficiaries**. This scheme will be world's largest government funded health care programme.

3. **Operation Green** – On the lines of “Operation Flood” a new Scheme “Operation Greens’ is announced in the Union Budget 2018.

- **Aim** – The aim of Operation Green scheme is to promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- It is a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
- The operation aims to aid farmers and help control and limit the erratic fluctuations in the prices of onions, potatoes and tomatoes.
- **Budget Allocation – Rs. 500 crore**
- **Objective** - to double the income of farmers by the end of 2022.

4. **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** – Terming Bamboo as ‘Green Gold’, the Union Finance Minister launched announced the scheme in the Union Budget 2018. It is a wholly-sponsored central scheme.

- **Objective** - to promote the bamboo sector in the country. This will help the people of rural and tribal areas.
- **Budget Allocation - Rs 1,290 crore**

5. **Gobar Dhan Yojana - Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resource Fund Scheme** - In Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has announced the new scheme for the villagers.

Objective - To make the villages open defecation free and improving the lives of villagers.

Key points

- Under this scheme the solid waste and cattle dung will be composed into useful elements such as Bio-CNG and Bio-Gas that are needed in agricultural sector.

6. **Affordable Housing Fund (.Kifayati Aawas yojna)**– In Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has announced the new scheme to provide homes at low cost.

Objective – To boost demand and supply of low-cost homes.

Key points –

- Government will establish a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) in National Housing Bank, funded from priority sector lending shortfall and fully serviced bonds authorized by the Government of India.

7. **Ekalavya Model Residential School** – In the Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has announced the scheme to educate children from the Tribal Community.

Objective – To bring major revolutions in the education sector.

Key points

- Under this mission, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% Scheduled Tribes (ST) population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an **Ekalavya Model Residential School**.
- “Ekalavya schools will be on a par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture, besides providing training in sports and skill development.”

8. **Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)** - To make India produce better research and make its institutions climb up in global rankings.

- **Objective** - To step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions.
- **Agency** - Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) would be suitably structured for funding this initiative.
- **Budget allocation** - a total investment of **₹1 lakh crore** in the next four years.

9. **Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme** – A ‘Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme’ was announced for top 1,000 BTech students in the country to provide opportunity to the students to pursue a PhD in IITs and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

January

1. **Govt relaxes norms for Atal Pension Yojana** - The Union Finance Ministry has relaxed norms of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to allow small finance banks and payment banks to offer APY distribution. The move is expected to help expand coverage of the scheme.
Key features of the APY –
 - It is a social security scheme.
 - It replaced earlier Swavalamban scheme.
 - Age limit – **18 – 40 years**
 - Pension - Under scheme, subscriber will receive a minimum guaranteed pension of **Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000 per month**, depending on his contribution, from age of 60 years.
 - There is no exit to the scheme before the age of 60.**Note:** Uttar Pradesh with 11.41 lakh subscriber (APY accounts) is highest contributing state of the scheme followed by Bihar (8.87 lakh subscribers) and Tamil Nadu (6.60 lakh).
2. **Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana (MGSVY)** – Punjab government launched the 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' (MGSVY) aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.
3. **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative** - The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.
Objective - to strengthen cybersecurity ecosystem in India in line Government's vision for a 'Digital India'.
Key points
 - It was launched in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.
 - Cyber Surakshit Bharat is first public-private partnership of its kind.
 - It will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity.
 - The founding partners include leading IT companies such as Microsoft, Intel, WIPRO, Redhat and Dimension Data.
4. **Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna** - Maharashtra state government launched the Yojna.
Objective – To promote climate-resilient agriculture in the state.
Total budget - Rs.4,000-crore.
Note:
 - The yojna will be roll out in 2018-19 and continue till 2023-24.
 - The Scheme has been named after social activist Nanaji Deshmukh who has worked in fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance, and has been honoured with Padma Vibhushan.
5. **Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat'** launched by HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar **in Kochi, Kerala.**
 - The programme is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
6. **'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana'** – Odisha state government launched the yojana assistance scheme for Artists in the state.
Objective – To provide financial assistance to the artists of the state.
Note:
 - The government has decided to give Rs 1,200 per month as artist assistance.
 - As per new eligibility criteria, a male artist can get assistance under after attaining the age of 50 years (earlier it was 60 years) and female artist can get it at age of 40 years (earlier it was 50 years).
7. **National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis scheme** – The scheme will be roll out by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Objective - The focus will be on anti-viral treatment of Hepatitis C which will be provided free at all government health set-ups.
Budget - Rs 600 crore for the next three years.

Summits & Conference

September

- 1. 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018):**
New Delhi
Note: WOSA is a biennial Summit organised by National Board of Accreditation (NBA).
- 2. World Hindu Congress - Chicago, the USA**
Note: The theme of World Hindu Congress is '**think collectively, achieve valiantly**'.
- 3. India's first Global Mobility summit 'MOVE' - New Delhi.**
Note:
 - It was inaugurated Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - The summit was organised by NITI Aayog.
 - The main focus of the summit is to make cities of India pollution free.
 - The Summit includes three designated components – The Conclave, Digital Exhibition, and Featured Events.
- 4. 87th Izmir International tradeshow – Izmir, Turkey.**
Note: India is the partner country in the tradeshow.
- 5. Defence & Homeland Security Expo & Conference – New Delhi.**
- 6. India and the US hold the first edition of the two-plus-two talks in New Delhi.**
- 7. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 - Kathmandu, Nepal.**
Note: The theme is “Equality begins with Economic Empowerment”.
- 8. International Aviation Summit - New Delhi, India.**
- 9. 6th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers’ Meeting - Singapore**
- 10. 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting - Singapore**
- 11. 4th International Ayurveda Congress - Netherlands**
Note: Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the event.

August

- 1. 4th BIMSTEC Summit - Kathmandu, Nepal**
Note:
 - The theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'
 - Sri Lanka has become the new chair of the BIMSTEC. Hence, Sri Lanka will host the fifth summit of the BIMSTEC.
- 2. International Buddhist Conclave 2020 - India will host the Conclave in August 2020.**
- 3. First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum Begins – Kathmandu, Nepal**
- 4. G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting - Salta, Argentina.**
Note: The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'.
- 5. The 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee - Nairobi, Kenya.**
- 6. Fourth Asian electoral stakeholder’s forum (AESF-IV) – Colombo, Sri Lanka**
- 7. India Banking Conclave 2018 - New Delhi.**
Note: The India Banking Conclave 2018 was organized by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)
- 8. International Buddhist Conclave 2018 – New Delhi, India**
Note:
 - The theme of the conclave is 'Buddha Path – The Living Heritage'
 - This year Japan is the partnering country for the Buddhist conclave.
- 9. 11th World Hindi Conference - Port Louis, Mauritius.**
Note: Theme – ‘Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti’
- 10. The 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) - Beijing, China.**
Note: Theme was “Learning To Be Human”.

11. 'One District One Product' Summit - The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 'One District One Product' Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Note:

- Uttar Pradesh contributes around 44% in the total handicraft exports of the country.

- Under the 'One District One Product' scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing employment to 25 lakh people in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.

12. 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting - Singapore

13. Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting - New Delhi, India

July

1. 1st Nepal-India Think Tank Summit – Kathmandu, Nepal.

2. **10th BRICS Summit 2018** - Johannesburg, South Africa.

Note:

- The theme of BRICS Summit 2018 was 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'.
- **11th BRICS Summit 2019** - Brazil

3. The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting - **New Delhi, India.**

4. **Global Disability Summit 2018** – London, UK

5. **The 8th BRICS Health Ministers' meeting** - Durban, South Africa.

6. **India and Japan fourth round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue** - New Delhi, India

7. **8th India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting** - Muscat

8. **17th World Sanskrit Conference** - Vancouver, Canada.

9. 6th edition of biennial World Cities Summit – Singapore.

Note: The theme was “Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration”

10. India to host International Union of Food Science and Technology 2018 – India to host 19th edition of its prestigious global event to be held in Navi Mumbai, India in October 2018.

11. 17th World Sanskrit Conference held in Canada: Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada.

12. 6th edition of biennial World Cities Summit held in Singapore: The sixth edition of biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore from July 8 to 12, 2018. Its theme was “Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration”.

13. The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Interseasonal ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries.

June

1. **Haryana** to host World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference.
 - Haryana Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference at Gurugram in 10-13 October 2018.
2. **World Environment Day 2018: India**
 - India hosted 2018 World Environment Day on June 5, 2018.
 - With “**Beat Plastic Pollution**” as the theme for this year’s edition, the world is coming together to combat single-use plastic pollution.
 - India ranks at 177 positions out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index 2018.
3. The **11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 – New Delhi**.
 - The 11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, India.
 - The aim of the event was to provide platform to showcase innovative applications of Geospatial technologies.
4. **18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit 2018 - China**
 - The 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-2018) was hosted by China in the city of **Qingdao** in June 2018.
 - 17th SCO summit 2017, was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in June 2017.
 - **Kyrgyzstan** has taken over the SCO rotating presidency, and the **19th SCO summit will be held in Kyrgyzstan next year**.
5. **44th G7 Summit 2018 – Canada**
 - The **44th G7 summit** was held on June 8–9, 2018, in **Quebec, Canada**.
 - This was the sixth time since 1981 that Canada has hosted the meetings.
 - The **45th G7** summit or next G7 summit will be held in **2019 in France**.
 - The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
6. An International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) - **Kathmandu, Nepal**
Explanation:
 - The International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
 - The Theme of the two-day conference is “**Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society**”.
 - The conference is organised by the Federation of Computer Association Nepal (CAN).
7. **11th World Hindi Conference - Mauritius**
 - The 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018 with an aim to increase the popularity of Hindi globally.
 - The main theme of the Conference is ‘**Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti**’.

May

1. Global Wind Summit 2018: **Hamburg, Germany**.
 - The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany in September 2018.
- The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.

- India is fourth largest country, after China, the US and Germany, in terms of wind energy installation capacity.
2. 9th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' - **Tehri, Uttarakhand.**
 - Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' was held to promote India's rich cultural Heritage which was organised by the Ministry of Culture.
 - **Mahesh Sharma**, Union Minister of Culture - Minister of State (Independent Charge)
 3. The 71st World Health Assembly was held in: **Geneva, Switzerland.**
 - The Union Health Minister Mr. J P Nadda led the Indian Delegation at World Health Assembly.
 - The Event was held under the theme "**Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage**".
 4. The 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial meeting was held at - **Malmo, Sweden.**
 - The Indian delegation was led by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences.
 - The 'Mission Innovation' is a global platform of 23 countries and European Union aimed at accelerating clean energy innovations through enhanced Government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation.
 5. Climate summit 2019 – **New York**
 - Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in **New York** to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
 6. The third edition of 'United Nations Peacekeeping course for African Partners(UNPCAP)' - **New Delhi**
 - The third edition of 'United Nations Peacekeeping course for African Partners(UNPCAP)' was held in New Delhi.
 7. **15th Asia Media Summit 2018 - India**
 - India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit 2018 in **New Delhi.**
 - The theme of this summit is "**Telling our Stories Asia and More**".
 - The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and India hosted the **event for the first time.**
 8. **2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) – China**
 - China will host the 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) in August 2018.
 - The theme of the conference is - **Creating new intelligent power and sharing the new opening-up era.**
 - It will offer a venue where academic thoughts can be exchanged at high levels and the latest achievements demonstrated.
 9. **2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference - China**
 - China hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference in Wuhan, on 9th May 2018.
 - From India, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons attended the conference.
 - It was the first meeting of SCO tourism ministers since the organization was established in 2001 in Shanghai.
 10. First meeting of the **BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation - India**
 - The first meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation was held in New Delhi, **India on 10-11 May 2018.**
 - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization involving a group of countries in the South Asia and South-East Asia namely, **Myanmar, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal & Sri Lanka.**
 - BIMSTEC was established on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, **Bangladesh.**

11. 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit – Nepal

- Nepal will host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.

12. First-ever joint conference of Indian Customs and Department of India Posts – New Delhi

- The first-ever joint conference of Indian Customs and Department of India Posts at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.

13. India- South Africa Business Summit 2018 was held in – Johannesburg

- India- South Africa Business Summit 2018 was held in Johannesburg.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended the event.
- The tag line of the India- South Africa Business Summit is – **United by Legacy, Unified for Prosperity.**

14. The 4th Regional Conference on ‘Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure’ 2018 was held in – Bengaluru

- The conference was organised by the Ministry of Finance.
- The conference was held to discuss three broad areas which include –
- the Challenges as well as Opportunities in the context of need for Futuristic,
- Resilient and Digital Infrastructure,
- Resource Mobilisation and Emerging Challenges among others.

15. The 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers 2018 was held in Manila.

Note:

- The twelfth informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, the capital of Philippines.
- Finance Minister of **Nepal Yuba Raj Khatriwada** chaired the meeting.
- The meeting was held on the side-lines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from the SAARC member states attended the meeting.

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 – Varanasi

Explanation:

- The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held on **21-23 January 2019**, in the holy city of **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh.
- The **theme** of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is **“Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India”**.
- Prime Minister of **Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth** will be the **Chief Guest** at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019.

2. The India Mobile Congress will be held from 25th – 27th October 2018 in New Delhi

- The theme of the 2018 India Mobile Congress is – **“NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS: Connect. Create. Innovate.”**

April

3. The first ‘Happy Cities’ Summit – **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**
4. 7th edition of Home Expo India 2018 – **Greater Noida**
5. The 10th edition of “DefExpo India- 2018” – **Tamil Nadu**
 - The theme of the expo is **“India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”**.
6. The World Expo 2020 – **Dubai**
7. First International conference on ‘Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership’ – **Nepal**
8. The 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Mid-Term Ministerial conference – **Baku, Azerbaijan**
 - The theme of the conference is – **“Promoting International Peace and Security for Sustainable Development”**.
 - External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** attended the meeting.

9. International Buddhist Conference 2018 **Lumbini, Nepal**
10. First meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors - **Washington D.C.**
 - Ministry of Finance, Government of India was represented in the meeting by **Shri Subhash Chandra Garg**, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (EA).
11. The 2018 Global Malaria Summit - **United Kingdom**
 - The 2018 Global Malaria Summit was held alongside the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, United Kingdom.
12. 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 - **United Kingdom**
 - The 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 is being hosted by United Kingdom from **16-20 April 2018**.
 - The theme of the CHOGM 2018 is "**Towards a Common Future**".
 - Rwanda has been selected as host of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be held in **2020**.

March

1. The first G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors held in ___**Buenos Aires, Argentina**
Note:
 - The 2018 G20 summit will be the 13th meeting of Group of Twenty (G20).
 - The summit will be held on 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2018 in the city of **Buenos Aires, Argentina**.
 - It will be the first-ever G20 summit to be hosted in **South America**.
 - G 20 Summit in 2017 was held in **Hamburg, Germany**.
 2. **106th edition** of the Indian Science Congress will be held in ___**Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:
- The event will be from January 3-7, 2019 at Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The **theme** for 2019 ISC will be "**Future India: Science & Technology**".
 - **105th Indian Science Congress** was held at Manipur University, Imphal.
 - The **theme** for 2018 ISC is "Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology".
 - **104th Indian Science Congress 2017** was held in **Tirupati** (S. V. University), **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - **103rd Indian Science Congress 2016** was held in **Mysore**.

February

1. Global Investment Summit held in - **Assam**
2. 7th India Energy Congress – **New Delhi**
 - The theme of the summit is '**Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030**'.
3. 7th Asia Steel International Conference – **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
4. International Bird Festival will be held at the Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh in February 2018.

January

1. **16th International Energy Forum** (IEF) Ministerial meeting will be held in New Delhi in April 2018.
2. World Economic Forum Summit held in – Davos, Switzerland
3. **India-ASEAN business** and investment conference held in **New Delhi**.
Note:

- The theme of the conference was “Shared Values, Common Destiny”.
 - The conference was held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of sectoral dialogue between two sides.
4. The first **International Dam Safety Conference-2018** was held in Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
 5. India has announced to host informal Ministerial meeting of **World Trade Organisation (WTO) in March 2018** in New Delhi to muster support for issues and help to multi-lateral process.
 6. The 10th edition of Global Forum for Food & Agriculture was held in Berlin, Germany.
 - The theme of this year’s event is “Shaping the future of livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently”.
 7. **The first-ever Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)** Parliamentary Conference was held in the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi on the occasion of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD).

Note:

 - This year’s PBD celebrated ASEAN-Indian partnership and was themed *Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN INDIA Partnership*.
 - The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on January 9 to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
 8. 7th International Coffee festival – Bengaluru.
 9. World Future Energy Summit held in - Abu Dhabi.
 10. India-Israel Business Summit held in Mumbai.
 11. India for the first time took part in a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in **Beijing, China**.
 12. 3rd edition of the Geo-Political conference, 'Raisina Dialogue' held in New Delhi.
 - This year's topic of Raisina Dialogue is 'Managing Disruptive Transitions - Ideas, Institutions and Idioms.'
 - The conference was inaugurated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
 13. International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) held in New Delhi.
 14. 4th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry held in New Delhi.
 15. 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine India and Malaysia held in New Delhi.
 16. 4th International Dharma Dhamma Conference held in Rajgir in Bihar.
 17. The 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held from March 16 to 20 at Manipur University in Imphal.

Books & Author July/Aug/Sept

1. Book titled 'The Rule Breakers' - **Preeti Shenoy**
2. Book titled 'Atal Ji Ne Kaha' - **Brijendra Rehi**
3. Book titled '281 and Beyond' - **VVS Laxman (veteran cricketer) autobiography**
4. Book titled 'No Spin' - **Shane Warne (veteran cricketer) autobiography**
5. Book titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" - **Ramachandra Guha**.
6. Novel "Warlight" - **Michael Ondaatje** (named in Man Booker Prize list)
7. Novel 'The English Patient' - **Michael Ondaatje** (winner of Golden Man Booker International prize 2018)
8. Book titled 'Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly' - **Abhirup Bhattacharya**

1. The book 'Straight Talk' authored by __ **Abhishek Manu Singhvi**

May

2. Author of the book "Across the Bench – Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System" - **Gyan Bhushan**
3. Book 'Calling Sehmat' authored by - **Harinder S. Sikka**

April

1. Author of 'Smart Cities Unbundle' book - **Dr. Samir Sharma**
 2. Author of 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism' book - **C. H. Hanumantha Rao**
 - He is a former Planning Commission and member of the Finance Commission.
- The book was released by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
 3. Authored of the book "India's Heritage of Gharana Music: Pandits of Gwalior" - **Meeta Pandit**

March

1. Book titled 'Paramveer Parwane' authored by - Prabhakaran Jain

Feb

1. Book titled '**Exam Warriors**' authored by – Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi
2. Book titled "**A Century is Not Enough**" autobiography of – Sourav Ganguly.

Jan

1. Book titled '**Imperfect**' autobiography of – Sanjay Manjrekar (cricketer-turned-commentator)
 2. Book titled "**Citizen Delhi: My Times, My Life**" autobiography of - Former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.
3. Book titled "**Indian Instincts**" authored by – Dr. Miniya Chatterji
 4. Book titled "**The Diary of a Domestic Diva**" authored by - Shilpa Shetty.
 5. Book titled "**The Widows of Malabar Hill**" authored by - Sujata Massey

Books launched in 2017

1. Novel 'Two' authored by - Gulzar (Veteran lyricist)
2. Book titled "**The Coalition Years**" authored by – Pranab Mukherjee (Former President of India)
3. Book titled "**The Golden House**" authored by – Salman Rushdie.
4. Book titled "**India 2017 Yearbook**" authored by – Rajiv Mehrishi
5. Book titled "**I Do What I Do**" authored by – Raghuram Rajan (former RBI Governor)
6. Book titled "**Immortal India**" authored by – Amish Tripathi.
7. Book titled "**A Horse Walks into a Bar**" authored by - David Grossman (Winner - Man Booker International Prize 2017)
8. Book titled "**How India Sees the World**" – Shyam Saran.
9. Book titled "**Hit Refresh**" – Satya Nadella.
10. Book titled "**Unstoppable: My Life So far**" authored by – Maria Sharapova.

11. Book titled **"The Shershab of Kargil"** authored by - Deepak Surana (Biography of Kargil war hero - Late Captain Vikram Batra)
12. Book titled **"I am HIV positive, so what?"** authored by - Jayanta Kalita (The book is based on the life of an international bodybuilding champion Khundrakpam Pradipkumar Singh hailing from Manipur, who was diagnosed HIV-positive.)
13. Book titled **"Cryptocurrency for Beginners"** authored by - Amit Bhardwaj.
14. Book titled **"Making of a legend"** authored by - Bindeshawar Pathak.
15. Book titled **"Dalhousie Through My Eyes"** authored by - Kiran Chadha.
16. Book titled **"Playing With Fire"** authored by - Katie Price.
17. Book titled **"Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives"** authored by - C. Raj Kumar.
18. Book titled **"The Ministry of Utmost Happiness"** authored by - Arundhati Roy.
19. Book titled **"The Crisis Within"** authored by - Ganesh Devy.
20. Book titled **"Indira Gandhi - A life in Nature"** authored by - Jairam Ramesh.
21. Book titled **"Beren And Luthien"** authored by - J.R.R. Tolkien.
22. Book titled **"Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji"** authored by - Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank".
23. Book titled **"Matoshree"** authored by - Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan

Obituaries

September

1. **Vijay Shankar Vyas** - Renowned agricultural economist and former PM's Economic Advisory Committee member.
2. **Bhagwati Kumar Sharma** - Noted Gujarati author and poet
3. **Jain Muni Tarun Sagar** - The monk, who was known for his lecture series 'Kadve Pravachan passed away.

August

1. **John McCain** - US Senator
2. **Kuldip Nayar** - Veteran Journalist
3. **Uri Avnery** - Israeli journalist and peace activist and one of the first to openly advocate for a Palestinian state passed away at the age of 94.
4. **Kofi Annan** - Former United Nations Secretary-General
5. **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** - Former prime minister of India.
Note:
 - He was three times Prime Minister of India. First Term: May 1996, Second Term: 1998-1999 and Third Term: 1999-2004.
6. **Ajit Wadekar** - Former India cricket captain
7. **Balramji Das Tandon** - Chhattisgarh Governor
8. **Somnath Chatterjee** - Former Lok Sabha speaker
9. **V.S. Naipaul** - Nobel Prize-winning British author V S Naipaul.
Note: He wrote more than 30 books and won the Nobel Literature Prize in 2001.
10. **M Karunanidhi** - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

1. **Ramapada Chowdhury** - Noted Bengali writer
2. **Swapan Sarkar** - Veteran Sports Journalist
3. **Ramchandra Singhdeo** - Former and first Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh
4. **Gopal Das Neeraj** - Renowned Hindi poet & lyrics

July

Note: He was conferred with Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2007.

5. **Rita Bhaduri** - Veteran actor
6. **M.N. Vyasa Rao** - Kannada Poet
7. **Dada Vaswani** - Spiritual leader

June

1. Adiraju Venkateswara Rao - **Veteran Journalist**
 - Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away.
2. Nerella Venumadhav - renowned **mimicry artiste**
 - Noted mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav passed away after a brief illness in Warangal city. He was 85.
 - He has conferred scores of awards, including the Padma Shri in 2001.
3. Timothy Pereira - **former football player**

- Timothy Pereira, former football international who represented Tata FC, passed away in Mumbai.
4. **Pappu Karki** - **Kumaoni folk singer**
 - Karki was famous for singing Kumaoni folk.
 - Karki is originally from Thal in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
 5. Rasaraj' Narayan Prasad Singh - **lyricist**
 - Odisha's most popular lyricist, Narayan Prasad Singh was popularly known as 'Rasaraj' passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar. Singh was 86.

May

1. Urmila Singh - former Governor of **Himachal Pradesh**
 - She was appointed as the governor of **Himachal Pradesh** in 2010.
2. **Alan Bean** - fourth man to walk on the moon.
3. **Dr Hemu Adhikari** - veteran film and theatre actor
 - He was known for his cameo in Rajkumar Hirani's 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai' (2006).
7. **Geeta Kapoor** - veteran **Bollywood actor**
 - Geeta acted in around 100 films such as in Kamal Amrohi's "Pakeezah" and "Razia Sultan".
4. **E.C. G Sudarshan** - Eminent Indian-American theoretical physicist
 - Dr. Ennackal Chandy George Sudarshan (Professor at the Texas University) specialized in Quantum Optics and linked Vedanta with modern physics.

- In 2007, the Indian government recognised and awarded the physicist with the second highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan.
5. **Anita Das** - Popular Odia film and veteran TV actress
 6. **Jivya Soma Mashe** - Noted artist
- Note:**
- He had received the Padma Shri in 2011 for his contribution towards the **Warli painting**.
 - In 1976, he had got the National Award for the Tribal Art.
7. Nandram Das Bairagi - **Hindi film lyricist**
 - **Noted Hindi film lyricist, Nandram Das Bairagi, popularly known as Balkavi Bairagi**, passed away in Madhya Pradesh.
 - Bairagi, a Lok Sabha member between 1984 and 1989 and also a former Rajya Sabha MP, was 87.
 8. Kalasala' Babu - noted actor (**Malayalam**)
 9. Ankit Chadha - **Storyteller**

- Renowned **storyteller** Ankit Chadha (30-years) passed away in a tragic accident occurred at Uksan Lake near Kamshet (60 kilo meters away) from Pune.
- **Chadha** was known for his unique style of **storytelling in Urdu**.

10. Rajinder Pal – Cricketer

- Former **Delhi cricketer Rajinder Pal** (80), passed away in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on May 9, 2018.
- He had represented the country in one Test match, against England (then known as MCC) during the 1963-64 series at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.

11. Idris Hasan Latif - Former Air Chief Marshal

12. P.P. Lakshmanan - Sports

- He was a **former President** of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- He was the first Indian to be chosen as the member of FIFA's appeal committee (Germany 2006 and South Africa 2010 editions).

13. Ravinder Sharma - renowned artist.

- **Renowned artist-philosopher Ravinder Sharma** (also called as Guruji) passed away

due to cancer at Kala Ashram in Adilabad, Telangana.

14. Ashok Mitra - former Finance Minister of West Bengal

- Ashok Mitra was an eminent economist, scholar and first Finance Minister in the Left Front government in West Bengal. He was 90.
- He worked for the World Bank, taught at the Delhi School of Economics and Indian Institute of Management Calcutta.
- He was the **Chief Economic Adviser** to the government of India from 1970 to 1972 when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister.

15. Kottayam Pushpanath - the renowned detective novelist

- Pushpanathan Pillai, better known by the pseudonym Kottayam Pushpanath, was a prolific Malayali author most noted for his detective novels in **Malayalam language**.

16. Keyur Bhushan - well-known Gandhian & freedom fighter

- Keyur Bhushan (90), the well-known Gandhian, freedom fighter and writer, passed away in Raipur, **Chhattisgarh**.
- He took part in the 1942 Quit India movement as a student in **Raipur** and was incarcerated.

April

1. T V R Shenoy – **Journalist** (Karnataka)
2. MS Ravi – **Journalist** (Kerala)
3. Justice Rajinder Sachar - **former Chief Justice Delhi High Court**
4. Bhimsain Khurana – **Animator**
 - He was known for his animation shots in films like - **Gharaonda'** (got Film fare Awards) "Ek Anek Ekta' (won him a National Award) with the unforgettable " Ek **Chidiya akek chidiya**" song.
5. S Nihal Singh - **Veteran journalist**
 - **Veteran journalist S Nihal Singh** was passed away due to illness on April 2018. He was the founding editor of The Indian Post.

6. Ram Kumar - noted painter
 - Ram Kumar was a noted painter was honored with Padma Shri award in 1972 and
 - Kalidas Samman by the Madhya Pradesh government in 1986.
7. E N Rammohan - former Director General of **Border Security Force**
8. Raj Kishore – **Actor**
 - He played the role of one of the prisoners in Ramesh Sippy-directed "**Sholay**".
9. Munin Barua - noted film-maker (Assam)
10. Niranjana Thomas Alva - **renowned lawyer**.
 - Niranjana Thomas Alva (78), a Supreme Court lawyer and husband of Congress leader Margaret Alva, passed away.

11. Balantrapu Rajanikantha Rao – **noted poet (Andhra Pradesh)**

12. Amita Udgata veteran **TV Actor**

- She became a household name after playing the role of 'Amma' in Star Plus' popular social drama Mann Ki Awaaz Pratigya.

13. Tony Daniel - **Athletics**

- Tony Daniel (66) is the technical committee chairman of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and the executive vice-president of Kerala State Athletics Association (KSAA).

February

1. Hukum Singh passed away - BJP senior leader and Lok Sabha MP from Kairana (U.P.)

January

1. Gurcharan Singh Kalkat passed away - Noted agricultural scientist and pioneer of India's Green Revolution
2. Supriya Devi passed away - Veteran Bengali film actress & Padmashri awardee
3. Chandi Lahiri passed away - Eminent cartoonist & writer
4. Raghunath Jha passed away - Former Union Minister & Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader
5. Dr N K Trikha passed away - Veteran journalist & author
6. Charu Rohatgi passed away - TV actress known for her roles in serials like 'Uttaran'
7. Gnani Sankaran passed away - Veteran Tamil writer, journalist and theatre personality

8. Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta passed away - Sarod maestro.
9. Baldev Raj passed away - a renowned administrator of nuclear power technologies & director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)
10. Saksham Yadav passed away - World powerlifting champion
11. Doodhnath Singh passed away - Famous Hindi story writer
12. Anwar Jalalpuri passed away - Noted Urdu poet

Appointments

National

September

1. **New Chief Justice of India** - Justice Ranjan Gogoi (46th CJI)

Note: He will assume office of Chief Justice on 3rd October, 2018 after retirement of incumbent Chief Justice, Justice Dipak Misra.

2. **New MD & CEO of Axis Bank** - Amitabh Chaudhry

Note: He will replace Shikha Sharma who will step down on December 31, 2018.

3. **New Managing Director of the SBI** - Anshula Kant

Note: With this appointment, SBI now has four MDs - PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.

4. **New Brand Ambassador of BSNL** - Mary Kom

5. **New Secretary (Ministry of Steel)** - Binoy Kumar

August

1. **First CEO of Vodafone Idea** - Balesh Sharma
2. **New DRDO Chairman** - G. Satheesh Reddy
3. **New Secretary General of Assocham** - Uday Kumar Varma
Note: Sandeep Jajodia is the present President of Assocham.
4. **Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister** - Union Minister Arun Jaitley is back as the Finance Minister after a three-month interval to recuperate from a kidney transplant surgery.
5. **New Independent Director of Indiabulls Housing Finance** – S.S. Mundra (former Deputy Governor of the RBI)
6. **New head Coach of the women's National team** - Ramesh Powar (Former India spinner)
7. **New Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity** - Justice Manjula Chellur
8. **New Chief Justice of Delhi High Court** - Justice Rajendra Menon
9. **New Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha** - Harivansh Narayan Singh
10. **New CEO of HSBC India** - Surendra Rosha

New Governor Appointed

1. **New Governor of Uttarakhand** –Baby Rani Maurya
 - Note: He replaced K K Paul.
2. **New Governor of Haryana** –Satyadev Narayan Arya
 - Note: He replaced Kaptan Singh Solanki.
3. **New Governor of Bihar** - Lalji Tandon
 - Note: He replaced Satya Pal Malik.
4. **New Governor of Tripura** – Kaptan Singh Solanki
 - Note: He replaced Tathagata Roy.
5. **New Governor of Sikkim** - Ganga Prasad
 - Note: He replaced Shriniwas Patil.
6. **New Governor of Meghalaya** - Tathagata Roy
 - Note: He replaced Ganga Prasad.
7. **New Governor of Jammu & Kashmir** - Satya Pal Malik
 - Note: He replaced NN Vohra.

July

1. International Kabaddi Federation Chief: **Janardan Singh Gehlot**
2. New Director & GM of United India Insurance: Vijay Srinivas
3. New CMD of SAIL - **Saraswati Prasad**
4. New Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI): Vishwas Patel
New Chairman of National Green Tribunal (NGT): Justice Adarsh Kumar

July

5. International Kabaddi Federation Chief: **Janardan Singh Gehlot**
6. New Director & GM of United India Insurance: Vijay Srinivas
7. New CMD of SAIL - **Saraswati Prasad**
8. New Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI): Vishwas Patel
9. New Chairman of National Green Tribunal (NGT): Justice Adarsh Kumar

June

1. New Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs - **S Ramesh**
 - He succeeded Vanaja N Sarna.
2. New RBI Deputy Governor – **Mahesh Kumar Jain**
 - The Centre appointed Mahesh Kumar Jain, Managing Director, and CEO of IDBI Bank, as the RBI's Deputy Governor.
3. New MD & CEO of IDBI Bank - **B Sriram**
4. New Managing Director of SBI - **Arijit Basu**
5. New COO of ICICI Bank - **Sandeep Bakhshi**
6. New Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting - **Amit Khare**
 - Amit Khare, IAS assumed charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on superannuation of Shri Narendra Kumar Sinha, IAS.
7. West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi gets additional charge of **Tripura** state Governor.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind gave West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi additional charge of Tripura Governor, during the absence on leave of Tathagata Roy.
8. New vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) - **Sharad Kumar**
9. Acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) - **Arvind Saxena**
 - He replaced incumbent Vinay Mittal.

May

1. New chief minister of Karnataka: **HD Kumaraswamy**
 - Congress Leader G. Parameshwara was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.
2. First-ever Chief Financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - **Sudha Balakrishnan**
 - Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed the first-ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - Earlier, she holds the post of vice president of National Securities Depository Ltd.
3. New MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank - **Anubrata Biswas**
4. New chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI) - **C K Prasad**
5. Get the additional charge of the DRDO Chief - **Sanjay Mitra**
 - Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra was given additional charge of the Chairman of Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
6. New deputy National Security Advisor of India - **Pankaj Saran**
7. New Governor of Odisha - **Ganeshi Lal**
8. New Governor of Mizoram - **Kummanam Rajasekharan**
9. In a cabinet reshuffle, Prime Minister given the additional charge of Finance Ministry to **Piyush Goyal**.
Note:
 - Rajvardhan Rathore: Information and Broadcasting Ministry (Independent charge)
 - SS Ahluwalia: Electronics Ministry
 - KJ Alphons: Tourism Ministry
 - Smriti Irani: Textiles Ministry
10. New Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi - **Uttam Pacharne**.
 - Eminent artist and sculptor Pacharne succeeds ML Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies).
11. New Chief Justice of Manipur High Court - **Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar**.
12. New Head of U.S India Business Council - **Ambika Sharma**.
13. New CMD of Coal India Limited - **Anil Kumar Jha**.
14. Senior advocate **Mukul Rohatgi** appointed as 'eminent jurist' in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee led by the Prime Minister.

- In May 2014, Rohatgi was appointed the Attorney General of India and resigned from the post in June 2017.

15. Chairman of IRDAI - Subhash Chandra Khuntia

- He replaced **TS Vijayan's** whose tenure ended on 21st February this year.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body which **regulates insurance and reinsurance industries in India.**
- **IRDAI** is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India.
- **IRDAI** headquarter is in **Hyderabad.**

16. Current Cabinet secretary of India - Pradeep Kumar Sinha

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by PM Narendra Modi approved the extension of Cabinet secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha (1977 batch IAS officer of UP cadre) for another one year (till June 12, 2019).

17. Chairman of the 22-member Public Accounts Committee (PAC) - Mallikarjun Kharge

Note:

- Congress leader **Mallikarjun Kharge** has been **re-appointed** chairman of the 22-member Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.
- **Kharge**, an MP from **Gulbarga (Karnataka)**, is the leader of Congress party in Lok Sabha.
- **About PAC** – It is the oldest parliamentary committee that examines **the accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament** for expenditure of Government of India and such other accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.
- The PAC consists 22 members -- **15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha.**

18. Ashok Lahiri appointed as full-time member of - 15th Finance Commission

Note:

- **Ashok Lahiri** appointed as full-time member of **15th Finance Commission.**
- **Ashok Lahiri** is the former Chief Economic Adviser of India.
- The head of the 15th Finance Commission is **N K Singh.**

April

1. New Chairman of Banks Board Bureau - Bhanu Pratap Sharma

- He replaced Vinod Rai who retires on 31 March 2018.

2. New Chairman of NASSCOM for 2018-19 - Rishad Premji

3. New Director General (DG) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) - Rajesh Ranjan

4. New Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - Balram Bhargava

5. New President of NASSCOM - Debjani Ghosh:

- She has replaced R. Chandrashekhar.
- Debjani is the first woman President of NASSCOM.

6. New president of Badminton Association of India (BAI) - Himanta Biswa Sarma

7. New Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir - Kavinder Gupta

8. New Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) - PP Malhotra

March

1. New Deputy Election Commissioner of India - **Chandra Bhushan Kumar**
Note:
 - The Election Commission of India formed in **25 January 1950** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India.
 - Election Commission headquarters is in **New Delhi**
 - The current Chief Election Commissioner of India is **Om Prakash Rawat**.
 - Under Chief Election Commissioner, there are two Election Commissioner which include - **Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa**.
2. New chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards (NFA) - **Shekhar Kapur**
3. New Director General Border Roads (DGBR) - **Harpal Singh**
Note:
 - The Border Roads Organisation develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighbouring countries.
4. New CEO Of Ayushman Bharat Mission - **Indu Bhushan**
5. New Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government of India (GoI) - **K Vijay Raghavan**
6. New Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) - **Sitanshu Ranjan Kar**
 - He also took over as the 27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India.
7. Suresh Prabhu given the additional charge of - **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
8. First woman officer to be inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) - **Prakriti**
9. New Chief Minister of Tripura - **Biplab Kumar Deb**
 - He became the 10th Chief Minister of Tripura.
 - He replaced Manik Sarkar.
10. New Chief Minister of Meghalaya - **Conrad Sangma**
 - Conrad Sangma, the President of National People's Party (NPP) & currently a Member of Parliament (MP) from Tura Lok Sabha constituency.
 - He is the son of former Lok Sabha Speaker late PA Sangma.
11. New Chief Minister of Nagaland - **Neiphiu Rio**

February

1. Indian Chef-de-Mission for the Commonwealth Games 2018 - Vikram Singh Sisodia.
 - Vikram Singh Sisodia is the president of Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association.
2. New Director-General of Sports Authority of India - Neelam Kapur.
3. New Director General of Military Operations (DGM0) of the Indian Army - Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan

January

1. New Foreign Secretary of India - Vijay Keshav Gokhale
 - He succeeded S Jaishankar.
2. New Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - K Sivan.
 - He succeeded A.S. Kiran Kumar.
3. New Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre - S Somanath
 - He succeeded K Sivan.
 - K Sivan appointed new ISRO Chairman.
4. New Director General of FICCI - Dilip Chenoy
 - FICCI stands for - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.
5. New Director General of National Security Guard (NSG) - Sudeep Lakhtakia
6. New Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) - Om Prakash Rawat
 - He became the 22nd CEC of India.
 - He succeeded Achal Kumar Joti.

7. New Election Commissioner - Ashok Lawasa (Former Finance secretary)
8. New Governor of Madhya Pradesh - Anandiben Patel (Former Gujarat Chief Minister)
9. New Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL) - S Selvakumar
10. New Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command - Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh
11. New MD & CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) – Vijay Kumar
12. First woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India - Indu Malhotra
13. 'Chef De Mission' For Winter Olympics 2018 - Harjinder Singh
 - 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
14. New MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - Dilip Asbe
15. Brand ambassador of Sikkim state - A R Rahman (Music composer)
16. New Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) - Rajinder Khanna

Appointment International

September

1. **New President of Pakistan** - Arif Alvi
Note: He was elected as the 13th President of Pakistan.
2. **New Chief Justice of Nepal** - Justice Om Prakash Mishra
3. **New Chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd** - Daniel Zhang
Note: Daniel Zhang will replace Jack Ma on Sept 10, 2019.
4. **Regional Director WHO South-East Asia** - Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
5. **New CEO & Executive Director (ED) of WPP Plc** (the world's largest communication services group) – **Mark Read**.

August

1. **New Prime Minister of Pakistan** - Imran Khan becomes the 22nd PM of Pakistan. He is the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).
2. **New Prime Minister of Australia** - Treasurer Scott Morrison
Note: He replaced Malcolm Turnbull.
3. **Re-Elected Mali President** - Ibrahim Boubacar Keita
4. **New President of Paraguay** - Mario Abdo Benitez
5. **New UN Human Rights Chief** - Michelle Bachelet
6. **New President of Colombia** - Ivan Duque
7. **1st Indian to become member at Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** - Ajay Data (Founder & CEO of Data XGen Plus)
8. **New CEO of PepsiCo** - Ramon Laguarta
Note: He will replace Indra Nooyi who will step down in October.
9. **New President of Zimbabwe** - Emmerson Mnangagwa
10. **Pakistan 1st Woman Chief Justice of High Court** - Justice Tahira Safdar

June

1. New President of Turkey - **Tayyip Erdogan**
2. New President of Colombia - **Ivan Duque**
 - He will replace **Juan Manuel Santos**.
3. New Prime Minister of Spain - **Pedro Sanchez**
4. New Prime Minister of Italy - **Giuseppe Conte**
5. First interim woman President of Paraguay - **Alicia Pucheta**
 - Paraguay gets first interim woman President Alicia Pucheta for the first time in its history after outgoing leader Horacio Cartes stepped down ahead of schedule.
6. New Prime Minister of Jordan - **Omar al-Razzaz**
 - Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz was sworn in as Jordan's Prime Minister.

May

1. New President of Venezuela - **Nicolas Maduro**
2. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) has named its first female chief - **Stacey Cunningham**
3. Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan - **Justice Nasir ul Mulk**
 - **Justice Nasir ul Mulk** was the former Chief Justice of Pakistan.
4. First female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) - **Gina Haspel**.
5. Re-elected ICC Chairman - **Shashank Manohar**.
6. New Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) - **Himanta Biswa Sarma**.
7. Veteran female actor and social activist **Shabana Azmi** nominated as the Global Leadership Ambassador for Women in Public Service Project (WPSP) at **Wilson Centre, USA**.
 - The Women in Public Service Project (WPSP) is co-founded by **Hillary Clinton** which aimed at empowering the next generation of women around the world.
8. New Prime Minister of Armenia - **Nikol Pashinyan**
 - He replaced Serzh Sargsyan who was earlier Prime Minister of the country.
9. New President of Costa Rica - **Carlos Alvarado**
 - **Carlos Alvarado** sworn in as the 48th President of Costa Rica. Alvarado is the country's youngest president in modern history.
 - The capital of Costa Rica is **San Jose** and **Colon** is the currency.
10. New Prime Minister of Malaysia - **Mahathir bin Mohamad**

Explanation:

 - **Mahathir bin Mohamad** became the new Prime Minister of Malaysia. With this, 92-year old Mahathir became the **oldest living Prime Minister of Malaysia** and the world's oldest head of government.

April

1. New Chief of NASA - **Jim Bridenstine**
2. New US Secretary of State - **Mike Pompeo**
3. New President of Cuba - **Miguel Diaz-Canel**
4. New 'Head of the Commonwealth' - **Prince Charles**
5. New Chairman of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) - **Ban Ki-moon**
6. New Prime Minister of Hungary - **Viktor Orban**
 - He elected as a PM of Hungary for the third consecutive term.

7. New President of Sierra Leone - **Julius Maada Bio**

8. Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia - **Subrata Bhattacharjee**

9. New President of Paraguay - **Mario Abdo Benitez**

March

1. New Prime Minister of Ethiopia - **Abiye Ahmed**
2. First female Chief of the UN Political Affairs - **Rosemary DiCarlo**
3. New President of Egypt - **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**
4. New President of Myanmar - **Win Myint**
5. India's representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO - **J S Rajput**

Note:

- Prof. J S Rajput is the former Director National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
 - The executive board is one of the constitutional organs of **UNESCO**.
6. New President of Nepal - **Bidya Devi Bhandari**
 - Bidya Devi Bhandari has been re-elected as President of Nepal for second term.

7. New Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus - **Sangeeta Bahadur**
8. New president of Republic of Armenia - **Armen Vardani Sarkissian**
9. New President of Peru- **Martin Vizcarra**
 - He replaced **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski**.
10. New National Security Advisor of the United States - **John Bolton**
 - He replaced **H. R. McMaster**.
11. Next Ambassador of India to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - **Atul M. Gotsurve**.
12. New Vice-President of Nepal - **Nanda Bahadur Pun**
13. New Governor of the Central Bank of China "People's Bank of China" - **Yi Gang**
 - **Yi Gang replaced Zhou Xiaochuan**.

February

1. **16th Chairman of the Federal Reserve** - Jerome H Powell
 - He succeeded Janet Yellen.
 - The Federal Reserve is the Central Bank of the United States.

- Federal Reserve headquarter is in Washington, D.C., United States.
2. New Chief Justice of Bangladesh - Syed Mahmud Hossain
 3. Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades re-elected for the second term.

January

1. New UNICEF Chief - **Henrietta Holsman Fore**.
 - She replaced Anthony Lake
2. **New Liberia's president** - George Weah (Ex-football superstar).
 - He replaced Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Honours & Awards

National

September

1. **39th Sarala Puraskar** - Noted Odia poet **Satrughna Pandav** will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection '**Misra Dhrupad**'.
2. **2018 Dr B.C. Roy National Award** - Dr B.K. Misra was named for prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award for year 2018 as Eminent Medical Person of the Year.
Note: It is the highest medical honour of India.

August

1. **'Legion of Merit' 2018** - The United States government has awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired), of the Indian Army.
2. **Shaurya Chakra** - Rifleman Aurangzeb and Major Aditya Kumar of Indian Army will be conferred the Shaurya Chakra.
3. **Outstanding Parliamentary Awards** - President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Outstanding Parliamentary Award for the years 2013-2017, in New Delhi.
The list of winners is:
 - Bhartruhari Mahtab (for year 2017)
 - Dinesh Trivedi (for year 2016)
 - Ghulam Nabi Azad (for year 2015)
 - Hukum Dev Narayan (for year 2014)
 - Dr Najma Heptullah (for year 2013)
4. **24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** - Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill.

July

1. **Mohun Bagan 'Ratna'** – Pradip Chowdhury (**former Mohun Bagan captain**)
2. **Kalidas Samman: Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon** had received the National Kalidas Samman in Delhi for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.
 - Beside her, Artist A. Ramachandran was also conferred with the Kalidas Award.

June

1. Polly Umrigar Award: **Virat Kohli**
 - Indian captain Virat Kohli received the **Polly Umrigar Award** for being the best international cricketer for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons at the annual BCCI awards.
2. Miss India 2018 - **Anukreethy Vas**
 - Anukreethy Vas, a 19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student, has been crowned Femina Miss India 2018.
3. Best Actor award at IIFA Awards 2018 - **Irfan Khan**
4. 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance - **Vasundhara Raje**
- Irfan Khan has been bagged as the Best Actor award at IIFA Awards 2018 for Hindi Medium movie.
- **Here's the complete list of winners:**
- Best Actor in a leading role (Female) - Sridevi (MOM)
- Best Director - Saket Chaudhary (Hindi Medium)
- Outstanding Achievement by an Actor in Indian Cinema - Anupam Kher

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance.
 - The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.
5. India's first Tribal Queen -- **Pallavi Durua**
 - Pallavi Durua, who belongs to Odisha's Koraput district, was crowned as the first Tribal Queen at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap.
 6. Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018 – **Vishwas Mandalik from Nasik and the Yoga Institute in Mumbai**
 - Vishwas Mandalik from Nasik and the Yoga Institute in Mumbai have been selected as recipients of the Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018.
 7. 'City Award' Under India Smart Cities Award 2018 – **Surat**
 - Under 'India Smart Cities Award' 2018, Surat has been awarded for showcasing "great momentum" in the implementation of projects

1. International Cricketer of the Year at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards - **Virat Kohli**

Other CEAT Cricket Ratings awards Presented are:

- International Batsman of the Year Award: Shikhar Dhawan (India).
- International Bowler of the Year Award: Trent Boult (New Zealand).
- T20 Bowler of the Year Award: Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).
- Outstanding Innings of the Year Award: Harmanpreet Kaur (India).
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Farokh Engineer (India).
- T20 Batsman of the Year Award: Colin Munro (New Zealand).

under the Smart Cities Mission, according to the Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry.

- Bhopal and Ahmedabad were selected in the 'Innovative Idea' category for their "transformative approach towards sustainable integrated development".
8. SKOCH Award for 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award - **Ministry of Women & Child Development**
 - SKOCH Group has conferred the 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award on the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the achievements in delivering the promises made and for its significant achievements and initiatives from the last 4 years.
 9. 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' - **Kailash Satyarthi & A S Kiran Kumar**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Surat, Gujarat.

May

- Domestic Player of the Year Award: Mayank Agarwal (India).
- U19 Player of the Year award: Shubman Gill (India).
- Popular Choice Award: Chris Gayle (West Indies).

2. Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 presented to the members of **INSV Tarini team**

- The Six-member all-women team led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi have received the Puraskar from the Minister.
- The crew of the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel 'Tarini' is a part of the Indian Navy's unique project 'Navika SagarParikrama', an all-women team circumnavigating the globe, promoting ocean sailing activities in the Navy and depicting Government of India's commitment towards women empowerment.

3. Red Ink Award for 'Journalist of the Year' - Faye D'Souza

- The RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' has been awarded to **Faye D'Souza**, executive editor of Mirror Now channel, for her coverage of issues that touch the lives of common people.

4. Red Ink award for lifetime achievement in journalism – Sir William Mark Tully

- Veteran British journalist and former BBC India correspondent Sir William Mark Tully chosen for this year's RedInk award for lifetime achievement in journalism.
- The award, a part of the National **RedInk Awards for Excellence** in Journalism, has been instituted by the **Mumbai Press Club**.

5. 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 - Muhammad Yunus

- Nobel laureate and noted economist **Muhammad Yunus** conferred with the KISS Humanitarian Award 2018.
- He is second Nobel laureate to be conferred the award. Last year it was presented to the 14th Dalai Lama.
- Yunus, is the founder of **Grameen Bank** and known as the Father of Microfinance.

- KISS Humanitarian Award is an international award given to someone who has made exceptional contribution to the society in various fields relating to social issues.

6. Swara Mauli Award - Lata Mangeshkar

- Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the **Swara Mauli** title by Shankarcharya Vidyanarsimha Bharati Swami in Mumbai.

7. T.K. Ramanathan Award For 2017-18 – Prajnesh Gunneswaran (Tennis player)

- Prajnesh Gunneswaran won the prestigious T.K. Ramanathan award for the year 2017-18 at the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).

8. Dadasaheb Phalke award - Akshay Kumar won the best actor awards at the Dadasaheb Phalke award for film **Padman** (Jury) and for Toilet: Ek Prem Katha.

- **Bhumi Pednekar** won the best actress award for the film **'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha'**.
- Veteran director & actor **Rakesh Roshan** had been awarded with the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the industry as an actor, producer, and a director.

April

65th National Film Awards for 2017 - The central panel of the 65th National Film Awards (NFA) is headed by Shekhar Kapur.

List of winners -

- Dada Saheb Phalke Award - **Vinod Khanna**
- **Best Director** - Jayaraj for Bhayanakam (Malayalam)
- Best Feature Film - **Village Rockstars** (Assamese) (Director – Rima Das)
- Best Hindi Film – **Newton** (Director – Amit V Masurkar)
- Best Actress - **Sri Devi** posthumously for her role in the film **'Mom'**.
- Best Actor (Male) - **Riddhi Sen** for his role in Bengali film **'Nagarkirtan'**.
- Best Popular Film – **Baahubali 2**

Other Awards

1. Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award 2018 - **Anushka Sharma**
 - Ranveer Singh selected for 2018 Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award as Best Actor for his movie '**Padmaavat**'.
2. Saraswati Samman for 2017 - **Sitanshu Yashaschandra**
 - Eminent Gujarati poet and playwright '**Sitanshu Yashaschandra**' is the winner of the 2017 Saraswati Samman.
 - He won the Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses titled '**Vakhar**' (published in 2009).
 - The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation.
3. Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award - **Pankaj Roy (posthumous) & Anshuman Gaekwad**
 - Former Indian batsman and two-time national coach **Anshuman Gaekwad** and former opener, the late **Pankaj Roy**, have been recommended for the prestigious Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award.
 - Former India women's team captain **Diana Edulji**, and former India batter and coach **Sudha**
- Shah** also selected for Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award.
4. 2018 National Intellectual Property award - **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**
5. Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award - **Dharmendra**
 - On the other hand, Director Rajkumar Hirani has been selected for the Raj Kapoor Special Contributions Award.
 - Veteran Marathi actor Vijay Chavhan has been selected for the prestigious V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement award at the 55th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Festival.
 - Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award is instituted by the Maharashtra state government.
6. The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) recommended **Manika Batra** for the prestigious Arjuna Award
 - Manika Batra created history by winning the Gold medal in the women's singles Table Tennis at the 21st Commonwealth Games.
 - She became the first Indian woman to win gold in the TT women's singles event at the Commonwealth Games.

February

1. Times Power Woman 2017 Award - Shabnam Asthana
2. V. Shantaram lifetime achievement Award - Shyam Benegal (Veteran film producer and director)
3. Sahitya Akademi's Bhasha Samman - Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar

January

1. **Bharat Bharti Award** - Eminent writer Anand Prakash Dixit was awarded the Bharat Bharti Award, the highest literary award given by the Uttar Pradesh government.
 - Mr Dixit was awarded by UP government for his research paper published in 1960 '**Ras Sidhhant**'.
2. **Five MPs Chosen for Outstanding Parliamentary Award** - The Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan announced that five members of parliament (MPs) selected for the Outstanding Parliamentary Awards. This includes
 - (i) Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015)
 - (ii) Trinamool Congress' Dinesh Trivedi (2016),
 - (iii) Manipur's governor Najma A Heptulla (2013)
 - (iv) BJP's Lok Sabha member Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (2014) and
 - (v) five-time Rajya Sabha member Bhartruhari Mahatab of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (BJD) (2017).

3. **Yash Chopra Memorial Award 2018** - Asha Bhosle (Bollywood playback singer)
4. **Padma Awards 2018** – This year the President of India has approved conferment of 85 Padma Awards.

The list comprises 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards.

Padma Vibhushan

1. Shri Illaiyaraja – Field – Art-Music. **State – Tamil Nadu**
2. Shri Ghulam Mustafa Khan - Field – Art-Music. **State – Maharashtra**
3. Shri Parameswaran Parameswaran - Literature and Education. **State – Kerala**

Padma Bhushan

1. **Shri Pankaj Advani** – Field - Sports-Billiards/Snooker. State – Karnataka.
2. **Shri Philipose Mar Chrysostom** – Field - Others-Spiritualism. State – Kerala.
3. **Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni** – Field – Sports Cricket. State – Jharkhand.
4. **Shri Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous)** – Field – Public Affairs. Country – Russia
5. **Shri Ramachandran Nagaswamy** – Field - Others-Archaeology. State - Tamil Nadu
6. **Shri Ved Prakash Nanda (OCI)** – Field - Literature and Education – Country – USA
7. **Shri Laxman Pai** – Field - Art-Painting – State – Goa
8. **Shri Arvind Parikh** – Field - Art-Music -State - Maharashtra
9. **Ms. Sharda Sinha** – Field - Art-Music. State - Bihar

Padma Shri – List of some sports personalities

1. Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu –Weightlifting. State – Manipur
2. Shri Somdev Devvarman –Tennis. State - Tripura
3. Shri Murlikant Petkar – Swimming. State – Maharashtra
4. Shri Kidambi Srikanth –Badminton. State - Andhra Pradesh
5. Shri Murlikant Petkar –Swimming. State - Maharashtra

5. 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018 held in Mumbai.

Here is the list of important awards –

- Best Film - '**Hindi Medium**' (Director – Saket Chaudhary)
- Best Actor in A Leading Role (Female) - **Vidya Balan** for 'Tumhari Sulu' (Director – Suresh Triveni)
- Best Actor in A Leading Role (Male)- **Irrfan Khan** for 'Hindi Medium'
- Best Director - **Ashwiny Iyer** Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
- Best Actor in A Supporting Role (Male) - **Rajkumar Rao** for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female) - **Meher Vij** for 'Secret Superstar'
- People's Choice Award for Best Short Film '**Anahut**'
- Best Short Film (Fiction) - '**Juice**'.
- Best Short Film (Non-Fiction) - '**Invisible Wings**'
- Lifetime Achievement Award - **Mala Sinha & Bappi Lahiri**

6. Janakavi P Sawlaram Award - Sudhir Dalvi (Actor)

International September

1. '**UEFA Men's Player of The Year Award**' - Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2017/18.

August

1. **Game Changer of The Year** - PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the Game Changer of the Year award by a global cultural organisation Asia Society.
2. **International Arbitration Award** - Reliance Power has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance Power Netherlands BV has won an international arbitration award of \$56 million (Rs 390 crore) against Prestige Capital Holdings (a Seychelles-based company) and Kokos Jiang.
3. **2018 UEFA President's Award** - David Beckham
Note: David Beckham will become the third Englishman to receive the UEFA President's Award.
4. **WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award** - SK Arora was awarded prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
5. **2018 Albany Medical Center Prize Award** - Three US scientists James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg were declared winners 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.
6. **International Geography Bee World Championship** - Avi Goel (Indian-American high school student)
7. **Nobel prize for math:** Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math.

July

1. **3rd BRICS Film Festival** – The 3rd BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa, along with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF).

Awards won by Indian films:

- Best Actress: Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars
- Best Film: Newton by Amit Masurkar
- Special Jury Award: Village Rockstars by Rima Das.

2. **Ramon Magsaysay Award Winners 2018** - Magsaysay Awards are regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

Indians

- **Bharat Vatwani** - was awarded for leading the rescue of thousands of mentally ill street paupers to treat and reunite them with their families.

- **Sonam Wangchuk** - won the award for his contribution in harnessing nature, culture and education for community progress.

Other winners are –

- Youk Chhang – Cambodia
 - Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz - East Timor
 - Howard Dee – Philippines
 - Vo Thi Hoang Yen - Vietnam
3. **Golden Man Booker Prize: Michael Ondaatje's** bestselling novel '**The English Patient**' was announced as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize at the Southbank Centre in London.
 - The prize was instituted as part of celebrations to mark the Booker's having completed 50 years.

June

1. 2018 World Food Prize - **Lawrence Haddad & Dr David Nabarro**
 - Lawrence Haddad, who is a British economist and food policy researcher, and Dr David

Nabarro, who has worked with the World Health Organization and United Nations on health and hunger issues, were named the 2018 World Food

Prize recipients in a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

2. Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn" - **Kendrick Lamar**

- Kendrick Lamar received the Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn."
- Lamar is the first rapper in history to be given the award.

3. During his 3-nation visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the Padma Shri award, one of India's highest civilian awards, to former Singaporean diplomat

— **Tommy Koh**

- Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.

May

1. **Man Booker International Prize 2018 - Polish author Olga Tokarczuk**

- Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has won the Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Flights'.
- The novel, translated by Jennifer Croft, interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body.

- She is the first Polish writer to win the award.

2. **2018 Nikkei Asia Prize - Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak**

- The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, has been honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development,

April

1. 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - **Andrew Sean Greer**

- Andrew Sean Greer won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for his novel 'Less'.
- He is an American novelist and short story writer.

- Pulitzer Prize was established in 1917 in United States by **Joseph Pulitzer**.

- Pulitzer Prize awarded for excellence in newspaper, journalism, literary, achievements, musical composition.

The list of other winners of-

- Martyna Majok won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for 'Cost of Living'.
- Kendrick Lamar won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for **music** for his album 'Damn'.
- Frank Bidart won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his collected poems 'Half-light'.
- The **2017 Pulitzer Prize** awarded to **Colson Whitehead** for his novel 'The Underground Railroad'.

2. 2018 UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize - **Mahmoud Abu Zeid**

- **Egyptian** photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, won the 2018 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

3. President Kovind conferred with Order of the Lion award by **Swaziland** country.

March

1. Abel Prize 2018 - **Robert Langlands**
 - **Robert Langlands** is a Canadian mathematician won the Abel Prize for 2018 “for his visionary programme connecting representation theory to number theory”.
 2. Pritzker Architecture Prize 2018 - **Balkrishna Doshi**
 - Balkrishna Doshi is an Indian architect & urban planner.
 3. International Kochon Prize 2017 - **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**
 - He is the first Indian architect to be selected for the 2018 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- Note:
- ICMR awarded for its contribution to the national programme in Tuberculosis research.
 - The headquarter of ICMR is in **New Delhi**.

Oscar Awards 2018

List of Winners -

- **Best Picture** - The Shape of Water
- **Best Director** - Guillermo del Toro (For the movie "The Shape of Water")
- **Best Actor** - **Gary Oldman** (For acted in movie 'Darkest Hour')
- **Best Actress** - Frances McDormand (For acted in the movie "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri")
- **Best Animated Feature Film** - **Coco**
- **Best Foreign Language Film** - A Fantastic Woman (Chile) (Spanish)

January

1. **Grammy Awards 2018** - The 60th Annual Grammy Awards were held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, the USA.
Here is the complete list of winners
 - Album of The Year: Bruno Mars
 - Song of the Year: Bruno Mars', That's What I Like
 - Record of The Year: Bruno Mars, 24K Magic
 - Best Pop Solo Performance: Ed Sheeran, Shape of You
 - Best Pop Vocal Album: Ed Sheeran, Divide
 - Best Dance Recording: LCD Soundsystem, Tonite
 - Best Music Film: The Defiant Ones
 - Best Children's Album: Feel What U Feel, Lisa Loeb
 - Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media: La La Land
 - Producer of the Year, Classical: David Frost
2. World Economic Forum **24th Crystal Award** - Shah Rukh Khan (Bollywood actor)
 - He is the first Indian architect to be selected for the 2018 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
3. **Golden Globe Awards 2018** - The 75th Golden Globe Award ceremony was held in Los Angeles, the USA.
Here is the list of important Awards -
 - Best Picture - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
 - Best motion picture, musical or comedy: Lady Bird.
 - Best Director - Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water".
 - Best Actress - Frances McDormand.
 - Best Actor - Gary Oldman.
 - Best motion picture, animated: Coco
 - Best motion picture, foreign language: In the Fade
 - Best television series, drama: The Handmaid's Tale, Hulu
4. Best Central Bank Governor in Asia - Pacific - **Ravi Menon**
 - The Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Ravi Menon, has

been named the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine, The Banker.

List of Nobel Prize 2017

1. Nobel Prize in Peace

- Winner - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- Field - ICAN for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.
- ICAN headquarter at – **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- ICAN Executive Director - **Beatrice Fihn**

2. Nobel Prize in Literature

- Winner - Kazuo Ishiguro.
- He is a British author and best known for his novel "The Remains of the Day".
- He was born in Nagasaki, Japan.

3. Nobel Prize in Economics

- Winner - Richard Thaler
- Field – for his work in behavioral economics.
- **Richard Thaler** born in New Jersey, United States. He is a professor of behavioural sciences and economics at University of Chicago.

4. Nobel Prize in Medicine

- Winner - Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young
- Field - for their discoveries on how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions.
- **Jeffrey C. Hall** – He is from New York, US and currently Professor at Brandeis University.
- **Michael Rosbash** – He is from Missouri, US and currently Professor at Brandeis University.
- **Michael W. Young** – He is from Miami, Florida, US and Professor at Rockefeller University,

University of Texas at Austin, Stanford University School of Medicine.

5. Nobel Prize in Physics

- Winner - Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne.
- **Field** - Their decisive contributions to the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory) detector and the observation of gravitational waves.
- **Rainer Weiss** born in Berlin, Germany. He is a Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- **Barry C. Barish** born in Nebraska, U.S. He is a professor at California Institute of Technology.
- **Kip S. Thorne** born in Utah, U.S. He is a professor at California Institute of Technology.

6. Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- Winner - Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson.
- **Field** - They developed cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution. It's a method of simplifying and improving the imaging of biomolecules.
- **Jacques Dubochet** born in Aigle, Switzerland. He is a professor at University of Lausanne.
- **Joachim Frank** born in Siegen, Germany. He is a professor at Columbia University.
- **Richard Henderson** born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is a professor at Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

National Affairs

September

1. **Govt. approves 100% Electrification of Railways by 2021-22** - The Union cabinet approved a proposal for the complete electrification of Indian Railways by 2021-22, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel and saving revenue for the national carrier.
 - The move will cost the government Rs12,134 crore.
2. **PM Modi launch 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'** - To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'.
3. **Bus services started between Bihar & Nepal for first time** - For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started. The bus service was flagged off from Patna by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
4. **NRTI, India's 1st Railway Varsity starts operations in Vadodara** - The first of its kind university in the country in the transport sector, the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), started operations.
 - Currently, it is functioning out of the National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara.
5. NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up **Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI)** in Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka.
6. **Homosexuality not a crime in India: SC Abolishes Section 377** - The Supreme Court Abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality.
 - The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, but the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013.
- According to Section 377, consensual sexual acts are also considered unnatural and are punishable.
7. **Govt. approved proposal to increase Wages of Artisans by over 36%** - The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved a proposal by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the wages of artisans by over 36%.
8. **September: National Nutrition month being celebrated across country** - The National Nutrition Month (September) is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition.
9. **India to have 'One-Nation-One-Card' policy for transport soon: NITI Aayog** - NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant announced that India will shortly unveil a One Nation-One Card policy for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport. The announcement was made at a function on Future Mobility Summit-2018 in New Delhi.
10. **Krishna Kutir: Government inaugurates home for 1000 widows in Vrindavan** - Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently had inaugurated widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
 - Krishna Kutir is special home for 1000 widows set under Swadhar Greh scheme and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by government organization.

August

1. **Navlekha:** Google launches Project Navlekha for bringing offline content online.
 - Understanding the importance of regional languages in India, search giant Google has announced a new program that will empower offline newspapers and magazines in India to bring their content online.
 - Announced during the fourth edition of 'Google for India' event, the Project Navlekha claims to bring offline content online in just a few clicks.
 - **Project Navlekha** — its new initiative to bring India's 135,000 Indic language publications online in a hassle-free manner.
 - **Navlekha**, which means 'a new way to write' in Sanskrit, will allow local publishers who do not have websites to make their offline content fit for online publishing in less than a minute.
2. **World's first thermal battery plant to be unveiled in Andhra Pradesh** - The world's first-ever thermal battery plant owned by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST) was inaugurated in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh.
3. **RISECREEK: IIT-Madras develop first indigenous microprocessors under Project Shakti** - Computer scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed first of family of six industry-standard microprocessors under Project Shakti.
 - The initial batch of 300 chips have been named RISECREEK and have been fabricated at Intel's facility at Oregon, US for free to run Linux operating system.
 - Project Shakti was started in 2014 as IIT-M initiative and part of it is funded by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
4. **India's first Biofuel-Powered flight lands in Delhi** - India's first biofuel-powered flight landed in Delhi, covering the distance between Dehradun & Delhi. The biofuel is developed by Indian Institute of Petroleum. The flight test was successfully completed by SpiceJet.
5. **India's largest business Incubator Bhamashah Techno Hub launched in Jaipur** - In a big step forward to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Rajasthan, the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched India's largest business incubator the Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jaipur.
6. **India's 1st Genetic Bank for Wildlife Conservation inaugurated in Hyderabad** - National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank (NWGRB) was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Note: It is India's first genetic resource bank where the genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.
7. **Santhali becomes India's 1st Tribal Language to get Wikipedia edition** - Santhali (Santali), a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a Wikipedia edition in its own script.
 - The language is been spoken by over 6.4 million people in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam.
8. **Israel Opens Visa Application Centre in Kolkata** - Israel has opened a Visa Application Centre in Kolkata for tourists from West Bengal and the northeastern states to encourage more Indian travelers to visit that country. Israel recently announced a reduction in visa fees to INR 1,100 rupees from its previous 1,700 charged from Indians.
9. **Government launches third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019** - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 (SIH-2019).
 - Smart India Hackathon is world's biggest open innovation model which aims to provide students with platform to solve some of pressing problems faced by people in their daily lives.
 - It also seeks to inculcate culture of product innovation and mindset of problem-solving among young children.

- It will provide students opportunity to work on challenges faced by public sector organisations and union ministries.
- 10. India Elected President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development** - India has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of two years.
- India got elected against Iran during voting which took place at the 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 11. 3rd Indian Ocean Conference held in Hanoi, Vietnam** - Its theme was "Building Regional Architectures".
- 12. India's first interstate connected wind power project commissioned in Bhuj** - 126 MW wind power capacity, part of India's first inter-state transmission system (ISTS) auction, was commissioned in Bhuj, Gujarat.
- It was part of India's first ISTS auction was conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) in February 2017.
- 13. The Union Government has unlocked green funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore to increase the country's forest cover.**
Note: The fund is an accumulated amount of money, which user agencies have been depositing as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, including industries and infrastructure, since the past 10 years.
- 14. TRIBES India Outlets to open at Ahmedabad, Udaipur and Kolkata airports** - Airport Authority of India (AAI) has allotted space to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) for opening of Tribes India outlets at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Kolkata (West Bengal) airports.
- 15. 35% of cyber-attacks on Indian sites from China: CERT-In report** - According to recent report by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), maximum number of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites are from China, US and Russia.
- The report was forwarded to National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and other security agencies. It had analysed cyber-attacks from April-June 2018.
- 16. Indian scientist-academician N Raghuram** became first Indian and Asian to get elected as Chair of International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative.
- 17. Pune tops in Ease of Living Index released by Housing Ministry** - Pune (Maharashtra) ranked first among 116 cities (with population of 1 million plus) in Ease of Living Index released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
Note: Top 10 cities are (rank order) are Pune, Navi Mumbai, Greater Mumbai, Tirupati, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijaywada and Bhopal.
- Rampur in Uttar Pradesh was ranked worst on the scale and also Kohima and Patna on bottom two and three ranks while.
- 18. Jodhpur, Marwar ranked cleanest rail stations in Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness** -
- Union Railway Ministry released Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness which ranked 407 railway stations including 75 A1 category stations, 332 A category stations on basis of cleanliness performance.
 - **Jodhpur (Rajasthan)** was ranked first in survey **A1 category stations**.
 - Marwar (Rajasthan) first in **A category stations** and
 - North Western Railway first among all Zonal Railways.
- Ranking of Stations**
Top 3 A1 category Stations (out of 75): Jodhpur (1st), Jaipur (2nd), Tirupati (3rd).
Top 3 A category stations (out of 332) - Marwar (1st), Phulera (2nd), Warangal (3rd).
Top 3 Zonal Railways Rankings: North Western Railway (1st), South Central Railway (2nd), East Coast Railway (3rd).
- 19. Govt. announces 50% reservation for women in RPF jawans recruitment** - Union Government has announced 50% reservation for women in upcoming recruitment of 9500-10000 jawans for the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- 20. Government launches Niryat Mitra mobile app** - Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched Niryat Mitra mobile application for exporters and

importers of the country. The app developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the largest exporters organisation of the country.

21. Pingali Venkayya: 141st birth anniversary of designer of Indian National Flag observed - 141st birth anniversary of freedom fighter and designer (architect) of Indian National Flag Pingali Venkayya was observed on August 2, 2018.

- He was born on August 2, 1876 in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh and died in 1963.

22. Government launches Seva Bhoj Yojna - Union Ministry of Culture launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.

- Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Interstate GST charged on raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.

23. STA-1: India becomes first South Asian country to get access to US cutting-edge technology - United States has designated India as Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country that will allow country to buy highly advanced and cutting-edge sensitive technologies from America. This coveted status brings India in par with US's closest allies and partners such as NATO.

Note: India is only South Asian country to be on the list. Other Asian countries designated as STA-1 are Japan and South Korea.

July

1. SAFAR: Most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting inaugurated in Delhi - Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System- SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in Delhi.

- It is first of its kind and most advanced system in India.

2. Wings: BSNL launches India's first internet telephony service - State-run telecom firm BSNL through its mobile app 'Wings' launched India's first internet telephony service.

- Through this app, BSNL customers will be able to make calls to any phone number, domestic or international.
- Before this service, phone calls on mobile apps were possible within users of particular app (such as Whatsapp, Duo etc) and not on telephone numbers.

3. Indian Railways Launches 'Mission Satyanishtha' - The Indian Railways launched 'Mission Satyanishtha' and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event, at a day-long function held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.

4. Permanent campus for NSTI, Women opens in Mohali - The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone for permanent campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women at Mohali, Punjab.

- This is the first NSTI Institute for Punjab and only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for women.
- The Minister also launched a unique Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) which would admit differently abled persons as well, also a first of its kind in India at Mohali.
- He also launched India's first in-phone guide and mobile application "Go whats That" in Chandigarh.

5. Myanmar joins International Solar Alliance - Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), thus, becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.

- The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.

6. India becomes Vice Chair of Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation - India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020).

- The underlying Theme of the Inaugural Ceremony is “Customs – Fostering Trade Facilitation”.
- World Customs Organization headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-General of WCO.

7. Government to set up Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala - Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced to set up Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala’s capital Thiruvananthapuram.

8. BSNL launches India’s 1st Internet Telephony Service to enable Making Calls Without SIM - State-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) unveiled the country’s first internet telephony service that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app.

- Now BSNL customers will be able to make calls using the company’s mobile app “Wings” to any phone number in the country.
- Using this service, BSNL customers will be able to make calls on any network in the country even by using BSNL wi-fi or any other service provider.

9. Six Universities Granted ‘Institute of Eminence’ Status - The Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.

Three Public Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:

1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay,
2. IIT-Delhi,
3. IISc Bangalore.

Three Private Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:

1. Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation (recommended for a letter of intent),
2. BITS Pilani,
3. Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

10. Western Railway renames Elphinstone Road Station as Prabhadevi - Western Railway renamed Elphinstone Road suburban railway station in Mumbai, Maharashtra to Prabhadevi Station.

- The station code of Prabhadevi station will be PBHD.
- The station was initially named after Lord Elphinstone, who was Governor of Bombay Presidency from 1853 to 1860.
- It has now been renamed in honour of local deity Prabhadevi.

11. India’s genetically modified crop area fifth largest in world: Report

- According to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) latest ‘Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017’ report, India with 11.4 million hectares (mh) has world’s fifth largest area cultivated under genetically modified (GM) crops in 2017.
- United States has highest area under transgenic crops, at 75 mh. It is followed by Brazil (50.2 mh), Argentina’s (23.6 mh) and Canada (13.1 mh).

12. PM Modi Inaugurated World's Largest Mobile Factory in Noida: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Noida and inaugurated the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida.

- Notably, it will be the world's largest mobile factory.

13. South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in New Delhi evening on a four-day visit to India.

14. The country’s first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

15. Government approves Hike in Minimum Support Price for Kharif Crops: The government has decided to

sharply increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops, as it responds to concerns about distress in the country's farm economy despite two years of strong monsoons.

- The MSP for common variety paddy, the most important Kharif crop, will be raised by Rs 200 over last year's Rs 1,550 per quintal. That works out a 13% increase for the financial year ended March 2019 compared to a 5.4% increase in FY18.

16. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is going to set up state-of-the-art Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport.
17. **UNESCO to set up Design University for Gaming in Visakhapatnam:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will set up 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

18. Cabinet approves renaming of Agartala Airport as **Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport, Agartala**
19. Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay visited India.
20. Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr Om Prakash Rawat launched an Android-based mobile application named '**cVigil**' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
21. **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to Rs. 10,000 crore** and tasking it to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education or RISE by 2022.

June

1. NITI Aayog releases **First Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts.**
 - The NITI Aayog has released first Delta ranking for 108 aspirational districts to measure their incremental progress across five developmental areas during two-month period of April and May 2018.
 - **Most improved aspirational districts:** Dahod (Gujarat, rank: 1st), West Sikkim district (Sikkim, 2nd), Ramanathapuram district (Tamil Nadu, 3rd) and Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh, 4th) and YSR Kadapa district (Andhra Pradesh, 5th).
 - **Least improved aspirational districts:** Kupwara (Jammu and Kashmir), Begusarai (Bihar), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Simdega (Jharkhand) and Khagaria (Bihar) were listed as first to fifth aspirational districts, respectively, in least improved states.
2. India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated for crimes related to women for timely deliver justice is set up in **Chandigarh.**
 - It is India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated for crimes related to women for timely deliver justice.
 - Union Minister for **Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi** laid the foundation stone of India's first advanced DNA forensic laboratory in Chandigarh as part efforts to reduce the backlog of cases needing advanced forensic analysis.
3. Asia's first 13 'Blue Flag' beaches to be developed in **India.**
 - Asia's first 13 'Blue Flag' beaches to be developed in India
 - These beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.

- Maharashtra's Chiwla and Bhogave beaches are being made a part of this initiative, along with one beach each from Puducherry, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - There is not a single Blue Flag beach in Asia.
 - The Blue Flag beach standards were established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985.
 - The Blue Flag programme, which requires 33 standards in four areas to be met to make beaches environment-friendly, first started from Paris.
4. The Union government has announced a package of more than Rs 8,000 crore aimed to provide relief to **sugarcane farmers**.
- The Union government has announced a package of more than Rs 8,000 crore aimed to provide relief to sugarcane farmers and to clear their dues.
5. **India** is the second highest sender of foreign students in the US?
- The United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide and the number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.
 - Currently, around one lakh eighty-six thousand students are studying in various institutions and Universities in the United States.
6. India's first national police museum to be established in **Chanakyapuri, Delhi**.
- The museum is expected to be inaugurated on Police Commemoration Day (21st October).
 - The items will include brass insignia, ceremonial and operational head gears and uniforms, batons, belts, distinctive photographs of dog squads, mounted columns, and old copies of the Indian Police Act.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre set up at **Naya Raipur (Chhattisgarh)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre set up at Naya Raipur - the upcoming capital city of Chhattisgarh.
 - The centre will control and monitor online water and power supply, sanitation, traffic movement, integrated building management, city connectivity and Internet infrastructure (data centre), under one roof.
8. The Union Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation selected **10 iconic sites** under Phase III of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The third phase of SIP was launched at Mana village which is situated close to Badrinath temple in Uttarakhand.
 - These 10 new sites under Phase III have joined 20 other iconic places selected under Phase I & II where special sanitation work is already underway. 10 new iconic sites are: Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Andhra Pradesh), Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana), Vidur Kuti (Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (J&K), Nagvasuki Temple (UP), Ima Keithal market (Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).
9. India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use **flash flood guidance system** for the first time in the country to forecast floods. Currently, the Central Water Commission issues flood warnings.
10. The Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the new digital initiative of HRD Ministry 'National Digital Library of India' on the occasion of National Reading Day **in New Delhi**.
11. US Ambassador to the UN **Nikki Haley**, visited India recently on 27th June 2018.

12. President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Udyam Sangam-2018 in **New Delhi**.

- It is a step forward towards consolidating the convergence and synergy of all the government initiatives relating to MSME Sector.
- The President of India launched the Solar Charkha Mission which will cover 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans.
- The Mission has been approved by the Government of India for which the MSME Ministry will disburse subsidy of Rs. 550 crores to the artisans.

13. Government launches **5000** Wi-Fi Choupals in partnership with Common Service Centers (CSC).

- The Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeITY) launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages in partnership with common service centres (CSCs).
- It was jointly inaugurated by Union Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.
- The aim of Wi-Fi Choupals is to transform rural Internet connectivity through **BharatNet**.

14. **NITI Aayog** launch Water Management Index as useful tool to assess and improve performance in efficient management of water resources in the country.

- The NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog launched Composite Water Management Index as useful tool to assess and improve performance in efficient management of water resources.
- The index aims to inspire States/UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water and recycling thereof with sense of urgency.

15. **India** will host 23rd European Union Film Festival (EUFF).

- India is going to host 23rd European Union Film Festival (EUFF) on 18th to 24th June, 2018 at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.
- It is organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting partnering with the Delegation of European Union (EU) and embassies of EU Member States in various city film club.

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up of committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in the country. The committee will be headed by **E Sreedharan**.

- The committee will be headed by **E Sreedharan** (famously known as metro man of India) who is credited for changing face of public transport in India with his leadership in building Konkan Railway and Delhi Metro.

May

1. Baba Ramdev's 'Patanjali' launched **Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM card** in alliance with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

- Initially, only the employees and office bearers of Patanjali will be able to avail the benefits of the SIM card.
- After its full-fledged launch, people will get discount of 10% on Patanjali products with this card.

- The card also comes with the medical and life insurance covers of Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively (in the case of road accident).

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated construction of Rs 6,809 crore Zojila tunnel project in **Jammu and Kashmir's Leh**

- It will be India's and Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional road tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

- It will be situated at altitude of 11,578 feet on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway (NH-1A).
3. India ranked **145th among 195 countries** in terms of Healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index in the year 2016, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
- The index was released as part of Global Burden of Disease study released by Lancet, one of the world's oldest and best-known peer-reviewed general medical journal.
 - Top 3 countries with highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016 are Iceland, Norway and Netherlands.
4. Union Cabinet has approved Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA's) proposal of setting up 4,072 mobile towers to improve telecom connectivity network in **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Areas**.
- This network would be used by security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas.
 - It will give impetus to e-Governance activities in backward and LWE affected area with availability of digital mobile connectivity.
5. ASEAN India Film Festival was held in **New Delhi**
- ASEAN India Film Festival was held in New Delhi from May 25 to 30, 2018.
 - It was organised by Ministry of External Affairs (ASEAN Multilateral Division) as part of the series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations.
 - The film festival was non-competitive and its tagline was '**Friendship through Films**'.
6. National Informatics Centre (NIC) set up cloud-enabled National Data Centre in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- It will offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for e-governance applications of ministries and departments.
 - It is fourth cloud-enabled National Data Centre of NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
7. **UNICEF** organization launches data visualisation app on education scenario in India.
- The UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) launched Data Visualisation App to provide user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of education scenario in India.
 - It was developed with technical inputs from the UNICEF, in collaboration with National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA).
8. **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) & India Meteorological Department (IMD)** teamed up to send extreme weather warnings (alerts) to people.
- BSNL and IMD will send area-specific alerts to users if they happen to be at place likely to experience extreme weather conditions, even if their phone numbers do not belong to that particular telecom circle.
9. PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal power project **Jharkhand**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand.
 - The project is 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN), a subsidiary company of NTPC.
10. **Guwahati now India's first railway station run by solar power.**
- The project of installing solar panels was commissioned last year in April 2017.
 - Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station.
 - Solar panels have been installed at the roof-top solar power plant.

11. According to new United Nations estimates, **Delhi** city is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028.

Note:

- India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050.
- 68% of the world population is projected to live in urban areas by 2050.
- Currently, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas.
- The 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

12. International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) - **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- Many reputed rail car and equipment builders are showing their technology and products.
- It will be a unique platform to bring different suppliers under one roof and create synergy for "Make in India".
- The expo is being hosted by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), under the Ministry of Railways, in coordination with CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) and RITES Ltd.

13. **Commission for Scientific and Technical**

Terminology adopted the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.

- The "AYUSH" has become popular as the acronym for five traditional and complementary systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and successfully used in all Government communications.
- The decision follows a proposal from the Ministry of AYUSH in this regard.

14. **Shivangi Pathak** become India's youngest women to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.

Note:

- She remains the youngest Indian woman to scale Everest (considering all routes).

15. **India** is the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017, as per report 'RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets and opportunities – Asia and the Pacific'.

- According to the report 'RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets and opportunities – Asia and the Pacific', India is the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017, with migrant workers from the country sending home **69 billion US dollars**.
- The remittances to the Asia-Pacific region amounted to 256 billion dollars last year.
- In 2017, **India** with \$69 billion, **China** with \$64 billion and the **Philippines** with \$33 billion are the three largest remittance-receiving countries in the world.

16. US-based retail giant **Walmart** has confirmed that it will buy 77% stake in India's largest e-commerce startup **Flipkart** for \$16 billion.

- The acquisition, which is the largest e-commerce deal in the world, will value the homegrown startup at a reported amount of \$20.8 billion.

17. **BJP MP Murali Manohar Joshi** will be the head of the parliamentary panel which is constituted to study the recovery of black money and **performance of public sector banks among a host of subjects**.

- As per the memorandum of the committee, the panel will look into the import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and the drought situation in the country among other matters.

18. **Arun-3 Hydropower** project being constructed in **Nepal**.

- Arun-3 Project is the largest capacity project in the history of hydroelectricity of **Nepal**, scheduled to be constructed within next five years on Arun river.
- Nepal Govt. granted power generation license to Indian government-owned subsidiary **Satluj Jal**

Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) for Arun-3 Hydropower Project located in Nepal.

19. IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched the Bharat Inclusion Initiative, with a commitment of \$25 million from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Omidyar Network and Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

- The initiative will focus on incubating and backing startups that work in areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health.

20. Patanjali Ayurved Limited is India's most trusted Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018.

21. The 15th Finance Commission constituted **Arvind Virmani** Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission?

- The 15th Finance Commission constituted an advisory council to advise and assist the commission.
- The 6-member council will be headed by the President of Forum for Strategic Initiatives, **Arvind Virmani**.
- The role and functions of the council will be to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission.

22. The IIT Kharagpur has suggested setting up a critical science institute with **French collaboration**.

- The critical science approach helps one probe beneath the surface meanings of words and symbols to comprehend root causes of problems instead of always treating the symptoms from a technical, quick-fix perspective.

23. The bilateral trade between India and China through **Nathu La border** resumed in May 2018. Nathu La connects which **Sikkim** state with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Note:

- Nathu La connects the Indian **Sikkim** state with China's Tibet Autonomous Region
- Nathu La is one of the three open trading border (**Shipkila in Himachal Pradesh & Lipulekh** at

the trisection point of Uttarakhand India & Nepal) posts between China and India.

24. SEBI tightened Know Your Customer (KYC) rules for **foreign investors**.

- According to the new rules, in foreign portfolio investor (FPI) structured as a company, a person owning **25 percent stake** would be considered the beneficial owner (BO).

Note:

- If structured as trust or partnership entity, the threshold is **15 per cent**.
- If the fund originates from a high-risk authority, any person owning **10 per cent stake** or more in an FPI would be considered a beneficial owner (BO).
- **Beneficial Owner** is the **natural person(s)** who ultimately owns or controls an FPI and should be identified in accordance with Rule 9 of the Prevention of Money laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 (PMLA),
- Among other things, the market regulator made it clear that **non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) and resident Indians cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs**.
- NRIs and OCIs can only obtain an FPI licence on condition that they limit their roles to investment advisors and do not invest their money.

25. According to the WHO report, **14** Indian cities figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016.

Note:

- According to the WHO report, **14 Indian cities** figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016.
- In terms of PM10 levels, **13 cities** in India figured among the 20 most-polluted cities of the world in 2016.
- The most polluted city in India is Kanpur with a PM 2.5 concentration of 173 micrograms per

cubic metre, followed by Faridabad, Varanasi and Gaya.

- The PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulphate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health.

April

1. India's first 5G radio laboratory installed by **IIT Delhi**
 - This will be the first such lab in India.
 - It will reduce effects of exposure and radiation compared to the 3G/4G systems.
2. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)
 - As per the ranking released by the national institutional ranking framework (NIRF), the IISc stood first in the **university category**, followed by **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** and **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**.
 - The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), 'India Rankings', India's own top university rankings under **9 different categories** is being released by Human Resources Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar.
 - The premier healthcare institute All India Institute of Medical Science (**AIIMS**) Delhi was ranked **number one** institute under **medical college category**.
 - **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)** has been adjudged the **best engineering college**.
 - **Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A)** the **best management institution**.
3. The Union Government constituted a **Narendra Kumar Sinha** committee to frame regulations for online news portals.
4. Jio Payments Bank Limited recently started its operation. Jio Payments Bank is a joint venture between Reliance Industries and SBI.
 - **Jio Payments Bank** is a joint venture between Reliance Industries and the country's biggest lender, **State Bank of India**.
- **Airtel Payments Bank Ltd** is the first payments bank in India.
5. Rank of India in the world in terms of risk of cyber threats in 2017 - **3rd**
 - As per latest report by security solutions provider 'Symantec' India ranked at **the 3rd positions** in most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransomware, in 2017.
 - The list is topped by **U.S., followed by China**.
6. Multi Modal Logistic Park launched in **Goa**
 - Multi Modal Logistics Park launched at **Balli station** near Madgaon in Goa.
 - The park is setup as per the agreement made between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR).
 - It is located on Konkan Railway route.
7. **Mangaluru International Airport** named as the **India's cleanest airport**, as per latest survey conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
8. Rank of India in World Press Freedom Index 2018 - **138**
 - India ranked at **138 positions** in World Press Freedom Index 2018.
 - Last year in 2017 India stood at **136th** in the index.
 - Norway topped the World Press Freedom Index 2018.
 - Sweden and Netherlands stood on the second and the third rank respectively.
 - The Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries published by Reporters Without Borders.

9. **India** is the highest recipient of remittances in 2017, as per World Bank (WB)'s latest report "Migration and Development Brief".
- As per the Migration and Development report of World Bank, **India** has retained top position as recipient of remittances with about \$69 billion in 2017.
 - China with (\$64 billion) stood on the second positions followed by Philippines (\$33 billion), Mexico (\$31 billion), Nigeria (\$22 billion) and Egypt (\$20 billion).
 - Remittances means a sum of money sent in payment or as a gift by a foreigner to an individual in his/her home country.
10. **Diu** smart city became the first city in India, that runs on 100% renewable energy during the daytime.
- According to Urban Affairs Ministry, **Diu smart city** developed a 9-MW solar park which spread over 50 hectares rocky barren land.
 - Diu is a town in Diu district in the union territory of **Daman and Diu, India**.
 - Daman and Diu is an union territory in Western India which was established in 30 May 1987.
 - **Daman** is the capital of Daman and Diu.
11. **Pawan Chamling** became the longest serving Chief Minister of India.
- Sikkim Chief Minister '**Pawan Chamling**' (68-year) is the longest-serving Chief Minister in India after India's independence.
 - The tenure of his service is 23 years 4 months 19 days.
 - He governed the Sikkim state for five successive terms (1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014) since 12th December 1994.
 - He surpassed the record of **Mr. Jyoti Basu**.
 - Mr. Jyoti Basu was the chief minister of West Bengal for five consecutive terms from June 21, 1977, to November 6, 2000.
12. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** became the first listed Indian IT firm to hit \$100 billion market capitalisation (m-cap).
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) created history by becoming the first listed Indian IT company to hit the \$100 billion market capitalisation (m-cap) mark.
 - On April 23, 2018, the market value of the company stood at Rs 6.53 lakh crore. TCS breached the Rs 3,500 (\$52.87) per share mark for the first time, reaching \$100 billion in market capitalisation.
 - Reliance with a market capitalization of ₹5,92,428 crore and HDFC Bank (₹5,01,644 crore) is at second and third position respectively.
13. The Haryana state government appointed Gauri Sheoran an Indian shooter as the brand ambassador of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.
14. **West Bengal** state Gram Panchayat (GP) won the Centre's award for the best Gram Panchayat in the country.
- **West Bengal** once again topped in the country with **Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP)** bagged the Centre's award for the best GP in the country.
 - According to the Ministry of Panchayati Digambarpur Gram Panchayat at Patharpratima block in South 24-Parganas in West Bengal state stood best GP out of 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country.
15. The Union Home Ministry totally removed **Armed Forces Special Powers Act** (AFSPA) from all areas of Meghalaya state.
- **AFSPA** stands for - Armed Forces Special Powers Act.
 - In April 2018, the Union Home Ministry totally removed AFSPA from all areas of **Meghalaya** state and from eight out of 16 police stations in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - In 2015, the **Tripura** government had lifted **AFSPA** from the state after 18 years.
 - **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts (AFSPA)**, are Acts of the Parliament of India that grant

special powers to the Indian Armed Forces in what each act terms "disturbed areas.

16. India ranked at 10th positions in the 2018

Commonwealth Innovation Index (CII- 2018).

- The index was launched as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub on the sidelines

of the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2018).

17. Ajit Doval Committee - The Union Government constituted Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to facilitate comprehensive planning for the defence forces. It will be chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) **Ajit Doval**.

March

1. According to the Niti Aayog baseline ranking for aspirational districts Vizianagaram district is the best performing district of the country.

Note:

- According to the Niti Aayog, Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram is the best-performing district of the country, while **Mewat in Haryana is the most backward district**.
- While Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon and Maharashtra's Osmanabad lie second and third on the top of the table.
- Mewat is preceded by Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli and Telangana's Asifabad at the bottom of the list.
- Niti Aayog released the baseline ranking for 101 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across five sectors that includes health and nutrition, education, agriculture, and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure.

2. India is the world top almond importer.

Note:

- According to Almond Board of California data, Almond imports into India rose 7 per cent to worth \$600 million (about ₹3,900 crore) in 2017 against \$560 million (₹3,640 crore) in 2016.

- India surpass China and Spain to emerge as the world's largest consumer of the nut in recent times.

3. Chandigarh city became the first city in North India to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for traffic management.

4. World longest Sandstone Cave discovered in Meghalaya.

Note:

- The world's longest sandstone cave named **Krem Puri** was discovered near Laitsohum village in Mawsynram area in East Khasi Hills district of **Meghalaya**.

5. Govt decided to declare 2018 as National Year of Millets.

6. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched India's first Sign Language Dictionary of 3000.

- The dictionary is developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- **'Thaawar Chand Gehlot'** is a Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

7. Plastic park in India will be set up in Deoghar, Jharkhand.

- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, **Mr. Ananthkumar** announced that the Government of India has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

8. The biggest solar power plant of Uttar Pradesh was set up in **Mirzapur** districts.

Note:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have jointly inaugurated the 75MW solar power plant at **Dadar Kalan** village in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The largest solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh has been built in collaboration with French solar power giant Engie under the International Solar Alliance (ISA) programme.
9. India's first helicopter-taxi service has launched in **Bengaluru**.
10. Rank of India in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Transition Index 2018 - 78th
- India ranked at 78th positions among 114 countries on the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2018.

- Top 3 countries in the list are - Sweden, followed by Norway and Switzerland.

11. India's first cloned Assamese buffalo male calf '**Sach-Gaurav**' born in **Hisar, Haryana**.

12. **Diu** Union territory became the India's first Union territory to run completely on solar power.

Note:

- Diu became the India's first Union Territory (UT) to run 100% on solar power energy.
- Diu has a total area of 42 square kilometers and the installation of the solar power plants has been done in over 50 acres.

13. Country's first national coastal policing academy will be set up in **Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat**.

Note:

- This is the country's first national coastal policing academy which will be set up to train police forces in effectively safeguarding the Indian shoreline.

February

1. **Development of Solar Cities**" scheme launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- MNRE has sanctioned development of 60 Solar Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities up to 12th Five-year Plan period (2012-2017).

Aim – reducing minimum 10% in projected demand of conventional energy at end of five years, through combination of enhancing supply from renewable energy sources in city and energy efficiency measures.

Objective - Enable and empower Urban Local Governments (ULBs) to address energy challenges at City-level.

2. **Pay as You Use Tolling** – National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will launch a pilot project "Pay as You Use Tolling" on the **Delhi - Mumbai national highway**.
- Objective** - to study implement ability of system in the country.

Note:

- The proposed tolling system will work on combination of mobile telecommunications technology (GSM) and satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS).

- It will be able to deduct money from vehicle account, credit money to concessionaire within one day and open toll gate.
- In case of failed transaction, it will be able to alert toll operator to collect payment manually and not open the gate.

3. **Google & NCERT signed agreement to teach students digital safety**. - Google and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has signed an agreement to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology (ICT) curriculum.

Aim - to bring awareness amongst the young generation of India to make Internet a Safe space.

4. **Three tools to rank states and union territories** - The Commerce and Industry Ministry (DIPP) has launched three tools to rank states and union territories based on measures taken by them to promote budding entrepreneurs.

These tools will help promote the start-up drive -

- (i) start-up-India ranking framework,

(ii) compendium of good practices for promoting startups in India and

(iii) Startup India Kit.

January

1. **GeM 3.0 – (Government e-Marketplace)** - The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched third version of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM 3.0).
Aim - to transform the way in which procurement of goods and services is done by the Government Ministries/Departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies etc.
2. **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** will be set up in New Delhi. It will be set up by the Union Home Ministry.
3. **India-Japan Smart Grid Pilot Project** launched in Panipat, Haryana.
Objective – to solve the various complications faced by the power distribution sector.
4. **Rapid Reporting System (RRS)** launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).
 - Rapid Reporting System is a web based on line monitoring for **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)**.
5. **Management Information System (MIS)** portal launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched for Anganwadi Services Training Programme.
6. **‘Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities’** launched in Goa by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
 - It has been developed under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban for rating cities on 7-star rating system based on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management.
7. **“Bharat Ke Veer”** an official anthem launched by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
 - The song is composed by the singer **Kailash Kher**.
 - **‘Bharat Ke Veer’ is an initiative** with corpus fund to help the families of paramilitary troopers killed in the line of duty. So far, it has raised Rs. 12.93 crore for kin of paramilitary personnel killed in the line of duty.
- Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as brand ambassador of **‘Bharat Ke Veer’ initiative**.
8. **‘Liveability index’** launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs (MoHUA) to rate **116 Indian cities**.
Note:
 - Liveability index is tool that aims to measure quality of life in 99 smart cities, capital cities and those with a population of over one million.
 - It will be funded by the World Bank and ranking of these cities is expected to be ready by June 2018.
9. **2018 as National Year of Millets** - Government has approved 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agri industry involved in it.
10. **India** became the **43rd member** of the Australia Group.
 - Australia Group is an informal bloc (group) of countries that keeps a tight control over exports of substances used in making of chemical weapons.
11. India’s **first automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS)** will be commissioned by March 2018 in Odisha.
 - It will provide Odisha’s entire population residing on 480 km length coastline a pre-warning siren in event of occurrence of natural disasters like tsunami or cyclone.
12. **Solar Development Fund of \$350 million** will be set up for financing solar projects under the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - The fund was announced by Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh at first ever ISA outreach programmes **‘International Solar Alliance Forum’** held in Abu Dhabi’s World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2018.
 - International Solar Alliance (ISA) headquarter is in Gurugram, Haryana, India.

13. 'iCREATE' facility launched at Deo Dholera Village in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu
- **iCreate aims** to develop an ecosystem in India to generate quality entrepreneurs.

14. The NITI Aayog has launched first course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) at IIT Kanpur's outreach centre in Noida.

About Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

- GIAN in Higher Education is scheme of **HRD Ministry** that aims to boost the quality of the country's higher education through international collaboration.

15. Operation Digital Board launched by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

Objective - to improve quality of education.

Key points

- Govt plans to install digital boards in all schools in next five years.
- Under it, students will be empowered with 360 degree information with interesting learning experience and increase teacher accountability.
- It will be undertaken jointly by Centre, State, Corporate Social Responsibility and community.

16. The International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

17. 'Teen Murti Chowk' in central New Delhi was renamed as 'Teen Murti-Haifa' after Israeli City Haifa.

18. Delhi is the richest state in India - National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4).

Note:

- **Bihar is the poorest state.**
- Punjab is the other state that is featured at top in the list in terms of richest states of the country.
- Delhi is the richest states with 60% of their households in the top wealth quintile.
- Bihar is the poorest state having more than 50% households in the bottom wealth quintile.
- The survey was conducted on more than 6 lakh households of country.

- According to report, 29% of the rural population is poor, whereas the percentage of poor people in urban areas is just 3.3%.
- Among religious communities, **Jains are the richest** with more than 70% of their population in the top quintile.
- Survey conducted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Objective - To collect essential data on health and family welfare needed for policy and programme purpose.

19. Saksham 2018 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) launched by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

- Saksham is annual flagship event of PCRA with active involvement of Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments.

20. NITI Aayog to rank 115 backward (aspirational) districts by April 2018.

- It will be ranked on 10 socio-economic parameters which will include nutrition, education and health.
- It was announced at 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' conference.
- The Union Government had selected 115 backward districts for rapid transformation by 2022 in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to create a "New India" over the next five years.
- These 115 backward districts include 35 districts affected by Left Wing Extremists (LWE) violence, 55 districts just affected by LWE and another 15 including districts in Jammu and Kashmir and northeast affected by terrorism.

21. SFOORTI app launched by the Ministry of Railways.

- SFOORTI stands for - Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information.
- **Objective** - to monitor and manage freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) views and dashboard.

22. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced two-tier security feature viz. Virtual ID and Limited KYC to address privacy concerns.

Aim - to strengthen security and privacy of Aadhaar data.

Virtual ID - The Virtual ID will be random **16-digit number** that can be generated from UIDAI's website and give for various purposes, wherever Aadhaar number is necessary to provide.

Limited KYC - It was introduced to address issue of storage of Aadhaar number within various databases. It will only provide need-based or limited details of user to authorised agency that is providing particular service. It will evaluate Authentication User Agencies (AUAs) and split them into two categories: Global AUAs and Local AUAs.

23. First digital Online Oncology Tutorial – launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- It was designed by the Tata Memorial Centre.

Aim - to train the doctors across the country to educate them in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.

24. Asia's longest bi-directional Zojila Pass tunnel - The government approved the **Rs. 6,809-crore** strategic Zojila pass tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Objective - To provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh, which remains cut-off from the rest of the world during winters due to heavy snowfall.

25. India and Vietnam country released the first-ever Memorial Stamps to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.

- The two set of stamps released carry picture of Sanchi Stupa and Thien Mu Pagoda.

26. Mumbai Matunga Railway station figured in the 'Limca Book of Records 2018' for having an all-woman staff.

- The achievement comes six months after 'Matunga' became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff.

27. 'Swachh Aadat, Swachh Bharat' a new campaign launched by the Hindustan Unilever Limited.

- Objective - to promote simple hygiene habits among children.
- Film actress Kajol Devgan appointed ambassador for the initiative.

28. Railways will roll out a 'first of its kind' semi-high speed, self-propelled train – '**Train 18**' & '**Train 20**'

- The Chennai-based Railways' Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has designed the train sets and will manufacture the first with 16 fully air-conditioned coaches by June 2018.
- Touted as Train 18, it will have 'world-class' passenger amenities such as on-board Wi-fi and infotainment, GPSbased passenger information system and plush interiors with diffused LED lighting.
- Another set of train, named as **Train 20, likely to be launched in 2020**. These will also be equipped with world class facilities to replace another elite train, Rajdhani Express, used in overnight travel.
- Both Train 18 and Train 20, a "Make in India" project by ICF will be manufactured at a price half than the cost of imported train sets.
- Both train can travel at speeds of up to 160 kmph.

29. India's second largest rooftop solar power plant commissioned at Pata in Uttar Pradesh.

- It was commissioned by GAIL India Ltd.
- It is 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak) solar plant.

State Affairs

September

1. **Country's first Tribal Tourism circuit launched in Chhattisgarh** - Union minister K J Alphons, the Minister of State for Tourism, inaugurated the country's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh.
 - This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in February 2016 for Rs. 99.21 Crores.
 - The project was implemented under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme launched in 2014-15 for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner.
2. **Rajasthan govt. to Provide free mobile Phones to Women of BPL families** - In a bid to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Digital India' campaign, Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under the Bhamashah Yojana.
3. Tamil Nadu Government bans manufacture and sale of e-cigarettes with immediate effect in the state.

August

1. **Chhattisgarh announces renaming of Naya Raipur to Atal Nagar** - In a tribute to the late former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Naya Raipur as 'Atal Nagar'.
2. **Chhattisgarh, first State to provide Right to Skills' Development to Youth** - Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced that Chhattisgarh is the first among the 28 other states in the country to provide Right to Skills' Development to the youth.
3. **Goa Tourism's App-Based Taxi Service Flagged Off** - Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called 'GOAMILES' in Panaji.
4. **World's first Thermal Battery plant inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh** - The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST).
5. **Khangchendzonga becomes 11th Biosphere Reserve included in WNBR** - The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in **Sikkim**, surrounding the world's third highest peak Mount Khangchendzonga, has been added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, making it the 11th biosphere in India to be included in the network.
Note: The core zone of Khangchendzonga National Park already has been designated World Heritage Site in 2016 under 'mixed' category (first from India in this category).
6. **Rajasthan first State to implement Biofuel Policy** - Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre this year.
Note: The policy on biofuels seeks to help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence.

July

1. **Odisha to get country's 1st Skill Training Centre** - Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country. He

- laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
2. **PM Modi dedicates Bansagar Canal Project to Nation in Mirzapur, UP** - The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Bansagar Canal Project to the Nation in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. This project will provide a big boost to irrigation in the region, and will be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
 3. **India's 1st private UAV factory to come up in Kota** - India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.
 4. **Regional Rail Training Institute inaugurated at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh** - Indian Railways inaugurated Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh in a bid to strengthen expertise and capabilities of the employees of North-Eastern Railways.
 5. **NABARD launches South East Asia's first ever Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is first of its kind centre in South East Asia.
 - It aims at accelerating concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial and non-government sectors.
 6. **Chhattisgarh CM launch mobile distribution Scheme 'Mobile Tihar'** - Actress Kangana Ranaut and Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.

Note:

 - The scheme includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children, and setting up of 556 new mobile towers.
 - The Chhattisgarh government is working towards improving network connectivity and empowering youth with smartphones.
 7. **Rajasthan signs MoU for the 1st Cow Sanctuary in State** - Rajasthan Government signed an MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladevi Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows. This will be the first cow sanctuary in Rajasthan and will be situated in Bikaner's Napasar.
 8. **Himachal Pradesh launches Shaur Nahin mobile application** - Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched 'horn not ok' awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin' (no noise) mobile application in state capital Shimla.
 9. **Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala tops list of best governed States for third time** - According to Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2018, Kerala tops the list as best-governed state in the country followed by Tamil Nadu.
 - The index was released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
 - Kerala has topped PAI as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 among large states

Large States:

 - Kerala has topped the list, followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat. Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest, indicating higher social and economic inequalities in the states.

Smaller states (with population less than two crore):

 - Himachal Pradesh topped the list followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at bottom of the index among small states.
 10. **Animals Declared As 'Legal Persons' in Uttarakhand** - In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state. The HC stated that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."
 11. **Gujarat Government has granted religious minority status to Jews living in the state.**
 - Gujarat is third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

12. Jharkhand To Set Up Country's 1st Khadi Mall:

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the first 'Khadi Mall' of the country will be opened in Jharkhand.

13. Behdienkhlam Festival concludes in Meghalaya: The famous 4-day Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam", held every year at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya.

14. Animals Declared As 'Legal Persons' in

Uttarakhand: In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state. The HC stated that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."

June

- 1. Madhya Pradesh** was awarded by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan-PMSMA).
 - The state was awarded for registering unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths from 2014 to 2016 as per report of Registrar General of India (RGI).
- Governor's Rule imposed in which state - **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - Governor's rule imposed in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - This is the eighth time in the last four decades J&K was put under Governor's rule and third time under J&K **Governor N N Vohra** tenure.
- Punjab** state launched "Business First Portal" a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in the state.
 - In a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in Punjab, the state government has launched a "Business First Portal".
- Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh state.
 - Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh.
 - Rose-ringed parakeet will be the state bird while jasmine will be the state flower.
- In **Uttarakhand**, Polythene will be completely prohibited from 31st July in the state. All the polythene vendors have been asked to finish the polyethylene stock before 31st July.
- Following directions from Supreme Court, the Central Government has constituted the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) to address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.
- The **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system.
 - HP Govt had set up a review committee headed by former vice-chancellor to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and it has recommended reverting back to annual examination system.
- Queen' Pineapple fruit declared as official fruit of **Tripura** state.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind announced that the "queen" variety of pineapple would be Tripura's state fruit.
 - Tripura exported its first consignment of one tonne pineapples to Dubai earlier this month.
 - Tripura is one of the largest pineapple growing states in country.

May

1. The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in – **Manipur**
 - It will have its second campus at Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow.
 - It will be a specialised University, first of its kind, to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology.
2. **Chhattisgarh** state will get specialised anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther on the lines of the Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh,
 - It was announced by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh after chairing meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).
3. Rajasthan state government launched **Nidaan** software for disease monitoring and strengthening tele-medicine services in the government hospitals.
 - The software will help for providing presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as trends of ailments found in specific areas.
4. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Southern Campus of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - NIDM would become a Centre for excellence in the future and save people from cyclones and other disasters.
5. Goa celebrates its Statehood day on **30th May**.
 - Goa celebrates its Statehood Day on **30th May 1987** and became India's 25th state.
17. **Manipur** state became the first state in the Northeast to have solar toilets.
 - **Manipur** has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets.
 - The solar panel, connected to the toilets, absorb the heat to generate power and are also efficient to transform waste material.
6. On 16 May 1975, **Sikkim** became the **22nd state** of the Indian Union.
7. **Telangana** state govt. issued an order to provide 2% reservation in government jobs in the state to meritorious sportspersons.
 - The reservation would be applicable to 29 recognized sports disciplines
 - It will not affect the overall percentage of reservation in the state.
8. **Bihar** state govt signed a MoU with NTPC Limited to improve the performance of Power Sector in the state.
 - The MoU envisages transfer of **Barauni Thermal Power Station** (720 MW) to NTPC.
 - Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUN) & Nabinagar Power Generating Company (Pvt.) Limited (NPGC) will also be transferred to NTPC.
 - All the three power generation facilities are envisaged to be transferred to NTPC from the effective date to be notified by Government of Bihar through a Statutory Transfer Scheme.
9. Cabinet approves setting up of a Central University of **Andhra Pradesh** in Andhra Pradesh.
 - The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has given in-principle approval for establishing a Central University by the name of "Central University of Andhra Pradesh" in Janthaluru Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh.
 - A provision of funds of Rs. 450 crores have been approved for the first phase expenditure towards establishment of the new University.
10. The Himachal Pradesh govt. to spend **25 crore rupees** on renovating and developing the British Raj **Bantony Castle**.

Note:

 - The castle is one of the historic and monumental buildings located on Mall Road Shimla town and fine example of the Anglo-Gothic architecture.
 - The Bantony Castle, owned by a business family and housing the state police headquarters, was acquired by the government for over 27 crores two years ago.

11. **Punjab** state government along with **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** India conducted the first organized census for the conservation of Indus **dolphins on their population**.
12. **Madhya Pradesh** government launched India's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for its smart cities at the Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL) facility in the Berkheda area.
13. The Sikkim government nominated Bollywood singer **Mohit Chauhan** as the Green Ambassador of the state.
 - To promote Sikkim as a Green Destination, nationally and internationally, on voluntary basis.
 - Mohit Chauhan is a playback singer and singer of a band known as 'Silk Route'.
14. The world's second oldest rock discovered from **Kendujhar** district of Odisha.
 - Scientists discovered the world's second oldest grain of magnetic zircon from the Singhbhum rock at the Champua in **Kendujhar** district of **Odisha**.
- The zircon is a mineral that **contains traces of radioactive isotopes**.
- It is estimated that the magnetic zircon in the rock is 4,240 million years old that will offer fresh clues about the earth's origins.
15. **Gujarat and Maharashtra** states celebrated their 58th foundation day on **1 May 2018**.
 - In 1960 that the erstwhile state of Bombay was divided on linguistic basis and two states namely Gujarat and Maharashtra came into existence.
 - The day is marked with various cultural events and ceremonies highlighting the culture and traditions of Maharashtra.
16. **Maharashtra** state became the first state in the country to provide digitally-signed land record receipts.
Note:
 - **Maharashtra** became the first state in the country to provide digitally-signed land record receipts and accept a digital signature to check irregularities and bring in transparency.

April

1. India's first high-speed electric locomotive has been flagged off from **Bihar** state.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged India's first high-speed electric locomotive from the Madhepura Electric Locomotive Factory in Bihar on April 10, 2018.
 - It has a 12000 horsepower (HP) engine with a maximum speed of 110 km per hour.
 - The first big Make-in-India project is developed & completed in collaboration with **French firm Alstome**.
2. Tamil Nadu state government launched 'Uzhavan' mobile app for the farmers of the state.
 - With the help of 'Uzhavan' app farmers can get information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure and get details on their crop insurance, besides receiving weather forecast for the next four days.
3. **Kerala** state became the first Indian state to adopt a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for determining brain death cases.
4. **Gujarat** state government launched the '**Pocket Cop**' project with an objective to provide smartphones of pre-loaded data of people with criminal past and other information's to the policemen?

- The Gujarat government launched the **Pocket Cop project** in the state.
 - The objective of the **Pocket Cop project** is to provide policemen with smartphones that will be pre-loaded with data of people with criminal past and applications that would help the cops in passport verification and find missing people and vehicles.
5. The river bridge 'Ib Setu' recently opened for public in **Odisha** state.
- The river bridge 'Ib Setu', which is built over the Ib river in Sambalpur district opened for the public by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- The 'Ib Setu' is 2.5-km-long bridge, which is the state's second longest bridge.
6. **Chhattisgarh** state announced to distribute smartphones to over 55 lakh people for free under the Sanchar Kranti Yojana (SKY)?
7. **Uttar Pradesh** state ordered all govt hospitals to establish the 'SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA- PALNA' in April 2018, to tackle the problem of abandoning the infant at the roadside?
8. The 2018 Islands Tourism Festival was celebrated at **Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
9. The Shirui Lily Festival 2018 was celebrated in Manipur state.

March

1. India's first Insect Museum opened in **Tamil Nadu**
- Note:**
- India's first Insect Museum has inaugurated by Tamil Nadu **Chief Minister K Palaniswamy** at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore.
2. **Madhya Pradesh** state government raised the retirement age of state government employees to 62 years from 60 years.
3. **Surat** became the first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).
- Note:**
- **Surat district of Gujarat** became the first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).
 - There are a total of **52 PHCs** in the district and all of them are now powered by solar system.
4. "Ugadi" festival celebrated in Andhra Pradesh.
- Ugadi is the New Year's Day of the harvest of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in India.
5. 'Nabakalebar' festival celebrated in Odisha.
- 'Nabakalebar' is a festival celebrated at a predetermined time according to Hindu calendar in Shri Jagannath temple in Puri.
6. **Kerala** state declared 'Jackfruit' as official fruit of state.
- The hydroelectric project is located on the river Kishanganga, a tributary of the Jhelum in Bandipora district, all the three units of the 340 MW project will generate 1,350 million units (MU) of clean electricity annually.
7. The world's largest solar park launched in which **Karnataka** state.
- Note:**
- The Karnataka government launched the world's largest solar park '**Shakti Sthalaon**' at **Pavagada in Tumakuru** district, about 180km from Bengaluru.
8. The Festival of Democracy was celebrated in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
9. The center government constituted a tribunal to solve Mahanadi Water dispute between Odisha & Chhattisgarh. AM Khanwilkar will head the tribunal.
10. The 5th edition of Nadi Mahotsava celebrated in **Hoshangabad** district of Madhya Pradesh.

February

1. **Arunachal Pradesh** Chief Minister Pema Khandu laid the foundation stone for **Rhododendron Park** in Tawang.
2. **'Pelican Bird Festival-2018'** was held for first time in **Atapaka Bird Sanctuary** at Kolleru lake in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Kolleru is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the country.
3. 32nd edition of **Surajkund International Crafts Mela** was held at Faridabad, Haryana.
 - This year **Uttar Pradesh** is theme state and **Kyrgyzstan** is the partner nation.
4. **Uttar Pradesh govt. launched the Dastak Campaign**
Objective - Door to door campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease in the state.
Association - The campaign was launched in association with UNICEF.
Slogan - 'Darwaja Khatkhatoo, AES aur JE ko bhagao'.

January

1. **Ghodazari to be a new wildlife sanctuary** - Maharashtra
 - The Maharashtra Government approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as a new wildlife sanctuary.
 - The new sanctuary will include about 159 sq km area of Bramhapuri forest.
 - The area is home to 10 to 15 tigers and 23 leopards.
2. **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project** launched by the Himachal Pradesh Government
Objective - to promote organic farming in the state.
Aim - to increase agriculture produce and the income of farmers by the year 2022.
3. **India's first floating market opens in Kolkata**
 - The floating market is located on lake at **Patuli in South Kolkata** which is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide.
 - The lake has been transformed into the floating market similar to the one in Thailand.
 - The market will host at least 114 boats, each one accommodating two shops.
 - These shops will sell regular or daily-use items that include vegetables, fruits, flowers, fish and meat and poultry.
 - Shoppers can approach these boats through wooden walkways.
4. Uttar Pradesh Diwas is observed on 24th of January.
5. Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 48th Statehood Day on **25th January**.
6. India's first garbage festival '**Kachra Mahotsav 2018**' held in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.
7. AYUSH Minister Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, laid the foundation stone for **Homeopathy Research Institute** in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
8. **Srirangam Ranganathaswamy** temple of **Tamil Nadu** awarded with the UNESCO Award.
 - Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanichamy received the award.
 - The award was given for the reconstruction activities undertaken in temple without in least affecting its traditional splendour and Vedic rituals.

9. **Maharashtra** become the first state to enforce the ban on the sale of tobacco in shops selling FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) items like chocolates, chips and other edible items.
10. **Maharashtra** became first state in country to unveil **Public Cloud Policy** that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage onto cloud.
11. Maharashtra Government has approved 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs and education for orphans in the state under general category.
12. Manipur Government launched the **Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang** (CMHT), a health assurance scheme for the poor and disabled people.
13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd (HRRL) project commencement

of oil refinery in Rajasthan's Barmer district. It is first oil refinery to be set up in Rajasthan.

14. Haryana become first state in the country to launch High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) portal.
15. Arunachal Pradesh was officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) state.
 - It is second State from Northeast, after Sikkim and overall fifth state after Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana to be declared ODF state.
16. India's second Film and Television Institute to be set up in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune.
 - Anupam Kher is the present chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India.

International Affairs

September

1. **Nepal refuses to participate in first BIMSTEC joint military exercise** - Nepal has refused to participate in inaugural joint military exercise of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries scheduled to be held in Pune, Maharashtra.

Note:

- The first BIMSTEC field training exercise will be conducted at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra from September 10 and 16, 2018.

2. **G-20 Trade & Investment Ministerial meeting held in Argentina** - Commerce and Industry Minister

Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting at Mar del Plata in Argentina.

3. **Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state: Report** - According to recent report, Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads.
 - Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and its stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 (surpassing United Kingdom) if its current proliferation trend continues.

August

1. **Facebook launches Digital Literacy Library:** Social networking giant Facebook has launched "Digital

Literacy Library" to help young people build skills they need to safely enjoy online technology.

- The lessons can be found on Facebook's Safety Center as well as on Berkman Klein's Digital Literacy Resource Platform.
2. **Tokyo 2020:** First Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology to increase security
- Tokyo 2020 will be first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues.
 - For this, games organisers have partnered with Japanese telecommunications and information technology giant NEC to develop the first system of this kind to be implemented at an Olympics games.
3. **Chinese researchers create world's first single chromosome yeast** - Researchers from China's Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences have claimed to have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions.
4. China successfully launched **Gaofen-11**, an optical remote sensing satellite, as part of the country's high-resolution Earth observation project.
- Gaofen-11 is sub-meter resolution optical satellite. It was developed by China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).
5. **Bondi: World Bank launches world's first blockchain bond** - The World Bank launched world's first public blockchain bond named bond-i created, allocated, transferred and managed by using blockchain technology.
- Bond-i is an acronym standing for Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument and also refers to tourist famous Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia.
- Note:**
- Bond-I is Ethereum blockchain bond denominated in Australian dollars, making it Kangaroo bond (referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in local currency).
 - World Bank had chosen Commonwealth Bank of Australia (largest bank in Australia) was chosen as sole arranger for this bond.
6. **US extends \$39 million military finance to Sri Lanka to boost maritime security** - United States has announced to grant \$39 million as part its foreign military financing to Sri Lanka to boost maritime security.
- The US funding for Sri Lanka is part of its \$300 million set aside for South and Southeast Asia to ensure free, open, and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.
7. **2018 Global Liveability Index: Vienna named world's most liveable city** - Austrian capital Vienna was ranked as world's most liveable city among 140 major cities in 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- It is first time that European city has topped rankings of EIU annual survey.
 - **Top 3 countries** - Vienna, Austria, Melbourne, Australia and Osaka, Japan.
8. **Historic Esala Maha Perehera Festival held in Sri Lanka** - In Sri Lanka, the ten-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera held in Kandy, Sri Lanka. **Note:** The Esala Perahera is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals in Sri Lanka, featuring dancers, jugglers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants.
9. **Sushma Swaraj Inaugurate 'Panini Language Laboratory' in Mauritius** - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) at Port Louis in Mauritius.
- She called on Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jagnauth and discussed further deepening of the special ties between the two nations.
10. **Japan pips China to become World's 2nd largest Stock Market** - Japan has pipped China as the world's number two stock market, according to a Bloomberg report.
- Note:** Both markets are ranked after the US which is the world's largest at just over \$31 trillion. China lost to Japan after Chinese stocks and currency fell this year amid a trade spat with the US.

July

1. **UNEP partners with Google for Monitoring Impact of Human Activity on Ecosystem** - UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has entered into a partnership with search engine giant Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools.
Note: UN Environment Programme (UNEP) head office is in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
2. **Integrated Indian visa application Centre inaugurated in Bangladesh** - A new integrated state-of-the-art integrated Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was jointly inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan at Dhaka's Jamuna Future Park.
3. **World's first Digital Art Museum opens in Tokyo** - The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.
4. **Asia's 1st Patent Arbitration Centre to open in Tokyo:** Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in Tokyo in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
5. **World's 1st Digital Art Museum Opens in Tokyo:** The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.
6. **India to Operate 'World's Emptiest Airport' in Sri Lanka:** The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) would be operated as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture. The \$210 million facility, 241km south-east of Colombo, is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.

June

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI at the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' in **Singapore**.
 - With the launch, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old **Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS)**.
 - The move will enable RuPay users to make payments at all of NETS acceptance points across Singapore.
2. India has signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in Nursing with Singapore.
 - This is the first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners
3. World's Most Experienced Spacewoman **Peggy Whitson** retired after a 22-year-long career. Whitson, who joined NASA as a researcher in 1986.
 - The 58-year-old is the oldest woman to go into space and also the most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 missions.
4. Giorgi Kvirikashvili announced his resignation. He was the Prime Minister of **Georgia**.
5. Raksha Mantri, Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first Representative Office of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.
 - The Representative Office will aim to promote BEL's exports in areas such as Weapon Systems, Radar Systems, Naval Systems, Military Communication Systems, etc.
6. **US** withdraws from UN Human Rights Council?
 - The United States under President Donald Trump administration has announced its

- withdrawal from United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) terming it hypocritical and self-serving.
 - The United Nations Human Rights Council is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
 - United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) headquarters is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- 7. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting took place on in **Jurmala, Latvia**
 - Latvia assumed chairmanship of NSG for **2018-19**.
 - With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair the NSG.
- 8. The headquarter of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is in **The Hague, Netherlands**
- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29 April 1997.
- 9. **US** country unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit'.
 - US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit' that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second.
- 10. Home Minister Rajnath Singh lays foundation stone for refinery project in **Mongolian Refinery**.
 - This refinery project has been financed by the Government of India through a Line of Credit of **One Billion USD**.
 - **Mongolia Capital**- Ulaanbaatar,
 - **Currency**- Mongolian togrog.

- May
1. **Colombia** recently, joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as global partner.
 - **Colombia** joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as global partner.
 - It makes it first Latin American to join NATO.
 - NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance between **29 North American** and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty.
 - Headquarter of NATO is in **Brussels, Belgium**.
 2. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) **Nepal** became first country in south-east Asia Region to defeat trachoma, world's leading infectious cause of blindness.
 - The eye disease was second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in 1980s.
 3. **Narendra Modi among top 10 most powerful people in the world: Forbes**
 - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes.
 - The list is topped by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
 - Modi ranks **9th** on the Forbes 2018 list of 75 of the **World's Most Powerful People** who make the world turn.
 - Russian President Vladimir Putin on second rank.
 - Donald Trump on the third spot, followed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel (4) and Amazon chief Jeff Bezos (5).
 4. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched an initiative '**REPLACE**' to provide a guidance for all countries on how to remove artificial trans fats from their foods supply **by 2023**.

Note:

 - REPLACE stands for review dietary sources, promote use of healthier fats, legislate, assess changes, create awareness, and enforce.
 - This initiative is meant to lead countries in establishing legislation to eliminate the trans fats.

- Artificial trans fats are made when vegetable oil hardens in a process called hydrogenation.
- 5. **Guatemala** inaugurated its Israel embassy in Jerusalem and became the first country to follow in the footsteps of the United States.
Note:
 - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales attended an inauguration ceremony.
 - The US and Guatemalan moves break with decades of international consensus.
- 6. **Russia** unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station.
 - It will be primarily used to power oil rigs as Russia pushes further north into the Arctic to drill for oil and gas and needs electricity in far-flung locations.
 - The Akademik Lomonosov arrived in Murmansk where it was moored in the port and presented to the media.
 - The ship (144 by 30 metre) holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships.
- 7. US President announces US withdrawal from **2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran**.
 - The historic nuclear deal was reached in Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council along with **Germany** and the European Union.
 - **The P5+1 refers** to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); **namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus, Germany.**
- It is a group of six world powers which, in 2006, joined together in diplomatic efforts with Iran with regard to its nuclear program.
- 8. The **British marketing analytics firm**, Cambridge Analytica announced to shut down all its business operations in Britain and the United States.
 - The company has been accused of using the personal data of 87 million **Facebook users** to control the result of the US 2016 presidential election.
- 9. The Swedish Academy postponed 2018 Nobel Awards of **Literature** categories in the wake of a sexual and financial scandal.
Note:
 - Due to assault allegations made against (Jean-Claude Arnault) husband of former member of the Swedish Academy, the Swedish Academy **postponed 2018 Nobel Literature Prize for the first time in almost 70 years.**
 - The Swedish Academy intends to decide on and announce the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 in parallel with the naming of the 2019 laureate.
- 10. According to the Airports Council International (ACI) traffic forecast - **India** has been projected to be the **second fastest** growing country in the world for air passenger traffic.
 - As per the ACI forecast Vietnam at the top position with an 8.5% growth rate, followed by India at 7.5% and Iran at 7.3%.
 - China has been placed at the 8th position with 5.9% growth rate.
- 1. Indian-origin scientist **Veena Sahajwalla** launched the world's first micro-factory to help tackle e-waste hazard.
 - An Indian-origin scientist in Australia launched the world's first microfactory that can transform the components from electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.
 - Veena Sahajwalla, a professor at the University of New South Wales.

April

2. India's neighbour **Bangladesh** decided to end reservation in Government jobs
 - According to the Bangladesh government's existing quota system, **56% of jobs** in the public sector are reserved for children of freedom fighters, women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and citizens of some backward districts.
3. **Swaziland** country officially changed its name to the '**Kingdom of eSwatini**'?
 - The king of Swaziland **King Mswati III** changed the name of his country to the "Kingdom of eSwatini" to mark the 50th anniversary of independence -- and to avoid confusion with **Switzerland**.
 - The name "Swaziland", the King said, had caused confusion. "Whenever we go abroad, people refer to us as Switzerland."
4. '**Road Safety Trust Fund**' - In April 2018, United Nations (UN) launched the '**Road Safety Trust Fund**' to improve road safety worldwide.
 - The initiative was launched by the **Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed**.
 - As per the UN data, more than 1.3 million drivers, passengers, and pedestrians die each year on the roads.
5. **France** announced to contribute \$61.9 million humanitarian aid for Syria.
 - French President **Emmanuel Macron** announced that France will contribute 50 million euros (\$61.9 million) toward urgent humanitarian aid for Syria.
6. The famous '**Bisket Jatra**' festival marks the beginning of a Nepali new year.
 - The festival 'Bisket Jatra' is being celebrated in Bhaktapur and the other parts of Kathmandu valley in Nepal.
 - The main attraction of Bisket Jatra is chariot procession of Lord Bhairavanath.

March

1. **Vienna** city topped the World's Most Liveable City report 2018.
Note:
 - Vienna the capital Austria has been rated the world's most liveable city for the ninth consecutive year by Mercer in its annual Quality of Living survey.
 - It was followed by Switzerland's Zurich, while New Zealand's Auckland and Germany's Munich tied for third place.
 - **Hyderabad and Pune** have been rated India's most liveable cities as they have tied for the 142nd place
 - **Iraq's capital city Baghdad** has been rated the least liveable city for the tenth consecutive year.
2. According to the Worldwide Cost of Living report 2018 **Singapore** city is the most expensive city in the world.
Note:
 - Top 3 Expensive cities on the list are- 1. Singapore, 2. Paris and 3. Zurich.
 - **Damascus**, the capital of Syria, is the cheapest city for living in the world.
 - **In the cheapest cities list – Bangalore** ranked at 5th and **New Delhi** at the 10th position.
3. **India** became the 69th member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
Note:
 - **EBRD headquarter** is in – London, United Kingdom.
 - President – **Suma Chakrabarti**

4. The 2018 cultural festival '**India by the Nile**' was held in **Egypt**.

Note:

- The cultural festival '**India by the Nile**' was held in **Cairo, Egypt**.
 - The festival, which is organised by the Embassy of India in Egypt.
 - The **Nile river** is a longest river in the world
5. India signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Russia & Bangladesh** for civil nuclear cooperation.

Note:

- For the first time, India has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign partners — **Russia & Bangladesh** — for civil nuclear cooperation.

- The MoU will be helpful for cooperation in construction of **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna, Bangladesh**.
- This will be first ever nuclear power plant in **Bangladesh**.

6. **Marshall Islands** became the first country in the world to recognize cryptocurrency as its legal tender.
- Marshall Islands is in Pacific Ocean.
 - The parliament of island has passed law to create the digital currency called "**Sovereign**" with symbol **SOV** to raise some hard cash to pay bills and boost economy.
 - The Marshall Islands is partnering with **Israeli fintech startup Neema** to launch its SOV.
 - Marshall Islands currency - **Dollar**
 - Marshall Islands Capital - **Majuro**
7. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat in **Mauritius**.

February

1. **Dubai International Airport** is the World's Busiest International Airport in 2017.
2. Bermuda has become the first country in the world to legalise and then repeal same-sex marriage.
3. **Falcon Heavy**, world's most powerful rocket, launched by SpaceX.
- SpaceX successfully launched its first Falcon Heavy, the most powerful rocket in operation anywhere in the world.
 - SpaceX is an Aerospace company of United States.
4. **Sweden** has signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with United Nations for committing record \$370 million dollars to UN World Food Programme.
- The contribution is for next four years i.e. 2018-2021. It is the biggest ever contribution made by donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.

5. **Japan launches world's tiniest 'SS-520' rocket into orbit** - The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has successfully launched the world's smallest rocket 'SS-520' to carry a 'TRICOM-1R' satellite into orbit.
6. **UAE launches World's longest Zip Line** - The United Arab Emirates has made a record by opening the world's longest zip line, measuring 2.83 km in length.
7. Rwanda has become the first poor country to provide **universal eye care** for its 12 million population.
8. **Maldives declares state of emergency as political crisis worsens** - The Maldives president, Abdulla Yameen, has declared a state of emergency in the country as heavily armed troops stormed the country's top court and a former president Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed was arrested in a deepening political crisis.

January

1. The World Economic Forum (WEF) launched new Global Centre for Cybersecurity in Geneva, Switzerland. It will become operational from March 2018.
Objective - to safeguard world from hackers and growing data breaches — especially from nation-states.
2. Valletta becomes Europe's Capital of Culture - Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.
 - Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.
 - Valletta is the smallest capital of the European Union. It is located in a fort and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. North and South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at Winter Olympics 2018.
 - Winter Olympics Games will be held in February 2018 in Pyeongchang in South Korea.
4. **China became Nepal's second internet service provider** – Nepal country has started internet from China.
 - China Telecom Global (CTG) has teamed up with Nepal Telecom to provide alternate cyber-connectivity to Nepal.
- So far, Nepal had been linked to the global internet network through Indian telecom operators.
5. **World's largest Ice Festival Held in China** - World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China.
6. Iceland has become the first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women.
7. **Six countries enter UN Security Council** – Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
Note:
 - The UN Security Council has 15 members, including five with permanent seats who have the power to veto resolutions - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.
 - The six countries who left the UN Security Council on December 31 are Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay.
8. **Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT for first time** - Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) became first countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to introduce Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time to increase their revenue away from oil reserves.

Sports

September

US Open 2018

Men's Singles title -

- **Winner** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- **Runner-up** - Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)

Note:

- It was Djokovic's third US Open title and overall 14th Grand Slam title.
- With this win, he equalled Pete Sampras' haul of 14 Grand Slams.

Women's Singles title -

- Winner - Naomi Osaka (Japan)
- Runner-up - Serena Williams (USA)

Note:

- Naomi Osaka became the first Japanese woman to win a Grand Slam title.

Asian Games 2018

- **Venue** - Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia. (It is for the first time that the sporting extravaganza is being co-hosted by two cities.)
- **Mascot** - Bhin Bhin, Kaka, and Atung
- **Motto** - Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Energy of Asia)
- **Asian Games 2022** - Hangzhou, China.
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** - Japanese swimmer Ikee Rikako named as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of 18th edition of the Asian Games.

Note: The 18-year-old, who bagged six gold and two silver medals in the tournament, became the first female athlete to win the MVP title.

Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	132	92	65	289
2	Japan	75	56	74	205
3	Republic of Korea	49	58	70	177
8	India	15	24	30	69

India at Asian Games 2018

- **Opening Ceremony (Flag Bearer)** - Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw)
- **Closing Ceremony (Flag Bearer)** - Rani Rampal (Hockey)

First in Asian Games:

- **First medal in Sepak Takraw** - The bronze was India's first medal in the event.
- **First Gold medal** - Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) won 1st Gold Medal for India in men's freestyle 65 kg category.
- **First Indian woman to win gold in wrestling in Asian Games** - Vinesh Phogat became 1st Indian woman to win gold in wrestling (50kg category) in Asian Games.
- **First Gold in heptathlon event** - Swapna Barman became 1st Indian to win an Asiad gold in the women's **heptathlon** event.
- **First Gold in Javelin throw event** - Neeraj Chopra became 1st Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.
- **First medal in 20 years in women's 100m dash event** - Indian sprinter Dutee Chand clinched a **silver** in women's 100m dash in the 18th Asian Games to win the country's first medal in 20 years in this event.
- **First Indian female shooter to win Gold at the Asian Games** - Rahi Sarnobat, the first Indian female shooter to win Gold medal at the Asian Games. She won the gold in the 25m pistol event.
- **First women's singles medals in badminton** - P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal won India's first ever medal in the women's singles event in badminton claiming Silver and Bronze Medal respectively.
- **India's 1st ever Bridge Gold** - India's 60-year-old Pranab Bardhan and 56-year-old Shibnath Sarkar won the men's pair bridge event to bag the country's first-ever gold in bridge at the Asian Games.
- **Vikas Krishan Yadav** becomes the first Indian boxer to clinch a medal in three consecutive Asian games.
- **First gold medal in 1500m after 56 years** - Jinson Johnson won the **gold** in 1500 metres in the men's competition in Asian Games after 56 years.
- **Youngest Indian to win the gold medal in Asian Games 2018** - 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary won gold at the 10m air pistol event in Asia Games 2018 and became India's youngest-ever gold medallist

Other Gold medal winners –

- India won gold in the women's 4X400 metre event. The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Korothe.
- **Amit Panghal (Boxing)** - India's 22-year-old boxer Amit Panghal defeated 2016 Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov in the men's 49kg final to bag gold at the Asian Games 2018.
- **Arpinder Singh (triple jump)** - Arpinder Singh won the gold medal in triple jump at the Asian Games with an effort of 16.77m.
- Sprinter **Manjit Singh** won the gold medal in the men's 800m event.
- **Tejinder Pal Singh Toor** won the Gold medal in Men's Shot-Put final.
- Indian rowers Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh won the men's Quadruple Sculls to win India's fifth gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.
- Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the maiden men's tennis doubles gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.

Other Sports news

1. **Duleep Trophy 2018 - India Blue** defeated defending champion **India Red** in the final to win the 57th Duleep Trophy at NPR College ground, in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.
2. Triple jumper **Arpinder Singh** created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup.
3. **Hima Das** appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam

Note:

- She was the **first Indian athlete** to win **gold medal** in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere, Finland.

- In 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta), she had won **silver medal in 400 m final to win a silver medal**.

4. Indian Pacer RP Singh announced his retirement from International Cricket.
5. England's highest Test run-scorer **Alastair Cook** announced his retirement from International cricket.
6. **Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela** have become the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the **2020 Olympics**.

ISSF World Championship 2018

- Indian shooter **Hriday Hazarika** win the gold medal in the 10 m air rifle junior men's event.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched gold medal at the 10 metres Air Pistol event.
- **Ankur Mittal** claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the ISSF World Championship.

August

1. North Korean to host 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.
2. **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2018** - Japan Women's National Team defeated Spain Women's National Team in the final to win the title for the first time in Japanese football history.
3. **Jhulan Goswami announces retirement** - Indian women's team fast bowler Jhulan Goswami announced her retirement from T20 Cricket Internationals.
4. **Western & Southern Open 2018** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia) beat Roger Federer (Switzerland) to win the title.
Note: With this win, Djokovic became the first men's tennis player in history to win all nine Masters 1,000 tournaments
5. **Australian cricketer Mitchell Johnson** announced the retirement from all forms of cricket.
6. India defeated Bangladesh in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship in Thimpu, Bhutan.
7. Rishabh Pant became fourth Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on Test debut during the second day of the third Test against England.
8. International **Master Nihal Sarin** became the 53rd Grandmaster of India.
9. Former India spinner Ramesh Powar was named head coach of the women's national team.
10. Indian golfer **Viraj Madappa** became the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour, as he won his first title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru.
11. **Rafael Nadal lifts Rogers Cup 2018:** Rafael Nadal clinched his fourth Canadian master's 1000 title at the Rogers Cup in Toronto. He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas.
12. Veteran German striker **Mario Gomez** announced his retirement from international football.

- 13. U-20 Football title** - India's under-20 team won over Argentina under-20 in the final group stage match of the COTIF Cup held in Valencia's Els Arcs Stadium.
- 14. U-16 Football title** - India defeated under-16 champions team of Iraq by 1-0 in the West Asian Football Federation Cup in Amman, Jordan.
- 15. Asian Nations Cup Chess Tourney** - Indian women chess team at the Asian Nations Cup 2018 clinched the gold in the Blitz event held in Iran.
- 16. Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar** grabbed his maiden **European Tour** title at the Fiji International in Nadiadola Bay.
- 17. Women's Hockey World Cup 2018: Netherlands** defeated Ireland in the final to win the title for a record eighth time.
Note: India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.

- 18. World Badminton Championships 2018: P V Sindhu** won the silver medal. She was defeated by Carolina Marin.
- 19. World Junior Squash Championships 2018:** World Junior Squash Championships 2018 was held in Chennai, India.
- Men's Individual – Winner - Mostafa Asal (Egypt) – Runner-up - Marwan Tarek (Egypt)
 - Women's Individual - Winner - Rowan Elaraby (Egypt)- Runner-up - Hania El Hammamy(Egypt)
 - Men's Team - Winner – Egypt – Runner-up - England
- 20. Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix** - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)

July

FIFA World Cup 2018

- Venue – **Russia**
- Winner – France (France won the match 4–2 to claim their second World Cup title after 1998)
- Runner-up - Croatia
- Venue of FIFA 2022 – **Qatar** (It will be the first Arab country to host World Cup and it will also for first time it will be held in Middle East region.)
- Venue of FIFA 2026 - **Canada, Mexico, United States**

Important points:

- Official Match Ball - Telstar 18
- Official Song – “Live It Up”, with vocals from Will Smith, Nicky Jam and Era Istrefi
- Mascot - Zabivaka (an anthropomorphic wolf)
- Man of the Match in Final: Antoine Griezmann (France).
- FIFA President - Gianni Infantino
- France Captain - **Hugo Lloris**
- Golden Ball Award: **Croatian captain Luka Modric**
- **Golden Glove Award:** Belgium's Thibaut Courtois won the Golden Glove award for the best goalkeeper.
- **Golden Boot Award:** England captain Harry Kane won the World Cup Golden Boot. He was the top scorer with six goals.
- **Young Player Award:** France's Kylian Mbappe won the Young Player award. He scored the game's finest goal and became the first teenager to register in the final since Pele in 1958.
- **Fair play Award:** **Spain** was awarded the Fair play Award for being the most disciplined team in the tournament.

- For the first time video assistant referee (VAR) system was used in the FIFA World Cup.
- Iceland and Panama made their first appearances at a FIFA World Cup 2018.

Wimbledon Championships 2018

1. Men's Singles

- Winner - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- Runner- up - Kevin Anderson (South Africa)

2. Women's Singles

- Winner - Angelique Kerber (Germany)
- Runner-up - Serena Williams (USA)

Other sports news

1. **Russian Open Badminton Trophy** - Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok. He defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe.
2. **German Grand Prix** - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)
3. **Olympic 2020 – Tokyo, Japan**
Mascot – 'Miraitowa' – It is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks to "promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world".
4. **Fakhar Zaman became quickest player** to reach 1000 runs in 1-Day Internationals.
 - He became the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day international.
 - He scored a double century for Pakistan against Zimbabwe.
 - Fakhar Zaman has broken the record of West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards.
 - Fakhar Zaman took 18 innings to reach the 1000 mark. Vivian Richards had achieved this mark in 21 matches.
5. **Lakshya Sen** wins Badminton Asian Junior Championships Title after defeating Indonesia's Kunlavut Vitidsaran in the final match.
6. **World's Most Expensive Goalkeeper:** Alisson Becker of Brazil has become the World's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million.
7. **Thailand Open 2018:** Nozomi Okuhara defeated PV Sindhu to win Maiden Title
8. Mohammad Kaif announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket.
9. Dipa Karmakar created history by becoming first Indian gymnast to win gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey.
10. **Satyarup Siddhanta** has become second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado (6893 m), the highest volcano in the world on Argentina-Chile border.

21st Commonwealth Games 2018

- **Host Country** – Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Note:

- It is for the **5th time** Australia hosted the Commonwealth Games.
- Earlier Australia hosted Commonwealth Games in -1938, 1962, 1982, 2006.

- **Motto - "Share the Dream".**
- **Mascot - Borobi**
- Next Commonwealth Games 2022 - **Birmingham, England.**
- Shooting game excluded from **2022 Commonwealth Games**. The Birmingham Organising Committee of Commonwealth Games decided not to pick shooting game for 2022 Games.

Medal Tally Top 3 countries at Commonwealth Games 2018

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Australia	80	59	59	198
2. England	45	45	46	136
3. India	26	20	20	66

India at Commonwealth Games 2018 -

Flag bearer

- **Opening - P.V. Sindhu** led Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018.
- **Closing - Mary Kom** led Indian contingent at the closing ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018.
- Pistol shooter Vijay Kumar was the flag-bearer in the **2014 Commonwealth Games**.
- **2014 Commonwealth Games** was held in **Glasgow, Scotland**

First Gold Medal list -

1. First **medal** for India in CWG 2018
 - **P Gururaja** won the first medal for India.
 - He won the **silver medal** in the men's **56kg weightlifting event**.
2. First **gold medal** for India in CWG 2018
 - **Mirabai Chanu**, won the first gold medal for India in the women's **48 kg category** Weightlifting event.
3. **India's youngest-ever gold medalist**
 - **Anish Bhanwala** (15 years old) won the gold medal in the shooting game in men's 25m rapid fire pistol event.
 - Anish Bhanwala is a native of Karnal, Haryana.
4. First Indian **Woman Boxer to win Gold medal**
 - **Mary Kom** became the first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at Commonwealth Games 2018. She won the won the gold medal in the 48-kg category.
5. First-ever **gold in badminton mixed-team** -
 - India clinched its first-ever gold in badminton mixed-team event by defeating **Malaysia**.
6. First Indian **woman table tennis player** to win a singles gold
 - **Manika Batra** created history by becoming the first Indian **woman table tennis player** to win a singles gold at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
 - She defeated **Yu Mengyu** of Singapore.
7. First Indian **javelin thrower** to win a gold medal
 - **Neeraj Chopra** became the first Indian javelin thrower to win a gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
8. India's **first wrestling gold medal in CWG 2018**
 - **Wrestler Rahul Aware** wins country's first gold in the 57-kilogram category of the men's freestyle competition.
9. First ever **gold medal in table tennis team**

- **India women's table tennis** team scripted history as they clinched their first ever gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
- They registered a 3- 1 victory over Singapore in the final to clinch the gold medal.
- **Players** – Manika Batra, Mouma Das, Madhurika Patkar, Pooja Sahasrabudhe, Sutirtha Mukherjee

10. India's **first medal** in **Shooting** in CWG 2018

- **Manu Bhaker** wins India's first medal in Shooting in **women's 10m Air Pistol event**
- She is a native of **Haryana**.
- **Heena Sidhu** won the silver medal in Shooting in **women's 10m Air Pistol event**.
- **Mehuli Ghosh** won the silver medal in Shooting in **women's 10m air rifle event**.

Other player who won the Gold medal

Weightlifting

1. **Sanjita Chanu** won the **second gold medal** for India in **53kg** category weightlifting event.
2. **Sathish Kumar Sivalingam** clinch the gold medal for India in men's **77 kg category** weightlifting event
3. **Venkat Rahul Ragala** claimed India's fourth Gold medal in 85-kg category at 21st Commonwealth Games with a total lift of 338 Kg.
4. **Punam Yadav** won the gold medal for India in the women's **69kg category Weightlifting** event.
 - She is a native of **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

Wrestling

5. **Sushil Kumar** clinched gold in the 74 kg category in Wrestling.
6. **Bajrang Punia** won gold in **65 kg** men's freestyle wrestling category.
7. **Sumit Malik** won the gold medal in the men's freestyle 125 kg
8. **Vinesh Phogat** won gold in the women's 50 kilogram wrestling competition.

Shooting

9. **Heena Sidhu** gold medal in the Shooting - **25-metre pistol**
 - she also won the silver medal in the 10-metre air pistol event.

10. **Shreyasi Singh** won the gold medal in **Shooting** in the **Women's Double Trap event**.

11. **Jitu Rai** won the gold medal for India in **10m air pistol** men's Shooting event.

Badminton

12. **Indian mixed badminton** team won the maiden Gold medal and create history by winning maiden gold medal in CWG.
 - They defeated Malaysia in the final.
13. **Saina Nehwal** won the Gold medal in women's single Badminton.
 - In the final she defeated **P.V. Sindhu**.

Table Tennis

14. India men's table tennis team won the gold medal at 2018 Commonwealth Games.
 - They defeated Nigeria by 3-0 in the final.
 - **Players** – G. Sathiyan, Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, Amalraj Anthony Arputharaj

Boxing

15. **Boxer Gaurav Solanki** won a gold medal for India in the 52kg weight class.
16. **Boxer Vikas Krishan** won the gold medal in 75 kg category.

Note:

Robert Pitcairn became the oldest athlete to debut in Commonwealth Games history.

- Robert Pitcairn is a 79-year-old full-bore shooter from Canada.

Cricket
July

1. **Australian captain Aaron Finch slammed 172 (76) against Zimbabwe** to register the highest-ever individual score in T20Is, overtaking his own record of 156 runs.
2. **Rahul Dravid inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018:** Former captains Rahul Dravid of India, Ricky Ponting of Australia and retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018 during a glittering ceremony in Dublin, Ireland.
 - Former Team India captain Rahul Dravid has become the fifth Indian cricketer after Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

gradeup

June

1. Polly Umrigar Award: **Virat Kohli**
 - India captain Virat Kohli received the **Polly Umrigar Award** for being the best international cricketer for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons at the annual BCCI awards.
 - **Anshuman Gaekwad and Sudha Shah** received the **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award**.
2. **Mithali Raj** became the first batsman from the country to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket.
 - Mithali has now scored 2015 runs in 74 T20Is with the help of 14 half-centuries.
3. **Kagiso Rabada** wins South Africa's Cricketer of The Year Award.
 - She has a decent average of 38.01 with the highest score of 76 not out.
 - **Kagiso Rabada**, the world's number one Test bowler, was named South Africa's Cricketer of the Year.
 - Rabada collected a total of six awards, including Test cricketer of the year, one-day international player of the year and players' player of the year.

May

1. **Chennai Super Kings** won the 11th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2018.
 - Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 8 wickets in the final of the 2018 Indian Premier League at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

- Shane Watson bagged the man of the match award.
 - Rishabh Pant bagged the Emerging Player award.
2. **AB de Villiers** announced his decision to retire from international cricket.
- South African batsman AB de Villiers has announced his decision to retire from international cricket with immediate effect. In

1. **India** will host 2021 Champions Trophy.
- According to ICC Chief Executive Dave Richardson, the International Cricket Council (ICC) decided to convert the 2021 Champions

April

- his 14-year career, he played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.
3. New Head coach of Australia cricket team - **Justin Langer**
- Justin Langer replaced Darren Lehmann, who resigned after the embarrassing ball-tampering episode in March 2018 against South Africa team.

Trophy into a World T20 event scheduled in **India**.

March

1. 45th edition of the Deodhar Trophy 2018 - **India - B**.
- Note:
- **India B** has won the **45th edition** of the Deodhar Trophy 2018 by defeating **Karnataka** in the final by 6 wickets at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala.
2. Rashid Khan became the youngest cricketer captain of the International Cricket team **Afghanistan**.
3. **England** player **Kevin Pietersen** officially announced his retirement from the International cricket.
4. Irani Cup 2018 - **Vidarbha**

Note:

- **Vidarbha** beat **Rest of India** to clinch the title.
 - Also, Vidarbha won the **Ranji Trophy 2017**.
5. West Indies qualified for the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup after defeating **Scotland**.

Note:

- West Indies defeated **Scotland** in the World Cup Qualifier to qualify for the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup.
- ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 will be played in **England and Wales**.

February

1. **Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018** – India defeated Australia in the final.
- The final was played at Mount Maunganui in New Zealand.
 - India has won the World Cup title for fourth times.
 - India captain – **Prithvi Shaw**.
 - Man, of the match - **Manjot Kalra**
 - Player of the Tournament - **Shubman Gill**
 - Anukul Roy join Afghanistan's Qais Ahmad and Canada's Faisal Jamkhandi in the list of the Highest wicket taker in the tournament. They took 14 wickets in the tournament.

January

1. **Australia** will host the **ICC World Cup T20 in 2020**.

- Both men's & women's event will be held in Australia.
- Melbourne Cricket Ground will host the final of both the men's and women's World T20.

2. **Sandeep Lamichhane** becomes first Nepal player to get IPL contract.

- He was picked by **Delhi Daredevils**.

3. **West Indies** will host 2018 **Women's World T20**.

- ICC has decided not to host the Men's World T20 in 2018.
- West Indies won the both men's & women's World T20 title in 2016.

4. **Blind Cricket World Cup 2018 – India** defeated Pakistan in the final.

- The final match was played at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, the UAE.
- India Captain - Ajay Kumar Reddy
- Man of the match - Sunil Ramesh

5. **Virat Kohli** named Captain of ICC's Test & ODI Teams of The Year

6. **ICC Award 2017** – Here is the list of the winners

- ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)

- Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
- ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- ICC Men's T20I Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)
- David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year – Marais Erasmus
- ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)
- ICC Fans Moment of the Year - Pakistan stuns India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

7. **Ranji Trophy 2017 – Vidarbha** defeated Delhi in the final.

- For the first Vidarbha lifted the Ranji Trophy.
- Final match was played at Holkar stadium in Indore.
- Rajneesh Gurbani was declared player of the Match.

Football

June

1. **2026 FIFA World Cup to be held in - US, Mexico and Canada**

- The **United States, Mexico and Canada** won the right to host the 2026 World Cup after beating Morocco in a vote by FIFA member nations.

2. **India** has lifted the Intercontinental Cup football title. In the summit clash in Mumbai, they defeated **Kenya** 2-nil.

May

1. The **Indian U-16 football team** pumped in as many as three goals in the first 10 minutes of the match to outplay **Tajikistan** 4-2 and emerge champions in the four-nation Under-16 Tournament held in Serbia.

1. **FIFA World Cup 2018 – Russia** is hosting 2018 FIFA World Cup. from It is scheduled to take place **14 June to 15 July 2018**.
 - **Wolf** chosen as 2018 FIFA World Cup Official Mascot and named **Zabivaka™** which means “the one who scores” in Russian.
2. **Santosh Trophy 2018 - Kerala**
 - Kerala defeated West Bengal in the final to win the 2018 Santosh Trophy.
 - With this win, Kerala won the Santosh Trophy for sixth time.
 - West Bengal won the 2017 Santosh Trophy.

April

- Santosh Trophy is an annual Indian **football** tournament started in 1941.
- 3. **Bengaluru FC** won the Super Cup football tournament 2018
 - Bengaluru FC won the inaugural edition of the Super Cup football tournament at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
 - They defeated Kolkata football giants **East Bengal** by a convincing margin of 4-1.

January

1. Brazilian footballer **Ronaldinho Gaúcho** has announced his retirement from football.
2. Philippe Coutinho joins Barcelona.
 - Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million).
 - With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.
3. **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017** – For the first time, India hosted the 17th edition of FIFA U-17 World. Nicolai Adam is the coach of Indian team. Amarjit Singh Kiyam (Manipur) is the captain of U-17 FIFA Indian team.

Key Facts –

- **Winner – England** won the title by defeating **Spain** by 5-2 in the final.
- **Best Player Award** - Phil Foden of England has been adjudged tournament’s best player and has been awarded ‘**Golden Ball**’.
- **Golden Glove’ Award** - **Gabriel Brazao** the goalkeeper of **Brazil’s** national football team has won the ‘Golden Glove’.
- Brazil has won the Fair Play Award.

- **Jeakson Singh** (Manipur) creates history by scoring India’s first ever goal in **FIFA U-17 World Cup** against **Colombia**.
- FIFA U-17 WC in India becomes **most attended in event’s history** for the first time.
- USA-Based **Namit Deshpande** becomes the **First NRI** to Play for India’s U17 World Cup Team.
- **Esther Staubli** (Switzerland) became the first female football referee to officiate a match.
- The **official Mascot** for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 was clouded leopard named ‘**Kheleo**’.
- The official ball for Under-17 football World Cup is called ‘**Krasava**’.
- The final match of the event was held in **Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata**.

4. **Bangladesh won SAFF U-15 Women's Championships title** – Bangladesh defeated India in the final to win the SAFF Under-15 Women's Championships.

- This is the first South Asian title for Bangladesh in women's football.
- India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan participated in this South Asian Football Federation tournament.

Hockey

July

1. **Australia wins Hockey Champions Trophy Final 2018:** Australia defeated India in the final. It was Australia's record 15th Champions Trophy title.

June

1. **Rani Rampal** became the Captain of Indian Women's Hockey Team.
 - Forward Rani Rampal was named as the captain of India's 18-member squad for the women's hockey World Cup to be played in London in July 2018.

May

1. Winner of 5th Asian Champions Trophy 2018 - **South Korea.**

Note:

- The Indian women's Hockey team lost to hosts South Korea (0-1) in the summit clash and failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae City.
- Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared player of the tournament while youngster Lalremsiami was named as the upcoming player of the tournament.

2. New chief coach of the Indian men's Hockey team- **Harendra Singh**

Note:

- He replaced **Sjoerd Marijne**.
- Earlier, Harendra Singh is the chief coach of the Indian women's Hockey team.
- Harendra Singh coached the Indian men's team earlier from 2009 to 2011.
- **Sjoerd Marijne** became new chief coach of the **Indian women's Hockey team.**

March

1. 27th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah cup 2018 - **Australia**

- Australia defeated England in the final to win the 2018 Sultan Azlan Shah cup.
- With this win, Australia lifted title for the 10th time.

1. 8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2018 - **Punjab**

Note:

- Hockey Punjab won the 8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship title by defeating Petroleum Sports Promotion Board in the final.

Badminton

May

1. **China** team won the Thomas Cup 2018.
 - China beat Japan to win the Thomas Cup 2018.
 - The Thomas Cup, sometimes called the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition among teams representing member nations of the

Badminton World Federation, the sport's global governing body.

2. **Japan** team won the Uber Cup 2018.
 - Japan's women clinched the Uber Cup, after defeating Thailand 3-0 in the final.
 - Japan won the tournament after 37-year.

- The Uber Cup, sometimes called the World Team Championships for Women, is a major international badminton competition

contested by women's national badminton teams.

March

1. Women's Single U-19 Badminton title 2018 - **Purva Barve**
Note:

- She defeated Anastasiia Pustinskaia in the final held in Israel.

Lawn Tennis June

1. 2018 French Open Women's single title:
 - **Winner - Simona Halep**
 - She defeated Sloane Stephens of America.
 - **Simona Halep** became the second Romanian woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy after Virginia Ruzici.
2. 2018 French Open Men's single title:
 - **Winner - Rafael Nadal**
 - **Rafael Nadal** won his 11th French Open title by beating Austrian **Dominic Thiem** in straight sets.
 - With this win he won 17th Grand Slam title of his career.

May

1. Winner of Italian Open 2018 - **Rafa Nadal**.
 - Nadal beat defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-1 1-6 6-3
 - By winning the title, Nadal regained the ATP no. 1 singles ranking from Roger Federer.
2. Men's single **Madrid Open title 2018 - Alexander Zverev**
 - Alexander Zverev won Madrid Open title by beating Dominic Thiem in the final. Alexander Zverev hails from Germany.
 - He becomes only the fifth active player to win at least three Masters 1000 titles.

3. Women's single **Madrid Open title 2018 - Petra Kvitova**

- **Petra Kvitova** defeated Kiki Bertens in the final to become the first woman to win three Madrid Open titles.
- She hails from **Czech Republic**.
- Petra Kvitova claims the 24th singles title of her career - and her fourth tournament win this year.
- The Czech adds to her 2011 and 2015 triumphs in the Spanish capital.

April

1. Miami Open women's single trophy - **Sloane Stephens**
 - **Sloane Stephens (USA)** defeated Jelena Ostapenko(Latvia) to win the Miami Open women's single trophy.
2. Miami Open men's single trophy - **John Isner (US)**
 - John Isner(USA) defeated Alexander Zverev(Germany) in the final.
3. 2018 French Open Wild Card tournament - **Siddhant Banthia**
 - **Siddhant Banthia** won the 2018 French Open Wild Card tournament. He defeated Mann Maulik Shah by 6-4, 2-6, 7-6.
 - Siddhant Banthia is a native of Pune city.
4. Monte Carlo Masters Tennis tournament - Men's Singles title - **Rafael Nadal**
 - **Rafael Nadal** defeated Kei Nishikori (Japan) by 6-3, 6-2 in the final.
5. 2018 Barcelona Open tennis title - **Rafael Nadal**
 - Rafael Nadal won the 2018 Barcelona Open tennis title. He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas by 6-2 6-1 in the final.
 - With this win, Nadal lifted his 11th Barcelona Open tennis title.
6. **Yuki Bhambri** won the 2018 Santaizi ATP Challenger tournament in Taipei.
 - Yuki Bhambri from India has won the 2018 Santaizi ATP Challenger tennis tournament by defeating his compatriot Ramkumar Ramanathan in the final of the event by 6-3 6-4 in Taipei, Taiwan

January

1. **Australia Open 2018** Tournament held in Melbourne Park, Australia.
 - **Men's Single Title - Roger Federer** (Switzerland) defeated Marin Cilic (Croatia) in the final.
 - It was Federer's 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Australia Open title.
 - Women's Single Title - **Caroline Wozniacki** defeated Simona Halep (Romania) in the final.
 - She became the first player of the Denmark to win the Grand Slam title.
2. **Tata Open Maharashtra** Tennis trophy - **Gilles Simon** of France won the trophy.
 - He defeated Kevin Anderson (French) in the final.
3. **Hopman Cup – Switzerland won the tournament.**
 - **Switzerland** won their third Hopman Cup as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber in the final.
4. **Brisbane International** - Elina Svitolina beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich in the final.

Formula 1

1. Austrian Grand Prix 2018: Red Bull's **Max Verstappen**
2. French Grand Prix 2018 - **Lewis Hamilton**
3. Monaco Grand Prix 2018 - **Daniel Ricciardo**
4. Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship - **Bala Prasath**
 - Bala Prasath Wins Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
5. Spanish Grand Prix - **Lewis Hamilton**
6. Azerbaijan Grand Prix - **Lewis Hamilton**
7. Chinese Grand Prix - **Daniel Riccardo**
8. Bahrain Grand Prix - **Sebastian Vettel**

9. Australian Grand Prix 2018 - **Sebastian Vettel**

Chess
June

1. World's 2nd Youngest Chess Grand Master- **R Praggnanandhaa.**

- India's R Praggnanandhaa has become the country's youngest and the world's second youngest Grand Master at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days after reaching the final round of the ongoing Grendine Open in Italy.
- Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin remains the youngest ever GM, having achieved the feat at the age of 12 years and seven months in 2002.

Other Sports news
June

1. 2nd US Open Golf Title 2018 - **Brooks Koepka**

Explanation:

- American golfer Brooks Koepka became the first player in 29 years to win back-to-back US Open titles at Shinnecock Hills in New York.

May

1. **Vikas Gowda** who recently announced his retirement from sports.

- Vikas Gowda is associated with Discus throw.
- He became the first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in the discipline.

2. India's rank **sixth** in the list of doping violations, as per latest report of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

- India maintained their dubious record of being among top 10 nations with regards to doping violations being joint sixth as World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published its report as per samples collected in 2016.
- Italy topped the rankings of drug cases in 2016, followed by France (86), United States (76), Australia (75), Belgium (73).

3. The 2018 Asian Cadet Judo Championships was held in **Lebanon**

- Rohini S Mohite and Tababi Devi Thanjam won gold medals while Harish settled for a bronze on the opening day of the Asian Cadet Judo Championships, being held in Lebanon.

4. The sports initiative '**Star Khel Mahakumbh**' was launched by BJP MP Anurag Thakur and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh in the presence of 1,500 athletes.

- The athletes will compete in volleyball, basketball, cricket, football, kabaddi and athletics.
- The initiative has been designed in a manner as to attract participation of at least one lakh youth from across 5000 villages and 800 panchayats.

- April**
1. **C A Bhavani Devi** won the silver medal in the sabre event of the Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.
 2. The 2019 **FIBA Basketball World Cup** will be held in **China**.
 - **China** will host the 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup. It will be the 18th edition of the FIBA Basketball World Cup for men's national basketball teams.
 - The Mascot of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 is '**Son of Dreams**'.
 - The 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup was held in **Spain**.
 - **United States** men's national basketball team was the champion in 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup.
 3. Shahzar Rizvi claimed India's first medal at the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) at Changwon, South Korea. He won the silver medal in the 10-meter air pistol event.
 4. **Nepal** hosted 8th South Asian Judo Championship 2018.
 - India won total **10 gold medals** at 8th South Asian Judo Championship 2018.
 - The 8th South Asian Judo Championship was held in **Lalitpur, Nepal**.

- March**
1. 2018 Asian Billiards Championships - **Pankaj Advani**
Note:
 - **Pankaj Advani** defended his Asian Billiards Championships title.
 - In the final he defeated B Bhaskar 6-1 at Yangon in Myanmar.
 - With this he won the 11th gold medal at the Asian level.
 2. U-17 Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament 2018 - **India**
 - India Under-16 team won the 2018 U-17 Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football tournament by defeating hosts Hong Kong in the final by 4-2.
 3. **Deepa Malik** won the gold medal in the F-53/54 category javelin event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.
 - With this, she has secured the No. 1 rank in Asia in F53 Javelin category.

- February**
1. **Khelo India School Games held in Delhi.**
Key points -
 - Anu Kumar of Uttarakhand grabbed the first gold medal winning the 1,500m race at the Khelo India School Games.
 - **Haryana emerged as the overall champions**, finishing with **102 medals**, which included 38 gold, 26 silver and 38 bronze medals.
 - **Maharashtra** with 111 medals, but due to their lower gold medal count (36), they had to contend with the **second spot**.
 - **Delhi finished** the Games at the third position with 94 medals, which included 25 gold, 29 silver and 40 bronze.

January

1. Khelo India, an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
Aim - to bridge the gap between sports at the school level and professional sports.
 - PM Narendra Modi on January 31, kicked off KISG at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
2. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
 - Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.
3. 39th National Games in 2022 will be held in **Meghalaya**.
4. Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won the Royal Cup at Pattaya.

List of Upcoming Sports Venue

1. **Asian Games** - The Asian Games, also known as Asiad is a Pancontinental multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. The Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation (AGF).
Note: First Asian games were held in New Delhi, India in 1951.
 - Venue of Asian Games 2014 - **Incheon, South Korea.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2018 - **Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2022 - **Hangzhou, China.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2026 - **Nagoya, Japan.**
2. **Commonwealth Games (CWG)** - The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations held every four years.
Note: The first Commonwealth Games held in 1911 in London, England.
 - Venue of **CWG** Games 2010 - **New Delhi, India.**
 - Venue of **CWG** Games 2014 - **Glasgow, Scotland.**
 - Venue of **CWG** Games 2018 - **Gold Coast, Australia.**
 - Venue of **CWG** Games 2022 - **Birmingham, England.**

Note: The 2022 Commonwealth Games will no longer take place in Durban, South Africa as the South African government failed to give financial guarantees for the event.
3. **Olympics Games** - The Olympic Games are held every four years, with the Summer and Winter Games

alternating by occurring every four years but two years apart.

Note:

- The first modern Olympics games were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarter - Lausanne, Switzerland.
- IOC President - Thomas Bach

Summer Olympic -

- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2016 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2020 - Tokyo, Japan
- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2024 - Paris, France

Winter Olympic -

- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2014 - Sochi, Russia.
- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2018 - Pyeongchang, South Korea.
- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2022 - Beijing, China.

4. **ICC World Cup Cricket** - The ICC Cricket World Cup is the international championship of One Day International (ODI) cricket. The event is organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC), every four years.

Note: The first World Cup was held in England in June 1975. West Indies won the title by defeating Australia in the final.

Australia has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 5 titles and 2 runners up.

India won the first World Cup title in 1983 by defeating West Indies in the final.

Australia won the World Cup title in 2015 after defeating New Zealand in the final.

- International Cricket Council (ICC) headquarter - **Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**
- President of ICC - **Zaheer Abbas.**
- Chairman of ICC - **Shashank Manohar.**
- CEO - **David Richardson.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 - India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 - Australia & New Zealand.
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 - England, Wales.
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 - India.

5. **ICC World Cup T20** - The ICC World Twenty20 is the international championship of Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Note:

- The first T20 World Cup was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2007.
- India won the first T20 world cup title after defeating Pakistan in the final.
- West Indies won the T20 World Cup title two times.
West Indies won the title in 2016 after defeating England in the final.
- Venue of World Cup 2014 - Bangladesh.
- Venue of World Cup T20 2016- India.
- Venue of World Cup 2020 - Australia.

6. **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup** - The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the oldest and most prestigious international women's cricket tournament.

Note:

The first Women's World Cup was held in England in **1973**, two years before the inaugural men's tournament. England won the title by defeating Australia in the final.

Australia has been the most successful team in the Women's World Cup, with 6 titles and 3 runners up. England won the Women's World Cup in 2017 by defeating India in the final.

- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2013 - India.
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2017 - England.
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2021 - New Zealand.

7. **ICC Women's World Cup T20** - The ICC Women's World Twenty20 is the international championship for Women's Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Note:

- The first Women's T20 World Cup was held in England in 2009.
- England won the first T20 world cup title after defeating New Zealand in the final.
- Australia has been the most successful team in the Women's World Cup, with 3 titles and 1 runners up.
- West Indies won the title in 2016 after defeating Australia in the final.
- Venue of World Cup 2014 - Bangladesh.
- Venue of World Cup T20 2016- India.
- Venue of World Cup T20 2018- West Indies
- Venue of World Cup 2020 - Australia.

8. **Hockey Men's World Cup** - The Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note: The first Men's Hockey World Cup was held in 1971 Barcelona, Spain. Pakistan won the title after defeating Spain in the final.

Pakistan has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 4 titles from 6 appearances in the final.

Australia won the title in 2014 after defeating Netherlands in the final.

Note:

- International Hockey Federation (IHF) headquarter - **Lausanne, Switzerland.**
- **President of IHF** - Narinder Batra.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2010 - New Delhi, India.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 - The Hague, Netherlands.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 - Bhubaneswar, India.

9. Hockey Women's World Cup - The Women's Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note: The first Women's Hockey World Cup was held in 1974 in Mandelieu, France. Netherlands won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

Netherlands has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 7 titles from 11 appearances in the final.

Netherlands won the title in 2014 after defeating Australia in the final.

- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2010 – Rosario, Argentina.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – The Hague, Netherlands.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – London, England.

10. FIFA (Football) World Cup – The FIFA World Cup is an international association football competition contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note: The first FIFA World Cup was held in 1930 in Uruguay. Uruguay won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

Brazil has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 5 titles from 7 appearances in the final.

Germany won the title in 2014 after defeating Argentina in the final.

Note:

- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) headquarter - Zürich, Switzerland.
- **President of FIFA** - Gianni Infantino.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2014 – Brazil.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2018 – Russia.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2022 – Qatar.

11. FIFA Women's World Cup – The FIFA Women's World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior women's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note: The first FIFA Women's World Cup was held in 1991 in China. United States won the title after defeating Norway in the final.

USA is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with 3 titles and 1 runners up.

USA won the title in 2015 after defeating Japan in the final.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2015 – Canada.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2019 – France.

12. FIFA (U-17) World Cup – The FIFA U-17 World Cup, founded as the FIFA U-16 World Championship, later changed to its current name in 2007, is the world championship of association football for male players under the age of 17 organized by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every two years.

Note: The first FIFA (U-17) World Cup was held in 1991 in Italy. Ghana won the title after defeating Spain in the final.

Nigeria is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with five titles and three runners up.

Nigeria won the title in 2015 after defeating Mali in the final.

- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2015 – Chile.
- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2017 – India.

Science & Defense

Military Exercise

September

1. **Vostok-2018** - Russia has launched its biggest military exercise named "Vostok-2018", involving about 300,000 service personnel, in eastern Siberia.
2. **'Yudh Abhyas 2018'** - Indo-US joint military training exercise to be conducted at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand.
3. **'MILEX-18'** - First military exercise of BIMSTEC countries held in Pune.
4. **'Nomadic Elephant 2018'** - India-Mongolia joint exercise held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
5. **'SLINEX-2018'** - India & Sri Lanka conducts joint naval exercise at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
6. **'KAZIND 2018'** - Indo-Kazakhstan joint Army exercise conducted in Otar region, Kazakhstan.
7. **'IOWave18'** - India along with 23 other nations will be participating in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as **IOWave18**.
Note: The exercise is being organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
8. **'Rapid Trident'** - Ukraine has launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with the United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries.

August

1. **Exercise KAKADU 2018** - INS Sahyadri entered the Port of Darwin, Australia to participate in Exercise KAKADU 2018.
 - Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993, is the premier multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
2. **SCO Peace Mission 2018:** The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) counter-terror military exercise held in Chebarkul, Russia.
3. **'Exercise Maitree 2018'** - Indian and Thailand's conducts joint military exercise in Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar.
4. **1st Ever IAF-RMAF** - The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
5. **Pitch Black - 18 (PB-18)** - A biennial multinational air exercise hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) concluded recently Darwin, Australia.

June

1. Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2018: naval exercise between **India and Indonesia**.
2. Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual exercise: **India & Bangladesh**.
3. Trilateral Naval Exercise Malabar 2018: **India, Japan and United States**.
4. Indra-2018 is a tri-service joint military exercise: **India & Russia**.

May

1. World's largest International Maritime exercise RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) was held at **Hawaiian Islands and Southern California**.
 - As many as 26 countries, including India participated in the exercise.
 - It is known as the world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC this year involves 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national

land forces, and more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel.

- Four countries -- Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam -- are participating in RIMPAC for the first time.
- The theme this year is "**Capable, Adaptive, Partners.**"

2. **SURYA KIRAN-XIII** - a joint military exercise between **India and Nepal** conducted at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.**

1. "**Desert Tiger 5**" - joint military exercise between **United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia**
2. '**SAHYOG- -HYEOBLEOG 2018**' is a joint exercise between **India and South Korea.**
3. '**Chakravath 2018**' - The joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise 'Chakravath 2018' is organized between Indian Navy and **Kerala** state government.
4. **Gaganshakti 2018** is one of the biggest combat exercises conducted by **Indian Air Force**
5. '**HARIMAU SHAKTI**' 2018 is a joint military exercise between India and **Malaysia**
6. "**Peace Mission 2018**" - multi-nation counter-terrorism exercise will be held in **Russia**

3. '**Vijay Prahar**' exercise 2018 concluded in - **Rajasthan**

- The exercise is aimed to orchestrate wide spectrum of threats which are planned to be tackled through high tempo joint air and land operation.

4. The '**Varuna Naval Exercise**' 2018 - India & **France**

- The 'Varuna Naval Exercise' 2018 was held between **India and France** in Reunion Island in Indian Ocean Region.

April

- The multi-nation counter-terrorism exercise "Peace Mission" will be held at the Ural mountains of **Russia** in September 2018, which will take place under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
 - It will be for the first time since Independence that India and Pakistan will both be part of a military exercise.
7. '**Sagar Kavach**' - The Coastal security exercise was held in **Kerala**

March

1. '**KHANJAR V**' is a joint training exercise between India & **Kyrgyzstan.**

Note:

- The joint training exercise was held in Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte **Mizoram.**

2. '**VARUNA-18**' is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and **France.**

Note:

- The maritime exercise held at the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) in Vasco, Goa.

3. The **Gulf Shield** first military exercise of 23 countries including Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states was held in __. **Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia**
4. **Paschim Leher (XPL -18)** a tri-Services maritime exercise in the Arabian Sea conducted by **Western Naval Command.**
5. First -ever multi-nation naval exercise conducted in the Andaman Sea is **MILES - 18.**

January

1. **VINBAX** - 'VINBAX' is the first military exercise between India & Vietnam. It was conducted in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
2. **'Iron Fist'** - Joint military exercise between US & Japan held in California, US.
3. **'National Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise'** - Joint Naval exercise between India & Japan was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in Bay of Bengal.

Science & Defense Other News

September

1. **Japan to conduct world's first test of space elevator** - Japanese researchers from Shizuoka University will conduct world's first experiment to test small prototype of space elevator in space by using two mini satellites.
 - The test equipment will be launched by Japan's space agency on board of H-2B rocket from southern island of Tanegashima.
2. **Dataset Search: Google launches new search engine for scientific community** - Search engine giant Google has launched Dataset Search, a new search engine for scientific community that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online.
3. **BARC recommissions upgraded version of India's oldest research reactor 'Apsara'** - Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay has recommissioned India's oldest nuclear research

reactor named '**Apsara**', which was shut down permanently in 2009 for repair.

- The refurbished version of this reactor has been named as '**Apsara-upgraded**' (Apsara-U) and also has double capacity compared to its earlier version.
- It is located within India's nuclear weapons facility at BARC's Trombay campus (Maharashtra).

4. **Bengaluru to host Aero India in February 2019: Defence Ministry**

- The next edition of Aero India will be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 20 to 24, 2019, Defence Ministry announced.
- This five-day event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.

August

1. Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet named '**KOWSAR**'.
2. India successfully tests anti-tank guided missile '**HELINA**' - India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile '**HELINA**' from Pokhran in Rajasthan.
3. **India's 1st Women SWAT team inducted in Delhi Police** - The Delhi Police inducted an all-woman

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, consisting of 36 commandos – the first ever by any police force in India – for anti-terrorist operations.

4. **Barak 8 missile** - Israeli Navy has announced to procure multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by India and Israel.
 - **Barak-8 (Lightning 8 in Hebrew)**, also known as also known as LR-SAM or as MR-

SAM is an operational air and missile defense system used by Israeli Navy as well as by Indian Navy and air forces.

5. **Defence Industrial Corridor launched in Aligarh, UP** - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a **defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh**.
6. **Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror)** - Iran has unveiled Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror) next generation short-range ballistic missile capable of striking targets on land and sea.
7. **Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD successfully flight tested** - Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
 - The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms was launched against multiple simulated targets of 1500 km class ballistic missile.
8. **Operation Madad and Operation Sahyog** launched to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala - Indian Navy has launched Operation Madad, major rescue and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala. Indian Army also has launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.

9. **Xingkong-2: China successfully tests first hypersonic aircraft** - China successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic "waverider" flight vehicle (aircraft) Xingkong-2 (Starry Sky-2).
10. **India's first biofuel flight was powered by jatropha seeds** - India's first first-ever environment friendly biofuel powered flight between Dehradun and Delhi was propelled by blend of oil from jatropha seeds and aviation turbine fuel.
11. European Space Agency (ESA) has successfully launched wind-sensing satellite named **Aeolus** into orbit on board of Vega rocket from French Guyana.
12. **ISRO postpones launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission** - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to moon to January 2019.
13. **India to launch first manned space mission by 2022: PM**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of his 72nd Independence Day speech vowed to put Indian in space by 2022 under manned space mission on board 'Gaganyaan'.
 - Former Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space.

July

1. **First Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad** - Country's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad, which is India's missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries. The incubator will be housed at T-Hub.
2. Indian Army has awarded Rs. 100-crore contract for 81 high mobility 10×10 vehicles to India's leading vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland. This is for first time

Indian vehicle manufacturer will deliver heavy duty, high mobility vehicles for the launchers.

3. **19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas observed** - The 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated across India on 26 July 2018 to commemorate the success of Operation Vijay and remember brave sacrifice of Indian soldiers during 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.

4. **India's 1st private UAV factory to set up in Kota** - India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof

vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.

June

1. **Operation NISTAR** - Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sunayana successfully evacuated 38 Indian Nationals from cyclone-hit Socotra island in Yemen under swift Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operation (HADR) code named **Operation NISTAR**.
 - A severe cyclonic storm **Mekunu** crossed the Yemeni Island of Socotra on 24 May, leaving 38 Indians stranded on the island with limited food and water.
2. **China** launched a new Earth observation satellite 'the Gaofen-6' which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring.
3. India successfully test fired its indigenously developed Agni- 5 missile on 3rd June.

- The missile was launched from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- Agni missile is a **surface to surface missile** which has a range of **5000 km**.

4. Indian Army is observing year 2018 as **"Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty"**

- Indian Army is observing year 2018 as "Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty" to honour soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty.
- The primary focus of this initiative is to alleviate sufferings of these soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to nation and have been disabled for the life.

May

1. India and Russia deal to procure **S-400 Triumf air defence missile** systems for Indian Air Force (IAF).
S-400 Triumf air defence missile
2. United States renamed its oldest and largest strategically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to **Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM)**.
 - At present, US Pacific Command is responsible for all US military activity in greater Pacific region.
 - It has about 375,000 civilian and military personnel assigned to its area of responsibility, which also includes India.
 - Now renamed INDOPACOM will now extend its reach from Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean Region.

3. **NASA is planning** to send the first unmanned helicopter to **Mars** in its mission scheduled to launch in 2020, to test the viability and potential of heavier-than-air vehicles on the red planet.
 - Mars 2020 will launch on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida and is expected to reach Mars in February 2021.
4. **China launched APSTAR-6C satellite** via the Long March 3B launch vehicle from Xichang Satellite Launch Center at Sichuan province.
 - APSTAR-6C satellite will "enhance Asia-Pacific satellite communications, broadcasting services capabilities".

April

1. On April 2018, ISRO successfully launched the navigation satellite IRNSS-1I into the orbit with the help of PSLV-C41 launch vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
 - The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is a constellation of seven satellites that provides indigenously developed regional GPS services called **NavIC**.
2. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced to launch **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** which aims to expand mankind's search for planets beyond the solar system.
3. First commercial satellite of Bangladesh - **Bangabandhu-1**
 - Bangladesh's first commercial satellite "**Bangabandhu-1**" to be launched on 7th May 2018.
 - The satellite will be launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral (US).
 - The Bangabandhu Satellite-1 (BS-1), will be the first Bangladeshi geostationary communications satellite operated by Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Limited (BCSCL).

March

1. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched its latest communication satellite - **GSAT-6A**.
 - ISRO successfully launched GSAT-6A satellite from GSLV-F08 rocket vehicle.
 - GSAT-6A is a high-power S-band communication satellite.
 - It will be India's second predominantly S-band communications satellite - first being the GSAT-6.
 - According to the ISRO, the life span of the GSAT-6A mission will be around **10 years**.
 - The overall size of the GSAT-6A satellite is **1.53m X 1.65 m X 2.4 m**.
2. Indian Navy decommissioned **INS Ganga** warship in Mumbai.
3. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned **interceptor boat ICGS C-437 at Porbandar, Gujarat** as part of its efforts to strengthen coastal security.
4. NASA launched the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of **Mars** planet.

Note:

 - NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of **Mars**.
 - The name of the mission is - "**InSight**".
5. **Andaman & Nicobar Naval Command** hosted the multinational mega event 'Milan 2018' at Port Blair.
 - The Andaman Nicobar naval command is organizing multinational mega event "Milan 2018" with theme '**Friendship Across the Seas**' at Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar islands.

February

1. **Agni-1 missile successfully test-fired** - Nuclear capable ballistic **Agni-1** successfully test-fired from the Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) off the Odisha.
 - Agni-1 is indigenously developed intermediate range **surface-to-surface, single-stage missile**.
 - It has strike range of over **700 km**.
2. **First foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft** - The Chief of US Air Force, **General David L Goldfein** flew indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
 - With this he became first foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft.

January

1. **INS Karanj: Third submarine of Scorpene class launched** - Indian Navy has launched Scorpene submarine INS Karanj at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - It is the third Scorpene class submarine built by MDL under ambitious Project 75 of the Indian Navy.
 - The first submarine **INS Kalwari** of this category was launched on December 14 last year.
 - The other submarine **INS Khanderao** has already been launched.
2. **Alpha Design Technologies to supply simulators to Indian Army** - Alpha Design Technologies Ltd. has signed Rs. 45-crore deal with Ministry of Defence to supply indigenous simulators for gunnery and missile firing from BMP II vehicles to Indian Army.
 - The BMP II is a Soviet-origin amphibious infantry fighting vehicle. The simulators will be used to train missile firing personnel.
3. **Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named 'Vijaya' launched** - The second indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named Vijaya built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Shipyard for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Tamil Nadu.
4. **INS Vikramaditya formally Affiliated to Bihar regiment** - Indian Naval Ship Vikramaditya, the Indian Navy's largest ship and its sole aircraft carrier was formally affiliated to the Indian Army's highly-decorated and battle-hardened Bihar Regiment and the Indian Air Force's No 6 Squadron.
5. **Agni-5 ballistic missile successfully test-fired** - Indigenously developed long-range surface-to-surface Agni-5 ballistic missile was successfully test fired successfully from Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island, Odisha.
 - It has strike range of over 5,000 kilometres and can carry nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.
6. **China commissioned new missile frigate 'Rizhao'** - It is China's indigenous missile frigate named after Rizhao city in Shandong Province of China.
7. **Indian Navy decommissions INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat warships** - Indian Navy has decommissioned INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat warships at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai (Maharashtra), after a glorious 30 and 28 years respectively in the service of the nation.
8. **Charlie-435: Indian Coast Guard commissions patrol vessel** - The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned Charlie-435, a state-of-the-art patrol vessel at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Important Dates

September

1. Hindi Diwas – 14th September
2. International Literacy Day - 8 September
 - This year's theme is '**Literacy and skills development.**'
3. National Engineers Day - 15 September
4. World Ozone Day - 16 September
 - This year's theme is – '**Keep cool and carry on**'
5. World Alzheimer's Day - 21 September
6. International Day of Peace - 21 September
7. World Tourism Day - 27th September
 - This year's theme is - Tourism & Cultural Protection.
8. World Heart Day - 29th September

August

1. The National Handloom Day - **7th August.**
2. The nation celebrated the 76th anniversary of the Quit India Movement -- **8th August**
3. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People - **9th August.**
Note: The theme of this year is - 'Indigenous peoples' migration and movement'.
4. The World Biofuel Day - **10th August.**
5. The International Youth Day (IYD) - **12th August.**
Note: The theme for International Youth Day 2018 is "Safe space for Youth".
6. The World Elephant Day (WED) - **12th August.**
7. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) - **19th August.**
Note: The 2018 World Humanitarian Day campaign: #NotATarget.
8. The World Photography Day being observed on -- **19th August.**
9. The 2018 World Mosquito Day (WMD) - **20th August.**
10. The first-ever International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism - **21st August.**
11. World Senior Citizens Day: **21 August**
11. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on -- **23rd August.**
12. The Sanskrit Divas - **Shravan Purnima (26th August).**
13. International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) - **29th August.**
14. The National Sports day - **29th August.**
15. International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - **30 August**

July

1. National Doctors Day – **1 July**
2. World Population Day - **11 July**
3. World Malala Day – **12 July**
4. World Day for International Justice – **17 July**
 - Theme 2018: Workers on the move: the quest for social justice
5. Nelson Mandela International Day - **18 July**
6. Kargil Vijay Diwas - **26 July**
7. World Hepatitis Day - **28 July**
 - Theme 2018: Test. Treat. Hepatitis.
8. World Nature Conservation Day – **28 July**
9. International Tiger Day – **29 July**
10. World Day against Trafficking in Persons – **30 July**
 - Theme 2018: Responding to the trafficking of children and young people.
11. World Ranger Day - **31 July**

June

1. The Global Day of Parents is observed every year on **__1st June.**

2. The World Milk Day being observed every year on **__1st June.**

Note:

- The World Milk Day is a day established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.

3. The first **World Bicycle Day** (WBD) is observed by United Nations (UN) on **__3rd June 2018**

Note:

- The WBD was approved on 12th April 2018 as an official United Nations day of awareness about the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transport and leisure.

4. The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is a United Nations (UN) observance each year on **__4th June.**

5. The World Environment Day (WED) observed every year across the world on **__5th June.**

Note:

- The theme for World Environment Day 2018 is "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- India is the global host nation for the 43rd edition of this event.

6. World Ocean Day observed on **__8th June**

7. World Day Against Child Labour: **12th June 2018**

8. World Blood Donors Day: **14 June**

- The theme of the World Blood Donors Day 2018 is **'Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life'.**

9. The International Domestic Workers Day (IDWD) is observed on **__16th June.**

10. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on **__17th June.**

11. The Goa Revolution Day (GRD) has celebrated on **__18th June 2018.**

12. The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day (WSGD) is observed every year on **__18th June.**

Note:

- The day reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development.

13. The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed every year on **__19th June.**

Note:

- The 2018 theme is **"The Plight and Rights of Children Born of War".**

14. World Refugee Day is held every year on **__20th June.**

Note:

- The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is **'Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees'.**

15. The World Music Day is celebrated across the world on **__21 June.**

Note:

- This Day was first celebrated on 21st June 1982.

16. The International Yoga Day is being celebrated across the globe on **__21st of June.**

Note:

- The theme for Yoga Day 2018 is **"Yoga for Peace".**

17. The International Olympic Day (IOD) is observed every year on **__23rd June.**

Note:

- The three pillars of Olympic Day are 'move', 'learn' and 'discover'.

18. The International Widows day (IWD) is observed every year on **__23rd June.**

Note:

- International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation.

19. The United Nations Public Service Day is observed every year on **__23rd June.**

20. The **Day of the Seafarer** (DotS) was observed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on **__25 June.**

Note:

- The theme of the 2018 Day of the Seafarer theme was 'Seafarers' wellbeing'.
- 21. The United Nations' (UN) International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on **26th June**.
- 22. The "Statistics Day" is being observed every year in India on **29th June**.

Note:

- The day acknowledges the notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning.
- The 2018 theme is **"Quality Assurance in Official Statistics"**.

May

1. International Labour Day - **1 May**
 - Theme of the 2018 International Labour Day? **Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement**
2. World Press Freedom Day - **3rd May**
 - The theme of the 2018 World Press Freedom Day is **Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law**.
3. The World Cartoonist's Day - **5 May**
4. World Thalassaemia Day - **8th May**
 - The theme for the day this year is **"Thalassaemia past, present and future: Documenting progress and patients' needs worldwide"**.
 - Thalassaemia, a blood disorder, is caused by the weakening and destruction of blood cells.
5. The 'World Red Cross Day' - **8th May**
 - The theme of the 2018 World Red Cross Day is **"Memorable smiles from around the world"**.
6. The 2018 National Technology Day (NTD) - **May 11**
 - The National Technology Day (NTD) is celebrated every year in India on **May 11**.
 - On this day in 1998, India successfully tested its nuclear bombs in **Pokhran, Rajasthan**.
7. World Migratory Bird Day - **12 May**
 - **In 2018, the theme** of the World Migratory Bird Day is **"Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation"**.
8. International Nurses Day - **12 May**

- This year theme - **Nurses A Voice to Lead - Health is a Human right**.

9. The International Day of Families - **15th May**.
10. National Dengue Day - **16th May**.
11. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) - **17th May**.

Note:

- The 2018 theme "Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All".

12. The Anti -Terrorism Day - **21st May**.

Note:

- On 21 May, 1991 the seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the terrorist and then, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti-Terrorism Day.

13. The International Bio-diversity Day - **22nd May**.
 - The theme of this year is, **'Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity'**.
14. Nepal celebrated its 11th Republic Day - **28th May**
 - On May 28, 2008, the Constituent Assembly of the Himalayan nation declared Nepal the Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy.
15. The International Day of UN Peacekeepers - **May 29**
16. World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) - **31st May**.
 - The theme for world No Tobacco Day 2018 is **'Tobacco and heart disease'**.

April

1. The World Earth Day (WED) - **22 April**
 - The theme of the 2018 World Earth Day (WED) is **End Plastic Pollution**
2. The World Creativity and Innovation Day - **21 April**
 - The first official World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) was celebrated on **April 21, 2018.**
3. The Civil Service Day - **21 April**
4. The UN Chinese Language Day - **20 April**
5. The World Liver Day - **19th April**
 - The theme of the World Liver Day 2018 is - **Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment.**
6. World Heritage Day - **18 April**
 - The theme of the World Heritage Day 2018 is **'Heritage for Generations'.**
7. World Haemophilia Day 2018 - **17 April**
 - The **theme** of the World Haemophilia Day 2018 is **"Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger".**
8. The National Safe Motherhood (NSMD) day - **11 April**
 - Theme - **Respectful Maternity Care**
9. The World Homoeopathy Day (WHD) - **10 April**
10. World Autism Awareness Day - **2nd April**
 - The 2018 theme for the day is **"Empowering Women and Girls with Autism".**
11. National Maritime Day - **5th April**
 - The 2018 theme - **"Indian Shipping - An Ocean of opportunity".**
12. United Nations' (UN) International Day of Sport for Development and Peace - **6th April**
 - Olympics Games in 2020 will be held in - **Tokyo, Japan.**
- Olympics Games in 2016 was held in - **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**
13. World Health Day - **7th April**
 - The theme for this year's World Health Day is **"Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere".**
14. The World Book & Copyright Day - **23rd April**
 - The capital of Greece **'Athens'** has been chosen **'World Book Capital 2018'**, for the quality of its activities, supported by the entire book industry.
15. The United Nations English Language Day - **23rd April**
16. National Panchayati Raj Diwas - **24th April**
17. World Malaria Day - **25th April.**
 - The theme of the World Malaria Day 2018 is **'Ready to beat malaria'.**
 - The 2018 Global Malaria Summit was held in **London, United Kingdom.**
18. World Intellectual Property Day - **26th April.**
 - The theme of the 2018 World Intellectual Property Day is **'Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity'.**
19. World Day for Safety and Health at Work - **28th April**
 - The theme of this year is **'Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers'**
20. The 2018 Ayushman Bharat Diwas - **29 April**
21. The 2018 International Dance day - **29th April**

March

1. The Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD) - **March 1**
 - This year (2018), the Zero Discrimination Day campaign invites people to ask themselves **"What if".**
2. World Wildlife Day - **March 3.**
 - 2018 Theme - **Big cats: predators under threat**
3. Pi Day - 14th March
 - The Pi Day is observed every year on March 14 (3/14) across the world.
 - It is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi).
4. World Consumer Rights Day - **March 15**

- 2018 theme - Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer

5. **World Happiness Day - March 20**

Note:

- Theme of the World Happiness Day 2018 is “**Share Happiness**”.
- **India** ranked at **133rd position** on World Happiness Index 2018.
- India stood at **122nd rank** in World Happiness Index 2017.
- **Finland** is the happiest country in the world, with Norway, Denmark.

6. **World Sparrow Day - March 20**

Note:

- The theme for 2018 WSD is ‘**I Love Sparrows**’.
- The first World Sparrow Day was observed on this day in **2010** across the globe.

7. **World Poetry Day - March 21**

8. **The World Down syndrome Day (WDS) - March 21.**

Note:

- **The** theme of this year is “What I Bring To My Community”

9. **International Day of Forests - March 21**

Note:

- The **theme** of 2018 is ‘**Forests and Sustainable Cities**’.

10. **World Water Day - March 22**

- The theme of 2018 is ‘**Nature for Water**’

11. **World Meteorological Day - March 23**

- The **theme** of WMD 2018 is ‘**Weather-ready, climate-smart**’.

12. **World Tuberculosis Day (WTD) - March 24**

- The theme of World TB Day 2018 is “**Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world**”.

13. **World Theatre Day - 27 March**

February

1. The world cancer day is being observed on -- **4th February**.
 2. Sri Lanka celebrates 70th Independence Day -- **4th February**.
 3. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation -- **6th February**.
 4. The National Productivity Day is observed every year on -- **12th February**.
 5. The World Radio Day (WRD) is celebrated every year on -- **13th February**.
- Note: The theme for this year is "Radio and Sports".

6. The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice is annually observed on -- **20th February**
Note: The theme for 2018 is "Workers on the Move: The Quest for Social Justice".
7. International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on -- **21st February**.
8. India celebrates National Science Day every year on -- **28th February**.
 - The theme for the year 2018 is “Science and Technology for a sustainable future”.

January

1. National Youth Day - **12th January**
Note: The Theme of the Festival is Sankalp Se Siddhi.
2. The Army Day 2018 **15th January**

3. The **National Disaster Response Force** has been celebrating its 13th Raising Day on -- **19th January**.
4. The 2018 National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is celebrated in India -- **24th January**.

5. The National Voters' Day (NVD) is observed every year by India on -- **25th January**.
6. The International Custom Day has been observed across the world -- **26th January**.
intergovernmental organization.
7. The International Holocaust Remembrance Day has been observed all over the world on -- **27th January**.

Note: The theme of International Holocaust Remembrance Day is "Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility".

8. Anti-Leprosy Day being observed on -- **30th January**.
Note: The day, observed every year on the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi, remembers his selfless efforts and care for the people affected by leprosy.

Rank of India in Different Indexes

August

1. UN E-Government Index: India Ranks 96th, Denmark Tops

- India has jumped 22 places to 96th rank to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018.
- The E-Government survey is released by the United Nations in every two years.

Top 3 countries in the list are:

- Denmark,
- Australia,
- Republic of Korea.

2. Ease of Living Index 2018: Pune Tops

- The Ease of Living Index 2018 was released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with few most prominent cities failing to make a cut in the top 10.
- Of total 111 cities ranked under the index, **Pune has been ranked first while Navi Mumbai has surfaced as the second** preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'.

Top 5 cities in the list are:

- Pune,
- Navi Mumbai,

- Greater Mumbai,
- Tirupati,
- Chandigarh.

Bottom 3 Cities in the list are:

1. Rampur (111th),
2. Kohima (110th),
3. Patna (109th).

3. Global Liveability Index 2018: Delhi Stands 112th

- Delhi was ranked at 112th position and Mumbai fetched 117th spot.
- Austria's capital **Vienna** has been ranked as the world's most liveable city, displacing Australian city of Melbourne.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2018.
The Top three cities on the list are:
 1. Vienna,
 2. Melbourne,
 3. Osaka.

July

1. Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala best governed State, Bihar worst

- According to the Public Affairs Index 2018, Kerala is the best-governed state in the country, released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre.
- As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.

2. Global Innovation Index 2018:

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world.
- The country has improved its ranking from 60th position in 2017.
- The GI is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.
- The Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index are: Switzerland, The Netherlands and Sweden.

July

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June

1. Global Environment Performance Index 2018:

- India stands 177th at the bottom of the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings. In 2016, the country had ranked 141 out of 180 countries.
- In 2018, according to the State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures, it has slipped to the 177th position. India scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality.
- The Top 3 countries on the list are: **Switzerland, France, and Denmark.**

2. Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2018:

- India was ranked 35th among 100 countries (countries) in recently released Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETl).

- The index was released by realty consultant JLL.
- Top 3 countries are: United Kingdom (1st), Australia (2nd), United States (3rd).

3. End of Childhood Index 2018":

- According to a Save the Children's "End of Childhood Index 2018", India ranks **113 among** 175 countries with regards to where childhood is threatened as a result of poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labour, and child marriage.
- **Singapore and Slovenia** are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index and Niger figures at the end of the list at 175.

4. Global Peace Index 2018:

- India ranked at 136th position among 163 countries in the 2018 Global Peace Index.
- The index was prepared by an Australian international think-tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

- Iceland topped the index followed by New Zealand (ranked 2nd), Austria (3rd), Portugal (4th), Denmark (5th).
- Syria remains the least peaceful country in the world, a position it has held for the past five years.

May

1. IMD's competitiveness rankings 2018:

- India has been ranked at 44th positions in terms of competitiveness in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- The US topped the list and became the most competitive economy globally driven by its strength in economic performance and infrastructure.
- Hong Kong is at 2nd place and Singapore is at 3rd place in the list.

2. Business optimism index 2018

- India slipped to the **6th position** globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of this year, says a survey.

- With a score of 89, India is at the sixth place in the index.
- The top five nations are **Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the US.**

3. FDI Confidence Index 2018

- India ranked at 11th positions in the 2018 FDI Confidence Index.
- Last in 2017, India was at 8th position in the FDI Confidence Index.
- Global consultancy firm **A T Kearney** publishes the report.
- Top 3 countries in the index – **United States, Canada and Germany.**

April

1. World Press Freedom Index 2018

- India ranked at 138 positions in 2018 World Press Freedom Index.
- The index is compiled and published by the Reporters Without Borders.
- Last year in 2017 India stood at **136th** in the index.
- **Norway** topped the World Press Freedom Index 2018.
- Sweden and Netherlands stood on the second and the third rank respectively.

2. Economic Freedom Index 2018

- India ranked at **130 positions** among 186 economies in the 2018 **Economic Freedom Index.**
- The index measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world.
- India with score of 54.5 jumped 13 places from 143rd rank in previous year (2017) with a score of 52.6 points.
- **China** with 57.4 points was ranked 111th.
- The index is released by top US based Think Tank, The Heritage Foundation.

- It ranks countries based on score ranging 0 (least free) to 100 (most free).
- **Top 3 countries in the index are:** Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand.

3. 2017 Global Start-up ecosystem

- India has been ranked at 37th positions among 125 countries in 2017 Global Start-up ecosystem.

- The report is released by the Startupblink.
- Top 3 countries in Global startup ecosystem in 2017 are - United States, United Kingdom and Canada.
- In Asia, the list was topped by Singapore and followed by China and South Korea.

March

1. Energy Transition Index 2018

- India was ranked at **78th** among 114 countries in Energy Transition Index.
- The World Economic Forum published the index.
- Top three countries on the index are – Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

2. World Happiness Index 2018

- India ranked at **133rd positions** among 156 countries in the World Happiness Index 2018.
- The report is published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's (SDSN).

February

1. International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2018

- India ranked at 44th among 50 nations.
- The US tops the list followed by United Kingdom and Sweden.
- The report is published by the US Chambers of Commerce.

2. Times Higher Education (THE) rankings for Asian universities 2018 - Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore ranked 29th and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay ranked at 44th position.

- The National University of Singapore once again topped the list.

January

1. Global Democracy Index (GDI) 2017 – India was ranked at **42nd among** 165 independent states.

- The index is released by UK-based company, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- India's rank has slipped from **32nd in 2016** GDI.
- Moreover, India was classified India as a flawed democracy in 2017 GDI
- **Top 3 countries in 2017 GDI:** Norway, Iceland, Sweden

- Top 3 countries – Switzerland, France, Denmark.
- US rank at 27th & China rank 120 spots.
- India ranked at 141 in 2016.
- The report is report is produced by researchers at Yale and Columbia Universities in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.

2. Environmental Performance Index 2018 - India was ranked at **177th position** among 180 countries.

3. Global Index of Talent 2018 - India was ranked at **81st position** among 188 countries.

- **Top three countries are** – Switzerland, Singapore & US.

- The index measures ability of countries to compete for talent i.e. how countries grow, attract and retain talent.
 - Last year India ranked at – 92 positions
 - The report is published by global business school INSEAD in partnership with Adecco Group and Tata Communications.
- 4. Inclusive Development Index 2018** - India was ranked at the **62nd position among** 74 emerging economies countries in Inclusive Development Index 2018.
- China ranked at 26th and Pakistan ranked at 47th position in Inclusive Development Index 2018
 - The index has been divided into two parts – (i) 29 advanced economies and (ii) 74 emerging economies.
 - **Among advanced economies**, Norway is followed by Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Denmark in the top five.
 - The top-five most **inclusive emerging economies** are Lithuania, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Latvia and Poland.
 - India was ranked 60th among 79 developing economies last year.

About IDI

- World Economic Forum published the Index annually.
 - Inclusive Development Index measures progress of 103 economies on three individual pillars — growth and development; inclusion; and inter-generational equity.
- 5. Global Manufacturing Index 2018** - India was ranked at **30th position** among 100 countries in Global Manufacturing Index 2018.
- The report has been developed in collaboration with World Economic Forum & A T Kearney.
 - Japan topped the index.
 - Top 3 countries in GMI: Japan, South Korea, Germany.
- 6. Ease Doing Business Report 2018** – India ranked at **100th position** among 190 countries.
- The report is published by World Bank.
 - Top three countries –New Zealand, Singapore & Denmark.
 - India has jumped over **30 ranks to attain 100th spot from 130th position in 2017** Ease of Doing Business Index.

Rank of India in Different Reports/Survey

Sept/Aug

1. Jodhpur is the cleanest railway station in A1 category: Cleanliness report

Minister of Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal has released a report on Station Cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI).

A1 category stations (out of 75):

- 1st: Jodhpur/North-Western Railway
- 2nd: Jaipur/North-Western Railway
- 3rd: Tirupati/South-Central Railway.

A category stations (out of a total of 332):

- 1st: Marwar/North Western Railway

- 2nd: Phulera/North -Western Railway
- 3rd: Warangal/South-Central Railway.

Zonal Railway rankings are:

- 1st: North Western Railway
- 2nd: South Central Railway
- 3rd: East Coast Railway.

2. SBI is India's Most Patriotic Brand: Survey

- Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, according to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov.

- SBI is followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.
- In the financial sector, SBI lead the chart with 47% respondents considering it to be the most patriotic brand, followed by LIC with 16%.

3. Kempegowda International (Bengaluru) 2nd fastest growing Airport in the World: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as the second fastest growing airport in the world in the first half of 2018 in terms of actual growth in the number of passengers.

- It has recorded 1,58,50,352 flyers during the six-month period.
- **Only Tokyo's Haneda International** has bettered KIA's growth. The report was published by RoutesOnline, a company focussing on the quality and standards of aviation globally.
- New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is placed sixth while Hyderabad is placed 17th in terms of actual growth of passengers.

4. Fortune 500 list of World's largest companies released

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is the highest ranked company from India followed by Reliance Industries Limited.
- The US-based retail company, Walmart has topped the list.

The Top 3 companies on the list are:

1. Walmart (the USA),
2. State Grid (China),
3. Sinopec Group (China).

4. Karnataka tops in Renewable Energy: IEEFA Report

- According to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.
- It has surpassed Tamil Nadu that had for quite some time been India's best renewable market.

5. Haryana top State in Per Capita revenue collection under GST

- Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST and is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country.

5. India ranks third on family-owned business list: CSRI report

- India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion.

Note:

- India closely follows **China** with 159 firms and the **US** with 121 firms.

The report is published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI).

July/June

1. Andhra Pradesh Tops Ease of Doing Business Rankings:

- Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the easiest Indian state to do business in, according to a survey.
- Ease of Doing Business that was released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Delhi.

- Telangana came second followed by Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The north-eastern state of Meghalaya was ranked lowest at 36th.

2. India Becomes World's 6th Largest Economy: World Bank

- India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to \$2.597 trillion at the end of 2017, against \$2.582 trillion for France.
- The world's top 3 economies are: The United States, China, Japan.

3. **Nigeria Replaces India to Become World's Largest Poor Population: Brookings Report**

- With the persistent decline in poverty, India is no longer a nation having the largest number of poor people in the world, according to a study published by the US-based think tank, Brookings.
- According to the study, Nigeria has already overtaken India as the country with the largest number of extreme poor in early 2018, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo could soon take over the number 2 spot.

4. **India is World's Most Dangerous Country for Women: Survey**

- India is the world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour, according to a poll of global experts.
- Afghanistan and Syria ranked second and third in the **Thomson Reuters Foundation survey** of about 550 experts on women's issues, followed by **Somalia and Saudi Arabia**.

5. **India 145th in Healthcare Access, Quality: Lancet Report**

- India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, according to a Lancet study.
- In 2016, India's healthcare access and quality scored at 41.2 (up from 24.7 in 1990). India lags behind China (48), Sri Lanka (71), Bangladesh (133) and Bhutan (134).
- The top 3 countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016: Iceland, Norway and The Netherlands.

6. **India is 6th wealthiest country in the world: AfrAsia Bank**

- According to AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, India is the sixth wealthiest

country in the world with total wealth of \$8,230 billion.

- US is richest nation globally with total wealth of \$62,584 billion.
- Over the next 10 years, India will overtake Germany and the UK to become the 4th largest wealth market worldwide by 2027.
- **Top 6 wealthiest countries:** US (\$62,584 billion), China (\$24,803 billion), Japan (\$19,522 billion), UK (\$9,919 billion), Germany (\$9,660 billion), India (\$8,230 billion).

7. **India ranks fourth in Asia-Pacific on power index**

- India ranked at 4th positions among 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region on an index.
- The index is published by an Australian think tank firm the Lowy Institute of.
- Top three countries in the index are – **US, China & Japan**.

8. **India among top five defence spenders in the world: SIPRI**

- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, India is among world's five biggest military spenders in 2017.
- Indian government boosted the operational capability of its armed forces in the face of tensions with China and Pakistan.
- India was in the **5th spot**, after the US, China, Saudi Arabia and Russia, and they together accounted for 60% of global military spending.
- China spends far more on its military than any other power in Asia.

9. **India highest recipient of Remittances in 2017: World Bank**

- As per the Migration and Development report of World Bank, India has retained top position as recipient of remittances with about \$69 billion in 2017.
- China with (\$64 billion) stood on the second positions followed by Philippines (\$33 billion), Mexico (\$31 billion), Nigeria (\$22 billion) and Egypt (\$20 billion).

10. India becomes second largest manufacturer of crude steel

- According to Steel Users Federation of India (SUF), India has overtaken Japan to become world's second largest producer of crude steel in February 2018.

- China is the largest producer of crude steel in the world.
- Earlier in 2017, India had overtaken US to become third largest producer of crude steel.

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