

MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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Registered / Corporate Office:

CL Educate Limited, A - 41, Lower Ground Floor, Espire Building
Mohan Co-operative Industrial Area, Main Mathura Road, New Delhi – 110044
Contact No. 011-41280800 / 1100

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Preface

Dear Readers,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

Team CL

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



India's first defence 'Quad' to be set up in chennai

- The Defence Ministry has started the process to set up the **country's first defence industrial corridor linking Chennai with four other cities of Tamil Nadu** to promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipment.
- **'Quad' or quadrilateral corridor will connect Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli** and the ministry is finalising the broad contours of the project.

NirmalaSitharaman is currently serving as the Defence Minister of India. She is a member of the RajyaSabha for Karnataka.NirmalaSitharaman became the first full-time Defence Minister to fly in a Sukhoi 30 MKI of the Indian Air Force. She is the firstfull-fledged woman defence minister of India.

India's first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre launched in Chandigarh

- **Union Minister of Civil Aviation P Ashok GajapathiRaju**inaugurated the **country's first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre at Chandigarh Airport's old terminal, Chandigarh**. The centre, which is a CSR initiative of Airports Authority of India (AAI), will initially train 2,360 students free of cost in three years.
- The Centre has been set up in collaboration with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and is supported by the **Aerospace and Aviation Sector Skill Council (AASSC)** of India.

India is ranked 47th out of 86 countries on inclusive Internet and connectivity

- **India is ranked 47th out of 86 countries** when it comes to **inclusive Internet and connectivity for all**, a Facebook report.
- **Facebook, which commissioned the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** to create a comprehensive **"Inclusive Internet Index,"** found India in the middle of Asian countries(12th out of 23) when it comes to connectivity.

Sweden ranks first in the world overall. It leads the **EU countries in Availability and Affordability** and **Congo (Democratic Republic)** is positioned last overall among the 86countries in the index, and it also has the worst Availability and Affordability.

World's largest solar park Shakti Sthala launched in Karnataka

- The world's largest solar park, **Shakti Sthala**, has a **capacity of 2,000 MW** and has **set up at an investment of Rs16, 500 crore at Pavagada in Karnataka's Tumakuru district.**
- It is part of the **"Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021"** which aims to **decrease dependence on traditional power sources and move to environmentally friendly ones** to meet the growing power needs of the state.

First Mega Food Park inaugurated in Maharashtra

- The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra, M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Village Degaon, District Satarawas inaugurated. This is the 12th Mega Food Park operationalized in the country so far and the 10th operationalized during the tenure of present government.
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country. Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme approved beyond 12th Plan

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond 12th Plan for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs. 5,500 crore.
- PMEGP is a major credit-linked subsidy programme being implemented by the Ministry of MSME since 2008-09. The Scheme is aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth in rural as well as urban areas.

The first-ever Indian all-women crew INSV Tarini entered Cape Town

- INSV Tarini entered Cape Town, South Africa during its maiden voyage to circumnavigate the globe. This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The vessel is skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, and the crew comprises Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri had flagged-off INSV Tarini from Goa on 10 September 2017. The indigenously-built INSV Tarini is a 56-foot sailing vessel, which was inducted in the Indian Navy earlier this year, and showcases the 'Make in India' initiative on the International forum. The expedition titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama', is in consonance with the national policy to empower women to attain their full potential.

Vinay Kumar is envoy to Afghanistan

- Senior diplomat Vinay Kumar has been appointed as India's ambassador to strategically key Afghanistan, succeeding incumbent Manpreet Vohra.
- Mr. Kumar is currently serving as Joint Secretary (south) in the headquarters of the External Affairs Ministry. Mr. Kumar has served in various positions and has worked in India's permanent mission to the United Nations in New York.

India's first 3D planetarium inaugurated at Pilikula in city

- Minister for Science and Technology M.R. Seetharam has inaugurated the India's first 3D Swami Vivekananda Planetarium at the Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Nisargadhama in Mangaluru, Karnataka.

"Namaste Shalom" launched in New Delhi

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the social media of "Namaste Shalom", a magazine devoted to India-Israel relations in New Delhi. The magazine is edited by former MP Shri Tarun Vijay.

Odisha CM launched 'AmaGaon, AmaVikas' programme

- The Odisha government has launched a programme AmaGaon, AmaVikas (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.

The programme was launched on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, which is observed as Panchayati Raj Day in the State every year. Dr. Sena Yangba Chubatoishi Jamir is current Governor of Odisha. Naveen Patnaik is the current and 14th Chief Minister of Odisha.

Manik Sarkar resigned as Tripura CM

- Manik Sarkar has been the Chief Minister of Tripura for 25 years, tendered his resignation to Governor Tathagata Roy. He served as the Chief Minister of Tripura from March 1998 to March 2018.
- His affidavit for the 2018 Tripura Assembly election revealed that he is the India's poorest Chief Minister with least possessions among all his counterparts in India.

Tripura is the third-smallest state in the country; Agartala is the capital of Tripura as well as the second largest city in North-east India after Guwahati.

Biplab Kumar Deb sworn in as Tripura chief minister

- Biplab Kumar Deb has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Tripura. He took oath as the 10th Chief Minister of Tripura on 9 March, 2018.

Biplab Kumar Deb is the first the CM of the BJP government in Tripura. The BJP win ended the 25-year-old Left rule in the state.

Conrad Sangma sworn in as Meghalaya Chief Minister

- National People's Party president Conrad Sangma was sworn in as Meghalaya chief minister by Governor Ganga Prasad. Sangma is currently a Lok Sabha MP from Tura constituency.

Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya, Cherrapunji, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Northeast India, is located in Meghalaya and holds the world record for most rain in a calendar month. The state is the wettest region of India.

Odisha launched Ama Gaon, Ama Vikash programme to mark Panchayat Raj Divas

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' (our village, our development), a new programme for the rural people on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Divas in the state and sanctioned development projects worth Rs 2 crore.
- The state observes Panchayati Raj Divas on March 5 every year to mark the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik.

Ashok the Mauryan King of Magadh, invaded Kalinga in 261 BC and this event has gone down in history as the Great Kalinga war. The Lingaraj Temple of Bhubaneswar, the Jagannath Temple of Puri above all the world renowned world heritage Sun Temple at Konark is the epitome of temple architecture and sculpture.

For the first time, Oman is participating in 'Milan' exercise

- The Indian Navy began an eight-day-long first ever mega naval exercise 'Milan' along with leading maritime powers of the region at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- For the first time, Oman is also participating in this Milan exercise.
- The exercise is being hosted by the Indian Navy under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

'Milan' was first held in 1995 with the participation of just five navies. The aim of the initiative was to have an effective forum to discuss common concerns in the Indian Ocean Region and forge deeper cooperation among friendly navies.

Neiphiu Rio takes oath as Nagaland chief minister

- Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leader Neiphiu Rio was sworn in as Nagaland chief minister by Governor P.B. Acharya at a public function in Kohima. This is Rio's fourth time as the chief minister of the Northeastern state.

Nagaland showed a population drop or negative growth between 2001 census to 2011 census, the only state to show a population drop in the census, 2011.

National Nutrition Mission, and pan India expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, at Jhunjhunu launched in Rajasthan

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Nutrition Mission and Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) covering all 640 districts of the Country at a mega event held at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

The Census (2011) data showed a significant declining trend in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), calculated as number of girls for every 1000 boys between age group of 0-6 years, with an all-time low of 918 in 2011 from 976 in 1961. Alarmed by the sharp decline, the Government of India has introduced Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme in 2015 to address the issue of decline in CSR in 100 gender critical districts.

First ever 'crime-free zone' along international border launched

- In a first for India and Bangladesh, the director generals of the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) declared an 8.3 km stretch of the Indo-Bangladesh border as a 'crime-free zone'.
- Both border guarding forces with the help of the civil administrations of the two countries, NGOs and the local populace will help in ensuring that no crime takes place along the stretch that covers the Gunarmath and Kalyani Border Out Posts (BOPs) in India and the Puthkhali and Daulatpur BOPs across the border.

Prime Minister inaugurates National Legislators Conference on 'We For Development'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a two-day National Legislators Conference at the Central Hall of Parliament House in New Delhi.
- The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged. Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan has initiated this two-day conference.

Sumitra Mahajan is the Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha. She is currently the longest-serving woman member in the Lok Sabha. She is the second woman after Meira Kumar to be elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. In February, 2015, Sumitra Mahajan was included in the LIMCA book of records for being first Indian woman to represent the same Lok Sabha constituency on the same party ticket for eight times in a row.

Rajasthan passes bill to award death penalty for Child rapists

- Rajasthan assembly passed an amendment bill awarding death penalty for convicts involved in the rape of girls below 12 years of age.
- By doing so, Rajasthan became the second state after Madhya Pradesh to award death penalty to child rapists.

Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to introduce death penalty provision by passing the amendments in December 2017

Haryana's first cyber police station with forensic lab opens in Gurugram

- The first cyber police station of Haryana has been established in Gurugram where cyber offences related cases will be registered.

Kaptan Singh Solanki is the current Governor of Haryana and Manohar Lal Khattar is the current and 10th Chief Minister of Haryana.

Multilateral Air Force exercise Samvedna

- A Multilateral Air Force exercise, 'Ex Samvedna', is being spearheaded by Indian Air Force and conducted by Southern Air Command (SAC) from 12-17 March 18 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- 'Samvedna' means 'Empathy' and will ensure better understanding and sharing of response procedures between friendly neighbouring nations. The Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force is headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

India's first coastal policing academy to start

- India's first national academy to train police forces in effectively safeguarding the Indian shoreline will start functioning from the next month along the Gujarat seafront.
- The Union home ministry recently sanctioned the launch of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) from a campus of Gujarat's Fisheries Research Centre located in coastal Okha in the newly created Devbhoomi Dwarka district.

President Kovind to visit Mauritius and Madagascar

- President Ram Nath Kovind is being on a six-day visit starting March 11 to the island nations of Madagascar and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, a region vital to India's strategic interests.
- Kovind will be the chief guest at the celebrations commemorating the 50th year of the independence of Mauritius.

Ram Nath Kovind is the 14th and current President of India. He had served previously as the Governor of Bihar from 2015 to 2017. He became only the second Dalit representative to become President after K. R. Narayanan, and also is the first BJP candidate to be elected to the post.

Madhya Pradesh is the first state to measure people's happiness quotient

- Madhya Pradesh has set up the country's first 'Anand Vibhag' or the happiness department, in 2016. Now, it is launching an exercise to interact with the people of the State and find out how happy they were.
- The happiness is expected to be measured on a scale of 1 to 10 or from 1 to 7.
- Andhra Pradesh became the second state after Madhya Pradesh to set up a department for measuring the happiness levels of people.

Bhutan is the first country in the world to come up with a happiness index and linked it to development, which is otherwise based on GDP numbers.

Uttar Pradesh's biggest solar power plant inaugurated in Mirzapur

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have inaugurated Uttar Pradesh's biggest solar power plant in Mirzapur district's Chhanvey block.
- It is built at a cost of around Rs. 500 crore by French firm ENGIE, the 100 MW solar plant has come up at Dadar Kalan village on the hilly terrain of the Vindhyas range.

The current **Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik** and **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** received the **French president and his wife Brigitte Macron** at the **Lal Bahadur Shastri International airport Varanasi**.

Centre forms Tribunal to solve Mahanadi Water dispute between Odisha & Chhattisgarh

- The Centre has constituted a **three-member Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal** to adjudicate the **dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh** over sharing the river's water.
- **Supreme Court Judge AM Khanwilkar** will be the **Chairman of the tribunal**, with **Justice Ravi Ranjan** of the **Patna High Court** and **Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar** of the **Delhi High Court** being the **other two members**.

The **Mahanadi river** rises in the **highlands of Chhattisgarh**. It flows through **Odisha** to reach the **Bay of Bengal**. The **Tribunal** will be constituted under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**. **Article 262** of the Indian Constitution is related to adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter State rivers or river valleys.

West Bengal has become the best performing State in rural job scheme

- **West Bengal** has become the **best performing State** both in terms of allotting jobs and utilising funds under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**.
- **West Bengal** generated more than **28.21 crore work days** under the scheme and **Tamil Nadu** occupied the **second spot** with **22.17 crore work days**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an **Indian labour law** and social security measure that aims to guarantee the **'right to work'**. It aims to enhance **livelihood security in rural areas** by providing at least **100 days of wage employment** in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The current **NDA government** has decided to provide **150 days** for rain hit areas.

First e-budget with no fresh tax presented in Assam Assembly

- **Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** presented the **state's first e-budget** with a deficit of **Rs 2149.04 crore** in the Assembly proposing no fresh taxes.
- **Andhra Pradesh** is the **first state** to have an **e-budget in India** and **Assam** has become the **second state** to have an **e-budget**, but unlike the **Andhra Pradesh**, **Assam budget** is available in **Google Play Store** so that anybody can access it.

Jagdish Mukhi is the **current Governor of Assam** and **Sarbananda Sonowal** the **current Chief Minister of Assam**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates The Delhi End TB Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **Delhi End TB Summit** and launched the **Tuberculosis Free India Campaign** in **New Delhi**.
- The Summit was **co-hosted** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, **WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)** and **Stop TB Partnership**.
- The **global target** for eliminating **Tuberculosis** is **2030**; the **target for India** to eliminate **Tuberculosis** is **2025**, five years before the global target. **Tuberculosis** is an **infectious disease** usually caused by the bacterium **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

Maharashtra government proposes to make Samruddhi ‘zero fatality’ corridor

- Maharashtra government has announced that it will begin construction of the Maharashtra Samruddhi Corridor in April, 2018.
- The 701-km corridor, providing faster connectivity between Nagpur and Mumbai, is also planned as a ‘Zero Fatality’ corridor.

India continued to be the largest weapons importer in the world

- A report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has found that India was the “world’s largest importer of major arms in 2013–17 and accounted for 12 per cent of the global total”.

According to the report, in 2013–17 Saudi Arabia was the world’s second largest arms importer, with arms imports increasing by 225 per cent compared with 2008–12. Arms imports by Egypt—the third largest importer in 2013–17—grew by 215 per cent between 2008–12 and 2013–17. The United Arab Emirates was the fourth largest importer in 2013–17, while Qatar (the 20th largest arms importer) increased its arms imports and signed several major deals in that period.

Ram Nath Kovind becomes first Indian President to visit Madagascar

- President Ram Nath Kovind reached Madagascar, on the second leg of his two-nation state visit to Africa and the Indian Ocean Region. This is the first ever visit by a President or Prime Minister of India to this country.
- Mr. Kovind was conferred with Malagasy Honour of Grand Cross.

Hery Rajaonarimampianina is the current President of Madagascar. Olivier Mahafaly Solonandrasana is the current Prime Minister of Madagascar. Antananarivo, called Tananarive in French and also known by its colonial shorthand form Tana, is the capital and largest city of Madagascar. The ariary is the currency of Madagascar.

President of India inaugurates world Hindi secretariat

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat building on the third day of his visit to Mauritius.
- He also launched the World Hindi Secretariat’s logo; an Early Digital Learning Programme as well unveiled foundation stones of a social housing project and a large ENT hospital being built with Indian assistance.

First Regional Conference on Mass Rapid Transport Systems for Urban Areas – Opportunities and Challenges starts in Kolkata

- The first regional conference on ‘Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Urban Areas – Opportunities and Challenges’ began in Kolkata.
- The conference was jointly organized by Ministry of Finance, AIIB, ASSOCHAM and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

Eight such regional conferences will be held on the issues relating to infrastructures development, sustainable infrastructure, mass rapid transportation system, port and coastal infrastructure, urban development and the like in eight different cities of India.

Home Minister inaugurates Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IACP

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the two-day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, IACP in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference is "Challenges to Policing in 2020 - How is Cyber Space shaping our approach to Cybercrime and Terrorism, how do we perform within it and take advantage of it".

IACP is the world's largest organization of Police and law enforcement executives that is highly regarded for its role in identifying and responding to changing needs of the law enforcement community.

Cyber Gram Project for Digital Literacy of Minority Communities launched

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** has **launched a pilot project for minority Cyber Gram for digital literacy in a minority dominated village Chandauli in Alwar district of Rajasthan.**
- **Under this initiative**, students of minority communities are provided hands on training in computers to enable them to **acquire basic Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills to become digitally literate** and to actively participate in knowledge based activities, access financial, social and government services and to use internet for communications.

This initiative covers students of Class VI to Class X belonging to notified minority communities(Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains) residing in minority concentration areas identified under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP). The fund per candidate sanctioned under the programme is Rs.1555/- which is shared by Central Government and State.

HRD Ministry to set up 'Innovation Cell' to promote education

- An **Innovation Cell** in the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** will be created to further strengthen the innovation efforts. **It will be headed by a Scientist** and comprise of a senior Ministry official and young professionals who bring to the table new ideas in promoting innovation.

The move comes after **India's ranking in the Global Innovation index Ranking moved slightly up to 60 in 2017 from 66 in 2016, out of 127 countries. This index is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.**

Prime Minister inaugurates 105th Indian Science Congress

- **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** has **inaugurated the 105th Indian Science Congress at Manipur University, Manipur.**
- The theme chosen for the **Indian Science Congress 2018** is: **"Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology".**

This is just the second time in over a century that the Indian Science Congress is being held in the North-East. This is a testimony to the resurgent spirit of the North East.

NITI Aayog to release SATH-E project

- **NITI Aayog** will release comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its **initiative Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) project in New Delhi.**
- It will introduce **system-wide governance transformation in School Education.** The roadmaps present the **first-of-its-kind, customised, action-oriented programmes**, outlining interventions at the individual, district and State level.

NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital' with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors. SATH aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for health systems.

India to host International Competition Network Annual Conference for the first time

- **India to host 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) from 21st to 23rd March 2018 in New Delhi.**

- This is the first time India is hosting the ICN2018 Annual Conference since it joined International Competition Network (ICN) in 2009.

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley will inaugurate ICN2018 Annual Conference on 21st March 2018 while Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal will attend the valedictory on the final day of the conference.

Odisha government to collaborate with RIMES for disaster management

- The Odisha government is set to collaborate with the Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services and enhancing preparedness for management of hazards in the State. At present, India is chairing RIMES.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution for the generation and application of early warning information. RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Arunachal Passes Bill to have two-tier Panchayati Raj

- Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a bill to do away with the Anchal Samiti, the intermediate level of the three-tier panchayati raj system, and set up a two-tier system in the state.
- This is being done following the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution that enables a state having less than 20 lakh population not to have the intermediate level, and Arunachal has a population of 13.84 lakh.

Arunachal Pradesh is the northeastern-most state of the country. Itanagar is the capital of the state. Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra is the present Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. Pema Khandu is the current Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

First Mumbai Edition of Women of India Organic festival inaugurated in Mumbai

- The first Mumbai Edition of Women of India Organic Festival 2018, organised by Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, Maharashtra and with the support of Women & Child Development Ministry, Government of India is inaugurated in Mumbai.
- This year's theme of festival is "Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You".

"Women of India Festival 2018" is celebrated since 2015. This is the third year, which is organised in the Mumbai by Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, Maharashtra.

Bhawana Kanth becomes second Indian woman fighter pilot to go solo

- Flying Officer Bhawana Kanth became the second woman pilot of Indian Air Force to fly solo in a fighter aircraft.
- She flew in a MiG-21 Bison aircraft from Ambala Air Force Station.

Bhawana Kanth is second only to Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi who created history on February 21 by being the first ever woman fighter pilot to fly solo. She is one of the three in the first batch of women pilots, besides Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh, who was inducted into the Indian Air Force fighter squadron on June 18, 2016.

First National Workshop on POSHAN Abhiyaan held in New Delhi

- The Executive Committee which is the Apex body for all Nutrition related activities under the POSHAN Abhiyaan, held its first meeting at PravasiBharatiya Kendra in New Delhi to decide on the roadmap for the Mission.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has organised the day long workshop with participation from all the states/UTs to provide a complete orientation on the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

POSHAN Abhiyaan which was launched by the Prime Minister in Jhunjhunu on 8th March 2018 would be converted to *Jan Andolan* across the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan has been set up with a three year budget of Rs.9046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18.

Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship opens at Rashtrapati Bhawan

- The Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) – an initiative of the Office of the President of India to recognise and reward innovations opened at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The festival is being organised by the President's Secretariat in association with Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF).
- It is a celebration of country's innovation potential, particularly ideas stemming from grassroots and from creative communities in disadvantaged regions.

Manipur celebrates New Year with gaiety and fervour

- Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba, the New Year of Manipuri lunar calendar was celebrated with gaiety and fervour in Manipur.
- Cheiraoba is the New Year festival of Manipur. It is celebrated on the first day of the month Sajibu (usually falls in March or April). Sanamahi, the domestic deity of the people of Manipur is worshipped on this day.

Indian Navy hosts Bilateral Exercise 'Varuna' with French Navy

- The Indian Navy and the French Navy have conducted bilateral maritime exercises since May 1993. Since 2001, the exercises have been named VARUNA and there have been fifteen editions of the same till date. The last edition of VARUNA was conducted off the French Coast in Apr 2017.
- The navies of India and France are currently engaged in a joint bilateral exercise, "Varuna-18", in the Arabian Sea off the Goa coast.

In 2017, VARUNA was conducted in three sea areas in the European waters. This year too VARUNA-18 would be conducted in three sea areas, namely, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and South Western Indian Ocean.

'Tribal Diaries' Mobile App to strengthen internal monitoring

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed an android based mobile application called Tribal Diaries for internal monitoring as also connecting with officers/officials concerned with implementation of schemes / programmes for tribal development.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is an Indian Constitutional body was established through 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003. NCST came into force on 19 February 2004, NCST has been set up under Article 338A on bifurcation of erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution.

National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) becomes the World's First Trusted Digital Repository

- National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.
- The primary objective of the NCAA is to identify and preserve the cultural heritage of India available in audiovisual form through a process of digitization and making it accessible to the people.

The 106th edition of Indian Science Congress to be held in Bhopal

- The 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held next year from 3rd to 7th January at the Barkatullah University in Bhopal.
- General President-elect of the Science Congress Association, Prof. Manoj Kumar Chakrabarti announced that the theme of the meet will be 'Future India: Science & Technology'.

President Ram NathKovind conferred Padma Awards to 43 personalities

- President Ram NathKovind has conferred the prestigious Padma awards for 2018 on 43 prominent personalities at a function in New Delhi.
- Noted music composer Illaiyaraja, littérateur P. Parameswaran and Classical singer UstadGhulam Mustafa Khan have been honoured with Padma Vibhushan. This year, as many as 84 Padma awards were announced.

BHEL commissions first unit of Kishanganga hydro project in J&K

- State-run power equipment maker BHEL has commissioned first unit of 110 MW of the Kishanganga hydro-electric project (HEP) of NHPC in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It 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.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) owned and founded by the Government of India, is an engineering and manufacturing Maharatna status company based in New Delhi, India. It was established in 1964, BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer.

Karnataka cabinet approves separate religion status for Lingayats

- Karnataka state government has approved the separate religion status for the Lingayat community.
- The Lingayat/Veerashaiva community that owes allegiance to the 12th century "social reform movement" initiated by Basaveshwara has a substantial population in Karnataka, especially in the northern parts of the state.

Siddaramaiah is the present Chief Minister of Karnataka and Vajubhai Rudabhai Valais is the current Governor of the state of Karnataka.

First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction inaugurated

- The Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar inaugurated the First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The two-day workshop is jointly organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Government of Japan.

On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

Smart India Hackathon 2018 to be held different nodal centers across India

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced that the much awaited Smart India Hackathon 2018 – is scheduled to be held on Mar 30 & 31, 2018 simultaneously at 28 different nodal centers across India. Hyderabad is the nodal centre for Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which is a 'Premier Partner' in this initiative.

- **Smart India Hackathon 2018** harnesses creativity & expertise of students, builds funnel for ‘Startup India, Standup India’ campaign, crowd sources solutions for improving governance and quality of life, and provides opportunity to citizens to provide innovative solutions to India’s daunting problems.

Ministry of Human Resource Development, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Inter Institutional Inclusive Innovation Center (i4C), and Persistent Systems organized Smart India Hackathon 2017 in Pune, a unique initiative to identify new and disruptive digital technology innovations for solving the challenges faced by our country.

Opening of Missions in Africa to implement commitments of India-Africa Forum Summit

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the opening of 18 new Indian Missions in Africa over a four year period from 2018-2021 thereby increasing the number of Resident Indian Missions in Africa from 29 to 47.

Cabinet approves Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW.
- The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database.

Delhi government presents 'green budget' aims at controlling pollution

- Delhi government led by Arvind Kejriwal presented a 'green budget' which is aimed at controlling pollution and monitoring its impact on the environment.
- Subsidy will also be offered to switch over from diesel generator sets with capacity of 10 KVA or more. An incentive of Rs 1 lakh will be given to industries to switch over to piped natural gas.

Anil Baijal is the current Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Chandigarh becomes first City in North India to Install Digital Automatic Speed Gun Cameras

- Chandigarh has become the first city in North India to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for traffic management, joining Kolkata to install such system.
- The high-tech speed cameras are equipped with night vision technology and will record the speed of oncoming traffic, helping Chandigarh Police to issue challans to anyone driving above the city speed limits.

Chandigarh is a union territory in India that serves as the capital of the two neighboring states of Haryana and Punjab. Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore is the current Governor of Punjab and administrator of Chandigarh.

Union Government decides to declare 2018 as National Year of Millets

- Union Government has decided to declare 2018 as ‘National Year of Millets’ to boost the cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu flags off Naipunya Ratham

- Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu flagged off Naipunya Ratham, a multi-utility vehicle aimed at taking technology and innovation to the remote corners of the State.

- The first phase of the launch would cover 13 districts and 28 smart villages in collaboration with Hewlett Packard, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and Guide Foundation for Development.

Air India makes history by flying to Israel

- Saudi Arabia opened its airspace for the first time to a commercial flight to Israel with the inauguration of an Air India route between New Delhi and Tel Aviv.

The Air India airline was founded by J. R. D. Tata as Tata Airlines in 1932. After World War II, it became a public limited company and was renamed as Air India. Union Government permitted foreign airlines to invest up to 49 percent in debt-ridden Air India, and eased norms for investment in single brand retail, construction and power exchanges.

The first International Exhibition of Graphic Prints ‘Print Biennale India 2018’ inaugurated in New Delhi

- The first-ever International Exhibition of Graphic Prints ‘Print Biennale India 2018’ opened, at the Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi.
- In keeping with its role as the country’s National Academy of Art, the Lalit Kala Akademi has hosted the first-ever International Print Biennale in the country with a record number of 17 countries taking part in it.

One app, 1,000 services: mKeralam

- Kerala, which last year became the first State to declare Internet a basic human right, has notched up another first by launching mKeralam, an app that will serve as a single window for accessing thousands of government services.
- Developed by the Kerala State Information Technology Mission, the app will initially offer 100 citizen-oriented public services of 20 departments, before eventually expanding to 1,000 services from more than 80 departments.

Kerala is a state in south-west India, known as "God's own country" and is one of the popular tourist destinations in India.

SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to alleviate rural poverty.
- The SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 held in New Delhi.

The SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 is an endeavour of DAY-NRLM to provide to the rural women producers a national platform and an opportunity to showcase their products, and seek buyers, either individuals or bulk buyers for sale nationally / internationally.

Government nominates Professor J S Rajput as India’s Representative to the Executive Board of UNESCO

- The Government of India has decided to nominate Professor J S Rajput, former Director NCERT, as India’s representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO.
- Being a member of the board enables us in principle to play a role in shaping and reviewing UNESCO’s policies and programmes corresponding to its five major programs on education, the natural science, the social and human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information. The next meeting of Executive Board of UNESCO is to be held in UNESCO HQ at Paris, from 4 - 17 April, 2018.

Prof. Rajput proposed valuable changes in school education curriculum as Director, NCERT popularly known as five Sai values: Truth, Peace, Nonviolence, Righteous Conduct (Dharma) and Love.

‘Justice Clocks’ to soon start ticking in all 24 high courts

- Union Government will soon install ‘Justice Clocks’ — LED message display boards — in all 24 high courts to show the daily rate of disposal of cases, the number of pending cases and the individual rank of each of these courts.
- The idea, floated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year, to create public awareness in judicial matters, is set to be later implemented in all subordinate courts across the country.

A model of this ‘clock’ was first installed in the Delhi office of the justice department, the aim is also to create a competition among the courts and also rank them according to performance, when it comes to disposal of cases.

Madhya Pradesh completes UID tagging of 2.5 lakh cattle

- Nearly 2.5 lakh cattle, out of around 90 lakh in Madhya Pradesh, have been stamped with unique identities, similar to the 12-digit Aadhaar number, to enhance their safety as well as increase milk production.
- The ears of these bovines are being tagged with UID numbers as part of an ambitious scheme of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- Cows and buffaloes are being tagged in this manner to create a nationwide recording mechanism called the Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH).

Asia's largest Tulip garden in Srinagar opens to visitors

- The beginning of the tourism season in the Kashmir Valley marked with the opening of Asia's largest Tulip garden on the banks of the iconic Dal Lake.

Narinder Nath Vohra is the current and 12th Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Mehbooba Mufti is the first women and current Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The state has special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India. Srinagar is the summer capital and Jammu is the winter capital.

Tribal Affairs Minister, Shri Jual Oram launched “E-Tribes India” in New Delhi

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been undergoing Digital as per the vision document of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- The “e-Tribes India” was launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Shri Jual Oram.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987. TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi.

ISA and India signed the Host Country Agreement

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement.
- Under this agreement, ISA shall enjoy such privileges, applicable tax concessions and immunities as are necessary for ISA’s Headquarter to independently discharge its function and programmes.

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the President of France and the Prime Minister of India.

Smart India Hackathon 2018 Grand Finale held in Chennai

- Smart India Hackathon 2018 – Software edition Grand Finale is scheduled was held on March 30th and 31st, 2018 simultaneously at 28 different nodal centers across India.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is a 'Premier Partner' in this initiative. Smart India Hackathon was launched on Oct 16, 2017 in Pune.
- Smart India Hackathon is the World's largest Nation-Building Digital Initiative of the HRD Ministry which conceptualized to harness the creativity and energy of bright young students for the development of our nation.

India's first global counter terrorism centre to open in Jaipur

- India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre will come up in Jaipur on a 50-acre land. Rajasthan home department has identified land for the centre near Bagru town of Jaipur district.

Sardar Patel Global Center for Security, Counter Terrorism and Anti-insurgency was part of Chief Minister Vasundhar Raje's 2018 budget announcement. It will be one-of-its-kind institute in India where activities such as discussions, training modules etc will be prepared to counter terrorism.

Assam CM launches campaign for toilet construction

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the 'Mission Sambhav' campaign, which aims at spreading the message of toilet construction in 33 districts of the state.
- Sonowal flagged off the program, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) in Gopal Krishna Tea Estate in Morigaon district.

Jagdish Mukhi is the current Governor of Assam and Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. Dispur is the capital of the state of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India.

Cleanest City of India will host 8th 3R Regional Forum in Asia & Pacific

- India will host the 8th 3R Regional Forum in Asia and the Pacific in its cleanest city, Indore from 9-12 April, 2018 co-organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Government of India, the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD).
- The forum will be hosted under the theme of "Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency- A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities".

UNCRD, which was established in 1971 based on an agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations.

Supreme Court Proposes roll out of BS VI Fuel by April 1, 2019 in 13 Metros

- The Supreme Court (SC) proposed a roll out of Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) fuel across 13 metros by April 1, 2019.
- BS-VI norms are scheduled to be implemented across India in April 2020. BS-VI fuel will bring down sulphur by 5 times from the current BS-IV levels—a whopping 80 per cent reduction and would make fuel extremely clean.

Bharat stage emissions standards are based on European regulations were first introduced in 2000. Since October 2010, Bharat Stage (BS) III norms have been enforced across the country. In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010 and it has been enforced for entire country since April 2017. In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

Atal Innovation Mission signed of Statement of Intent to foster innovation across country

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) announced the signing of a Statement of Intent (SOI) with SAP to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- As part of the SOI, SAP in 2018 will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) for five years to nurture the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning among secondary school children across India.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM is mandated to create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country and revolutionizing the innovation eco-system - touching upon the entire innovation life cycle through various programs.

First National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses held in New Delhi

- With an aim to provide a comprehensive synthesis of research, service provision, and clinical practice in addressing psychological trauma and subsequent mental illnesses in Indian children and adolescents, First ever National conclave was held on 27-28th March, 2018 by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, in collaboration with the Dept. of Psychiatry, AIIMS in J L N Auditorium, AIIMS, New Delhi.

NITI Aayog launches baseline ranking of 115 aspirational districts

- The NITI Aayog has launched the baseline ranking for 115 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across five sectors that include health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- Under the programme, identified districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch-up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurates Rajasthan's first mega food park in Ajmer

- Union Food Processing Industries Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the first mega food park at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

To give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage and loss at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Food Mega Food Parks Scheme in the country since the year 2008. Financial Assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore is provided for setting up Mega Food Parks for creation of modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market.

Mewat is most backward district

- Mewat in Haryana is the most backward district of the country followed by Asifabad (Telangana), Singrauli (MP), Kiphire (Nagaland) and Shrawasti (UP) reveals NITI Aayog's ranking of 101 aspirational (backward) districts.
- The NITI Aayog released the baseline ranking for 101 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across five sectors that includes health and nutrition (30% weightage), education (30%), agriculture and water resources (20%), financial inclusion and skill development (10%), and basic infrastructure (10%).

Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram is the best-performing district of the 101, while Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon and Maharashtra's Osmanabad lie second and third on the top of the table.

Centre to 100% fund development projects in Northeast region

- The Central government will now **100% fund the development projects in the Northeast region** - unlike **90% as per previous policy** while the remaining had to be done by the state.
- The **ongoing projects** would be as per the older formula of **90:10** but the new projects would be completely funded by the Centre.

U.P. CM inaugurates India's longest elevated road in Ghaziabad

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has **inaugurated a 10.30-km-long elevated road**, touted to be the **longest of its kind in the country**, connecting **UP Gate and Rajnagar Extension in Ghaziabad**. Built at a cost of **Rs1, 147 crore**, the six-lane elevated road is supported on **227 pillars**.

All Kerala, Mizoram households are open defecation free

- **Kerala and Mizoram top the list of States, with 100% of households which do not practise open defecation**, while **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are at the bottom of the rankings**, with less than 44% of such households.
- **Sixty eight per cent of rural households in India** say that **all their members use the toilet whenever required**, meaning they do not practise open defecation at all, the **National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18** revealed.
- The survey was conducted by a third party agency **Kantar Public**, as a requirement by the **World Bank** to begin payout on its **\$1.5 billion loan** to the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-Gramin**, according to the survey report.

Sushma Swaraj attends 9th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue in Tokyo

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** attended the **9th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue** held in **Tokyo**.
- **Japan is one of the largest investors in India**, with a growing presence in infrastructure projects, manufacturing, financial markets and capacity-building, among others.

Sushma Swaraj is former Supreme Court lawyer, she is the second woman to be India's Minister of External Affairs, after Indira Gandhi. At the age of 25 in 1977, she became the youngest cabinet minister of north Indian state of Haryana.

International



Mountaineer Samina Baig appointed as UNDP National Goodwill Ambassador for Pakistan

- Renowned mountaineer Samina Baig was appointed the National Goodwill Ambassador for Pakistan by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The first Pakistani woman to have climbed Mount Everest, Ms Baig will lead efforts to build national awareness and partnerships around the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to climate change, environmental protection, youth and women's empowerment.

Pakistan admits to being on 'grey list' of FATF

- Pakistan confirmed that it will be on the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in June but disputed claims of being put on a 'black list'.

Being placed on the list may impede Pakistan's access to global markets at a time when its foreign reserves are dwindling and external deficits are widening ahead of national elections in July.

India, Russia, Bangladesh signed pact for Rooppur atomic plant

- According to Rosatom, India, Bangladesh and Russia signed an agreement to allow Indian firms in construction and installation works in the "non-critical" category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project in northwest Bangladesh.
- The Rooppur project is the first initiative under an Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries.
- This will also be the first time Indian companies will be able to participate in a nuclear power project abroad. India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and hence cannot participate directly in construction of atomic power reactors.

India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world

- With 31 new Indians on the list, India comes third after China and USA on Hurun's Global Rich List 2018. However, China with 819 names and USA with 571 are way ahead in terms of number of billionaires. China, has catapulted in the competition, leaving its competitor USA far behind. Last year the numbers were neck-to-neck at 534 and 535 billionaires respectively.
- The richest person in the world is Jeff Bezos of Amazon, with USD 123 billion, followed by Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway with USD 102 billion, Bill Gates of Microsoft with USD 90 billion, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook with USD 79 billion.

Saudi Arabian Oilfields “Greenest” in the World

- Saudi Arabian oilfields are amongst the lowest carbon emitters on the planet, according to the Houston Chronicle.
- "China has been the world's largest growth market for energy for the past 15 years and accounted for about 43% of the world's oil consumption growth over this period," according to the report.

KirshnaKumariKolhi becomes the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator in Pakistan

- KirshnaKumariKolhi from Pakistan's Sindh province has become the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator in the Muslim-majority country. Earlier, PPP had elected first Hindu woman named RatnaBhagwandasChawla as a senator.

ShahidKhaqanAbbasi is the current Prime Minister of Pakistan. Mamnoon Hussain is the 12th and current President of Pakistan.

ArmenSarkissian elected as new president of Armenia

- Armenia's parliament has chosen ArmenSarkissian as the country's new president in a vote that is meant to herald the start of a power shift to the country's prime minister and parliament.
- Sarkissian was a former prime minister who once served as the country's ambassador to Britain, was elected to serve a seven-year term. Sarkissian will assume the presidency in April 2018.

Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia as well as one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Armenian dram is the monetary unit of Armenia. Karen Vilhelmi Karapetyan is the current Prime Minister of Armenia.

The first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit

- The first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit ended successfully with a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications between the two countries in New Delhi.
- The two-day summit was held in New Delhi and coincided with the state visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India.
- The summit was organized by the French Embassy in India and co-hosted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Emmanuel Macron is serving as President of France and ex officio Co-Prince of Andorra since 14 May 2017. Edouard Philippe is serving as Prime Minister of France since 15 May 2017.

'Vision for Future' event marks 70 years of Indo-Russia ties

- "India-Russia diplomatic relations have completed 70 years of successful partnership. As part of the celebrations, International Federation of Indo-Russian Youth Clubs jointly with BRICS International Forum presented a programme -- Vision for Future" in New Delhi.

The programme, inaugurated at the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (Eurasia Division) and the International Federation of Indo-Russian Youth Clubs. BRICS is an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Eurosceptic Italy in race to form majority government

- The two populist parties that won major upsets in the Italian election – the Five Star Movement (M5S) and the League (La Liga) – are in a race to be the first to try to form a majority government after the election produced a hung parliament.

- The decision will ultimately fall to **Italy's president, Sergio Mattarella**, to determine whether the **anti-establishment M5S**, which took **32.6% of the vote**, or a fragile centre-right alliance led by the League's bombastic **Matteo Salvini**, with **35.7% of the vote**, are better equipped to create a majority government.

Paolo Gentiloni Silveri is serving as the **57th and current Prime Minister of Italy**. **Rome** is the **capital of Italy**. Italy currency is **Euro**.

Global Firepower ranks India's military as fourth strongest

- **India's military** is placed **fourth** on a global index that has ranked **133 countries** on the basis of their global military prowess, trailing behind only the **US, Russia and China** in that order. India's western neighbour **Pakistan** ranks **13** on the **Global Firepower (GFP)** list 2017.

According to GFP's assessment, **India leads China** in terms of total armed personnel with **India's 4,207,250 personnel** against **China's 3,712,500**. **China**, however, leads in terms of active personnel with **2,260,000 troops** compared to **India's 1,362,500**. India's reserve components were assessed to be **2,844,750** while **China** trailed with **1,452,500**. Major military powers, **France, the UK, Japan, Turkey and Germany**, complete the **top 10**.

Marshall Islands became the first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency as its legal tender

- The Pacific island nation, **Marshall Islands** became the **first country** in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency "**Sovereign**," or **SOV** as its legal tender.
- In the nation of **60,000**, the cryptocurrency will have equal status with the **U.S. dollar** as a form of payment.
- **Venezuela** became the **first country** to launch its own **Petro** cryptocurrency backed by crude oil reserves.

Majuro is the capital and largest city of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. **Hilda Cathy Heine** is currently serving as the **eighth President** of the Marshall Islands.

Merkel secures fourth term in power with Coalition

- **Members of Germany's center-left Social Democrats (SPD)** have endorsed a deal to form a governing coalition with the party of German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, paving the way for **Merkel** to lead Germany for four more years.

Berlin is the capital and the largest city of Germany. **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** is currently serving as **President of Germany**. **Angela Dorothea Merkel** has been serving as **Chancellor of Germany** since **2005**.

Washington becomes first state to approve net-neutrality rules

- **Washington** became the **first state** to set up its own **net-neutrality requirements** after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules that banned internet providers from blocking content or interfering with online traffic.

Japan appoints woman chief for Navy unit

- The Japanese Navy had for the **first time** appointed a woman as commander of a unit that includes **Izumo**, the country's biggest warship.
- **Ryoko Azuma**, will command four warships making up a division with a total of **1,000 crew members**.

Tokyo is the capital city of Japan. The **yen** is the official currency of Japan. **Shinzo Abe** is currently serving as the **57th Prime Minister** of Japan.

Prince Charles appoints Indian-origin steel tycoon as UK skills ambassador

- Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta has been appointed by Britain's Prince Charles as an official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme designed to nurture manufacturing skills.

Prince Charles is the heir apparent to the British throne as the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth II. He is the oldest and longest-serving heir apparent in British history.

Mauritius president to resign after credit card expenditure row

- Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim will step down soon after she was accused of using a credit card issued by an international non-governmental organisation to buy clothes and jewellery.
- Pravind Jugnauth, the prime minister said that Gurib-Fakim would resign after March 12, after the celebration of the country's 50th anniversary.

Ameenah Gurib is the first woman to ever hold the title of President of Mauritius. Port Louis is the capital city of Mauritius. The rupee is the currency of Mauritius.

Israeli, US troops hold joint military “Juniper Cobra” exercise

- Nearly 5,000 Israeli and American troops have been training together in Israel under “Juniper Cobra” exercise which includes field training, computer simulations and live-fire drills of sophisticated missile-defense systems.

Xi Jinping becomes China’s leader for life

- The Communist Party of China has proposed to remove the two-term limit for the President and Vice-President.
- The constitutional amendment has removed the hurdle for Xi Jinping to become China’s leader-for-life.
- Xi Jinping is currently in his second five-year term and due to retire in 2023 under the current two-term system.
- Xi Jinping is already regarded as the most powerful leader of China after Mao Zedong.

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China, The renminbi or yuan is the official currency of the People's Republic of China. Li Yuanchao is the Vice President of the People's Republic of China. Li Keqiang is the current Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

Nepal’s Oli wins two-thirds majority in floor test with Madhesi backing

- Nepal’s Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli sailed through a vote of confidence with two-thirds majority, the first such feat for a ruling alliance since the restoration of democracy, with support from two Madhesi parties. He was the first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal.
- The ruling Left Alliance of CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Center) now has a clear majority in the 275-seat parliament.

Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia located in the Himalaya. Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth is located in Nepal. Nepalese rupee is the official currency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Kathmandu is the nation's capital and largest city.

Russia test-fires 'ideal' hypersonic missile

- Russia successfully launched a hypersonic missile which President Vladimir Putin called "an ideal weapon" as he unveiled a new array of next-generation arms earlier this month.

- The **high-precision Kinzhal (Dagger) missile** was **launched from a MiG-31 supersonic interceptor jet** that took off from an airfield in the South Military District in Russia's southwest.

Sebastian Pinera begins second term as Chile's President

- **Sebastian Pinera**, Conservative billionaire sworn in as **Chile's President**. He also served as President from 2010 to 2014.

Chile is a South American country; Santiago is the capital and largest city of Chile. Chile is the world's top copper producer.

World Ocean Summit 2018 concluded in Mexico

- The Economist Events' **fifth World Ocean Summit 2018 was concluded in Mexico** and expanded into a wider, more ambitious World Ocean Initiative focused on **five pillars: sustainable fisheries, pollution, climate change, finance and technology.**

Bidya Devi Bhandari re-elected as Nepal President

- **Nepal's first woman president Bidya Devi Bhandari** was re-elected for a second term in office.
- Incumbent **President Bhandari** defeated **Nepali Congress leader Kumari Laxmi Rai** with an overwhelming majority in the presidential election.

Bidya Devi Bhandari became **Nepal's first woman President in 2015**. Ms. Bhandari was elected twice in parliamentary elections in 1994 and 1999.

India ranks 133 in 2018 World Happiness Report

- **Finland is the world's happiest country**, the foreign-born were least happy in **Syria**, which has been mired in civil war for seven years.
- **India was ranked at 133 in the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's (SDSN) 2018 World Happiness Report** which ranked 156 countries according to things such as GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, social freedom, generosity and absence of corruption.

Top ten positions are held by the same countries as in the last two years, although with some swapping of places. Four different countries have held top spot in the **four most recent reports- Denmark, Switzerland, Norway and now Finland.**

Bhutan recommended for graduation from UN's least developed country

- **Bhutan, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands** are set to move up from the ranks of poorest nations due to their **increasing national earning power** as well as **access to better health care and education.**
- The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) announced that the **four countries will be recommended for graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.**
- Two more countries, **Vanuatu and Angola**, are scheduled for graduation in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Oklahoma to become first US state to use nitrogen gas for executions

- **Oklahoma plans to start using nitrogen gas for executions**, it would be the first state to use such method of capital punishment in the United States.
- **Nitrogen is an odorless and tasteless gas that makes up about 78 per cent of the air humans breathe** but causes death when inhaled without any oxygen.

Nepal judicial council removes chief justice over birth certificates row

- The Nepal chief justice, Gopal Prasad Parajuli was relieved of his post by the country's judicial council amid dispute over his multiple birth certificates.

Gopal Parajuli was the 27th chief Justice of Nepal. Inconsistencies in his birth date due to multiple records showing multiple dates led to his removal on 14 March 2018.

Angela Merkel sworn in for fourth term as German Chancellor

- Angela Merkel was sworn in as Chancellor of Germany after lawmakers voted to re-elect her as leader in a close vote.
- This is the fourth term for Angela Merkel to serve as Chancellor Germany.

Bundestag is the German federal parliament. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is serving as President of Germany.

Xi Jinping reappointed as China's president with no term limits

- Xi Jinping was reappointed as China's president with no limit on the number of terms he can serve.
- The National People's Congress appointed close Xi ally Wang Qishan to the formerly ceremonial post of vice president.

President Xi Jinping has been formally recognised as the ruling Communist Party's lingxiu – a reverential term for "leader" that was only used during the era of chairman Mao Zedong and his successor Hua Guofeng.

India announces USD 100 ml LoC for Mauritius

- India announced a new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defence procurement by Mauritius as the two sides signed many agreements.
- President Kovind congratulated Mauritius on the 50th anniversary of the country's independence from colonial rule.

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth is the current Prime Minister of Mauritius. Port Louis is the capital city of Mauritius.

Slovenian PM Cerar resigns

- Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar resigned after a key investment project hit a legal obstacle. He served as the 10th Prime Minister of Slovenia from 18 September 2014 until his resignation on 14 March 2018.

Borut Pahor is the current President of Slovenia; Ljubljana is the capital and largest city of Slovenia. The euro is the official currency of the Slovenia.

Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigns

- Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, who has been embroiled in a financial scandal, resigned.
- Gurib-Fakim, Africa's only female head of state, submitted her resignation in the "national interest," it would take effect on 23 March.

SAARC nations' business leaders discuss regional economic integration in Nepal

- Prominent business leaders from the SAARC countries gathered in Kathmandu and discussed the role private sector can play in early and effective regional economic integration.
- Addressing at the 6th SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave, SAARC Secretary General Amjad Hussain Sial lauded the role being played by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in promoting economic relations among the member states.

SAARC comprises of eight member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC was founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Philippines informs U.N. of ICC withdrawal

- The Philippines has notified the U.N. secretary-general of its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), but has assured the United Nations of its commitment to the rule of law.

International Criminal Court (ICC or ICCt) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force.

Li Keqiang gets second term as China's Prime Minister

- Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang has been elected for a second term in office to steer some of the major structural reforms being marshalled by President Xi Jinping.
- Mr. Li was elected as Prime Minister by members of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament. He received 2,964 votes in favour and two against.

National People's Congress is the national legislature of the People's Republic of China. With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world.

Naval ships exercise to boost UAE-India ties

- Naval ships of the UAE and India held a first-ever joint exercise - 'Gulf Star 1' - giving a further boost to bilateral ties.
- Two Indian Navy ships INS Gomati (Guided Missile Frigate) and INS Kolkata (Guided Missile Destroyer) are participated in the exercise, which is part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and will further strengthen defence cooperation between India and the UAE.

US is India's second biggest arms supplier

- The US is rapidly increasing its arms sales to India, emerging over the last five years as its second biggest supplier by providing 15 percent of its weapons imports, a study by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- Israel has moved up to the third spot accounting for 11 per cent of India's imports during the 2013-17 calendar years, SIPRI added.
- Although Russia remained by far India's biggest arms seller, its share of total imports has fallen.

Vladimir Putin wins historic fourth term as Russian President

- Russian President Vladimir Putin stormed to victory in presidential election, giving him another six years in power. Putin, who has ruled Russia for almost two decades, won more than 75 per cent of the vote.

Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in 1999. He has held the office since then except for one term when Dmitry Medvedev was in office due to term-limit restrictions. The presidential term in Russia is six years but it was four years during Putin's first two terms. A duma is a Russian assembly with advisory or legislative functions.

Myanmar president Htin Kyaw resigns

- The president of Myanmar, Htin Kyaw, has stepped down, saying he is "taking a rest" following health issues. Htin Kyaw was an important ally in the government for state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who is constitutionally barred from the presidency, and the pair were childhood friends.

- **HtinKyaw was nominated as president by Aung San SuuKyi's party, the National League for Democracy, in 2016 and she exerted much of her influence through him.**

Myanmar's capital city is Naypyidaw and kyat is the currency of Myanmar. The Assembly of the Union is the national-level bicameral legislature of Myanmar established by the 2008 National Constitution.

China to build 'world's fastest' wind tunnel

- **China has announced that it is building the world's fastest wind tunnel to develop a new generation of super-fast airplanes, but it could also be used for hypersonic missile technology.**

Peru's president offers resignation ahead of impeachment vote

- **Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has announced resignation ahead of scheduled impeachment against him and accused of having accepted illegal payments from Odebrecht, a Brazilian construction conglomerate that has been found guilty of a massive bribery scandal.**

- **Lima is the capital and the largest city of Peru and sol is the currency of Peru.**

Nanda Bahadur Pun elected Nepal vice President 'unopposed'

- **Nanda Bahadur Pun has been re-elected as the Vice-President of Nepal for the second term unopposed.**
- **Pun has filed candidacy for the post of the Vice President and his candidacy remained unopposed as no candidate came forward to contest with him for the post.**

Martín Vizcarra sworn in as Peru's new president

- **Martin Vizcarra, Peru's first vice president and ambassador to Canada, has been sworn in as the country's new president.**

Pakistan gets first woman Leader of Opposition

- **Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman was elected as the country's first Leader of Opposition in the Senate.**
- **In November 2011, she was appointed as the Ambassador to the United States and remained until April 2013. In 2015, she was elected to the Senate.**

Parliament of Pakistan is the federal and supreme legislative body of Pakistan. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is the current Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Historic agreement signed to protect the world's largest tropical peatland

- **In an unprecedented move to protect the Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, the world's largest tropical peatlands, from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo and Indonesia jointly signed the Brazzaville declaration that promotes better management and conservation of this globally important carbon store.**

Democratic Republic of the Congo was known as Zaire between 1971 and 1997. Kinshasa is the capital and the largest city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Joseph Kabila Kabange is the current President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The franc is the currency of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Republic of the Congo was also known as the Congo-Brazzaville. Brazzaville is the capital and largest city of the Republic of the Congo. Denis Sassou Nguesso is the current President of the Republic of the Congo. Central African CFA franc is the currency of six independent states in central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, and Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

Department of Posts launches Cool EMS Service between India and Japan

- Ministry of Communications has launched the Cool EMS Service which will come into force from 29.03.2018.
- Cool EMS service is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations. Initially, Cool EMS Service will be available in Delhi only.

Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. Tokyo will host the 2020 Summer Olympics and the 2020 Summer Paralympics. Shinzo Abe is serving as the 57th Prime Minister of Japan and Akihito is the current Emperor of Japan.

India-Myanmar Navy Exercise 2018 begins in Visakhapatnam

- The Union of Myanmar Navy Ships arrived Visakhapatnam to participate in the maiden bi-lateral Indian and Myanmar Navy Exercise 2018 (IMNEX-18). The Navy Exercise was held off the East Coast of India.

The Myanmar Navy also participated in the recently concluded Milan-18 maritime exercise at Port Blair.

Ethiopia's ruling coalition elects Abiye Ahmed as new PM

- Ethiopia's ruling coalition has elected Abiye Ahmed as new Prime Minister, following the resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn.

Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia. The birr is the unit of currency in Ethiopia. Mulatu Teshome Wirtu is the current President of Ethiopia.

Myanmar's parliament elected Win Myint as new president

- Myanmar's parliament has elected Win Myint, as new president.
- Aung San Suu Kyi is the first and incumbent State Counsellor of Myanmar. The job of state counsellor was created especially for Aung San Suu Kyi because she is constitutionally banned from the presidency. A clause in the 2008 military-drafted constitution bars anyone with a foreign spouse or child from holding the job.

The kyat is the currency of Myanmar and Nay Pyi Taw is the capital city of Myanmar. Rohingya people are a stateless Indo-Aryan-speaking people from Rakhine State, Myanmar.

UAE celebrates completion of first nuclear power plant in Arab world

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) celebrated completion of the first-ever nuclear power plant not only in the country but the whole Arab Gulf region.
- The \$20 billion Barakah plant west of Abu Dhabi has been constructed by a consortium led by Korea Electric Power Corp in nine years.

UN appoints former US diplomat as first woman political affairs chief

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed former veteran US diplomat Rosemary DiCarlo as the world body's new political affairs chief, the first woman to hold the key position.
- DiCarlo replaced another former US diplomat, Jeffrey Feltman, who steps down at the end of March after nearly six years in the key job that helps form UN policy and oversees UN mediation efforts.

Egypt's Sisi re-elected with nearly 92% of votes

- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been re-elected for a second term with about 92% of the votes, with just over 40% of voters casting ballots.

Sherif Ismail Mohamed is the current Prime Minister of Egypt. Cairo is the capital city of Egypt. Egyptian pound is the currency of Egypt.

Pakistan tests nuclear-capable, submarine-launched missile with a range of 450km

- Pakistan has conducted a test of its nuclear-capable, submarine-launched cruise missile (SLCM), Babur, which has a range of 450 km.

This is only the second time that Pakistan has announced a test of the submarine launched Babur-III missile, with the first test being conducted in January 2017. During the first test, the Babur-III was launched from an unidentified “underwater mobile platform”.

Nepal banks allowed borrowing from foreign banks

- For the first time, Nepal's central bank has allowed other commercial bank in the country to borrow money from foreign banks and financial institutions to finance sectors such as agriculture, tourism, hydropower and outer infrastructure projects.

Nepal Rastra Bank was established in April 26, 1956 and is the central bank of Nepal. Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal is the current Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

Indian Economy to grow at 7.6% in calendar year 2018: Moody's

- Moody's Investors Service the Indian economy is starting to recover from the negative impact of demonetisation and disruption caused by the GST roll-out, but kept GDP growth estimates unchanged at 7.6 per cent for 2018.

Bihar's growth rate is higher than that of the national average

- Bihar's growth rate is higher than that of the national average of 7.0 per cent, according to the 12th Economic Survey of Bihar.
- Bihar clocked a growth rate of 10.3 per cent in 2016-2017 as against 7.5 per cent in the corresponding fiscal a year ago, riding largely on the back of the services sector, according to the latest Economic Survey tabled in the state Assembly.

Greater Noida authority gets Rs 100-billion tax relief from Delhi HC

- The Delhi High Court exempted the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) from paying income tax, saying it was not carrying out any commercial activity with any profit motive.
- The income tax department had issued notices to the Authority to pay Rs 100 billion in taxes between 2004 and 2015.

India reclaims 'world's fastest growing economy' tag from China

- India has regained the world's fastest growing major economy tag with the GDP at 7.2 per cent for October-December quarter, compared to China's 6.8 per cent, according to the latest report released by Central Statistical Office (CSO).
- According to the CSO, real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in 2017-18 is likely to be Rs 130.04 lakh crore, as against the first revised estimate for 2016-17 of Rs 121.96 lakh crore.

Cabinet approved Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance to introduce the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 in Parliament.
- The cases where the total value involved in such offences is Rs.100 crore or more will come under the purview of this Bill.

Cabinet approved Establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and creation of one post of Chairperson, three posts of full-time Members and one post of Secretary for NFRA.
- The decision aims at establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which is one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act, 2013.

Cabinet approved 12 champion Services for employment generation

- The Union Cabinet has identified 12 sectors have been identified as Champion Services Sectors to promote their development and realize their potential, which will be supported by a special fund of 5,000 crore rupees.

NCAER pegs India's 2018-19 economic growth at 7.5 per cent

- The Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.7 per cent in the current financial year and 7.5 per cent in 2018-19, according to the economic think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- The figures are in line with the growth projections in this year's Economic Survey, India is likely to clock 7-7.5 per cent growth in 2018-19, up from 6.75 per cent in the current fiscal.

India blocked WTO ministerial declaration agreement in December

- The Trump administration has told the Congress that India in December "blocked" a ministerial declaration reaffirming the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO.
- The four-day conference of the 164-member World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Buenos Aires, Argentina had ended without a ministerial declaration or any substantive outcome in December.

World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade. The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. The WTO's current Director-General is Roberto Azevedo; WTO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

First interactive portal for female entrepreneurs launched in New Delhi

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched an exclusive web portal for women entrepreneurs of India — Udyam Sakhi (www.udyamsakhi.org) in New Delhi. The portal is considered as India's first interactive portal for female entrepreneurs.

Udyam Sakhi will be an interactive platform for emerging women entrepreneurs to understand the current scenario of industries and get guidance in various aspects of entrepreneurship.

India's first Start-up incubator for women 'We-Hub' launched in Telangana

- A start-up incubator was launched by the Telangana government on the occasion of International Women's Day to exclusively promote entrepreneurship among women.
- The facility, named We-Hub, is the country's first state-led incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs.

Telangana is the newly formed 29th state of India with Hyderabad as its permanent capital in 2014. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhara Rao is the first and the current Chief Minister of Telangana. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Shri RK Singh launches National E-Mobility Programme in India

- **Shri R K Singh**, Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy, **launched the National E-Mobility Programme**.
- The **Programme aims to provide an impetus to the entire e-mobility ecosystem** including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure companies, fleet operators, service providers, etc.

The **Programme will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** which will aggregate demand by procuring electric vehicles in bulk to get economies of scale

NITI Aayog launched WEP on Women's Day

- **NITI Aayog** launched the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, on the occasion of **International Women's Day** in New Delhi. The initiative is aimed at **building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives** and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.
- The WEP theme song **"Naari Shakti"** composed and sung by **Shri Kailash Kher** was released on this occasion.

The **National Institution for Transforming India**, also called **NITI Aayog**, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on **January 1, 2015**. **NITI Aayog** is the **premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India**, providing both directional and policy inputs. The **current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi**, **current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar** and the **current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant**.

Passport details must for loans of Rs 50 crore and above

- **Passport details of borrowers taking loans of Rs 50 crore and more have been made mandatory** to ensure a **swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country**.

Global growth, domestic demand to lift FY19 GDP to 7.5%

- The **economy will grow up to 7.5 per cent in FY19**, supported by domestic consumption, policy push and synchronised global growth, according to the **Crisil report**.
- In the **current fiscal, GDP growth is expected to be 6.5 per cent**. The **Economic Survey 2018** has pegged FY19 growth at 7–7.5 per cent.

Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) is a global analytical company **providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services**. The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Shri Arun Jaitley** launched **CriSidEx**, India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) developed jointly by **CRISIL & SIDBI**.

China, India to replace US as top oil importers: IEA

- According to the **International Energy Agency's Oil 2018**, the five-year market analysis and forecast. "Global oil trade routes are moving East, as **China and India replace the United States as top oil importers**".

India remains 12th largest foreign holder of US govt securities

- **India's exposure to US government securities** rose sharply to a **high of USD 144.7 billion at the end of 2017**.
- **India remained the 12th largest overseas holder of such securities, just behind oil rich Saudi Arabia**, whose holding stood at **USD 147.4 billion in December 2017**.

Union Government committee to redress FinTech grievances

- **Union Government** announced the **formation of a steering committee to examine issues faced by the FinTech industry in India**.

- The new **committee will be chaired by Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs,** and will examine various issues pertaining to the FinTech space.

Union Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurates FICCI Frames 2018

- The Information & Broadcast and Textiles minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** inaugurated the 19th edition of FICCI FRAMES 2018 themed **Creative Future: Coronation of Digital Consumer.**

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is the **largest and oldest apex business organisation in India.** FICCI is established in 1927, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purushottam Das Thakurdas. It is headquartered in the national capital New Delhi.

Jeff Bezos tops Forbes world's rich list

- **Amazon chief Jeff Bezos** is now the **world's richest person,** having snatched the **top spot** from **Microsoft founder Bill Gates** who slips to **second place,** according to Forbes magazine's annual billionaires list.

US President Donald Trump's ranking on the list fell to **766th place from 544th in the last edition,** his wealth now being estimated at \$3.1 billion, \$400 million less than a year ago. **Legendary investor Warren Buffett** held on to his **number-three ranking,** followed by **French industrialist Bernard Arnault,** who jumped to fourth-richest person from his previous number 11 spot.

With \$40 bn Mukesh Ambani leads 121 Indians in Forbes' billionaires list 2018

- **India has 121 billionaires -- 19 more than last year --** making them the **third largest group of the ultra-rich** after those from the **US and China,** according to Forbes.
- **Mukesh Ambani,** the energy and petrochemicals magnate, who keeps his standing as **the richest Indian,** is richer by **\$16.9 billion in 2018 with assets of \$40.1 billion.**
- He moved up to the **19th global rank on the list of 2,208 billionaires** worldwide compiled by Forbes.

Mumbai is the 16th most expensive city

- **Mumbai ranks 16th** among the **top 20 costliest cities in the world,** while in **Monaco,** which tops the list of **most expensive cities,** according to the **Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018.**

According to the report, **Mumbai stood 47th on the Knight Frank City Wealth Index among 314 global cities.** The index is drawn from four major indicators such as wealth, investments, lifestyle and future in a particular city. **Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru** feature among the **top 100 cities in the list.**

Savitri Jindal richest of 8 Indian women

- **Eight Indian women** have featured in Forbes list of the world's richest. Among the Indian women, **Savitri Jindal and family** is the **richest with a fortune of \$8.8 billion.** She is ranked **176th globally.** **Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** is the **second richest.** She is **India's richest self-made woman** with a fortune of **\$3.6 billion.**
- **Savitri Devi Jindal** is an **Indian businesswoman.** She is the **Chairperson Emiretus, Jindal Steel & Power Limited.**

'ONGC Videsh, Iran's IDRO Oil signed accord'

- **ONGC Videsh,** the overseas arm of government-owned ONGC, has signed a **cooperation agreement with Iran's IDRO Oil** to jointly bid for a **\$900 million development plan of Susangerd oilfield** in southwest Iran.

ONGC Videsh Ltd., a Miniratna Schedule “A” Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Government of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), the **flagship national oil company (NOC) of India.**

Kollam is set to become first district to bring all food biz under FSSA

- By issuing licence to over 90% of entrepreneurs in food production, sales and distribution, **Kollam is set to become the first district in the state of Kerala, India to bring all food business operators under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA).**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.

Delhi's IGI Airport tops Service Quality Awards 2017

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has been adjudged as the best Airport, according to the latest rankings by Airport Service Quality (ASQ) 2017.
- IGI surpassed South Korea's Incheon Airport which topped the list last year.

IGI secured the top placed in the highest category of over 40 million passengers per annum. IGI is the seventh busiest airport in Asia. ASQ is presently the only worldwide programme to survey passengers at the airport.

India's Biggest M&E Services Market, enTTech 2018 inaugurated in Mumbai

- India's biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market – enTTech 2018 was inaugurated in Mumbai.
- EnTTech 2018 is a wonderful initiative which would enable youngsters to drive entertainment business through technology.

The event was organized by SEPC in association with MEAI (Media & Entertainment Association of India) and TVAGA (Telangana VFX, Animation and Gaming Association) and supported by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and Government of India.

Delhi and Mumbai airports beat world's best in latest ACI rankings

- The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport have been adjudged joint-best in the world by Airports Council International in the 'Over 40 million passengers annually' category for year 2017.

IGI took the top spot after being ranked second in the 2016 list in the same category, the airport had been ranked number one in 2015 in a smaller - 25-40 million annual passengers' category in 2015. IGI is now the sixth busiest airport in Asia and has also made it to the top-20 list of world's busiest airports which has Dubai at the top.

GST e-way bill must from April 1

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council mandated the use of electronic way (e-way) bills from April 1, 2018 to track inter-state movement of goods but deferred a decision on a simplified return filing process due to lack of consensus.
- From April 1, transporters of goods worth over Rs 50,000 will have to generate e-way bills. The Council decided on an e-wallet scheme to refund exporters by October 1, 2018 — the date till which exporters can continue to claim tax exemptions.

GST is an Indirect Tax which has replaced many Indirect Taxes in India. The Act came into effect on 1st July 2017. As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A. GST Council is headed by Union Finance Minister.

Zaha Hadid Architects to design Navi Mumbai international airport

- British architecture firm Zaha Hadid's first major project in the Indian sub-continent has secured the mandate to design the much-delayed Navi Mumbai international airport, being developed by the GVK group-led NMIAL.

India ranks 78th on WEF Energy Transition Index

- India has been ranked at 78th, lower than its emerging market peers like Brazil and China, among 114 countries on the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index that was topped by Sweden.
- The report titled "Fostering Effective Energy Transition", ranks countries on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.

Pune tops in improved quality governance

- According to the Annual Survey of India's City-System (ASICS) undertaken for 2017 by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (JCCD), Pune has emerged as the top city to show improvement in quality of governance.
- The other cities that came in the top five include Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar and Surat while Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Patna and Chennai constituted the bottom five cities.

Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai among cheapest cities in the world

- Three Indian cities -- New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai -- are among the cheapest cities in the world, according to an Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) survey, that named Singapore as the most expensive city.
- As per the Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 survey, South Asian cities, particularly those in India and Pakistan offers the best value for money. Bangalore, Chennai, Karachi and New Delhi featured among the 10 cheapest locations surveyed.

Singapore named the world's most expensive city

- Singapore has been dubbed the world's most expensive city to live in for the fifth year running.
- Singapore city state marched in ahead of New York, London and Los Angeles, which didn't even feature in the top 10 priciest places in the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 survey.
- Bangalore, Chennai, Karachi and New Delhi all featured among the top 10 cheapest locations this year.

South Asia's first ever coworking&coplay space launched in Gurugram

- Monkey Business, a first of its kind co-working space in south Asia that provides onsite childcare was launched in South Point Mall, Gurugram.
- Monkey Business is a haven where young parents can concentrate on work while their child plays and learns. Gagan Mathawan is the co-founder of Monkey Business.

WTO ministerial meet: 50 nations to take up global trade issues

- Representatives from 50 countries have gathered in New Delhi on 19-20 March for an informal World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting.
- "The informal meeting of ministers has provided an opportunity to engage in free and frank discussions with the hope that it will lead to political guidance on some major issues,".

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. World Trade Organization has replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. Roberto Azevedo is the current Director-General of the WTO. The WTO has 164 members and 23 observer governments. Liberia became the 163rd member on 14 July 2016, and Afghanistan became the 164th member on 29 July 2016.

Union Government sets up task force to draft new Direct Tax Law

- Union Government has constituted a task force to review the Income-tax Act, 1961 and to draft a new Direct Tax Law in consonance with the economic needs of the country.

Arvind Modi has been asked to do the task again to meet the contemporary economic needs of the country. Modi, Member, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), will steer a six-member panel on the issue. Arvind Subramanian, chief economic advisor will be a permanent special invitee on the panel.

Parliament passes bill that lets govt double tax-free gratuity to Rs 20 lakh

- The Parliament passed the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill which will increase the ceiling of tax-free gratuity amount to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh.
- It also allows the government to fix the period of maternity leave for female employees as deemed to be in continuous service in place of the existing 12 weeks.
- The amendment to the payment of gratuity law comes in the backdrop of Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 enhancing the maximum maternity leave period to 26 weeks.

At present, formal sector workers with five or more years of service are eligible for Rs 10 lakh tax-free gratuity after leaving job or at time of superannuation.

Sunil Nayar becomes first Indian to head Sony India

- Sunil Nayar will become the first Indian to lead Sony's local operations; 24 years after the Japanese consumer electronics giant entered the country, when he replaces Kenichiro Hibi as managing director on April 1, 2018.

India's first offshore wind turbines to be set up

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is to set up India's first offshore wind turbines at Arichamunai near Dhanushkodi at an estimated investment of Rs300 crore.
- Dhanushkodi is an abandoned town at the south-eastern tip of Pamban Island of the state of Tamil Nadu in India.

Vienna tops the list as world's most liveable city

- Austria's capital Vienna once again defended its position as the city offering the best quality of life in the world, while Iraq's capital Baghdad remains the worst in an annual survey from consulting firm Mercer.
- Vienna is followed by Switzerland's Zurich and then New Zealand's Auckland and Germany's Munich in joint third.

Mercer's survey of 231 cities helps companies and organisations determine compensation and hardship allowances for international staff. Its criteria include political stability, health care, education, crime, recreation and transport. Europe has eight of the world's top 10 most pleasant cities: Germany and Switzerland each have three cities in the top 10, while New Zealand, Canada and Australia each have one. Yemen's capital Sanaa, devastated by conflict, ranked two places above Baghdad, and Syria's Damascus, seven years into a civil war, ranked six places above Iraq's capital.

Royal Caribbean takes delivery of world's largest cruise ship

- Royal Caribbean finally got its hands on Symphony of the Seas, and the ship has inherited the title of world's largest cruise ship.

Royal Caribbean International was founded as Royal Caribbean Cruise Line in 1968 by three Norwegian shipping companies: Anders Wilhelmsen & Company, I.M. Skaugen & Company, and Gotaas Larsen. Royal Caribbean International is a cruise line brand founded in Norway and based in Miami, Florida, United States.

India to be 3rd largest tourism economy in 10 years

- India is expected to establish itself as the third largest travel and tourism economy by 2028 in terms of direct and total GDP, a 2018 economic impact report by World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

Ahmedabad airport receives award for 'Most Improved Airport'

- Fructifying the continuous efforts to make the journey of passengers more comfortable, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad has received the award for the 'Most Improved Airport' in the Asia Pacific region, in Airport Service Quality awards 2017 organised by the Airport Council International (ACI).

First service under UDAN scheme takes off in Tamil Nadu

- Under the regional connectivity scheme 'UDAN', first service between the two cities 'Salem and Chennai' have resumed after a gap of about seven years. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami and Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan launched the first service operated by private carrier Trujet, between the two cities.

Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched in October 2016 to make air travel accessible to citizens in regionally important cities. This is a first-of-its-kind scheme globally to stimulate regional connectivity through a market-based mechanism. Prime Minister flags off the first UDAN Flight under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on Shimla - Delhi sector.

India is the 4th largest automobile market in the world

- India has overtaken Germany to become the fourth largest automobile market in the world, latest global data show.
- Automobile sales, including passenger and commercial vehicles, in Asia's third largest economy grew 9.5%, the fastest among major global markets, last year to more than 4 million units, outpacing Germany's 3.8-million vehicle sales, which rose by a modest 2.8% in the same period.

China is the largest automobile market in the world, followed by USA, Japan and India.

Surat becomes first district to have 100% solar powered health centres

- Gujarat's Surat district has become 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. This initiative will not only bring down the electricity bill by 40 percent but also help fight global warming.

India ranks 67th in fixed line, 109th in mobile broadband speed

- India is ranked 67th for fixed broadband and 109th for mobile internet speeds in February, according to internet speed testing analysis firm Ookla.
- India's rank in terms of mobile internet download speed remains same at 109th but average download speeds have risen to 9.01 mbps in February from 8.80 mbps in November last year.

The February Speedtest Global Index shows Norway at pole position in the world for mobile internet with an average download speed of 62.07 Mbps. Singapore takes the top spot for fixed broadband with a 161.53 Mbps average download.

MCX launches first Brass Futures Contract

- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** has launched futures trading in brass for the first time globally, which will facilitate brass stakeholders to hedge their price risk.
- The country's largest commodity exchange will commence futures trading in brass on March 26 and will offer three contracts ending in April, May and June for trading.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) is an independent commodity exchange based in India. It was established in 2003 and is based in Mumbai.

India is the third largest electricity producer in the world

- India's electricity production grew 34% over seven years to 2017, and the country now produces more energy than Japan and Russia, which had 27% and 8.77% more electricity generation capacity installed, respectively, than India seven years ago, according to the report by India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a trust established by the commerce ministry..

With a production of 1,423 BU in FY 2016, India was the third largest producer and the third largest consumer of electricity in the world, behind China (6,015 BU) and the United States (4,327 BU).

Sebi raises currency derivative trade limit to \$100 million

- Capital markets regulator Sebi raised the exposure limit under exchange-traded currency derivatives trading for residents and FPIs to USD 100 million across all currency pairs involving the Indian rupee.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. Shri Ajay Tyagi is the current Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

India and ADB Sign \$120 Million Loan to Improve Rail Infrastructure

- Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$120 million loan agreement for completion of works for double-tracking and electrification of railways tracks along high-density corridors to improve operational efficiency of Indian railways.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the current and ninth president of the Asian Development Bank.

LTCG tax, other Budget proposals to kick in from April 1

- Several budget proposals including the reintroduction of tax on long term capital gains (LTCG) exceeding Rs 1 lakh from sale of shares will kick in from April 1, the beginning of 2018-19 financial year.
- Besides, other tax proposals like reduced corporate tax of 25 per cent on businesses on turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will come into effect.

Kerala to host Asia's largest startup conclave on April 6, 7

- Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam on April 6 and 7.
- The initiative is envisaged to provide a platform for start-ups to pitch their products and interact with a wide array of technology and industry leaders from around the world.

Banks in News

RBI raises currency derivative trade limit to \$100 million

- The Reserve Bank of India has **raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to \$100 million across all currency pairs** involving the Indian rupee.
- Earlier, the **RBI had imposed a limit of \$15 million for USD-INR and \$5 million for other currency pairs of Indian rupee with Euro, Japanese Yen and British Pound.** The RBI's decision to raise the limit will help entities engaged in forex transactions to maintain their currency risks in a better manner.

Tough RBI tightens PSL norms for foreign banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** tightened **Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms for foreign banks** by directing them to mandatorily lend **40 per cent of their total loan book to priority sectors** such as agriculture, rural infra, and MSMEs among others from April 2020. The move is directed at foreign banks which over 20 branches.

Airtel Payments Bank Slapped With Rs. 5 Crore Fine by RBI Over KYC Violation

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slapped a **penalty of Rs 5 crore on Airtel Payments Bank Limited** for violating Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- The penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and **not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement** entered into by the bank with its customers.

China to merge banking, insurance regulators, create new ministries in biggest revamp in years

- China is merging its banking and insurance regulators, giving new powers to policymaking bodies such as the central bank and creating new ministries in the **biggest government shake-up in years.**
- Both the banking and insurance sectors together accounts for **\$42 trillion in China's economy.**

IREDA, EIB sign €150 million loan for RE financing in India

- The EIB and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Ltd signed a loan agreement for a second line of credit (LoC) totaling €150 million.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Mini Ratna Company. IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987.

RBI fixes cap of 1 year for trade finance instruments

- The Reserve Bank of India tightened the **guidelines for hedging commodity price risks and freight risks in overseas markets, which will come into effect next financial year,** by limiting the tenor of all bank instruments in trade finance areas.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the **monetary policy of the Indian rupee.** It commenced its operations on **1 April 1935** in accordance with the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.** RBI was nationalised on **1 January 1949.**

IBBI, RBI sign MoU for better implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for enhancing cooperation between the two regulators to ensure better implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was set up on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as transactions. Dr. M. S. Sahoo is currently serves as Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

ADB, ISA sign pact to promote solar energy

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) signed a cooperation arrangement to promote solar energy deployment in Asia and the Pacific.
- The cooperation envisages solar power generation, solar based mini-grids, and transmission systems for integrating solar energy into grids, among others.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the current and ninth president of the Asian Development Bank.

In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India.

World Bank projects India's FY19 GDP growth at 7.3 per cent

- The World Bank projected India's GDP growth at 7.3 per cent for the next financial year and accelerates further to 7.5 per cent in 2019-20.
- The World Bank's biannual publication, India Development Update: India's Growth Story, expects the economy to clock a growth rate of 6.7 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 31.

Founded in 1944, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—soon called the World Bank. Jim Yong Kim has been serving as the 12th President of the World Bank since July 1, 2012. There are 189 countries, which are currently members in World Bank.

Rs. 222 cr electoral bonds sold in maiden issue

- The amount collected from the sale of electoral bonds under the first issue of the scheme is Rs 222 crore as on March 9, 2018", which donors can buy from scheduled banks to pay political parties without revealing their identities.
- The bonds are available for sale at designated branches of State Bank of India.
- "SBI is the only authorised bank to issue and encash the Electoral Bearer Bonds under the scheme".

Finance minister Arun Jaitley introduced 'electoral bonds' in Union Budget 2017-18 as a measure to cleanse the funding to political parties. Unlike debt instruments, these bonds resemble promissory notes, which allow donors to pay political parties with banks as an intermediary.

RBI issues PCA framework to maintain sound financial health of banks

- Reserve Bank of India has issued a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework to maintain sound financial health of banks.
- RBI has placed eleven Public Sector Banks including Bank of India, Dena Bank, Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, IDBI Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Corporation Bank and Allahabad Bank under the PCA framework.

Yes Bank launches a digitised trade finance solution

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has launched a robotics based ‘Digital export Import’ payments solution as a part of its Yes Transact Smart Trade product suite.
- The initiative aims to bring over one lakh trade transactions going entirely digital, across major geographies including China, US, Singapore, Germany and Hong Kong.

Karnataka Bank’s all-woman branch

- Karnataka Bank opened its first all-woman branch at Bull Temple Road in Bengaluru. This is the 800th branch of the bank.

China has appointed Yi Gang as new central bank governor

- China has selected American-trained economist Yi Gang to become the country's new central bank Governor.
- The nomination of Yi, who is currently deputy to incumbent central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan, was reviewed by the nearly 3,000 delegates attending the National People's Congress.

China’s currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund’s basket of reserve currencies. The yuan joins the U.S. dollar, the euro, the yen and British pound in the IMF’s special drawing rights (SDR) basket, which determines currencies that countries can receive as part of IMF loans. It marks the first time a new currency has been added since the euro was launched in 1999.

UCO Bank to merge branches in Hong Kong as it realigns overseas operations

- Following the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s ban on letters of undertaking (LoU), Kolkata-based UCO Bank is planning to merge its two branches in Hong Kong.
- The country has the second highest number of foreign branches by Indian banks after the UK.

LoUs and LoCs are two of the instruments issued by Indian banks to domestic importers to get foreign exchange from banks abroad at a cheaper rate. Reserve Bank of India has banned the use of letters of undertaking and letters of comfort.

RBI set to roll out a coin of Rs 350 denomination

- RBI is set to roll out a coin of Rs 350 denomination to mark the 350th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- The front face of the coin will have 'Ashoka Pillar' engraved on it. The reverse face of the coin will have a picture of 'Takht Shri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib' in the centre in Devanagari in the picture.
- The inscription “350TH PRAKASH UTSAV OF SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI” shall be written in Devanagari script on the upper periphery and in English language on the lower periphery of the coin.

The Government of India has the sole right to mint coins. Coins are minted at the four India Government Mints at Mumbai, Alipore (Kolkata), Saifabad (Hyderabad), Cherlapally (Hyderabad) and Noida (UP). All the coins are issued by RBI except one rupee and one rupee note.

Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed \$80 Million Loan Agreement with Himachal Pradesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed \$80 million loan to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

SBI Card launches exclusive credit card for doctors

- SBI Card has partnered with IMA to launch 'Doctor's SBI Card' which among other things offers professional indemnity insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh to protect doctors against professional risks and liabilities.

- On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Rajnish Kumar is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).

RBI slaps Rs.58.9 cr fine on ICICI Bank

- The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 58.9 crore on the country's leading private sector lender ICICI Bank for violating its directions on direct sale of securities.
- This is the highest penalty imposed by RBI on a bank for a single incident.

Imposing the penalty was being done in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 after taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to the directions issued by central banker.

Kotak becomes first bank to roll out AI-run voicebot

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the country's first artificial intelligence-powered 'voicebot keya' in the banking sector.
- The lender has integrated the voicebot Keya, which can understand both Hindi and English, with its phone-banking helpline. Keya uses automatic speech recognition, natural language understanding and text-to-speech technology.

India to join multilateral lender EBRD

- India has got the go-ahead to join the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), after shareholders of the London-based multilateral lender agreed to the country becoming its 69th member, enabling Indian companies to undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. EBRD is headquartered in London in April 1991. Sir Suma Chakrabarti is the current the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

PNB appointed A.K. Pradhan as Group Chief Risk Officer

- After a multi crore fraud case, the Punjab National Bank (PNB) appointed A. K. Pradhan as its Group Chief Risk Officer.
- The appointment was made in compliance with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (LODR) Listing Regulations 2015.

Firms in News

Paytm emerges largest UPI transaction platform

- **Paytm is the largest contributor to the overall volume of UPI transactions** in February 2018. This is within two months after the full roll-out in January. **Paytm had registered 6.8 crore UPI transactions** in February and that it had consistently contributed a larger share of UPI transactions with every passing month.

Paytm is an Indian e-payments and e-commerce brand based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. It was launched in August 2010. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of mobile payments company, Paytm. Sharma is India's youngest billionaire.

Microsoft Inks First Renewable Energy Deal in India

- Microsoft announced that it has inked its first-ever renewable energy deal in India, a small solar Power Purchase Agreement with Atria Power in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- The deal will see Microsoft purchase 3 megawatts (MW) of solar power from renewable energy provider Atria Power, a small company based in the capital of Karnataka.
- Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Microsoft was founded by Paul Allen and Bill Gates on April 4, 1975, to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800.

Paytm founder Vijay Sharma youngest Indian billionaire

- Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the youngest Indian billionaire, while 92-year-old Samprada Singh, chairman emeritus of Alkem Laboratories, is the oldest, according to Forbes.
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma, ranked 1,394th on the list with a fortune of USD 1.7 billion, is the only Indian billionaire in the under-40 league.

TCS ranked as the fastest growing IT services brand in 2018

- Leading global IT services organisation, Tata Consultancy Services was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance.

Tata Consultancy Services Limited is an Indian multinational information technology (IT) service, consulting and business solutions company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. TCS is one of the largest Indian companies by market capitalization.

Suzlon commissions India's largest wind turbine generator

- Renewable solution provider Suzlon Group announced the installation and commissioning of its new product, S128, claiming it to be the largest wind turbine generator (WTG) in India.
- The first prototype of S128 has been commissioned at the Sangneri site in Tamil Nadu.

Formation of 100% owned C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. in USA

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for formation of 100% owned C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) in USA.

Vodafone-Idea merger: Kumar Birla to be chairman of new entity

- Telecom operators Vodafone India and Idea Cellular announced the leadership team for their soon-to-be-merged entity, with Kumar Mangalam Birla as the non-executive chairman and Balesh Sharma as the new CEO.
- The merger – slated to create India's largest telecom operator in terms of customer base and revenue market share - is expected to be completed by June this year, subject to statutory approvals.

BHEL wins 75 MW solar photovoltaic plant in Gujarat

- State-owned BHEL that it has won its largest solar photovoltaic project till date for setting up a 75 MW power plant in Gujarat.
- The order has been placed by Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd (GIPCL).

India gets first US LNG shipment at Dabhol

- India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at Dabhol in Maharashtra.
- GAIL India has contracted 3.5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from US energy firm Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in Louisiana. The first cargo from the project arrived at Dabhol, site of India's biggest gas-fired power plant.

Gail India Limited (GAIL) (formerly known as Gas Authority of India Limited) is the largest state-owned natural gas processing and distribution company in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi. GAIL was conferred with the Maharatna status on 1 Feb 2013, by the Government of India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Successful Flight Test of ATGM NAG

- **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) NAG**, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), were successfully flight tested at Pokhran's field firing range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan against two tank targets at different ranges and timings.

Nag is a third-generation, fire-and-forget, anti-tank guided missile developed to support both mechanised infantry and airborne forces of the Indian Army.

ISRO in plans to build 'igloos' on Moon

- The Indian Space Agency ISRO has already started to work on building a 'lunar habitat'. ISRO plans to build 'igloos' on the moon by sending robots and 3D printers to the earth's natural satellite.
- The scientists have already designed five prototypes of the lunar habitat.

Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadi V. Sivan Nadar is current the chairperson of the ISRO.

Vodafone partners with Nokia, Audi to bring 4G network on moon in 2019

- British telecom major Vodafone plans to create the first 4G network on the moon to support a mission by PTScientists in 2019. "The moon will get 4G coverage next year, 50 years after the first NASA astronauts walked on its surface.
- The company has appointed Nokia as its technology partner for the 4G network. Berlin-based PTScientists is working with Vodafone Germany and Audi on the project. "This will be the first privately-funded moon landing mission.

Astronomers detected water in Saturn-sized exoplanet's atmosphere

- NASA Astronomers have detected a large amount of water in the atmosphere of a hot, Saturn-mass exoplanet some 700 light-years away. The planet known as WASP-39b has three times as much water as Saturn does.

Individual quantum dots imaged in 3D for first time

- Researchers at the University of Illinois (UI) have developed an imaging technique that uses a tiny, super sharp needle to nudge a single nanoparticle into different orientations and capture 2D images to help reconstruct a 3D picture.

Sketch of world's tallest sculpture by Picasso unearthed in Florida

- Researchers at the University of South Florida have for the first time discovered a sketch of a 100-foot sculpture, touted as the world's tallest, envisioned by renowned artist Pablo Picasso.
- Kamila Oles, art historian and archaeologist at the University of South Florida, discovered a copy of Picasso's photograph and sketches, which demonstrated his vision of building a 100-foot tall sculpture, made of reinforced concrete at an estimated cost of \$10 million.

Astronomers detect for first time light coming from the very first stars of our universe

- A team of astronomers including an Indian graduate student Nivedita Mahesh from Arizona State University have discovered for the first time signals from “cosmic dawn” — the moment when the universe's earliest stars emerged, making a significant breakthrough in our understanding of the evolution of cosmos.

NASA launched advanced weather satellite for western U.S.

- NASA launched another of the world's most advanced weather satellites, this time to safeguard the western U.S.
- GOES-S is the second satellite in an approximately \$11 billion effort that's already revolutionising forecasting with astonishingly fast, crisp images of hurricanes, wildfires, floods, mudslides and other natural calamities.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. Robert M. Lightfoot Jr. is the current the Acting Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) since January 20, 2017, making him the longest-serving Acting Administrator in NASA history.

Astronomers discover 3 super-Earth exoplanets

- Astronomers from US have discovered three super-Earth planets orbiting a star about 100 light-years away from our solar system. The three exoplanets discovered by researchers at Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) in the US have radii of about 1.6, 1.3, and 2.1 Earth-radii respectively.

All of them are categorised as super-Earths, that is, with masses that are larger than Earth's but less than Neptune's.

BioNEST, large incubator for life sciences launched in Hyderabad

- To facilitate start-ups and entrepreneurship ventures, a large Bio-Incubator with 20,000 sq ft area, has been launched in the University of Hyderabad (UoH). The BioNEST (Bio-Incubator Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) was inaugurated on the occasion of 'National Science Day' by G Padmanabhan, former Director, Indian Institute of Science.

Chandigarh to install country's largest solar energy capacity on water reservoirs

- In its endeavour to make Chandigarh first renewable city, the Chandigarh administration is all set to install country's largest solar photovoltaic power capacity of 20 MW over water storage reservoirs.
- The UT administration has also tied up with Municipal Corporation to set up solar roof top plants over community centres across the city.

NASA to take people's names to the sun

- NASA is inviting people around the world to submit their names online to be placed on a microchip aboard its historic solar probe launching this summer.
- NASA renamed the spacecraft from the Solar Probe Plus to the Parker Solar Probe in honour of astrophysicist Eugene Parker.

- **Parker Solar Probe** is a planned NASA robotic spacecraft to probe the outer corona of the Sun.

China plans Panda Park that will dwarf Yellowstone

- **China will create a bastion for giant pandas** three times the size of **Yellowstone National Park** to link up and encourage breeding among existing wild populations of the notoriously slow-reproducing animal.
- **Yellowstone**, established in **1872 as the first U.S. national park**, spans 8,983 square kilometers.
- **The national animal of China** is the **giant panda** (*Ailuropoda melanolueca*), a bear native to **south-central China**.

Jupiter's mysterious jet-streams 'unearthly', finds Juno probe

- **Data collected by NASA's Juno mission** to Jupiter indicate that the **atmospheric winds of the gas-giant planet** run deep into its atmosphere and last longer than similar atmospheric processes found on Earth. The **findings will improve understanding of Jupiter's interior structure, core mass and, eventually, its origin**.

Juno is a NASA space probe orbiting the planet **Jupiter**. It was built by **Lockheed Martin** and is operated by NASA's **Jet Propulsion Laboratory**. **Juno** is the second spacecraft to orbit **Jupiter**, after the nuclear powered *Galileo* orbiter, which orbited from 1995 to 2003.

New Mineral Discovered from Earth's Mantle – Locked Away in Rare Diamonds

- The researchers from **University of Alberta in Canada** has been discovered in a stunning '**super-deep diamond**' formed in the **Earth's mantle**.
- **Calcium silicate perovskite** is thought to be the planet's **fourth most abundant mineral**.
- The researchers found the **mineral at South Africa's famous Cullan Mine**.

NASA probe to search for interstellar water

- **NASA's James Webb Space Telescope** is set to peer into reservoirs of interstellar water **to understand the origin and evolution of key building blocks for habitable planets**.
- **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** is a **space telescope** developed in **coordination among NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency**. It is **scheduled to be launched in 2019** and will be located near the **Earth-Sun L₂ Lagrangian point**.

Super-Earth hosts water among 15 new planets discovered

- **Scientists from Teruyuki Hirano, Tokyo Institute of Technology of Japan** have discovered **15 new planets, including a 'super-Earth' that could harbour liquid water**, orbiting small, cool stars near the solar system. These stars are of enormous interest for studies of planetary evolution.

A **super-Earth** is an **extrasolar planet with a mass higher than Earth's**, but substantially below the masses of the **Solar System's ice giants, Uranus and Neptune**, which have masses of 15 and 17 times Earth's, respectively.

Artefacts of 'pre-Iron Age' excavated in Odisha

- **Archaeological Survey of India**, which has been excavating a mound at **Jalalpur village of Odisha's Cuttack district**, has now come across **stone and bone tools** believed to be of **early Iron Age**.

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the **premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage** of the nation. It was **founded in 1861** by **Alexander Cunningham** who also became its **first Director-General**. It is **headquartered in New Delhi**.

NASA invites citizen scientists to observe clouds through their smartphones

- NASA has announced a global cloud observation challenge – inviting citizen scientists to observe and track clouds using their smartphones. From March 15 through April 15, citizen scientists of all ages can make up to 10 cloud observations per day using the GLOBE Observer app.

Chhattisgarh varsity to develop ‘weed atlas’ for farmers

- The Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya will develop a ‘weed atlas’ to provide information on the undesirable plants found in the plains of Chhattisgarh. The data would be made available to farmers and agriculturists.

Mangala Mani, first ISRO woman to spend over a year in Antarctica

- Mangala Mani, ISRO first woman scientist who spent over 403 days in Antarctica, is a true embodiment of ‘Nari Shakti’.
- Mangala Mani was part of a 23-member expedition team that went to India’s research station, Bharati, in the icy continent in November 2016. She was the only woman in the all-men team.

Mangala Mani stationed at Bharati during the polar wintering, she was not only the solitary woman in the Indian expedition team but the only female in that zone as the Russian and Chinese earth stations also did not have any woman during the 2016-17 period.

India joins Europe’s satellite data sharing pool

- India has joined Europe’s mega global arrangement of sharing data from earth observation satellites, called Copernicus.
- Under this arrangement, the European Commission intends to provide India with free, full and open access to the data from the Copernicus Sentinel family of satellites using high bandwidth connections.

The multi-billion-euro Copernicus is Europe's system for monitoring the Earth using satellite data. It is coordinated and managed by the EC. The space-based information will be used for forecasting disasters, providing emergency response and rescue of people during disasters; to glean land, ocean data; and for issues of security, agriculture, climate change and atmosphere.

UK-US firms create largest genomics project to study Indian population

- A UK-based genomics data platform and an American genetics company collaborated to create the world’s largest project of its kind to study Indian population.
- According to the Cambridge-headquartered Global Gene Corp (GGC), its new multi-year tie-up with Regeneron Genetics Center (RGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of New York-based Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc, is aimed at finding innovative diagnosis and therapies for rare diseases.

Greece launches its own space agency

- Greece launched its first space agency as an effort to rebuild the ailing economy as it exits a severe eight-year debt crisis.
- Greece has been a member of ESA since 2005 and has invested millions of euros in ESA's research programmes but was one of the few member states lacking a national institution.

11th Science Communicators’ Meet inaugurated

- Deputy Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri Y Joykumar Singh inaugurated 11th Science Communicators’ Meet at the 105th Indian Science Congress at Manipur University, Imphal on March 19, 2018.

India successfully flight tests supersonic cruise missile BrahMos

- India successfully test fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with an indigenous 'seeker' at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range, enhancing the country's capability to hit enemy targets at a range of up to 400 km.
- It was for the first time that the missile, capable of travelling at speeds of up to Mach 3.0, or three times the speed of sound, was tested with indigenously developed 'seeker' technology. The seeker - developed by the DRDO - determines the accuracy of a missile by guiding it to the target.

BrahMos Aerospace Limited is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia under BrahMos Aerospace. The BrahMos missile is named after two rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Moskva. India is a member of the MTCR, India and Russia are now planning to jointly develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with 600 km-plus range.

IIT Guwahati develops silk scaffold for bone regeneration

- A scaffold made of silk composite functionalised with copper-doped bioactive glass to facilitate faster bone regeneration has been developed by researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati.
- The scaffold seeded with stem cells was found to differentiate into bone cells, facilitate growth of blood vessels and successfully integrate the newly formed bone cells with the native bone.

Biggest space telescope launch delayed till 2020

- NASA has delayed the launch of its much awaited, \$8 billion James Webb Space Telescope set to be the world's biggest space observatory until at least May 2020.

James Webb Space Telescope billed as the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, the new space telescope is an infrared observatory designed to peer deep into the universe, study the earliest stars and galaxies, and seek out strange new planets around distant stars.

GSLV Successfully Launches GSAT-6A Satellite

- India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F08) successfully launched GSAT-6A Satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- The launch of GSLV was its twelfth and took place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, and the spaceport of India.
- This is the fifth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage.

GSAT-6A, similar to GSAT-6 is a high power S-band communication satellite configured around I-2K bus. The mission life of spacecraft planned is about 10 years. As the satellite was on-course for its 3rd and final orbit raising maneuver on 1st April 2018, Communication was lost with the satellite.

NASA to send first mission to study 'heart' of Mars

- NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars. The US space agency will launch on 5th of May, a stationary lander - InSight, which will be first NASA mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer, a device that measures quakes, on the soil of another planet.

The name InSight is a backronym for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport. The lander was manufactured in the 2010s by Lockheed Martin Space Systems.

Inventions/Discoveries

Scientists have created a new state of matter

- A team of scientists from the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) in Austria, Harvard University in Massachusetts, and Rice University in Texas have successfully created a “giant atom” and filled it with ordinary atoms, creating a new state of matter termed “Rydberg polarons”.
- Rydberg atom uses ideas from two different fields: Bose Einstein Condensation and Rydberg atoms.
- A BEC (Bose Einstein Condensate) is a liquid-like state of matter that occurs at very low temperatures.

A Rydberg atom is an excited atom with one or more electrons that have a very high principal quantum number.

India's first cloned Assamese buffalo born

- A cloned Assamese buffalo male calf ‘Sach-Gaurav’ was born for the first time, the Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes claimed. The calf was born to a Murrah buffalo. It was also the first to be born in the field, 100 kms from the cloning laboratory at Hi Tech Sach Dairy Farm in Hisar.

The world first cloned Buffalo Calf and second cloned calf “Garima” produced by hand-guided cloning technique at National Dairy Research Institute. First female calf named ‘Mahima’ was born to a cloned buffalo on 25th January 2013. A male cloned buffalo calf named ‘Swarn’ was born on 18th March 2013.

Indian-origin researchers develop handy blood pressure app, hardware

- To get the accuracy of cuff devices and the convenience of mobile device apps, a team led by an Indian-origin researcher, Anand Chandrasekhar has created a new app and hardware to measure blood pressure.

China develops artificial heart with rocket technology

- Chinese scientists have developed an artificial heart using rocket technology and it is currently undergoing testing after thorough experiments on animals.
- The heart was developed jointly by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT) and the Teda International Cardiovascular Hospital in North China's Tianjin.

3D-printed stethoscopes for war zones designed

- Physicians in remote parts of the world can now 3D print a clinically validated stethoscope with recycled plastic; Scientists from University of Western Ontario in Canada have designed a device template that could save lives during wartime when medical supplies are scarce.
- The stethoscope, called the Glia model, was made using free open source software to keep costs low and allow others to easily access the code.

Nanomotors for targeted cancer therapy

- Research on nanomotors for various medical applications is an emerging field in nanoscience and researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have had a measure of success.
- The researchers have developed a new type of zinc-ferrite-coated magnetic nanomotors that are highly stable and can generate localised heating to kill cancerous cells.

A nanomotor is a molecular or nanoscale device capable of converting energy into movement. It can typically generate forces on the order of piconewtons.

Hot, metallic Earth-sized planet discovered

- Researchers at Aix-Marseille Université in France, Dr David Armstrong and colleagues at the University of Warwick's Astronomy and Astrophysics Group have discovered a hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet orbiting a dwarf star located 260 million light years away.
- Named K2-229b, the planet is almost 20 per cent larger than Earth but has a mass which is over two-and-a-half times greater.

K2-229b is located very close to its host star (0.012 AU, around a hundredth of the distance between the Earth and the Sun), which itself is a medium-sized active K dwarf in the Virgo Constellation. K2-229b orbits this star every fourteen hours.

Scientists have discovered a 'new organ' in the body

- Scientists have discovered a new human organ, called the 'interstitium', which is a series of interconnected, fluid-filled compartments found throughout the body.
- Scientists claim that the interstitium is among the body's largest organs.
- Scientists using a special live imaging technique called a Probe-based Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy (pCLE) to find the interstitium in various parts of the body including the lungs and digestive tract.

A new biological 'switch'

- Scientists from Ireland have discovered a new metabolic process in the body that can switch off inflammation.
- Scientists found that 'itaconate' - a molecule derived from glucose - acts as a powerful off-switch for macrophages, which are the cells in the immune system that lie at the heart of many inflammatory diseases.
- It is well known that macrophages cause inflammation, but we have just found that they can be coaxed to make a biochemical called itaconate.

Health/ Disease

Member countries of WHO SEARO signed to End TB

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the global Delhi End TB Summit at New Delhi.
- 'Delhi End TB Summit Statement of Action' was signed and adopted by the Member Countries of World Health Organization - Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO - SEARO). It commends the response of the 'Delhi Call for Action', a strategic, action-oriented roadmap initiated by the countries on 16th March, 2017.

India has launched the 'TB free India Campaign' to eradicate TB from India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target to End TB by 2030.

Scientists to publish first-ever land health report

- Scientists will publish the first-ever analysis of the global state of land and its ability to sustain a fast-growing human population that relies on it for 95 percent of all food.
- According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, 95 percent of human food comes directly or indirectly from Earth's soil.

Indian-American scientist awarded grant for cancer research

- An Indian-American scientist has been awarded a grant of over USD 1.1 million for his ground- breaking research on cancer.
- NavinVardarajan, along with another University of Houston researcher Sanghyuk Chung, were awarded huge grants by Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), an organisation that funds pioneering cancer research and prevention programmes in the state.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Oldest reptile that could detach its tail identified

- Research team led by Professor Robert Reisz and PhD student Aaron LeBlanc from the University of Toronto Mississauga have identified ancient reptiles dating back to 289 million years ago that could detach their tails to escape the grasp of their predators – the oldest known example of such behaviour.
- The reptiles, called *Captorhinus*, weighed less than two kilograms and were smaller than the predators of the time.

Low viscosity fuel oil from plastic waste

- Researchers from IIT Guwahati have successfully converted packaging plastic waste to plastic-derived oil (PDO), which has characteristics similar to diesel.
- Low- and high-density polyethylene (LDPE, HDPE) and polypropylene are commonly used as packaging materials and end up in the waste stream. According to a 2016 Central Pollution Control Board report, almost 15,000 tonnes of plastics waste is generated per day in India.

The researchers collected the waste (biscuit wrappers, shopping bags, food containers, shampoo bottles) from houses, cleaned and segregated them according to the resin identification code. These codes on plastics indicate the type of plastic resin it is made of.

New species of water strider found in Nagaland River

- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of water strider from Nagaland. The species, named *Ptilomera nagalanda* Jehamalar and Chandra, was found in the river Intanki, Peren district.

Jackfruit to be Kerala's official fruit

- After the state animal, bird, flower and fish, Kerala is all set to get its "official fruit". It is none other than the jackfruit, the largest tree borne fruit known for its distinctive taste and aroma.

A floating laboratory to save the famed Loktak Lake

- 4 women researchers in a custom motorboat monitor levels of pollution in the 300 sq km Loktak Lake. They record changes in the temperature, acidity, conductivity and dissolved-oxygen in the 300-sq km lake.
- The health of the lake also affects the Phumdis, or the unique 'floating islands', on the lake.

The largest freshwater lake in North -East India, also called the only Floating lake in the world due to the floating phumdis (heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil, and organic matters at various stages of decomposition) on it, is located near Moirang in Manipur state, India. India's first floating elementary school named Loktak Elementary Floating School was inaugurated at Loktak Lake in Manipur.

New fish species identified in Manipur's Challou River

- The new fish species, *Pethiapoienis* was found by a research team of Manipur University's life sciences department and a researcher from the Zoological Survey of India in the Challou River in Manipur's Ukhrul district bordering Myanmar.
- The species has been named after Poi, a small hilly village in Ukhrul district where the Challou River flows, to acknowledge the help extended by villagers during the fieldwork in the area.

World's last male northern white rhino, Sudan, euthanised

- The world's last male northern white rhino, Sudan, has died after "age-related complications" in Kenya.

Sudan was captured in Sudan in 1975, when he was just 2 years old, and was taken to Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic. But as that zoo fell into financial troubles and rhinos failed to breed, Sudan was relocated in 2009 to the OlPejeta Conservancy, in Laikipia County, Kenya, along with two northern white rhino females named Najin and Fatu.

New low-cost material to reduce air, water pollution

- Scientists from the University of Brescia in Italy have developed a new low-cost and sustainable material that may displace activated carbon as the preferred choice for reducing waste-water and air pollution.
- It could cut down pollutants in air and waste-water with more success than activated carbon, the current gold standard adsorbent.

Activated carbon is the most common adsorbent used to reduce both atmospheric and wastewater pollution – but is expensive to produce and regenerate. Researchers combined a naturally abundant raw material, sodium alginate (a polysaccharide that can be extracted from seaweed and algae) with a high-volume industrial by-product, silica fume to produce a 'green' adsorbent that is better than activated carbon.

Three new freshwater fish species discovered in Assam, Manipur

- Three new freshwater fish species — *Garra biloborostris*, *Garra clavirostris* and *Garra substrictorostris* — have been discovered by a research team from Assam and Manipur.
- The first two species were discovered from Assam's Brahmaputra tributaries, Kanamakra stream bordering Bhutan and Diyung River near Haflong, while the third one was found in Leimatak stream, a tributary of the Barak in Manipur.

India's first insect museum opened

- A Rs 5 crore India's first insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Rashid Khan

- At 19 years and 165 days of age, highly-rated Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, the No. 1 Twenty20 International bowler became the youngest captain in the history of international cricket.

The previous record was held by Rajin Saleh, 20 years and 297 days, when he led Bangladesh's ODI side against South Africa in a ICC Champions Trophy match in Birmingham on September 12, 2004.

Shahzar Rizvi

- Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi clinched the gold medal with a world record score in a memorable maiden ISSF World Cup appearance, while Jitu Rai and Mehuli Ghosh bagged a bronze each held in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- The Meerut-based Rizvi shot a world record 242.3 in the 10m air pistol event's final to beat reigning Olympic champion Christian Reitz of Germany, 239.7, to win the top prize.

Manu Bhaker

- World Cup debutant Manu Bhaker marked her international debut with the gold in the women's 10m Air Pistol final, also taking India's tally to five medals at the ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- Manu Bhaker prevailed over hometown favorite Alejandra Zavala Vazquez of Mexico in the women's 10m Air Pistol final.

Pair of Manu Bhaker-Om Prakash Mitharval bags gold at ISSF Shooting World Cup

- In the ISSF shooting World Cup, teen sensation Manu Bhaker partnering with Om Prakash Mitharval bagged Gold for India in the 10 metre Air Pistol Mixed team event in Mexico.

Uber ropes in Virat Kohli as brand ambassador in India

- For the first time that Uber has signed with Virat Kohli as its first brand ambassador in India.

Viswanathan Anand

- Viswanathan Anand won the rapid event at the 11th Tal Memorial chess in Moscow.
- The World rapid champion finished the event with 6 points while Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (with 5 points) came second.

Viswanathan Anand is the current World Rapid Chess Champion. He was the first recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1991–92. He was first sportsperson to award with the Padma Vibhushan.

Lionel Messi

- Barcelona forward **Lionel Messi** scored his fastest goal in the Champions League; he also reached his 100 goals in the Champions League. He becomes only the second player to achieve the feat with his rival Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo being the first one.

Messi has a record-tying five Ballon d'Or awards, four of which he won consecutively, and a record-tying four European Golden Shoes. He plays as a forward for Spanish club Barcelona and the Argentina national team.

Akhil Sheoran

- India's Akhil Sheoran has clinched the gold medal in men's 50 metre rifle 3 position at the ISSF World Cup in Mexico.
- Sheoran also became the fourth young Indian shooter to win a medal on ISSF World Cup debut.

Sanjeevani Jadhav

- Sanjeevani Jadhav clinched a bronze in women's 8km cross country race while the country also collected another medal of same colour in the team event of the 14th Asian Cross Country Championship held in Guiyang, China.

KL Rahul is the 'Cricketer of the Year'

- KL Rahul is the 'Cricketer of the Year' in the sixth edition of Wisden India Almanack, which has just been released.
- Shantha Rangaswamy, India's first woman superstar has been inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame alongside Erapalli Prasanna.
- Priyank Panchal, Hasan Ali and Tamim Iqbal are the other Cricketers of the Year.

Adhiban Baskaran

- In the final round of the Reykjavik Open, India's Adhiban Baskaran held Turkish Grandmaster Mustafa Yilmaz to a draw to bag the title prize held in the Iceland.
- Baskaran Adhiban was the 2008 World Under-16 Champion and the 2009 Indian champion. Reykjavik Open is an annual chess tournament that takes place in the capital city of Iceland.

PurvaBarve

- India's PurvaBarve has won the Women's Singles (Under-19) title at the Israel Junior 2018 held in RishonLeZion, Israel.

Juan Martin Del Potro

- Juan Martin Del Potro rallied from three match points down in the third set and beat top-ranked Roger Federer 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 to win the BNP Paribas Open, handing the world No1 his first loss of the year.

Naomi Osaka

- Unseeded Naomi Osaka claimed her first WTA title with an emphatic victory over DariaKasatkina at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells.

ElavenilValarivan

- Indian shooter **ElavenilValarivan** has shattered the **qualification world record** in **10-meter women's air rifle** event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup held in Sydney.
- Indian shooter **ElavenilValarivan** has shattered the **world record** and claimed the **gold medal** in **10m women's air rifle** event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup held in Sydney.

PankajAdvani

- **PankajAdvani** defended his **Asian Billiards Championships** title in style by **demolishing his practice partner B Bhaskar 6-1** in the summit clash.
- With this win, Advani remains the reigning Indian, Asian and world champion in billiards for 2017-18.

AmeeKamani

- India's **AmeeKamani** won the **Asian Women's Snooker** title by **blanking her Thai opponent SiripapornNuanthakhamjan 3-0**.

Anish Bhanwala

- **Anish Bhanwala** secured **India a third individual gold medal** at the **ISSF Junior World Cup** when the 15-year-old finished atop the podium in **men's 25m rapid fire pistol** held in Mexico.

Manu Bhaker and Anmol

- The duo of **Manu Bhaker and Anmol** secured **India's seventh gold medal** in the **ISSF junior World Cup** by winning the **mixed 10m air pistol** event with a **qualification world record** held in Mexico.

Virat Kohli

- Indian captain **Virat Kohli's wax figure** will be the **latest addition** at the **Madame Tussauds Delhi** as he is set to join other sports icons there.
- **Kohli's wax figure** will join **other sports heroes** including **Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev and Lionel Messi**.

Ganemat Sekhon

- **Ganemat Sekhon** shot the best score of 116 last month in the final selection trials but a score of 109 in the **first trial** meant that the youngster missed the **CWG spot** by **.33 points**. She became the **first Indian female skeet shooter** to win a medal at an ISSF World Championship.

P.V. Sindhu, K. Srikanth 'best sportspersons'

- **Champion shuttlers K. Srikanth and P.V. Sindhu** were presented the **'best senior male sportsperson'** and **'best senior female sportsperson'** of the year (April 2017 to April 2018) respectively at the **Telangana Sports Journalists Association sports awards** function.
- Indian women's cricket captain **Mithali Raj** was adjudged the **'Sportsperson of the Year'**.

Sport Events

Superhero-anime duo is Tokyo Olympics 2020 mascot

- Superhero-anime duo is Tokyo Olympics 2020 mascot. 2020 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and commonly known as Tokyo 2020, will be a major international multi-sport event due to be celebrated in the tradition of the Olympic Games as governed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- They will be the second Summer Games held in Tokyo, and the fourth overall Olympic Games held in Japan.

Winter Paralympics in Pyeongchang officially begin

- The largest ever Winter Paralympics were officially opened in freezing conditions at the Olympic Stadium in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
- Forty-eight different nations, plus a neutral Paralympic athlete's team consisting of Russian competitors, entered the stadium in -5C temperatures.

For the first time, South Korea is hosting the Winter Paralympics and the second Paralympics held in the country overall, after the 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul.

India finished with three gold in Asian Archery

- Indian junior archers bagged three gold and two bronze medals to finish their Asia Cup Archery Stage 1 campaign on a high in Bangkok.

Russia's Olympic membership restored by International Olympic Committee

- Russia has been "fully restored" by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), according to the president of the Russian Olympic Committee, having served a suspension over state-sponsored doping.
- A team of 168 Russians competed as part of a neutral 'Olympic athletes from Russia' team in Pyeongchang in February. The IOC in December banned Russia from competing in Pyeongchang, having concluded that it ran a systemic, state-sponsored doping programme during the Winter Olympics it hosted in Sochi in 2014.

Bhubaneswar to host inaugural edition of Super Cup

- The inaugural edition of the Super Cup will be played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, starting March 15.

England beaten by Australia in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup final

- England were beaten 2-1 by Australia in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup final held in Malaysia.

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup is an annual international men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia. It began in 1983 as a biennial contest.

Chandigarh hosted India's first Sports Literature Festival

- Chandigarh hosted Play Write 2018, India's first of its kind Sports Literature Festival on March 17-18.
- The Sports Literature festival featured ten interesting sessions covering games like Hockey, Cricket, Marathon running, Soccer, Boxing, Women's Rugby and Kabaddi etc.

Nepal gain ODI status after win over Papua New Guinea

- Nepal took a massive step forward after achieving One-day International status, after their victory over Papua New Guinea.

Pakistan football team's international ban lifted by FIFA

- Pakistan's ban from international soccer has been lifted by FIFA following the end of "undue third-party interference" in the country's football federation (PFF), according to the world governing body.
- According to FIFA records, Pakistan ranked 203rd of 211 teams in the world rankings.

India clinch Nidahas Cricket Trophy by defeating Bangladesh

- India beat Bangladesh by four wickets to win the Nidahas Cricket Trophy final in Colombo.
- The visitors clinched the T20 Tri-series title with Dinesh Karthik's last-ball six.

Vidarbha clinch maiden Irani Cup title

- Ranji Trophy winners Vidarbha grabbed their second title in the domestic cricket season as they won the Irani Cup against Rest of India.

PV Sindhu to be India's flag-bearer at CWG opening ceremony

- Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu will be Indian contingent's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games held in Australia.

Rohtak hosted first World Series Boxing clash

- The highly-competitive World Series of Boxing comes to India for the first time, with the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak hosted an explosive clash between the Indian Tigers and the Astana Arians from Kazakhstan..

Ajit Singh to head BCCI's ACU

- The BCCI has appointed former Rajasthan Director-General of Police Ajit Singh head of its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

Punjab crowned National hockey champion

- Punjab won its first National title in five years, registering a 2-1 win against Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) in the final of the 8th men's National hockey championships.

Afghanistan wins World Cup qualifying tournament by seven wickets

- Mohammad Shahzad struck a lusty 84 runs to propel Afghanistan to a seven-wicket victory over the West Indies to win the World Cup 2018 qualifying tournament at the Harare Sports Club, Zimbabwe.

India U-16 football team lifts Jockey Cup

- India Under-16 team has won the Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament title by defeating Hong Kong.

AWARDS



'The Shape of Water' wins best picture at 90th Academy Awards

- **The Shape of Water has swept top honours at the Oscars in a ceremony that turned into a battle cry for inclusion and female empowerment. The film won four awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.**
- **The Shape of Water is a 2017 American fantasy drama film directed by Guillermo del Toro and written by del Toro and Vanessa Taylor. It stars Sally Hawkins, Michael Shannon, Richard Jenkins, Doug Jones, Michael Stuhlbarg, and Octavia Spencer. Set in Baltimore in 1962, the story follows a mute custodian at a high-security government laboratory who falls in love with a captured human-like amphibian creature.**
- **'Coco' wins award for Best Animated Feature Film.**

Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars are a set of 24 awards for artistic and technical merit in the American film industry, given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), to recognize excellence in cinematic achievements as assessed by the Academy's voting membership. The awards were first presented in 1929 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, USA. The 90th Academy Awards ceremony, honoring the best films of 2017, was held on March 4, 2018, at the Dolby Theatre, in Los Angeles, California.

Ivory became oldest person to win an Oscar

- **Filmmaker James Ivory, who once worked closely with late Indian star Shashi Kapoor, became the oldest Oscar winner at 89 for his adapted screenplay for Call Me By Your Name.**

Indian volunteer Srishti Bakshi wins Commonwealth Point of Light award

- **Britain's Queen Elizabeth II recognised Srishti Bakshi from India as the 26th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of her exceptional service to empowering women in India.**
- **Srishti is the founder of the CrossBow Miles movement. Srishti decided to make a statement and spread her message of gender equality across the country.**

Balkrishna Doshi is the first Indian to win architecture's top prize

- **Architect Balkrishna Doshi, a pioneer of low-cost housing design, won the prestigious Pritzker Prize, considered architecture's Nobel equivalent.**
- **It is the 45th Pritzker laureate and he is the first from India.**
- **The international Pritzker prize, established by Chicago's Pritzker family in 1979, bestows laureates with \$100,000 along with a bronze medallion.**

JCB announces India's richest literary award of Rs 25 lakh

- A new literary prize, billed as the country's richest with an award amount of Rs 25 lakh, has been announced with an aim to discover and celebrate distinguished works of fiction by Indian writers and also to break the barriers separating literature in different Indian languages.
- Award-winning novelist and essayist Rana Dasgupta has been roped in as literary director of the JCB Prize for Literature.

The prize, funded by earthmoving and construction equipment manufacturer JCB India Ltd, and administered by the JCB Literature Foundation.

Veteran actress Simi Garewal wins UK film festival award

- Veteran actress and talk show host Simi Garewal has been felicitated with a "UK Golden Flame Award" for her contribution to Indian cinema.
- She received the award at the opening ceremony of the annual Tongues of Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London.

ICMR wins the 2017 Kochon Prize for TB research

- The 2017 Kochon Prize was awarded to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi for building a tradition of excellence in TB research and development.
- The \$65,000 Prize is awarded annually by Stop TB Partnership to individuals and/or organizations that have made a significant contribution to combating TB. The ICMR emerged the winner from amongst 18 nominations.
- The 2017 Kochon Prize is specifically about contributions to TB research.

MDWS Bags Award for best implementation of E-office

- The Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for implementation of e-office software.
- E-Office is one of the Mission-mode Projects under the Digital India programme.
- The e-Office solution enables core operations of the Government at all levels to be performed in a 'paper-less' environment, including the E-leave, E-tour, Knowledge Management, Notice Board, Download Forms, Inventory Control etc.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has the distinction of making 100 percent use of e-Office.

"Palace on Wheels" gets tourist train of the year award

- The luxury train 'Palace on Wheels' of Rajasthan, popular among foreign tourists, has bagged the 'Tourist Train of the Year' award of the Pacific Area Travel Writers' Association.

Amol Palekar receives 'Godavari Gaurav' award

- Noted actor Amol Palekar was honoured with the 'Godavari Gaurav' award at an event in Nashik.
- The actor, known for his performance in films like "Gol Maal", "Choti Si Baat", and "Chitchor" among others, was presented with the award, which has been instituted by city-based 'Kusumagraj Prathishthan'.

Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands wins Abel Prize

- Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory, Norway's Academy of Sciences and Letters.
- Langlands will be awarded the 6.0-million-kroner Abel Prize by Norway's King Harald in Oslo on May 22.

Named after the 19th century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel, the prize was established by the Norwegian government in 2002 and first awarded a year later, to honour outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics, a discipline not included among the Nobel prizes. Along with the Fields Medal, which is awarded every four years at the Congress of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), it is one of the world's most prestigious maths prizes.

NHAI Receives Best Design Pavilion Award at 105th Indian Science Congress at Imphal

- The NHAI pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress- Pride of India Expo held at Imphal from 16-20 March 2018 has been adjudged as best design pavilion. The award was conferred by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur.

G.K. Reddy award for journalist Karan Thapar

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award for journalism to senior journalist and television presenter Karan Thapar.

DRDO bags 'Most Informative Pavilion' award at the ISC

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has received the "Most Informative Pavilion" award in the Pride of India Expo.
- The event was organised as part of the 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) in Manipur.

NRI entrepreneur wins 'Business Personality' award in UK

- A leading NRI entrepreneur has won the 'Business Personality of the year 2018' award in the UK for a high level of commitment and enthusiasm in leading his business to success.
- Joginder Sanger, Chairman of Mastcraft Group and Chairman of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, received the award during the Eastern Eye Asian Business Awards ceremony.

London based organisation SACF wins Frederick Pincott Award for 2017

- South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF), a London based organisation has received the Frederick Pincott Award for 2017 from the Indian High Commissioner, Y K Sinha for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for the last 18 years.
- The institution has been active in boosting original research and books on Indian films, also inviting and honouring filmmakers from India, along with documentary film making and producing classic silent films with live music at the British Film Institute (BFI).

Appointments

Neil Basu

- Neil Basu, a senior Indian-origin Scotland Yard officer, was appointed as the counterterrorism chief.
- He will take charge as the force's National Lead for Counter Terrorism and the Head of the Met Police's Specialist Operations after the resignation of Mark Rowley on March 21.

Parag Agrawal

- The microblogging site Twitter has appointed Parag Agrawal as its CTO.

N Chandrasekaran

- Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran was elected President of the court of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for three years.

Supreme Court appoints acting head for NGT

- The Supreme Court appointed Justice Jawad Rahim, judicial member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), as its acting chairperson.

Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi appointed

- On the recommendation of the Minister of Culture, the President has appointed Shri M.L. Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies), Ministry of Culture as Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi with immediate effect. He will continue to hold the office till a regular Chairman is appointed.

Chandra Bhushan appointed Deputy EC

- Senior bureaucrat Chandra Bhushan Kumar has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the government.

Former CBSE chairperson Vineet Joshi appointed director general of National Testing Agency

- Union Government appointed former CBSE chairperson and Secretary Vineet Joshi as the director general of the National Testing Agency.
- NTA has been initiated by the government to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions organised by the CBSE, AICTE and other bodies.

Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan is new scientific adviser to government

- Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan, was appointed principle scientific adviser to the Government of India, the appointments committee of the Union Cabinet issued an order regarding the posting.
- Vijay Raghavan will succeed physicist Rajagopala Chidambaram.

Shekhar Kapur to head the jury for 65th National Film Awards

- Veteran director Shekhar Kapur has been appointed chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards.
- The central panel comprises a chairperson and 10 other members, including five regional chairpersons who head the respective regional panels.

Obituaries

Physicist Stephen Hawking passes away

- Stephen Hawking was a theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author, and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge passed away in Cambridge, England..

His scientific works included collaboration with Roger Penrose on gravitational singularity theorems in the framework of general relativity and the theoretical prediction that black holes emit radiation, often called Hawking radiation. Hawking was the first to set out a theory of cosmology explained by a union of the general theory of relativity and quantum mechanics.

Delhi's first Commissioner of Police passed away

- First Commissioner of Delhi Police and former Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police Jayendra Nath Chaturvedi passed away in Varanasi.

- He was also Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC). He served as the first Commissioner of Police in the national capital from July 1978 to January 1980.

Former Manipur chief minister R K Dorendra Singh passes away

- Former Manipur Chief Minister R K Dorendra Singh passed away in Imphal.
- Dorendra Singh had been chief minister of the state four times between 1974 to 1993. Before becoming the chief minister, he was the Speaker of Manipur Assembly.

Eminent Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh passes away

- Jnanpith awardee and renowned Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh passed away in New Delhi after a prolonged illness.
- Kedarnath Singh was one of India's most prominent modern Hindi poets besides being an essayist and a well-known critic.
- He was born on 7 July 1934 in village Chakia of Ballia district in eastern Uttar Pradesh and he won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1989 for his poetry collection Akaal Mein Saras and the Jnanpith Award in 2013.



MISCELLANEOUS

Chilika Lake is largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins globally

- The **Chilika Lake in Odisha** has emerged as the **single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world** with the spotting of 155 such animals, according to the **Chilika Development Authority (CDA)**.

Chilika Lake is a **brackish waterlagoon**, spread over the **Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha** state on the east coast of India. It is the **largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world**.

In a first, Government to rank medical & dental colleges

- **In a first**, the Centre is **planning to rank medical and dental colleges**. The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of the human development resource ministry is working towards adding medical education category to the rankings this year.

Maharashtra government tied up with Wikipedia to promote Marathi

- The **Maharashtra government has tied up with Wikipedia**, the free online encyclopedia, to propagate the **Marathi language** and increase its usage online.

Delhi government to set up State Sanskrit Education Council

- The **Delhi government has decided to set up its State Sanskrit Education Council** to improve the state of formal education of the language in the national capital.

India's child marriage numbers drop sharply, driving down global rate

- According to the **UNICEF 25 million child marriages were prevented worldwide** in the last decade, with the largest reduction seen in South Asia where India was at the forefront.
- **"India constitutes more than 20% of the world's adolescent population and accounts for the highest number of child marriages in South Asia given its size and population,"**.

Meena Kandasamy, Arundhati Roy in UK prize longlist

- Noted **Indian writers Meena Kandasamy and Arundhati Roy** have been longlisted for this year's **Women's Prize for Fiction** that celebrates women's creativity across the world.
- **Kandasamy** has been included for her acclaimed book, **'When I Hit You: Or, A Portrait of the Writer as a Young Wife'**, while **Roy** makes it to the 16-member longlist for her second novel, **'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness'**.

ITBP gets first woman officer in combat role

- **In another first for women**, 25-year-old **Prakriti** has been inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in the border guarding force, **ITBP**.
- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force is the last of the CAPFs** to induct women officers in combat roles after the government first allowed it to enroll them in 2016.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of India, raised on **24 October 1962**, under the CRPF Act, in the wake of the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

Ava DuVernay

- **Director Ava DuVernay**, the first African-American woman to helm a film with a budget over \$100 million, will now take on superhero film **"The New Gods"**.

Researchers find rare mineral in plants for first time

- In a first, researchers from Sainsbury Laboratory, University of Cambridge have discovered on alpine plants a rare mineral that holds potential as a new material for industrial and medical applications.

The mineral vaterite, a form of calcium carbonate, is a dominant component of the protective silvery-white crust that forms on the leaves of a number of alpine plants. Naturally occurring vaterite is rarely found on Earth.

Centre approved Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities

- The Centre approved projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities of the country in a bid to make them safer for women.
- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad Ahmedabad and Lucknow have been sanctioned a total of Rs 2,919.55 crore after a meeting of the Empowered Committee, which is headed by the secretary of Women and Child Development (WCD).

World's tallest statue tribute to the of millions of Indian farmers

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi said the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhai Patel in Gujarat will be a tribute to the sweat and toil of millions of Indian farmers.
- "The Sardar Vallabhai Patel's statue (182m high), known as the Statue of Unity, being built on the river Narmada near Vadodara, is double the size of the Statue of Liberty (93m) in New York". Metal pieces from farmers of six lakh villages across the country were collected and melted to make the statue.

Western Naval Command concluded exercise PaschimLeher

- "The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy concluded a major operational exercise, being conducted in the Arabian Sea".
- This year the name of the exercise was changed to Exercise PaschimLeher(XPL) 2018 this year.

Gadchiroli book reading event sets new Guinness world record

- As many as 7,000 people participated in a book reading event in Gadchiroli and managed to break a Guinness world record set in Turkey in May last year. The event was organised by police authorities and had representatives from the Guinness Book of World Records in attendance.
- The event in Turkey on May 18, 2017 had seen the participation of 5,754 people as audience for a book reading event. "Gadchiroli is mostly known for Naxal violence but this event will create a positive image for the district across the world.

NHAI to deploy all women toll collecting staff on international Women's Day

- The National Highways Authority of India has decided to deploy all women toll collecting staff in day shift on at least one toll plaza close to the city area, in every state and UT of the country on 8th March 2018, International Women's Day.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, responsible for management of a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways out of 1,15,000 km in India. It is a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Deepak Kumar, IAS is the current Chairman, while Dr. Yogendra Narain, IAS was the first Chairman of NHAI.

The first-ever Rashtrakuta Utsav started in Malkhed village

- The first-ever Rashtrakuta Utsav to hail and celebrate the contributions of the Rashtrakuta dynasty to the social, political and cultural life of the land began at the historical Malkhed village in Sedam taluk, Kalaburagi district, Karnataka.

Malkhed, which was known as Manyakheta in the past, had served as the capital of the Rashtrakuta Kingdom that ruled large parts of southern India between 6th and 10th centuries.

International Yoga Festival

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on March 1 inaugurated the week-long 29th annual, world famous International Yoga Festival on the banks of the holy Ganges River, in the lap of the sacred Himalayas, the birthplace of yoga at Parmarth Niketan Ashram.

International Day of Yoga, or commonly and unofficially referred to as Yoga Day, is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015.

First 'all-women' railway station launched in Andhra Pradesh

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the South Central Railway (SCR) management has named the little-known Chandragiri station near Tirupati as the "all-women railway station" in the zone.

Chandragiri, native place of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has its far-flung station located beyond Narasingapuram village.

Union government to set up Arbitration Council

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for introduction in the Parliament. It is a part of the efforts of the Government to encourage institutional arbitration for settlement of disputes and make India a centre of robust Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.
- The amendment provides for creation of an independent body namely the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) in New Delhi. The ACI shall be a body corporate.

The Chairperson of ACI shall be a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice or Judge of any High Court or any eminent person.

Itanagar celebrates Silver Jubilee of Losar festival

- The Buddhist Community of Itanagar celebrated the silver jubilee of the Losar Festival.
- The three-day festival, organized by the Itanagar Buddhist Cultural Society (IBCS) was celebrated from March 2 to March 4 with a lot of enthusiasm and traditional zeal.

Rs. 1,000 cr. for research and innovation for IMPRINT India

- In a major boost for research and innovation, the Centre had sanctioned Rs. 1,000 crore for the Phase II of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme.

The IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India is the first of its kind MHRD supported Pan-IIT + IISc joint initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges that India must address and champion to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance. 'IMPRINT' India programme was launched in 2015.

13 Intangible Cultural Heritage elements from India inscribed on UNESCO's List

- A total of 13 Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) elements from India have been inscribed till date on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- 'Historic City of Ahmadabad' has been added to the World Heritage List. With this addition, the number of sites from India in the World Heritage List has gone up to 36. India is sixth on the list of countries with the most number of sites in the list. Italy leads with 53 sites followed by China with 52 sites.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris. **Audrey Azoulay** appointed as the **Director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, becoming the **second female leader of the organization**.

Premium Tag for Coffee grown in Araku Valley

- Coffee Board has applied for registration of **Araku coffee under Geographical Indications** to **protect the unique identity of the coffee grown by the tribal communities of Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh**.

Brazil is the undisputed **largest coffee-producing nation in the world**. **India** is the **seventh largest coffee-producing nation in the world**. **Karnataka** is the **largest coffee-producing state in the India**.

India Won "Best Exhibitor Award" at ITB – Berlin

- India has won the "Best Exhibitor Award" at ITB – Berlin**. 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany from 7th March to 10th March, 2018.
- India's Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism)** presented a short film named **"Yogi of the Racetrack"** in the meet.

Air India operated all-women crew flights on Mar 8

- National carrier Air India** has operated a flight on the **Kolkata-Dimapur-Kolkata sector** with an all-women cockpit and cabin crew as part of its **celebration of International Women's Day**.

Air India had operated the **world's first all-women crew flight from Kolkata to Silchar** way back in **1985**. The national carrier claimed it had **created a world record last year by operating the longest-ever all women crew flight around the world on the Delhi-San Francisco Delhi route**.

Maharashtra produced the highest quantity of solid waste

- Maharashtra produced the highest quantity of solid waste** as on January 31, at 22,570 tpd, out of which 7,900 tpd or 35 per cent was processed. **Nearly 24 per cent of the solid waste generated in the country was being processed** as on January 31, according to data presented by the government in Parliament.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), the government aims to **attain 100 per cent scientific management of solid waste**, and also make the country **Open-Defecation Free (ODF)** by **October 2, 2019**, the **150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi**.

Prime minister, president to get own planes by early 2020

- India's first set of brand new planes for the Prime Minister, President and Vice-President** will be customised and be ready for use by early 2020.
- Two Boeing 777-300 ERs, bought by Air India** recently, will be retrofitted to have **VIP enclosures, a press conference room and a patient transport unit for medical emergencies**.

NCRB launches Mobile App useful for Citizens on its 33rd Inception Day

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** celebrated its **33rd Inception Day** and released **"Citizen Services" Mobile App**. **NCRB has introduced a Mobile App template**, which is a bouquet of 9 police related services, for the citizen.

In a Historic First, India Nutrition Report to be released by the Government

- The Executive Committee which is the Apex body for all Nutrition related activities under the POSHAN Abhiyaan, held its first meeting to decide on the roadmap for the Mission.
- The Committee is headed by Sh. Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- India Nutrition Report shall be released every year by the Government after a detailed survey.

Sri Lanka Cricket released a book 'A Tribute to Jagu'

- Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), on the occasion of the 70th independence of the island nation, paid a glowing tribute to former BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya by releasing a book, titled A Tribute to Jagu.

Two Big Achievements of India Tourism at World'S Tourism exhibition

- India, was awarded “Best Exhibitor” Award for Australia and Oceania category at the World's Tourism exhibition at "Internationale Tourismus Borse" (ITB) 2018 held in Messe, Berlin, Germany.
- Tremendous success was achieved by the Ministry of Tourism's new campaign Film “Yogi on the Race Track”.

IAF's largest transport aircraft C-17 Globemaster landed in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest transport aircraft – C-17 Globemaster -made a historic landing at Arunachal Pradesh's Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) near the Chinese border.
- It is a US-manufactured aircraft named after two previous piston-engined military cargo aircraft, the Douglas C-74 Globemaster and the Douglas C-124 Globemaster II.

The Indian Air Force for the first time in June 2009 selected the C-17 for its very heavy lift transport aircraft requirement to replace several types of transport aircraft.

Pune best governed, Bengaluru worst based on the local governance

- According to the Annual Survey of India's City-System (ASICS) undertaken for 2017 by non-profit organisation Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (JCCD), Pune is the best city when it comes to local governance and Bengaluru the worst. Delhi ranked sixth among 23 Indian cities surveyed, improved its position this year, with a score of 4.4 out of 10 in the annual city governance rankings.

Pune (5.1) ranked first, followed by Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar and Surat, according to the survey. The bottom five cities on the list were Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Patna and Chennai, with scores ranging between 3 and 3.3 out of 10.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 5th Nadi Mahotsava at Bandrabhan in MP

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 5th Nadi Mahotsava at Bandrabhan of Hoshangabad District of Madhya Pradesh.
- The two day mahotsava with various sessions of discussion is taking place for the conservation of Narmada River.

Krishi Unnati Mela begins in Delhi

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has addressed Krishi Unnati Mela held at the IARI Mela Ground, Pusa Campus, in New Delhi. He visited the theme pavilion, and the Jaivik Mela Kumbh. He laid the Foundation Stone for 25 Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Prime Minister launched an e-marketing portal for organic products. He gave away the Krishi Karman Awards and the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Krishi Protsahan Puraskar. The Prime Minister specially mentioned the State of Meghalaya, which received an award for its achievements in agriculture, in the period under review.

President of India releases coins on Nabakalebara festival

- President Ram Nath Kovind released commemorative coins in denominations of ₹10 and ₹1000 on Lord Jagannath's Nabakalebara festival.

Nabakalebara is a festival observed in the Shree Jagannath Temple at Puri at a predefined time according to Hindu Calendar. *Naba* means new and *Kalebara* is body. Lord Shree Jagannath adorns a new body during Nabakalebara. It is the re-embodiment of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Sudarshan when they relinquish their old bodies and assume a new one.

War Memorial Boys and Girls Hostel (WMBGH) at Dehradun Inaugurated

- War Memorial Boys and Girls Hostel at village Danda Lakhond, Dehradun was inaugurated in a grand ceremony by Honorable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat on 18 Mar 2018.
- The Garhwal Rifles War Memorial Boys and Girls Hostel at Lansdowne exist since 1980..

Over 4 lakh beggars in India: Bengal ranks top, 2 vagrants in Lakshadweep

- The country has over 4 lakh beggars, with the highest 81,000 beggars in West Bengal, while Lakshadweep merely has two vagrants.
- West Bengal has the highest number of beggars in India followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at number two and three respectively, according to the information given by the Social Justice Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot.

'Parivara and Talawara' included in the list of STs in Karnataka

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has, in principle, approved the inclusion of the communities, namely, 'Parivara and Talawara' as synonym of 'Nayaka' at SI. No. 38 in the list of STs of Karnataka.

Children's Science Congress concludes

- The valedictory function of two-day Children's Science Congress held for the first time in the backdrop of the 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) under the theme "Reaching the Unreached Through Science and Technology" came to its end at the Academic building, MIT block of Manipur University.

Union Government approves Plastic Park to be set up in Jharkhand

- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar announced that the Government of India has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.
- The project would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores in an area of 150 acres and a range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc would be manufactured.

SC caps fee charged by HCs for information under RTI law at Rs 50

- The Supreme Court has capped the fee charged by High Courts for responding to queries filed under the RTI Act at 50 rupees per application, bringing cheers to activists seeking information under the transparency law.

Right to Information (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India came fully into force on 12 October 2005. The first application was given to a Pune police station. The Act covers the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir, where J&K Right to Information Act is in force.

New Delhi ranked 22nd globally as top destination for 2018

- New Delhi has been ranked 22nd in the world and eighth in Asia in the top destination for 2018, Travellers' Choice awards for Destinations by TripAdvisor.
- New Delhi, the capital of India was ranked 22nd in TripAdvisor's top 25 travellers choice of destinations list for this year offering alluring Mughal minarets, magnificent colonial-era buildings and flourishing culture.

Paris in France topped the list of Travellers' Choice awards for Destinations followed by London (UK), Rome (Italy), Bali (Indonesia), and Crete (Greece). In the Asia list, three Indian cities have featured with New Delhi at eighth position, followed by Goa at ninth and Jaipur (Rajasthan) at number 16 position.

India Post releases special cover on Stephen Hawking

- India Post paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking by issuing a special cover on him.
- Chief Post Master General (CPMG) of Maharashtra and Goa Circle H C Agrawal and Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Dr Sandip Trivedi jointly issued the special cover.

Indian sign language dictionary released

- The country's first sign language dictionary, in the works for one and a half years, was launched by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- It may have only 3,000 words, but it is the first step to a potentially huge resource for the country's 50 lakh deaf citizens and almost 20 lakh people with speech disabilities.

Singapore wins sixth consecutive title of 'world's best airport'

- Singapore's Changi Airport has been named "world's best airport" for the sixth consecutive year — as regional rival Hong Kong came in fourth place.
- The 2018 iteration of the annual World Airport Awards from research group Skytrax was based on 13.73 million survey questionnaires across more than 500 airports worldwide, taking place from August 2017 to February 2018.

Education of Martyrs' Children to Have No Caps, Govt Removes Rs 10,000 Limit

- After suffering serious blowback last year, for limiting educational expenses paid to martyrs' children at Rs 10,000 per month, the Ministry of Defence has decided that it would lift this cap.
- In an announcement the ministry has said that it will now fully fund the education of martyrs' children.
- Only the children of those armed forces personnel below officer rank missing in action, disabled or killed are eligible for this educational concession.

Maharashtra generates most bio-medical waste in India

- Maharashtra tops the list of biomedical waste generated in the country daily, according to a document submitted by the ministry of health and family welfare in the Lok Sabha.
- According to the state-wise report, Maharashtra generated 53,385kg a day in 2014, which increased to 62,740kg a day in 2015 and further to 71,511kg in 2016. Second on the list is Karnataka (at 66,468kg a day), followed by Tamil Nadu (40,552kg a day) and Kerala (37,773kg a day). Goa, Karnataka and West Bengal are among the states that have seen a steady decline in the figures over the past three years.

Waste from hospitals, nursing homes, blood banks and veterinary institutions, including used syringes, bandages, amputated body parts and other human and animal bio-waste generated during medical treatment and research are categorised as bio-medical waste.

UIDAI set to introduce face authentication feature from July 1

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is all set to make face authentication available alongside iris or fingerprint scan as means of verifying Aadhaar users from July 1, 2018.
- The UIDAI, which is in-charge of the 12-digit identifier Aadhaar, in January, had announced that it will introduce face authentication feature to help those who run into problems in biometric authentication due to old age, hardwork or worn-out fingerprints.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (“Aadhaar Act 2016”) on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Aadhaar is the world's largest biometric ID system, with over 1.19 billion enrolled members as of 30 November 2017. J. Satyanarayana is the current chairman of UIDAI.

International Yacht Festival in Vizag

- Andhra Pradesh state government has conducted the International Yachting Festival in Visakhapatnam for the first time. A first of its kind event in India, to position Vizag as a destination for holidays befitting the yachting enthusiasts.

Indu Bhushan appointed CEO of 'Ayushman Bharat' mission

- Indu Bhushan was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM).
- Bhushan, the Director General of East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines, has been appointed to the post for a period of two years.

Madhya Pradesh launches ‘Kadakhnath’ app to market rare chicken breed

- The Madhya Pradesh government has come up with a mobile application to market rare chicken breed — the “Kadakhnath” — whose black meat is in high demand for its nutritious content and purported medicinal properties.
- The “MP Kadakhnath” mobile app aims to connect poultries that sale the breed with people from other parts of the country.

Tripura to set up crime wing of state police

- The Tripura government has decided to set up a "well-equipped" crime branch under the state police to deal with unlawful activities such as drug and narcotics peddling.
- The new wing will be modeled after Delhi Police's crime branch.

Shri R K Singh lays foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project in Uttarkashi

- Shri R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat in Uttarkashi.
- The Proposed Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) is located on the river Tons – a tributary of the Yamuna, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

Rahul Dravid appointed as new state election icon of Karnataka

- Cricketer Rahul Dravid as the Karnataka state election icon, disabled government employees as polling staff and all women polling stations are among the slew of new initiatives taken up by the state electoral authorities for the May 12 assembly elections in Karnataka.

Anushka Sharma & PV Sindhu debut in Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2018 list

- **Bollywood actress-producer Anushka Sharma** features in the **Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2018 list**, which includes innovators and disruptors who are reshaping their industries and changing Asia for the better.
- **India's badminton ace P.V. Sindhu** also features in the list.

Gaggan Anand's Bangkok restaurant wins 'Asia's 50 Best Restaurants' award

- A popular Indian cuisine eatery in Thailand has created history by winning Asia's best restaurant award for the fourth consecutive year at a ceremony in China's Macau city.
- **Gaggan Anand's Bangkok restaurant Gaggan** won the annual 'Asia's 50 Best Restaurants' award presented at the Wynn Palace's Grand Theatre in Macau.

UP government makes Ambedkar's portrait mandatory in all its offices from April 1

- The Uttar Pradesh government has made it mandatory for all government offices in the state to have a portrait picture of Dr BR Ambedkar from April 1.
- The state government had issued an order that **Baba Saheb's name should be mentioned as Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar in all government documents.**

Virat Kohli, Pullela Gopichand, Nita Ambani most powerful personalities in sports

- The **100 – List of India's most powerful** – is back with some names repeating themselves for a second year running – such as **Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the helm followed by BJP President Amit Shah.**
- **India's cricket captain Virat Kohli** has maintained his place in the top 100. In fact, he has moved up 12 places from his 32nd rank last year to **20th in the ranking this year.**
- **India's chief badminton coach Pullela Gopichand (91st position)** and **Nita Ambani (66th position)** with her involvement in IPL, ISL, NBA and IOC.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Women's Day

- **International Women's Day (IWD)** is celebrated on **March 8** every year. IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. International Women's Day (IWD) has occurred for well over a century, with the first March 8 IWD gathering supported by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.
- The theme for **International Women's Day 2018** was chosen as - 'Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives'.

National Safety Day

- The **National Safety Day/Week Campaign** is celebrated in **India** every year (organized by the **National Safety Council**) to commemorate the establishment of the **National Safety Council** on 4th of **March 1966**, as well as enhance the safety awareness among people.
- **National Safety Day/Week** campaign is celebrated from 4th of March to the 10th of March in 2018.

World Consumer Rights Day 2018 with the theme of “Making Digital Markets Fairer”

- **Shri Ram Vilas Paswan**, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution launched integrated portal for consumer services i.e jagograhakjago.gov.in on the occasion of **World Consumer Rights Day** observed on 15th March.
- **World Consumer Rights Day 2018** with the theme of “Making Digital Markets Fairer” was organized by the Department of Consumer Affairs in New Delhi.

The **National Consumer Day** is observed every year on **December 24**. On this day, the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** had received the assent of the President. The Day is an annual occasion for celebration and solidarity within the national consumer movement and is an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all consumers.

First ever Global Recycling Day

- On **18 March 2018**, people around the world came together for the first ever **Global Recycling Day**.
- **Global Recycling day** aimed to secure the future of our planet by conserving the world's six primary resources and celebrating the power of the Seventh Resource – the goods all around us that we reuse and recycle every day.

International Day of Happiness

- The **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated worldwide every **March 20**, and was conceptualized and founded by philanthropist, activist, statesman, and prominent United Nations special advisor **Jayme Illien** to inspire, mobilize, and advance the global happiness movement.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- The **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is observed annually on **21 March**.
- The theme for 2018 is: Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination.

International World Water Day

- International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- The theme for 2018 is "Nature for Water" to encourage people to "look for the answer in nature".

Bihar Diwas: Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu opened celebrations

- Bihar Diwas (Bihar Day) is observed every year on March 22 marking the formation of the state of Bihar. The 106th Bihar Diwas was inaugurated by Vice-President, Venkaiah Naidu.
- Bihar was carved out from undivided Bengal as an independent state in 1912. Prior to that, Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa were part of Bengal province during the British rule.
- Since this year marks the closing ceremony of the ChamparanSatyagrah centenary celebrations that began in April 2017, a short documentary was screened during the inaugural session. V-P Naidu also released four books — 'EkTha Mohan', 'Bapu Ki Chiththi', 'Champaran Ki Kahani' and 'Neel KeDhabbe' — on the occasion.

World Tuberculosis Day

- World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- This year's theme is "Wanted: Leaders for a TB-Free World"- focuses on building commitment to end TB at every level.

Ambedkar Jayanti to be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day'

- The birth anniversary of India's Dalit social reformer Dr BR Ambedkar will be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day' i.e on 14th April.

World Theatre Day

- World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute ITI. It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March by the United Nations.

QUESTIONS

1. Union Minister of Civil Aviation P Ashok GajapathiRaju has inaugurated the country's first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre in:
(a) Chandigarh (b) Hyderabad (c) Ranchi (d) Bengaluru
2. The Defence Ministry has started the process to set up the country's first defence industrial corridor linking _____ with four other cities of _____ to promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipment.
(a) Chennai, Tamil Nadu (b) Kolkata, West Bengal
(c) Surat, Gujarat (d) Patna, Bihar
3. According to the latest report by Facebook, what is the India rank, based on the inclusive Internet and connectivity for all?
(a) 47 (b) 57 (c) 69 (d) 90
4. According to the latest survey by Moody's Investors Service, the projected GDP growth estimates unchanged at _____ per cent for 2018.
(a) 6.3 (b) 6.9 (c) 7.2 (d) 7.6
5. The Reserve Bank of India has raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to \$ _____ across all currency pairs involving the Indian rupee.
(a) 50 million (b) 100 million (c) 500 million (d) 1000 million
6. Which among the following is the mascot for the Tokyo Olympics 2020?
(a) Billy the Marlin Billy (b) Superhero-anime
(c) The Suns Gorilla Go (d) Racing Sausages
7. Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) NAG, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), were successfully flight tested at Pokhran's field firing range in:
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Odisha
8. The Chilika Lake has emerged as the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world. This Chilika Lake is located in:
(a) West Bengal (b) Rajasthan (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Odisha
9. National Science Day is celebrated in India every year on:
(a) 27 February (b) 28 March (c) 28 February (d) 28 April
10. The world's largest solar park 'Shakti Sthala' has been launched in:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu
11. The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra inaugurated at Village Degaon. This is the _____ Mega Food Park operationalized in the country so far.
(a) 6th (b) 8th (c) 10th (d) 12th

12. Recently, which among the following countries has confirmed that it will be on the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?
(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Iran (d) Iraq
13. For the first time, Indian firms are allowed in construction and installation works in the "non-critical" category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project located in:
(a) Bangladesh (b) Russia (c) China (d) France
14. Hurun's Global Rich List 2018, which among the following countries has topped the billionaires list?
(a) India (b) UK (c) USA (d) China
15. Recently, which among the following countries has regained the world's fastest growing major economy tag with the GDP at 7.2 per cent for October-December quarter?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Brazil (d) India
16. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of:
(a) National Financial Reporting Authority (b) National Budget Reporting Authority
(c) National Frauds Reporting Authority (d) National Fiscal and Monetary Reporting Authority
17. British telecom major Vodafone has planned to create the first 4G network on the:
(a) Moon (b) Saturn (c) Mars (d) Venus
18. Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated every year on:
(a) April 1 (b) March 1 (c) March 2 (d) June 2
19. According to the latest Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018, the cases where the total value involved in such offences is Rs. _____ will come under the purview of this Bill.
(a) 100 crore or more (b) 500 crore or more (c) 1000 crore or more (d) 2000 crore or more
20. Recently, which among the following is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew entered Cape Town?
(a) INSV Virat (b) INSV Vikram (c) INSV Tarini (d) INSV Saraswati
21. Recently, who has been appointed as India's ambassador to Afghanistan?
(a) Vijay Goel (b) Vinay Kumar (c) Rahul Prathap (d) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
22. World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) April 1 (b) June 5 (c) March 2 (d) March 3
23. India's first 3D Swami Vivekananda Planetarium at the Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Nisargadhama has inaugurated in:
(a) Mangaluru (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Chennai
24. Recently, The Union Cabinet has identified _____ sectors have been identified as 'Champion Services' Sectors to promote their development and realize their potential.
(a) 6 (b) 9 (c) 10 (d) 12
25. World Trade Organisation's eleventh Ministerial Conference was held in:
(a) USA (b) Brazil (c) China (d) Argentina

26. According to the economic think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research, Indian economy is projected to grow at _____per cent in the current financial year.
(a) 6.2 (b) 6.7 (c) 7.0 (d) 7.2
27. Name the Indian-American scientist, who has been awarded a grant of over USD 1.1 million for his ground-breaking research on cancer.
(a) JogeshPati (b) NavinVardarajan (c) Ashok Das (d) KrishanShabanani
28. Astronomers from which space agency have detected a large amount of water in the atmosphere of a hot, Saturn-mass exoplanet known as WASP-39b?
(a) JAXA (b) ISRO (c) NASA (d) CERN
29. For the first time, Researchers from which country have discovered a sketch of a 100-feet sculpture, touted as the world's tallest, envisioned by renowned artist Pablo Picasso?
(a) USA (b) UK (c) France (d) Japan
30. PrasanaKarmakar has been suspended for three-years by the Paralympic Committee of India. He is associated with which among the following?
(a) Swimming (b) Shooting (c) Javelin (d) Racing
31. Recently, "Namaste Shalom", a magazine devoted to India and _____ relations has launched in New Delhi.
(a) Israel (b) USA (c) France (d) South Africa
32. Recently, who has been elected as the Armenia's new president?
(a) SerzhSargsyan (b) Robert Kocharyan (c) ArmenSarkissian (d) LevonHagopiTer-Petrosyan
33. KirshnaKumariKolhi has become the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator in:
(a) USA (b) Pakistan (c) UK (d) France
34. Recently, who has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in the UK's Parliament?
(a) K.Chiranjive (b) MohanlalGanesan (c) ShatrughanSinha (d) Amitabh Bachchan
35. Which among the following is the largest contributor to the overall volume of UPI transactions in India in February 2018?
(a) Paytm (b) Ebay (c) Flipkart (d) Paypal
36. A team of astronomers including an Indian graduate student Nivedita Mahesh from _____have discovered for the first time signals from "cosmic dawn".
(a) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (b) Arizona State University
(c) Institute of Wood Science and Technology (d) University of California
37. Which among the following countries has won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup 2018?
(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) China (d) USA
38. Who among the following has become the first Indian woman to clinch the gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan?
(a) Kavita Devi (b) NavjotKaur (c) PoonamPandey (d) Sakshi Malik
39. What is the India rank on the Global Firepower (GFP) list 2017?
(a) 4 (b) 5
(c) 8 (d) 10

40. The first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency "Sovereign" as its legal tender is:
(a) Mexico (b) Maldives
(c) Marshall Islands (d) Japan
41. Italy elections have been in the news, who is the current President of Italy?
(a) Sergio Mattarella (b) Matteo Renzi
(c) Paolo Gentiloni (d) Giorgio Napolitano
42. According to the International Energy Agency's Oil 2018 report, which among the following country/countries will replace the United States as top oil importers?
(a) India (b) China
(c) UK (d) Both (a) and (b)
43. The BioNEST (Bio-Incubator Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) was inaugurated on the occasion of 'National Science Day' in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad
(c) Kolkata (d) Chennai
44. Rashid Khan is associated with which among the following countries cricket team?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan
(c) England (d) Afghanistan
45. Name the Indian shooter, who has won the gold medal with a world record score in a memorable maiden ISSF World Cup 2018 held in Mexico.
(a) Shahzar Rizvi (b) Jitu Rai
(c) Mehuli Ghosh (d) Gagan Narang
46. The first-ever Rashtrakuta Utsav to hail and celebrate the contributions of the Rashtrakuta dynasty to the social, political and cultural life of the land began in:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Kerala
47. The week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF) was inaugurated in:
(a) Telangana (b) Punjab
(c) Uttarakhand (d) Kerala
48. Which of the following US states has become the first state to set up its own net-neutrality requirements?
(a) Washington (b) Florida
(c) Alabama (d) New Jersey
49. Which of the following Indian states has launched Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash programme to mark Panchayat Raj Divas in the state recently?
(a) Goa (b) Uttarakhand
(c) Odisha (d) Arunachal Pradesh
50. For the first time, which of the following countries is participating in biennial get-together of foreign navies, called Milan at Port Blair?

- (a) Uganda (b) New Zealand
(c) Fiji (d) Oman
51. Who is the newly elected Chief Minister of Meghalaya?
(a) Mukul Sangma (b) Conrad Sangma
(c) D. D. Lapang (d) Agatha Sangma
52. Recently, the Priority Sector Lending norms mandate the foreign banks to eventually lend _____ per cent of their total loan book to priority sectors such as agriculture, rural infra, and MSMEs among others from April 2020.
(a) 20 (b) 25
(c) 30 (d) 40
53. Recently, the Centre has announced the formation of a steering committee to examine issues faced by the FinTech industry in India. Who is the chairman of this committee?
(a) Hasmukh Adhia (b) Subhash Chandra Garg
(c) Anil Kumar Sharma (d) Dushyant Katla
54. Recently, the Information & Broadcast and Textiles minister Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the 19th edition of FICCI FRAMES 2018, what is the theme?
(a) Creative Future: Coronation of Digital Consumer
(b) Reimagining India's M & E Sector
(c) Creativity India's Future
(d) Recarving the Generations
55. Which of the following films has won the award for Best Animated Feature Film at 90th Academy Awards recently?
(a) The Boss Baby (b) The Breadwinner
(c) Coco (d) Loving Vincent
56. Who among the following has been named as the new chief minister of Tripura?
(a) Manik Sarkar (b) Sudip Bandopadhyaya
(c) Jishnu Debbarma (d) Biplab Kumar Deb
57. Which of the following countries navy had for the first time appointed a woman as commander of a unit that includes Izumo, the country's biggest warship?
(a) South Korea (b) Thailand
(c) Japan (d) Singapore
58. According to Forbes magazine's annual billionaires list 2018, Jeff Bezos has become the world's richest person. Jeff Bezos is the chief of:
(a) Berkshire Hathaway (b) Alphabet Inc.
(c) Wells Fargo (d) Amazon
59. Recently, India has joined as _____ member of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
(a) 54th (b) 58th (c) 61st (d) 69th
60. In a first, researchers have discovered on alpine plants a rare mineral that holds potential as a new material for industrial and medical applications. What is the name of the mineral?
(a) Nataliyamalikite (b) Stolperite
(c) Vaterite (d) Hollisterite

61. According to UNICEF latest report, which of the following countries constitutes more than 20% of the world's adolescent population and accounts for the highest number of child marriages in South Asia?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Nepal
(c) India (d) Pakistan
62. Who has become the oldest Oscar winner at the 90th Academy Awards?
(a) Steven Spielberg (b) James Ivory
(c) Christopher Nolan (d) Woody Allen
63. International Women's Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 3rd March (b) 5th March
(c) 8th March (d) 11th March
64. Name an exclusive web portal for women entrepreneurs, which has launched by the micro, small and medium enterprises ministry (MSME).
(a) Udyam Sahyogi (b) Udyam Mitra
(c) Udyam Sakhi (d) Udyam Saheli
65. Who among the following has been appointed as the new chief minister of Nagaland by Governor P B Acharya recently?
(a) T. R. Zeliang (b) Neiphiu Rio
(c) Shurhozelie Liezietsu (d) Vamuzo Phesao
66. Recently, the South Central Railway (SCR) management has named which of the following railway stations as the first "all-women railway station" in the zone?
(a) Tirumala (b) Guntur
(c) Chandragiri (d) Vedayapalem
67. Recently, Microsoft announced that it has inked its first-ever renewable energy deal in India, a small solar Power Purchase Agreement with Atria Power in the Indian state of:
(a) Telangana (b) Maharashtra
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka
68. According to the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018, which of the following is the most costliest city in India?
(a) Mumbai (b) Hyderabad
(c) Kolkata (d) New Delhi
69. Which of the following districts is set to become the first district in India to bring all food business operators under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA)?
(a) Kollam (b) Vizag (c) Tirupati (d) Varanasi
70. Which of the following Indian cities is all set to install country's largest solar photovoltaic power capacity of 20 MW over water storage reservoirs?
(a) Lucknow (b) Chandigarh (c) Bilaspur (d) Kanyakumari

71. According to Forbes 'World's Billionaires 2018' list, who is the richest Indian woman among the following?
(a) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (b) Anu Agha
(c) Savitri Jindal (d) Leena Tewari
72. Name the first Indian, who has won the prestigious Pritzker Prize, considered as architecture's Nobel equivalent recently?
(a) Devendra Guha (b) Balkrishna Doshi
(c) Rajesh Marwah (d) Amitendra Kumar
73. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Prime Minister, launched the National Nutrition Mission and Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) at:
(a) Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan) (b) Surat (Gujarat)
(c) Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) (d) Rewa (Madhya Pradesh)
74. Who among the following has been recognised as the 26th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of her exceptional service by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II?
(a) Srishti Bakshi (b) Indu Saxena
(c) Lata Baranwal (d) Sushma Bharadwaj
75. Recently, India's biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market -enTTech 2018 was inaugurated in:
(a) Panaji (b) Mumbai (c) Cochin (d) Hyderabad
76. Who has been appointed as an official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme designed to nurture manufacturing skills in UK by Britain's Prince Charles?
(a) L.N. Mittal (b) Sanjeev Gupta
(c) Srichand Parmanand Hinduja (d) Gopichand Hinduja
77. According to an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance which of the following leading global IT services organization was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world?
(a) Tata Consultancy Services (b) HCL Technologies
(c) Wipro (d) Infosys
78. According to the latest rankings by Airport Service Quality (ASQ) 2017, which of the following Indian airports has been adjudged as the best Airport?
(a) Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airport
(b) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International (RGI) Airport
(d) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport
79. Recently, an international team of physicists have successfully created a "giant atom" and filled it with ordinary atoms, creating a new state of matter termed as:
(a) Aistetic Quadrans (b) Rydberg polarons
(c) Quantum spin liquid (d) Gertliyer Elecrones

80. Recently, JCB announced India's richest literary award of Rs 25 lakh. Who has been roped in as literary director of the JCB Prize for Literature?
(a) Aravind Adiga (b) Chetan Bhagat
(c) Rana Dasgupta (d) Arundhati Bhattacharya
81. India's first ever 'crime-free zone' along international border is launched between India and:
(a) Nepal (b) Myanmar
(c) Bangladesh (d) Bhutan
82. Which of the following Indian states has become the second state after Madhya Pradesh to award death penalty to child rapists recently?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand
(c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat
83. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim is the current president of:
(a) Mauritius (b) Malaysia
(c) Maldives (d) Singapore
84. Who has been signed as the first brand ambassador of Uber, the ridesharing app in India?
(a) Saina Nehwal (b) Deepika Padukone
(c) Virat Kohli (d) Ranveer Kapoor
85. Recently, Haryana's first cyber police station equipped with a digital forensic laboratory was inaugurated in:
(a) Hisar (b) Faridabad
(c) Karnal (d) Gurugram
86. Recently, the first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea, MILES-18, began at the:
(a) Arabian Sea (b) Bay of Bengal
(c) Laccadive Sea (d) Andaman Sea
87. Recently, the largest ever Winter Paralympics were officially opened in:
(a) Pyeongchang, South Korea (b) Tokyo, Japan
(c) Pyongyang, North Korea (d) Moscow, Russia
88. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a two-day National Legislators Conference at:
(a) Vidhan Sabha, Lucknow (b) Vidhan Sabha, Rajasthan
(c) Vidhan Sabha, Delhi (d) Central Hall of Parliament House, New Delhi
89. The first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit was held in:
(a) Lyon (b) New Delhi
(c) Paris (d) Mumbai
90. A Multilateral Air Force exercise, 'Ex Samvedna', is being spearheaded by Indian Air Force and conducted by Southern Air Command in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) Thiruvananthapuram
(c) Vishakhapatnam (d) Chennai

91. 'We-Hub' is the country's first state-led start-up incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs launched in:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Assam
(c) Telangana (d) Kerala
92. India's first national academy to train police forces in effectively safeguarding the Indian shoreline will start functioning from the next month along the _____seafront.
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) West Bengal
(c) Gujarat (d) Karnataka
93. The Communist Party of China has proposed to remove the _____ term limit for the President and Vice-President.
(a) Two (b) Three
(c) Four (d) Five
94. Recently, _____ and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) signed a cooperation arrangement to promote solar energy deployment in Asia and the Pacific.
(a) IMF (b) World Bank
(c) BRICS Bank (d) Asian Development Bank
95. Recently, Researchers from _____ have successfully converted packaging plastic waste to plastic-derived oil (PDO), which has characteristics similar to diesel.
(a) IIT Mumbai (b) IIT Chennai
(c) IIT Kolkata (d) IIT Guwahati
96. Passport details of borrowers taking loans of Rs _____ crore and more have been made mandatory to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.
(a) 25 (b) 50
(c) 100 (d) 500
97. Recently, which among the following countries has won the "Best Exhibitor Award" at 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet'?
(a) China (b) USA
(c) Japan (d) India
98. Which among the following countries has won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2018 held in Malaysia?
(a) India (b) England
(c) Australia (d) China
99. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated a solar power plant in:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Assam
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Kerala
100. The first state in India to set up 'Anand Vibhag', or the happiness department is:
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Goa
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Gujarat

101. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council mandated the use of electronic way (e-way) bills from:
(a) 1 April (b) 1 May
(c) 1 June (d) 1 July
102. Who was the first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal?
(a) Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli (b) Sher Bahadur Deuba
(c) Pushpa Kamal Dahal (d) Ram Baran Yadav
103. Which among the following Indian States has produced the highest quantity of solid waste as on January 31, 2018?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Maharashtra
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Gujarat
104. Name the Indian-origin researcher, who has created a new app and hardware to measure blood pressure accurately.
(a) Subramanyam Sharma (b) Anand Chandrasekhar
(c) Vijay Kumar (d) Vinod Sharma
105. Who has been honoured with the 'Godavari Gaurav' award at an event in Nashik?
(a) Amol Palekar (b) Meena Kumari
(c) Abhay Deol (d) Aamir Ali
106. India's Akhil Sheoran has clinched the gold medal in men's 50 metre rifle 3 position at the ISSF World Cup 2018 held in:
(a) Russia (b) Spain
(c) Mexico (d) Brazil
107. Recently, Union Government has constituted a three-member Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate the dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over sharing the river's water. Who is the chairman of this tribunal?
(a) Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar (b) Justice AM Khanwilkar
(c) Justice Ravi Ranjan (d) Justice Markand Sood
108. The second state in India to have presented an e-budget in the state assembly is:
(a) Manipur (b) Assam
(c) Punjab (d) Uttar Pradesh
109. Which of the following states has become the best performing state both in terms of allotting jobs and utilising funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)?
(a) Odisha (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) West Bengal (d) Maharashtra
110. According to the report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the largest weapons importer in the world over the last five years is:
(a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh
(c) India (d) Germany
111. Who among the following has inaugurated "End TB Summit" at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi recently?
(a) Shri J.P.Nadda (b) Shri Ramnath Kovind
(c) Shri Narendra Modi (d) Smt. Anupriya Patel
112. Recently, Sebastian Pinera has been sworn in as the President of:
(a) Peru (b) Guatemala
(c) Mozambique (d) Chile

113. Which of the following countries was awarded "Best Exhibitor" Award for Australia and Oceania category at the World's Tourism exhibition at "Internationale Tourismus Borse" (ITB) 2018 in Messe, Berlin, Germany?
(a) China (b) Japan
(c) Bhutan (d) India
114. Recently, the first regional conference on 'Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Urban Areas Opportunities and Challenges' began in:
(a) Panaji (b) Kolkata
(c) Mumbai (d) Jaipur
115. Recently, Shri Ramnath Kovind has been conferred with Malagasy Honour of Grand Cross. It is an honour awarded by:
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Madagascar
116. Recently, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat building in:
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Mauritius
(c) Maldives (d) Saudi Arabia
117. The Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the two-day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in:
(a) Srinagar (b) Imphal
(c) Bhubaneswar (d) New Delhi
118. Recently, the Executive Committee which is the Apex body for all Nutrition related activities under theAbhiyaan, held its first meeting to decide on the roadmap for the Mission.
(a) Poshak Tatwa (b) Poshan
(c) Swadhaar (d) Aniwarya
119. Who has been reelected as the President of Nepal for the second term in March 2018?
(a) Bidya Devi Bhandari (b) Kumari Laxmi Rai
(c) Khil Bahadur Regmi (d) Ram Baran Yadav
120. Recently, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____ for enhancing cooperation between the two regulators to ensure better implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)?
(a) State Bank of India (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
121. Recently, the fifth World Ocean Summit 2018 was concluded in:
(a) Chile (b) Canada
(c) Mexico (d) Peru
122. India's first of its kind Sports Literature Festival 'Play Write 2018' has hosted by:
(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru
(c) Chandigarh (d) Kolkata
123. Stephen Hawking has been passed away. He was a renowned:
(a) Botanist (b) Agriculture Scientist
(c) Singer (d) Physicist

124. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched a pilot project for minority Cyber Gram for digital literacy in a minority dominated village Chandauli in Alwar district of:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Rajasthan
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Kerala
125. What is the India in the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's (SDSN) 2018 World Happiness Report?
(a) 103 (b) 120
(c) 130 (d) 133
126. Which among the following is the first state to start using nitrogen gas for capital punishment in the United States?
(a) Oklahoma (b) California
(c) Florida (d) New York
127. The World Bank projected India's GDP growth at _____ per cent for the next financial year.
(a) 6.7 (b) 6.9
(c) 7.3 (d) 7.5
128. Which among the following years is the targeted year to make India Tuberculosis Free country?
(a) 2020 (b) 2022
(c) 2025 (d) 2030
129. Recently, _____ has announced a global cloud observation challenge - inviting citizen scientists to observe and track clouds using their smartphones.
(a) NASA (b) CERN
(c) ISRO (d) JAXA
130. The Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest transport aircraft _____ Globemaster -made a historic landing at Arunachal Pradesh's Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG).
(a) C-15 (b) C-17
(c) C-18 (d) C-19
131. According to the Annual Survey of India's City-System (ASICS) undertaken for 2017 by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (JCCD), which is the best city based on local governance?
(a) Delhi (b) Pune
(c) Chennai (d) Mumbai
132. Who among the following football players has become only the second player to achieve 100 goals in the UEFA Champions League in 2018?
(a) Neymar Jr (b) Lionel Messi
(c) Cristiano Ronaldo (d) Luis Suarez
133. The 2017 Kochon Prize was awarded to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi for building a tradition of excellence in:
(a) TB research and development (b) AIDS research and development
(c) Dengue research and development (d) Cancer research and development
134. Name the cloned Assamese buffalo male calf, which has been born for the first time to a Murrah buffalo.
(a) Sach Pradeep (b) Sach Gaurav
(c) Sach Vishal (d) Sach Bikram

135. A unit "Innovation Cell" will be set up to explore ideas and strengthen innovation efforts in education by:
(a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(b) Human Resource Development
(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
136. Name the Nepal chief justice, who was relieved of his post by the country's judicial council amid dispute over his multiple birth certificates.
(a) Gopal Prasad Parajuli
(b) Sushila Karki
(c) Ram Kumar Prasad Shah
(d) Kalyan Shrestha
137. Who has been elected for fourth term as Chancellor of German recently?
(a) Gerhard Schröder
(b) Helmut Kohl
(c) Helmut Schmidt
(d) Angela Merkel
138. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved continuation of the urea subsidy till _____ year.
(a) 2018
(b) 2019
(c) 2020
(d) 2022
139. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33rd Inception Day and released _____ Mobile App recently.
(a) "Indian Services"
(b) "Citizen Services"
(c) "City Services"
(d) "Work for best Services"
140. What is the present rank of India on the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index?
(a) 45th
(b) 57th
(c) 78th
(d) 91st
141. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 2nd March
(b) 5th March
(c) 12th March
(d) 15th March
142. Which of the following countries scientists have developed an artificial heart using rocket technology?
(a) USA
(b) China
(c) Canada
(d) Russia
143. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 105th Indian Science Congress at:
(a) SRM University, Chennai
(b) Manipur University
(c) National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar
(d) Mumbai University
144. India is set to host International Competition Network Annual Conference for the first time in:
(a) Bengaluru
(b) Hyderabad
(c) New Delhi
(d) Mumbai
145. Recently, the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has announced four countries will be recommended for graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category. Which of the following countries is not included in the list?
(a) Uganda
(b) Bhutan
(c) Sao Tome and Principe
(d) Solomon Islands

146. Recently, Prime Minister Miro Cerar resigned after a key investment project hit a legal obstacle. Miro Cerar was the 10th Prime Minister of:
(a) Kiribati (b) Iceland
(c) Slovenia (d) Slovakia
147. Which among the following has issued a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework to maintain sound financial health of banks?
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) NABARD
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) SEBI
148. Recently, Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of water strider from Indian state of:
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram
(c) Meghalaya (d) Nagaland
149. India's Adhiban Baskaran has clinched the Reykjavik Open title 2018. Reykjavik Open is associated with:
(a) Lawn Tennis (b) Chess
(c) Table Tennis (d) Golf
150. Name the veteran actress, who has been felicitated with a "UK Golden Flame Award" for her contribution to Indian cinema recently.
(a) Jaya Prada (b) Juhi Chawla
(c) Simi Garewal (d) Meenakshi Seshadri
151. Which Indian state assembly has passed a bill to do away with the Anchal Samiti, the intermediate level of the three-tier panchayati raj system?
(a) Assam (b) Nagaland
(c) Manipur (d) Arunachal Pradesh
152. The first Mumbai Edition of Women of India Organic Festival 2018 was organized. This year's theme of the festival is:
(a) "Good for Every Woman"
(b) "Good for Women; Reshape the society"
(c) "Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You"
(d) "Good for India; Good for us"
153. Which Indian state government is to collaborate with the Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services and enhancing preparedness for management of hazards in the State?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) West Bengal
(c) Odisha (d) Kerala
154. Who has become the second woman pilot of Indian Air Force to fly solo in a fighter aircraft recently?
(a) Astha Tewari (b) Sushma Nagia
(c) Alolika Bannerjee (d) Bhawana Kanth
155. _____ has notified the U.N. secretary-general of its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC)?
(a) Uganda (b) Malaysia
(c) Philippines (d) Vietnam

156. The 6th SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave was held in:
(a) Bangladesh (b) Kathmandu
(c) Port Louis (d) Thimphu
157. The first ever Global Recycling Day is observed on:
(a) 15th March (b) 9th March
(c) 18th March (d) 12th March
158. Which of the following has been declared as Kerala's official fruit from 21st March 2018?
(a) Carambola (b) Jackfruit
(c) Ambarella (d) Mangustaan
159. Recently, the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) to recognise and reward innovations was opened up in:
(a) PragatiMaidan (b) RashtrapatiBhawan
(c) Delhi VidhanSabha (d) Central Hall, Parliament
160. Recently, President Ram NathKovind has released commemorative coins in denominations of `10 and `1000 on Nabakalebara festival. Nabakalebara festival is observed at:
(a) Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh (b) Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh
(c) Puri, Odisha (d) Dwarka, Gujarat
161. Recently, China has selected American-trained economist Yi Gang to become the country's new:
(a) Prime Minister (b) Vice President
(c) Central Bank Governor (d) Speaker of National Assembly
162. According to a document submitted by the ministry of health and family welfare in the Lok Sabha. Which of the following Indian states has topped the list of biomedical waste generated in the country daily?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Maharashtra (d) Rajasthan
163. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 survey, which of the following cities has been dubbed the world's most expensive city to live in?
(a) Paris (b) Singapore (c) New York (d) Los Angeles
164. According to a study by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) which of the following countries is India's biggest arms seller?
(a) USA (b) Israel (c) Germany (d) Russia
165. Recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin stormed to victory in presidential election, giving him another six years in power. This will be Vladimir Putin _____ term as president of Russia.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth
166. In March 2018, Representatives from 50 countries have gathered for an informal World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting organized in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad
167. Recently, Monkey Business a first of its kind co-working space in south Asia that provides onsite childcare was launched in India in:
(a) Surat (b) Gurugram (c) Patna (d) Faridabad

168. Name ISRO's first woman scientist who spent over 403 days in Antarctica?
(a) AnanyaSubramaniam (b) AbhilashaSaini
(c) Mangala Mani (d) AlankritaSrivastava
169. The first National workshop on POSHAN Abhiyaan involving all the states and union territories is being held at PravasiBharatiya Kendra, New Delhi. Which of the following ministries is organising the day long workshop?
(a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development (d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
170. The bilateral exercise 'Varuna' is held between navies of India and which country?
(a) France (b) Germany (c) USA (d) Australia
171. The First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction was inaugurated by:
(a) Shri Ram NathKovind(b) ShriNarendraModi
(c) Dr. Rajiv Kumar (d) ShriNripendra Mishra
172. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is to set up India's first offshore wind turbines in:
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Puducherry
173. Which of the following cricket teams clinched maiden Irani Cup title recently?
(a) Railways (b) Vidarbha (c) India B (d) Rest of India
174. World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness of the house sparrow every year on:
(a) 16th March (b) 17th March (c) 20th March (d) 21st March
175. Recently, which of the following has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd?
(a) Ministry of Culture (b) Ministry of Railways (c) Ministry of Defence (d) Ministry of Mines
176. Name the Canadian mathematician, who has won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory.
(a) Yves Meyer (b) Robert Langlands (c) John Torrence Tate (d) Sir Andrew J. Wiles
177. The first-ever joint naval exercise 'Gulf Star 1' is between India and which of the following countries?
(a) Bahrain (b) UAE (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Qatar
178. The Kishanganga hydro-electric project (HEP) of NHPC has commissioned by BHEL in:
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Assam
179. Recently, the Supreme Court has capped the fee charged by High Courts for responding to queries filed under the RTI Act at _____ per application.
(a) 20 rupees (b) 50 rupees (c) 100 rupees (d) 500 rupees
180. Recently, which of the following Indian state governments has approved the separate religion status for the Lingayat community?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat
181. The 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held in 2019 from 3rd to 7th January at:
(a) BabasahebBhimraoAmbedkar University, Lucknow
(b) Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar
(c) Barkatullah University in Bhopal
(d) JamiaMilliaIslamia, New Delhi

182. According to an annual survey from consulting firm Mercer, which of the following cities has the best quality of life in the world?
(a) Tokyo (b) Vienna (c) Paris (d) Brussels
183. Name the world's last male northern white rhino, which has died after age-related complications recently.
(a) Sudan (b) Romeo (c) Thomas (d) Jacky
184. The world's fastest wind tunnel is being built in:
(a) India (b) China (c) USA (d) France
185. HtinKyaw is associated with which of the following countries?
(a) Nepal (b) China (c) Myanmar (d) Malaysia
186. Smart India Hackathon 2018 scheduled to be held simultaneously at 28 different nodal centers across India. Which is the nodal centre for Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology?
(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Mumbai (d) Bhopal
187. The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. _____ per family per year.
(a) 2 lakh (b) 3 lakh (c) 5 lakh (d) 6 lakh
188. _____ has been ranked 22nd in the world and eighth in Asia in the top destination for 2018, Travellers' Choice awards for Destinations by TripAdvisor.
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Pune (d) Hyderabad
189. Which among the following countries has launched its first space agency in March 2018?
(a) Vietnam (b) Spain (c) Denmark (d) Greece
190. Which among the following has been adjudged as best design pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress?
(a) Indian Railways (b) NHAI (c) Civil Aviation (d) All of the above
191. India Post paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist _____ by issuing a special cover on him in March 2018.
(a) C. R. Raman (b) Stephen Hawking
(c) HomiJehangirBhabha (d) Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar
192. International World Water Day is held every year on:
(a) 20 March (b) 21 March (c) 22 March (d) 23 March
193. Recently, the Parliament passed the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill which will increase the ceiling of tax-free gratuity amount to _____ lakh from present Rs 10 lakh.
(a) Rs 12.5 lakh (b) Rs 15 lakh (c) Rs 20 lakh (d) Rs 25 lakh
194. Who has been re-elected as the Vice-President of Nepal for the second term unopposed?
(a) Pushpa Kamal Dahal (b) Nanda Bahadur Pun
(c) ParmanandJha (d) Bidhya Devi Bhandari
195. Recently, India successfully test fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with an indigenous 'seeker' and it is enhancing the country's capability to hit enemy targets at a range of up to _____ Kilometres.
(a) 200 (b) 300 (c) 400 (d) D.500

196. Who has been elected as the country's first Leader of Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan recently?
(a) Salma Rashid (b) Sherry Rehman (c) Gulnaz Haider (d) Shaista Nazmul
197. Recently, the Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the opening of new Indian missions in _____ African countries.
(a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 18 (d) 24
198. Recently, President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has announced resignation ahead of scheduled impeachment against him. He was the President of:
(a) Chile (b) Argentina (c) Peru (d) Italy
199. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on:
(a) 18 March (b) 19 March
(c) 21 March (d) 22 March
200. Name the Indian shooter, who shattered the qualification world record in 10-meter women's air rifle event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup held in Sydney.
(a) Natasha Senthil (b) Elavenil Valarivan
(c) Sushmita Renson (d) Rumalia Dhar
201. Which among the following North Indian cities has become the first city to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for traffic management?
(a) Chandigarh (b) New Delhi (c) Agra (d) Amritsar
202. The Union Government has decided to declare 2018 as:
(a) National Year of Yoga (b) National Year of Millets
(c) National Year of Farmers (d) National Year of Wheat
203. Saudi Arabia opened its airspace for the first time to a commercial flight to _____ with the inauguration of an Air India route between New Delhi and Tel Aviv.
(a) Israel (b) Qatar (c) UAE (d) Jordan
204. The first Indian State to declare Internet as a basic human right is:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Kerala
205. Martin Vizcarra has been sworn in as the new president of:
(a) Spain (b) Norway (c) Peru (d) Chile
206. According to the latest survey by Skytrax, which among the following airports has been named "world's best airport" for the sixth consecutive year?
(a) Singapore's Changi International Airport (b) India's India Gandhi International Airport
(c) Hong Kong International Airport (d) California International Airport
207. Which among the following has received the "Most Informative Pavilion" award in the Pride of India Expo at the 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) held in Manipur?
(a) DRDO (b) ISRO
(c) BARC (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
208. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on:
(a) 20 March (b) 22 March (c) 23 March (d) 24 March

209. The first International Exhibition of Graphic Prints 'Print Biennale India 2018' has inaugurated in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Chandigarh (d) Bhopal
210. The Government of India has decided to nominate Professor _____ as India's representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO.
(a) J S Rajput (b) Ravi Verma (c) Sagar Kumar (d) C.R.Rao
211. Which among the following airports has received the award for the 'Most Improved Airport' in the Asia Pacific region, in Airport Service Quality awards 2017?
(a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (b) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(c) J.L. Nehru International Airport (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
212. Name the ship, which has inherited the title of world's largest cruise ship in March 2018.
(a) Royal Caribbean (b) USS Arizona (c) RMS Titanic (d) RMS Queen Mary
213. Telecom operators Vodafone India and _____ announced the leadership team for their merged entity with Kumar Mangalam Birla as the non-executive chairman.
(a) Tata Docomo (b) Idea Cellular (c) Bharati Airtel (d) BSNL
214. The SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 was held in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad
215. A scaffold made of silk composite functionalised with copper-doped bioactive glass to facilitate faster bone regeneration has been developed by researchers at:
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai
(b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Chennai
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru
(d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati
216. Who among the following will be Indian contingent's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games?
(a) PV Sindhu (b) K.Srikanth (c) Saina Nehwal (d) Sania Mirza
217. Who has won the Asian Billiards Championships title 2018?
(a) B Bhaskar (b) Pankaj Advani (c) Vinod Kumar (d) Jeanette Lee
218. Name the Indian shooter, who has shattered the world record and claimed the gold medal in 10m women's air rifle event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup held in Sydney.
(a) Natasha Senthil (b) Sushmita Renson
(c) Elavenil Valarivan (d) Rumalia Dhar
219. In which of the following Indian states cattle have been stamped with unique identities, similar to the 12-digit Aadhaar number, to enhance their safety as well as increase milk production?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Bihar (d) Rajasthan
220. Recently, Asia's largest Tulip garden was opened on the banks of:
(a) Sambhar lake (b) Dal lake
(c) Chilka lake (d) Loktak Lake

221. The maiden bi-lateral Navy Exercise 2018 (IMNEX-18) was held between:
(a) India and Indonesia (b) India and Thailand
(c) India and Myanmar (d) India and Malaysia
222. Which of the following dates will be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day' across the nation"?
(a) 11th April (b) 13th April
(c) 14th April (d) 18th April
223. Recently, South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF) has received the Frederick Pincott Award 2017 for promoting Hindi cinema for the last 18 years. This organisation is based in:
(a) Durban (b) London
(c) Paris (d) Hongkong
224. Which of the following cricket teams has won World Cup 2018 qualifying tournament at the Harare Sports Club?
(a) West Indies (b) Ireland
(c) Scotland (d) Afghanistan
225. Which of the following Indian cities has hosted the first World Series Boxing clash?
(a) Chandigarh (b) Lucknow
(c) Rohtak (d) Hyderabad
226. Name the NRI entrepreneur, who has won the 'Business Personality of the year 2018' award in the UK for a high level of commitment and enthusiasm in leading his business to success.
(a) Laxmi Nivas Mittal (b) Amarendra Sahu
(c) Lalji Verma (d) Joginder Sanger
227. Which of the following districts has become the first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC)?
(a) Lucknow (b) Surat
(c) Vadodara (d) Varanasi
228. Recently, India has overtaken _____ to become the fourth largest automobile market in the world.
(a) France (b) Russia
(c) Japan (d) Germany
229. Recently, who has been appointed as principle scientific adviser to the government of India?
(a) Anoop Chandra (b) Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan
(c) Anish Wadhwa (d) Rajagopala Chidambaram
230. The Centre will soon install 'Justice Clocks' LED message display boards in _____ high courts to show the daily rate of disposal of cases, the number of pending cases and the individual rank of each of these courts.
(a) 10 (b) 14
(c) 17 (d) 24
231. Recently, State-owned BHEL has won its largest solar photovoltaic project till date for setting up a 75 MW power plant in:
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Telangana
232. The RBI is set to roll out a coin of Rs 350 denomination to mark the 350th Birth Anniversary of:
(a) Shri Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Akbar (b) Shri Guru Angad Dev Ji
(c) Shri Ranjit Singh Ji (d) Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

233. International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed every year on:
(a) 18th March (b) 23rd March
(c) 25th March (d) 27th March
234. Which of the following teams has won its first National title in five years, in the final of the 8th men's National hockey championships?
(a) Railways (b) Haryana
(c) Punjab (d) Petroleum Sports Promotion Board
235. India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre is to come up in:
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan
(c) Maharashtra (d) Goa
236. Which of the following Indian cities will host the 8th 3R Regional Forum in Asia and the Pacific?
(a) Bhopal (b) Indore
(c) Jaipur (d) Nagpur
237. Recently, Ministry of Communications has launched the Cool EMS Service. Cool EMS service is one-way service from:
(a) China (b) Japan
(c) USA (d) Singapore
238. According to a report by India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) for financial year 2016, which country is the largest producer of electricity in the world?
(a) USA (b) China
(c) Brazil (d) India
239. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Ethiopia in March 2018?
(a) Abiye Ahmed (b) Tamrat Layne
(c) Meles Zenawi (d) Hailemariam Desalegn
240. Which of the following Indian states has launched the 'Mission Sambhav' campaign that aims at spreading the message of toilet construction in 33 districts of the state?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar
(c) Assam (d) West Bengal
241. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM) recently?
(a) Gautam Singhania (b) Samar Narayan Makhar
(c) Indu Bhushan (d) Aditya Kulshreshtha
242. Which of the following Bollywood actress-producer has been featured in the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2018 list recently?
(a) Katrina Kaif (b) Shraddha Kapoor
(c) Anushka Sharma (d) Alia Bhatt
243. Recently, India's first insect museum is opened in:
(a) Kerala (b) Maharashtra
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh

244. World Theatre Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 23rd March (b) 25th March
(c) 27th March (d) 28th March
245. Which of the following countries has celebrated completion of the first-ever nuclear power plant in the whole Arab Gulf region recently?
(a) Oman (b) Qatar
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
246. Recently, Ministry of Women and Child Development has held the First National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses in:
(a) Gurugram (b) Pune
(c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai
247. Union Food Processing Industries Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the first mega food park of Rajasthan in:
(a) Jaipur (b) Jodhpur
(c) Bikaner (d) Ajmer
248. Who has been elected as the new President of Myanmar in March 2018?
(a) Aung San Suu Kyi (b) Win Myint
(c) Hitin Kyaw (d) Roland Martuga
249. Recently, the NITI Aayog has launched the baseline ranking for 115 aspirational districts based on _____ indicators across five sectors.
(a) 21 (b) 29 (c) 38 (d) 49
250. Smart India Hackathon is the World's largest Nation-Building Digital Initiative organized by:
(a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
(d) Ministry of Human Resource Development
251. Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed \$80 million loan to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in which of the following Indian states?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Assam
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
252. Which of the following Indian cricketers wax figure is to be the latest addition at the Madame Tussauds Delhi?
(a) Shikhar Dhawan (b) Virat Kohli
(c) Rohit Sharma (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
253. Recently, Scientists have discovered a hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet orbiting a dwarf star located 260 million light years away. What is the name of the discovered planet?
(a) Ross 128 b (b) HD 131399Ab
(c) K2-229b (d) RH 345678 NH
254. According to NITI Aayog released baseline ranking for 101 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across five sectors, which is the most backward district of the country?
(a) Kota (b) Mewat (c) Gonda (d) Chandrapore

255. The Central government will now _____ fund the development projects in the Northeast region.
(a) 70% (b) 100%
(c) 90% (d) 75%
256. Who among the following has been appointed as first woman political affairs chief of United Nations?
(a) Abigail Johnson (b) Gini Rometty
(c) Rosemary Di Carlo (d) Ana Patricia Botin
257. Who among has been re-elected for a second term as President of Egypt recently?
(a) Hosni Mubarak (b) Mohamed Morsi
(c) Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (d) Anwar Sadat
258. On which of the following banks, the highest penalty has imposed by RBI for a single incident recently?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Yes Bank
(c) Axis Bank (d) ICICI Bank
259. Which of the following Indian states government has come up with a mobile application to market rare chicken breed the "Kadaknath"?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh
(c) Haryana (d) Punjab
260. Recently, India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F08) successfully launched _____ Satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
(a) GSAT-2E (b) GSAT-6A
(c) GSAT- 3C (d) GSAT-7F
261. Who among the following has been appointed as chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards?
(a) Karan Johar (b) Aditya Chopra
(c) Shekhar Kapur (d) Farhan Akhtar
262. Who has become the first Indian woman to win ISSF World Cup medal in skeet event recently?
(a) Kulvinder Maahra (b) Sukhvinder Dhillon
(c) Ganemat Sekhon (d) Keerti Nadar
263. Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a 10.30-km-long elevated road, touted to be the longest of its kind in:
(a) Noida (b) Lucknow
(c) Kanpur (d) Ghaziabad
264. Recently, Shri R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) in:
(a) Manipur (b) Jammu & Kashmir
(c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh
265. According to the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18, which of the following Indian states have topped list of states with 100% of households do not practice open defecation?
(a) Kerala and Sikkim (b) Tamil Nadu and Kerala
(c) Maharashtra and Manipur (d) Kerala and Mizoram

266. Scientists have discovered a new human organ that could help scientists better understand its impact on diseases such as cancer. Name the newly discovered organ?
- (a) Mesentery (b) Interstitium
(c) Anudtries (d) Cultiber
267. Which of the following Indian states will host Asia's largest startup conclave in April 2018?
- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Maharashtra
(c) Kerala (d) Goa
268. NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of:
- (a) Moon (b) Jupiter
(c) Mars (d) Saturn
269. Who has been appointed as the new director general of the National Testing Agency in March 2018?
- (a) Amogh Paliwal (b) Vivek Naipaul
(c) Arjun Ranawat (d) Vineet Joshi
270. Recently, India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at Dabhol in:
- (a) Gujarat (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Maharashtra (d) Odisha



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a Union Minister of Civil Aviation P Ashok GajapathiRaju inaugurated the country's first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre at Chandigarh Airport's old terminal, Chandigarh. The centre, which is a CSR initiative of Airports Authority of India (AAI), will initially train 2,360 students free of cost in three years.
2. a The Defence Ministry has started the process to set up the country's first defence industrial corridor linking Chennai with four other cities of Tamil Nadu to promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipment.
3. a India is ranked 47th out of 86 countries when it comes to inclusive Internet and connectivity for all, a Facebook report. Facebook, which commissioned the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to create a comprehensive "Inclusive Internet Index," found India in the middle of Asian countries (12th out of 23) when it comes to connectivity.
4. d Moody's Investors Service the Indian economy is starting to recover from the negative impact of demonetisation and disruption caused by the GST roll-out, but kept GDP growth estimates unchanged at 7.6 per cent for 2018.
5. b The Reserve Bank of India has raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to \$100 million across all currency pairs involving the Indian rupee.
6. b Superhero-anime is the mascot for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
7. b Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) NAG, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), were successfully flight tested at Pokhran's field firing range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan against two tank targets at different ranges and timings.
8. d The Chilika Lake in Odisha has emerged as the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world with the spotting of 155 such animals, according to the Chilika Development Authority (CDA).
9. c National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Sir ChandrashekharaVenkata Raman on 28 February 1928.
10. b The world's largest solar park, Shakti Sthala, has a capacity of 2,000 MW and has set up at an investment of Rs16, 500 crore at Pavagada in Karnataka's Tumakuru district.
11. d The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra, M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Village Degaon, District Satarawas inaugurated. This is the 12th Mega Food Park operationalized in the country so far and the 10th operationalized during the tenure of present government.
12. b Pakistan confirmed that it will be on the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in June but disputed claims of being put on a 'black list'.
13. a According to Rosatom, India, Bangladesh and Russia signed an agreement to allow Indian firms in construction and installation works in the "non-critical" category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project in northwest Bangladesh. This will also be the first time Indian companies will be able to participate in a nuclear power project abroad. India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and hence cannot participate directly in construction of atomic power reactors.
14. d With 31 new Indians on the list, India comes third after China and USA on Hurun's Global Rich List 2018. However, China with 819 names and USA with 571 are way ahead in terms of number of billionaires. China, has catapulted in the competition, leaving its competitor USA far behind. Last year the numbers were neck-to-neck at 534 and 535 billionaires respectively.
15. d India has regained the world's fastest growing major economy tag with the GDP at 7.2 per cent for October-December quarter, compared to China's 6.8 per cent, according to the latest report released by Central Statistical Office (CSO).

16. a The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and creation of one post of Chairperson, three posts of full-time Members and one post of Secretary for NFRA.
17. a British telecom major Vodafone plans to create the first 4G network on the moon to support a mission by PT Scientists in 2019. "The moon will get 4G coverage next year, 50 years after the first NASA astronauts walked on its surface. The company has appointed Nokia as its technology partner for the 4G network.
18. b Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated by the UN and other international organisations. The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN. The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014, and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé on 27 February of that year with a major event in Beijing.
19. a The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance to introduce the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 in Parliament. The cases where the total value involved in such offences is Rs.100 crore or more will come under the purview of this Bill.
20. c INSV Tarini entered Cape Town, South Africa during its maiden voyage to circumnavigate the globe. This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The vessel is skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, and the crew comprises Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.
21. b Senior diplomat Vinay Kumar has been appointed as India's ambassador to strategically key Afghanistan, succeeding incumbent Manpreet Vohra.
22. d United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March, the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. World Wildlife Day is celebrated in 2018 under the theme "Big cats: predators under threat".
23. a Minister for Science and Technology M.R. Seetharam has inaugurated the India's first 3D Swami Vivekananda Planetarium at the Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Nisargadhama in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
24. d The Union Cabinet has identified 12 sectors have been identified as Champion Services Sectors to promote their development and realize their potential, which will be supported by a special fund of 5,000 crore rupees.
25. d The Trump administration has told the Congress that India in December "blocked" a ministerial declaration reaffirming the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO. The four-day conference of the 164-member World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Argentina had ended without a ministerial declaration or any substantive outcome in December.
26. b The Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.7 per cent in the current financial year and 7.5 per cent in 2018-19, according to the economic think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
27. b An Indian-American scientist has been awarded a grant of over USD 1.1 million for his ground-breaking research on cancer. Navin Vardarajan, along with another University of Houston researcher Sanghyuk Chung were awarded huge grants by Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), an organisation that funds pioneering cancer research and prevention programmes in the state.
28. c NASA Astronomers have detected a large amount of water in the atmosphere of a hot, Saturn-mass exoplanet some 700 light-years away. The planet known as WASP-39b has three times as much water as Saturn does.
29. a Researchers at the University of South Florida have for the first time discovered a sketch of a 100-feet sculpture, touted as the world's tallest, envisioned by renowned artist Pablo Picasso.
30. a Veteran Para Swimmer Prasanta Karmakar was slapped with a three-year suspension by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for alleged harassment of female swimmers during the National Para Swimming Championship in Jaipur last year.

31. a The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, DrJitendra Singh launched the social media of "Namaste Shalom", a magazine devoted to India-Israel relations in New Delhi.
32. c Armenia's parliament has elected ArmenSarkissian as the country's new president in a vote that is meant to herald the start of a power shift to the country's prime minister and parliament.
33. b KirshnaKumariKolhi from Pakistan's Sindh province has become the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator in the Muslim-majority country, KirshnaKumariKolhi from Pakistan's Sindh province has become the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator in the Muslim-majority country. Earlier, PPP had elected first Hindu woman named RatnaBhagwandasChawla as a senator.
34. c Actor-politician ShatrughanSinha has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in the UK's Parliament complex.
35. a Paytm is the largest contributor to the overall volume of UPI transactions in February 2018. This is within two months after the full roll-out in January.
36. b A team of astronomers including an Indian graduate student Nivedita Mahesh from Arizona State University have discovered for the first time signals from "cosmic dawn" - the moment when the universe's earliest stars emerged, making a significant breakthrough in our understanding of the evolution of cosmos.
37. a The Indian combine of PankajAdvani and Manan Chandra staged a remarkable recovery to beat Pakistan in the final of the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup. India beat Pakistan by 3-2 in the best-of-five final.
38. b NavjotKaur produced a dominating performance in the final of the women's 65 kg freestyle category to clinch the gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. In the process, NavjotKaur became the first Indian woman has stood at the top of the podium at the senior Asian Wrestling Championships.
39. a India's military is placed fourth on a global index that has ranked 133 countries on the basis of their global military prowess, trailing behind only the US, Russia and China in that order. India's western neighbour Pakistan ranks 13 on the Global Firepower (GFP) list 2017.
40. c The tiny Marshall Islands is creating its own digital currency in order to raise some hard cash to pay bills and boost the economy. The Pacific island nation became the first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency as its legal tender when it passed a law this past week to create the digital "Sovereign" or SOV.
41. a The two populist parties that won major upsets in the Italian election - the Five Star Movement (M5S) and the League (La Liga) - are in a race to be the first to try to form a majority government after the election produced a hung parliament. Sergio Mattarella is serving as the 12th and current President of Italy since 2015.
42. d Global oil trade routes are moving East, according to the International Energy Agency's Oil 2018, the five-year market analysis and forecast. "Global oil trade routes are moving East, as China and India replace the United States as top oil importers," according to the IEA.
43. b To facilitate start-ups and entrepreneurship ventures, a large Bio-Incubator with 20,000 sq ft area, has been launched in the University of Hyderabad (UoH). The BioNEST (Bio-Incubator Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) was inaugurated on the occasion of 'National Science Day' by G Padmanabhan, former Director, Indian Institute of Science.
44. d At 19 years and 165 days of age, highly-rated Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, the No. 1 Twenty20 International bowler became the youngest captain in the history of international cricket.
45. a Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi clinched the gold medal with a world record score in a memorable maiden ISSF World Cup appearance, while Jitu Rai and Mehuli Ghosh bagged a bronze each in Guadalajara, Mexico.
46. b The first-ever Rashtrakuta Utsav to hail and celebrate the contributions of the Rashtrakuta dynasty to the social, political and cultural life of the land began at the historical Malkhed village in Sedam taluk, Kalaburagi district, Karnataka.

47. c Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on March 1 inaugurated the week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF) international yoga festival in Rishikesh's Parmarth Niketan.
48. a Washington became the first state to set up its own net-neutrality requirements after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules that banned internet providers from blocking content or interfering with online traffic.
49. c Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a new programme for the rural people on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Divas in the state and sanctioned development projects worth Rs 2 crore.
50. d For the first time, Oman is also participating in navies exercise called Milan at Port Blair.
51. b Conrad Sangma is an Indian politician who is the Chief Minister-elect of the State of Meghalaya.
52. d The PSL norms mandate foreign banks to eventually lend 40 per cent of their total loan book to priority sectors such as agriculture, rural infra, and MSMEs among others from April 2020.
53. b The new committee will be chaired by Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and will examine various issues pertaining to the FinTech space.
54. a The Information & Broadcast and Textiles minister Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the 19th edition of FICCI FRAMES 2018 themed Creative Future: Coronation of Digital Consumer.
55. c 'Coco' wins award for Best Animated Feature Film.
56. d The BJP's Biplab Kumar Deb has been named the new chief minister of Tripura.
57. c The Japanese Navy had for the first time appointed a woman as commander of a unit that includes Izumo, the country's biggest warship. Ryoko Azuma, will command four warships making up a division with a total of 1,000 crew members.
58. d Amazon chief Jeff Bezos is now the world's richest person, having snatched the top spot from Microsoft founder Bill Gates who slips to second place.
59. d India has got the go-ahead to join the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), after shareholders of the London-based multilateral lender agreed to the country becoming its 69th member, enabling Indian companies to undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates.
60. c The mineral vaterite, a form of calcium carbonate, is a dominant component of the protective silvery-white crust that forms on the leaves of a number of alpine plants, according to the study published in the journal Flora.
61. c "India constitutes more than 20% of the world's adolescent population and accounts for the highest number of child marriages in South Asia given its size and population,".
62. b Filmmaker James Ivory, who once worked closely with late Indian star Shashi Kapoor, became the oldest Oscar winner at 89 for his adapted screenplay for Call Me By Your Name.
63. c International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.
64. c The micro, small and medium enterprises ministry (MSME) is all set to launch an exclusive web portal for women entrepreneurs. "Udyam Sakhi" is a one-of-its-kind initiative in the country.
65. b Senior NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio was appointed the new chief minister of Nagaland by Governor P B Acharya and would be sworn in here on March 8.
66. c Ahead of the International Women's Day, the South Central Railway (SCR) management has named the little-known Chandragiri station near Tirupati as the "all-women railway station" in the zone.

67. d Microsoft announced that it has inked its first-ever renewable energy deal in India, a small solar Power Purchase Agreement with Atria Power in the Indian state of Karnataka. Microsoft confirmed that it had signed its first renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in India.
68. a Mumbai ranks 16th among the top 20 costliest cities in the world, showed the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018. The rise in Indian financial capital's ranking on this count is supported by the rapid wealth creation in the country.
69. a By issuing licence to over 90% of entrepreneurs in food production, sales and distribution, Kollam is set to become the first district in India to bring all food business operators under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA).
70. b In its endeavour to make Chandigarh first renewable city, the Chandigarh administration is all set to install country's largest solar photovoltaic power capacity of 20 MW over water storage reservoirs.
71. c Among the Indian women, Savitri Jindal and family is the richest with a fortune of \$8.8 billion. She is ranked 176th globally. Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is the second richest. She is India's richest self-made woman with a fortune of \$3.6 billion.
72. b Architect Balkrishna Doshi, a pioneer of low-cost housing design, won the prestigious Pritzker Prize, considered architecture's Nobel equivalent. He is the 45th Pritzker laureate and the first from India.
73. a On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Nutrition Mission and Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) covering all 640 districts of the Country at a mega event held at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.
74. a Britain's Queen Elizabeth II recognised Srishti Bakshi from India as the 26th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of her exceptional service to empowering women in India.
75. b India's biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market - eTTEch 2018 was inaugurated in Mumbai.
76. b Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta has been appointed by Britain's Prince Charles as an official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme designed to nurture manufacturing skills.
77. a Leading global IT services organisation, Tata Consultancy Services was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance.
78. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has been adjudged as the best Airport, according to the latest rankings by Airport Service Quality (ASQ) 2017. The list was released by Airport Council International.
79. b An international team of physicists have successfully created a "giant atom" and filled it with ordinary atoms, creating a new state of matter termed "Rydberg polarons".
80. c Award-winning novelist and essayist Rana Dasgupta has been roped in as literary director of the JCB Prize for Literature.
81. c In a first for India and Bangladesh, the director generals of the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) declared an 8.3 km stretch of the Indo-Bangladesh border as a 'crime-free zone'.
82. c Rajasthan assembly passed an amendment bill awarding death penalty for convicts involved in the rape of girls below 12 years of age.
83. a Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim will step down soon after she was accused of using a credit card issued by an international non-governmental organisation to buy clothes and jewellery.
84. c Uber, the ridesharing app, has signed on Virat Kohli, captain of the Indian Cricket team, as its first brand ambassador in India.
85. d Haryana's first cyber police station, equipped with a digital forensic laboratory, was inaugurated in Gurugram.

86. d The first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea, MILES-18, began at the Andaman sea. 11 naval ships of 8 countries and nine Indian ships are participating in the three-day exercise.
87. a The largest ever Winter Paralympics were officially opened in freezing conditions at the Olympic Stadium in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
88. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a two-day National Legislators Conference at the Central Hall of Parliament House in New Delhi.
89. b The first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit ended successfully with a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications between the two countries and a record 15 other MoUs between universities and research institutions on joint initiatives and partnerships. The two-day summit was held in New Delhi and coincided with the state visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India.
90. b A Multilateral Air Force exercise, 'Ex Samvedna', is being spearheaded by Indian Air Force and conducted by Southern Air Command (SAC) from 12-17 Mar 18. 'Samvedna' means 'Empathy' and will ensure better understanding and sharing of response procedures between a number of friendly neighbouring nations. The Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force is headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
91. c A start-up incubator was launched by the Telangana government on the occasion of International Women's Day to exclusively promote entrepreneurship among women. The facility, named We-Hub, is the country's first state-led incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
92. c India's first national academy to train police forces in effectively safeguarding the Indian shoreline will start functioning from the next month along the Gujarat seafloor.
93. a The Communist Party of China has proposed to remove the two-term limit for the President and Vice-President. The constitutional amendment will remove the hurdle for Xi, 64, to become China's leader-for-life.
94. d The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) signed a cooperation arrangement to promote solar energy deployment in Asia and the Pacific.
95. d Researchers from IIT Guwahati have successfully converted packaging plastic waste to plastic-derived oil (PDO), which has characteristics similar to diesel.
96. b Passport details of borrowers taking loans of Rs 50 crore and more have been made mandatory to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.
97. d India has won the "Best Exhibitor Award" at ITB - Berlin. 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany from 7th March to 10th March, 2018.
98. c England were beaten 2-1 by Australia in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup final held in Malaysia.
99. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated a solar power plant in Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh.
100. c The 'happiness quotient' of people became a global talking point when Bhutan came out with a 'happiness index' and linked it to development, which is otherwise based on GDP numbers. Madhya Pradesh had set up the country's first 'Anand Vibhag' or the happiness department, in 2016. Now, it is launching an exercise to interact with the people of the State and find out how happy they were.
101. a The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council mandated the use of electronic way (e-way) bills from April to track inter-state movement of goods but deferred a decision on a simplified return filing process due to lack of consensus.

102. a Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli sailed through a vote of confidence with two-thirds majority, the first such feat for a ruling alliance since the restoration of democracy, with support from two Madhesi parties. He was the first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal
103. b At 22,570 tpd, Maharashtra produced the highest quantity of solid waste as on January 31, out of which 7,900 tpd or 35 per cent was processed.
104. b To get the accuracy of cuff devices and the convenience of mobile device apps, a team led by an Indian-origin researcher, Anand Chandrasekhar has created a new app and hardware to measure blood pressure.
105. a Noted actor Amol Palekar was honoured with the 'Godavari Gaurav' award at an event in Nashik. The actor, known for his performance in films like "Gol Maal" , "Choti Si Baat", "Chitchor" among others, was presented with the award, which has been instituted by city-based 'Kusumagraj Prathishthan'.
106. c India's Akhil Sheoran has clinched the gold medal in men's 50 metre rifle 3 position at the ISSF World Cup in Mexico.
107. b Supreme Court Judge AM Khanwilkar will be the Chairman of the tribunal, with Justice Ravi Ranjan of the Patna High Court and Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar of the Delhi High Court being the other two members.
108. b After Andhra Pradesh, Assam has become the second state to have an e-budget, but unlike the other state, Assam budget is available in Google Play Store so that anybody can access it.
109. c West Bengal has become the best performing State both in terms of allotting jobs and utilising funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
110. c India continued to be the largest weapons importer in the world over the last five years and arms exports from the United States to the country jumped 557% in 2013-17 as compared to 2008-12.
111. d The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated End TB Summit at Vigyan Bhawan in the capital. The Summit was co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and Stop TB Partnership.
112. d Sebastian Pinera, Conservative billionaire sworn in as Chile's President.
113. d India, was awarded "Best Exhibitor" Award for Australia and Oceania category at the World's Tourism exhibition at "Internationale Tourismus Borse" (ITB) 2018 in Messe, Berlin, Germany.
114. b The first regional conference on 'Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Urban Areas - Opportunities and Challenges' began in Kolkata.
115. d Mr. Kovind has been conferred with Malagasy Honour of Grand Cross. In the first ever visit of any Indian VVIP to Madagascar; President Kovind held talks with President Hery Rajaonarimampianina and Prime Minister Oliver Mahafaly Solonandrasana.
116. b The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat building on the third day of his visit to Mauritius.
117. d Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the two-day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, IACP in New Delhi.
118. b The Executive Committee which is the Apex body for all Nutrition related activities under the POSHAN Abhiyaan, held its first meeting to decide on the roadmap for the Mission.
119. a Nepal's first woman president Bidya Devi Bhandari was reelected for a second term in office.

120. b The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for enhancing cooperation between the two regulators to ensure better implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
121. c The fifth World Ocean Summit was held at Riviera Maya, Mexico
122. c Chandigarh has hosted Play Write 2018, India's first of its kind Sports Literature Festival on March 17-18.
123. d Physicist Stephen Hawking passed away.
124. b The Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has launched a pilot project for minority Cyber Gram for digital literacy in a minority dominated village Chandauli in Alwar district of Rajasthan.
125. d Finland is the world's happiest country. India was ranked at 133 in the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's (SDSN) 2018 World Happiness Report
126. a Oklahoma plans to start using nitrogen gas for executions, it would be the first state to use such method of capital punishment in the United States. Nitrogen is an odorless and tasteless gas that makes up about 78 per cent of the air humans breathe but causes death when inhaled without any oxygen.
127. c The World Bank projected India's GDP growth at 7.3 per cent for the next financial year and accelerate further to 7.5 per cent in 2019-20.
128. c "India stands committed to its 'TB- Free country' resolve by 2025. It shall also extend all support to member countries of WHO SEARO region in meeting their respective goals of becoming TB- free". Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the global Delhi End TB Summit at New Delhi.
129. a NASA has announced a global cloud observation challenge - inviting citizen scientists to observe and track clouds using their smartphones.
130. b The Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest transport aircraft - C-17 Globemaster -made a historic landing at Arunachal Pradesh's Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) near the Chinese border.
131. b Pune is the best city when it comes to local governance and Bengaluru the worst, says a new study conducted across India. Delhi, which ranked sixth among 23 Indian cities surveyed, improved its position this year, with a score of 4.4 out of 10 in the annual city governance rankings. , according to the Annual Survey of India's City-System (ASICS) undertaken for 2017 by non-profit organisation Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (JCCD).
132. b Barcelona forward Lionel Messi proved his mettle once again in the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 second leg fixture against Chelsea at the Nou Camp. The Argentinian scored his fastest goal in the Champions League; he also reached his 100 goals in the competition. He becomes only the second player to achieve the feat with his rival Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo being the first one.
133. a The 2017 Kochon Prize was awarded to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi for building a tradition of excellence in TB research and development.
134. b The calf was born to a Murrah buffalo. It was also the first to be born in the field, 100 km from the cloning laboratory at Hi Tech Sach Dairy Farm. "A unique method was used to produce this clone calf, Sach-Gaurav, through a normal delivery,".
135. b The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry would soon set up a unit that would explore ideas to strengthen innovation efforts in education. The "Innovation Cell" would be headed by a scientist and would be comprised of a senior ministry official and young professionals.
136. a The Nepal chief justice was relieved of his post by the country's judicial council amid dispute over his multiple birth certificates. The council sent a letter to Chief Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli, citing inconsistencies in the birth dates mentioned in his citizenship and academic certificates.

137. d Angela Merkel was sworn in as Chancellor of Germany after lawmakers voted to re-elect her as leader in a close vote.
138. c The Cabinet has approved continuation of the urea subsidy till 2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,64,935 crore.
139. b The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33rd Inception Day and released "Citizen Services" Mobile App.
140. c India has been ranked at 78th, lower than its emerging market peers like Brazil and China, among 114 countries on the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index that was topped by Sweden.
141. d The consumer movement marks 15th March with World Consumer Rights Day every year, as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs.
142. b Chinese scientists have developed an artificial heart using rocket technology and it is currently undergoing testing after thorough experiments on animals.
143. b Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 105th Indian Science Congress at Manipur University. The theme chosen for the Indian Science Congress this year, is: "Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology".
144. c India is set to host 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) from 21st to 23rd March 2018 in New Delhi.
145. a Bhutan, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands are set to move up from the ranks of poorest nations due to their increasing national earning power as well as access to better health care and education.
146. c Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar resigned after a key investment project hit a legal obstacle, saying he had also had enough of obstruction from his coalition partners and pressure from trade unions.
147. c Reserve Bank of India, RBI has issued a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework to maintain sound financial health of banks. It facilitates banks in breach of risk thresholds for identified areas of monitoring including capital, and profitability to take corrective measures in a timely manner.
148. d Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of water strider from Nagaland. The species, named Ptilomera nagalanda Jehamalar and Chandra, was found in the river Intanki, Peren district.
149. b Baskaran Adhiban is an Indian chess Grandmaster. Adhiban won the 2018 Reykjavik Open with an impressive performance, winning five consecutive games of nine. He defeated Richárd Rapport, Alejandro Ramírez, and Maxime Lagarde.
150. c Veteran actress and talk show host Simi Garewal has been felicitated with a "UK Golden Flame Award" for her contribution to Indian cinema.
151. d Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a bill to do away with the Anchal Samiti, the intermediate level of the three-tier panchayati raj system, and set up a two-tier system in the state.
152. c The first Mumbai Edition of Women of India Organic Festival 2018, organised by Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, Maharashtra and with the support of Women & Child Development Ministry, Government of India is inaugurated in Mumbai. This year's theme of festival is "Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You".
153. c The Odisha government is set to collaborate with the Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services and enhancing preparedness for management of hazards in the State.
154. d Flying Officer Bhawana Kanth became the second woman pilot of Indian Air Force to fly solo in a fighter aircraft. She flew in a MiG-21 Bison aircraft from Ambala Air Force Station.
155. c The Philippines has notified the U.N. secretary-general of its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), but has assured the United Nations of its commitment to the rule of law.

156. b The SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave 2018 began in Kathmandu with an objective to promote investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the region by unleashing shared prosperity through economic integration.
157. c On 18 March 2018, people around the world came together for the first ever Global Recycling Day.
158. b After the state animal, bird, flower and fish, Kerala is all set to get its "official fruit" now. And it is none other than the jackfruit, the largest tree borne fruit known for its distinctive taste and aroma.
159. b The Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) - an initiative of the Office of the President of India to recognise and reward innovations opened at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
160. c Nabakalebara is a festival observed at Puri. Naba means new and Kalebara is body. Lord Jagannath adorns a new body during Nabakalebara.
161. c China has selected American-trained economist Yi Gang to become the country's new central bank Governor.
162. c Maharashtra tops the list of biomedical waste generated in the country daily, according to a document submitted by the ministry of health and family welfare in the Lok Sabha.
163. b Singapore has been dubbed the world's most expensive city to live in for the fifth year running.
164. d Russia remained by far India's biggest arms seller, its share of total imports has fallen.
165. c Vladimir Putin wins historic fourth term as Russian President, giving him another six years in power.
166. b Representatives from 50 countries have gathered in New Delhi on 19-20 March for an informal World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting.
167. b Monkey Business, a first of its kind co-working space in south Asia that provides onsite childcare was launched in South Point Mall, Gurugram.
168. c Mangala Mani, Isro's first woman scientist who spent over 403 days in Antarctica, is a true embodiment of 'Nari Shakti'.
169. c The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organising the day long workshop with participation from all the states/UTs to provide a complete orientation on the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
170. a The Indian Navy and the French Navy have conducted bilateral maritime exercises since May 1993.
171. c The Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar inaugurated the First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction.
172. b The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is to set up India's first offshore wind turbines at Arichamunai near Dhanushkodi at an estimated investment of Rs300 crore.
173. b Ranji Trophy winners Vidarbha grabbed their second title in the domestic cricket season as they won the Irani Cup thanks to their huge first innings total against Rest of India.
174. c World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness of the house sparrow and then other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations, observed on 20 March.
175. a National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.
176. b Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory, Norway's Academy of Sciences and Letters.

177. b Naval ships of the UAE and India held a first-ever joint exercise - 'Gulf Star 1' - giving a further boost to bilateral ties.
178. c State-run power equipment maker BHEL has commissioned first unit of 110 MW of the Kishanganga hydro-electric project (HEP) of NHPC in Jammu and Kashmir.
179. b The Supreme Court has capped the fee charged by High Courts for responding to queries filed under the RTI Act at 50 rupees per application, bringing cheers to activists seeking information under the transparency law.
180. a The Karnataka state government approved the separate religion status for the Lingayat community.
181. c The 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held next year from 3rd to 7th January at the Barkatullah University in Bhopal.
182. b Austria's capital Vienna once again defended its position as the city offering the best quality of life in the world, while Iraq's capital Baghdad remains the worst in an annual survey from consulting firm Mercer.
183. a The world's last male northern white rhino, Sudan, has died after "age-related complications,".
184. b China has announced it is building the world's fastest wind tunnel to develop a new generation of super-fast airplanes, but it could also be used for hypersonic missile technology.
185. c The president of Myanmar, HtinKyaw, has stepped down, saying he is "taking a rest" following health issues. HtinKyaw was an important ally in the government for state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who is constitutionally barred from the presidency, and the pair were childhood friends.
186. b Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced that the much awaited Smart India Hackathon 2018 - is scheduled to be held on Mar 30 & 31, 2018 simultaneously at 28 different nodal centers across India. Hyderabad is the nodal centre for Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which is a 'Premier Partner' in this initiative.
187. c The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW. The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database.
188. a New Delhi has been ranked 22nd in the world and eighth in Asia in the top destination for 2018, Travellers' Choice awards for Destinations by TripAdvisor. A city famous for mouth-watering food, New Delhi the capital of India was ranked 22nd in TripAdvisor's top 25 travellers choice of destinations list for this year offering alluring Mughal minarets, magnificent colonial-era buildings and flourishing culture.
189. d Greece launched its first space agency as an effort to rebuild the ailing economy as it exits a severe eight-year debt crisis. Greece has been a member of ESA since 2005 and has invested millions of euros in ESA's research programmes but was one of the few member states lacking a national institution.
190. b The NHAI pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress- Pride of India Expo held at Imphal from 16-20 March 2018 has been adjudged as best design pavilion. The award was conferred by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur.
191. b India Post paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking by issuing a special cover on him. Chief Post Master General (CPMG) of Maharashtra and Goa Circle H C Agrawal and Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Dr Sandip Trivedi jointly issued the special cover.
192. c International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme for 2018 is "Nature for Water" to encourage people to "look for the answer in nature".

193. c The Parliament passed the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill which will increase the ceiling of tax-free gratuity amount to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh.
194. b Nanda Bahadur Pun has been re-elected as the Vice-President of Nepal for the second term unopposed.
195. c India successfully test fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with an indigenous 'seeker' at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range, enhancing the country's capability to hit enemy targets at a range of up to 400 km.
196. b Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman was elected as the country's first Leader of Opposition in the Senate.
197. c In a major boost to India-Africa relations, the Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the opening of new Indian missions in 18 African countries.
198. c Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has announced resignation ahead of scheduled impeachment against him.
199. c The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. The theme for 2018 is: Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination.
200. b Indian shooter ElavenilValarivan shattered the qualification world record in 10-meter women's air rifle event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup held in Sydney.
201. a Chandigarh - The City Beautiful - has become the first city in North India to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for traffic management, joining Kolkatta to install such system.
202. b The Union Government has decided to declare 2018 as 'National Year of Millets to boost the cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security.
203. a Saudi Arabia opened its airspace for the first time to a commercial flight to Israel with the inauguration of an Air India route between New Delhi and Tel Aviv.
204. d Kerala, which last year became the first State to declare Internet a basic human right, has notched up another first by launching mKeralam, an app that will serve as a single window for accessing thousands of government services.
205. c Martin Vizcarra, Peru's first vice president and ambassador to Canada, has been sworn in as the country's new president.
206. a Singapore's Changi International Airport has been named "world's best airport" for the sixth consecutive year - as regional rival Hong Kong came in fourth place. The 2018 iteration of the annual World Airport Awards from research group Skytrax was based on 13.73 million survey questionnaires across more than 500 airports worldwide, taking place from August 2017 to February 2018.
207. a The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has received the "Most Informative Pavilion" award in the Pride of India Expo. The event was organised as part of the 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) in Manipur.
208. d World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.
209. b The first-ever International Exhibition of Graphic Prints 'Print Biennale India 2018' opened, at the RabindraBhavan Galleries of the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi.
210. a The Government of India has decided to nominate Professor J S Rajput, former Director NCERT, as India's representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO. Professor J S Rajput is an eminent educationist with rich experience in various fields including UNESCO.
211. d Fructifying the continuous efforts to make the journey of passengers more comfortable, the SardarVallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad has received the award for the 'Most Improved Airport' in the Asia Pacific region, in Airport Service Quality awards 2017 organised by the Airport Council International (ACI).

212. a Royal Caribbean finally got its hands on Symphony of the Seas, and the ship has inherited the title of world's largest cruise ship. The ceremony that took place at the STX France shipyard in St. Nazaire, France is the culmination of 36 months of construction on the fourth Oasis-class vessel in the fleet, which will make its way to Miami this fall.
213. b Telecom operators Vodafone India and Idea Cellular announced the leadership team for their soon-to-be-merged entity, with Kumar Mangalam Birla as the non-executive chairman and Balesh Sharma as the new CEO.
214. b The SARAS AajeevikaMela 2018 held in New Delhi is an endeavour of DAY-NRLM to provide to the rural women producers a national platform and an opportunity to showcase their products, and seek buyers, either individuals or bulk buyers for sale nationally / internationally.
215. d A scaffold made of silk composite functionalised with copper-doped bioactive glass to facilitate faster bone regeneration has been developed by researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati.
216. a Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu will be Indian contingent's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.
217. b Pankaj Advani defended his Asian Billiards Championships title in style by demolishing his practice partner B Bhaskar 6-1 in the summit clash.
218. c Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan shattered the world record and claimed the gold medal in 10m women's air rifle event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup in Sydney.
219. b Nearly 2.5 lakh cattle, out of around 90 lakh in Madhya Pradesh, have been stamped with unique identities, similar to the 12-digit Aadhaar number, to enhance their safety as well as increase milk production.
220. b The beginning of the tourism season in the Kashmir Valley marked with the opening of Asia's largest Tulip garden on the banks of the iconic Dal lake.
221. c The Union of Myanmar Navy Ships arrived Visakhapatnam to participate in the maiden bi-lateral Indian and Myanmar Navy Exercise 2018 (IMNEX-18).
222. c "14th April, Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary, will be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day' across the nation."
223. b South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF), a London based organisation has received the Frederick Pincott Award for 2017 from the Indian High Commissioner, Y K Sinha for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for the last 18 years.
224. d Mohammad Shahzad struck a lusty 84 runs to propel Afghanistan to a seven-wicket victory over the West Indies to win the World Cup qualifying tournament at the Harare Sports Club.
225. c The highly-competitive World Series of Boxing comes to India for the first time, with the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak hosted an explosive clash between the Indian Tigers and the Astana Arians from Kazakhstan.
226. d Joginder Sanger, Chairman of Mastcraft Group and Chairman of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, received the award during the Eastern Eye Asian Business Awards ceremony
227. b Surat has become the first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).
228. d India has overtaken Germany to become the fourth largest automobile market in the world, latest global data show.
229. b Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan, was appointed principle scientific adviser to the government of India, the appointments committee of the Union Cabinet issued an order regarding the posting.
230. d The Centre will soon install 'Justice Clocks' LED message display boards in all 24 high courts to show the daily rate of disposal of cases, the number of pending cases and the individual rank of each of these courts.

231. b State-owned BHEL that it has won its largest solar photovoltaic project till date for setting up a 75 MW power plant in Gujarat.
232. d Post the revival of Rs 10 coin, the RBI is set to roll out a coin of Rs 350 denomination to mark the 350th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
233. c The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March by the United Nations.
234. b Punjab won its first National title in five years, registering a 2-1 win against Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) in the final of the 8th men's National hockey championships.
235. b India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre will come up in Jaipur on a 50-acre land. Rajasthan home department has identified land for the centre near Bagru town of Jaipur district.
236. b India is getting ready to host the 8th 3R Regional Forum in Asia and the Pacific in its cleanest city, Indore from 9-12 April, 2018.
237. b Cool EMS service is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations.
238. b With a production of 1,423 BU in FY 2016, India was the third largest producer and the third largest consumer of electricity in the world, behind China (6,015 BU) and the United States (4,327 BU).
239. a Ethiopia's ruling coalition has elected Abiyeh Ahmed as new Prime Minister, following the resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn last month.
240. c Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the 'Mission Sambhav' campaign, which aims at spreading the message of toilet construction in 33 districts of the state.
241. c Indu Bhushan was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM).
242. Bollywood actress-producer Anushka Sharma features in the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2018 list, which includes innovators and disruptors who are reshaping their industries and changing Asia for the better.
243. c A Rs 5 crore insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.
244. c World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute ITI. It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.
245. d The United Arab Emirates (UAE) celebrated completion of the first-ever nuclear power plant not only in the country but the whole Arab Gulf region.
246. c First ever National conclave was held on 27-28th March, 2018 by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, in collaboration with the Dept. of Psychiatry, AIIMS in J L N Auditorium, AIIMS, New Delhi.
247. d Union Food Processing Industries Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the first mega food park at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer, Rajasthan.
248. b Myanmar's parliament has elected Win Myint, a loyalist of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, as new president.
249. d The NITI Aayog, launched the baseline ranking for 115 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across five sectors that include health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.
250. d Smart India Hackathon is the World's largest Nation-Building Digital Initiative of the HRD Ministry which conceptualized to harness the creativity and energy of bright young students for the development of our nation.

251. c The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed \$80 million loan to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
252. b Indian captain Virat Kohli's wax figure will be the latest addition at the Madame Tussauds Delhi as he is set to join other sports icons there.
253. c Named K2-229b, the planet is almost 20 per cent larger than Earth but has a mass which is over two-and-a-half times greater.
254. b Mewat in Haryana is the most backward district of the country followed by Asifabad (Telangana), Singrauli (MP), Kiphire (Nagaland) and Shrawasti (UP), reveals Niti Aayog's ranking of 101 aspirational (backward) districts.
255. b The Central government will now 100% fund the development projects in the Northeast region - unlike 90% as per previous policy while the remaining had to be done by the state.
256. c United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed former veteran US diplomat Rosemary Di Carlo as the world body's new political affairs chief, the first woman to hold the key position.
257. c Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been re-elected for a second term with about 92% of the votes, with just over 40% of voters casting ballots.
258. d The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slapped a penalty of Rs.58.9 crore on ICICI Bank Limited for non-compliance of directions issued by it. This is the highest penalty imposed by RBI on a bank for a single incident.
259. a The Madhya Pradesh government has come up with a mobile application to market rare chicken breed - the "Kadaknath" - whose black meat is in high demand for its nutritious content and purported medicinal properties.
260. b India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F08) successfully launched GSAT-6A Satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
261. c Veteran director Shekhar Kapur has been appointed chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards.
262. c Ganemat Sekhon shot the best score of 116 last month in the final selection trials but a score of 109 in the first trial meant that the youngster missed the CWG spot by .33 points.
263. d Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a 10.30-km-long elevated road, touted to be the longest of its kind in the country, connecting UP Gate and Rajnagar Extension in Ghaziabad.
264. c Shri R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat in Uttarkashi.
265. d Kerala and Mizoram top the list of States, with 100% of households which do not practice open defecation, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are at the bottom of the rankings, with less than 44% of such households.
266. b The organ, called the interstitium, is a series of interconnected, fluid-filled compartments found throughout the body.
267. c Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam on April 6 and 7.
268. c NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars. The US space agency will launch, a stationary lander - InSight, which will be first NASA mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer, a device that measures quakes, on the soil of another planet.
269. d Government appointed former CBSE chairperson and Secretary Vineet Joshi as the director general of the National Testing Agency.
270. c India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at Dabhol in Maharashtra.