

MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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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



Swachh Bharat Mission launches GOBAR-DHAN at Karnal, Haryana

- Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Sushri Uma Bharti, has launched the GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources – DHAN) scheme at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Auditorium, Karnal in the presence of the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.
- The scheme also aims at creating new rural livelihood opportunities and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) comprises two main components for creating clean villages – creating open defecation free (ODF) villages and managing solid and liquid waste in villages. With over 3.5 lakh villages, 374 districts and 16 States/UTs of the country being declared ODF. The scheme envisages the implementation of 700 bio-gas units in different states of the country in 2018-19.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi

- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January with the Indian diaspora having an option to participate in Kumbha Snan and attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.
- This year's event would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day) is a celebratory day observed on 9 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

First Ever Joint Army exercise on Malaysian Soil Commences

- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018, between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army commenced on 30 April at Wardieburn Camp, Kuala Lumpur with a brief and impressive handing over of troop's ceremony.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti is a positive step in the bilateral relations between the two nations. The conduct of such exercises in future will enable mutual capacity enhancement and assist in building strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Malaysia.

Modi honours Tibetan institute

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured a prominent institute of Tibetan studies as part of celebrations to mark Buddha Purnima.

- Government has allocated Rs. 360 crore for the development of the Buddhist circuit. This will help in developing **Buddhist spots in U.P., Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and A.P.,**

The holy places of Buddhism, where Lord Buddha was born and He taught, preached, and attained 'Enlightenment' and 'Nirvana', are termed as **Buddhist Circuit**. In India, **Buddhist Circuit** is in Bodhgaya, Vaishali and Rajgir in Bihar, Sarnath in Varanasi, Shravasti and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh. All these are the main pilgrimage centres for Buddhism in India. **Bodhgaya** is the place where Prince Siddhartha found enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. **Sarnath** is the place where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. **Vaishali** was the place where Lord Buddha gave his last sermon. **Kushinagar** is the place where Lord Buddha fell ill and died in 543 BC.

Surat railway station to be 3rd in country to have 'airport like' facilities

- The **Surat railway station** will be the third in the country and the second in Gujarat after Gandhinagar to be developed as a world class facility under a Railway Ministry station redevelopment programme.
- The station will be equipped with several "airport-like" amenities under the ministry's 'Rs 1 lakh crore station redevelopment' programme.
- The country's first two world-class stations -- **Habibganj and Gandhinagar** -- will be ready by the beginning of next year.

President Kovind to preside over PM-headed panel on Gandhi 150th birth Anniversary

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** will preside over the first meeting of the national committee set up for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi next year.
- The 114-member committee, comprising Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, former Prime Ministers and Chief Justice of India.

- The birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation will be commemorated from 2nd October, 2019 to 2nd October, 2020. Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** had earmarked 150 crore rupees for the celebrations.

NITI Aayog to soon come out with development agenda for 'New India 2022'

- **NITI Aayog** will soon come out with a development agenda for 'New India 2022', which will spell out strategy for expediting economic growth.
- **Kumar** further said **NITI Aayog** will start working on a 15-year vision document after finalising the development agenda document for 'New India 2022'.

Niti Aayog said that foundation for freedom from six problems -- poverty, dirt, corruption, terrorism, casteism and communalism -- will be laid by 2022 when India celebrates 75 years of Independence.

BS-VI Fuel to Be Available In 17 Districts of Delhi NCR by April 1, 2019

- The **Central government** told the **Supreme Court** that the **BS-VI (Euro-VI) fuel** will be made available by **April 1, 2019**, in 17 of the 23 districts in the National Capital Region.
- The government told a bench comprising Justices **Madan B Lokur** and **Deepak Gupta** that **BS-VI (Euro-VI) fuel** will also be made available in **Agra in Uttar Pradesh** on or before **April 1, 2019**.

9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi

- The **9th India Japan Energy Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi**.
- **Both Japan and India**, as the third and the seventh largest economies respectively, recognized that having access to reliable, clean and economical energy is critical for their economic growth and in achieving this, both

Ministers agreed on further strengthening of bilateral energy cooperation for energy development of both countries, while also contributing to worldwide energy security, energy access and climate change issues.

Haryana to adopt startup ranking

- **Haryana government had decided to adopt startup ranking framework issued by Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion(DIPP), Government of India, to undertake an exercise to assess the state on key areas of interventions that are relevant to a healthy start-up ecosystem.**
- **The State Government has launched the Entrepreneur and start-up policy during the Digital Haryana Summit, 2017 with an aim to transform the state into a resourceful and inventive start-up hub, by supporting and assisting the new-age innovators and entrepreneurial talents across the state.**

14 out of world's 20 most polluted cities in India, Delhi and Varanasi the worst

- **Delhi and Varanasi are among the 14 Indian cities that figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016, data released by the WHO.**
- **The WHO data also said that nine out of 10 people in the world breathe air containing high levels of pollutants.**
- **Other Indian cities that registered very high levels of PM2.5 pollutants were Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Patna, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur followed by Ali Subah Al-Salem in Kuwait and a few cities in China and Mongolia.**
- **In terms of PM10 levels, 13 cities in India figured among the 20 most-polluted cities of the world in 2016.**

Land record receipts: Maharashtra goes digital

- **Maharashtra became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), which would check irregularities and bring in transparency.**
- **The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land, and is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.**
- **It is also used by the government during crop surveys and to extend various facilities.**

Army's Vijay Prahar exercise underway in Rajasthan

- **Over 20,000 troops of the strike formations of the Army's South Western Command are engaged in the "Vijay Prahar" exercise to fine-tune the Army's jointmanship with the Indian Air Force (IAF) near Suratgarh in Rajasthan.**
- **The exercise is being held in the wake of the IAF testing its might in the "Gagan Shakti" exercise in the western sector of Rajasthan, which shares an over-1,000-kms border with Pakistan.**

Cabinet approves setting up of 20 AIIMS across the country and upgrades 73 medical colleges

- **Union Cabinet has approved a plan to set up 20 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges.**
- **The decisions are part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), which has been extended by two years till 2020 with a financial outlay of 14,832 crore rupees.**

India Joins World's Top Five Defense Spenders, Surpassing France

- **India has joined the U.S. and China as one of the world's five biggest military spenders, reflecting geopolitical tensions as well as the country's reliance on imported weapons and sprawling personnel costs.**
- **New Delhi's defense spending rose by 5.5 percent to \$63.9 billion in 2017 and has now passed France.**

Cabinet approves Doubling of Investment Limit for Senior Citizens from Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs.15 lakh under PradhanMantriVayaVandanYojana (PMVVY)

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister ShriNarendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4thMay 2018 to 31stMarch, 2020 under the PradhanMantriVayaVandanYojana (PMVVY) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.
- Further, as a boost to the Social Security initiatives for senior citizens, the investment limit of Rs 7.5 lakh per family in the existing scheme is enhanced to Rs 15 lakh per senior citizen in the modified PMVVY, thereby providing a larger social security cover to the Senior citizens.
- It will enable upto Rs.10000 Pension per month for Senior Citizens.

Environment ministry bans party poppers

- The Union environment ministry has banned party poppers, a popular object which explodes when a string is pulled, stating that the devices pose a serious threat to human health and environment.
- Poppers, which are commonly used in parties and other celebrations, are usually charged with an explosive which is activated by pulling a string.
- The charge blows out some confetti or other materials by emitting popping sounds.

Doval chairs first meet of defence panel

- The Defence Planning Committee (DPC), a new permanent mechanism created last month by the government, held its first meeting.
- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval chaired the meeting, which was attended by the three military chiefs, and defence, foreign and expenditure secretaries.

North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre to come up soon in Delhi

- A North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre will come up in Delhi soon.
- Centre is being built on 1.32 acre land at Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi under the North Eastern Council (NEC) for the purpose of construction of North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre.

Task Force presents its report to ShriRajnath Singh on Establishment of CDRI

- The Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) presented its report on “Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)” to the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.
- The Task Force was constituted by the MHA with approval of Union Home Minister, headed by Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs.

Centre pilots' private poppy cultivation and extraction of opium with new technology

- The Centre has taken the first step towards privatisation of poppy cultivation and extraction of narcotic raw materials.
- It has awarded a licence to RusanPharma for the trial cultivation of poppy and extraction of opium from it through a new technology that improves the crop yield.
- Opium is the source of alkaloids such as morphine, codeine and the baine, used in anti-addiction therapies and medicines that treat extreme pain, such as in cancer patients.

MHA launches online security clearance for visas to attend conferences

- **Union home ministry** took another step towards ease of getting visas by launching online **"event clearance system"** for grant of security clearance to foreigners wanting to visit India to attend conferences, seminars or workshops.
- This will **enable the Indian missions abroad to issue conference visa to foreign nationals or delegates intending to attend such events organized by central and state governments.**

Go to Village mission launched in Manipur

- **Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh** launched the **"Go to Village"** mission at Konuma ground, LaphupatTera, **Komlakhong gram panchayat** in Imphal West district.
- The mission was launched throughout **Manipur in 60 villages of all the 60 Assembly constituencies.**

Online system for grant of security clearance to international conference launched

- An **online system for grant of security clearance to international conferences, seminars and workshops** organised in India. It was **launched in New Delhi by the home ministry.**
- This will enable the Indian missions abroad **to issue conference visas to foreign nationals or delegates intending to attend such events organised by a ministry or department of the government of India,** state governments or UT administrations, public sector undertakings, central educational institutions, public funded universities or private institutions or NGOs.

In Chhattisgarh, transgenders to join police force

- The **Chhattisgarh government** has decided to recruit transgenders in its police force, in order to promote gender equality.
- **Chhattisgarh has become the first Indian state to do so.** The state police have started conducting workshops to facilitate applications from the transgender community.

Maharashtra CM launches mobile weather information app for farmers

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** launched **'MahaVedh'**, a mobile application which provides weather-related information to farmers.
- The application will **provide real-time information on temperature, humidity and a forecast for 15 days.**
- **Maharashtra is India's second-most populous state and third-largest state by area. Nagpur is Maharashtra's second capital and hosts the winter session of the state legislature. Pune is its cultural capital. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao is currently serving as Governor of the state of Maharashtra.**

'India by the Nile' festival to start in Egypt

- The **mega annual cultural festival 'India by the Nile', organised to celebrate Indian culture** and its diversity, will begin with the main focus on classical culture this year.
- The 12-day event, the **biggest foreign festival in Egypt,** will host a wide range of events and starts on May 6.
- The festival which provides audiences an **Indian cultural experience and encourages artistic collaborations between India and Egypt** will be held in several cities such as Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said.

First organised census for Indus dolphins to be carried out in India

- The **first organised census on Indus dolphins** shall be carried out by the **Punjab government** along with **WWF-India.**
- **Found only in India and Pakistan,** the Indus dolphins are confined to only a 185 km stretch **between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas River in Punjab.**

12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers held in Manila

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

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC was founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Vice President reaches Guatemala

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu reached Guatemala as part of his three-nation visit to Latin America.
- Naidu is on a five-day visit to Latin America's Guatemala, Peru and Panama commencing from May 6.
- This is the Vice President's first overseas visit after assuming office last year.

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu is the current Vice-President of India, in office since 11 August 2017. Previously, he served as the Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Development and Information and Broadcasting in the Modi Cabinet. A prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he also served as its national president from 2002 to 2004. Earlier, he was the Union Cabinet Minister for Rural Development in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. He won the election to become India's 15th Vice President. He obtained 516 votes against UPA candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi, who received 244 votes. He took the oath as Vice-President of India on 11 August 2017 at Darbar Hall, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

Hardeep Puri inaugurated the 'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities'

- Shri Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated the 'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities' in Bhopal.
- Since its launch on 25 June 2015, the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), has been one of the most transformational urban missions.

Skill India organizes an Aajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela in Bhubaneswar

- Celebrating the spirit of New India, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), together joined hands to amplify the "Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan" of the current incumbent government which is promoting social harmony and awareness around the pro-poor initiatives of the government.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to become biennial event from 2019

- In an attempt to engage and bring in line the interests of the Indians, living within and outside the country, to the importance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, declared the special event will be celebrated every alternate year.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a celebratory day observed on 9 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

India signs 200 million US Dollar Loan Deal with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) for 315 districts

- The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan).
- The loan would help the Government of India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.

The POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by the Prime Minister on 8th March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

Third edition of UNPCAP inaugurated in New Delhi

- The third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in New Delhi to build and enhance the capacity of the African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN.
- The first and second editions of the course were held in New Delhi in 2016 and 2017.

'First Sensitization Meeting of Stakeholders to make Delhi a Model Accessible City'

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is having the commitment to uphold the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and to ensure the accessible and inclusive assets are created in the country. Chairing the '1st Sensitization Meeting of Stakeholders to make Delhi a Model Accessible City'.

NITI Aayog and Google signed SoI to help grow AI ecosystem in India

- Aiming to foster growth for India's nascent artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem, NITI Aayog and Google have come together to work on a range of initiatives to help build the AI ecosystem across the country.
- The NITI Aayog has been entrusted to setup a national programme to conduct research and development in frontier technologies such as AI. In furtherance of this mandate, NITI Aayog has been developing India's national strategy on AI along with the National Data and Analytics Portal to enable the wide deployment and use of AI.

India-Malaysia's joint exercise enters phase two

- The second phase of the Indian and Malaysian armies' joint military exercise 'Harimau Shakti' was initiated.
- The exercise was conducted in Hulu Langat forest of Malaysia under harsh and humid conditions.

Odisha government rolls out "world's largest" slum land rights project

- In a first of its kind in the country, the Odisha government rolled out a project to give land titles to slum dwellers.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik formally handed over land titles to 2000 urban slum dwellers at an event in Chhatrapur, Ganjam.
- Along with land titles identified beneficiaries will also be given Rs 2 lakh towards part-funding of new homes.
- It is touted as the world's largest slum land titling project. The state government also launched the Odisha Livable Habitat Mission.

Those living in Nagar Panchayats or Notified Area Councils will get titles to 600 square feet of land, those in Municipalities 450 square feet and those in Municipal Corporation Areas 300 square feet of built up areas for residential use.

Maharashtra tops states in number of girls adopted

- Nearly 60% of children adopted in the last six years were girls across states in India, led by Maharashtra which also recorded the highest number of adoptions in recent years, government data showed.
- Of the 3,276 children adopted in the country in 2017-18, a total of 1,858 were girls, the data showed.

The number of girls adopted in 2017 was 353 out of a total of 642 adoptions in the state. Karnataka followed with 286 adoptions, 167 of them girls, CARA, the apex body for adoption in the country, said.

New committee to be formed to review conduct of everyday business in Rajya Sabha

- Vice President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha- Venkaiah Naidu has directed the formation of a two-member committee to review the rules of the procedures and conduct of business in the House.
- The committee will be headed by former Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha, Dr V. K. Agnihotri, with retired Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Ministry of Law and Justice to be the other member.

India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit from May 10

- India hosted the 15th Asia Media Summit from May 10-12 in which representatives from nearly 40 countries will delve on issues related to the media sector, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- With the theme, 'Telling Our Stories Asia and More', India hosted the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur for the first time.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani was presided as the chief guest over the inaugural ceremony of the summit on May 10.

100 more 'one stop centres' for women in distress approved

- Hundred more 'one stop centres' for helping women in distress will be set up in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The proposals for these additional centres were approved in a programme approval board meeting of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumes via Nathu La pass

- Union Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj informed that China has agreed to restart the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La pass. She added that 10 batches of 50 pilgrims each will go for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Nathu La pass this year.

Madhya Pradesh Gets India's First Smart Cities Control Centre

- In a major step towards realising the centre's smart city mission (SCM), the Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state in Bhopal.
- The ICCC, installed in a building in Barkheda area of the state capital, would enable the authorities to monitor the status of various smart civic amenities in real-time through the sensors connected to it.
- Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Satna, and Sagar are the seven smart cities under SCM in Madhya Pradesh.

Narendra Modi among top 10 most powerful people in the world

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes in a list that has been topped for the first time ever by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who dethroned Russian President Vladimir Putin as the most influential person on the planet.
- Modi ranks 9th on the Forbes 2018 list of 75 of the World's Most Powerful People who make the world turn.

Govt approves green licence plates for e-vehicles

- To promote electric vehicles in the country, the government has approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis.

The government also plans to allow youth in the age bracket of 16-18 years to drive electric scooters, besides mandating taxi aggregators to have a certain percentage of e-vehicle fleet. The purpose behind distinctive number plates is their easy identification for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones besides other proposed benefits like concessional toll.

Panel for time-bound release of MPLADS funds

- The parliamentary panel on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds has recommended that amounts donated by lawmakers for rehabilitation work after natural disasters to be disbursed within two weeks.
- The panel, headed by Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha M. Thambidurai, observed that funds allocated for the purpose by the MPs often reach the affected people too late to help.

Bogibeel, India's longest road-rail bridge

- In a major boost to defence logistics along the border with China, India's longest road and Railway Bridge connecting Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh is likely to be inaugurated later this year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- While all the civil work would be completed by July this year, two more months would be needed to finish the electrical and signalling work on the 4.94 km bridge.

Ram Nath Kovind becomes second president to visit Siachen base camp

- President Ram Nath Kovind flew to the world's highest battle field to address soldiers posted at the Siachen glacier, sometimes also referred to as the "Third Pole" where temperatures can dip to minus 50 degrees Celsius.
- "Siachen is the world's highest battlefield and it is difficult to live even a normal life in the extreme climate.
- Kovind is the first president to visit the camp since the then president APJ Abdul Kalam flew there in 2004.

CM Pema Khandu inaugurates Arunachal Pradesh's biggest solar plant

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the state's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in Itanagar.
- The plant, with a capacity of 1 MW, was commissioned on April 1 at an estimated investment of Rs 8.50 crore.

Finance Commission sets up expert's panel for advice on its ToR

- The 15th Finance Commission set up an expert committee which will advise it on matters related to the Terms of Reference (ToR).

- The panel will advise the Commission on any issue or subject related to the ToR and provides assistance in the preparation of any paper or research study which would enhance the Commission's understanding on the issues containing in its ToR.
- Arvind Virmani, former Chief Economic Advisor, Surjit S Bhalla, Part-time Member of PMEAC, Sanjeev Gupta, a former IMF deputy director, Pinaki Chakraborty, Professor (NIPFP), Sajjid Chinoy of JP Morgan and Neelkanth Mishra of Credit Suisse India are the members of the panel.

"This specific ToR would allow the 15th FC to propose a specific incentive scheme to reward the states which have achieved replacement level of population growth, and also, if the 15th FC wishes to do so, to assign appropriate weight to the progress made in population control while allocating resources".

Easier credit norms for small and marginal farmers

- The government has streamlined lending norms in schemes such as the Kisan Credit Card to boost institutional credit flow to small and marginal farmers who make up over 90% of people engaged in agriculture and, as a class, are highly vulnerable to risks.
- The aim is to cut their dependence on usurious informal private lenders.

Under revised guidelines, standard security requirements, such as hypothecation of crops, now do not apply to loans of up to Rs1 lakh. The change is also applicable to loans taken through the Kisan Credit Card, which allows land-holding farmers to meet short-term credit requirements.

Stanford University to partner with UP to combat chronic diseases

- Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh informed that the United States Stanford University will come in a partnership with the state to combat disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

MeitY launches internship scheme for Tech students

- In an effort to enhance skills of the youngsters, Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY) has launched 'Digital India Internship Scheme' portal in which a token of Rs 10,000 will also be offered to interns as remuneration per month.
- The MeitY's internship scheme will offer 25 slots in each session – summer and winter.

Telangana CM KCR launched 'Rythu Bandhu' scheme

- In a unique initiative, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao launched the Rythu Bandhu scheme in Karimnagar, which will ensure that a large majority of farmers in the state will get Rs 8,000 per acre per year for two crops.
- This comes after the state government said that it decided to distribute 57.33 lakh passbooks to farmers all over the state after the Revenue Department conducted a massive survey.

First time since WWII, India to station fighter planes in Andaman & Nicobar

- India has decided to station fighter airplanes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to strengthen India's hold over the crucial Malacca, Sunda, and Lumbok Strait and the Straits of Ombai Wetar and the eastern Indian Ocean Region.
- This is the first time fighter airplanes will be positioned in Andaman and Nicobar islands since World War II.

The Malacca, Sunda and Lumbok straits are narrow ocean passes that connect the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. About 70 per cent of world's trade, by volume and energy passes through these narrow straits.

Tourism Minister attends the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference in China

- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri K. J. Alphons attended the Tourism Ministers' conference by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Wuhan, China.

Kerala government to provide free internet to 20 lakh poor families

- Moving ahead with its ambitious programme to provide free internet to over 20 lakh poor families, the Kerala government decided to set up a Joint Venture company to launch its new optic fibre pathway.
- A cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, accorded sanction to set up the Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited, the Joint Venture, to implement the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project.

The K-FON initiative is being implemented to provide speedy internet connectivity to government offices and educational institutions and also quality internet service to the public at an affordable rate.

Punjab signs MoU with UK for setting up bio-gas, bio CNG plants

- The Punjab government signed a pact with the UK for setting up of bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Andrew Ayre, deputy high commissioner, British High Commission, as part of the state's efforts to find sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning, which has become a major environmental concern.

President unveils India's first Lithium-Ion charger

- President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled India's first, indigenous lithium-ion battery charger, developed by Ampere Vehicles.
- The unveiling event took place on the occasion of National Technology Day.

The event was dedicated to recognise the indigenous technologies, with this year's theme being -'Commercialising Indigenous Technologies: Journey from Benchside to Business'.

Museums on 1857 revolt and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Red Fort soon

- The Centre is planning to open two museums at the Red Fort, one in honour of the revolutionaries of 1857 and freedom fighters preceding them, and the other on the life and personality of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The museums are likely to be inaugurated by PM Modi on August 15.

Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a major, but ultimately unsuccessful, uprising in India between 1857–58 against the rule of the British East India Company, which functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. The event is known by many names, including the Sepoy Mutiny, the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion, the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Insurrection, and India's First War of Independence. The rebellion began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of sepoys of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut, 40 miles northeast of Delhi.

J & K abolishes stamp duty for property in women's names

- In a move that the state government expects will have “far-reaching economic consequences” for women of Jammu and Kashmir, the state Cabinet sanctioned abolition of stamp duty in case of property registered — in both urban and rural areas — in the name of women.
- If the property is registered in the name of a male member of a family, stamp duty will be levied at the rate of 5 per cent in urban areas and 3 per cent in rural areas, it was decided.

Government set to expand Buddhist tourism circuit to 21 more states

- Earlier envisaged by the government as mainly comprising seven major Buddhist pilgrimage sites, in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the 'Buddhist Circuit' will now be expanded to 21 other states.
- The Ministry of Tourism has identified stupas and viharas in these states, around which small intra-state Buddhist zones will be developed.
- These include the election-bound states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, as also Kerala, West Bengal, Goa, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir.

The holy places of Buddhism, where Lord Buddha was born and He taught, preached, and attained 'Enlightenment' and 'Nirvana', are termed as Buddhist Circuit.

India largest remittance-receiving country in the world

- India was the largest remittance- receiving country in the world, with migrant workers from the country sending home USD 69 billion in 2017, according to a report, which said remittances to the Asia-Pacific region amounted to USD 256 billion last year.

The report 'RemitSCOPE - Remittance markets and opportunities - Asia and the Pacific' said India (USD 69 billion), China (USD 64 billion) and the Philippines (USD 33 billion) are the three largest remittance- receiving countries in the world in 2017. Pakistan (USD 20 billion), and Vietnam (USD 14 billion) are also in the top 10.

Indian Army tests 'Air Cavalry' concept

- The Indian Army has tested in the desert terrain of Rajasthan the military concept of 'Air Cavalry' that was used by the US Army to locate and assault enemy ground forces during the Vietnam War.
- To enhance its defence capabilities, the Army tested the concept under which weaponised helicopters carry out combined action against the enemy in coordination with tanks and mechanised ground forces.
- This being done by the Indian Army, with an eye on the future, which is focusing on strengthening its combative air assets by procuring attack helicopters.

Four states, one UT sign pact for Ayushman Bharat scheme

- Four BJP-ruled north Indian states and one Union Territory signed a pact with the National Health Mission to implement government of India's Ayushman Bharat scheme that aims to provide free treatment to the poor.
- However, Congress-ruled Punjab refused to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU), saying the state had "some issues that needs to be resolved first before the scheme launch".

Indian Coast Guard Ship Vikram welcomed at New Mangalore Port

- Indian Coast Guard Ship Vikram, the offshore patrol vessel that is going to be based at New Mangalore Port was formally welcomed.
- In the welcoming ceremony, Coast Guard District commandant, Satwant Singh accepted a guard of honour after embarking on the ship.
- ICGS Vikram will join the fleet of four Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) namely ICGS Amartya, Kasturba Gandhi, SavitriBaiPhule, Rajdoot and the hovercraft squadron.

The ship is designed to carry one twin engine light helicopter and stage through a twin engine heavy helicopter with night flying capabilities. The ship is 98 metres long, 15 metres wide and can move in a range of 5,000 nautical miles and can attain a sustained speed of upto 26 knots.

President Kovind inaugurates Global Exhibition on Services-2018

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Global Exhibition on Services-2018 in Mumbai.
- He also launched 12 champion sectors in services. 25 Indian states and around 100 countries were participated in Global Exhibition on Services, this year, with 625 exhibitors and 500 overseas delegates.

UNDP to set up skill development centre in Hyderabad

- Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalised women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will soon set up a skill development centre at 'Bharosa,' an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad. "UNDP has proposed to set up a skill development centre exclusively for clients of Bharosa. Necessary arrangements for setting up the training centre are underway and it will start in the next two-three months,".

President Ram Nath Kovind visits exhibition on DAE at BARC in Mumbai

- President Ram Nath Kovind visited an exhibition on Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) technologies at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay, Mumbai.
- He also dedicated several DAE facilities to the nation including Metal Fuel Pin Fabrication Facility, IGCAR, Kalpakkam and Integrated Centre for Crisis Management, a facility that monitors radiological data from country wide network of 504 radiation centres.

Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh Emerge as the top 3 Cleanest Cities in the country

- Hardeep Puri Congratulates Swachhata Survekshan 2018 Winners – Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh Emerge as the top 3 Cleanest Cities in the country.
- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 assessed 4203 Urban Local Bodies and was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Indore and Bhopal have retained their position as the top two cleanest cities for the second consecutive year. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as the cleanest city among municipal bodies with less than three lakh population while Greater Mumbai was found to be the cleanest among all state capitals. According to the survey report, Vijayawada is cleanest among big cities having more than one million population while Mysuru has emerged as the cleanest among cities with population of three lakh to one million.

First Apex Conference for Smart City CEOs held in Bhopal

- The first apex conference for Smart City CEOs, held in Bhopal last week from 8-9th May 2018 emphasized on cross learning amongst the Smart City CEOs to accelerate the progress of the Smart City Mission projects.
- The two-day conference provided a unique platform for the city leaders and various stakeholders in the Smart Cities Mission for convergence of ideas and sharing of best practices which will enable other's to fast track their Smart city projects.

30 States and Union Territories participate in State Startup Ranking Framework 2018

- With the aim to foster competitiveness and to propel the States and Union Territories to work proactively towards promotion of their Startup eco-systems, the States Startup Ranking Framework was launched by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on 6th February 2018.

Guwahati has India's first solar powered railway station

- Guwahati has India's first railway station run by solar power.
- The project of installing solar panels was commissioned last year in April 2017.
- Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station. Solar panels have been installed at the roof-top solar power plant.
- The solar-powered station is aimed at reducing carbon-footprint as well as cut down power costs drastically.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma takes part in the 15th Meeting of SCO Cultural Ministers at Sanya

- The Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma was attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya in China, the 17th of May, 2018. It is the first time that India was attended the SCO Culture Ministers' Meeting. The meeting showcases India's initiatives to actively pursue cultural cooperation with other countries including SCO countries. It will also help to promote cultural relations and people to people contacts with the individual members of this organization through cultural exchange programmes.

Chennai on track for global rail coach expo

- For the first time in India, an International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) event on rail coaches and train sets was held in Chennai providing a platform to bring together different suppliers under one roof and create synergies for 'Make in India.'
- Hosted by Integral Coach Factory in coordination with CII and RITES Ltd, the expo was held from May 17 to 19 at ICF, the world's largest rail manufacturing unit and part of the Indian Railways.

PM Modi lays foundation stone for construction of 14.2 km long Zojila Tunnel in J&K

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for construction of 14.2 kilometre long Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The main objective of the project is to provide all weather connectivity to strategically important Leh region in Jammu and Kashmir.

This tunnel will be the Asia's longest bi-directional road tunnel. The construction of this tunnel will provide all weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh and will bring about all round economic and socio-cultural integration of these regions.

Railways to install 'panic button' in trains for women safety

- With a view to strengthen security of women passengers in trains, the North Eastern Railway (NER) plans to deploy women police personnel on trains during night hours as well as install 'panic buttons' in coaches.
- Since the railway is focussing on "women and child safety" this year, it plans deployment of women police personnel in sub-urban trains during night hours besides recruitment of women in the RPF among others.

India gives NRs 180mn for river training in Nepal

- India has provided the largest sum for river training in Nepal in a bid to control floods that also affect India during the monsoon season.
- The river training and construction will carry on near the Indian border in three rivers.
- The amount is India's contribution for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers.

Cabinet approves establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Bhopal

- The Union Cabinet Chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation. It will serve as an institution of excellence to develop capacity building in the area of mental health rehabilitation and also help the Government to develop models for effective rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

B S Yeddyurappa takes oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka

- BJP legislature party leader B S Yeddyurappa took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- This is the third time that he was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- The 75-year-old Lingayat strongman was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor VajubhaiVala at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan amid loud cheering by his supporters.

Jharkhand tops Swachh Sarvekshan chart as ‘best performing state’

- Jharkhand topped as the best performing state for the work being done under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Some of its cities have also bagged best awards in different categories.
- The rankings of Swachh Sarvekshan 2018 were released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in New Delhi.

When the Swachh Sarvekshan was introduced in 2015, Jharkhand had scored poorly and remained at the bottom end of the rankings list. However, last year, Jharkhand stood jumped to third spot and bettered its ranking this time. The other two states in the top three are Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Cabinet approves National Biofuel Policy

- The Cabinet approved the National Policy on Biofuels which allows doping of ethanol produced from damaged foodgrains, rotten potatoes, corn and sugar beet with petrol to cut oil imports by Rs 4,000 crore this year alone.
- Till now only ethanol produced from sugarcane was allowed to be mixed in petrol.

A meeting of the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the new policy which categorises biofuels as First Generation (1G), which produce bio-ethanol from molasses and bio-diesel from non-edible oilseeds. Second Generation (2G) ethanol can be produced from municipal solid waste and Third Generation (3G) fuels like bio-CNG.

Delhi Projected to become World's Most Populous City around 2028

- Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028, according to new United Nations estimates released, which said India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050.
- The 2018 Revision of World Urbanisation Prospects produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) said that 68 per cent of the world population is projected to live in urban areas by 2050.
- Currently, 55 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas.

Mangaluru city adjudged best in solid waste management

- Mysuru was adjudged India's cleanest medium city with a population of 3-10 lakh, NammaKudla was adjudged India's best city in solid waste management in the same population bracket, and Hunsur, was adjudged the best city in solid waste management (SWM) in south zone with a population of less than 1 lakh.

The Swachh Sarvekshan-2018 assessed 4,203 urban local bodies and was organized by the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA), under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). The on-field survey for Swachh Sarvekshan-2018 was conducted by an independent agency appointed by the MoHUA. Cities having population of 1 lakh and more and capital cities were ranked at national level and cities with population of less than 1 lakh were ranked at zonal level – north, south, east, west and northeast.

Maharashtra, Singapore join hands to fast-track mega-projects

- Maharashtra and Singapore have constituted a joint committee to work in core areas, like affordable housing, airport development and urban infrastructure. The decision was taken in Mumbai at a meeting between Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Singapore's Minister for Industry and Commerce, S Iswaran.
- The Greenfield airport at Purandar in Pune is set to have services and expertise of Singapore's Changi Airport.

Ramalingam Sudhakar sworn-in as chief justice of Manipur high court

- Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar was sworn-in as the chief justice of the high court of Manipur.
- The acting governor of Manipur Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office to Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar at Raj Bhavan.

India Calls for Judicious Use of Resources at 4th BRICS Ministerial Meeting in Durban

- India has called for a judicious use of resources amidst concerns over resource depletion and scarcity.
- Addressing the 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting in Durban, South Africa Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has said that a decrease in global materials, or at least stabilization at present levels, demand major reductions in metabolic rates in the Asia-Pacific region, especially India.

In a first, railways to use AI to control air circulation in Manipur tunnel

- For the first time, the Railways will use artificial intelligence to control air circulation, to issue emergency alerts and also for supervision and maintenance work in a 10.28-km-long tunnel in Imphal.
- This system will also be used in the Hyderabad, Mumbai and Ahmedabad metros.

Zojila tunnel to bring Srinagar, Kargil and Leh closer

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Zojila tunnel project, which will provide all-weather connectivity to Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. At 14.15 km, it will be the country's longest road tunnel.
- The tunnel will cut down the time taken to cross the Zojila pass from the three hours 30 minutes to 15 minutes.
- Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel will be built at a cost of Rs. 6,809 crore.
- The pass is situated at an altitude of 11,578 ft on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway and remains closed during winter because of heavy snowfall, cutting off the Ladakh region from Kashmir.

Tamil Nadu to build India's next generation defence aircraft

- The Aeronautical Development Agency, which had conceived and designed the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, has set the ball rolling for building the next generation defence aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), by extending an invitation to private players in Coimbatore to build a technology demonstrator.
- The proposal is not only the first time an indigenous military aircraft programme is seeing the involvement of private players, but it is also the first time a defence.

India Post tailors affordable life policies for rural segment

- India Post plays an important role in financial services, reaching out in the rural areas with its large and efficient network. It has a long tradition of distributing financial products, going back to 1884.
- Postal Life Insurance extended insurance cover to the rural population under the banner 'Rural Postal Life Insurance' (RPLI) in 1995. This scheme is primarily meant for people residing in rural areas, especially women and small and marginal farmers. Low premium and high bonus are the unique features of rural policies.

Shivangi Pathak becomes youngest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest

- 16-year-old Shivangi successfully stood atop world's highest mountain.
- Born in Hisar of Haryana Shivangi climbed Mt Everest to spread the message that women could overcome any obstacle to achieve their goals.
- She was inspired by Arunima Sinha, the first Indian amputee to climb Mt Everest. In 2014, 13 year old MalavathPoorna from India had climbed Mt Everest from Tibet side and became youngest girl in the world to summit at Everest.

Foundation Stone of the Pakal Dul Power Project laid in Jammu & Kashmir

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid the Foundation Stone of the Pakal Dul Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir.
- 330 MW Kishanganga Hydro Electric Project, located in Bandipora District of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is a run of river scheme.

Pakal Dul, with 1000 MW capacity, will be the largest Hydro Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir on completion. It is also the first storage Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency gets award for Ease of Doing Business

- Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) has received an award for promoting ease of doing business by developing an investor facilitation portal that provides single window clearance to industrial proposals in the state.
- The award was given in recognition of simplification of procedure and ease with which clearances from various authorities can be procured by a business.

TNeGA developed this portal for single window system for the TN Industrial Promotion and Guidance Bureau of Industries Department leading to 4th BW Business World Digital India Award. NITI Aayog launched the Ease of Doing Business report based on an Enterprise Survey of 3,500 manufacturing firms across Indian states and union territories in 2017. The survey has been conducted, along with the IDFC Institute, to assess the business regulations and enabling environment across India from firms' perspective.

IIT-K establishes country's first centre for energy regulation

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K) has set up first of its kind Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) in the country to strengthen policy and regulatory limitations in energy and power sector.
- The centre was set up with assistance of the UK Government.
- It would adopt innovative approach to engage with stakeholders in the power sector, especially the electricity regulatory commissions, electric utilities and the academia.
- The sector would be benefited by the centre's activities, particularly regulatory research based on its knowledge base comprising regulatory database and learning tools

CRPF raises 'Bastariya Battalion' to combat Naxals activities

- In a bid to enhance combat capabilities in Naxal-hit area of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the first time, has decided to include local representation in a special unit.
- The special unit has been numbered as 241 and named as 'Bastariya Battalion', as all the candidates are selected from four highly Naxal infested district in Chhattisgarh, i.e Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.

India to hold naval exercise with Vietnam

- **India will hold its first naval exercise with Vietnam**, as part of the overall strategy to steadily build military ties with nations in the Asia Pacific region.
- Three Indian warships on operational deployment to South East Asia and North West Pacific region, stealth frigate **INS Sahyadri**, missile corvette **INS Kamorta** and fleet tanker **INS Shakti**, will enter the Tien Sa Port (Danang).

One day Regional Conference on “Clean and Renewable Energy” held in Bhopal

- The Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Shri Narayan Singh Kushwah inaugurated the **one day Regional Conference on the theme of “New and Renewable Energy” in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

This was **sixth such Regional Conference in the series in a lead-up to 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** which is being hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with AIIB, Government of Maharashtra, RIS and CII among others in **Mumbai** on 25th and 26th June, 2018.

National convention on 'Rejuvenation of Krishna River' on May 22

- **Experts in water conservation from across the country deliberated on ways to rejuvenate the Krishna River at the maiden national convention of the Indian Water Council (IWC) on May 22.**
- The 'National Convention on Rejuvenation of the Krishna River', IWC's first event, has seen participation of over 300 delegates of government organisations from various states and NGOs, including Rajendra Singh, known as 'Waterman of India',.

CSC to reach 2.50 lakh gram panchayats by year-end

- **The network of Common Service Centres (CSCs)**, which act as access points for delivery of digital services, are set to be expanded to 2.50 lakh gram panchayats by the year-end.
- Prasad showcased **Dhanauri Kalan village in Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) is the sixth digital village in the country**, the CSC programme has transformed into a movement of change bringing services like banking, pensions, digital literacy and telemedicine to rural and remote villages through electronic infrastructure.

India 145th among 195 countries in healthcare access, quality

- **India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare**, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
- The **Global Burden of Disease study**, however, mentioned that India has seen **improvements in healthcare access and quality since 1990.**
- In 2016, India's healthcare access and quality scored at 41.2 (up from 24.7 in 1990).

Parameshwara of Congress to be Karnataka Deputy CM

- Janata Dal (Secular) Legislature Party leader **H.D. Kumaraswamy sworn as Chief Minister of Karnataka.**
- With the size of the Ministry fixed at 34, the Congress will get 22 berths, including that of Deputy Chief Minister, while the JD(S) will get 12.

Maharashtra govt introduces new scheme to help landless labourers

- **Maharashtra Government has introduced a new scheme to help the landless labourers among the Scheduled Castes to acquire agricultural land.**
- The landless among the SCs can now purchase for acres of rainfed agricultural land or two acres of irrigated land by paying only five percent of the cost. The rest up to eight lakh rupees will be borne by the state government.

- This is a modified scheme as the earlier Dadasaheb Gaikwad empowerment of scheduled caste landless labourers scheme was providing fifty per cent subsidy and was found inadequate and benefited only about five thousand landless labourers from SCs in the State so far.

India, other SCO members, to participate in anti-terror meets in Pakistan

- India sent a delegation led by a joint secretary-level official to an anti-terrorism conference hosted by Pakistan under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- The three-day meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) legal experts kicked off.
- India's participation in the first such SCO meeting hosted in Islamabad was seen as significant given the recent tensions with Pakistan, but a person familiar with New Delhi's position said it took the view that the event is multilateral.
- Both Pakistan and India became SCO members in June 2017.

"Historic Moment" As First Commercial Flight Lands in Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh has been put on the aviation map of the country with the state's first commercial flight, carrying Chief Minister Pema Khandu and 24 other passengers, landing at Pasighat in the north-east state's East Siang district, 305 kilometres from state capital Itanagar.
- The airport is on an advance landing ground or ALG, meant to support operations of small aircraft and some military planes.
- A 42-seater ATR aircraft of Alliance Air touched down at Pasighat at 2.15 pm after a 1.5-hour-long flight from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Airport in Guwahati.

Nepal, India plan to run joint operation to control wildlife poaching

- In order to control wildlife poaching and trafficking of animal parts, Nepal and India are planning to carry out a joint operation.
- The operation is to be conducted in Shuklaphanta National Park in Kanchanpur district on Nepal's side and Krishnapur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.
- This move comes after both the sides realised that the two reserves are contiguous to each other.

Cabinet approves USOF to provide mobile connectivity in LWE areas

- Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved Universal Service Obligation Fund supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4,072 tower locations in Left Wing Extremism affected areas.
- The network will be used by the security personnel deployed in the naxal affected areas.

Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national Sports University in Manipur. The Cabinet also gave its approval for the Implementation of a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North Eastern Region in Meghalaya.

Haryana signs 2 MoUs for revival of Sarasvati

- Haryana State government had roped in national agencies like the Indian Space Research Organisation, the National Institute of Hydrology and the Geological Survey of India to speed up work for the revival and rejuvenation of the Sarasvati River.

EC to launch app to help voters share malpractice proof

- The Election Commission will launch a multi-lingual mobile application empowering people across the country to share evidence of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists **ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, directly with the electoral body.**

Kerala to Unveil World's Largest Bird Sculpture 'Jatayu'

- Kerala tourism will inaugurate the world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre, on July 4.
- The replica of the bird 'Jatayu' -- a character in the Ramayana -- is 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, 65 feet tall and is positioned right at the top of a rock situated 1,000 feet above sea level.
- The sculpture, spread over 65 acres in Thiruvananthapuram, has been built at a cost of Rs. 100 crore.

India-Nepal Joint Battalion Level Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII

- Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal is being conducted at Pithoragarh from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
- Surya Kiran with Nepal is India's largest military exercise in terms of troop participation, a release from central command headquarters (Lucknow) said. Over 300 soldiers from both the countries are taking part in the exercise, the release added.

Ministry of Culture organized Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2018 in Tehri, Uttarakhand

- Ministry of Culture is organised the 9th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, in Tehri, Uttarakhand from 25th May to 27th May, 2018.
- Tehri Lake Festival where one can explore the water sports, organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism every year, will be subsumed within the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav.

Navy conducts exercise in Western Offshore Development area

- The Navy conducted a security exercise, called "Prasthan", in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of Mumbai.
- The exercise, conducted by the Headquarters Western Naval Command, is held every six months.

PM's Varanasi to get Deendayal Upadhyaya's tallest statue

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's tallest statue is likely to come up in Varanasi ahead of the next general election.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has started work on building a memorial to the Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologue in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency complete with a 60-feet tall bronze statue at the famous Padoa Chowk.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan to lead the Indian delegation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change **Dr. Harsh Vardhan lead an Indian delegation for participation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial being held at Malmo-Sweden during 22-23 May, 2018.**
- Mission Innovation is a global platform of 23 countries and European Union aimed at accelerating clean energy innovations through enhanced Government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation.

India is founding member of Mission Innovation and part of the Steering Committee besides co-lead of innovation challenges on smart grids, off grids and sustainable bio-fuels.

Prime Minister to inaugurate Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Phase -I of Delhi-Meerut Expressway

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicates to the nation two newly built expressways in the Delhi NCR Region.
- The first of these is the 14 lane, access controlled, package –I of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, stretching from Nizamuddin Bridge to Delhi UP Border.

This 8.360 kms stretch of National Highway has been completed in a record time of 18 months as against the earlier expected construction period of 30 months, at a cost of about Rs 841.50 crore. It includes a 6-lane Expressway and 4+4 Service lanes, i.e. 14-lane facility from Nizamuddin Bridge in Delhi to UP Border. This is the first National Highway in the country with 14 lanes, and has several features that would help reduce pollution.

New division for women's security

- The Home Ministry has created a new division to comprehensively address issues related to the security of women.
- The division would deal with all aspects of women's safety, in coordination with the relevant Ministries, departments and the State governments.
- It will deal with subjects like crimes against women, SCs & STs, children and elderly persons, matters relating to prison legislation and prison reforms, all schemes under NIRBHAYA fund, Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network System (CCTNS) and the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

BJP leaders appointed Governors of Mizoram, Odhisa

- Former Haryana BJP chief Ganeshi Lal and Kerala BJP president Kummanam Rajasekharan were appointed Governors of Odisha and Mizoram respectively.
- The Governor's post in Odisha had fallen vacant in March this year after veteran Naga leader S.C. Jamir completed his tenure.
- Sixty-five-year-old Kummanam Rajasekharan replaces Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma, who will complete his tenure.

I&B Minister launches six-day ASEAN India Film Festival

- I&B Minister Rajyavardhana Rathore launches six-day ASEAN India Film Festival.
- Govt taking steps to promote film festivals from ASEAN, BRICS and European countries.
- The ASEAN India Film Festival began in New Delhi.
- The six-day event was inaugurated by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore.

Rajasthan launches 'Nidaan' software for disease monitoring

- A new software, 'Nidaan', has been launched in Rajasthan for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas. It is expected to help in formulation of specific action plans for control of diseases.

Telangana Cabinet clears major life insurance scheme for farmers

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will implement a massive insurance scheme for farmers in Telangana. Farmers in the age group of 18 to 59 years in Telangana will get an insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh. The scheme will commence on August 15.

PM Modi inaugurates NTPC's Rs 18,000 crore Patratu thermal power plant in Jharkhand

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the first phase of 2,400 Megawatt (Mw) capacity of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Ramgarh district, Jharkhand.
- The first phase of the project will be set up at an estimated cost of around Rs 18,000 crore.
- The Patratu project is a Joint Venture with 74 per cent stake of the Jharkhand government and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd's 26 per cent stake.

Manipur gets first solar toilet

- Manipur has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets, which were inaugurated at Ibudhou Marjing hill Heingang.

NIC launches fourth data centre in Bhubaneswar

- Bhubaneswar has become the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre, NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
- The new cloud-enabled National Data Centre aims to offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for various e-governance applications of Central and State Governments and has ability to support 35,000 virtual servers.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a “prime builder” of e-Government / e-Governance applications up to the grassroots level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development. NIC, through its ICT Network, “NICNET”, has institutional linkages with all the Ministries /Departments of the Central Government, 36 State Governments/ Union Territories, and about 708 District administrations of India. The NIC is a part of the Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Department of Electronics & Information Technology.

Panel to assess State's finances

- Kerala is all set to stake its claims before the 15th Finance Commission, which is visiting the State from May 28 to 31. The visit assumes greater importance owing to the differences expressed by the State to the terms of reference of the commission and the lead it took to mobilise public opinion against it.
- The commission, led by its chairman N.K. Singh and members Shaktikanta Das, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri, Ramesh Chand and Secretary Arvind Mehta will hold discussions with the Chief Minister, Ministers and other officials of the State, which will be the first destination of the panel in South India.

Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina Holds Silence on Teesta

- Two Prime ministers, Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina and a chief minister shared the stage for four hours at Shantiniketan, the institution set up by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. But in the end, silence spoke the loudest.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not use the "T" word -- the contentious Teesta water treaty unresolved for years.
- Water is a state issue, so a deal cannot be inked without the state CM's approval.

The Teesta river originates in Sikkim and flows through West Bengal as well as Bangladesh. India claims a share of 55 percent of the river's water. The river is Bangladesh's fourth largest transboundary river for irrigation and fishing. A 2011 interim deal - that was supposed to last 15 years - gave India 42.5 percent of the Teesta's waters and gave Bangladesh 37.5 percent.

Main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations to be held at Dehradun

- The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand on 21st of June.
- Dehradun has been selected as the venue for Mass Yoga Demonstration of International Yoga Day.

An international day for yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice attributed mostly to India. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere

Himachal government to promote organic farming

- Himachal Pradesh government has decided to promote organic farming in a big way and plans to adopt an integrated approach for promoting organic and zero budget natural farming system.
- At present, 39,790 farmers have already switched over to organic farming ensuring production of healthy food grains, free from harmful chemical ingredients.
- The state government has introduced 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana' to enhance agricultural income by adopting low-cost climate-resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming System.

India to organise meet on biopiracy in Geneva

- India is co-organising an international brainstorming session in Geneva early next month on the rampant practice of commercial exploitation of natural products by obtaining patents without fairly compensating the communities from which these originate.
- Neem, turmeric and ashvagandha from India, harungana leaves and kinkeliba shrub found in various African countries and Peruvian lucuma are some such natural products which have been misappropriated by various developed countries.

First “Indian Culinary Museum” opened at ICI campus

- The Indian Culinary Institute (ICI), Noida campus was inaugurated by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Shri K. J. Alphons in presence of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma for starting culinary courses.
- The NOIDA campus of ICI will also have a state of the art “Indian Culinary Museum” where the rich historical and diversified culinary objects and other literature will be displayed. This will provide a unique platform for preserving the Indian culinary heritage.

Gujarati writer Sitanshu Yashaschandra to be conferred Saraswati Samman

- Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra has been selected for the 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses titled Vakhar.
- The award, now in its 27th year, is presented by the KK Birla Foundation, a literary and cultural organisation that also gives the Vyas Samman for Hindi and Bihari Puraskar for Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.

Delhi government to set up Rogi Kalyan Samiti in every Assembly constituency

- To provide support to the health institutions in the national capital, the Delhi government will set up 'Rogi Kalyan Samitis' in each Assembly constituency and 'Jan Swasthaya Samitis' in state-run dispensaries, poly clinics and mohalla clinics.

Delhi bordered by Haryana on three sides and by Uttar Pradesh to the east. According to the 2011 census, Delhi city proper's population was over 11 million, the second-highest in India after Mumbai. Anil Baijal is the current & 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is the current and 7th Chief Minister of Delhi.

LCA Tejas fires Israeli Derby Air-to-Air BVR missile

- **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**, Indian Air Force's indigenous supersonic jet, is well on its way to becoming one of the **most potent fighters in the four-plus generation combat aircraft class**.
- Just days after the IAF tested its war-waging capabilities in a possible two-front scenario involving **Pakistan and China during Gagan Shakti 2018**, the Tejas took a step forward towards achieving the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) by **successfully firing the Israeli Derby Air-to-Air beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile for the second time**.

India's **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** together with its variants, is the **smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft** of its class. This **single engine, Compound-Delta-Wing, Tailless Aircraft** is designed and developed by **ADA with HAL** as the principal partner along with **DRDO, CSIR, BEL, DGAQA, IAF & IN** to meet diverse needs of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Indian Navy (IN)**.

Ganeshi Lal sworn in as new governor of Odisha

- **Ganeshi Lal** was sworn in as the new **Governor of Odisha** at the **Raj Bhavan**.
- **Odisha High Court Chief Justice Vineet Saran** administered the **oath of the office** to him. **Mr. Lal** is a former **Haryana BJP president** and also former **Haryana Minister**.

Bengal's Chau mask acquires GI fame

- The **Chau mask of Purulia**, the **wooden mask of Kushmandi**, the **Patachitra**, the **Dokras of Bengal**, and **Madhurkathi** (a kind of mat) have been presented with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the **Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India**.
- A **GI tag** connects the **quality and authenticity of a given product** to a **particular geographical origin**, thereby ensuring that no one other than the authorised user can use the popular product's name.

Odisha police, UNICEF join hands against child abuse

- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** launched '**Paree Pain Katha Tiye**' (A word for the little angel), a **State-wide awareness campaign** against **child sexual abuse**.
- **UNICEF and the State police** have joined hands for the **campaign** to create awareness on the importance and role of every member of society in **preventing child sexual abuse**, need for **reporting** and need for **trauma care**.
- **Fifteen vans** modified as '**Paree Express**' flagged off by **Mr. Patnaik** will cover all **30 districts** during the **campaign** from **May 28 to June 12**.

Gujarat government launches policy to reuse treated waste water

- The **Gujarat government** unveiled its '**Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy**' which aims to **reduce the state's dependence on fresh water sources** like the **Narmada River**.
- **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** and **Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel** **launched the policy in Gandhinagar**.
- The policy will promote the use of **treated waste water** and will see the setting up of **sewage treatment plants (STP) in all major towns and cities of Gujarat**.

Justice R.K. Agrawal Appointed As National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission [NCDRC] President

- **Justice R.K. Agrawal**, who retired as an **Apex Court Judge** earlier this month, has been appointed as the **President** of the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission [NCDRC]**.
- He will take over from **Justice D.K. Jain**, who will complete his term on **31 May**.

RIMPAC from June 27; India among 26 participant countries

- As many as 26 countries, including India, will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific, RIMPAC military exercise from June 27 to August 2, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.
- Known as the world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC this year involves 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces, and more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel.
- The countries participating in the exercise include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom among others.

Centre to set up study centre on Brahmaputra River at Gauhati University

- The government announced that a Brahmaputra Study Centre would be set up at Gauhati University at a cost of Rs 28 crore to conduct research on the causes of and how to prevent frequent floods in the river.
- Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh said the Brahmaputra was one of the largest rivers in the world and the study centre would offer an opportunity for research in different aspects of the river in hydrology, waterways, environment, disaster, flood management, hydro-power production, etc.

Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar greets people on Goa Statehood Day

- Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar greeted Goans on the statehood day and hailed the developmental projects undertaken by the Centre in the coastal state.
- The Goa Statehood Day is celebrated every year on May 30.

Goa is a state in India within the coastal region known as the Konkan, in Western India. It is India's smallest state by area and the fourth smallest by population. Panaji is the state's capital, while Vasco da Gama is its largest city. Mridula Sinha is the current Governor of Goa.

International



World Hindu Congress 2018

- Heads of several countries with sizeable Hindu population, chief ministers of states, top corporate honchos and religious leaders are scheduled to attend the **second World Hindu Congress (WHC) in Chicago in September 2018**.
- **Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, is the chairperson of the Chicago event, which is being organised by World Hindu Foundation headed by former IITian Swami Vigyananand.**

On the eve of the 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's historic address to the Parliament of World Religions, Hindus from around the world and from all backgrounds are invited to actively participate.

International Buddhist Conference concluded in Lumbini

- In Nepal **International Buddhist Conference concluded in Lumbini, the birth place of Gautama Buddha.**
- Participants from **more than 20 countries including India attended two day conference.**
- It was **organised as part of 2562nd Buddha Jayanti celebrations.**

The basic objective of the conference was to disseminate teachings of Gautam Buddha and spread the messages of nonviolence, brotherhood, co-existence, love and peace to the international community.

India, Pakistan to carry out military drills as part of multi-nation exercise

- In a first, arch rivals **India and Pakistan** will be part of a **multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia in September**, which will also be joined by China and several other countries.
- The **military exercise will take place under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**, a China-dominated security grouping which is increasingly seen as a counterweight to NATO.

Sajid Javid is new Home Minister

- A **South Asian will head Britain's Home Office for the first time as the government sought to contain an escalating crisis over its treatment of Commonwealth citizens.**
- **He is also the first South Asian to head one of the "Great Offices of State",** the name given to the four most senior positions in the government (also including Prime Minister, head of the Treasury and head of the Foreign office).

Gabon's government steps down after election delays

- **Gabon's government has resigned after the constitutional court dissolved the national Parliament and called for the country's leadership to step down over election delays. Prime Minister Emmanuel Issozot Ngondet has submitted the resignation letter of his government.**

Pakistan's largest airport finally opens in Islamabad

- The **Islamabad International Airport** was finally inaugurated, after years of delays and controversies over kickbacks and substandard equipment.
- **Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** inaugurated the airport, expressing hope that the **first Greenfield airport of Pakistan** would eventually emerge as one of **Asia's major aviation hubs** after its operationalisation.

Philippines Navy installs first ever missile system

- The **Philippines Navy** has begun installing its first-ever missile system in its three new multi-purpose attack craft (MPAC).

Indian-American woman appointed interim civil court judge in New York City

- **Indian-American Deepa Ambekar** has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City, becoming the **second Indian-American woman judge** in the city after **Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari**.

Pakistan reopens key trade route with Afghanistan

- **Pakistan** has formally reopened the **Ghulam Khan pass**, its **third major trade route with Afghanistan**.
- Pakistan had closed the **Ghulam Khan Border route** in **2014** after the military launched its **Zarbe Azb** operation against the outlawed **Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)** in North Waziristan, bordering Afghanistan.

UK's Swindon gets first councillor of Goan origin

- **Imtiyaz Shaikh**, who hails from **Vasco da Gama**, has become the **first councillor of Goa origin** to be elected to the council in **Swindon** after he emerged victorious in the **May 3** local elections from **Eastcott**.
- A large number of people from **Goa** have migrated in recent years to **Swindon**, nearly **130 km south-west of London**.

The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, commonly known as the **United Kingdom (UK)** or **Britain**, is a sovereign country in **Western Europe**. Lying off the north-western coast of the European mainland, the **UK** includes the island of **Great Britain**, the north-eastern part of the island of **Ireland** and many smaller islands. **Northern Ireland** is the only part of the **United Kingdom** that shares a land border with another sovereign state—the **Republic of Ireland**.

Israel pulls out of race for seat on UN Security Council

- **Israel** has announced it is pulling out of a race for a seat on **UN Security Council**.
- **Israel** was in a three-way contest with **Germany** and **Belgium** for two seats representing the western-democratic group of nations.
- The Security Council has five permanent members – the **US, Russia, China, Britain and France** – and **10 members** elected by the **193-member general assembly** for two-year terms.

Panel for revamp of Indo-Nepal treaty

- The final report of a **bilateral committee** appointed to advise governments in **Delhi** and **Kathmandu** is likely to suggest that the **1950 India-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty** should be revised.
- The committee will finalise its report, which will shape ties over the next two decades, by this summer. **The committee consists of eight members with four persons representing each side.**

Vladimir Putin sworn in for fourth term in Kremlin ceremony

- **Vladimir Putin** has been sworn in for a fourth presidential term in a **lavish Kremlin ceremony** as tensions with the west rise and domestic discontent over poverty and wealth inequality simmers.

Medvedev approved for new term as Russia's prime minister

- Russia's house of parliament has overwhelmingly approved Dmitry Medvedev for a new term as prime minister.
- Putin signed a decree formalizing Medvedev's appointment soon after the parliamentary vote.
- Medvedev has been prime minister since 2012, after four years serving as Russia's president while Putin switched to the premiership because of term limits.

Russia is a sovereign country in Eurasia. Russia is the largest country in the world by area, covering more than one-eighth of the Earth's inhabited land area and the ninth most populous, with over 144 million people at the end of December 2017. Russia's capital Moscow is one of the largest cities in the world. The Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of the Russian Federation.

Pashinyan elected as new prime minister of Armenia

- Armenia's parliament has elected opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan as the new prime minister, two weeks after Serzh Sargsyan resigned following widespread anti-government demonstrations.
- Pashinyan's so-called Velvet Revolution has exercised true people power - the ability to conjure up a storm of support on request.

Armenia is a country in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. The dram is the monetary unit of Armenia. Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia as well as one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities.

US, Philippines launch largest military drills

- U.S. and Philippine forces began their largest annual military exercises since President Rodrigo Duterte came to power and vowed to scale down America's military presence in the country as he sought closer ties with China and Russia.
- The Balikatan exercises opened with a ceremony at the main Philippine military camp in Manila, and will to feature about 8,000 American and Filipino personnel and small contingents from Japan and Australia.

Beijing to host World Robot Conference

- The 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in Beijing from August 15 to 19.
- The event will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries and regions.
- A robot competition will be held during the conference where participants will compete in five categories.

Carlos Alvarado sworn in as Costa Rican president

- Journalist Carlos Alvarado was sworn in as Costa Rica's president through 2022, promising a "plural" and inclusive government following an election and runoff where same-sex marriage became a key issue.
- During an inauguration ceremony at Democracy Square in the capital, San Jose, Alvarado accepted the sash of office from his predecessor and ally, Luis Guillermo Solis.

UN chief announces climate summit for September 2019

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced a climate summit set to take place in September 2019 in New York to review the Paris Agreement commitments.
- "In 2017, the total economic cost of climate-related disasters reached a record \$320 billion".

Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad is now the world's oldest leader

- Veteran **Malaysian politician Mahathir Mohamad** has become the world's oldest leader after a shock victory in the country's election, upending six decades of control by the ruling coalition.
- The **92-year-old** was sworn in by Malaysia's constitutional ruler, **King Muhammad V**, following a **momentous vote in which scandal-plagued incumbent Najib Razak** was soundly beaten at the polls by his former mentor.

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy in Southeast Asia. Sultan Muhammad V is the 15th and the current Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia and the Sultan of Kelantan. Mahathir bin Mohamad is a Malaysian politician currently serving as the seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Malaysian ringgit is the currency of Malaysia.

India dispatches warship to Maldives for joint surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zone

- In an indication of a slight upswing in bilateral military ties after a distinct chill, **India has dispatched a warship to Maldives to undertake joint surveillance and patrol of the archipelago's sprawling Exclusive Economic Zone.**
- Two officers and eight sailors from the **Indian Navy's elite marine commandoes wing are also currently at Maafihafushi in Maldives**, which is 145 km north of Male, to train its personnel in diving and tactics under the second such **asymmetric warfare training exercise called "Ekatha"** from April 28 to May 15.

North Korea - USA summit to take place in Singapore June

- **U.S. President Donald Trump** announced that his **meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will take place in Singapore June 12.**

Iraqis vote in first elections since IS defeat

- **Iraqis have voted in the first parliamentary elections since the government declared victory over so-called Islamic State (IS) last year.**
- Around 7,000 candidates from rival coalition alliances are vying for seats in the 329-member assembly.

British Council awards for three Indian alumni of UK universities

- Three **Indian alumni of UK universities** have been awarded by the British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to the country.
- "Three **UK alumni in India were recognised for their outstanding achievements as business professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders**, and for their important contribution to strengthening collaborative ties between the UK and India".

The '**Professional Achievement Award**' which recognises alumni, who have distinguished themselves through exemplary leadership in their professional field, was presented to **Saumya Saxena, an alumnus of the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.** The **Entrepreneurial Award**, which highlights alumni who have played a leading role in business innovation, was presented to **Sushant Desai, a post graduate from the University of Edinburgh.** The **Social Impact Award**, which acknowledges alumni who have made an exceptional contribution to creating positive social change, was presented to **Ruchi Shah, a post graduate of the University of the Arts London.**

Nepal to hold BIMSTEC 2018

- **Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli** announced to **host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.**

- During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nepali Prime Minister said **Nepal will hold the BIMSTEC summit**, while expressing commitment towards building the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal initiative.

The BIMSTEC is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia and South East Asia, including Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal. The permanent secretariat is in Dhaka. The BIMSTEC member states are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.

China's first home-built aircraft carrier begins sea trials

- China's first home-built aircraft carrier** began sea trials, a major step for Beijing as it ramps up its military might.
- The ship, which is known only as "Type 001A", set out for the trials from the north-eastern port of Dalian, where it was built.

China to deliver world's largest amphibious aircraft by 2022

- China expects to deliver its domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, to customers by 2022.
- "We are endeavouring to get the airworthiness certification from the civil aviation authorities by 2021, and deliver it to the customers by 2022".

Jasvir Singh appointed fellow of UK religion centre

- Jasvir Singh, chair of campaign group City Sikhs who was awarded the royal honour of OBE in 2017, has been appointed honorary fellow of the Edward Cadbury Centre for Public Understanding of Religion based at the University of Birmingham.
- The appointment is based on his work over the last six years on the annual British Sikh Report that seeks to develop reliable data about the Sikh community in the UK. Singh has also been closely involved in interfaith work since 2010.

China launches first India-dedicated investment fund

- The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, a top state-run Chinese bank has launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, urging the Chinese to invest heavily stating that the Indian economy is entering the "golden age of economic take-off".
- The move, regarded as significant by observers to boost investments in India, after the first ever informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Wuhan, where the two leaders sought to give a new direction to the bilateral ties to tap their economic potential.

BMW to be first foreign firm to test self-driving car in China

- Shanghai has granted BMW a licence for self-driving car testing, setting up the German luxury brand to become the first foreign automaker to test autonomous vehicles on the road in China.

Sharma to head USIBC in India

- The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) named Ambika Sharma as its head for India. Ms. Sharma was director general for 'International' at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- Ms. Sharma will be responsible for overseeing and guiding USIBC's growth strategy in India through its offices in New Delhi and Mumbai, and leading the charge on policy advocacy issues for its diverse membership.

Following United States lead, Guatemala moves embassy to Jerusalem

- Guatemala also followed the US to be the second country to recognize Israel 70 years ago.

Pramila Jayapal's sister becomes first South Asian to be elected in Oregon

- Indian American Congresswoman **Pramila Jayapal's sister Susheela Jayapal** became the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon in the western US State.

Nepali Sherpa summits Mount Everest for record 22nd time

- A 48-year-old **Nepali mountaineer** climbed Mount Everest for a 22nd time creating a new record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain, hiking.
- Kami Rita Sherpa** reached the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) summit via the Southeast Ridge route, accompanied by 13 other climbers including his clients.

Top Indian academic C Raja Mohan joins Singapore's think tank

- Renowned Indian academic and foreign policy analyst **C Raja Mohan** has been appointed as director of the Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of the National University of Singapore.

Russia Unveils World's First Floating Nuclear Plant

- Russia** has presented to the media the world's first floating nuclear power station in the port of the far northern city of **Murmansk**.
- The fueling was originally scheduled to take place in **St. Petersburg**, but the work was switched to **Murmansk** because of safety concerns expressed by countries along the Baltic Sea.
- The barge is scheduled in the summer of 2019 to be towed to the port of **Pevek** in the autonomous **Chukotka** region in **Russia's** far northeast, some 350 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle.

Lebanon's Saad Hariri gets new term as Prime Minister

- Lebanese** lawmakers designated Prime Minister **Saad Hariri** for a third term.
 - Lebanon's** unique sectarian power-sharing arrangements provide for parliament to be split equally between **Christians** and **Muslims** and stipulate that the president be **Maronite**, the premier **Sunni** and the speaker **Shiite**.
- Lebanon** is a sovereign state in **Western Asia**. It is bordered by **Syria** to the north and east and **Israel** to the south, while **Cyprus** is west across the **Mediterranean Sea**. **Beirut** is the capital and largest city of **Lebanon**. **Lebanese pound** is the currency of **Lebanon**. **Michel Naim Aoun** is the current President of **Lebanon**.

Cleric Moqtada Sadr wins Iraq election

- The final results of **Iraq's** elections confirmed a breakthrough for nationalist cleric **Moqtada Sadr**, who was in the lead, ahead of internationally favoured Prime Minister **Haider al-Abadi**.

New York gets first female turbaned Sikh auxiliary police officer

- The **New York Police Department** has got its first female turbaned **Sikh auxiliary police officer**, whose induction aims to motivate others to join law enforcement and help create better understanding of **Sikhism**.
- Gursoach Kaur** will join the **New York Police Department** as an Auxiliary Police Officer (APO) after graduating last week from the **New York City Police Academy**.

Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro re-elected

- Venezuela's** leftist leader **Nicolas Maduro** won a new six-year term.
- Venezuela's** election board, run by **Maduro** loyalists, said he took 5.8 million votes, versus 1.8 million for his closest challenger **Henri Falcon**, a former governor who broke with an opposition boycott to stand.

Gobind Singh Deo is Malaysia's first Sikh minister

- **Gobind Singh Deo became the first member of Malaysia's Sikh minority to be appointed a federal minister.**
- Deo, who represents Puchong in the Parliament and is the son of late politician Karpal Singh, was sworn in during a ceremony at the National Palace after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad included him in the new cabinet.
- **He was given the communications and multimedia portfolio.**

Democrat Stacey Abrams makes history, becomes first black woman nominated for governor by a major party in Georgia

- **Georgia state Democrat Stacey Abrams made history by becoming the first African American woman ever nominated for governor by a major party in the United States.**
- **Abrams beat Stacey Evans, a white, to win the Democratic Party nomination to run for the governor of Georgia,** a Republican-leaning state where Democrats have struggled to win statewide elections. She is, in fact, the first black nominee for governor in the state ever, regardless of gender.

The 71st World Health Assembly Begins in Geneva

- **The 71st World Health Assembly opened in Switzerland,** with a full agenda and a commemoration of the 70 years the World Health Organization (WHO) has been in existence.

Saudi Arabia to introduce Riyal coins

- **Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) will introduce Riyal coins** starting to gradually replace the Riyal notes.
- To get ready for the introduction of the coins, **SAMA has taken the required measures for easy dealing, including the allocation of sorting and counting machines**

UNICEF launches data visualisation app

- **The UNICEF launched a 'data visualisation app' which provides a user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of the education scenario in the country.**
- **The app has been made with technical inputs from the UNICEF,** in collaboration with **the National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA) and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).**

Nepal praised for eliminating trachoma

- **The World Health Organisation has validated Nepal for having eliminated trachoma** as a public health problem – a milestone, as **the country becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region** to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.
- **Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in the 1980s.**

China tests first drone-carried meteorological data monitor to gauge atmosphere

- **China has successfully tested its first drone-carried meteorological data monitor to undertake atmospheric observations.**
- **The unmanned aircraft vehicle will carry the dropsonde, also known as the meteorological data monitor,** and drop it at an altitude of 6,000 metres to measure atmospheric profiles as the device falls to the ground.

Ireland ends abortion ban

- **The first official results declared in Ireland's historic referendum on its strict abortion laws showed that 66% backed repealing the constitutional ban on terminations.**

- Results from the first four of the 40 constituencies to declare showed 66.36% voted “Yes” and 33.64% “No,” on a 62% turnout.

Colombia to become NATO’s ‘global partner’

- Colombia will next week formally become the NATO’s first Latin American “global partner.”
- Mr. Santos, who won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end a half-century of armed conflict with the former rebel movement FARC.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. NATO Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium.

Barbados elects Mia Mottley as first woman PM

- The Caribbean island of Barbados has elected its first woman prime minister since gaining independence from Britain in 1966.
- Mia Mottley led her Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to a crushing victory over the Democratic Labour Party (DLP).
- The BLP won all 30 seats up for grabs in the House of Assembly.

Barbados is an island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, in the Caribbean region of North America. The dollar has been the currency of Barbados since 1935. Bridgetown is the capital and largest city of Barbados. Elizabeth II is the Queen of the Barbados.

Pak’s Sindh province assembly passes bill to allow Hindu widows to remarry

- A landmark Bill allowing Hindu widows to remarry has been passed by the assembly of Pakistan’s Sindh Province.
- The bill was initially moved by Nand Kumar Goklani of the Pakistan Muslim League.
- The Bill allows Hindu widows to remarry out of their own free will but only after a period of six months has lapsed after their husband’s death.

Hamburg to host 2018 Global Wind Summit

- The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany from September 25-28, 2018.
- The organisers of the four-day event are expecting speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark.
- The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
- The event combines two conferences, WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope, Holinsky adding both the events together will witness about 1,400 exhibitors and 250 speakers from all over the world.

India-China Informal Summit

- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping held their first Informal Summit in Wuhan, to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global importance, and to elaborate their respective visions and priorities for national development in the context of the current and future international situation.
- They believe that the simultaneous emergence of India and China as two large economies and major powers with strategic and decisional autonomy has implications of regional and global significance.

- They shared the view that **peaceful, stable and balanced relations between India and China** will be a positive factor for stability amidst current global uncertainties.

Alicia Pucheta to be the first woman president of Paraguay

- **Paraguay will have a woman president for the first time in its history, at least temporarily, after outgoing leader Horacio Cartes stepped down ahead of schedule.**

Paraguay officially the Republic of Paraguay is a landlocked country in central South America. Asunción is the capital and largest city of Paraguay. Alicia Pucheta became the first woman to occupy the Vice Presidency of Paraguay. After the Cartes resigned from the Presidency of Paraguay before August to assume a position as Senator, which would lead Pucheta to become the first woman to be President of Paraguay, as well as the first woman to be Vice President and President without having been elected by popular vote. The guaraní is the national currency unit of Paraguay.

EU to observe Zimbabwe polls first time in 16 years

- **The European Union will deploy observers to Zimbabwe's general election** expected in July, the **first time in 16 years the bloc will monitor polls** in the southern African country.
- **The EU and Zimbabwe's government signed a memorandum outlining guidelines for election monitors.** Zimbabwe formally invited the EU in March to send an election observation mission.
- The elections will be the **first since long-time ruler Robert Mugabe was removed from power** last November following a brief military take over. **Mugabe's successor President Emmerson Mnangagwa**, will be squaring off against Nelson Chamisa, 40, of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change.

Nepal to announce first federal budget

- **Nepal's Finance Minister Dr Yubaraj Khatiwada will present the first federal budget of the Himalayan nation after completing the three-tier elections held simultaneously in the year of 2017. "The economic growth of the previous decade has remained average at 4.3 percent.**

US Pacific Command renamed as Indo-Pacific Command

- **United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, US Pacific Command, or PACOM, to Indo-Pacific Command.**
- The decision has been taken in recognition of the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking.

Singapore Airlines to launch world's longest commercial flight

- **Singapore Airlines said it would launch the world's longest commercial flight** in October, a near-19 hour non-stop journey **from Singapore to the New York area.**
- The **8,277 nautical mile (15,329 kilometre) flight** from Singapore to Newark, New Jersey.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

California's economy passes UK's to become world's fifth biggest

- **California's economy has surpassed that of the United Kingdom to become the world's fifth largest, according to new federal data.**
- **Despite having a population of only 40 million compared with the UK's 65 million people, California's gross domestic product of \$2.7tn has overtaken the UK's \$2.6tn.**
- **The so-called Golden State's GDP rose by \$127bn in the period from 2016 to 2017, while the UK's economic output fell slightly over that time when measured in US dollars, due in part to exchange rate fluctuations. British GDP has fallen steadily from \$3tn in 2014, according to World Bank figures.**

California is the most populous state in the United States and the third most extensive by area. It is also called Golden State of USA.

ACI projects India as second fastest growing country for air passenger traffic in the world

- **India has been projected to be the second fastest growing country in the world for air passenger traffic.**
- **The Airports Council International (ACI), in its traffic forecasts, said, by 2022 passenger traffic in emerging economies like India will surpass advanced economies.**
- **The ACI, a global trade body representing airports across the globe, has put Vietnam at the top position with an 8.5 percent growth rate, followed by India at 7.5 percent and Iran at 7.3 percent. China has been placed at the 8th position with 5.9 percent growth rate.**

Boost to Airport Infrastructure in Lucknow, Chennai and Guwahati

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to for expansion and upgradation of integrated terminals at Chennai, Guwahati & Lucknow Airports, at a cost of Rs.2467 crore, Rs.1383 crore and Rs.1232 crore, respectively.**

Sikkim's Pakyong airport to become 100th functional airport in India

- **The Pakyong airport in Sikkim is set to become the 100th operational airport in the country when it is commissioned in June.**
- **Low-cost airline SpiceJet has been granted permission to fly to Pakyong from Kolkata under the civil aviation ministry's regional connectivity scheme.**

- Sikkim was the only state without an airport in the country.

India slips 3 notches to 11th spot in AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index

- India has slipped by three notches to 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 of global consultancy firm A T Kearney.
- "India falls by three spots, reversing its two-year streak of rising in the rankings".
- India fell out of the top 10 for the first time since 2015.
- China (5), India (11), and Singapore (12) all rank lower this year, while Australia rises to 8th and New Zealand jumps to the 16th spot in only its second year on the Index.

'Vibrant North East 2018'

- The 'Vibrant North East 2018', an event in which people would be made aware of central government's schemes and programmes, was held in Guwahati.
- The event is organised by Delhi-based NGO, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD).

Government extends MEIS export benefits to certain handicraft products

- Over 35 handicraft products such as candles, paper and clay articles would be entitled for export benefits under a merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS).
- Under this scheme, the government provides duty credit scrip to exporters.
- The rates vary from product to product and the export destination, as envisaged in the foreign trade policy.

Google introduces first VR/360-degree doodle to celebrate the work of Georges Melies

- Google brought to life the creations of French filmmaker Georges Melies to celebrate his life through an interactive VR (Virtual Reality) Doodle.
- This is the first-ever Virtual Reality (VR)/ 360-degree Interactive doodle to be promoted on Google's homepage.

Singapore-Kuala Lumpur is busiest air route

- The trip between Singapore and the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur is the world's busiest international air route, with more than 30,500 flights between the cities in the 12 months till February, a new study has showed.
- There were on average 84 flights daily making the short hop which takes about an hour.

NITI Aayog ropes in IBM to use AI in agriculture

- The government's policy think-tank NITI Aayog decided to partner with leading technology company IBM to develop a crop yield prediction model using artificial intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in "aspirational districts".

4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' concludes in Bengaluru

- The 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) concluded in Bengaluru.
- The 2-day Conference is a lead-up event to the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which is going to be hosted by the Government of India on 25th and 26th June 2018 in Mumbai.

Subhash Chandra Khuntia appointed as IRDAI Chairman

- Former IAS officer Subhash Chandra Khuntia was appointed as the Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for three years.
- Mr. Khuntia will succeed T S Vijayan, who completed his five-year term in February.

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

- Former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri has been appointed as full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission.
- He is at present the part-time member of the commission, headed by N K Singh.

India tops list of fastest growing economies for coming decade: Harvard study

- India tops the list of the fastest growing economies in the world for the coming decade and is projected to grow at 7.9 per cent annually, ahead of China and the US, according to a Harvard University report.
- The top ranking in COI means India has many "unrealised opportunities" to diversify into related, high-value sectors to continue to drive productivity growth and job creation.

GST Council Recommends 2% Concession in Tax Rates In Case Of Digital Payments

- The 27th GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council proposed a concession of 2% in GST rate (where the GST rate is 3% or more, 1% each from applicable Central GST and State GST rates) on B2C supplies, for which payment is made through cheque or digital mode.
- However, this is subject to a ceiling of Rs. 100 each transaction, so as to incentivise promotion of digital payment.

SEBI Allows Exchanges to Extend Trading Hours for Equity Derivatives

- India's market regulator has allowed stock exchanges to extend trading in equity derivatives by more than eight-and-a-half hours to bring the timings in line with commodity markets.
- Stock exchanges have been permitted to set their trading hours in the equity derivatives segment between 9:00 a.m. and 11:55 p.m from Oct. 1, according to a Securities and Exchange Board of India circular on its website. As of now, trading is allowed from 9.15 a.m. till 3.30 p.m.

Maha signs MoU with Centre's GRIHA council for green buildings

- The Maharashtra government signed a MoU with the Centres Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state PWD officials to rate government buildings
- Maharashtra was the first state to sign such a MoU.
- As per the agreement signed, the GRIHA Council, a green rating body under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, would train PWD's civil and electrical engineers and architects to rate government buildings as per its parameters.

Customs and Postal Department hold First ever Joint Conference to deliberate on streamlining imports and exports by post

- Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a First ever Joint Conference at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
- Commissioners of Customs from all the States having Foreign Post Offices (FPOs) were present along with their counterpart Post Master Generals.

CM Chandrababu Naidu hosts conclave of finance ministers in Amravati

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu** hosted Conclave of Finance Ministers to deliberate on the impact of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission on fiscal federalism in Amravati.
- The Terms of Reference of the 15th Finance Commission almost penalises states for being progressive and well-performing. States that are good at population control will be in debt.

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu presented his analysis of the ToR of the 15th Finance Commission. The use of population from census 2011 by 15th FC with a greater weight for determining the allocation of funds to the States would cause great injustice to the States.

SAIL's first blast furnace 'Parvati' successfully blown in

- **Steel Authority of India Ltd's (SAIL) first blast furnace 'Parvati'** situated at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) which was rebuilt under company's modernization and expansion program, was successfully blown in.
- **Blast Furnace 'Parvati' was first blown in on January 24, 1959** and soon after it was dedicated to the nation on February 3, 1959 by the then **President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad**. Since then, the blast furnace was taken down five times for relining and major repair.

India slips to 6th spot in biz optimism index

- With **business sentiment at the "weakest"** in four years, India slipped to the 6th position globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of this year.
- Business optimism is however at an **"all-time high"** globally with the index at net 61 per cent, the highest figure recorded in 15 years of research, as per Grant Thornton's quarterly global business survey released.

India ranks 4th in Asia-Pacific on power index

- **India has ranked fourth out of 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region** on an index that measures their overall power.
- The **Lowy Institute Asia Power Index** measures power across 25 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region, reaching as far west as Pakistan, as far north as Russia, and as far into the Pacific as Australia, New Zealand and the US.
- A country's overall power is its weighted average across eight measures of power - economic resources, military capability, resilience, future trends, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, defence networks and cultural influence.

Maharashtra govt to give Rs 3-per-litre subsidy to milk producers

- The **Maharashtra cabinet** decided to provide Rs 3 subsidy for every litre of milk to the co-operative and private producers to manufacture milk powder.
- The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) gave this information and said the **decision was taken to encourage production of milk powder from surplus milk**.
- The decision will help balance the demand-and-supply of milk and **producers can get Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 27 per litre**

India launches biggest city gas distribution auction

- In a major step towards ushering in a clean gas-based economy, **India launched its biggest auction of city gas distribution (CGD) networks**, offering permits for **selling compressed and piped natural gas (CNG and PNG) in 86 geographical areas**.
- Awards from the 9th CGD licensing round would help bring gas coverage to 174 districts in 22 states and Union Territories, **covering 29 per cent of the country's area and 24 per cent of the population**.

India fastest growing economy at 7.4 per cent in 2018

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaffirmed that India will be the fastest growing major economy in 2018, with a growth rate of 7.4 per cent that rises to 7.8 per cent in 2019 with medium-term prospects remaining positive.
- The IMF's Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report said that India was recovering from the effects of demonetisation and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax and "the recovery is expected to be underpinned by a rebound from transitory shocks as well as robust private consumption."

After India, Bangladesh is projected to be the fastest-growing economy in South Asia with growth rates of seven per cent for 2018 and 2019; Sri Lanka is projected to grow at four per cent in 2018 and 4.5 in 2019, and Nepal five per cent in 2018 and four per cent in next. (Pakistan, which is grouped with the Middle East, is not covered in the Asia report.) Overall, the report said that Asia continues to be both the fastest-growing region in the world and the main engine of the world's economy.

Government to release inflation index for 10 services on trial basis in June

- The government will come out with a Producers' Price Index (PPI) next month for 10 services, including telecom and railways, on experimental basis.
- The move will help track inflation in these services, which will also include ports, postal, insurance, banking, transportation and air travel. "Services PPI will be released next month".
- Two major indices are used currently for tracking price movement -- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- While the WPI measures price movement of goods in wholesale markets, the CPI tracks inflation at the retail level and also includes certain services.

MCX to launch crude oil options on May 15

- Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd will launch options trading with crude oil (100 barrels) futures as the underlying on May 15, 2018.
- Significantly, this is India's first crude oil options contract and on its expiry, the open position shall devolve into the respective underlying futures position. This contract has been designed to meet crude oil stakeholders' hedging needs so as to protect them from rapid price fluctuations following market uncertainties.

S Korea's Mirae to enter India's investment banking with \$300 million

- South Korea's Mirae will invest \$300 million to set up investment banking operations in India and compete with established leaders like JM Capital, Kotak and ICICI Securities.
- The Indian operations of Mirae Asset Capital Markets India will be headed by Benedict Ryu, and supported by Aditya Loonkar, a former senior executive of Investec.

India's clean energy capacity touches 70 GW

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said India's installed clean energy capacity has already touched 70 GW and 38 GW is under implementation as per the data compiled till March 31.
- The 70 GW installed renewable energy capacity in the country is double of the capacity four year back.
- The MNRE also said that around 56,000 solar power pumps were installed in the last financial year, which is highest ever in a single year.

New monetary limits for public sector banks to report frauds to CBI

- The monetary threshold for public sector banks to report frauds to different departments of the CBI for a probe has been revised, according to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- **Frauds of minimum Rs 3 crore and to Rs 25 crore, up from Rs 15 crore, have to be reported to either the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch** (in case staff involvement is prima facie evident) or to the Economic Offences Wing (if employees involvement is prima facie not evident) respectively, the CVC said in its latest directive to all the state-owned banks.

India's growth will accelerate to 7.3 pct: Fitch

- Credit rating agency Fitch said that India's economic growth will accelerate to 7.3 percent in the current financial year and 7.5 percent in the next fiscal year.

SEBI asks listed firms to split CMD post by 2020

- SEBI has asked listed companies to split the post of Chairman and Managing Director by April 2020. It has also made it compulsory for them to have six independent directors on board, including a women director.
- The changes, which were first recommended by Kotak Bank chief Uday Kotak-led committee on corporate governance seven months ago, have now been accepted and notified by SEBI.
- It has also asked the top 100 listed companies to webcast annual general meetings.

Hinduja brothers second-wealthiest in UK's annual rich list

- The Indian-born Hinduja brothers have been displaced to second position by chemicals entrepreneur Jim Ratcliffe in an annual rich list of Britain's wealthiest released.
- London-based Srichand and Gopichand Hinduja are listed with an estimated fortune of around 20.64 billion pounds, compared to Ratcliffe's 21.05 billion pounds, in the 'Sunday Times Rich List'.
- They lead nearly 47 Indian-origin super-rich in the 2018 list of the UK's 1,000 wealthiest people.

Hinduja Group is an Indian conglomerate company headquartered in London, United Kingdom. They are involved in a wide range of activities including foundries, import export, trading, motor vehicles, banking, call centres and healthcare. The company was founded in 1914 by Parmanand Deepchandh Hinduja, who was from a Sindhi family based in India.

UAE first to invest in India's first crude oil cargo

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the first country to invest in Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) which will boost strategic relationship of both countries.
- He also said that the first cargo of crude oil from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), destined for the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) has sailed. This is a part of Pradhan's three day visit to the UAE.

MPC to meet for three days from June 4

- The Reserve Bank has advanced the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) by a day to June 4 and also increased the duration to three days due to "certain administrative exigencies".
- It is for the first time that the MPC will meet for three days instead of the usual two. The six-member MPC, headed by the RBI Governor.

Expansion of Fino Payments Bank: Net Banking and Digital Savings Account Space

- In order to upgrade its customer experience through digital platform, Fino Payments Bank on May 9 launched a suite of digital products that can be accessed online and through mobile phones.
- The latest initiatives include Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BHIM app - using which customers can access UPI and make P2P payments, net banking, digi savings account.
- It can be opened with only Aadhaar number and PAN card, and FasTag for making digital payments at toll plazas on national highways.
- Previously in 2017, Fino had launched its mobile banking app BPay.

China opens world's first human-free branch

- A bank in Shanghai is calling itself the first human-free bank in the country. Well, human-free save for the customers.

Xiao Long, or “Little Dragon”, is not your typical employee – she’s a robot at China’s first fully automated, human-free bank branch. As guardian of the bank, she talks to customers, takes bank cards and checks accounts (she comes complete with a PIN pad) and can answer basic questions.

Government to link 200 more mandis to eNAM this fiscal

- The government will link additional 200 wholesale mandis to the online trading platform eNAM this fiscal and also encourage inter-mandi transactions.
- At present, 585 regulated mandis in 14 states are linked with the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) launched in April 2016.

In a first, all-woman Post Office Passport Seva Kendra starts operations

- In a first, a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team has started operations in Phagwara, Punjab.
- The Phagwara Kendra will be headed by department's Verification Officer Madhuri Bhavi. The other two women staff members -- Postal Assistants -- will be from the Post Office Department.
- The seva kendra was inaugurated by Union Minister Vijay Sampla in the local head Post Office.
- It was 192nd POPSK in the country, but first one to be operated by an all-woman team.

India third largest solar market

- India has emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China and the US. “In 2017, India emerged as the third largest solar market having grown at a CAGR of 170 per cent since 2010,” said Mercom Communications India in a report.
- As per the report, India set a new record with 9.6 GW of solar installations in 2017, which was more than double the 4.3 GW installed in 2016.
- The robust growth boosted the country’s total solar installed capacity to 19.6 GW as of December 2017, it added.

Forbes honours 100 Gulf-based Indian businessmen

- Over 100 Indian businessmen and executives based in the UAE have been recognised for their phenomenal success in the Arab world by Forbes Middle East who has a collective net worth of \$26.4 billion.
- Titled “Top 100 Indian leaders in the Arab world”, the list consists of the heads of the region’s top companies, as well as the most influential of experts.

- Billionaires of Indian-origin, based in the Gulf, have a **collective net worth of USD 26.4 billion**, according to **Forbes' World's Billionaires 2018**.

IIM Calcutta Wins International Awards

- **Two case studies published by the IIM Calcutta Case Research Centre have won awards in the 2017 edition of the European Foundation of Management Development case competition.**
- The awards were announced earlier this month, the statement said. In the inclusive business models category, sponsored by the Institute for Management Development, the IIM Calcutta team of Professor Indranil Bose and student Gaurav Gupta **won the award for their case 'SIMsePAY at YES BANK: Creating Value Through an UnSmart Innovation.'**

Atal Pension Yojana subscriber's base crosses 1 crore mark on completion of 3 years of launch of the Scheme

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme's subscriber base crossed 1 Crore on completion of 3 years of the Scheme launch. APY was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at a function in Kolkata on 9th May, 2015 and the current number of subscribers stands at 1.10 Crore.**
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a guaranteed Pension Scheme for citizens of India announced by the Government of India, is focused on the unorganised sector workers which constitute more than 85% of workforce.**

Under the APY, the **guaranteed minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- or 2,000/- or 3,000/- or 4,000/- or 5,000/- per month will be given at the age of 60 years depending on the contributions by the subscribers. The Spouse of the Subscriber is also eligible for pension and the nominee would be receiving the accumulated pension wealth.**

Suresh Prabhu launches Intellectual Property mascot – IP Nani

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry **Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot – IP Nani – at the conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.**
- **An anti-piracy video featuring Mr. Amitabh Bachchan was also launched by the Minister at the event.**

IIM Ahmedabad's CIIE launches \$25 million Bharat Inclusion Initiative

- **IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched the Bharat Inclusion Initiative, with a commitment of \$25 million from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Omidyar Network and Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. The initiative will focus on incubating and backing startups that work in areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health.**

Creation of Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in Department of Commerce

- Department of Commerce formally issued notification for **creation of Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister Sh. Suresh Prabhu has given his approval for **creation of DGTR in Department of Commerce, consequent upon amendment carried out by Government of India to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.**

'India sixth wealthiest country with total wealth of USD 8,230 bn'

- **India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$8,230 billion, while the US is the richest nation globally.**
- **According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, the US is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$62,584 billion, followed by China (\$24,803 billion) at the second place and Japan (\$19,522 billion) at the third place.**

Government earns Rs 1,400 crore as revenue from e-tourist visa

- The government has earned Rs 1,400 crore as revenue from the highly successful e-Visa scheme, offered to citizens of 163 countries visiting India as tourists, since its launch in 2014.
- Since its launch in 2014, the e-Visa scheme has earned revenue of more than Rs 1,400 crore.

The e-Visa fees are divided into four slabs of zero, \$ 25, \$ 50 and \$ 75 which were fixed on reciprocity and depending on nationality.

BoB launches MSME factory in Gurgaon to promote funding to small biz

- State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched its first integrated SME Loan Factory in Gurgaon to cater the needs of MSME segment in the NCR.
- This integrated SME Loan Factory will function as a 'One Stop Shop' for MSME customers with competent staff and simplified processes.

UAE to allow 100% business ownership to foreign investors

- The United Arab Emirates plans to allow full foreign ownership in companies and grant long-term visas to some investors and professionals as the second-biggest Gulf economy seeks to attract more investments.
- Changes to ownership rules are a significant departure from the policy of restricting foreign ownership outside free zones. Expatriates seeking to establish businesses outside the zones must seek partnerships, with UAE citizens owning 51% in the ventures.

India to achieve 9% growth rate by 2022

- NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar exuded confidence that Indian economy will achieve 9 percent growth rate on sustained basis by 2022 on the back of reforms like GST, demonetisation and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Indian economy grew by 6.6 percent in 2017-18 and expected to grow at 7.5 percent this fiscal.

Finance Ministry ties up with 40 entities to extend funding under Mudra scheme

- The finance ministry has tied up with 40 entities including Flipkart, Swiggy, Patanjali and Amul, which are big job creators, for extending loans to small entrepreneurs under the Mudra scheme.
- In order to identify people who can be given funds under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the ministry will on May 23 organise an event in Mumbai to extend loan under the scheme.

Hyatt's Bengaluru hotel becomes first to be included under Hyatt Centric brand

- Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced the rebranding of its Hyatt Bangalore MG Road hotel to the Hyatt Centric brand marking the brand's first hotel in India and twenty-third worldwide.
- Located in destinations across cities like New York, Miami, Madrid, Tokyo and Chicago, the Hyatt Centric brand targets millennial-minded travellers

India lodges complaint against US Steel & Aluminium tariffs with WTO

- India has launched a complaint against the United States with the World Trade Organization, WTO to challenge U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on Steel and Aluminium.
- Mr Trump imposed the tariffs in March, levying 25 per cent on steel imports and 10 per cent on Aluminium. He said they were justified by national security concerns and therefore outside the scope of WTO's.

India moves one notch up to 44th rank in IMD's competitiveness rankings

- India has moved one notch higher, to the 44th place in terms of competitiveness, in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD) which placed the US in the top slot.
- The US became the most competitive economy globally driven by its strength in economic performance and infrastructure, followed by Hong Kong and Singapore in the second and third place, respectively.
- The Netherlands and Switzerland were the other two nations in the top five slots.

5th India CLMV Business Conclave held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia

- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave in Phnom Penh on 21-22 May 2018.
- After four rounds of the Business Conclave in India, this initiative was brought by Department of Commerce of Government of India to Cambodia, for greater participation from the region.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the institutional partner of the event. The inaugural session of 5th India CLMV Conclave was presided over by Deputy Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia and was attended by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Government of India.

FSDC reconstituted to include more members

- The government has reconstituted the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), the apex body of financial sector regulators, and made it more broad-based.
- The council, headed by the finance minister, will now include the minister of state responsible for the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), currently P Radhakrishnan. The secretary of Department of Electronics and Information Technology also becomes a member.

NITI, ABB join hands to benefit India from AI, robotics

- ABB India and Niti Aayog inked a pact to help the country reap the benefits of latest technologies including robotics and artificial intelligence.
- The two institutions signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to work together in preparing key sectors of the economy for digitalisation, artificial intelligence (AI) robotics, and industrial automation.

Centre doles out aid for NE tea growers

- To encourage farmers in the North East to start tea cultivation, the Centre has worked out a special assistance package that entails financial support for raising new tea plants and setting up mini tea-processing factories.
- The scheme would be available only for small tea growers clubbed under self-help groups and as farmers producers organisations (FPOs).
- It would run as the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme under the Medium Term Framework rolled out by the Centre recently.
- The tenure is from December 2017 to March 2019. The package would be covered under the Rs. 136.5 crore scheme for plantation development.

India among top 3 countries most targeted for phishing

- Phishing and malware-based attacks are the most prolific online fraud tactics globally and India is one of the top three target countries for such attacks.

- According to the **RSA Quarterly Fraud Report** for the period between January 1 to March 31, 2018, **phishing** accounted for 48 per cent of all cyber-attacks.

The report that contains **fraud attack and consumer fraud data and analysis**, noted that **Canada, the United States, India and Brazil** were the countries **most targeted by phishing**. Other most phishing-targeted countries include **Brazil in the fourth place, Netherlands (5th), Colombia (6th), Spain (7th), Mexico (8th), Germany (9th) and South Africa (10th)**.

India gets 'first' industrial microgrid with battery storage

- An industrial microgrid with battery energy storage, believed to be the **first in India**, has been inaugurated.
- **ABB** has installed the technology at its **Vadodara manufacturing facility in the state of Gujarat**.
- Microgrids with integrated battery energy storage allow **cutting down of planned and unplanned power outages**. When are often connected to renewable energy sources and provide more control to companies on how and when to deploy the stored power. A key benefit is the **reduction in overall operational costs and reduced electricity bills**.

The **Vadodara factory** is **ABB's largest facility in India** with over 3,000 employees and among its **biggest manufacturing hubs in the world**. "The microgrid is the **first-of-its-kind** to be installed at a manufacturing campus in India and will harness the area's abundant solar energy supply to help the expanding factory meet its growing electricity needs, while lowering its carbon footprint.

TRIFED elects new Board of Directors

- The General Body meeting of **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)** was held on 25th May 2018 in which the **11th Board of Directors** was reconstituted and the **Office Bearers** were elected unanimously.
- **Shri Ramesh Chand Meena** was elected as the **Chairperson** and **Smt. Pratibha Brahma** was elected as the **Vice Chairperson of TRIFED**.

The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** came into existence in 1987. It is a **national-level apex organization** functioning under the administrative control of **Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India**. **TRIFED** has its registered and Head Office located in **New Delhi** and has a network of 13 Regional Offices located at various places in the country.

Modi government collects Rs 7.41 trillion from GST in 2017-18

- **India collected Rs 7.41 trillion in taxes in the first year of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)** with revenues for a good part of four months not being accounted for because of the mid-year rollout and an accounting lag.
- The government had **last reported a GST collection of Rs 7.17 trillion for the first eight months** since the **new tax regime that subsumed 17 central and state taxes on sale of goods and rendering of services** was rolled out in July.

The **GST Council finalised a four-tier structure for taxation of services, 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent**, in line with what has been done for goods. Under GST, the tax levied on consumption of goods or rendering of service is **split 50:50 between the Centre and the states**. Such tax is known as **Central-GST or CGST and State-GST or SGST**.

Former PM Manmohan Singh launches economist Rao's book

- Former **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** released a book by former **Planning Commission and Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao**.
- While launching Rao's book, '**My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism**', Singh called Rao 'a most creative thinker, social activist, and distinguished economist.

Fitch retains India's rating at BBB- with stable outlook

- Fitch has kept India's rating unchanged with a stable outlook, saying the rating balances a strong medium-term growth outlook and favourable external balances with weak fiscal finances and some lagging structural factors, including governance standards and a still-difficult, but improving, business environment.
- The agency affirmed India's rating at BBB-, which is at the junk bond or lowest investment grade with a stable outlook.
- Last year Moody's Investors Service had upgraded India's sovereign rating after a gap of nearly 14 years, while Standard & Poor's retained its BBB- rating with a stable outlook.
- A rating upgrade changes the profile of the country and makes it attractive to investors.

PRAAPTI App and Web portal launched by Minister of State (I/C) for Power

- A Web portal and an App namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators), www.praapti.in, has been officially launched by Minister of state for power.
- PRAAPTI App and web portal has been developed to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.

India signs Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 21.7 Million for Strengthening the Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project

- An Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 Million from World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project was signed in New Delhi.
- The Project size is approximately USD 31 million, of which USD 21.7 million will be financed by the World Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded-out of the State Budget. The Project duration is 5 years.

Bengaluru now becomes home to India's largest microbrewery

- The pub city of Bengaluru has another feather added to its spirited cap. The city will be home to the largest microbrewery in the country. Called Byg Brewski Brewing Co, the brewpub is nothing short of a magnum opus.
- It spreads over 65,000 square feet in Hennur and is opened doors on May 31.
- The second-largest microbrewery, Hoot at 40,000 square feet, is also located in Bengaluru.

WHO, World Bank launch global health monitoring mechanism

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank Group has launched a new mechanism that intends to strengthen global health security through monitoring and regular reporting of preparedness to tackle outbreaks, pandemics, and other emergencies with health consequences.
- The new monitoring board is established in response to the recommendation by UN Secretary-General's Global Health Crises Task Force.
- The Board's Secretariat will be housed at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Coal India's first thermal power plant to come up in Odisha

- Coal India Ltd (CIL) will develop its first-ever thermal power plant in the country in Odisha.
- The project will be implemented through CIL's subsidiary, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL).
- The power plant, which will have a capex of Rs 13,000 crore and a capacity of 1,600 MW (2x800 MW), will come up at Sundergarh district.
- Power producer NTPC Ltd will be a joint venture partner and will likely have a 49 per cent stake.

Coal India Limited (CIL) the state owned coal mining corporate came into being in November 1975. With a modest production of 79 Million Tonnes (MTs) at the year of its inception CIL today is the **single largest coal producer in the world**. CIL is a **Maharatna company** - a privileged status conferred by Government of India to select state owned enterprises in order to empower them to expand their operations and emerge as global giants.

Banks in News

RBI prescribes 100% net stable funding ratio for banks under Basel III liquidity standards

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released final guidelines prescribing 100 percent net stable funding ratio (NSFR), a long-term liquidity measurement included in the Basel III liquidity standards, to ensure banks maintain adequate liquid resources for more resilience.

NSFR is defined as the amount of available stable funding (ASF) relative to the amount of required stable funding (RSF). It promotes resilience over a longer-term time horizon by requiring banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.

RBI tweaks norms for setting up of IFSC Banking Units

- Modifying the norms for setting up IFSC Banking Units, RBI said that the parent bank will be required to provide and maintain at all times a minimum capital of USD 20 million to its IBU.
- In April 2015, the Reserve Bank had formulated a scheme for setting up of International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) by banks in IFSCs.

World Bank extends \$300 mn credit to scale up energy efficiency program

- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$220 million (Rs 1,496 crore) loan and an \$80 million (Rs 544 crore) guarantee for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program.
- The Program, to be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), will help scale up the deployment of energy saving measures in residential and public sectors, strengthen EESL's institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing.

India's climate change commitments to reduce carbon intensity by 33-35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level will require a significant focus on energy efficiency improvements.

Moody's downgrades PNB

- Moody's Investors Service has downgraded Punjab National Bank (PNB) from ba3 to ba1 after the completion of a rating review started after the bank was hit by letters of undertaking (LoU) scam.

Uday Kotak redesignated as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Mr. Kotak was the only official among private banks to have a Vice Chairman designation. All others have MD & CEO designation.
- The board of directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank has redesignated Uday Kotak as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1 May, 2018. Mr. Kotak was earlier executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director.

RBI allows FPIs to buy T-bills; debt limit stays

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to invest in treasury bills issued by the central government.

- The **central bank's move comes close on the heels of foreign portfolio investors** being permitted to invest in corporate bonds with minimum residual maturity of above one year.
- “The requirement that **investment in securities of any category [G-secs, State Development Loans or, in terms of this circular, corporate bonds] with residual maturity below one year shall not exceed 20% of total investment** by an FPI in that category applies, on a continuous basis,” the central bank said in a circular.

RBI asks listed firms to provide FPI data to depositories by May 15

- The **Reserve Bank asked all listed companies to provide information on FPI investments to depositories before May 15** or else they will be barred from receiving foreign investments.
- **Currently, the RBI receives data on investment made by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and non-resident Indians (NRIs) on stock exchanges from banks**, based on which restrictions beyond a threshold limit is imposed on such investments in listed Indian companies.

RBI Announces Rs. 10,000 Crore Bond Purchases after Dismal Auctions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unexpectedly announced it would buy Rs. 10,000 crore (\$1.50 billion) of government bonds via open market operation (OMO)**, after failing to sell all the debt it had offered to bidders earlier.

RBI to banks: Share foreign exchange data with DRI

- The **Reserve Bank of India has asked banks, which are authorised to deal in foreign exchange (Authorised Dealer-I Banks) to share data with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**.
- This directive comes in the wake of the government making rules (in December 2017) **to exercise powers conferred by the relevant sections of the Customs Act**, requiring a banking company to furnish, electronically, information relating to foreign exchange transactions made or received by any person to the receiving authority (DRI).

YES Bank to launch water-security programme

- **YES Bank is all set to roll out a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its 'Livelihood and Water Security' CSR initiative.**
- “**Agriculture productivity has come under pressure** during the last couple of years because of climate change and water security.
- This initiative is **aimed at improving farmers' access to finance, ensuring effective use of digital banking resources, and imparting good agricultural practices.**

RBI bars Dena Bank from fresh lending

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred state-run lender Dena Bank from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs)**. In addition, the lender has also been barred from recruiting more staff.

BRICS Bank plans to launch Americas Regional Office in Brazil

- The **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) is planning to launch its Americas Regional Office in Brazil this year.**
- The Americas Regional Office will increase the operational capabilities of the **NDB, headquartered in Shanghai**, and facilitate identification and preparation of bankable projects in Brazil

HDFC Bank will now offer Digital Loans against your mutual funds

- **India's most valuable lender HDFC Bank has launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds in partnership with transfer agent CAMS.**

- **Customers can now pledge mutual fund assets online** and get overdraft limit set in their account in under 3 minutes, the bank claimed.
- Customers will be able to leverage their mutual fund portfolio to **avail funds for any contingencies or emergencies without liquidating their investments or stopping their regular investment plans.**

Yes Bank empaneled as ‘Settlement Bank’ by National Stock Exchange

- **Yes Bank, India’s fourth largest private sector bank, has received approval from National Stock Exchange (NSE), India’s largest stock exchange to be empaneled as ‘Settlement Bank’ for National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NSE.**

ICICI creates innovation lab for e-biz

- In a bid to take on fintechs and bolster its digital banking initiatives, **ICICI Bank has set up an innovation lab that will be headed by Rohan Angrish, former chief technology officer (CTO) at online small business lender Fintech Capital Float.**
- Besides using the innovation lab, which will develop technology from scratch, **ICICI Bank is also partnering fintechs and supporting them through a Rs 100-crore innovation fund.**

Government to soon acquire RBI’s stake in National Housing Bank

- **The government will soon acquire the stake of Reserve Bank of India in housing finance regulator National Housing Bank (NHB).**
- The stake transfer would be **cash neutral and there would be no cash outgo.**
- **RBI currently holds 100 per cent stake in the NHB.**
- The Finance Bill 2018 has amended the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, **for transferring RBI’s stake in the NHB to the government.**

National Housing Bank (NHB), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was set up on 9 July 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. NHB is an apex financial institution for housing. The Head Office of NHB is at New Delhi.

HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri figures in Barron's top 30 global CEO list

- The **international publication has included Puri in this prestigious list for the fourth consecutive year.**
- **Puri's name figured with Jeff Bezos of Amazon; Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway; Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase; Larry Page of Alphabet; Reed Hastings of Netflix; Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook**

HDFC Bank's managing director Aditya Puri has figured in the top 30 global CEOs list published by Barron's. The career banker methodically built a start-up into India's second-largest private-sector bank by market value.

Firms in News

GST Council Approves Easier Return Filing System, State-Owned GSTN

- The **GST Council unveiled a new simplified return** that would require a **taxpayer to file only one return every month and set a period of six months for the transition to take place.**
- “It will take about six month for GSTN to prepare for it so for that period **the current arrangement of GSTR3B and GSTR 1 will continue.**
- This will be the first phase of transition where the current system will continue for the next six months”.

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is a **not for profit company, non-Government, private limited company.** It was incorporated on **March 28, 2013.** The **Government of India holds 24.5% equity in GSTN and all States of the Indian Union, including NCT of Delhi and Puducherry, and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC), together hold another 24.5%. Balance 51% equity is with non-Government financial institutions.** The **GSTN is chaired by Mr. Navin Kumar, an Indian Administrative Service servant (1975 batch).**

Patanjali tops Unilever, ITC, Dabur as India's most trusted FMCG brand

- **Baba Ramdev's flagship company, Patanjali, beat around 1,000 of India's top FMCG companies to emerge as the most trusted brand in the sector, as per TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018.**
- **Patanjali positions itself as a Swadeshi manufacturer of fast-moving consumer goods, left behind firms such as Hindustan Unilever, Dabur and ITC to grab pole position.**

The **Patanjali Ayurved Limited was established in 2006 by Ramdev, along with Acharya Balkrishna, with the objective of establishing a science of Ayurveda** in accordance and coordination with the latest technology and ancient wisdom.

PGCIL inks pact with power ministry for Rs 25,000 crore capex

- **State-run Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) has inked a pact with the ministry of power to incur capital expenditure of Rs 25,000 crore for the current fiscal.**
- "The memorandum of understanding (MoU) includes various targets to **be achieved by Powergrid during 2018-19. Capex target for the year has been set as Rs 25,000 crore,**"

H-Energy launches country's first floating LNG terminal in Maharashtra

- **H-Energy, a unit of realtor Hiranandani Group, has launched the country's first floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Jaigarh Port in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district.**
- **The LNG terminal has a capacity of 4 million tonnes per annum and is slated to begin commercial operation by the fourth quarter of 2018.**

Infosys sets up block chain-based trade finance network with seven banks

- **Infosys Ltd. has formed a blockchain-based trade finance network with seven private-sector banks, to increase security and efficiency in the banking sector while also broadening its product offering.**
- **India's second-biggest software services exporter, whose Finacle software powers the core functions of the majority of Indian lenders, is in talks to sign up more domestic and foreign banks to the network.**

NPCIL wins Russian award for 'Atom on Wheels' campaign

- In recognition of the importance of public outreach in nuclear power development, **state-run Nuclear Power Corp of India (NPCIL) won the top award in the public communication category from the Russian state atomic energy corporation Rosatom at its 10th Atomexpo international conference in Sochi, Russia.**

- NPCIL won the award for its “Atom on Wheels” campaign started in 2016 to spread awareness in rural areas about the benefits of nuclear energy and dispel doubts about its risks.

BSE is first Indian exchange to get US SEC recognition

- BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, has become the first Indian exchange to be recognised as a designated offshore securities market (DOSM) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- “The DOSM status allows sale of securities to U.S. investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with the U.S. SEC and thus eases the trades by U.S. investors in India”.

Anil Kumar Jha appointed CMD of Coal India Ltd

- Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of Coal India Limited.
- Mr. Jha, at present the CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., has been appointed to the post till his superannuation i.e. January 31, 2020.
- CIL is a state-owned coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata.

MCX launches India’s first copper options

- Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX) launched India’s first options contract on copper futures.
- The contract has clocked a traded volume of 461 lots with value of Rs. 21.89 crore.
- Currently, June, August and November 2018 option contracts are available for trading, with one MCX copper futures contract (1 MT) as the underlying. The exercised positions of the options contract post expiry shall devolve into the respective underlying future positions.

NYSE names Stacey Cunningham its first female president

- The New York Stock Exchange has named its first female leader in the history of the 226-year-old exchange.
- Stacey Cunningham will become the 67th president.

Stacey Cunningham is currently NYSE's chief operating officer. She succeeds Thomas Farley, who came to the NYSE in November 2013.

Uber taps into Japan with first taxi-hailing pilot

- Uber would start its first taxi-hailing pilot programme in Japan, as it bids to break into a tough market in the world’s third largest economy.
- The U.S. firm has found it difficult to penetrate the Japanese market, where passengers prefer to stick to traditional taxi service.

TCS becomes first Indian company to cross Rs 7 lakh crore market cap mark

- A month after Tata Consultancy Services made history as the first listed Indian IT firm to hit market capitalisation of over \$100 billion (Rs 6.78 lakh crore), it has now become the first desi company ever to breach the Rs 7 lakh crore mark, albeit briefly.
- Buoyed by an early rally in its share price - it jumped nearly 2 per cent - the market valuation of TCS jumped to Rs 7,03,309 crore in intra-day session on the BSE.

Microsoft is now more valuable than Google

- Microsoft is now valued at \$753 billion, while Alphabet (Google’s parent company) is valued at \$739 billion.
 - It makes Microsoft the third most valuable company in the world, behind Apple and Amazon.
-

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Bezos' Blue Origin launches its first space mission of 2018

- **Blue Origin**, the US aerospace company owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has **launched its suborbital New Shepard rocket and space capsule**.
- The mission **marked the company's first test flight of the year** and second flight of the New Shepard 2.0 spacecraft.
- **Blue Origin launched New Shepard to a target altitude of about 107 km**, slightly higher than the company's typical target of about 100 km, the altitude widely accepted as the boundary line for space.

This is Blue Origin's eight spaceflight since the company began flight testing New Shepard vehicles. The first New Shepard 2.0 launch occurred in December 2017, with six other flights launching on a predecessor New Shepard, which Blue Origin has since retired.

Jupiter moon Ganymede's environment unique

- The **magnetic field around Jupiter's moon Ganymede** makes it unlike **any other in the solar system** shows newly analysed data **from NASA's Galileo spacecraft's first flyby of the moon** two decades ago.
- **NASA's Galileo spacecraft spent eight years orbiting Jupiter**. During that time, the hearty spacecraft -- slightly larger than a full-grown giraffe -- sent back spates of discoveries on the gas giant's moons, **including the observation of a magnetic environment around Ganymede that was distinct from Jupiter's own magnetic field**.

NASA Mission to Study Heart of Mars

- **NASA is set to launch Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight)** on May 5, the **first-ever mission to study the heart of Mars**.
- **InSight**, which is the **first planetary mission to take off from the West Coast Air Force Base in California** aboard a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket, the space agency said in a statement.

NASA satellite duo will track Earth's distribution of water and ice

- A **huge amount of time and energy** is spent observing the **cosmos for signs of distant habitability**, with a major component being the **presence of water**.
- While the **search for oceanic exoplanets is in full swing**, rest assured that researchers aren't flushing away investigations into our own planet's water.
- **NASA and the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ)** have teamed up to **launch the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO) mission**, a paired spacecraft duo that will monitor the ever-changing distribution of Earth's water and ice.

NASA successfully tests a new nuclear reactor for space

- NASA has teamed with the US Department of Energy to develop a new kind of reactor to be used for space exploration missions.
- NASA's Kilopower project works to build the kind of technology that could be used for an affordable fission nuclear power system so astronauts can have longer trips to planets.

China Launches 'APSTAR-6C' Communication Satellite

- China launched a new communication satellite "APSTAR-6C" late at the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Center.
- The satellite was sent into orbit by the Long March-3B carrier rocket.
- This was the 273rd mission of the Long March rocket series.
- Both the satellite and the rocket were developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

BrahMos to attain 76% localisation in six months

- BrahMos, the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, will be achieving 75 per cent localisation in the next six months from the current 65 per cent domestic components that goes into its production.

Australia pledges \$34 million to help save koala population

- Australia unveiled a \$34 million plan to help bring its koala population back from the brink, following a rapid decline in the furry marsupial's fortunes.
- The Australian Koala Foundation estimates that there may be as few as 43,000 koalas left in the wild, down from a population believed to number more than 10 million prior to European settlement of the continent in 1788.

In a first, NASA's Mars probe taking mini satellites to deep space

- A pair of briefcase-sized spacecraft known as CubeSats is making their way into deep space for the first time, sharing a ride with NASA's InSight Mars lander.
- The US space agency has received radio signals indicating that the first-ever CubeSats headed to deep space are alive and well.

Mars Cube One (MarCO) is a pair spacecraft that launched along with NASA's InSight Mars lander on May 5 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Central California.

Government to set up marine observation system, buy polar research vehicle

- India will establish a Marine Observation System along the Indian Coast (Mosaic). At least six observatories – three along the east coast and an equal number along the west coast – will be established.
- The project, to be launched later this year is intended to carry out monitoring, especially the marine coastal pollution.
- The Hyderabad-based INCOIS will be the implementing agency.
- This was one of the main initiatives of the Ministry, which got a budget allocation of Rs1,800 crore for fiscal year 2018-19.

New norms for labelling packaged GM food ready

- This is the first time that the Central government has laid down guidelines for labelling genetically modified food
- All packaged food with at least 5% content from genetically engineered sources need to be labelled so.

- Moreover, **foods that exceed norms of sugar and fat should carry ‘red’ and ‘green’ labels** specifying the extent to which they do so, according to draft regulations by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Rajasthan institute comes up with new sheep insemination technique

- **Scientists at the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI), Avikanagar, have come up with a new laparoscope-assisted insemination technique for sheep, which has resolved the difficulties involved in freezing of semen and inability to transit the tortuous reproductive tract of the ruminant mammals kept as livestock.**
- The minor invasive **laparoscopic technique involves passing a rigid fibre-optic laparoscope into the abdomen through a small incision.** The reproductive tract is located through camera and the frozen semen is deposited into the uterus.

Commission approves modern animal-free testing for drugs

- In a step that would spare animals from suffering due to drug experiments, the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has approved modern, animal-free tests for drug manufacturers.**
- **In the 2018 edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia, that provides guidelines on tests for drugs manufactured and marketed in India, the IPC has replaced the pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and the abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes.**
- The guidelines in the edition will come into effect from July 1.

World’s second oldest rock is from Odisha

- A rock sample recovered nearly eight years ago from **Champua in Odisha’s Kendujhar district has put India at the forefront of geological research in the world.**
- **Scientists have found in the rock a grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) that is an estimated 4,240 million years old — a discovery of great promise to study the earth’s early years.**

5,000 Atal Tinkering labs to be set up by March 2019

- **To promote innovation among students, the NITI Aayog will set up 5,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) by March 2019 covering all districts in the country.**
- Kumar's remarks came during an event showcasing **top 30 innovations by school students which emerged out of the six-month-long nationwide Atal Tinkering Marathon** conducted in over 2,000 such labs set up till now.

Tiny fossil shells give clues to climate on ancient Earth

- **Scientists have discovered tiny fossil shells that unveil details about the Earth’s climate over half a billion years ago.**
- The research, published in the journal Science Advances **suggests that early animals diversified within a climate similar to that in which the dinosaurs lived.**
- **This interval in time is known for the ‘Cambrian explosion’, the time during which representatives of most of the major animal groups first appear in the fossil record.**

U.S. cancels carbon monitoring project

- **A NASA programme that cost \$10 million per year to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, has been cancelled.**

- The end of the programme called the Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) which tracked sources and sinks for carbon and made high-resolution models of the planet's flows of carbon was first reported by the journal Science.

SpaceX Launches Most Powerful Falcon 9 Yet

- SpaceX blasted off its newest and most powerful Falcon 9 rocket, known as the Block 5, carrying the first high-orbit communications satellite for Bangladesh and marking a leap forward in re-usability for the California-based aerospace company.
- The rocket is designed to require far less maintenance and refurbishment between flights, and is certified to carry humans to space later this year when SpaceX launches its Dragon crew capsule to the International Space Station.

NASA to fly a helicopter on Mars, marking a first for interplanetary travel

- NASA will send a small helicopter to Mars as part of the U.S. space agency's 2020 mission to place a next-generation rover on the Martian surface, marking the first time such an aircraft will be used on another world.
- The remote-controlled Mars Helicopter, designed to take flight in the thin Martian atmosphere with twin counter-rotating blades, weighs about four pounds, with a fuselage the size of a softball.

Environment min launches programme to train 5.5 lakh green skilled workers by 2021

- The Union Environment Ministry launched its full-fledged Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) that aims to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country through 30 courses by 2021.
- Environment minister Harsh Vardhan also unveiled a related mobile app (GSDP-ENVIS), terming it an ambitious programme of the ministry that will help boost employability and entrepreneurship of the youth in the country.

ISRO making green propellant

- Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have reported progress in the development of an environment-friendly propellant to power satellites and spacecraft.
- The effort is to replace the conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with a greener propellant for future missions. Initial tests by a research team at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) have shown promising results in the formulation and associated tests of a propellant blend based on hydroxylammonium nitrate (HAN).

At 9th spot, India fast losing mangrove cover, but at half of world average

- India is ranked ninth in the area of mangrove forests it lost between 2000 and 2015, but the rate of loss is only half the global average, which means India has been able to conserve its mangrove forests much better than other countries, found an international study.
- Published earlier this month by the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), a think tank based in Massachusetts, USA, the study looked at satellite maps to find that of India's 4,52,676 hectare (ha) of mangrove forests (10th largest mangrove cover in the world), the country lost 3,957 ha, or 0.87% of it, over these 15 years. Indian government estimates put the extent of mangrove forests at 4,92,100 ha (100 hectares is equal to one square kilometre). Globally, 1.67% of the mangrove forests was lost over these 15 years.

World's fastest water heater produces exotic state of liquid

- In an experimental set-up that can be seen as the world's fastest water heater, scientists have used a powerful X-ray laser to heat water from room temperature to 100,000 degrees Celsius in less than a tenth of a picosecond - millionth of a millionth of a second.

- This set-up produced an **exotic state of water** - driving its transition from liquid to plasma.
- The researchers said they hope to learn more about the **peculiar characteristics of Earth's most important liquid from this exotic state of water.**

The team led by Carl Caleman from Sweden's Uppsala University used the X-ray free-electron laser source at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in the US to shoot extremely intense and ultra-short flashes of X-rays at a jet of water.

Fastest growing black hole of the universe discovered

- Scientists from Australia have discovered the **fastest-growing black hole known in the universe**, describing it as a monster that devours a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days.
- The astronomers have looked back more than 12 billion years to the early dark ages of the universe, when this supermassive black hole was estimated to be the size of about 20 billion suns with a one per cent growth rate every one million years.
- "This black hole is growing so rapidly that it's shining thousands of times more brightly than an entire galaxy, due to all of the gases it sucks in daily that cause lots of friction and heat,".
- It was discovered with the help of the SkyMapper telescope.

China launches first rocket designed by a private company

- China launched its first privately developed rocket from a launchpad in northwestern China and it is the latest milestone in the country's ambitious space exploration program.
- The launch of the "Chongqing Liangjiang Star" rocket, developed by OneSpace Technology.

IIT--Kharagpur, Oxford develop technology for water treatment

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur and University of Oxford have developed a low-cost technology to treat water contaminated with arsenic.
- In this new method, water is chemically treated by activating naturally available laterite that acts as an adsorbent to filter arsenic.

The department of science & technology as well as the West Bengal public health engineering department and West Bengal arsenic task force have already accepted the technology.

China launches Queqiao satellite to explore dark side of Moon

- China launched a relay satellite early designed to establish a communication link between earth and a planned lunar probe that will explore the dark side of the moon.
- "The launch is a key step for China to realise its goal of being the first country to send a probe to soft-land on and rove the far side of the moon".

Queqiao, or Magpie Bridge, will settle in an orbit about 455,000 km (282,555 miles) from the Earth and will be the world's first communication satellite operating there. China aims to catch up with Russia and the United States to become a major space power by 2030. It is planning to launch construction of its own manned space station next year.

Solar system's first interstellar immigrant discovered

- Scientists have discovered the first known permanent immigrant to the solar system an asteroid, nestling in Jupiter's orbit that migrated from another star system. All the planets in the solar system travel around the Sun.

- But this asteroid, named (514107) 2015 BZ509, moves in the opposite direction, referred to as ‘retrograde’ orbit.

India successfully test-fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- **India successfully test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a test range **along the Odisha coast** to validate some new features.
- **The missile was test-fired from** a mobile launcher stationed at Launch pad 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) **at Chandipur.**

The trial was conducted to validate its "life extension" technologies developed for the **first time in India by DRDO and team BraHmos.**

First probe to 'touch' the Sun will carry 1.1 million names

- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe - humanity's first mission to 'touch' a star - will carry over 1.1 million people's names to the Sun this July.**
- Throughout its seven-year mission, the probe will swoop through the **Sun's atmosphere 24 times, getting closer to our star than any spacecraft has gone before.**

Mystery behind large size of human brain unraveled

- **The human brain is disproportionately large.** And while abundant grey matter confers certain intellectual advantages, **sustaining a big brain is costly consuming a fifth of energy in the human body.**
- It is an oddity that has long flummoxed scientists: while most organisms thrive with small brains or none at all, **the human species opted to sacrifice a degree of body growth for more cerebral capacity.**

Twin Spacecraft to Track Earth's Water Cycle Successfully Launched

- **A twin spacecraft to track the global water cycle has been successfully launched aboard the SpaceX rocket,** along with five communications satellites.
- It lifted off on a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US,** sharing their ride into space with five Iridium NEXT communications satellites.

Unique telescope link offers new view of stars

- **Scientists in South Africa launched the world's first optical telescope linked to a radio telescope,** combining “eyes and ears” to try to unravel the secrets of the universe.
- **The device forms part of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project in the remote Karoo desert,** which will be the world's most powerful radio telescope system.
- The latest move combines the **new optical telescope MeerLITCH — Dutch for ‘more light’ —** with the recently-completed **64-dish MeerKAT radio telescope,** located 200 kilometres away.

Researchers at IISER have been able to split water and generate oxygen and hydrogen

- **Using paper coated with nickel nanoparticles and model catalysts as electrodes, researchers at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata have been able to split water and generate oxygen and hydrogen gas with very low overpotentials** (voltage applied over and above the theoretical voltage to split water).
- The **flexible electrodes recorded 98% water-splitting efficiency** and maintained robustness and durability even after more than 10 continuous days of operation.

The current produced by the nickel-coated paper electrodes remained constant even when the material was subjected to extreme deformation bending up to 180 degree. Similarly, the electrodes remained stable even when the electrolyte (potassium hydroxide) was made highly corrosive — more than 10 days of continuous operation at 1M (pH 14) and at least 12 hours at 10 M concentration.

Disposable biosensor selectively detects alcohol

- Researchers from IIT Guwahati have developed a paper-based biosensor that can detect ethanol.
- The short response time of about 10 seconds to detect ethanol and the range of concentrations to which the response was proportional make the biosensor particularly attractive.
- With available hand-held devices such as breath analysers being non-specific, non-selective, requiring extra power sources, being expensive to fabricate and so on, cheap and effective biosensors become necessary.

Buddha's teachings shine in golden manuscript

- Gyetongba, a compendium in Tibetan script, is being restored at a Darjeeling monastery.
- A trove of more than 600 pages of rare Tibetan manuscripts with his teachings written in gold letters has been restored at a 100-year-old monastery in Alubari in West Bengal's Darjeeling district.
- Restoration of the gold-inlaid manuscripts in two volumes at the Mak Dhog Monastery started earlier this year.

The manuscripts contain the ancient Tibetan text called Gyetongba, which contains teachings of Buddhism. The manuscripts are in the Tibetan script Sambhota, named after its inventor.

India's first VBN facility set up at AIIMS

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has become the country's first hospital to set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumour-like spots in the lungs, which can be cancerous.

The Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation system was installed in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders at AIIMS, New Delhi on April 23, 2018 and four initial patients underwent the procedure successfully.

Peruvian scientists use DNA to trace origins of Inca emperors

- Researchers in Peru believe they have traced the origins of the Incas — the largest pre-Hispanic civilisation in the Americas — through the DNA of the modern-day descendants of their emperors.
- From their ancient capital Cusco, the Incas controlled a vast empire called Tahuantinsuyo, which extended from the west of present-day Argentina to the south of Colombia.

Tessy Thomas to head DRDO's aeronautical projects

- The country's top woman missile scientist, Tessy Thomas, has been appointed to head the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) aeronautical projects.
- Tessy, who has successfully helmed the launch of Agni missiles for many decades, is the first woman to be appointed as DRDO's Director General, Aeronautics Systems (DG-Aero).

India becomes the leading country in coconut production and productivity

- India has made unprecedented progress in coconut cultivation from mid-2014 to 2018 and now it has become the leading country in coconut production and productivity.
- Productivity increased to 11516 fruits per hectare in 2017-18 as compared to 10122 in 2013-14. Between 2014 and 2018, 13,117 hectare was brought under new plantation as compared to 9,561 hectare during 2010-2014.

- **India has been exporting coconut oil to Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka since April 2017. Till March 2017, India was importing coconut oil. Also, for the first time India has been exporting dry coconut in large quantities to the U.S and European countries.**

Upgraded Pinaka rocket successfully test-fired

- **An upgraded version of Pinaka rocket, with a guidance system and an enhanced range, was successfully test-fired from the Proof & Experiment Establishment (PXE) at Chandipur in Odisha.**
- **The earlier Pinaka version, which was an unguided one, has now been upgraded into a guided version, with a navigation, guidance and control kit developed by the Research Centre, Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.**
- **The RCI comes under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

The guided Pinaka was developed jointly by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, the RCI, and the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad. The PXE, Chandipur, provided the range and launch support. According to a source in the DRDO, the conversion helped in enhancing the range and accuracy of Pinaka. If its range was earlier 40 km, it is more than 70 km now.

Inventions/Discoveries

ISRO develops desi atomic clock, to be used in navigation satellites

- **In a significant development, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an atomic clock that will be used in navigation satellites to measure precise location data.**
- **The space agency currently imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium for its navigation satellites.**

“SAC has developed an indigenous atomic clock and this clock is currently undergoing a series of qualification tests. Once it successfully clears all tests, the desi atomic clock will be used in an experimental navigation satellite to test its accuracy and durability in space.”

AI outperforms doctors in detecting skin cancer

- **A computer was better than human dermatologists at detecting skin cancer in a study that pitted humans against machine in the quest for better, faster diagnostics.**
- **A team from Germany, the U.S. and France taught an artificial intelligence system to distinguish dangerous skin lesions from benign ones, showing it more than 100,000 images.**

Astronomers find first carbon-rich asteroid in Kuiper Belt

- **Astronomers have discovered an unusual carbon-rich asteroid in the Kuiper Belt -- the first of its kind to be confirmed in the cold outer reaches of the solar system.**
- **This object, designated 2004 EW95, likely formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and has been flung billions of kilometres from its origin to its current home in the Kuiper Belt.**

NASA's Hubble telescope detects helium gas around exoplanet for first time

- **Astronomers have detected helium gas in the atmosphere of a planet that orbits a star far beyond our solar system for the first time.**
- **An international team, led by Jessica Spake from the University of Exeter in the UK, discovered evidence of the inert gas on ‘super-Neptune’ exoplanet WASP-107b, 200 light years from Earth and in the constellation of Virgo.**

3D-printed, driverless boats developed

- MIT scientists have designed a fleet of 3D-printed, driverless boats that could ferry goods and people, helping clear up road congestion in waterway-rich cities such as Amsterdam, Bangkok and Venice - where canals run alongside and under bustling streets and bridges.
- The autonomous boats offer high maneuverability and precise control. They can be built using low-cost printer, making mass manufacturing more feasible.

3D-printed corneas for the blind

- In a first, scientists have created 3D printed human corneas that could solve the shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again.
- As the outermost layer of the human eye, the cornea has an important role in focusing vision.
- Yet there is a significant shortage of corneas available to transplant, with 10 million people worldwide requiring surgery to prevent corneal blindness as a result of diseases such as trachoma, an infectious eye disorder.

Ruthenium found to have unique magnetic properties at room temperature

- A new experimental discovery, led by researchers at the University of Minnesota, demonstrates that the chemical element ruthenium (Ru) is the fourth single element to have unique magnetic properties at room temperature.
- The discovery could be used to improve sensors, devices in the computer memory and logic industry, or other devices using magnetic materials.

The use of ferromagnetism, or the basic mechanism by which certain materials (such as iron) form permanent magnets or are attracted to magnets, reaches back as far as ancient times when lodestone was used for navigation. Since then only three elements on the periodic table have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature - iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), and nickel (Ni). The rare earth element gadolinium (Gd) nearly misses by only 8 degrees Celsius.

Health/ Disease

IIT-Roorkee team set to tackle chikungunya

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee have identified a molecule that exhibits anti-viral activity against the chikungunya virus, raising hopes of finding a new way to combat the mosquito-borne viral disease.
- Chikungunya causes severe fever and joint pain. At present, there are no drugs or vaccine available in the market to treat it.
- The anti-viral activity achieved around 99 per cent reduction in the virus.

WHO launches 'REPLACE' to eliminate trans-fat in foods by 2023

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial Trans fats from the global food supply by 2023.

Elimination of trans fats is key to protecting health and saving lives, the WHO said. The global health body estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to over 5, 00,000 deaths worldwide from cardiovascular diseases.

‘Daily Mile’ could boost children’s health, fitness

- The **Daily Mile** — a popular initiative in the U.K. which involves **children taking a 15-minute break from class to do physical activity** — improves fitness, body composition and activity levels in school students.
- The Daily Mile was founded in February 2012 by a teacher in U.K., Elaine Wyllie.

Vitamin D could help treat diabetes

- **Vitamin D** can help treat damaged beta cells in pancreas that produce, store and release the hormone **insulin**, paving the way for a new approach to treat diabetes.
- Scientists from USA used beta cells from embryonic stem cells for the study.

WHO publishes its first essential diagnostics list

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has published its first '**essential diagnostics list**', a catalogue of tests needed to **diagnose the most common conditions as well as a number of global priority diseases**. The step was taken to address the problem of people's inability to access diagnostic services, thus failing to receive the correct treatment.
- "**An accurate diagnosis is the first step to getting effective treatment**. No one should suffer or die because of lack of diagnostic services, or because the right tests were not available.”.
- An **estimated 46 percent of adults with Type 2 diabetes worldwide were undiagnosed**, risking serious health complications and higher health costs



ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



World's oldest known spider dies in Australia after sting by a wasp

- The world's oldest known spider has died at the ripe old age of 43 after being monitored for years during a long-term population study in Australia.
- Named **Number 16**, the spider helped scientists to unlock important information about the behaviour of an arachnid that can be found across Australia, including in domestic gardens.

Number 16 was discovered during a spider population study in 1974, and has been monitored by researchers since then.

Bacteria isolated from domestic sewage remove organophosphorous pesticide

- Using three bacterial species isolated from domestic sewage, researchers from India have successfully removed chlorpyrifos pesticide from both water and soil.
- Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphorous pesticide and is moderately toxic to humans. Poisoning from chlorpyrifos may affect the central nervous system, the cardiovascular system and the respiratory system.
- Bacteria found in domestic sewage are quite regularly exposed to low levels of this pesticide. So the bacteria adapt themselves to pesticide exposure for survival.

'World's rarest ape on the edge of extinction'

- **Tapanuli Orangutan** - the rarest ape species on the planet - could lose its battle for survival, unless decisive steps are taken to rescue it.
- Fewer than 800 members of the species survive, and they are under assault from mega-projects, deforestation, road building, and poaching.

Newest frog for India from Karnataka

- The latest addition to India's frog fauna is the Mangaluru narrow-mouthed frog, which has been found in a small industrial region in coastal Karnataka.
- The new find, described by a team of Indian scientists in the international journal *Zootaxa*, is christened **Microhylakodial** after the city of Mangaluru (called kodial in the Konkani language) from where they spotted it two years ago.

IISER boost for arsenic fight

- The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Calcutta has come up with a kit for easy and accurate detection of arsenic in potable water and its removal.
- The Arsenic Sensing and Arsenic Removal kit developed by IISER scientists will be able to detect and remove even 0.02mg arsenic in a litre of drinking water.

‘Green Good Deeds’ Movement Launched by Dr Harsh Vardhan Gets Global Recognition

- Green Good Deeds, the societal movement launched by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan, to protect environment and promote good living in the country, has found acceptance by the global community.
- The ongoing BRICS Ministerial on Environment at Durban, South Africa, has agreed to include “Green Good Deeds” in its official agenda in the next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia”.

Polish zoo claims first birth of rare mammal in captivity

- A zoo official in southwestern Poland is celebrating the birth of a bear cuscus, saying it's the first time the rare marsupial mammal has been born in captivity.
- The baby bear cuscus mostly remains in the pouch but sometimes leaves to inspect the surroundings.

Mother of all lizards found in Italian Alps

- Scientists from University of Alberta in Canada had tracked down the oldest known lizard, a tiny creature that lived about 240 million years ago when Earth had a single continent and dinosaurs were brand new.
- Scans of the fossilised skeleton of Megachirella revealed the chameleon-sized reptile was an ancestor of today's lizards and snakes, which belong to a group called squamates.
- This finding dragged the group back in time by 75 million years, and means that “lizards inhabited the planet since at least 240 million years ago”.

Royal Bengal tiger genome sequenced

- For the first time, the genome of the Royal Bengal tiger, an endangered big cat, has been sequenced as part of plans to generate a high-quality draft genome sequence of the animal.
- Although endangered and threatened by various extinction risks, this tiger subspecies is the most populous one with the highest genetic diversity and the strongest chance of survival in the wild.

New snake found in Western Ghats

- Just 40 cm long and iridescent brown, Bhupathy's shieldtail is the latest addition to the snake fauna of the Western Ghats.
- The snake, currently observed only in the forests of the Anaikatty hills in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district, has been named Uropeltisbhupathyi, after the late herpetologist S. Bhupathy, for his contributions to the field.

The reptile belongs to a family of snakes found only in peninsular India and Sri Lanka. They are non-venomous, burrowing and mostly earthworm-eating, and are called shieldtails after the large, flat tips of their tails, which make them appear almost sliced off.

First record of invasive aphid in Kashmir Valley

- It's bad news for Kashmir Valley, the fruit bowl of India. The brown peach aphid – an insect that attacks temperate fruit trees – has been recorded here for the first time. The spread of the aphid could affect the local economy which is dependent on fruit trees to a large extent.

- **Aphids feed on the saps of plants, attacking plant tissues** that transport food to all different plant parts.

The **brown peach aphid** *Pterochloroides persicae* is a notorious pest of peach and almond trees in the Mediterranean regions. In India, the aphid was recorded for the first time in the 1970s from Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

Ocean zone home to 100 new species found

- Oxford scientists have discovered an ocean zone off the coast of Bermuda teeming with over 100 species new to science.
- The **Rariphotic Zone** extends from 130 metres to 300 metres and joins five other areas which have distinct biological communities living and growing within them.
- The section was discovered during a research mission to the **British island territory of Bermuda** organised by ocean exploration charity **Nekton**, and led by scientists from **Oxford University** in the U.K.

Air pollution killed 7 million worldwide: WHO data

- **Inhaling polluted air affects lungs the most**, shows data analysis released by **World Health Organization (WHO)** analysing **particulate matter (PM)** in the air across the globe.
- Of all the deaths linked to severe air pollution, **43% were associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** a **chronic inflammatory lung disease** that causes obstructed airflow from the lungs, and **29% succumbed to lung cancer**.
- **WHO estimates close to 90% of people globally** were exposed to severely polluted air, and about **seven million** died around the world in 2016 due to reasons attributed to **air pollution**.



SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Rafael Nadal beats Stefanos Tsitsipas to win 11th Barcelona Open title

- World number one Rafael Nadal produced an imperious display to win his 11th Barcelona Open title with a 6-2 6-1 win over Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Prajnesh wins maiden singles title on Challenger circuit

- Prajnesh Gunneswaran clinched his first ever singles title on the ATP Challenger circuit when he downed Egypt's Mohammed Safwat in the final of the Kunming Open in Anning, a victory which will push him inside top-200.

India's Neeraj Goyat is WBC Asia Boxer of the Year

- Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with the WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award.
- Neeraj is the current WBC Asia champion in welter weight category.
- Since turning pro in 2011, Neeraj has won nine fights including two knockouts.

Rizvi ranked World No. 1 in 10m air pistol

- India's 10m air pistol shooter Shahzar Rizvi grabbed the No. 1 spot in ISSF World rankings, riding on his silver medal-winning performance in the World Cup in Changwon, Korea.

Mohamed Salah named Football Writers' Footballer of the Year

- Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has been named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year for 2017-18.
- The Egyptian becomes the first African to be given the accolade after edging out Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne by less than 20 votes in a ballot of more than 400 FWA members.

Hockey India recommends Manpreet Singh for Arjuna Award

- Mid-fielder Manpreet Singh, who led India's men's hockey team at last month's Commonwealth Games, was among the three players recommended for this year's Arjuna Award by the national federation.

Rohit Sharma becomes first Indian to slam 300 sixes in T20s

- Mumbai Indian skipper Rohit Sharma went on to become the first Indian to score 300 sixes in T20 cricket across all tournaments.

Aditi Ashok

- Young Indian golfer Aditi Ashok notched up her second successive top-10 finish by finishing Tied-sixth at the Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic.

Ramit Tandon

- India's Ramit Tandon toppled number one seed Omar Abdel Meguid of Egypt to win the Abu Dhabi Open, his third title on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) tour.

Rafael Nadal breaks John McEnroe record with 50th consecutive win

- Rafael Nadal won his 50th consecutive set on clay to break John McEnroe's 34-year record and beat Diego Schwartzman at the Madrid Open.

Kvitova wins third Madrid Open title

- Czech 10th seed Petra Kvitova won the Madrid Open title for the third time with a marathon 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-3 victory over Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.
- Kvitova, who was also the champion in Madrid in 2011 and 2015, has now claimed four titles in 2018 after triumphs in St Petersburg, Doha and last weekend in Prague.

Kevin O'Brien becomes Ireland's first batsman to score Test century

- Kevin O'Brien scripted history after scoring an unbeaten 118 to become Ireland's first Test centurion.
- O'Brien reached the milestone in 186 deliveries on day 4 of the only Test match between Ireland and Pakistan in Dublin.

Heena Sidhu clinches gold

- Indian Shooter Heena Sidhu clinched the gold medal while compatriot P Shri Nivetha settled for bronze in the women's 10m air pistol at the International Shooting Competitions of Hannover, Germany.
- Heena was in a rollicking form in the final where she was tied with France's Mathilde Lamolle on 239.8 points. She won the tie to win the gold ahead of Mathilde.

Lewis Hamilton wins Spanish Grand Prix to stretch lead in F1 title race

- Lewis Hamilton won for the second race in succession by dominating an eventful Spanish Grand Prix.
- Hamilton's win moves him into a 17-point championship lead, with title rival Sebastian Vettel fourth following questionable strategy calls from his Ferrari team.

Virat Kohli becomes first batsman to go past 500 run mark in an IPL season for fifth time

- Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli became the first batsman to score 500 or more runs in one edition for the fifth time.
- Kohli first struck more than 500 runs in the 2011 season where he accumulated a total of 557 runs while scored 634 in 2013 and 505 in 2015 respectively.
- The 2016 edition was the most successful one for the right-handed batsman as he notched up a record-breaking 973 runs for RCB that included 4 tons.
- Kohli is followed by David Warner (4), Suresh Raina (3), Chris Gayle (3), Gautam Gambhir (3) and Sachin Tendulkar (2).

Manohar to remain ICC chairman

- Shashank Manohar has been re-elected chairman of the International Cricket Council for another two year.

- Manohar, who became the ICC's first independent chairman in 2016 and was the sole nominee for the position, was elected unopposed after a tenure marked by broad reforms.

Chhetri wins Players' player-of-the-year award

- Sunil Chhetri was named the Players' player-of-the-year at the Bengaluru FC awards. With 24 goals, the skipper also picked up the award for the top-scorer of the season.
- Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the Fans' player-of-the-year award, while Miku's strike against FC Goa at the Fatorda Stadium was voted the club's goal-of-the-season.

AB de Villiers announces retirement from all forms of international cricket

- Former South African captain and one of modern day cricket's best batsmen AB de Villiers has retired from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect.

De Villiers holds many batting records, including the world's fastest One Day International (ODI) 50, 100 and 150, the fastest Test century by a South African and the fastest Twenty20 International (T20I) 50 by a South African.

World's most popular athlete

- Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo topped the ESPN World Fame 100 list for a third straight year, pipping American basketball player LeBron James and long-term Argentine rival Lionel Messi.
- Real Madrid forward Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, was named the most popular athlete in the world on the basis of his social media following, endorsement deals and search score.

Rajinder Singh named Hockey India president

- Rajinder Singh was named president of Hockey India (HI), following Mariamma Koshy's resignation from the post.

Lionel Messi claims record fifth European Golden Shoe

- Lionel Messi picked up a record fifth European Golden Shoe after finishing the domestic league campaign with 34 goals.
- It is the fifth time Messi has claimed the award (2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2016-17), moving the 30-year-old one clear of Cristiano Ronaldo.

Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni feature in ESPN World Fame 100 list

- Indian cricketers Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni appeared in the top 20 biggest names in the world of sports while Cristiano Ronaldo was tagged the most famous athlete in the world, according to ESPN World Fame 100.
- Indian cricket captain Kohli is the most popular athlete in India and has been slotted just outside the top ten on the latest World Fame 100. Nine cricketers are among the 11 Indian athletes on the list.
- As India is the biggest user of Facebook and cricket the leading sport in the country, it is no surprise that Yuvraj Singh (57) comes ahead of four-time F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton (68), while Harbhajan Singh (80) and Gautam Gambhir (83) are above football stars Robert Lewandowski (84) and Eden Hazard (85).

Virat Kohli Named International Cricketer of the Year

- India skipper Virat Kohli won the International Cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards.
- India opener Shikhar Dhawan was presented the International Batsman of the Year Award, while New Zealand pace sensation Trent Boult won the International Bowler of the Year Award.

Sport Events

Virat Kohli to play for Surrey in English County

- India captain Virat Kohli officially inked his deal with top English County side Surrey in his bid to prepare for the tour of England, starting in July.

Sports initiative 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' launched at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

- A sports initiative 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' was launched at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh in the presence of 1,500 athletes.
- The athletes will compete in volleyball, basketball, cricket, football, kabaddi and athletics.

Mary Pierce named ambassador for TCS World 10K marathon

- Former tennis star Mary Pierce has been named the International Event Ambassador for TCS World 10K 2018 Marathon. The marathon, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru for May 27, will see Pierce gracing the occasion.

Pankaj Roy, Gaekwad get Lifetime Award

- Pankaj Roy, who held Test cricket's world record opening partnership of 413 with Vinoo Mankad for a little over 51 years, was conferred the Col. C.K. Nayudu Life Time Achievement Award (posthumous).
- The stylish opener from Bengal scored 173 and Mankad 231 during the stand against New Zealand in the Madras Test of January 1956.

Indian shooters bag 2 team Silver medals at Grand Prix of Liberation International competition

- In Shooting, Olympian Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar clinched a Silver medal in the 10-meter Air Rifle Mixed Team event in the Grand Prix of Liberation International competition at Pilsen in the Czech Republic.

India finishes on top in South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo

- India has finished on top in the South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo.
- Indian athletes won nine more Gold medals, ending with a tally of 20 Gold, 22 Silver and 8 Bronze.

NBA and FIBA to host BWB Asia

- The National Basketball Association (NBA) and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) will host the Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Asia event, open to the best boys and girls in the under-17 age group of the Asia Pacific region, at the NBA Academy in the National Capital Region from May 30 to June 2.

Indian judokas win three medals on first day of Asian Cadet Judo Championships

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

Khelo India Scheme is conducting the first National Para Games starting next month in Bangalore

- The very first National Para Games, created on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July in Bengaluru.
- The tentative dates for the multi-sport event for para-athletes, who will be competing among the various states, have been put from June 28 to July 7.

India U-16 football team defeat Tajikistan 4-2 to win four-nation tournament in Serbia

- Indian colts won against Tajikistan 4-2 and emerged as champions in the four-nation Under-16 Tournament held in Serbia.

Himanta Biswa Sarma elected as Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation

- The President of Badminton Association of India (BAI), Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected as the Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
- The election took place during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the continental body in Bangkok, Thailand.

Thomas cup Badminton tournament starts in Thailand

- Thomas cup Badminton tournament is starting in Thailand, Bangkok.
- India has been clubbed with Australia, France and heavyweights China in Group A.

Pazhania to head AFI tech. panel

- Kerala's S. Pazhania Pillai is back as the chairman of the Athletics Federation of India's technical committee.
- The AFI picked Pazhania, a former athletics coach turned technical official, to fill in the vacancy following the death of Tony Daniel.

Nadal wins eighth Italian Open title

- Rafael Nadal came out on top in a matchup of this year's top two clay-court players, beating defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 to win a record-extending eighth Italian Open title.

Indian women's Hockey team fails to defend its crown at 5th Asian Champions Trophy

- The Indian women's Hockey team failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy, as it lost to hosts South Korea, 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City.

India lose to France 1-4 in Thomas Cup Final

- India lost to France in Thomas Cup Final 1-4 at Bangkok.
- Indian male shuttlers made a disastrous start to their campaign as they lost to France in a group A opening match. The defeat will jeopardise their chances of qualifying for the knockout stage.
- World No. 18 B Sai Praneeth gave India a positive start, defeating France's Brice Leverdez 21-7 21-18 to take a 1-0 lead, but none of the other players could step up.

Italian Open: Elina Svitolina beats Simona Halep

- Elina Svitolina thrashed world number one Simona Halep 6-0 6-4 to win a second consecutive Italian Open.
- In a rematch of last year's final, the Ukrainian dominated from the start in Rome and took the first set without losing a game in just 19 minutes.

Manchester United named most valuable football team by KPMG

- Manchester United is ahead of Real Madrid and Barcelona in terms of overall value. The study is based on the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons.
- The Red Devils' overall value increased five percent compared to 2017 to more than 3.2 billion euros (£2.8 billion pounds, \$3.77 billion), beating Real Madrid on 2.9 billion euros and FC Barcelona on 2.8 billion euros.

Japan regains Uber Cup

- Japan's women clinched the Uber Cup, breezing by surprise finalist Thailand 3-0 to end a 37-year wait to regain the title.

Tennis Player Ankita Raina Included in TOPS

- Tennis player Anikta Raina, who has displayed good form this season both in the Fed Cup and the professional circuit, was included in the government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

AWARDS



Nobel Literature Prize put off to 2019

- For the first time in almost 70 years, there will be no Nobel Literature Prize this year, after the Swedish Academy that selects the laureate failed to contain a deep crisis stemming from the anti-sexual harassment #MeToo campaign.

The Nobel Prize in Literature is a Swedish literature prize that has been awarded annually, since 1901, to an author from any country who has, in the words of the will of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, produced "in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction". It is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the 1895 will of Alfred Nobel, which are awarded for outstanding contributions in chemistry, physics, literature, peace, and physiology or medicine. The first Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded in 1901 to Sully Prudhoe of France. In 2017, the Swedish Academy awarded Kazuo Ishiguro the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Jnanpith laureate M T Vasudevan Nair bags ONV Literary Prize

- Jnanpith laureate M T Vasudevan Nair has won this year's annual ONV Literary Prize, instituted in memory of iconic poet late O N V Kurup, for his overall contributions to Malayalam literature.
- The award, comprising a cash prize of Rs three lakh, citation and a plaque, was instituted by the ONV Cultural Academy.

Himachal GauravPuraskar for Shail Bala

- The Himachal Pradesh government decided to confer 'Himachal GauravPuraskar' to Assistant Town Planner, Kasauli, Shail Bala, who was shot dead by a guest house owner during a demolition drive of unauthorized constructions in Kasauli, Solan.

President of India presents Visitor's Awards 2018

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, hosted a one-day meet of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities of whom he is Visitor at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- During the inaugural session of the meeting, he presented the Visitor's Awards for Research in the field of Basic and Applied Science and in the field of Humanities, Arts and Social Science.
- The awards were presented to Prof. Sanjay K. Jain's for his work on the development of a drug delivery system having the potential to make cancer treatment more effective and affordable; Prof. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee for his research on the molecular complexity of the snake venom; Prof. Ashwani Pareek's work on

the development of a rice variety having the potential to enhance the farm productivity and income of farmers; and Prof. Pramod K. Nayar for his work in the field of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Prof Muhammad Yunus conferred KISS Humanitarian Award 2018

- Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus called for imagining a system that creates wealth for everybody in the world.
- Yunus, who is the founder of Grameen Bank and known as the Father of Microfinance, said that 99 per cent of world's population owns only one per cent of the wealth and said wealth for everyone can be created through imagination.
- Prof Yunus is the second Nobel laureate to be conferred the award. Last year it was presented to the 14th Dalai Lama.

Nisha Bhalla conferred with 'WEF 2018' award

- Nisha Bhalla, a 46-year-old holistic coach and consultant from Mumbai was felicitated at the recently concluded Annual WEF 2018 Awards, where she also spoke about 'Economics of Goodness in Giving and Philanthropy'. The event was held in Delhi from April 26 to May 1.
- Nisha was presented the 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award for her spiritual service at the event on April 28.

Fiji's Mahendra Chaudhry chosen for Krishna Menon Award

- Mahendra Chaudhry, Fiji's Indian-origin former prime minister has been chosen to receive the V K Krishna Menon Award in recognition of his contribution to the Indian diaspora.
- The award was announced by the director of V K Krishna Menon Institute Cyriac Maprayil as the institute celebrated the 122nd birth anniversary at the Nehru Centre here recently.

Lata Mangeshkar conferred with Swara Mauli award

- Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.
- Mangeshkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the country, in 2001 - the second vocalist, after MS Subbulakshmi to receive the honour.

Sridevi honoured at the Cannes Film Festival

- The Cannes film festival paid tribute to actor Sridevi with the Reginald F. Lewis Film Icon Award.
- The award traditionally celebrates women of the film industry all over the world.
- Filmmaker Subhash Ghai and producer Namrata Goyal received the award on behalf of Sridevi's family.

Mark Tully to get Red Ink Award

- Senior journalist Mark Tully was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai on May 18.
- Tully worked with the BBC for three decades and was the broadcaster's Chief of Bureau for Delhi for 20 years.

Sulabh International founder awarded Nikkei Asia Prize

- The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, has been honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development.
- Pathak is among the three who have been conferred with the award.

NRI industrialist Swraj Paul wins lifetime achievement award in UK

- **Leading NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul** has received a lifetime achievement award for his contributions towards promoting brand India in the UK.
- The founder of Caparo Group of industries was recognised at a UK & Asia Business Awards ceremony in London, organised by World Consulting and Research Corporation (WCRC) - the research and consultancy firm behind collating the world's "iconic" brands.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus will receive Mark Twain Prize for comedy

- **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** later this year will be honored by the Kennedy Center with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, an award given to the world's greatest humorists.
- The "Veep" star will be saluted at a gala performance on October 21.

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 presented to the INSV Tarini Team

- **Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** presented the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 to the members of the INSV Tarini team in New Delhi.
- The Six-member all-women team comprising of Lt Commander Vartika Joshi, Lt Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lt Commander Swathi Patarpalli, Lt Aishwarya Bodapatti, Lt SH Vijaya Devi and Lt Payal Gupta have received the Puraskar from the Minister.

Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk wins Man Booker International Prize for 'Flights'

- **An English translation of Polish novel 'Flights'**, which interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body, was named as the winner of the prestigious Man Booker International Prize.
- The novel by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft, won the £50,000 (57,000 euros, \$67,000) prize after coming top of a shortlist of six titles.
- The money will be split between the author and translator.

Paweł Pawlikowski wins best director award at Cannes Film Festival

- Polish-British filmmaker **Paweł Pawlikowski** won the best director award at the Cannes Film Festival in France for his movie "Cold War".

Japanese indie Shoplifters wins Palme d'Or

- The Japanese family drama **Shoplifters** has received the coveted award for best film, the Palme d'Or, at the Cannes Film Festival.
- The runner-up Grand Prix went to US director Spike Lee's anti-racism satire **BlacKkKlansman**.
- Led by actor Cate Blanchett, the jury announced their top picks after what was a politically charged festival.

Mamata Banerjee to confer Banga Bibhushan award on Asha Bhosle

- Veteran singer **Asha Bhosle**, Bengali superstar **Prosenjit Chatterjee** and Justice **Shyamal Kumar Sen (retd)** among others will be conferred the highest civilian award of West Bengal, the **Banga Bibhushan**, by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Balkrishna Doshi receives Pritzker, recognition for Indian architecture

- **Prof Balkrishna Doshi** received the field's highest honour, the **Pritzker Prize** at a ceremony in Toronto, making him the first Indian to be awarded the so-called 'Nobel of architecture'.

India's Jagriti Yatra wins charity award in UK

- An Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London.
- **Jagriti Yatra was among a series of worldwide charities and individuals recognised for their impact within their communities at the Asian Voice Charity Awards, powered by due diligence platform Charity Clarity.**
- “Jagriti Yatra organises 15-day train journeys, covering 800 km for 400 young change-makers across India every year.
- It has created some of **India's foremost social entrepreneurs and pioneers of enterprise-led development** that cuts across socio-economic boundaries in India”.

Biodiversity award for Arunachal reserve

- **A community reserve in Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award** for its effort to conserve the critically endangered bird - Bugun liocichla.
- **Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve Management Committee (SBVCR) of Arunachal Pradesh was awarded the India Biodiversity Award, 2018** on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity.
- India Biodiversity award is **conferred annually by the National Biodiversity Authority.**

Kendrick Lamar humbly accepts Pulitzer Prize for Music

- **Kendrick Lamar's 2017 album, Damn became the first non-classical and non-jazz album to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music.**
- **Kendrick Lamar accepted his accolade during a ceremony at Columbia University in New York, New York.**

PM Modi gives Padma Shri award to former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the Padma Shri award, one of India's highest civilian awards, to former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh in Singapore.**
- **Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.**

Kerala cartoonist wins international award

- **Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony has won an international award, in the best caricature category.**
- **Antony is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards, instituted by an organisation based in Lisbon, Portugal.**

Kailash Satyarthi, ISRO chief get 'Santokbaa Humanitarian' award

- **President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to two noted personalities.**
- **Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), were given 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award.**
- **The award, instituted by Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) and led by diamond baron Govind Dholakia, includes a trophy and prize money of Rs 1 crore each to the awardees.**

PERSONS IN NEWS

Parineeti Chopra becomes first Indian woman ambassador of Australia Tourism panel

- **Actress Parineeti Chopra finds Australia a perfect holiday destination, and she finds it effortless to promote it among Indian travellers.**
- **Parineeti, the first Indian woman ambassador of the "Friend of Australia" (FOA) advocacy panel by Tourism Australia.**

Singer Bappi Lahiri honoured by London's World Book of Records for his contribution to global music

- **Celebrated music director Bappi Lahiri was feted by London's World Book of Records for his contribution to global music with his immortal song 'Jimmy Jimmy aaja aaja'.**
- **The song 'Jimmy Jimmy Aaja Aaja', originally picturised on Mithun Chakraborty in the 1982 film 'Disco Dancer', has been translated in Russian and Chinese and has been a part of the original score of Adam Sandler's 'You Don't Mess with the Zohan'.**

Kavinder Gupta, New J&K Deputy Chief Minister

- **Mr Gupta, a long-time member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS, the ideological mentor of the BJP, replaced Nirmal Singh as Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's number 2.**

Mohit Chauhan Nominated as Green Ambassador of Sikkim

- **The Sikkim government has nominated Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan as the Green Ambassador of the state.**
- **The state government had earlier this year roped in AR Rahman as its ambassador to promote tourism in Sikkim.**
- **"Mohit Chauhan, Bollywood playback singer and singer of a band known as 'Silk Route', has been nominated as the Green Ambassador for promoting Sikkim as a Green Destination, nationally and internationally, on voluntary basis".**

Biopic on Vijay Amritraj

- **Following the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, M.S. Dhoni and Mary Kom, former Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj's story will be told on the big screen.**

Nirmal Singh elected as speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly

- **BJP legislator and former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh was elected as the speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.**
- **Mr Singh, who is an MLA from Billawar constituency in Jammu region, was elected as the speaker by a voice vote in a one day special session of the Assembly.**

Eminent Artist and Sculptor, ShriUttamPacharne appointed regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

- **The President of India has appointed Shri Uttam Pacharne, as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. ShriPacharne is an eminent artist and sculptor.**

- He is a widely respected person in the field of art and has held various important positions. **Currently, he is Member of Advisory Committee, Kala Academy, Goa and Member of Advisory Committee, P.L. Deshpande State Lalit Kala Academy and Director, Janseva Sahakari Bank Borivali.**

Nara Lokesh receives award for 'Digital Leader of the Year'

- **Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Nara Lokesh** received the "Digital Leader of the Year" award during **Business world Digital India Summit and Awards 2018** at New Delhi.
- The 'Business World' magazine has announced this award for the **best utilisation of technology in governance.**

Rohatgi joins Lokpal selection panel

- **Former Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi** has been **appointed "eminent jurist"** in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee led by the Prime Minister, which will **shortlist candidates for appointment as the anti-corruption ombudsman.**

Gina Haspel voted new CIA director, first woman to hold position

- **Veteran spy Gina Haspel** will become the **first female director of the CIA** after **six Democrats joined Republicans in a Senate confirmation vote** that overrode concerns about her role in the **spy agency's harsh interrogation program after 9/11.**

Akshay Kumar launches ad campaign for Swachh Bharat

- **Eminent actor, Shri Akshay Kumar,** launched an **advertisement campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** in the capital.
- The **campaign was launched at a Collectors Convention for Toilet Technology** organized in the capital.
- The campaign focuses on promoting the **twin pit toilet technology in rural India,** and also features actor, **Ms Bhumi Pednekar** along with **Shri Kumar.**

Nima Jangmu Sherpa scales 3 highest mountains in single season; sets world record

- **Nima Jangmu Sherpa,** a **Nepali woman** **created a world record by scaling three highest mountains in a single climbing season.**
- She made her historic ascent on **Mt Kanchenjunga,** third highest peak of the world.
- **Nima Jangmu has become only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal** above 8,000 meters in one season within 25 days. She had successfully scaled **Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse.**

Sushant Singh Rajput to promote two major initiatives of NITI Aayog

- **NITI Aayog and Sushant Singh Rajput** have decided to **collaborate towards promoting two major initiatives of NITI Aayog, promotion of BHIM and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform.**
- As part of its larger mandate to promote digital payments across the country, the **NITI Aayog** has been successfully driving the digital payments campaign in India, wherein it collaborates with youth leaders and public figures to promote the cashless payment systems across the country.

Pankaj Saran, India's envoy to Russia, appointed as deputy National Security Advisor

- **Senior diplomat Pankaj Saran** has been **appointed as deputy National Security Advisor.** Saran is currently **India's Ambassador to Russia.**
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has **approved Saran's appointment as the deputy NSA for a period of two years,** on deputation basis initially till the date of his superannuation, i.e., **November 30, 2018**
-

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuation of 'Krishonnati Yojana' approved

- The government approved the continuation of the **agriculture sector umbrella programme, 'Green Revolution Krishonnati Yojana'**, with a central outlay of Rs 33,269.97 crore till March 2020.

eOffice system launched by Hyderabad city police

- The **Hyderabad city police** launched the eOffice System in the city Police Commissionerate office as a citizen-friendly initiative.
- The system helps in **faster clearance of files** and it envisions a **paper-less office**.

DEPwD to organise 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' in Faridabad

- A '**Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme**' is being organized by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in association with Indian Red Cross Society and Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre at Huda Convention Centre, Sector-12, Faridabad (Haryana).

Ministry of Railways announces Awards for beautification of Station premises

- Out of 62 entries, **Balharshah and Chandrapur (Central Railway)** bag **First prize**; **Madhubani (East Central Railway)** and **Madurai (Southern Railway)** adjudged **second**; **Gandhidham (Western Railway)** **Kota (West Central Railway)** share **Third Prize** with **Secunderabad (South Central Railway)**

New book to decode Bengal's 'didi' Mamata Banerjee

- **Mamata Bannerjee** was one of India's youngest parliamentarians ever; she served as the union railway minister for two terms, and founded the All India Trinamool Congress.
- **West Bengal's first woman chief minister**, bringing an end to the 34-year-long Left regime in the state.
- Banerjee's eventful life and political career is the subject of a **new book "Decoding Didi"**.
- **Penned by journalist Dola Mitra**, the book explores the various facets of the chief minister- sometimes being eulogized as a leader of the masses, and at other times being pilloried as a mad, whimsical dictator.

'World's first' women's special train completes 26 years

- The **first 'ladies special' train in the world**, started between **Churchgate and Borivali stations** on the **Western Railway (WR)** has completed 26 years.
- It was on **May 5, 1992** that the **WR** had introduced a suburban train service to ferry only women passengers between the two stations.

Border Roads Organisation to celebrate Raising Day

- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** is celebrated its **Raising Day on 07 May 2018**. BRO, a leader in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country is celebrated its **58 years of glorious service to the nation**.
- Since its inception in 1960, so far the Organisation has grown from 02 to 19 projects.
- The works executed have ensured the **territorial integrity and the socio-economic upliftment of the most inaccessible regions of the country as well as India's neighbourhood**.

Exhibition -‘India and the world: a history in nine stories’, to commemorate 70 years of India’s independence inaugurated at national museum, New Delhi

- First of its kind, mammoth exhibition on **Indian Civilisation**, was inaugurated by, the President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, (IGNCA), Shri. Raam Bahadur Rai, at National Museum, New Delhi.
- The Exhibition marks an unprecedented **collaboration in museum exhibition** with the British Museum, London; National Museum, New Delhi; and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai and is actively supported by the Culture Ministry.

8 countries to take part in International Children's Theatre Festival in Kolkata

- Children of various theatre groups from **eight countries** besides host India will take part in an International Children's Theatre Festival in Kolkata next month.
- **Eight participating countries** are France, Slovenia, Swaziland, Mexico, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Children of theatre groups from **Indian states** such as Kerala, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha and West Bengal will also be participating in the five-day festival at the Academy of Fine Arts from June 17 to 21.

Janet Jackson to get the Billboard Icon Award

- Janet Jackson’s icon status is being confirmed at the Billboard Awards.
- The superstar is set to receive the Billboard Icon Award at a ceremony in Las Vegas on May 20, hosted by Kelly Clarkson.

India has second highest no of institutes in Times’ University rankings table 2018

- India remains the second most represented nation – after China – among the 42 countries across four continents in the Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018.
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, at number 13 (up from 14) has taken the top spot among Indian institutes
- Forty-two Indian institutions have made it to the 2018 table, a significant increase from 27 in the previous year. Times Higher Education ranking comprises more than 350 universities, expanded from 300 last year.

N report for social inclusion

- A UN report on the Asia-Pacific region has urged the regional powers to invest in inclusive and sustainable growth.
- The UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018, the annual report from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was launched and urged countries to take advantage of high growth rate and share the benefits with the national society.

Pawan Kalyan Unfurls World's Largest Indian Flag in Telangana

- Actor-turned-politician and Jana Sena Party founder Pawan Kalyan unfurled the national flag in Hyderabad, claimed to be the world's largest Indian tricolour, to commemorate the first war of the country's independence that took place in 1857.
- The flag was 122 feet in length and 183 feet in width.
- The flag, prepared by an organisation called 'Vibrants of Kalam'.

India Pavilion Inaugurated at Cannes Film Festival 2018

- The inaugural session of the Indian Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival 2018 was held at Cannes, France. Hosted by noted actor Shri Sharad Kelkar.

The 71st annual Cannes Film Festival is currently being held from 8 to 19 May 2018. Australian actress Cate Blanchett has been named as the President of the Jury.

First female bishop of London installed

- Sarah Mullally was installed as the first female bishop of London, becoming the third most senior cleric in the Church of England.
- Ms. Mullally was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St. Paul's Cathedral. She is now the State church's third most senior cleric, after the archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System'

- Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' by Lt Gen GyanBhushan, former Army Commander and Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench. The book deals with military judicial system vis-a-vis command and management issues within the military establishments besides the whole gamut of issues relating to veterans, their families and dependents.

Two Nepalese Sherpas break world records with Mount Everest climb

- Two Nepalese Sherpas, a man and a woman set new world records for most ascents the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.
- Kami Rita Sherpa successfully scaled Sagarmatha, as the 8,848-metre Everest in known in Nepal, for the 22nd time and set a record for most ascents of the peak by a male climber.
- Lhakpa Sherpa broke her own record by climbing Everest for the ninth time – the highest number of ascents by a woman.

Netta Barzilai of Israel wins Eurovision contest

- Denmark featured singing Vikings, Ukraine's contestant rose from a coffin to play on an enormous flame-wreathed piano, and an Estonian opera singer performed in a gown 26 feet in diameter.
- But it was Israeli singer Netta Barzilai who won the Eurovision Song Contest in Lisbon with Toy, a pop anthem about female independence, accompanied by her signature chicken dance.

Cabinet approves setting up of a Central University in Andhra Pradesh

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its in-principle approval for establishing a Central University by the name of "Central University of Andhra Pradesh" in Jantluru Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh. A provision of funds worth Rs. 450 crore has been approved for meeting the first phase expenditure towards establishment of the said University.

Facebook ranks Kerala Tourism Page as the Best FB page in 2017

- Kerala Tourism's Facebook page has garnered 1.5 million likes to emerge on top among the states in the country in 2017.
- The God's Own Country, bestowed with enchanting backwaters, virgin beaches and high ranges, pushed Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat Tourism's Facebook pages to the second and third place respectively.

"AYUSH" finds a place in English Language

- The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.

- The “AYUSH” became popular as the acronym for five traditional and complementary systems of medicine, namely Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy and successfully adopted and used in all Government communications. The decision follows a proposal from the Ministry of AYUSH in this regards.

IIM Kozhikode becomes first IIM to appoint director autonomously after IIM bill

- IIM Kozhikode has become the first IIM to appoint its own director autonomously after the passing of the IIM Bill.
- The institute’s board of governors has brought back Professor Debashis Chatterjee for a second term to helm IIM Kozhikode as its director.

India’s first ‘open fire temple’ in Pune

- India’s first ‘open agiary’ mainly caters to ex-communicated Parsis, i.e. those who have married out of their community, and their children, and Zoroastrian enthusiasts who want to learn more about the religion.

China box office tops North American market

- China surpassed North America to become the world’s largest movie market in the first quarter of 2018, fuelled in part by domestic films, according to U.S. and Chinese box-office figures.

BSF’s Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu sets national record, scales Mount Everest for seventh time

- Setting up a new Indian record, Assistant Commandant Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu scaled the Mount Everest for the seventh time.
- Dharmshaktu was leading an expedition team of 25 people from the Border Security Force (BSF).

Bawa is first Indian to receive Linnean Medal

- Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa, president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London on May 24.
- Dr. Bawa is the first Indian to win the award ever since it was first constituted in 1888. According to a press release by ATREE, the scientist is being recognised for his pioneering research on the evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation, and non-timber forest products and for decades of work on the biodiversity of forests in Central America, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalaya.

Budgam shortlisted for PM Modi’s excellence award

- Jammu and Kashmir’s Budgam district has been shortlisted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s excellence award for promoting digital payments and cashless economy.
- Under the supervision of District authorities, digital payments facility has been installed at 670 places across the district so far.
- The places include 372 ration shops, 285 fertilizer shops and 13 Revenue (Tehsil) offices across Budgam.

IISc makes it to top 100 in Times Higher Education ranking

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has made it to the top 100 universities in the Times Higher Education’s World Reputation Rankings 2018, becoming the only Indian institution to make it to the prestigious list this year.
- The IISc has been ranked in the 91-100 band of the annual list topped by American universities Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford, with the UK’s Cambridge and Oxford completing the top five.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Asthma Day

- **World Asthma Day** is an annual event **organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** to improve asthma awareness and care around the world.
- **World Asthma Day** takes place on the first Tuesday of May.

World Press Freedom Day – 3rd May

- **World Press Freedom Day** was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.
- Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

World Laughter Day

- **World Laughter Day** is observed on the first Sunday of May.
- The World Laughter Day came into existence in 1998; the day was introduced by Dr Madan Kataria, the founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga Movement.

World Red Cross day

- **World Red Cross day** means 8th of May is celebrated every year as the birthday anniversary of founder of the Red Cross.
- Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), born in the Geneva in the year 1828. He was the most famous person and became the recipient of 1st Nobel Peace Prize.

International No Diet Day

- The **International No Diet Day (INDD)** is celebrated on May 06, 2018. It is an annual celebration of body acceptance and diversity.
- This day is also dedicated to promoting a **healthy life style** and raise awareness of the dangers and futility of dieting.
- The symbol of the No Diet Day is a blue ribbon, similar to the red ribbon of the World AIDS Day.

National Technology Day

- **Technology Development Board, Ministry of Science and Technology** is celebrating 19th National Technology Day, on 11th May 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan.
- Theme of the function is “Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth”.

International Nurses Day

- **International Nurses Day (IND)** is an international day celebrated around the world on 12 May (the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth) of each year, to mark the contributions nurses make to society.

International Day of Families

- The **International Day of Families** is observed on the 15th of May every year.
- Activities include workshops and conferences, radio and television programmes, newspaper articles and cultural programmes highlighting relevant themes.

- **2018 Theme: “Families and inclusive societies”**

World Hypertension Day

- The World Hypertension League (WHL) celebrated World Hypertension Day (WHD) 2018 on May 17, 2018.
- The theme for World Hypertension Day is Know Your Numbers with a goal of increasing high blood pressure (BP) awareness in all populations around the world.

International Museum Day 2018

- The worldwide community of museums celebrated International Museum Day on and around 18 May 2018.
- The theme chosen for 2018 is "Hyperconnected museums: New approaches, new publics".

Anti-Terrorism Day to be observed on 21st May

- Every year it is observed throughout the country on 21st May.
- The day is marked by a pledge taking ceremony among other activities.
- The Day is observed to generate awareness in the country among all sections of people, about the danger of terrorism and violence and its effect on the people, society and the country as a whole.

International Day for Biodiversity Celebrated across the Country

- The International Day for Biodiversity (IBD) 2018 was celebrated all over the country.
- The celebration of the IDB under the theme - “Celebrating 25 years of action on biodiversity” provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of and threats to biodiversity, while highlighting its contribution to sustainable development.
- The celebrations have been organised to mark the 25 years of coming into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

International Missing Children's Day

- International Missing Children's Day is celebrated on May 25, the same day as the United States' National Missing Children's Day designated by Ronald Reagan in 1983.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

- The theme for the 2018 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is “70 Years of Service and Sacrifice.”
- The Day, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the contributions of uniformed and civilian personnel to the work of the Organization and to honour more than 3,700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 129 who died last year.

World No Tobacco Day, 31 May 2018

- Every year, on 31 May, WHO and partners mark World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), highlighting the health and other risks associated with tobacco use, and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.
- The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2018 is "Tobacco and heart disease."

QUESTIONS

1. Name the South Asian who will head Britain's Home Office for the first time?
(a) Sajjad Lone (b) Rehmat Khan
(c) Sukumar Ranganathan (d) Sajid Javid
2. Recently, International Buddhist Conference was concluded in:
(a) Kushinagar (b) Sarnath (c) Lumbini (d) Shravasti
3. In September 2018, the second World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in:
(a) Port Louis (b) Male (c) Varanasi (d) Chicago
4. Recently, Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018 was commenced between the Indian Army and the _____ Army.
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Malaysia (d) Myanmar
5. The world's oldest known spider has died at the age of 43 after being monitored for years during a long-term population study in:
(a) New Zealand (b) Australia (c) Mexico (d) Canada
6. In January 2019, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Panaji (c) Varanasi (d) Kanpur
7. Recently, Airports Council International (ACI) in its traffic forecast has projected India as the _____ fastest growing country in the world for air passenger traffic.
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth
8. Who among the following clinched his first ever singles title on the ATP Challenger circuit by defeating Egypt's Mohammed Safwat in the final of the Kunming Open in Anning?
(a) Abbas Shehzad (b) Gowtham Nehra
(c) Sriresh Narayanan (d) Prajnesh Gunneswaran
9. Who among the following became the first Indian woman ambassador of Australia Tourism panel recently?
(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Anushka Sharma (c) Parineeti Chopra (d) Alia Bhatt
10. Who will preside over the first meeting of the national committee set up for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi next year?
(a) President Ram Nath Kovind (b) Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu
(c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi (d) Chief Justice of India
11. Which of the following state governments had decided to adopt startup ranking framework issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) recently?
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Maharashtra (d) Goa
12. According to the recent data released by the WHO, how many Indian cities are figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016?
(a) 7 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16
13. Recently, first Greenfield airport of Pakistan was inaugurated in:
(a) Lahore (b) Karachi (c) Rawalpindi (d) Islamabad

14. Recently, who has been conferred with the WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award?
(a) Kaamesh Wardhan (b) Sumit Nandawardhan (c) Neeraj Goyat (d) Amit Goyal
15. Recently H-Energy, a unit of realtor Hiranandani Group, has launched the country's first floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in:
(a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Tamil Nadu
16. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for three years recently?
(a) Subhash Chandra Khuntia (b) Sandeep Nanda
(c) Ashutosh Kumaria (d) Samar Chirayu
17. Who among the following Bollywood music directors was feted by London's World Book of Records for his contribution to global music?
(a) Bappi Lahiri (b) Jatin Pandit (c) Pritam (d) Honey Singh
18. World Asthma Day is an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world on:
(a) First Sunday of May (b) First Tuesday of May
(c) First Monday of May (d) First Thursday of May
19. Recently, which state became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), which would check irregularities and bring in transparency?
(a) Sikkim (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
20. Recently, "Vijay Prahar" exercise to fine-tune the Army's jointmanship with the Indian Air Force (IAF) was held in:
(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttarakhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Manipur
21. Recently, Union Cabinet has approved a plan to set up _____ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country.
(a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 15 (d) 20
22. Recently, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to _____ under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY).
(a) Rs 10 lakhs (b) Rs 12.5 lakhs (c) Rs 15 lakhs (d) Rs 20 lakhs
23. According to the report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has joined the U.S. and China as one of the world's five biggest military spenders surpassing:
(a) Germany (b) France (c) Saudi Arabia (d) UK
24. The Pakyong airport is set to become the 100th operational airport in India when it is commissioned in June. Pakyong airport is in:
(a) Manipur (b) Sikkim (c) Mizoram (d) Nagaland
25. In the FDI Confidence Index 2018 of global consultancy firm A T Kearney, India's position stands at:
(a) 6th (b) 8th (c) 11th (d) 15th

26. The 'Vibrant North East 2018', an event in which people would be made aware of central government's schemes and programmes, was held in:
(a) Shillong (b) Guwahati (c) Kohima (d) Agartala
27. Who has been named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year for 2017-18?
(a) Lionel Messi (b) Kevin De Bruyne (c) Mohamed Salah (d) Paul Pogba
28. Which of the following North Eastern states launched the "Go to Village" mission recently?
(a) Mizoram (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Tripura
29. Who chaired the first meeting of Defence Planning Committee (DPC), a new permanent mechanism created by the government recently?
(a) Union Defence Minister (b) MoS Defence Minister
(c) Defence Secretary (d) National Security Advisor
30. Recently, the task force constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) presented its report on "Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)" to the Union Home Minister. This task force is headed by:
(a) Shri Shyam Nigam (b) Smt Manisha Lamba
(c) Ms. Preeti Saran (d) Ms Radhika Madaan
31. Recently, who has been appointed as the full-time member of 15th Finance Commission?
(a) Sardendu Kumar (b) Pankaj Malhar (c) Deepak Bharadwaj (d) Ashok Lahiri
32. Recently, NASA's Hubble telescope detected _____ gas in the atmosphere of a planet that orbits a star far beyond our solar system for the first time.
(a) Neon (b) Helium (c) Xenon (d) Radon
33. Recently, 40 cm long and iridescent brown, Bhupathy's shieldtail snake was observed in the forests of the Anaikatty hills in:
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Kerala
34. A new book "Decoding Didi" penned by journalist Dola Mitra is based on:
(a) Mayawati (b) Sushma Swaraj (c) Mamata Bannerjee (d) Sridevi
35. Which of the following Indian state has become the first Indian state to recruit transgenders in its police force, in order to promote gender equality?
(a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Punjab
36. 'India by the Nile' festival is to start in May 2018 in:
(a) Egypt (b) Eritrea (c) South Sudan (d) Tanzania
37. Name the second Indian-American woman judge, who has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City.
(a) Deepa Shahi (b) Maneesha Mala (c) Deepa Ambekar (d) Shruti Nambiar
38. Recently, NITI Aayog decided to partner with which leading technology company to develop a crop yield prediction model using artificial intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in "aspirational districts"?
(a) Google (b) Facebook (c) IBM (d) TCS

39. Recently, the 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' was organized by the Ministry of Finance in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) Lucknow (c) Chennai (d) Bengaluru
40. Recently, which of the following Indian Institutes have identified a molecule that exhibits anti-viral activity against the chikungunya virus, raising hopes of finding a new way to combat the mosquito-borne viral disease?
(a) IIT BHU (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT, Roorkee (d) IISc, Bengaluru
41. On May 5, the first 'ladies special' train in the world has completed 26 years. The first 'ladies special' train started running between stations:
(a) Churchgate and Borivali (b) Thane and Dombivli
(c) Mahim and Thane (d) Virar and CST
42. Recently, which Indian batsman became the first Indian to score 300 sixes in T20 cricket across all tournaments?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Shikhar Dhawan (c) Yuvraj Singh (d) Rohit Sharma
43. Who has been named the International Event Ambassador for TCS World 10K 2018 Marathon to be held in Bengaluru?
(a) Steffi Graff (b) Martina Hingis (c) Martina Navratilova (d) Mary Pierce
44. The first organised census on Indus dolphins shall be carried out by the _____ along with WWF-India.
(a) Punjab government (b) Jammu & Kashmir government
(c) Himachal Pradesh government (d) Indian Environment Ministry
45. Recently, the twelfth informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in:
(a) Jakarta (b) Manila (c) Singapore (d) Bangkok
46. According to a Harvard University report, which country tops the list of the fastest growing economies in the world for the coming decade?
(a) China (b) USA (c) Singapore (d) India
47. Recently, which US states economy has surpassed that of the United Kingdom to become the world's fifth largest?
(a) New York (b) California (c) Delaware (d) Arkansas
48. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unexpectedly announced it would buy _____ of government bonds via open market operation (OMO).
(a) Rs. 5,000 crore (b) Rs. 10,000 crore (c) Rs. 15,000 crore (d) Rs. 20,000 crore
49. Recently, 27th GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council proposed a concession ofin GST rate (where the GST rate is 3% or more, 1% each from applicable Central GST and State GST rates) on B2C supplies, for which payment is made through cheque or digital mode.
(a) 0.5% (b) 1 % (c) 2% (d) 4.5%
50. Recently, the brown peach aphid - an insect that attacks temperate fruit trees - has been recorded in which Indian states for the first time?
(a) Haryana (b) Assam (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Nagaland
51. Recently, Ministry of Railways announces Awards for beautification of Station premises. Which of the following stations bagged the first prize?
(a) Chandrapur (b) Chandigarh (c) Chhapra (d) Coimbatore

52. Recently, using three bacterial species isolated from domestic sewage, researchers from India have successfully removed chlorpyrifos pesticide from both.....
(a) Water and soil (b) Water and air (c) Soil and air (d) Space and earth
53. Shri Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated the 'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities' in:
(a) Lucknow (b) Kochi (c) Bhopal (d) Jaipur
54. Recently, Skill India organized an Ajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela in:
(a) Cuttack (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Nagpur (d) Udaipur
55. In June 2018, an International Children's Theatre Festival is to be organized in:
(a) Pune (b) Mumbai (c) Kolkata (d) New Delhi
56. As per TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018, which of the following beat around 1,000 of India's top FMCG companies to emerge as the most trusted brand in the sector?
(a) Patanjali (b) ITC FMCG (c) Dabur India Ltd. (d) Britannia
57. Name the first councillor of Goa origin to be elected to the council in Swindon (UK).
(a) Shahid Manzoor (b) Sachin Pilgaonkar (c) Deepak Raheja (d) Imtiyaz Shaikh
58. Recently, India requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expand its sovereign and non-sovereign operations in the country by providing financial assistance worth _____ a year and support its sustainable growth.
(a) \$1 billion (b) \$2 billion (c) \$4 billion (d) \$6 billion
59. Which of the following countries launched a new communication satellite "APSTAR-6C" recently?
(a) India (b) Japan (c) China (d) Russia
60. Recently, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu reached Guatemala as part of his three-nation visit to Latin America. The Currency of Guatemala is:
(a) Quetzal (b) Quito (c) Bogota (d) Sucre
61. Recently, India has finished on top in the South Asian Junior Athletics Championships organized in:
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) Sri Lanka
62. Recently, the International No Diet Day (INDD) was celebrated on:
(a) 1st May (b) 3rd may (c) 6th May (d) 7th May
63. Recently, the third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in:
(a) Durban (b) New Delhi (c) Nairobi (d) Hyderabad
64. Which of the following states hosted Conclave of Finance Ministers to deliberate on the impact of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission on fiscal federalism recently?
(a) Assam (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh
65. Recently, the Government of India signed a loan deal worth _____ with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan).
(a) \$ 200 million (b) \$ 400 million (c) \$ 500 million (d) \$ 800 million

66. Who won the Abu Dhabi Open, his overall third title on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) tour?
(a) Cyrus Poncha (b) Saurav Ghosal (c) Siddharth Sukhde (d) Ramit Tandon
67. India has decided to establish at least how many Marine Observation System along the Indian Coast (Mosaic) recently?
(a) Three (b) Six (c) Eight (d) Eleven
68. Aiming to foster growth for India's nascent artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem, NITI Aayog and _____ have come together to work on a range of initiatives to help build the AI ecosystem across the country.
(a) Facebook (b) Google (c) Yahoo (d) Microsoft
69. Recently, which Indian state government rolled out "world's largest" slum land rights project?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Odisha (d) Maharashtra
70. According to government data, which state recorded the highest number of adoptions in recent years?
(a) Haryana (b) Maharashtra (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
71. Who among the following Indian-origin former prime minister, has been chosen to receive the V K Krishna Menon Award in recognition of his contribution to the Indian diaspora?
(a) Mahendra Chaudhry (b) Navin Ramgoolam (c) Basdeo Panday (d) Bharrat Jagdeo
72. Recently, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Shri Venkaiah Naidu has directed the formation of a two-member committee to review the rules of the procedures and conduct of business in the House. The committee will be headed by:
(a) Rakesh Arora (b) Dr V. K. Agnihotri (c) Amit Singla (d) D.K. Dewan
73. India hosted the 15th Asia Media Summit from May 10-12. The theme of this summit is:
(a) Go Asia (b) Telling Our Stories Asia and More
(c) Move Media Better Going (d) Asia the conqueror and Rhythm setter
74. Who has been newly elected as the prime minister of Armenia?
(a) Nikol Pashinyan (b) Mikhael Lingherfser (c) Victor Almaghegh (d) Serzh Sargsyan
75. Recently, Union Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj informed that China has agreed to restart the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La pass. Nathu La pass is located in:
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Sikkim
76. Name the largest annual military exercise between the forces of U.S. and Philippines?
(a) Balikatan (b) Lamitiye (c) Cobra Gold (d) Kakadu
77. Recently, who has been has overwhelmingly approved for a new term as prime minister of Russia by Russia's house of parliament?
(a) Dmitry Medvedev (b) Mikhail Fradkov (c) Mikhail Kasyanov (d) Viktor Zubkov
78. The Lowy Institute Asia Power Index measures power across 25 countries. The present rank of India in the Asia-Pacific region on the index is:
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Seventh

79. For the first time that the Central government has laid down guidelines for labeling genetically modified food. All packaged food with at least _____content from genetically engineered sources need to be labeled according to it.
(a) 1% (b) 3% (c) 5% (d) 10%
80. World Red Cross day is observed every year on:
(a) 4th May (b) 6th May (c) 7th May (d) 8th May
81. Which of the following states launched the country's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state recently?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Rajasthan
82. What is the present rank of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Forbes 2018 list of 75 of the World's Most Powerful People who make the world turn?
(a) Second (b) Fifth (c) Seventh (d) Ninth
83. To promote electric vehicles in the country, the government has approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and _____for taxis.
(a) Orange (b) Yellow (c) Blue (d) Violet
84. India's longest road and railway bridge is likely to be inaugurated later this year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This Bridge connects _____and _____.
(a) Dibrugarh in Assam, Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Dispur in Assam, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Majuli in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Guwahati in Assam, Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh
85. The 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Bangkok (c) Tokyo (d) Beijing
86. Recently, Journalist Carlos Alvarado was sworn in as president of Central American country of:
(a) El Salvador (b) Colombia (c) Costa Rica (d) Guatemala
87. Recently, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced a climate summit set to take place in September 2019 in:
(a) Paris (b) Washington D.C. (c) New York (d) Kathmandu
88. Recently, who was presented the 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award for her spiritual service in recently concluded Annual WEF 2018 Awards?
(a) Luxika Bharadwaj (b) Rukmini Singh (c) Nisha Bhalla (d) Nidhi Makhija
89. What is the rank of India among the 42 countries across four continents in the Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018?
(a) First (b) Second (c) Tenth (d) Fourteenth
90. Which Actor-turned-politician unfurled the national flag in Hyderabad, claimed to be the world's largest Indian tricolour, to commemorate the first war of the country's independence that took place in 1857 recently?
(a) K. Chiranjeevi (b) Pawan Kalyan
(c) Kota Srinivasa Rao (d) Nandamuri Harikrishna

91. Recently, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the state's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in:
(a) Tawang (b) Pasighat (c) Naharlagun (d) Itanagar
92. Which of the following Indian states was launched the RythuBandhu scheme which will ensure that a large majority of farmers in the state will get Rs 8,000 per acre per year for two crops?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Karnataka (d) Kerala
93. For the first time since World War II India has decided to station fighter airplanes in:
(a) Lakshadweep (b) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
(c) Manipur (d) Puducherry
94. Recently, Shri Ram Nath Kovind becomes second president to visit Siachen base camp. Who was the first president to visit the camp?
(a) Smt. PratibhaPatil (b) APJ Abdul Kalam (c) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (d) Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma
95. Recently, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Shri K. J. Alphons attended the Tourism Ministers' conference by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in:
(a) Ulaanbaatar (b) Beijing (c) Wuhan (d) Panaji
96. Who became the world's oldest elected leader after a victory in the country's election recently?
(a) Mahathir Mohamad (b) Beji Caid Essebsi
(c) Michel Aoun (d) Paul Biya
97. Which of the following tennis legends won his 50th consecutive set on clay to break John McEnroe's 34-year record recently?
(a) Roger Federer (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Andy Murray (d) Novak Djokovic
98. Which of the following Bollywood singers has been nominated as the Green Ambassador of Sikkim recently?
(a) Arijit Singh (b) Ankit Tiwari (c) Mohit Chauhan (d) Sonu Nigam
99. In May 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred state-run lender _____ from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs).
(a) UCO Bank (b) Dena Bank (c) Canara Bank (d) Oriental Bank of Commerce
100. Recently, A NASA programme that cost \$10 million per year to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, has been cancelled by:
(a) UK (b) Germany (c) France (d) USA
101. Recently, the monetary threshold for public sector banks to report frauds to different departments of the CBI for a probe has been revised. Now frauds of minimum _____ and to Rs 25 crore, up from Rs 15 crore, have to be reported to either the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch.
(a) 1 Crore (b) 3 Crore (c) 5 Crore (d) 10 Crore
102. Which of the following Nobel laureate has been conferred KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 recently?
(a) Malala Yousafzai (b) Kailash Satyarthi (c) Muhammad Yunus (d) Barak Obama
103. National Technology Day is observed every year on:
(a) 9th May (b) 10th May (c) 11th May (d) 12th May

104. Which of the following Indian states became first to sign an MoU with the Centres Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state PWD officials to rate government buildings?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Sikkim (c) Maharashtra (d) Sikkim
105. Recently, the Punjab government signed a pact with _____ for setting up of bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state.
(a) France (b) Russia (c) Japan (d) UK
106. Recently, Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a First ever Joint Conference in:
(a) Kolkata (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Nagpur
107. Who among the following unveiled India's first, indigenous lithium-ion battery charger, developed by Ampere Vehicles recently?
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Ram nath Kovind
(c) Dr. Harshavardhan (d) Shri Mahesh Sharma
108. How many Indian alumni of UK universities have been awarded by the British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to the country recently?
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Five (d) Seven
109. According to the Credit rating agency Fitch, India's economic growth will accelerate to _____ percent in the current financial year and _____ percent in the next fiscal year.
(a) 6.4 and 6.7 (b) 6.8 and 6.9 (c) 7.3 and 7.5 (d) 7.6 and 7.9
110. Recently, SEBI has asked listed companies to split the post of Chairman and Managing Director by April 2020. It has also made it compulsory for them to have _____ independent directors on board, including a women director.
(a) Three (b) Four (c) Six (d) Ten
111. Recently "World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)", an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats was observed on:
(a) 5th May (b) 7th May (c) 9th May (d) 12th May
112. The Asian Cadet Judo Championships began in:
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Israel (d) Lebanon
113. Which of the following countries is the first country to invest in Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) which will boost strategic relationship of both countries?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Russia (c) Venezuela (d) UAE
114. In the 'Sunday Times Rich List', released recently who has been the wealthiest person in UK?
(a) Srichand Hinduja (b) L.N.Mittal (c) Jim Ratcliffe (d) Len Blavatnik
115. Name the first female bishop of London, who has become the third most senior cleric in the Church of England.
(a) Lara Jo (b) Sarah Mullally (c) Alexandra Thomas (d) Kate Judon
116. Recently, who has been honoured with the Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami?
(a) Sunidhi Chauhan (b) Shreya Ghosal (c) Lata Mageshkar (d) Asha Bhonsle
117. According to the recently released, report 'RemitSCOPE - Remittance markets and opportunities - Asia and the Pacific', which of the following countries is the largest remittance- receiving country in the world?
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) USA

118. Recently, which of the following countries announced to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit?
(a) Myanmar (b) Laos (c) Nepal (d) Cambodia
119. The Centre is planning to open two museums at the Red Fort, one in honour of the revolutionaries of 1857 and freedom fighters preceding them, and the other on the life and personality of:
(a) Chandrashekar Azad (b) Bhagat Singh
(c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (d) Mahatma Gandhi
120. Recently, Indian defeated which of the following nations and emerged as champions in the four-nation Under-16 Tournament held in Serbia?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Afghanistan (c) Tajikistan (d) Bhutan
121. Which of the following Vitamins can help treat damaged beta cells in pancreas that produce, store and release the hormone insulin, paving the way for a new approach to treat diabetes?
(a) Vitamin A (b) Vitamin B (c) Vitamin D (d) Vitamin K
122. Who won the Madrid Open title for the third time recently?
(a) Kiki Bertens (b) Petra Kvitova (c) Serena Williams (d) Sania Mirza
123. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Global Exhibition on Services-2018 in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Kolkata
124. Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalised women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will soon set up a skill development centre in:
(a) Bengaluru (b) Pune (c) Hyderabad (d) Nagpur
125. Which of the following countries is expected to deliver its domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, to customers by 2022?
(a) France (b) Germany (c) USA (d) China
126. What is the name the comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial Trans fats from the global food supply by 2023 launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) recently?
(a) RETARD (b) REDUCE (c) REPLACE (d) REQUIRE
127. Which of the following Chinese bank has launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund?
(a) China Construction Bank (b) Bank of China
(c) Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (d) China Bohai Bank
128. Recently, the Union Environment Ministry launched its full-fledged Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) that aims to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country through 30 courses by year:
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
129. Who emerged as a winner of 2018 Spanish Grand Prix?
(a) V Bottas (b) D Ricciardo (c) S Vettel (d) Lewis Hamilton
130. Which of the following countries recently opened first human-free bank in the country?
(a) France (b) Japan (c) China (d) Singapore

131. Who among the following journalists was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai?
(a) Anjana Om Kashyap (b) Rajat Sharma (c) Mark Tully (d) PunyaPrasoon Joshi
132. Who has been appointed "eminent jurist" in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee led by the Prime Minister, which will shortlist candidates for appointment as the anti-corruption ombudsman recently?
(a) Mukul Rohatgi (b) SudhaMalhotra (c) Deepak Chandra (d) Ram Jethmalani
133. Which of the following automobile companies is to become the first foreign automaker to test autonomous vehicles on the road in China?
(a) Nissan (b) BMW (c) Mercedes (d) Audi
134. Who has been named as its head for India by the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) recently?
(a) Ambika Sharma (b) Jyoti Nirala (c) Shraddha Nair (d) Anju Narayanan
135. In a first, a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team has started operations in:
(a) Haryana (b) Uttarakhand (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Punjab
136. Recently, who has been honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development?
(a) Malala Yousafzai (b) Rajendra Singh (c) Kailash Satyarthi (d) Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak
137. Who has been re-elected as chairman of the International Cricket Council for another two year recently?
(a) David Richardson (b) David Boon (c) Shashank Manohar (d) Sharad Pawar
138. Recently, according to Mercom Communications India report, India has emerged as thelargest solar market in the world in 2017.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fifth (d) Sixth
139. Recently, Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme's subscriber base crossed 1 Crore. APY was launched by the Prime Minister of India in year:
(a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
140. Recently, who became the first batsman to score 500 or more runs in one edition of IPL for the fifth time?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Chris Gayle (c) Virat Kohli (d) Kane Williams
141. The International Day of Families is observed every year on:
(a) 7th May (b) 10th May (c) 15th May (d) 3rd April
142. Which of the following places has India's first railway station run by solar power?
(a) Bhopal (b) Guwahati (c) Nagpur (d) Ambala
143. According to recent Swachhata Survekshan 2018, which of the following cities is not among the top 3 cleanest cities in the country?
(a) Indore (b) Chandigarh (c) Bengaluru (d) Bhopal
144. For the first time in India, an International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) event on rail coaches and train sets will be held in:
(a) Kapurthala (b) Varanasi (c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad

145. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for construction of Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir. The length of this tunnel is:
(a) 6.4 Kilometers (b) 9.2 Kilometers (c) 12.7 Kilometers (d) 14.2 Kilometers
146. Recently, India has provided the largest sum for river training in Nepal in a bid to control floods that also affect India during the monsoon season. Which of the following rivers is not among the three river included for training?
(a) Kamla (b) Lalbakeya (c) Koshi (d) Bagmati
147. National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation. This will be established in:
(a) Patna (b) Jaipur (c) Bhopal (d) Hyderabad
148. Recently, who became the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon in the western US State?
(a) Ritika Sachdev (b) Susheela Jayapal (c) Shruti Gopal (d) Rani Mahatam
149. Who has been newly elected as Chief Minister of Karnataka?
(a) Siddharamaih (b) Ananth Kumar (c) B S Yeddyurappa (d) Easwarappa
150. Which of the following cities was ranked India's best capital city for solid waste management by the Swachh Survekshan 2018 survey?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Lucknow (c) Bengaluru (d) Jaipur
151. According to the new United Nations estimates released, which of the following cities is to become the most populous city in the world around 2028?
(a) Tokyo (b) New York (c) Beijing (d) Delhi
152. Name the mountaineer, who climbed Mount Everest for a 22nd time creating a new record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain.
(a) Raja Jhumpa (b) Kami Rita Sherpa (c) VeerendraBajaj (d) ShinaNabori
153. Who is to become the first female director of the CIA?
(a) MaragrattWomar (b) Gina Haspel (c) Natalie Jefferan (d) AleandaraTriffel
154. Which of the following has become the first Indian exchange to be recognised as a designated offshore securities market (DOSM) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)?
(a) OTC Exchange of India (b) NSE (c) India INX (d) BSE
155. Which Indian state tourism's facebook page has garnered 1.5 million likes to emerge on top among the states in the country in 2017?
(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Kerala (c) Rajasthan (d) Goa
156. Recently, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar was sworn-in as the chief justice of the high court of:
(a) Manipur (b) Meghalaya (c) Assam (d) Telangana
157. Which of the following Indian institutes has won awards in the 2017 edition of the European Foundation of Management Development case competition?
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIM Ahmedabad (c) IIM Calcutta (d) IISc Bengaluru

158. Recently renowned Indian academic and foreign policy analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) situated in:
(a) Philippines (b) Vietnam (c) Singapore (d) Myanmar
159. Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released final guidelines prescribingnet stable funding ratio (NSFR), a long-term liquidity measurement included in the Basel III liquidity standards, to ensure banks maintain adequate liquid resources for more resilience.
(a) 40 percent (b) 50 percent (c) 75 percent (d) 100 percent
160. Modifying the norms for setting up IFSC Banking Units, RBI said that the parent bank will be required to provide and maintain at all times a minimum capital of _____ to its IBU.
(a) USD 10 million (b) USD 20 million (c) USD 35 million (d) USD 50 million
161. Who has been appointed by the President of India as the regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi?
(a) Shri Sandeep Rane (b) Shri Upendra Raut
(c) Shri Deepak Deshpandey (d) Shri Uttam Pacharne
162. Recently, the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the wordin Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.
(a) SANKALP (b) SIDDHI (c) AYUSH (d) JAGRITI
163. Which of the following Indian film actress was awarded with the Reginald F. Lewis Film Icon Award?
(a) Rekha (b) Sridevi (c) Sharmila Tagore (d) Simi Garewal
164. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the Foundation Stone of the Pakal Dul Power Project in:
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Sikkim
165. World's first floating nuclear power station was unveiled in:
(a) Japan (b) Russia (c) India (d) China
166. For the first time, the genome of the _____ an endangered big cat, has been sequenced as part of plans to generate a high-quality draft genome sequence of the animal.
(a) Royal Bengal tiger (b) Asiatic Lion (c) Clouded Leopard (d) Black Panther
167. Who became the youngest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest recently?
(a) Divya Yadav (b) Deepika Rana (c) Jyoti Rawat (d) Shivangi Pathak
168. Name the leading NRI industrialist who has received a lifetime achievement award for his contributions towards promoting brand India in the UK?
(a) LN Mittal (b) Lord Swraj Paul (c) Gopi Chand Hinduja (d) Sri Chan Hinduja
169. For the first time, the Railways will use artificial intelligence to control air circulation, to issue emergency alerts and also for supervision and maintenance work in:
(a) Darjeeling (b) Shillong (c) Imphal (d) Dehradun
170. Recently who among the following was awarded the "Digital Leader of the Year" award during Business world Digital India Summit and Awards 2018 at New Delhi?
(a) Mukesh Meshram (b) Manish Shisodiya
(c) Nara Lokesh (d) Dr Dinesh Sharma

171. The very first National Para Games, created on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in:
(a) Pune (b) Ranchi (c) Bengaluru (d) New Delhi
172. Recently, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) was celebrated on:
(a) 12th May (b) 14th May (c) 16th May (d) 17th May
173. Who is the first Indian to receive architecture field's highest honour, the Pritzker Prize recently?
(a) Subhash Garg (b) Rahul Nanda (c) Divyesh Kalra (d) Balkrishna Doshi
174. Name the BSF officer who set a national record by scaling the Mount Everest for the record seventh time recently?
(a) Ravi Puran Singh (b) Dileep Singh Rajawat
(c) Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu (d) Surinder Raj Mahndiratta
175. Which of the following bollywood actors launched an advertisement campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) recently?
(a) Amitabh Bacchhan (b) Ajay Devgan (c) Akshay Kumar (d) Aamir Khan
176. Recently, which of the following has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets?
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Tripura (d) Nagaland
177. Recently who won a record-extending eighth Italian Open title?
(a) Roger Federer (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Alexander Zverev (d) Novak Djokovic
178. Name the first female turbaned Sikh auxiliary police officer of New York Police department?
(a) Rupinder Dhillon (b) Gurmeet Singh (c) Gursoach Kaur (d) Sukhvinder Kaur
179. Recently, World Bank extendedcredit to scale up energy efficiency program for India.
(a) \$100 mn (b) \$200 mn (c) \$300 mn (d) \$400 mn
180. Who among the following has received the coveted award for best film, the Palme d'Or, at the Cannes Film Festival?
(a) Annihilation (b) BlacKkKlansman. (c) Shoplifters (d) Mirror
181. Which country women hockey team recently won fifth Asian Champions Trophy?
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Malaysia (d) New Zealand
182. Which of the following will formally become the NATO's first Latin American global partner?
(a) Argentina (b) Colombia (c) Chile (d) Peru
183. Which of the following institutes has set up first of its kind Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) in the country to strengthen policy and regulatory limitations in energy and power sector?
(a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IISc Bengaluru (d) IIT Guwahati
184. As part of the overall strategy to steadily build military ties with nations in the Asia Pacific region, India will hold its first naval exercise with:
(a) Vietnam (b) Thailand (c) Myanmar (d) Laos

185. Which of the following Indian states e-Governance Agency has received an award for promoting ease of doing business by developing an investor facilitation portal that provides single window clearance to industrial proposals in the state?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
186. Recently, the scientists of which of the following countries launched the world's first optical telescope linked to a radio telescope, combining "eyes and ears" to try to unravel the secrets of the universe?
(a) South Africa (b) South Korea (c) Brazil (d) China
187. In a bid to enhance combat capabilities in Naxal-hit area inthe Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the first time, has decided to include local representation in a special unit.
(a) Jharkhand (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Bihar
188. Recently, who has been reelected as President of Venezuela for a new six-year term?
(a) Henri Falcon (b) Dibaret Mucoso (c) Nicolas Maduro (d) Netiner Markez
189. Name the first member of Malaysia's Sikh minority to be appointed as a federal minister?
(a) Arjun Singh Wadhwa (b) Gobind Singh Deo (c) Ramendra Singh (d) Duleep Singh
190. Which of the following countries will settle Queqiao satellite in an orbit about 455,000 km (282,555 miles) from the Earth and which will be the world's first communication satellite operating at moon?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Russia (d) South Korea
191. Who among the following footballers picked up a record fifth European Golden Shoe recently?
(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Lionel Messi (c) Neymar Jr. (d) Luis Suárez
192. Who among the following veteran singer was conferred with the highest civilian award of West Bengal, the Banga Bibhushan recently?
(a) Sunidhi Chauhan (b) Asha Bhosle (c) Aakriti Kakkar (d) Tulsi Kumar
193. Which of the following has launched India's first options contract on copper futures recently?
(a) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (b) Bombay Stock Exchange
(c) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (d) Inter-connected Stock Exchange of India
194. The three-day meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) legal experts was held in:
(a) Moscow (b) Islamabad (b) Beijing (d) Bengaluru
195. According to the Global Burden of Disease study, what is the rank of India in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare?
(a) 74th (b) 89th (c) 111th (d) 145th
196. Every year, International Day for Biodiversity (IBD) 2018 is celebrated all over the country on:
(a) 18th May (b) 19th May (c) 20th May (d) 22nd May
197. Recently, Scientists have discovered the first known permanent immigrant to the solar system an asteroid, nestling in Orbit that migrated from another star system.
(a) Jupiter's (b) Saturn's (c) Uranus's (d) Neptune's
198. Who won Man Booker International Prize 2018 for her novel 'Flights'?
(a) Margaret Atwood (b) Olga Tokarczuk (c) Virginie Despentes (d) Han Kang

199. Recently, the New York Stock Exchange has named its first female leader in the history of the 226-year-old exchange. The name of this female leader is:
(a) Alenia Buchares (b) Stacey Cunningham (c) Miranda Butes (d) Stacey Wildcroft
200. According to ESPN World Fame 100, who is tagged the most famous athlete in the world?
(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Yuvraj Singh (c) Eden Hazard (d) Robert Lewandowski
201. The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) is planning to launch its Americas Regional Office in:
(a) South Africa (b) Brazil (c) Russia (d) China
202. Recently, the Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national Sports University in:
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Meghalaya (d) Manipur
203. Which Indian State government had roped in national agencies like the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Geological Survey of India to speed up work for the revival and rejuvenation of the Sarasvati river?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Uttarakhand
204. In the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD), rank of India at present is:
(a) 11th (b) 21st (c) 33rd (d) 44th
205. Recently, Elina Svitolina thrashed world number one Simona Halep to win a second consecutive Italian Open. Elina Svitolina is a player from:
(a) Russia (b) Ukraine (c) Germany (d) Iceland
206. Which of the following American states Democrat Stacey Abrams made history by becoming the first African American woman ever nominated for governor?
(a) California (b) Texas (c) Georgia (d) Florida
207. Recently, the 71st World Health Assembly was opened up in:
(a) Munich (b) Rome (c) Geneva (d) Budapest
208. Recently, India has launched a complaint against which of the following countries with the World Trade Organization, WTO to challenge tariffs on Steel and Aluminium?
(a) France (b) Japan (c) USA (d) Russia
209. Recently, which of the following countries becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, Trachoma?
(a) Nepal (b) India (c) Thailand (d) Vietnam
210. Which of the following Indian states will inaugurate the world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Maharashtra (c) Kerala (d) Karnataka
211. Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and is being conducted at Pithoragarh from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar
212. The Indian Ministry of Culture is organising the 9th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" in:
(a) Punjab (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Maharashtra

213. Recently, Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan lead an Indian delegation for participation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial being held in:
(a) Bulgaria (b) Norway (c) Ireland (d) Sweden
214. Who has been appointed as Lebanon's Prime Minister for third time recently?
(a) Samir Geagea (b) Nabih Berry (c) Saad Hariri (d) Michel Aoun
215. Recently, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India along with Ministry of Commerce oforganized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave.
(a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Cambodia (d) Myanmar
216. Which of the following Indian athlete topped among the Indian athletes in the ESPN World Fame 100 list?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) M S Dhoni (c) Sania Mirza (d) Saina Nehwal
217. Recently NITI Aayog and which Bollywood actor had decided to collaborate towards promoting two major initiatives of NITI Aayog, promotion of BHIM and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform?
(a) Shahid Kapoor (b) Ranveer Singh
(c) Nawazuddin Siddiqui (d) Sushant Singh Rajput
218. Who among the following will be honored by the Kennedy Center with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, an award given to the world's greatest humorists?
(a) Tina Fey (b) Sarah Silverman (c) Julia Louis-Dreyfus (d) Ellen DeGeneres
219. The first National Highway in the country with 14 lanes was inaugurated recently which connects:
(a) Secunderabad and Hyderabad (b) Pune and Mumbai
(c) Delhi and Meerut (d) Lucknow and Varanasi
220. Recently, new software, 'Nidaan', has been launched in which Indian states for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas?
(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
221. Name the first listed Indian IT firm to hit market capitalisation of over \$100 billion?
(a) Infosys (b) Wipro (c) TCS (d) HCL
222. Name the community reserve which has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2018 for its effort to conserve the critically endangered bird - Bugun liocichla recently?
(a) Bailong Viloy Village Community Reserve (b) Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve
(c) Rishiang Village Community Reserve (d) Dweraj Village Community Reserve
223. Recently, Mia Mottley was elected as first woman prime minister of which of the following countries since gaining independence from Britain in 1966?
(a) Suriname (b) Barbados (c) Mauritius (d) Fiji
224. Who among the following is not the member of the 15th Finance Commission?
(a) Ashok Lahiri (b) Shaktikanta Das
(c) Aravind Subramaniam (d) Anoop Singh
225. The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at:
(a) Shimla (b) Dehradun (c) Kanpur (d) Nagpur

226. Which of the following Indian state governments has introduced 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana' to enhance agricultural income by adopting low-cost climate-resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming System?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Punjab (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Haryana
227. Which of the following Indian cities has become the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre recently?
(a) Nagpur (b) Lucknow (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Guwahati
228. The first edition of the Global Wind Summit 2018 will be held:
(a) Ontario (b) Mexico City (c) Hamburg (d) New York
229. Recently, who has been elected as the chairperson of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)?
(a) Shri Ramesh Chand Meena (b) Shri Sukhdev Sharan Meena
(c) Shri Krishna Kumar Thapa (d) Shri Suresh Narayan
230. Recently, a landmark Bill allowing Hindu widows to remarry has been passed by the assembly of Pakistan's _____ Province.
(a) Punjab (b) Sindh (c) Balochistan (d) Gilgit-Baltistan
231. Name the first Indian, who has received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London.
(a) Kamaljit S. Bawa (b) Dr Amarnath Prasad (c) Dr Sushant Rana (d) Dr Aniket Dhar
232. Recently, The United Nations Environment Programme recognized which of the following Indian International airport as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport?
(a) Cochin International Airport Ltd
(b) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(d) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
233. Google will host it's first-ever Demo Day for Asian startups in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Bangkok (c) Shanghai (d) Tokyo
234. Who has been appointed as the new Interim Prime Minister of Pakistan?
(a) Ghulam Mustafa Kar (b) Ghani Mohammad
(c) Sahil Khan Atralia (d) Nasir Ul Mulk
235. For the first time which of the following infected country has planned to eliminate Mycoplasma bovis, a cattle disease?
(a) Canada (b) USA (c) Australia (d) New Zealand
236. Recently, which of the following IPL teams lifted their third Indian Premier League title after defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad?
(a) Mumbai Indians (b) Kolkata Knight Riders
(c) Chennai Super Kings (d) Rajasthan Royals
237. Who has been has been appointed as the first ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) effectively from May 15?
(a) Chitra Ramakrishnan (b) Radha Balkrishnan (c) Sudha Balakrishnan (d) Deepika Lakar

238. Recently, Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has been elected as new Prime Minister of:
(a) Mali (b) Guinea (c) Sierra Leone (d) Morocco
239. Recently, the Chau mask has been presented with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India. Chau mask is integral part in:
(a) Assam (b) West Bengal (c) Odisha (d) Jharkhand
240. _____ government unveiled its 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy' which aims to reduce the state's dependence on fresh water sources.
(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Gujarat (d) Rajasthan
241. Recently, an Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 Million from World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in:
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Rajasthan
242. Alicia Pucheta is to be the first woman president of:
(a) Uruguay (b) Paraguay (c) Netherlands (d) Iceland
243. The Coal India Ltd (CIL) will develop its first-ever thermal power plant in the country in:
(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Goa
244. Recently, who has been appointed as the deputy National Security Advisor?
(a) Sudhanshu Ranjan (b) Deepak Razdaan
(c) Pankaj Saran (d) Samar Pratap Singh
245. Which Indian cricketer has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare?
(a) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (b) Yuvraj Singh
(c) Rohit Sharma (d) Virat Kohli
246. Which cricketer won the International Cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards recently?
(a) AB DeVilliers (b) Virat Kohli (c) Babar Azam (d) Joe Root
247. Recently, International Day of UN Peacekeepers was observed on:
(a) 25th May (b) 26th May (c) 27th May (d) 29th May
248. Who has been appointed to head the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) aeronautical projects recently?
(a) Rajeev Narayan (b) Prakhar Raje (c) Tessy Thomas (d) Sujata Shukre
249. Recently, who were given 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award'?
(a) Sachin Tendulkar & Lata Mangeshkar
(b) Balkrishna Doshi and Dalai Lama
(c) Kailash Satyarthi and A S Kiran Kumar
(d) Raghuram Rajan and Shashi Tharoor
250. Recently, who among the following Indian has been figured in Barron's top 30 global CEO lists?
(a) Chanda Kocchar (b) Aditya Puri (c) Shikha Sharma (d) Rana Kapoor
251. In valuation, which of the following companies is the most valuable company in the world?
(a) Microsoft (b) Alphabet (c) Apple (d) Amazon

252. The Goa Statehood Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 27th May (b) 29th May (c) 30th May (d) 31st May
253. How many countries will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific, RIMPAC military exercise from June 27 to August 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California?
(a) 13 (b) 17 (c) 23 (d) 26
254. Recently, United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, US Pacific Command or PACOM to:
(a) Europe-Pacific Command (b) South Asian -Pacific Command
(c) Indo-Pacific Command (d) Australia-Pacific Command
255. Which countries Airlines would launch the world's longest commercial flight in October 2018?
(a) India (b) China (c) Singapore (d) Japan
256. Which Indian city will be home to the largest microbrewery in the country?
(a) Pune (b) Hyderabad (c) Bengaluru (d) Gurugram
257. Name the Indian cartoonist, who is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards, instituted by an organisation based in Lisbon, Portugal.
(a) Duleep Rathi (b) Vijeet Rane (c) Srikant Panchaal (d) Thomas Antony



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. d South Asian Sajid Javid will head Britain's Home Office for the first time as the government sought to contain an escalating crisis over its treatment of Commonwealth citizens.
2. c In Nepal International Buddhist Conference concluded in Lumbini, the birth place of Gautama Buddha.
3. d Heads of several countries with sizeable Hindu population, chief ministers of states, top corporate honchos and religious leaders are scheduled to attend the second World Hindu Congress (WHC) in Chicago in September 2018.
4. c Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018, between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army commenced on 30 April at Wardieburn Camp, Kuala Lumpur with a brief and impressive handing over of troop's ceremony.
5. b The world's oldest known spider has died at the ripe old age of 43 after being monitored for years during a long-term population study in Australia.
6. c The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January with the Indian diaspora having an option to participate in Kumbha Snan and attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.
7. b India has been projected to be the second fastest growing country in the world for air passenger traffic.
8. d Prajnesh Gunneswaran clinched his first ever singles title on the ATP Challenger circuit when he downed Egypt's Mohammed Safwat in the final of the Kunming Open in Anning, a victory which will push him inside top-200.
9. c Actress Parineeti Chopra becomes first Indian woman ambassador of Australia Tourism panel.
10. a President Ram Nath Kovind will preside over the first meeting of the national committee set up for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi next year.
11. b Haryana government to had decided to adopt startup ranking framework issued by Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion(DIPP), Government of India, to undertake an exercise to assess the state on key areas of interventions that are relevant to a healthy start-up ecosystem.
12. c Delhi and Varanasi are among the 14 Indian cities that figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016, data released by the WHO.
13. d The Islamabad International Airport was finally inaugurated, after years of delays and controversies over kickbacks and substandard equipment.
14. c Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with the WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award.
15. c H-Energy, a unit of realtor Hiranandani Group, has launched the country's first floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Jaigarh Port in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district.
16. a Former IAS officer Subhash Chandra Khuntia was appointed as the Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for three years.
17. a Celebrated music director Bappi Lahiri was feted by London's World Book of Records for his contribution to global music with his immortal song 'Jimmy Jimmy aaja aaja'.
18. b World Asthma Day is an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. World Asthma Day takes place on the first Tuesday of May.

19. d Maharashtra became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), which would check irregularities and bring in transparency.
20. a Over 20,000 troops of the strike formations of the Army's South Western Command are engaged in the "Vijay Prahar" exercise to fine-tune the Army's jointmanship with the Indian Air Force (IAF) near Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
21. d Union Cabinet has approved a plan to set up 20 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges.
22. c The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4th May 2018 to 31st March, 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.
23. b New Delhi's defense spending rose by 5.5 percent to \$63.9 billion in 2017 and has now passed France.
24. b The Pakyong airport in Sikkim is set to become the 100th operational airport in the country when it is commissioned in June.
25. c India has slipped by three notches to 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 of global consultancy firm A T Kearney.
26. b
27. c Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has been named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year for 2017/18.
28. c Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh launched the "Go to Village" mission at Konuma ground, Laphupat Tera, Komlakhong gram panchayat in Imphal West district.
29. d National Security Advisor Ajit Doval chaired the meeting, which was attended by the three military chiefs, and defence, foreign and expenditure secretaries.
30. c The Task Force was constituted by the MHA with approval of Union Home Minister, headed by Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs.
31. d Former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri has been appointed as full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission.
32. b Astronomers have detected helium gas in the atmosphere of a planet that orbits a star far beyond our solar system for the first time.
33. c Just 40 cm long and iridescent brown, Bhupathy's shieldtail is the latest addition to the snake fauna of the Western Ghats. The snake, currently observed only in the forests of the Anaikatty hills in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district, has been named *Uropeltis bhupathyi*, after the late herpetologist S. Bhupathy, for his contributions to the field.
34. c Mamata Banerjee's eventful life and political career is the subject of a new book "Decoding Didi". Penned by journalist Dola Mitra, the book explores the various facets of the chief minister- sometimes being eulogized as a leader of the masses, and at other times being pilloried as a mad, whimsical dictator.
35. c The Chhattisgarh government has decided to recruit transgenders in its police force, in order to promote gender equality. Chhattisgarh has become the first Indian state to do so.
36. a The 12-day event, the biggest foreign festival in Egypt, will host a wide range of events and starts on May 6.
37. c Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City, becoming the second Indian-American woman judge in the city after Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari.
38. c The government's policy think-tank NITI Aayog decided to partner with leading technology company IBM to develop a crop yield prediction model using artificial intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in "aspirational districts".

39. d The 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) concluded in Bengaluru.
40. c Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee have identified a molecule that exhibits anti-viral activity against the chikungunya virus, raising hopes of finding a new way to combat the mosquito-borne viral disease.
41. a The first 'ladies special' train in the world, started between Churchgate and Borivali stations on the Western Railway (WR) has completed 26 years.
42. d Mumbai Indian skipper Rohit Sharma went on to become the first Indian to score 300 sixes in T20 cricket across all tournaments.
43. d Former tennis star Mary Pierce has been named the International Event Ambassador for TCS World 10K 2018 Marathon. The marathon, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru for May 27, will see Pierce gracing the occasion.
44. a The first organised census on Indus dolphins shall be carried out by the Punjab government along with WWF-India.
45. b The twelfth informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, the capital of Philippines on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
46. d India tops the list of the fastest growing economies in the world for the coming decade and is projected to grow at 7.9 per cent annually, ahead of China and the US, according to a Harvard University report.
47. b California's economy has surpassed that of the United Kingdom to become the world's fifth largest, according to new federal data.
48. b The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unexpectedly announced it would buy Rs. 10,000 crore (\$1.50 billion) of government bonds via open market operation (OMO), after failing to sell all the debt it had offered to bidders earlier.
49. c The 27th GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council proposed a concession of 2% in GST rate (where the GST rate is 3% or more, 1% each from applicable Central GST and State GST rates) on B2C supplies, for which payment is made through cheque or digital mode
50. c It's bad news for Kashmir Valley, the fruit bowl of India. The brown peach aphid - an insect that attacks temperate fruit trees - has been recorded here for the first time.
51. a Out of 62 entries, Balharshah and Chandrapur (Central Railway) bag First prize; Madhubani (East Central Railway) and Madurai (Southern Railway) adjudged second; Gandhidham (Western Railway) Kota (West Central Railway) share Third Prize with Secunderabad (South Central Railway).
52. a Using three bacterial species isolated from domestic sewage, researchers from India have successfully removed chlorpyrifos pesticide from both water and soil.
53. c Shri Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated the 'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities' in Bhopal.
54. b Skill India organizes an Ajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela in Bhubaneswar Array of opportunities for youth to connect to New India vision of the country.
55. c Children of various theatre groups from eight countries besides host India will take part in an International Children's Theatre Festival in Kolkata next month.
56. a Baba Ramdev's flagship company, Patanjali, beat around 1,000 of India's top FMCG companies to emerge as the most trusted brand in the sector, as per TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018.

57. d Imtiyaz Shaikh, who hails from Vasco da Gama, has become the first councillor of Goa origin to be elected to the council in Swindon after he emerged victorious in the May 3 local elections from Eastcott.
58. c India requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expand its sovereign and non-sovereign operations in the country by providing financial assistance worth \$4 billion a year and support its sustainable growth.
59. c China launched a new communication satellite "APSTAR-6C" late at the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Center.
60. a
61. d India has finished on top in the South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo.
62. c The International No Diet Day (INDD) is celebrated on May 06, 2018. It is an annual celebration of body acceptance and diversity.
63. b The third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in New Delhi to build and enhance the capacity of the African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN.
64. c Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu hosted Conclave of Finance Ministers to deliberate on the impact of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission on fiscal federalism in Amaravati.
65. a The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan).
66. d India's Ramit Tandon toppled number one seed Omar Abdel Meguid of Egypt to win the Abu Dhabi Open, his third title on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) tour.
67. b India will establish a Marine Observation System along the Indian Coast (Mosaic). At least six observatories - three along the east coast and an equal number along the west coast - will be established.
68. b Aiming to foster growth for India's nascent artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem, NITI Aayog and Google have come together to work on a range of initiatives to help build the AI ecosystem across the country.
69. c Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik formally handed over land titles to 2000 urban slum dwellers at an event in Chhatrapur, Ganjam.
70. b Nearly 60% of children adopted in the last six years were girls across states in India, led by Maharashtra which also recorded the highest number of adoptions in recent years, government data showed.
71. a Mahendra Chaudhry, Fiji's Indian-origin former prime minister, has been chosen to receive the V K Krishna Menon Award in recognition of his contribution to the Indian diaspora.
72. b The committee will be headed by former Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha, Dr V. K. Agnihotri, with retired Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Ministry of Law and Justice to be the other member.
73. b With the theme, 'Telling Our Stories Asia and More', India hosted the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur for the first time.
74. a Armenia's parliament has elected opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan as the new prime minister, two weeks after Serzh Sargsyan resigned following widespread anti-government demonstrations.
75. d Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

76. a U.S. and Philippine forces began their largest annual military exercises since President Rodrigo Duterte came to power and vowed to scale down America's military presence in the country as he sought closer ties with China and Russia.
77. a Russia's house of parliament has overwhelmingly approved Dmitry Medvedev for a new term as prime minister.
78. c India has ranked fourth out of 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region on an index that measures their overall power.
79. c All packaged food with at least 5% content from genetically engineered sources need to be labelled so. Moreover, that exceed norms of sugar and fat should carry 'red' and 'green' labels specifying the extent to which they do so, according to draft regulations by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
80. d World Red Cross day means 8th of May is celebrated every year as the birthday anniversary of founder of the Red Cross.
81. b In a major step towards realising the centre's smart city mission (SCM), the Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state in Bhopal.
82. d Narendra Modi ranks 9th on the Forbes 2018 list of 75 of the World's Most Powerful People who make the world turn.
83. b To promote electric vehicles in the country, the government has approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis.
84. a In a major boost to defence logistics along the border with China, India's longest road and railway bridge connecting Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh is likely to be inaugurated later this year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
85. d The 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in Beijing from August 15 to 19.
86. c Journalist Carlos Alvarado was sworn in as Costa Rica's president through 2022, promising a "plural" and inclusive government following an election and runoff where same-sex marriage became a key issue.
87. c UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced a climate summit set to take place in September 2019 in New York to review the Paris Agreement commitments.
88. c Nisha Bhalla, a 46-year-old holistic coach and consultant from Mumbai was felicitated at the recently concluded Annual WEF 2018 Awards, where she also spoke about 'Economics of Goodness in Giving and Philanthropy'. The event was held in Delhi from April 26 to May 1.
89. b India remains the second most represented nation - after China - among the 42 countries across four continents in the Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018.
90. b Actor-turned-politician and Jana Sena Party founder Pawan Kalyan unfurled the national flag in Hyderabad, claimed to be the world's largest Indian tricolour, to commemorate the first war of the country's independence that took place in 1857.
91. d Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the state's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in Itanagar.
92. b In a unique initiative, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao was launched the RythuBandhu scheme in Karimnagar, which will ensure that a large majority of farmers in the state will get Rs 8,000 per acre per year for two crops.
93. b This is the first time fighter airplanes will be positioned in Andaman and Nicobar islands since World War II.
94. b Shri Ram Nath Kovind is the first president to visit the camp since the then president APJ Abdul Kalam flew there in 2004.
95. c The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri K. J. Alphons attended the Tourism Ministers' conference by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Wuhan, China.

96. a Veteran Malaysian politician Mahathir Mohamad has become the world's oldest leader after a shock victory in the country's election, upending six decades of control by the ruling coalition.
97. b Rafael Nadal won his 50th consecutive set on clay to break John McEnroe's 34-year record and beat Diego Schwartzman at the Madrid Open.
98. c The Sikkim government has nominated Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan as the Green Ambassador of the state.
99. b The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred state-run lender Dena Bank from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs).
100. d U.S. cancels carbon monitoring project.
101. b Frauds of minimum Rs 3 crore and to Rs 25 crore, up from Rs 15 crore, have to be reported to either the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch (in case staff involvement is prima facie evident) or to the Economic Offences Wing (if employees involvement is prima facie not evident) respectively, the CVC said in its latest directive to all the state-owned banks.
102. c Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus called for imagining a system that creates wealth for everybody in the world.
103. c National Technology Day is observed every year on 11th of May in India, acting as a reminder of the anniversary of Shakti. Shakti is the Pokhran nuclear test which was held on 11th of May, 1998.
104. c The Maharashtra government signed an MoU with the Centres Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state PWD officials to rate government buildings. Maharashtra was the first state to sign such an MoU.
105. d The Punjab government signed a pact with the UK for setting up of bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state.
106. b Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a First ever Joint Conference at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
107. b President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled India's first, indigenous lithium-ion battery charger, developed by Ampere Vehicles.
108. b Three Indian alumni of UK universities have been awarded by the British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to the country.
109. c Credit rating agency Fitch said that India's economic growth will accelerate to 7.3 percent in the current financial year and 7.5 percent in the next fiscal year.
110. c SEBI has asked listed companies to split the post of Chairman and Managing Director by April 2020. It has also made it compulsory for them to have six independent directors on board, including a women director.
111. d Celebrated globally on 12 May, the World Migratory Bird Day 2018, calls for securing and conserving the flyways used by the migratory birds.
112. d Rohini S Mohite and Tababi Devi Thanjam won gold medals while Harish settled for a bronze on the opening day of the Asian Cadet Judo Championships, being held in Lebanon.
113. d Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the first country to invest in Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) which will boost strategic relationship of both countries.
114. c The Indian-born Hinduja brothers have been displaced to second position by chemicals entrepreneur Jim Ratcliffe in an annual rich list of Britain's wealthiest released.

115. b Sarah Mullally was installed as the first female bishop of London, becoming the third most senior cleric in the Church of England.
116. c Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.
117. b India was the largest remittance- receiving country in the world, with migrant workers from the country sending home USD 69 billion in 2017, according to a report, which said remittances to the Asia-Pacific region amounted to USD 256 billion last year.
118. c Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli announced to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.
119. c The Centre is planning to open two museums at the Red Fort, one in honour of the revolutionaries of 1857 and freedom fighters preceding them, and the other on the life and personality of Subhas Chandra Bose.
120. c Indian colts won against Tajikistan 4-2 and emerged as champions in the four-nation Under-16 Tournament held in Serbia.
121. c Vitamin D can help treat damaged beta cells in pancreas that produce, store and release the hormone insulin, paving the way for a new approach to treat diabetes.
122. b Czech 10th seed Petra Kvitova won the Madrid Open title for the third time with a marathon 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-3 victory over Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.
123. b President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Global Exhibition on Services-2018 in Mumbai.
124. c Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalised women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will soon set up a skill development centre at 'Bharosa,' an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad.
125. d China expects to deliver its domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, to customers by 2022.
126. c WHO launches 'REPLACE' to eliminate trans-fat in foods by 2023
127. c The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, a top state-run Chinese bank has launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, urging the Chinese to invest heavily stating that the Indian economy is entering the "golden age of economic take-off".
128. c The Union Environment Ministry launched its full-fledged Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) that aims to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country through 30 courses by 2021.
129. d Lewis Hamilton won for the second race in succession by dominating an eventful Spanish Grand Prix.
130. c A bank in Shanghai is calling itself the first human-free bank in the country. Well, human-free save for the customers.
131. c Senior journalist Mark Tully was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai on May 18.
132. a Former Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi has been appointed "eminent jurist" in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee led by the Prime Minister, which will shortlist candidates for appointment as the anti-corruption ombudsman.
133. b Shanghai has granted BMW a licence for self-driving car testing, setting up the German luxury brand to become the first foreign automaker to test autonomous vehicles on the road in China.
134. a The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) named Ambika Sharma as its head for India. Ms. Sharma was director general for 'International' at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
135. d In a first, a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team has started operations in Phagwara, Punjab.

136. d The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak has been honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development.
137. c Shashank Manohar has been re-elected chairman of the International Cricket Council for another two year.
138. b India has emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China and the US. "In 2017, India emerged as the third largest solar market having grown at a CAGR of 170 per cent since 2010," said Mercom Communications India in a report.
139. c Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme's subscriber base crossed 1 Crore on completion of 3 years of the Scheme launch. APY was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at a function in Kolkata on 9th May, 2015 and the current number of subscribers stands at 1.10 Crore.
140. c Kohli became the first batsman to score 500 or more runs in one edition for the fifth time.
141. c The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year.
142. b Guwahati now has India's first railway station run by solar power. The project of installing solar panels was commissioned last year in April 2017.
143. c Hardeep Puri Congratulates Swachhata Survekshan 2018 Winners - Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh Emerge as The Top 3 Cleanest Cities in The Country.
144. c For the first time in India, an International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) event on rail coaches and train sets will be held in Chennai providing a platform to bring together different suppliers under one roof and create synergies for 'Make in India.'
145. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for construction of 14.2 kilometre long Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
146. c The river training and construction will carry on near the Indian border in three rivers. The amount is India's contribution for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers.
147. c The Union Cabinet Chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
148. b Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's sister Susheela Jayapal became the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon in the western US State.
149. c BJP legislature party leader B S Yeddyurappa took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.
150. a Hyderabad was ranked India's best capital city for solid waste management by the Swachh Survekshan 2018 survey.
151. d Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028, according to new United Nations estimates released, which said India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050.
152. b Kami Rita Sherpa reached the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) summit via the Southeast Ridge route, accompanied by 13 other climbers including his clients.
153. b Veteran spy Gina Haspel will become the first female director of the CIA after six Democrats joined Republicans in a Senate confirmation vote that overrode concerns about her role in the spy agency's harsh interrogation program after 9/11.
154. d BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, has become the first Indian exchange to be recognised as a designated offshore securities market (DOSM) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

155. b Kerala Tourism's Facebook page has garnered 1.5 million likes to emerge on top among the states in the country in 2017.
156. a Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar was sworn-in as the chief justice of the high court of Manipur.
157. c Two case studies published by the IIM Calcutta Case Research Centre have won awards in the 2017 edition of the European Foundation of Management Development case competition.
158. c Renowned Indian academic and foreign policy analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of the Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of the National University of Singapore.
159. d Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released final guidelines prescribing 100 percent net stable funding ratio (NSFR), a long-term liquidity measurement included in the Basel III liquidity standards, to ensure banks maintain adequate liquid resources for more resilience.
160. b Modifying the norms for setting up IFSC Banking Units, RBI said that the parent bank will be required to provide and maintain at all times a minimum capital of USD 20 million to its IBU.
161. d The President of India has appointed Shri Uttam Pacharne, as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.
162. c The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes
163. b The Cannes film festival paid tribute to actor Sridevi with the Reginald F. Lewis Film Icon Award.
164. b Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid the Foundation Stone of the Pakal Dul Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir.
165. b Russia has presented to the media the world's first floating nuclear power station in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk.
166. a For the first time, the genome of the Royal Bengal tiger, an endangered big cat, has been sequenced as part of plans to generate a high-quality draft genome sequence of the animal.
167. d ShivangiPathak becomes youngest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest.
168. b Leading NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has received a lifetime achievement award for his contributions towards promoting brand India in the UK.
169. c For the first time, the Railways will use artificial intelligence to control air circulation, to issue emergency alerts and also for supervision and maintenance work in a 10.28-km-long tunnel in Imphal.
170. c Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Nara Lokesh received the "Digital Leader of the Year" award during Business world Digital India Summit and Awards 2018 at New Delhi.
171. c The very first National Para Games, created on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July in Bengaluru.
172. d The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. 17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.
173. d Prof Balkrishna Doshi, received the field's highest honour, the Pritzker Prize at a ceremony in Toronto, making him the first Indian to be awarded the so-called 'Nobel of architecture'.

174. c Setting up a new Indian record, Assistant Commandant Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu scaled the Mount Everest for the seventh time.
175. c Eminent actor, Shri Akshay Kumar, launched an advertisement campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
176. a Manipur has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets, which were inaugurated at Ibudhou Marjing hill Heingang.
177. b Rafael Nadal came out on top in a matchup of this year's top two clay-court players, beating defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 to win a record-extending eighth Italian Open title.
178. c Gursoach Kaur will join the New York Police Department as an Auxiliary Police Officer (APO) after graduating last week from the New York City Police Academy.
179. c The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$220 million (Rs 1,496 crore) loan and an \$80 million (Rs 544 crore) guarantee for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program.
180. c The Japanese family drama Shoplifters has received the coveted award for best film, the Palme d'Or, at the Cannes Film Festival.
181. b The Indian women's Hockey team failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy, as it lost to hosts South Korea, 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City.
182. b Colombia will next week formally become the NATO's first Latin American "global partner," .
183. b The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K) has set up first of its kind Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) in the country to strengthen policy and regulatory limitations in energy and power sector.
184. a India will hold its first naval exercise with Vietnam, as part of the overall strategy to steadily build military ties with nations in the Asia Pacific region.
185. c Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) has received an award for promoting ease of doing business by developing an investor facilitation portal that provides single window clearance to industrial proposals in the state.
186. a Scientists in South Africa launched the world's first optical telescope linked to a radio telescope, combining "eyes and ears" to try to unravel the secrets of the universe.
187. c In a bid to enhance combat capabilities in Naxal-hit area of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the first time, has decided to include local representation in a special unit.
188. c Venezuela's leftist leader Nicolas Maduro won a new six-year term.
189. b Gobind Singh Deo became the first member of Malaysia's Sikh minority to be appointed a federal minister.
190. b China launched a relay satellite early designed to establish a communication link between earth and a planned lunar probe that will explore the dark side of the moon.
191. b Lionel Messi picked up a record fifth European Golden Shoe after finishing the domestic league campaign with 34 goals.
192. b Veteran singer Asha Bhosle, Bengali superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee and Justice Shyamal Kumar Sen (retd) among others will be conferred the highest civilian award of West Bengal, the Banga Bibhushan, by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
193. c Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX) launched India's first options contract on copper futures.
194. b India's participation in the first such SCO meeting hosted in Islamabad was seen as significant given the recent tensions with Pakistan.

195. d India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
196. d The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues
197. a Scientists have discovered the first known permanent immigrant to the solar system an asteroid, nestling in Jupiter's orbit that migrated from another star system
198. b Olga Tokarczuk has become the first Polish writer to win the Man Booker International Prize. Ms Tokarczuk took the £50,000 prize for her novel Flights. She will split the cash with translator Jennifer Croft.
199. b Stacey Cunningham will become the 67th president.
200. a Indian cricketers Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni appeared in the top 20 biggest names in the world of sports while Cristiano Ronaldo was tagged the most famous athlete in the world, according to ESPN World Fame 100.
201. b The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) is planning to launch its Americas Regional Office in Brazil this year.
202. d The Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national Sports University in Manipur.
203. c Haryana State government had roped in national agencies like the Indian Space Research Organisation, the National Institute of Hydrology and the Geological Survey of India to speed up work for the revival and rejuvenation of the Sarasvati river.
204. d India has moved one notch higher, to the 44th place in terms of competitiveness, in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD) which placed the US in the top slot.
205. b Elina Svitolina is a Ukrainian professional tennis player.
206. c Georgia state Democrat Stacey Abrams made history by becoming the first African American woman ever nominated for governor by a major party in the United States.
207. c The 71st World Health Assembly opened in Switzerland, with a full agenda and a commemoration of the 70 years the World Health Organization (WHO) has been in existence.
208. c India has launched a complaint against the United States with the World Trade Organization, WTO to challenge U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on Steel and Aluminium.
209. a The World Health Organisation has validated Nepal for having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem - a milestone, as the country becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.
210. c Kerala tourism will inaugurate the world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre on July 4.
211. a Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal is being conducted at Pithoragarh from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
212. c Ministry of Culture is organising the 9th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, in Tehri, Uttarakhand from 25th May to 27th May, 2018.
213. d Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan lead an Indian delegation for participation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial being held at Malmo-Sweden during 22-23 May, 2018.
214. c Lebanese MPs elected Saad Hariri as prime minister for a third time.

215. c The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave in Phnom Penh on 21-22 May 2018.
216. b Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni were among the 11 Indian athletes that featured in the list of ESPN World Fame 100 of 2018, which includes the most famous sports stars in the world. The duo found themselves a place in the top 20 rankings, with the Team India skipper being placed on the 11th spot while Dhoni occupied the 20th place.
217. d NITI Aayog and Sushant Singh Rajput have decided to collaborate towards promoting two major initiatives of NITI Aayog, promotion of BHIM and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
218. c Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be honored by the Kennedy Center with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, an award given to the world's greatest humorists.
219. c The first of these is the 14 lane, access controlled, package -I of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, stretching from Nizamuddin Bridge to Delhi UP Border.
220. c A new software, 'Nidaan', has been launched in Rajasthan for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas. It is expected to help in formulation of specific action plans for control of diseases.
221. c A month after Tata Consultancy Services made history as the first listed Indian IT firm to hit market capitalisation of over \$100 billion (Rs 6.78 lakh crore), it has now become the first desi company ever to breach the Rs 7 lakh crore mark, albeit briefly.
222. b Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve Management Committee (SBVCR) of Arunachal Pradesh was awarded the India Biodiversity Award, 2018 on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity.
223. b The Caribbean island of Barbados has elected its first woman prime minister since gaining independence from Britain in 1966.
224. c The commission, led by its chairman N.K. Singh and members Shaktikanta Das, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri, Ramesh Chand and secretary Arvind Mehta will hold discussions with the Chief Minister, Ministers and other officials of the State, which will be the first destination of the panel in South India.
225. b The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand on 21st of June.
226. c Himachal Pradesh state government has introduced 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana' to enhance agricultural income by adopting low-cost climate-resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming System.
227. c Bhubaneswar has become the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre, NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
228. c The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg from September 25-28, 2018.
229. a Shri Ramesh Chand Meena was elected as the Chairperson and Smt. Pratibha Brahma was elected as the Vice Chairperson of TRIFED.
230. b A landmark Bill allowing Hindu widows to remarry has been passed by the assembly of Pakistan's Sindh Province.
231. a Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa, president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London on May 24.
232. a The United Nations Environment Programme is happy to recognise Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport.
233. c Google will host its first-ever Demo Day for Asian startups in China's Shanghai city on September 20.
234. d Pakistan appointed former chief justice, Nasir UI Mulk as interim Prime Minister until general elections are held on July 25.

235. d New Zealand plans to slaughter about 150,000 cows as it tries to eradicate a strain of disease-causing bacteria from the national herd. If successful, would be the first time an infected country has eliminated *Mycoplasma bovis*.
236. c Chennai Super Kings lifted their third Indian Premier League title after defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets in Mumbai.
237. c NSDL executive Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed as the first ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) effective May 15,
238. b Guinea's new prime minister Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has unveiled his government without making major changes to the cabinet of his predecessor who quit after deadly protests over local elections.
239. b The Chau mask of Purulia, the wooden mask of Kushmandi, the Patachitra, the Dokras of Bengal, and Madhurkathi (a kind of mat) have been presented with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India
240. c The Gujarat government unveiled its 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy' which aims to reduce the state's dependence on fresh water sources like the Narmada river.
241. d An Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 Million from World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project was signed in New Delhi.
242. b Alicia Pucheta is to be the first woman president of Paraguay.
243. b Coal India Ltd (CIL) will develop its first-ever thermal power plant in the country in Odisha.
244. c Senior diplomat Pankaj Saran has been appointed as deputy National Security Advisor.
245. b Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.
246. b India skipper Virat Kohli won the International Cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards.
247. d The Day, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the contributions of uniformed and civilian personnel to the work of the Organization and to honour more than 3,700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 129 who died last year.
248. c The country's top woman missile scientist, Tessy Thomas, has been appointed to head the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) aeronautical projects.
249. c Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), were given 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award.
250. b The international publication has included Aditya Puri in this prestigious list for the fourth consecutive year.
251. c Microsoft the third most valuable company in the world, behind Apple and Amazon.
252. c The Goa Statehood Day is celebrated every year on May 30.
253. d As many as 26 countries, including India, will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific, RIMPAC military exercise from June 27 to August 2, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.
254. c United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, US Pacific Command, or PACOM, to Indo-Pacific Command.

255. c Singapore Airlines said it would launch the world's longest commercial flight in October, a near-19 hour non-stop journey from Singapore to the New York area.
256. c The pub city of Bengaluru has another feather added to its spirited cap. The city will be home to the largest microbrewery in the country. Called Byg Brewski Brewing Co, the brewpub is nothing short of a magnum opus.
257. d Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards, instituted by an organisation based in Lisbon, Portugal.

