

MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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Registered / Corporate Office:

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

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Preface

Dear Readers,

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

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

Team CL

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



Indian Railway turns to 'Mission Raftaar'

- The **Indian Railways** conducted a one-day workshop 'Mission Raftaar' in which officials discussed ways to increase the average speed of freight and passenger trains.
- **Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain** and **Railway Board chairman Ashwani Lohani** inaugurated the workshop.

Indian Railways (IR) is the fourth-largest railway network in the world by size. **Piyush Vedprakash Goyal** is currently serving as the **Minister of Railways and Coal** in the Government of India. He was elected as the **BJP** candidate from **Maharashtra** for the **Rajya Sabha** on **3 June 2016**.

Andhra Pradesh gets new state bird, state flower

- Four years after the **bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh**, the government of the residual state **has announced its state symbols**.
- The **state bird of undivided Andhra Pradesh** was **Indian Roller (coracias benghalensis)** or **Palapitta**.
- **This has been changed to Rama Chiluka (psittacula krameri)** or **rose ringed parakeet**. **Palapitta** is now the state bird of **Telangana, Odisha and Karnataka**.
- The government of **residual AP** has retained **blackbuck (antelope cervicapra)** or **Krishna Jinka** as the **state animal**.
- After the bifurcation, **Telangana** had dropped **Krishna Jinka** of undivided AP and adopted **Jinka** or **spotted deer** as its state animal.
- **Neem (azadirachta indica)** or **Vepa Chettu**, which was the state tree of undivided AP, has been retained in the divided state.

Justice Krishna Murari Appointed As Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court

- **Justice Krishna Murari of Allahabad High Court** has been **appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court** through a notification issued on **31 May**. The recommendation had been made by the **Supreme Court collegium** in **April** this year.
- While recommending him, the **Collegium** had noted that **at present there is only one Chief Justice from the Allahabad High Court**, despite it being the largest High Court in the country.

The **Collegium system** is one where the **Chief Justice of India** and a forum of four senior-most judges of the **Supreme Court** recommend **appointments and transfers of judges**. However, it has no place in the **Indian Constitution**. The system was evolved through **Supreme Court judgments in the Three Judges Cases**.

Foundation laid for India's First Advanced Forensic Lab in Chandigarh dedicated to women related cases

- Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid foundation of Sakshi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory in the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab, Chandigarh.
- This is the India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated for crimes related to women for timely deliver justice.
- Forensic analysis plays critical role in criminal investigation and the Advanced Lab will contribute to address the gap in forensic DNA analysis of pending sexual assault cases in the country.

Government introduces new scheme 'SevaBhojYojna'

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has introduced a new scheme namely 'SevaBhojYojna' with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- The objective of the scheme is to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide Food/Prasad/Langar (Community Kitchen)/Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to Public/Devotees.

Home ministry launches online tool to monitor use of foreign funds by NGOs

- The Ministry of Home Affairs launched a web-based analytical tool to monitor the flow and utilisation of foreign contributions received by non-governmental organisations.
- The tool will be linked to bank accounts of organisations registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, and will show real-time transaction data.

India improves its childhood index global ranking

- India has improved its ranking in the world childhood index but stays at a poor 113th position -- up from 116 in 2017 -- in the list of 175 countries indexed by global child rights group, Save the Children.
- The report, titled "End of Childhood", commends India's achievements in reducing the rate of child marriages which it said was a major factor contributing to an improved score in the index.
- Infant mortality and child labour remained issues of grave concern in the country where under five child mortality is 43 per 1,000 live births for 2016, even though Census of India had measured it to be 39 per 1,000 live births in the same year.

In terms of the global scenario the report states that more than half of all children globally – over 1.2 billion – are threatened by conflict, widespread poverty or discrimination against girls. Singapore and Slovenia are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index and Niger figures at the end of the list at 175.

Malabar naval exercise to begin in Guam

- The Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies will begin next week off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea with a focus on greater inter-operability in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region.
- Japan Maritime Self Defence Force ships JS Izumo (DDH 183), JS Sazanami (DD1 13) along with Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa and INS Vikramaditya would participate in the joint Naval exercise.

Indian, Japanese and US maritime forces have an understanding and knowledge of shared working environment at sea. As members of Indo-Asia Pacific operations, the three maritime forces would look forward to continuing to strengthen the bonds and personal relationships. The Malabar exercise is taking place amid the military standoff between armies of the India and China in the Sikkim sector and Beijing ramping up its Baval presence in South China Sea.

Government forms committee to spread Mahatma Gandhi's legacy among people

- The government has set up an executive committee, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to spread Mahatma Gandhi's legacy among the people at the national and international level.
- The committee comprises, senior cabinet ministers, the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha, renowned Gandhians, social activists and noted public figures.
- The panel was formed after the first meeting of the National Committee (NC) under the chairmanship of President Ram Nath Kovind to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

At Changi base, a naval honour for PM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Changi Naval Base and met officers and sailors of the Indian Navy and the Royal Singapore Navy.

Changi Naval Base (CNB) is the latest naval facility of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and was built to replace Brani Naval Base. Located about 1.5 kilometres east of Changi Air Base (East) and 3.5 kilometres east of Singapore Changi Airport, the base was built on 1.28 km² (0.50 sq mi) of reclaimed land.

Andhra government introduces scale-out scheme for natural farming

- The Andhra Pradesh government launched a Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) scale-out scheme, aimed at benefitting around six million farmers by 2024.
- The formal announcement of the scheme was made by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.
- The state agriculture department also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard, with the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF), an initiative with the partnership of the United Nations Environment Program, the World Agroforestry Center, and the BNP Paribas.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched a scale-out plan to transition 6 million farms/farmers cultivating 8 million hectares of land from conventional synthetic chemical agriculture to Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) by 2024, making Andhra Pradesh India's first 100 per cent natural farming state.

Odisha beach is Asia's first to get 'Blue Flag' tag

- The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha was the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists.
- It was awarded the honour on World Environment Day on June 5. Twelve more beaches in the country are being developed by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM), an Environment Ministry's body working for the management of coastal areas, in accordance with the Blue Flag standards.

The standards were established by the Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985. The Environment Ministry embarked on the Blue Flag project in December 2017. To achieve the Blue Flag standards, a beach had to strictly comply with 33 environment and tourism-related conditions.

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik to inaugurate National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga in New Delhi

- The Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the 3rd National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga at Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in New Delhi on June 05, 2018.

- The Ministry of AYUSH is organizing this Conference in collaboration with the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).
- This Conference on ‘Evidence Based Recent Innovative Research on Yoga – A Review of Yoga Research’ is organized to mark the beginning of International Day of Yoga, which takes place on 21st June every year.

Shripad Yesso Naik is the current minister of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and former Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. He is the Member of Parliament from North Goa constituency, representing the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The 49th Conference of Governors 2018 inaugurated by President of India

- The 49th Conference of Governors 2018 was inaugurated by President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. This Conference is held annually, generally towards the beginning of the year.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Smt Anandiben Patel, the Governor of Odisha, Professor Ganeshi Lal, and the Governor of Mizoram, Shri K. Rajasekharan, who are participating in the Conference for the first time.

As per the Constitution, the post of Governor has an exalted place in the scheme of governance. The Governor is a mentor and guide to the state government and an important link in the federal structure.

Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan being implemented in 25 villages in each of the 111 Aspirational Districts

- The Ministry of Agriculture and farmers’ welfare in line with the Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of doubling farmers’ income by 2022 has launched the Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan from 1st June, 2018 till 31st July, 2018 so as to aid, assist and advice farmers on how to improve their farming techniques and raise their incomes.
- The Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan will be undertaken in 25 Villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational Districts identified in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development as per directions of NITI Ayog. In districts where number of villages (with more than 1000 population) is less than 25, all villages will be covered.

The overall coordination and implementation in the 25 villages of a district is being done by Krishi Vigyan Kendra of that district. 111 officers have also been made in-charge of one district each for overall coordination and field level monitoring.

Union Government launches ‘JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA’

- Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, launched the ‘JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA’, the Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in New Delhi.
- The affordable sanitary napkins will now become available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 States/UTs across India, as promised by Union Minister, Chemical & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar on March 8, 2018 (World Women’s day).

Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes it biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded. Emphasizing upon the affordability aspect of SUVIDHA, Shri Mandaviya said that the average price of sanitary napkins available in the market today is around Rs. 8 per pad, whereas now with the launch of the SUVIDHA napkins at Rs. 2.50 per pad, this will go a long way in making the basic hygiene requirement aid for Women affordable for the underprivileged sections.

J&K to host first-ever 'global investor meet' on hydro-power in July

- Jammu and Kashmir economy, the Mehbooba Mufti-led government is all set to host in July-end its first ever "global investors meet", aimed at harnessing hydro power potential of 20,000 megawatts in the state.
- Jammu and Kashmir has exploited only about 16 per cent of the estimated 20,000 MW of hydro-power potential for the past two decades even as the energy demand has been growing gradually, creating a wider demand-supply gap.

Uttar Pradesh to achieve ODF status by 2nd October, 2018

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) in Lucknow with all District Magistrates of the State through Video Conferencing. Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India was also in attendance, along with Chief Secretary Uttar Pradesh and other senior officials of the state.
- The Chief Minister reiterated the state's commitment to achieve open defecation free (ODF) status for UP by 2nd October 2018, one year ahead of the national deadline of 2nd October 2019.

Nationally, the sanitation coverage has increased from 39% in 2014 to nearly 85%, with over 3.75 lakh villages, 389 districts, 13 States and 4 UTs already declared ODF. Sikkim became India's first open defecation free state in 2008 followed by Himachal Pradesh and Kerala were declared ODF states.

Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru in top 10 cities for GDP risk from terrorism

- Three Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are ranked among the top 10 cities globally for GDP risk from terrorism threats, a recent study has found out.
- Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore stood at fifth, sixth and seventh in this aspect, in the latest edition of Lloyd's India's City Risk Index (CRI).
- The study further noted that threats from conflict and terrorism account for more than half (58 per cent) of the risk to India's economic output annually amounting to \$9 billion.
- Delhi (fifth) and Mumbai (seventh) were also in the global top 10 for GDP risk attributed to civil conflict.

Lloyd's City Risk Index (CRI) has measured GDP risk from 22 separate threats in 279 cities across the world. Delhi has the largest GDP risk of all Indian cities at \$ 3.5 billion and is also the highest-ranked city in South Asia. It is closely followed by Mumbai at \$3.1 billion.

Cabinet approves the joint issue of postage stamp between India and Russia

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the agreement signed in connection with release of Joint Stamps between Department of Posts, India and Russia Post (Joint-Stock Company "MARKA" of Russian Federation) to establish postal cooperation and strive towards mutually beneficial operational excellence in the field of issuance of stamps.

India moves up to 137th rank on 2018 Global Peace Index

- India has moved up four places to the 137th rank among 163 countries on the 2017 Global Peace Index, due to a reduction in the level of violent crime driven by increased law enforcement, according to a report by an Australian think tank.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008. New Zealand, Austria, Portugal and Denmark also sit in the top five most peaceful rankings. India has improved by four positions in the overall ranking from 141st to 137th.

Syria remains the least peaceful country in the world, a position it has held for the past five years. Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq and Somalia comprise the remaining least peaceful countries. The index is topped by Iceland, followed by New Zealand, Portugal, Austria and Denmark, whereas war-torn Syria remains the least peaceful country in the world, followed by Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, and Yemen.

Punjab government launches Business First Portal

- In a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in Punjab, the state government has launched a "Business First Portal".
- Punjab government has decided to accelerate economic growth by providing liberal incentives to the entrepreneurs under new Industrial Policy.

Highway tunnel at Theng near Chungthang in north Sikkim

- The newly constructed Theng tunnel on Chungthang-Mangan highway in North Sikkim was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Defence, Dr Subhash Ramrao Bhamre.
- The first of its kind, 578 meters long Theng tunnel has been dedicated to the people of Sikkim and the nation.

This 578 meters long tunnel at Theng has been constructed by Border Road Organisation. Director General of Border Roads, Lt Gen Harpal Singh said Theng tunnel will usher in rapid development of the tourism in North Sikkim.

Uttarakhand banned the use of polythene from July 31

- Polythene will be banned in Uttarakhand from July 31, state governments expressed their resolve to end the menace as India played global host to 2018 World Environment Day celebrations with the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- A massive tree plantation drive will be launched along the Rispana River next month to rejuvenate it. As part of a mission called Rispana to Rishiparna, the ancient name of the river.

Uttarakhand is often referred to as the Devbhumi, due to many Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh.

India, Thailand to kick off military exercise

- In the series of joint bilateral exercises between India and Thailand, both nations have once again come together to foster the spirit of friendship and enhance the strategic military relationship to the next level.
- The joint exercise code-named "MAITREE-2018" is scheduled to take place in Mueang, Chachoengsao Province, Thailand between the forces of Indian Army and Royal Thai Army in August.

Thailand and India have been cooperating in various multilateral fora like ASEAN, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit, and BIMSTEC. In addition, India is a member of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) initiated by Thailand in 2002 and of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC).

Varanasi airport to become the first airport in the country get facial recognition security system under DigiYatra scheme

- The Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi will soon become the first airport in the country to have an automated smart facial recognition system, ensuring hassle-free movement of travellers from entry to boarding points.

- The system has been developed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious DigiYatra scheme. Varanasi is among three airports – the others being Visakhapatnam and Kolkata – selected under the programme for availing of this facility.

Bengaluru hosted a festival dedicated to Indian languages

- Bengaluru has hosted a festival dedicated to languages from June 9 and 10.
- The Language Festival 2018 (LF18) has brought together writers, poets, lyricists and stand-up comedians across seven Indian languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu, apart from English.
- Organised by city-based technology startup and writing app YourQuote.

Minister of Rural Development to Confer National Awards on Best Performing Self Help Groups under DAY – National Rural Livelihood Mission

- The Union Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar will confer the National Awards on Best Performing Self Help Groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The National Awards to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are intended to provide public recognition to the outstanding performance of the community institutions and incorporate a sense of pride among the poor community members.
- Conferring awards to best performing SHG and Village Organizations was initiated by DAY-NRLM in 2016-17. For the assessment year 2017-18, 34 SHGs have been shortlisted for receiving DAY-NRLM National Awards

Narendra Singh Tomar is the leader of Bharatiya Janata Party and a member of Sixteenth Lok Sabha from Gwalior (Lok Sabha constituency).

President declares queen pineapple as Tripura's 'State Fruit'

- President Ram Nath Kovind declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit and said its export was a major step in connecting the state with world trade.
- Export of the pineapple to foreign countries is a major step in connecting with world trade.

Kovind also lauded Maharaja Bir Chandra Manikya for giving the first recognition to Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and said Tripura's culture has a rich tradition. Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur introduced modern rule in Tripura and helped India's struggle for Independence.

Defence Minister inaugurates solar power plant at Heavy Vehicle

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a 16 MW solar 'PV power plant' set up by the defence PSU Bharat Electronics LTD at the Heavy Vehicle Factory in Avadi, Tamil Nadu.
- The power plant set up on an 80 acre land, at a cost of Rs 105 crore, would meet the captive consumption of the HVF and Engine Factory Avadi (EFA).
- The plant would inject power at 110kV to the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Ltd's 110 kV Sub-Station. This is expected to lead to an annual savings of Rs 45.41 million for HVF.

Eight States to implement 'Ayushman Bharat'

- Eight States and four Union Territories have signed MoUs with the Union Health Ministry to implement the government's ambitious national health protection mission — Ayushman Bharat — which aims to provide a cover of Rs.5 lakh per family annually to 10 crore vulnerable families.

- **The eight States** which signed the MoUs to implement the Ayushman Bharat: National Health Protection Mission includes **Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand**. **The Union Territory of Chandigarh** is among the four UTs. **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Tamil Nadu** would sign the agreement soon.

Ayushman Bharat scheme will ensure cashless and paperless access to services, costing up to Rs.5 lakh per year per family, and will be available at the point of service in public and private empanelled hospitals across India. The scheme is the world's largest healthcare programme because of the size of India's population.

Delhi most vulnerable UT in India's first disaster risk index, Maharashtra leads states

- A national disaster risk index mapping hazards and vulnerabilities across 640 districts puts Maharashtra at the top of the chart followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, while Delhi is most at risk among Union territories (UTs).
- At first glance, the lower hazard ranking to states like those in the north-east and others like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, which are prone to earthquakes or floods, seems surprising but the index takes into account economic vulnerabilities and actions taken to mitigate risk.

The index factors in exposure of population, agriculture and livestock and environmental risk in drawing up the rankings. The index is currently in the form of a draft report prepared by the Union home ministry with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This national disaster risk index is also in line with India's commitment to the Sendai Framework, successor to the Hyogo Framework, where it has to substantially bring down disaster losses in terms of lives and properties.

India to have its first police museum in Delhi

- India will soon have its first national police museum as the central government has decided to establish the unique facility in Lutyens' Delhi.
- The museum, depicting the history, artefacts, uniforms and gear of central and state police forces, will come up as an underground facility in the premises of the national police memorial in Chanakypuri area of the national capital.

The museum is expected to be inaugurated on October 21 (Police Commemoration Day) at the hands of either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Rajnath Singh. A memorial service is conducted every year on October, 21 at this site to pay tributes to the men and women in khaki who laid down their lives at the altar of duty.

India is the second highest sender of foreign students in US

- With 1,86,000 Indian students currently studying in the United States, India is the second highest sender of foreign students in the US, next only to China.
- The United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide and the number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

India to host first BIMSTEC war games

- India will host the first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focusing on counter-terrorism in September, 2018.
- As part of this, a conclave of the Army chiefs of all seven member-states is being planned. The exercise is scheduled to be held in Pune in the second week of September.
- "The aim of the exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism".

BIMSTEC was set up in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration and includes India, Bangladesh, Bhutan Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The theme includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search, and each side will bring in some 30 soldiers. BIMSTEC countries held a disaster management exercise in 2017, but this is the first military exercise of the grouping which brings together important neighbours of India in South and Southeast Asia.

Centre launches 'Rail MADAD', 'Menu on Rails' mobile apps

- The **Ministry of Railways** launched two mobile applications to ease the travelling experience.
- The two apps, 'Rail MADAD' and 'Menu on Rails', were launched by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State (MoS) Manoj Sinha.
- While Rail MADAD will enable travellers to lodge complaints, Menu on Rails will facilitate seamless ordering of food. "The theme for development this year is to improve connectivity for the poor, in line with Mahatma Gandhi's ideologies.

Piyush Vedprakash Goyal has been given additional responsibility of Finance Ministry. He is currently a Member of Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra. Piyush Goyal was Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy in the Government of India.

Assam to launch awareness programme against superstition

- The Assam government plans to introduce an awareness programme -- 'Sanskar'-- in all development blocks and panchayats in the wake of incidents triggered by superstition and ignorance.
- Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) would be the nodal agency and the programme would involve all deputy commissioners, superintendents of police and all government departments concerned in a district.

Government sets up T.C.A. Anant panel to bring transparency in jobs data

- The union government has set up a committee headed by former chief statistician of India T.C.A. Anant to bring in transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation.
- Labour bureau conducts two major surveys on employment scenario—Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey and Quarterly Employment Survey.
- The Annual Employment Unemployment Survey was later replaced by Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI).

Centre to get 12 more states into national insurance plan

- Moving to kickstart the government sponsored Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) on time; the Centre is set to sign pacts with 12 more states this month, with eight states already on board.
- 1.5 lakh primary health centres and sub-centres will be converted to health and wellness centres by 2022.

The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW. The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database. AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes –Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Ten new Swachh Iconic Places launched under Swachh Bharat Mission

- Ten new iconic sites, namely, Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh); Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal); Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana); VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh);

Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand); Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, J&K); Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh); ImaKeithal/market (Imphal, Manipur); Sabarimala Temple (Kerala); and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand) have been taken up under Phase III of the flagship project Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The project envisioned by the Prime Minister is being coordinated by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation with the support of State governments and local administration. It was launched in 2016, under the Phase I ten iconic places are: Ajmer Sharif Dargah, CST Mumbai, Golden Temple, Kamakhya Temple, MaikarnikaGhat, Meenakshi Temple, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Shree Jagannath Temple, The Taj Mahal and Tirupati Temple. Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places was launched in Nov 2017, and included Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mahakaleshwar Temple, Charminar, Convent and Church of St. Francis of Assissi, Kalady, Gommateswara, BaidyanathDham, Gaya Tirth and Somnath temple. SIP is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, M/o Culture, and M/o Tourism.

India-Nepal Joint Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII culminated at Pithoragarh

- Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII, a joint military training exercise between India & Nepal culminated at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand wherein the troops of both Armies participated in 14-day long joint training based on counter terrorist operations.
- The training culminated with a 72-hour outdoor exercise in which troops of both contingents carried out a Cordon and Search Operation in a mock counter-insurgency village.

Surya Kiran can be termed as the facade of long-standing strategic ties between India and Nepal. It would be the first time when women soldiers of Nepal army were joined the Surya-Kiran in Pithoragarh. Surya Kiran with Nepal is India's largest military exercise in terms of troop participation.

India gives Rs 99 million to Nepal for installing shallow tube wells

- India extended a financial aid of Rs 99 million to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems in 12 districts of the country's southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity.
- The assistance has been extended as part of the final payment for the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project, which was launched in January last year to boost growth to the Himalayan nation's agricultural sector through enhanced facilities.

3,000 Additional Atal Tinkering Labs Announced

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has selected 3,000 additional schools for the establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), bringing the total number of ATL schools to 5,441.
- The selected schools shall receive a grant of Rs 20 lakh spread over the next five years to establish Atal Tinkering Labs for nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among secondary school children across India.
- ATLs will soon be established in every district of India, seeking to enable an innovation ecosystem, which will facilitate transformational change in technological innovation and pedagogy.

The first phase of Atal Tinkering Labs brought India a step closer to the mission of Creating One Million Neoteric Child Innovators in India by 2020. 2441 schools across the country have been selected to establish an Atal Tinkering Lab. Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students (Class 6th to Class 12th) learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India. The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, IoT & sensors etc.

CM inaugurates Green Mizoram Day

- **Green Mizoram Day** was observed across the state with government employees, students and members of NGOs planting large number of trees.
- **Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla inaugurated the Green Mizoram Day, 2018** at a function attended by his cabinet colleagues, legislators and senior government officials where they undertook ceremonial planting of trees along the river Chite in Aizawl.
- The **Green Mizoram Day** is being organised every year on **June 11** since 1999.

Lal Thanhawla, who also holds the forest portfolio, said the planting of saplings had started in 1998 under the banner **Green Aizawl**. The programme was rechristened as **Green Mizoram** in 1999. He said **37 lakh saplings** had been planted since the first **Green Mizoram Day** in 1999. Addressing a function at Raj Bhavan here, **Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan** took pride in Mizoram's achievement as the state with the largest forest cover and said it must be sustained for other states to emulate.

New Uttar Pradesh panel to study in detail the status of different backward castes

- The **BJP government in Uttar Pradesh** has constituted a **4-member committee** to assess the **socioeconomic and educational condition of backward classes** which would give the government feedback about the development patterns among the different castes under the category of backward classes.
- The committee, to be headed by **Justice (Retired) Raghvendra Kumar Singh**. Apart from Singh, the other three members of the committee are **J P Vishwakarma** (retired IAS), **Professor Bhupendra V k r am Singh** (BHU, Varanasi) and **Ashok Rajbhar** (advocate, Azamgarh).

Tripura government takes number of initiatives to preserve, promote cultural heritage

- **Tripura government** has taken a **number of initiatives** to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the state.
- The culture aspect of Tripura has always been an **integral part of Tripura Government** to promote cultural heritage as well as positive outlook of the people.

President Ram Nath Kovind to launch Solar Charkha Mission on 27th June

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** will launch **Solar Charkha Mission** on 27th of this month which will entail a subsidy of **550 crore rupees** in the initial two years for **50 clusters**.
- The scheme is aimed at **linking five crore women and self-help groups** to the initiative.
- **15 new technology centres** will be set up and out of these, ten will be made operational this year. The Minister said, these centres will provide technological support to small industries.

President Kovind left on 3-nation tour to Greece, Suriname, Cuba

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** left on a **three-nation 8-day visit** to **Greece, Suriname and Cuba** which will be the first by an Indian head of state.
- This is **Kovind's fourth state visit as President** and the first outside Africa. He will be the **first Indian President** to travel to **Suriname and Cuba** and the first to visit **Greece** since **President Kalam** in 2007.

In **Greece**, **Kovind** will hold a meeting with **President Prokopsis Pavlopoulos**, **Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras** and **Leader of the Opposition Kyriakos Mitsotakis**. From **Greece**, **Kovind** will leave for **Suriname** on June 19 in what will be the **first ever visit by an Indian head of state to the South American nation**. Kovind's visits to **Suriname** and **Cuba** are being seen as a reflection of India giving more importance to ties with **Latin America**. **With 37 per cent of Suriname's population being people of Indian origin**, **Kovind** will also lay the foundation stone of **Vivekananda Cultural Centre**. Most of these Indian-origin people are descendants of indentured labour brought to work in sugarcane plantations, the first batch of whom arrived in 1873.

Government approves 33% increase in carpet area of houses under PMAY-U

- The government has approved a 33-percent increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under its affordable housing scheme Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) to attract more beneficiaries.
- The carpet area of a house has been enhanced to 160 sq m from 120 sq m for Middle Income Group-I (MIG-I), while it has been increased to 200 sq m from 150 sq m in case of MIG –II.
- The new rules will be effective from January 1, 2017, the date on which the scheme became operational.

Government mulls raising pension limit to up to Rs.10, 000/month under APY

- The government is considering a proposal to raise the pension limit under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to up to Rs.10, 000 per month from the existing slab of up to Rs. 5,000.
- The PFRDA has sent two more proposals to the Ministry — auto enrolment for APY and raising the maximum age bar to enter the scheme to up to 50 years.
- Currently, the age of entering APY is from 18-40 years but an increase in the same by another 10 years — from 18-50 years — will help in expanding the subscriber base.

Atal Pension Yojana (previously known as Swavalamban Yojana) is a government-backed pension scheme in India targeted at the unorganised sector. It was mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May in Kolkata.

‘3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens’

- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment chaired the “3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC)” convened by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.
- The NCSrC advises Central and State Governments on the entire gamut of issues related to welfare of senior citizens and enhancement of their quality of life. The NCSrC meets at least twice a year.

NITI Aayog launched Composite Water Management Index to rank states for water management under ‘SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas’

- NITI Aayog has come up with the Composite Water Management Index as a useful tool to assess and improve the performance in efficient management of water resources.
- This index is an attempt to inspire States and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water, and recycling thereof with a sense of urgency.
- The index can be utilised to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources. Union Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari releases the Index.

Cabinet approves Repositioning of North Eastern Council

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the nomination of the Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC) - a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member.
- The Cabinet also approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.

NEC was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States. Subsequent to the Amendment of 2002, NEC has been mandated to function as a regional planning body for the North Eastern Area.

10th Smart City Centre to become operational in the country

- The Integrated Command and Control Centre of the Naya Raipur Smart City was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Integrated Command & Control Centre of Naya Raipur becomes the 10th Smart City Centre to be operational in the country.

Under the ambitious Smart City Mission, Integrated Command & Control Centres in 9 cities had already become operational in the cities of are Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Pune, Nagpur, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Bhopal and Kakinada.

Sitharaman inaugurates first office of BEL in Hanoi, Vietnam

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first office of leading defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited in Hanoi, reflecting India's deepening military cooperation with Vietnam.
- Tran Dai Quang is the current President of Vietnam.

BEL is India's leading defence electronics company which is fast expanding its global presence, especially in South East Asian countries such as Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Jammu and Kashmir Police to get Two Women's Battalion

- The Central government gave nod to raise two women battalions in the Jammu and Kashmir Police, fulfilling the promise made by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh during his two-day visit to the state.
- To enhance the representation of women in the state police, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has approved raising two women Battalions for Jammu and Kashmir Police.

PM Modi inaugurates expanded Bhilai steel plant

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the modernised and expanded Bhilai Steel Plant to the nation.
- The prime minister has inaugurated Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur. Thereafter, in Bhilai, he has inaugurated Raipur-Jagdalpur air service, laid foundation stone for the new building of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhilai, besides dedicating to the nation the expanded and modernised Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) of SAIL.

Smart village initiative for Arunachal Pradesh

- The Arunachal Pradesh government has inked an agreement with Andhra Pradesh-based Smart Village Movement (SVM) to facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of the north-eastern state.
- The man behind the Smart Village Movement, Solomon Darwin, will be the adviser to the project's core team.
- The project will focus on solving "pain-points" or challenges in rural segments by developing platforms driven by "open innovation" approaches.

MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan makes big compensation announcement for poor families

- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan made a huge announcement for people from poor families.
- He announced compensation scheme for poor families. "If head of a poor family dies before the age of 60 years, Rs 2 Lakh will be provided to the family. Rs 4 Lakh, in case of death in an accident, will be given to them".

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal. Nicknamed the "Heart of India" due to its geographical location in India. Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in the country by area after Rajasthan. This state was the largest in India by area until 2000, when its southeastern Chhattisgarh region was made as a separate state. MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India.

Indian Science Congress to be held at LPU

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate '106th Indian Science Congress', to be held at Lovely Professional University from January 3 to 7, 2019.
- The theme for the five-day science congress is 'Future India: Science & Technology'.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 105th Indian Science Congress at Manipur University. The theme chosen for the Indian Science Congress this year, is quite appropriate: "Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology". The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon. The first meeting of the Congress was held from January 15-17, 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, with the Honourable Justice Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, the then Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, as President.

Gujarat tops composite water management index, Madhya Pradesh second

- Gujarat has emerged the top state in composite water management in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra in the first-of-its-kind ranking of states on management of water.
- Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been the worst performers in the ranking done by Niti Aayog, the country's premier think tank.
- Tripura is the top performer in northeast, while Rajasthan has emerged as the best performer in the incremental progress.

According to the NITI Aayog, India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history and millions of lives and livelihoods are under threat. Currently, 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress and about two lakh people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water. Union water resources minister Nitin Gadkari and Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar jointly released the report as well as the portal on which states will continuously feed their data on water management.

Cabinet approves Bill for dam safety

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal for enactment of a new Dam Safety Bill, 2018.
- The Bill seeks to establish a national regulatory body for dam safety and create a database of the existing dams.
- Goyal also announced that the Union Cabinet had shifted the North Eastern Council (NEC) from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to the Home Ministry.

Northeast only region in India to have Regional Road Corporation

- "Northeast is the only region in the country for which the Centre has formulated the first-ever Regional Road Corporation in the form of North-East Road Development Scheme" to boost development.
- Northeast India comprises eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is responsible for the matters relating to the planning, execution and monitoring of development schemes and projects in the North Eastern Region. Its vision is to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of the Region so that it may enjoy growth parity with the rest of the country. Jitendra Singh is the current Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Prime Minister Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.

Swajal Launched in 115 Aspirational Districts of India

- A National Consultation on the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Swajal was held in New Delhi to discuss the reforms needed in NRDWP and to outline a road map for the Swajal scheme.
- The consultation was chaired by the Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti.
- Ministers-in-charge of Drinking Water from 13 States, including Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, attended the consultation and gave their views on the reforms needed in the ongoing Centrally-sponsored drinking water schemes being implemented in the respective states.

After Narendra Modi became the Indian Prime Minister in 2014, she was appointed the Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and held this office until September 2017. She was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jhansi constituency in 2014 by defeating Chandrapal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party.

Tourism Minister launches the new Incredible India website

- The Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism Shri K.J. Alphons launched the new Incredible India website in New Delhi.
- The website showcases India as a holistic destination, revolving around major experiences, such as, spirituality, heritage, adventure, culture, yoga, wellness and more. The website follows the trends and technologies of international standards with an aim to project India as a “must-visit” destination, among its overseas travellers.

India among over 90 nations without paid paternity leave for new dads

- India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies, according to a new UNICEF analysis.
- Almost two-thirds of the world's children under one year old - nearly 90 million - live in countries where their fathers are not entitled by law to a single day of paid paternity leave, the UNICEF analysis

Union Minister inaugurates NLCIL's three 100-MW solar power projects

- Union Minister for Finance, Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal inaugurated three 100-MW solar power projects erected at Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli districts, Tamil Nadu.
- The solar power projects erected at Thoppalaakkarai and Sethupuram in Virudhunagar district and Sellaiya Sezhianallur in Tirunelveli district, with an installed capacity of 100 MW each.

Prime Minister chairs the 4th meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chairs the fourth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The day-long meeting was attended by Union Ministers, Chief Ministers from the States, Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories and senior officials from the Government of India.
- The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in shaping the development narrative.

PM reiterated the Centre's commitment to provide universal coverage of seven key schemes to 45,000 additional villages in 115 Aspirational Districts, by August 15. As a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called to make the nation garbage free by 2019.

SAARC fund to launch social enterprise programme in India and 7 other member nations

- **Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund** will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the **8-member states including India**.
- **SDF** was established by the **Heads of the eight SAARC member states in April 2010** and its Governing Council comprises finance ministers of these eight countries. **SDF is in the process of launching the SEDP as part of its social window.**

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**.

India's largest national data centre to come up in Bhopal

- **Union government** will be **setting up the country's largest national data centre in Bhopal**, with capacity for 500,000 virtual servers, according to the **Union Electronics and information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad**.
- The country has **four such centres** for hosting government websites, services and apps. **These are at Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi and Bhubaneswar**. He said the **rural Business Process Outsourcing scheme** would be extended to **100,000 seats from the current 48,000**, as it was a good job creator.

Ravi Shankar Prasad is the current Union Minister holding Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology and he represents the state of Bihar as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha.

Union HRD Minister inaugurates the Grand Finale of the First Hardware edition of Smart India Hackathon 2018

- The **Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated the **5 day Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018 – Hardware edition** through Video conferencing in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the **Smart India Hackathon 2018 is in line with the 'Make in India' initiative** of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- **Hardware edition is the first of its kind innovative initiative by Ministry of HRD** to provide national platform to young technical minds of India to **showcase their disruptive innovations and creative products** which can bring out **revolutionary changes in crucial sectors like agriculture, health, clean water, waste management, automotive, smart communication, and education (Nodal centers)** across India.

Smart India Hackathon is a **unique initiative to identify new and disruptive digital technology innovations for solving the challenges faced by our country**.

India and Russia to hold tri-service military exercise 'Indra'

- The **tri-service joint Russia-India military exercise Indra-2018** will take place in an **Indian military base** in the second half of this year.
- **Combined military units of the Russian Eastern Military District** will participate in the drills.

India and Russia have been engaged in joint naval drills since 2003. **"Indra" Navy** is a **bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and Russian navies** and epitomizes the strategic relationship between the two countries. **Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces** was conducted in the **Eastern Military District of Russia** from 19 to 29 Oct 2017.

Railways to become ‘net zero carbon emitter’ by 2030

- Railways Minister Piyush Goyal said that Indian Railways will become a “net zero” carbon emitter by 2030 at an event — ‘The Rail Contact 2018’, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Piyush Vedprakash Goyal has been given additional responsibility of Finance Ministry. He is currently a Member of Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra. Piyush Goyal was Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy in the Government of India.

President Kovind approves Governor’s rule in J&K

- A day after the BJP snapped ties with the PDP in Jammu-Kashmir and Mehbooba Mufti resigned as Chief Minister, President Ramnath Kovind gave his approval for the imposition of Governor’s rule in the state with immediate effect.
- Unlike President’s rule under Article 356, Governor’s rule in Jammu and Kashmir is invoked under Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. It will be imposed for six months and gives additional powers to the Governor, including the authority to legislate. This will be the fourth time in the last 10 years that a Governor’s rule is imposed in Jammu and Kashmir.

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

Nitin Gadkari attended conference on “International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” in Tajikistan

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari visited Republic of Tajikistan to represent India in the high-level Conference on "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028" on 20-21 June 2018.
- United Nations and Government of Republic of Tajikistan are jointly organizing the Conference to discuss key water related issues of sustainable development goals adopted by UN member countries.

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2010-2013. Gadkari contested 2014 Loksabha election successfully from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra and won it.

121.46 crore Aadhaar generated till June 16

- A total number of 121.46 crore 12-digit unique identification number Aadhaar has been generated till June 16, 2018, according to the IT and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

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

World’s first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics launched in Gujarat

- The world’s first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics (ICHF) was launched at Gandhinagar in Gujarat demonstrates India’s determination to use its technology and talent to serve people at home and around the world.

- It is a **joint venture of the Regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives and also Gujarat Forensic Science University.**

Shillong bags Smart City tag

- As the **Smart Cities Mission** enters its fourth year, **the Centre has finally announced the 100th and the last city which will be part of the project: Shillong.**
- **Shillong** is often known as **Scotland of the East.**
- This announcement also sets the end date for the mission as **June 2023**, as every city gets five years to complete its projects.
- The **first 20 cities** were selected in **January 2016**, and they should now be at the halfway point of their mission.

Surat Smart City Selected for ‘City Award’ for showing great momentum in Implementation of Projects Under ‘India Smart Cities Award’ 2018

- Nine awards in three categories, i.e., **Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award** have been announced under the **India Smart Cities Awards.**
- The **city award is being given to Surat** for showing great momentum in implementation of projects especially in the categories of urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development.
- The **Innovative Idea award is being given to a project/idea particularly remarkable for its innovative, bottom-up and transformative approach towards achievement of sustainable integrated development.**
- **Joint winners in this category are Bhopal** for their Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and Ahmedabad for Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project.

i-Hariyali app launched by Punjab government

- **Getting the saplings of your choice at the doorstep, that too free of cost**, is just a click away in Punjab as the State Government has launched a mobile application —‘i-Hariyali’.
- The **app aimed at increasing the state's green cover**, the mobile application would enable the users to order free plant saplings.

The state capital of Punjab is Chandigarh, a Union Territory and also the capital of the neighboring state of Haryana. The five rivers from which the region took its name were Sutlej, Ravi, Beas, Chenab and Jhelum; Sutlej, Ravi and Beas are part of the Indian Punjab. Captain Amarinder Singh is currently the 26th Chief Minister of Punjab and Vijayendrapal Singh Badnore is the current Governor of Punjab.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated US’ first and biggest Nature Cure facility YO1 in New York

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated US’ first and biggest Nature Cure facility YO1** via video conference on the occasion of International Yoga Day. A dream project of **Essel Group chairman and Rajya Sabha member Subhash Chandra**, the centre is built on the **Catskill Mountain in Southeastern New York.** **YO1 is derived from 'Youvan' meaning youth in Sanskrit.** The wellness centre aims to address health issues, improve mobility, increase longevity, promote weight loss, and bring back the youthfulness.

The **United Nations General Assembly in 2014** adopted a resolution declared **June 21** as the **International Day of Yoga**, co-sponsored by 175 countries. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed the idea** of taking India's 5000-year-old Yoga tradition to every corner of the world.

Home Ministry invokes UAPA, bans new offshoots of al-Qaeda and Islamic State

- The Union Home Ministry has banned new offshoots of the al-Qaeda and Islamic State under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
- Both al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham-Khorasan (ISIS-K), an Afghanistan-based affiliate of ISIS, have been declared unlawful.

Uttarakhand HC bans all water sports activities

- The Uttarakhand High Court has banned white river rafting, paragliding and other water sports in the state until a policy on the same is framed by the Trivendra Singh Rawat-led government.
- The court observed that these activities were being carried out in absence of any policy and has given two weeks to the state government to enact a law regulating the adventure sports.

Uttarakhand is often referred to as the Devbhumi, due to many Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh.

India and United States to hold inaugural '2+2 Dialogue' on July 6

- India and the US will hold the inaugural 2+2 Dialogue on July 6 in Washington, DC.
- US secretary of state Michael R Pompeo and secretary of defense James Mattis will host external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and minister of defence Nirmala Sitharaman for the first meeting.

This new 2+2 dialogue format was agreed upon between the two sides during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington in June 2017.

PM Modi to dedicate Mohanpura Dam to nation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Mohanpura Dam Project to the nation. He also laid foundation stone of various drinking water schemes in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

Ministry of Women & Child Development receives the 'Best Performing Social Sector Ministry' SKOCH Award for its Achievements and Initiatives

- Lauding the achievements of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in delivering the promises made and for its significant achievements and initiatives from the last 4 years, SKOCH has conferred the 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award on the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi has received the award on behalf of the Ministry.

Maneka Sanjay Gandhi has been representing the Lok Sabha from Pilibhit constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

Vasundhara Raje conferred with 'Chief Minister of the Year' award

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance.
- The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit.

Rajasthan is India's largest state by area, Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert; More than 60% of the desert lies in the state of Rajasthan, and extends into Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana. Kalyan Singh is the current Governor of Rajasthan.

Prime Minister inaugurates the Third AIIB Annual Meeting 2018

- The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will jointly host the third Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) at Hotel Trident/Oberoi and NCPA, Mumbai, India.
- The theme for this year's meeting is "Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration".

Kannur International Airport to begin operations in Sept

- Kannur International Airport will begin operations in September. Kannur aerodrome will become the fourth international one in Kerala, which is already the state with the most number of international airports in the country.

India Trying to Make Chabahar Port in Iran Operational by 2019

- India is trying to make the strategic Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, said in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Iran and India, in February, signed an agreement worth \$85 million to develop Chabahar Port in south-eastern Iran. Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port.

Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings: Maharashtra tops survey with 28 cities

- Under the Swachh Survekshan 2018, Maharashtra takes the lead with 28 cities from the state featuring in the list of top 100 cities. Whereas, 58 cities of Maharashtra figured in Western Region of India.
- The survey was conducted under the Swachh Bharat Mission, in cities with over 1 lakh population (Amrut cities).
- Maharashtra got the highest awards — 10 out of 52 sections. The city of Mumbai has been declared the cleanest capital city, and Navi Mumbai ranked first in solid waste management. Both Bhusawal and Bhiwandi got the recognition for dynamic small cities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on October 2, 2014. The Clean Survey 2018 was organised to evaluate the cleanliness in urban areas. In all 4,203 cities were surveyed in the country from January 4 to March 10. In this, 43 Amrut cities and 217 cities with less than one lakh population participated from the state.

President Kovind presented Fourth National Awards for outstanding services in field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Fourth National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.
- The awards were conferred to the institutions and individuals on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.

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

India, Bangladesh navies to join hands

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two navies.
- The first edition was inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his visit from June 24 to 29.

- The **Indian Navy** regularly conducts **CORPATs** with **Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand**. It also conducts **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance** of **Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles** on their request.

President of India is the **Supreme Commander** of the **Indian Navy**. **Sunil Lanba** is the **current** and the **23rd Chief of the Naval Staff** of the **Indian Navy**. **Navy day** in **India** is **celebrated on 4 December** every year.

Suresh Prabhu chairs India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission

- **Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India, Suresh Prabhu** co-chaired the **15th Session** of the **India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission** with the **Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Steven Ciobo, in Canberra**.
- **Shri Prabhu** also met the **Prime Minister of Australia, Malcom Turnbull**. They discussed **transfer of technology and expertise** related to **solar power generation** and **storage and utilization of power**.

Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu is currently representing **Andhra Pradesh** in the **Upper House of Indian Parliament**. He was the **Union Railway Minister of India** from **November 2014 to September 2017**.

National Seminar on Conservation of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** is **organized** a **National Seminar** on **“Conservation of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: The Way Forward”** in **New Delhi**.
- This **Seminar** is **organized in collaboration** with **Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)** and **Directors of 18 Tribal Research Institutes** in different **States** have also been invited to **deliberate** on **critical issues** of **tribal groups** who are at the **verge of extinction**.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to the most **primitive tribal groups: Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens**. Some of these **tribal groups** are on the **verge of extinction**. **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**, a **Constitutional body** set up under **Article 338(A)** of the **Constitution** to protect the interests of **Scheduled Tribes**, is **organized** for the first time a **two-day Seminar**.

Haryana makes use of LED bulbs mandatory in government offices by 15 Aug

- The **use of LED bulbs and tube lights** has been made **mandatory** in all **offices of Haryana**.
- As per **directions of the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar**, all **halogen, sodium bulbs and tube lights** will be replaced with **energy-efficient LED bulbs and tube lights**.

Kaptan Singh Solanki is the **current Governor of Haryana** and **Manohar Lal Khattar** is the **current** and **10th Chief Minister of Haryana**. The **state capital of Haryana** is **Chandigarh**, a **Union Territory** and also the **capital of the neighboring state of Punjab**.

Finance ministry approves Metro rail projects in Bhopal, Indore, Kanpur, Agra and Delhi

- **Metro construction** will pick up **pace** in the **country** with the **Union finance ministry** recently giving **“in-principle” approval** to **five proposed metro projects** in **Indore, Bhopal, Kanpur, Agra, and Delhi**, with an estimated cost of **Rs 1.07 lakh crore**.
- Besides the **five metro projects**, the **Rs 32,000 crore Delhi-Meerut corridor** of the proposed **Rapid Rail Transit System** also got the **in-principle nod** from the **finance ministry**.

The **projects approved by the finance ministry** are the **first to be approved** after the **government** came out with the **new metro policy** last **August**. The **policy** made **PPP (public private partnership)** component **mandatory** for **availing central assistance** for all **new metro projects**.

Sushma Swaraj launches Passport Seva app

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched Mobile Passport Application on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas in New Delhi. Swaraj mentioned that the two new schemes - Passport application from anywhere in India, and filling passport application forms from mobile phones, would make the procedure for obtaining passports simpler.

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

Haryana panchayat passed 'No Toilet, No Bride' resolution

- The Godikan panchayat in Haryana has become the first panchayat in the country to pass a resolution to marry off girls only to families that have a toilet in their house.
- It is aimed to ensure safety and well-being of the women folk. The Godikan panchayat has already been declared an Outdoor Defecation Free panchayat.

Sarpanch Dharampal of Godikan village passed the resolution inspired by Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar-starrer movie Toilet Ek Prem Katha that was screened to all Sarpanchs in the area by the district administration.

India gifts aircraft to Seychelles

- This is the second Dornier aircraft to be gifted by India to Seychelles; the first one was given in January 2013.
- The Dornier is equipped with a 360-degree surveillance radar, a forward-looking Infra-red system, satellite communication, a traffic collision and avoidance system and an enhanced ground proximity warning system, among others.

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) built Do-228 aircraft was formally handed over by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj who presented its airworthiness certificate to the President of Seychelles, Danny Faure who is on an official visit in India.

President launches Solar Charkha Mission

- President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Solar Charkha Mission covering artisans in 50 identified clusters and the Sampark portal -- a digital platform to connect five lakh job seekers with recruiters -- at an event to mark the important economic role played by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- The Solar Charkha Mission will entail a subsidy of Rs 550 crore in the initial two years for 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans. The mission will generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.

According to a survey, there are about 6.5 crore MSMEs in India which have created over 11 crore job opportunities. Such enterprises have registered over 10 per cent growth in recent times which is much more compared to large enterprises," the President said inaugurating the Udyam Sangam-2018. Last year, the UN General Assembly had declared June 27 as MSME Day, recognising the importance of the sector in achieving sustainable development goals and in promoting innovation, creativity and sustainable work for all.

Sanitation Action Plans Prepared for 10 New Swachh Iconic Places

- Ten new heritage sites of the country firmed up action plans for raising their sanitation standards to exemplary levels.
- These Places are Sri Raghavendra Swami Mutt Mantralayam (Andhra Pradesh), Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal), Shri Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana), Vidur Kuti Temple (Uttar Pradesh), Mana village

(Uttarakhand), **Pangong Tso** (Jammu and Kashmir), **Shri Nag Vasuki Temple** (Uttar Pradesh), **Nupi Keithel** (Manipur), **Sree Dharma Sastha Temple** (Kerala) and **Kanvashram** (Uttarakhand), which constitute Phase-III of the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission, **coordinated by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.**

All the thirty Swachh Iconic Places selected so far under the initiative resolved to make their sites completely free of plastic at the event. The Swachh Iconic Places initiative aims to achieve a distinctly higher level of sanitation at these places, especially in the peripheries and approach areas.

Hindi mother tongue of 44% in India, Bangla second most-spoken

- The percentage of Indian population with Hindi as their mother tongue has risen to 43.63% from 41.03% in 2001, according to data on language released as part of Census 2011. Bengali remains the second most spoken language while Marathi has replaced Telugu in third place.
- Sanskrit was the least spoken of the country's 22 scheduled languages. With just 24,821 people listing it as their mother tongue, it was slotted below Bodo, Manipuri, Konkani and Dogri languages in terms of number of speakers. Among the unscheduled languages, around 2.6 lakh people listed English as their first spoken language in the 2011 census, of which 1.06 lakh were in Maharashtra.

Tamil Nadu had the second highest number of people with English as their mother tongue, while Karnataka was a close third. While 96.71% of the country's population returned one of the 22 scheduled languages as their mother tongue in the 2011 census, 3.29% returned other languages as their mother tongue.

NITI Aayog releases First Delta Ranking under the Aspirational Districts Programme

- NITI Aayog releases the First Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme. The ranking will measure the incremental progress made by districts between March 31, 2018 and May 31, 2018.
- The districts have been ranked in a transparent basis on parameters across Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure through 49 key performance indicators.
- The Delta ranking seeks to highlight the Districts who have achieved incremental progress between the months of March 2018 and May 2018.

Institution of "Home Minister's Special Operation Medal"

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the institution of "Home Minister's Special Operation Medal". Police Officers of States & Union Territories, Central Police Organisations (CPOs), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Security Organisation involved in Special Operations will be eligible.
- The Union Home Minister has also instituted three more Medals, - the Antarik Suraksha Medal, Asadharan Aashuchan Padak, and Utkrisht & Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal.

India votes against draft decision on chemical weapons use at OPCW meet

- India has voted against the draft decision on addressing the threat from chemical weapons use at a special conference of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), citing "incomplete consultations".
- The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its seat in The Hague, Netherlands.

Prime Minister pays homage to the Great saint and poet, Kabir, at Sant Kabir Nagar on 500th death anniversary of Saint Kabir

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh and paid homage to the great saint and poet, Kabir on the occasion of 500th death anniversary of the great saint.
- Sant Kabir Academy, to be built at a cost of about Rs. 24 crore, would create an institution to preserve the legacy of Sant Kabir, as well as regional dialects and folk arts of Uttar Pradesh.

Kabir was born near Banaras to a brahmin widow. He was a 15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint, whose writings influenced Hinduism's Bhakti movement and his followers are called Kabirpanthis. Kabir is widely believed to have become the first disciple of the Bhakti poet-saint Swami Ramananda in Varanasi, known for devotional Vaishnavism.

Madhya Pradesh awarded for reducing maternal mortality

- Madhya Pradesh was awarded for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign. The award ceremony was held in New Delhi.
- Madhya Pradesh has been registered an unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths as per the report of the Registrar General of India from 2014 to 2016.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal. Nicknamed the "Heart of India" due to its geographical location in India. Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in the country by area after Rajasthan. This state was the largest in India by area until 2000, when its southeastern Chhattisgarh region was made as a separate state. MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India.

Dharmendra Pradhan proposes natural gas pipeline along Maharashtra Prosperity Corridor

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan proposed setting up a natural gas pipeline along the Maharashtra Prosperity Corridor, an eight-lane 701-km hi-speed super communication expressway between Nagpur and Mumbai.
- The Rs 46,000 crore project is being planned to boost agro-industries and port-led developments across 24 districts including 14 drought prone districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada.

Climate change can cost India 2.8% of GDP by 2050

- Rising temperatures and changing monsoon rainfall patterns associated with climate change could shave off 2.8 per cent of India's GDP and depress the living standards of nearly half its population by 2050 if it's business as usual.
- The worst hit would be people in 10 districts in Central India (including some in the impoverished Vidharbha region of Maharashtra), which have been identified as severe "hotspots".

CJI lays foundation stone for Dharmashastra National Law University

- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra laid the foundation stone for Dharmashastra National Law University in Jabalpur.
- Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has termed the establishment of Dharmashastra National Law University as historic day for Jabalpur and a milestone for the judicial fraternity and the State Government.

International



Malaysia plans to build island on strategic Singapore Strait rocks

- Malaysia has planned to develop some offshore rocks which were the subject of a territorial dispute with Singapore, days after he cancelled a big rail project with his southern neighbour.
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) awarded the outcrop, known as Middle Rocks, near the opening of the Straits of Singapore, to Malaysia in 2008.
- At the same time, the Netherlands-based court ruled the nearby Pedra Branca Island belonged to Singapore.

Italy's new government sworn in

- New Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and his Cabinet, the first populist government in an EU founding member were sworn in by President Sergio Mattarella at the presidential palace.

Italy is a sovereign state in Europe. It is located in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea. Rome is the capital city of Italy. Giuseppe Conte is serving as the 58th and current Prime Minister of Italy since 1 June 2018. Euro is the currency of Italy.

Egypt's Sissi sworn in for second term in office

- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi was sworn in for a second four-year term in office as the country faces major economic and security challenges.
- Sissi took the oath in a packed house and in front of members of his government, after winning 97 percent of valid votes in the March presidential election.

Egypt is a transcontinental country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and southwest corner of Asia by a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula. Cairo is the capital of Egypt. Sherif Ismail Mohamed has been Prime Minister of Egypt since 2015. Egyptian pound is the currency of Egypt.

Spain's PM Rajoy forced out of office

- Spain's Parliament ousted Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in a no-confidence vote sparked by fury over his party's corruption woes, with his Socialist arch-rival Pedro Sanchez automatically taking over.
- An absolute majority of 180 lawmakers voted for the motion to loud applause and shouts of 'Yes we can', converting Mr. Rajoy into the first Prime Minister to be ousted by such a vote since Spain transitioned to democracy in 1977.

Spain is a sovereign state mostly located on the Iberian Peninsula in Europe. Madrid is the capital of Spain and the largest municipality in both the Community of Madrid and Spain as a whole. Euro is the currency of Spain. Pio Garcia-Escudero, Count of Badaran has been the President of the Senate of Spain since 2011.

‘Maharaja’ marks 70 years since first India-UK flight

- **Air India is marking 70 years since its first flight** took off from Mumbai to London in June 1948, which laid the foundations of the India-UK relationship.
- The **iconic first flight**, on a Super Constellation aircraft, took off from Mumbai on June 8 and landed in London via Cairo and Geneva on June 10, 1948, with just 42 passengers on board, including some Indian ‘Nawabs’ (noblemen) and ‘Maharajas’ (kings). Later this month, **Air India is prepared to mark the historic journey**, which laid the foundations of the India-UK relationship 70 years ago.

Air India had the honour of being the first airline to start commercial operations from the recently opened Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport at Durgapur with a flight connecting Kolkata to Durgapur and back. Air India celebrated World Environment Day highlighting the theme: "SWACHH BHARAT IS A SWASTH BHARAT", in sync with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for "Swachh Bharat – A Clean India". Tata Sons set up Tata Airlines in 1932. JRD Tata, the legendary entrepreneur, himself flew the first flight between Karachi and Bombay. In 1946, Tata Airlines became a public company and was renamed Air India in 1953.

Malaysia appoints ethnic Indian as new attorney general

- Malaysia's king has approved the appointment of an ethnic Indian lawyer as the new attorney general, amid protests from Islamic groups that the job must be held by a Muslim. A palace statement says Sultan Muhammad V has approved terminating current Attorney General Mohamad Apandi Ali and replacing him with Tommy Thomas, the first minority to hold the post in 55 years.
- Groups representing ethnic Malays, who make up two-thirds of Malaysia's 31 million people, have demanded the top legal job be given to a Muslim to protect the status of Islam as the official religion. Thomas is the first non-Malay to take the post of attorney-general since Malaysia was formed in 1963.

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy in Southeast Asia. Kuala Lumpur is the national capital of Malaysia as well as its largest city in the country. Malaysian ringgit is the currency of Malaysia.

Oxford University Press to host 2nd South Asia Conclave on July 4

- Policymakers, bureaucrats, academicians and journalists will discuss topics linked to politics, business and healthcare among others at the second edition of Oxford University Press' South Asia Conclave on July 4.
- The conclave seeks to closely examine the key issues affecting Indian politics, business and politics, political finance, civil-military relations and healthcare policy and, become a major platform to discuss issues pertaining to South Asia and develop a deeper understanding.

London teen becomes UK's youngest convicted female IS terrorist

- An 18-year-old woman become Britain's youngest convicted female Islamic State terrorist after a court found her guilty of plotting a terror attack on the iconic British Museum at London with Britain's first all-woman cell.
- Safaa Boular was accused of planning to travel to Syria to join IS militants and later preparing to carry out a terrorist attack in London after her fiance, an Islamic State fighter, died. A jury at the Old Bailey found her guilty of two offences of preparation of terrorism acts. She was also found guilty over an earlier attempt to travel to Syria for terrorism.

US renews call for Organization of American States to suspend Venezuela

- The Trump administration renewed its call for the Organization of American States to suspend Venezuela and for other members to step up pressure on the country's government to restore constitutional order.

Organization of American States is a continental organization that was founded on 30 April 1948, for the purposes of regional solidarity and cooperation among its member states. Headquartered in the United States capital Washington, D.C., the OAS's members are the 35 independent states of the Americas. As of 26 May 2015, the Secretary General of OAS is Luis Almagro.

First Saudi women receive driving licenses amid crackdown

- Saudi Arabia issued the first driving licenses to 10 women as the kingdom prepares to lift the world's only ban on women driving in three weeks, but the surprise move comes as a number of women who'd campaigned for the right to drive are under arrest and facing charges related to their activism.
- A government statement said the 10 women who were issued licenses already held driving licenses from other countries, including the U.S., U.K., Lebanon and Canada.

Madagascar Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly resigns

- Madagascar's Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly resigned to comply with a court ruling that ordered the formation of a new consensus government to end the country's political crisis.
 - President Hery Rajaonarimampianina approved an election law under which the main opposition candidate, Marc Ravalomanana, could run for office. The law generated deadly street demonstrations on the Indian Ocean island nation.
 - The High Constitutional Court ordered Rajaonarimampianina to dissolve his government and appoint a new prime minister with the support of all political parties.
- Madagascar is an island country in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of East Africa. Antananarivo also known by its colonial shorthand form Tana, is the capital and largest city of Madagascar. Christian Louis Ntsay is currently Prime Minister of Madagascar. The ariary is the currency of Madagascar.

India to take part in 2nd quadrilateral meet on ASEAN sidelines

- Seven Months after India participated in the revived quadrilateral meeting in Manila; New Delhi will participate in the second round of the meeting with officials from US, Japan and Australia. The meeting will take place in Singapore on the sidelines of the Senior Officials' meeting (SOM) on ASEAN.
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD, also known as the Quad) is an informal strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by talks between member countries.

Death toll climbs to 99 in Guatemala volcano eruption

- The death toll from a massive volcano eruption in Guatemala rose to 99, the Central American country's disaster and forensic agency Inacif said.
- Volcan de Fuego, which means "Volcano of Fire," exploded violently, shooting thick plumes of ash miles into the sky that rained down on residents.

Guatemala is a country in Central America. Guatemala City is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Guatemala. Jimmy Morales has been serving as the President of Guatemala since January 2016. The quetzal is the currency of Guatemala.

UN General Assembly elects Ecuador minister next president

- The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly elected Ecuador's Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces as its next president, making her only the fourth woman to lead the 193-member world body in its 73-year history.
- She defeated another woman Honduras' UN Ambassador Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake by 128-62 with two abstentions in the secret-ballot vote.

María Fernanda Espinosa was **Minister of National Defense of Ecuador** from 28 November 2012 to 23 September 2014. She served as the **Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva** from October 2014 to May 2017, and held the same position from 2008 to 2009. **Currently, she is serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs under President Lenín Moreno.**

World first European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) nuclear reactor begins work in China

- A **third generation European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) reactor in China** carried out its **first nuclear chain reaction an initial startup which is a world first** for the much-delayed European technology.
- The **EPR in Taishan, southern China** "carried out its first chain and therefore it has started.

Xi honours Putin with medal

- **President Xi Jinping** gave **China's first friendship medal to Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin** as the neighbouring giants touted their close ties amid diplomatic and economic challenges from the U.S.
- **China's "highest honour" is bestowed on foreigners who have made "outstanding contributions" to the country's modernisation drive** and helped maintain world peace.

The **Friendship Medal**, along with the **Medal of the Republic**, the **July 1 Medal**, the **August 1 Medal**, and **national titles of honor** constitute **China's honors system** established last year. **President Xi** has also been awarded several medals of honor, including the **Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called**, the highest order in Russia, on July 4, 2017, for his contribution to peace and global goodwill.

Indonesia wins UNSC vote

- **Maldives and Indonesia** had contested for a seat in the UNSC, but in the plenary session held at the UN headquarters in New York, **Indonesia won the seat after securing 144 votes against 46 for the Maldives.**

The 44th G7 Summit concluded in Quebec, Canada

- The **44th G7 Summit was held on June 8-9 in Quebec, Canada.** Each year, the location of the summit rotates among the member countries. The **host country not only sets the agenda for the year but also holds the G7 presidency.**
- **G7 Summit is an event conducted annually** where world leaders from seven powerful economies of the world, **US, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy** come together to discuss burning issues happening around the globe. **For the first time in the last 44 years, the G7 will have a Gender Equality Advisory Council.**

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau opens to compromise on disputed NAFTA sunset clause

- **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau rejected a US demand for a sunset clause in NAFTA** but said he was prepared to compromise on the issue, which is holding up talks to update the 1990s-era pact.

The **Trudeau government has told U.S. President Donald Trump**, he needs to get rid of the punishing **U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum** if there is any hope of successfully renegotiating the **North American Free Trade Agreement.**

India, China to set up new mechanism to promote people-to-people ties

- **India and China** have decided to set up a new **"people to people mechanism"** to build on the momentum in bilateral ties **from the Wuhan Summit.**
- It will be headed on the Indian side by the **External Affairs Minister** and on the Chinese side by the **State Council and Foreign Minister Wang Yi** and the first meeting of this P to P mechanism will be held this year".

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

U.N. Security Council elects five members for two-year term

- The United Nations General Assembly voted to elect Germany, Belgium, South Africa, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia for a two-year term in the Security Council starting on Jan. 1, 2019.

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.

SCO leaders sign Qingdao Declaration

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the heads of other member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), inked a number of agreements during the signing-in ceremony at the summit in China's Qingdao city.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) leaders taking part in a summit in China's Qingdao have signed the Qingdao Declaration.
- This is the first SCO summit wherein both India and Pakistan are attending as full-time members.
- The leaders adopted a total of 17 documents at the summit, which particularly include documents endorsing the 2018-2022 Action Plans to implement the Treaty for Long-term Good-Neighborly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation between the SCO states and the 2019-2020 Program for Cooperation in countering terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- The SCO leaders signed the Qingdao Declaration and agreements on security, economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.

Mauritius to host global Hindi meet

- The upcoming 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius is likely to produce directives to increase the popularity of Hindi globally, a source familiar with the preparation for the event.
- Work on the international meet from August 18 to 20 is under way in the External Affairs Ministry, even as some prominent Hindi literary figures expressed their disappointment at the way the event has shaped up over the years. The WHS will be the organising authority of the event.

The World Hindi Conference is a major event organised every three years by the External Affairs Ministry. World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) supported by India is located in Mauritius.

Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump meet in Singapore

- Donald Trump's handshake with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore marked a historic moment — the first meeting ever between a sitting US president and the leader of North Korea.
- North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (L) met with US President Donald Trump (R) at the start of their historic US-North Korea summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore on June 12, 2018.

- It was the **first time that sitting leaders of the countries have met**, and it came after years of bluster and threats from Pyongyang — and from Trump — that have raised fears of war.

US government clears sale of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India for \$ 930M

- US government has **approved a deal to sell the Indian military six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for 930 million dollars**.
- The agreement has been **passed to the US Congress for approval and if no US lawmaker raises an objection**, the contract will go ahead.

Bilateral defence trade between India and the United States has risen from near zero to USD 15 billion since 2008. US government-to-government sales to India in recent years have included C-17 transport aircraft, 155 mm Light-Weight Towed Howitzers, UGM-84L Harpoon missiles, Support for C-130J Super Hercules aircraft and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) support equipment.

Georgia's prime minister resigns after mass protests

- Giorgi Kvirikashvili, prime minister of Georgia, has announced his resignation amid a disagreement with Bidzina Ivanishvili, the leader of the ruling party.

Georgia is a country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. The capital and largest city is Tbilisi. Giorgi Margvelashvili has been the fourth President of Georgia since 17 November 2013. The lari is the currency of Georgia.

Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz Sworn in as Jordan PM

- King Abdullah swore in Jordan's new government headed by former World Bank economist Omar Razzaz** who will now attempt to tackle tax reforms while trying to avoid similar nationwide protests that brought down his predecessor.
- Jordan is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia, on the East Bank of the Jordan River. The capital, Amman, is Jordan's most populous city as well as the country's economic, political and cultural centre. Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein has been King of Jordan since 1999. Jordanian dinar has been the currency of Jordan since 1950.**

Ivan Duque elected to be Colombia's new president

- Conservative political newcomer Ivan Duque has been elected President of Colombia.**
- Mr Duque won 54 percent of the vote.** At a victory rally in the capital Bogota, he pledged to unite the country following a divisive campaign.

Colombia is a sovereign state largely situated in the northwest of South America, with territories in Central America. Bogotá is the capital and largest city of Colombia. Juan Manuel Santos is the current President and holds the office until 7 August 2018. He was the sole recipient of the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

SCO headquarters in Beijing holds first Yoga Day event

- For the first time, a Yoga event was organised at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) headquarters**, kicking off this year's UN International Day of Yoga celebrations in China.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.

Greece, Macedonia sign historic deal to end name row

- Greece and Macedonia signed a **historic preliminary agreement to rename the country the Republic of North Macedonia**, ending a row that has **poisoned relations between the two neighbours since 1991**.
- "This is a brave, historic and necessary step for our people," said **Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras**. "Our two countries should step out of the past and look to the future," said **Macedonia Prime Minister Zoran Zaev**.
- After the signature, Tsipras will cross over to the Macedonian side of Lake Prespa for lunch, **becoming the first Greek prime minister to visit the neighbouring state**.

Since 1991, Athens has objected to its neighbour being called Macedonia because it has its own northern province of the same name, which in ancient times was the cradle of Alexander the Great's empire - a source of intense pride for modern-day Greeks.

Jeff Bezos becomes richest man in the world with a net worth of USD 141.9 billion

- **Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos has become the richest man in the world with a net wealth of USD 141.9 billion**, the Forbes World's Billionaires list.
- Bezos' wealth has grown more than USD 5 billion since June 1 to beat Bill Gates, the **principal founder of Microsoft Corporation, who is the second-richest man in the world with USD 92.9 billion**.
- **Warren Buffet**, one of the **most successful investors in the world, trailed in the third place** with a total of wealth of USD 82.2 billion.

Trump orders creation of 'Space Force'

- **US President Donald Trump has ordered the creation of a "Space Force"**, saying it would be **"separate but equal" from the Air Force**. President directed the Department of Defence and Pentagon to immediately begin the process necessary to establish the **Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces**.
- In addition to calling for the Space Force, **Trump signed Space Policy Directive -- 3**, part of his administration's push to lead in the space space.
- **Space Policy Directive -- 3 is primarily focused on satellite traffic management** and mitigating debris in space. The policy, executive secretary of the National Space Council Scott Pace told reporters, "seeks to address the challenges of a congested space environment".

United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of **50 states** and capital is **Washington, D.C., Donald John Trump** is the **45th and current President of the United States**. He became the **oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency**, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.

Canada set to become second country to legalise cannabis

- The **Canadian government will soon announce the date when cannabis will become legal but warned it will remain illegal until then**.
- The **Senate gave final passage to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's bill to legalise cannabis**. But Canadians will have to wait at least a couple of months to legally buy marijuana. The country will become the second in the world to make pot legal nationwide.
- The **measure ends prohibition of cannabis that had been in place in Canada since 1923**. It was effectively legalised for medical use nearly two decades ago, in 2001.

Canada is a country located in the northern part of North America. Canada is the **world's second-largest country by total area**. Elizabeth II is the **Head of the Commonwealth** and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the **United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon**.

U.S. quits UN human rights body

- The United States announced its withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) terming it “hypocritical and self-serving.” U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley blamed the UNHRC for bias against Israel and refusing to eject members who are violators of human rights.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world. The headquarters of UNHRC is in Geneva, Switzerland. The UNHRC was established by the UN General Assembly on March 15, 2006 to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights.

New Zealand Prime Minister is the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern gave birth to a daughter and she is the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office after late Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who gave birth to daughter Bakhtawar in 1990. Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters has taken over as acting prime minister.

New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. Wellington is the capital city.

Eurozone declares Greek crisis as over

- The Greek government said the country was “turning a page” after Eurozone Ministers declared its crisis over as they granted Athens debt relief under a bailout exit strategy.
- The Eurozone Ministers’ agreement comes nearly a decade after Athens finances spun out of control, sparking three bailouts and threatening the country’s euro membership.

Greek government-debt crisis (also known as the Greek Depression) was the sovereign debt crisis faced by Greece in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2007–08. The Greek crisis started in late 2009. On June 30, 2015, Greece became the first developed country to fail to make an IMF loan repayment.

Mongolia breaks ground for its first refinery to be constructed with Indian assistance

- Mongolia broke ground for the construction of country's first oil refinery with the help of a USD 1 billion loan from India.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh attended the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the refinery at 'Stantsiin Hooloi' in Altanshiree Soum.

Mongolia is a landlocked unitary sovereign state in East Asia. Ulaanbaatar is the capital and largest city of Mongolia. Battulga Khaltmaa is currently serving as as the President of Mongolia since 10 July 2017. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh is currently serving as Prime Minister of Mongolia since October, 2017. The togrog or tugrik is the official currency of Mongolia.

EU deploys election observers in Zimbabwe

- The European Union began deploying election observers in Zimbabwe for the first time in 16 years, ahead of next month’s vote.
- The July 30 election will be the first in the country since veteran leader Robert Mugabe was ousted following a brief military takeover in November last year, after 37 years.

European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship. A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. Brussels is the de facto capital of the European Union.

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country located in southern Africa and Harare is the capital and most populous city of Zimbabwe. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is serving as the third and current President of Zimbabwe since 24 November 2017.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

PM Modi launches three Indian digital payment apps in Singapore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three Indian mobile payment apps in Singapore** at a business event aimed at **internationalisation of the country's digital payment platform**.
- At the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' where digital platform was the main feature, **Modi launched India's BHIM, RuPay and SBI app**.

Milk production to grow at 9 per cent annually by 2022 from 6 per cent

- The **annual growth in milk production will increase to 9 per cent by 2022 from the current 6.3 per cent** on the back of several initiatives taken by the government to boost the dairy sector.
- Milk output of India, the **world's largest producer, stood at 165 million tonnes in 2016-17**.

Odisha launches health insurance scheme for journalists

- **Odisha government launched a health insurance scheme for working journalists in the state**.
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the scheme called "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana"**.
- In the first phase, as many as 3,233 working **journalists will get health insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh a year**. At least five members of the journalists family will be covered under the scheme

Nasscom to set up cyber security CoE

- The **Data Security Council of India (DSCI), an arm of the Nasscom, has signed an agreement with the Telangana government to set up the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for cyber security**.
- The **CoE will accelerate Telangana's cyber security momentum and make the State a hub for cyber security in the next five years**. The CoE, to be developed on **public-private-partnership model** will accelerate and strengthen the ecosystem for cyber security.

Maharashtra government unveils 'sandbox' to aid startups

- In its efforts to **develop the financial capital into a fintech hub, the Maharashtra government announced a 'sandbox' to aid startups in the space**.
- **Maharashtra, the first state to have a dedicated fintech policy, is also planning to have a dedicated 'Fintech Officer' in the Department of Information Technology**.

Generally, sandbox is seen as a safe zone to test financial innovation which sees a limited rollout of new products to select customers. In the sandbox, all the startups will be welcome. They can register, they can open their APIs (application programming interface) and banks can consume. Reserve Bank panel had recommended introducing a "regulatory sandbox" to foster financial technology innovation.

Benami asset attachments worth crores may fall flat as no authority for 1.5 years

- The Benami Property Transaction Act, enacted in 1988, was revived and enforced by the current government from November 1, 2016, the month that also saw demonetisation of two big currencies of the country by a declaration made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Section 7 of this law, that attracts a rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years and fine up to 25 per cent of the fair market value of the property, requires the government to create an independent 3-member Adjudicating Authority (like the one for PMLA) that will decide on the validity of the attachment of properties made under this legislation by the Income Tax Department (ITD).
- In the absence of such an authority for over 1.5 years now, the government has entrusted the task of handling these cases on an ad-hoc basis and as a "transitional" arrangement to the already short-staffed and over-burdened Adjudicating Authority for the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), a stringent law enforced by the Enforcement Directorate.

The benami law mandates that every case under adjudication is mandatorily heard and decided by a two-member bench and hence while deciding these cases within the time limit the manpower is diverted here at the cost of PMLA adjudication. Members of the benami authority, as per the scheme of the law, can be a person who has been a Commissioner-rank officer in the IT Department or has held the post of Joint Secretary in the Law Ministry and belongs to the Indian Legal Services. The ITD has set up 24 benami properties unit (BPU) in its investigation wings across the country to streamline functioning under the new Act.

Financial Literacy Week to begin on June 4

- The Reserve Bank of India has chosen customer protection as theme for the Financial Literacy Week beginning on June 4.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched "financial literacy week" based on theme of consumer protection in Jammu and Kashmir with an aim for good practices for safe digital banking experience.
- This week long event ended on June 8 and focused on creating awareness among customers of banks about financial products and services, good financial practices and going digital.

The Reserve Bank of India has since 2017 earmarked one week in a year as the financial literacy week.

NTPC adopts Charminar under Swachh Iconic Places Project

- NTPC Ltd has adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. This is part of a special drive under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.
- NTPC Ltd and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation have signed a memorandum of understanding for implementation of development and beautification works under the Charminar Pedestrianization Project in Hyderabad.

Charminar is situated bang in the heart of the old city of Hyderabad; the Charminar (Urdu 'Char' meaning Four and 'Minar' meaning Tower) is one of the most recognized monuments in India. It is the architectural icon for the city of Hyderabad, equivalent to the likes of the Taj Mahal of Agra or the Eiffel Tower of Paris and is the most searched historical site of the city on Google. This 400-years-old structure was built by Sultan Muhammed Quli Qutb Shah, the 5th Sultan of the illustrious Qutb Shahi dynasty. An inseparable part of the history of Hyderabad, the Sultan built the monument right after shifting his capital from Golkonda to Hyderabad.

India gets first automated vehicle scrapping and recycling facility

- The country's first automated and organised vehicle scrapping and recycling facility is up and running in Greater Noida, a satellite town outside the capital.
- The five-acre facility, set up by M&M through a joint venture with government owned company MSTC, went on stream in April this year. Construction of five more facilities at different locations of the country is underway and expected to become operational by March next year.
- Mahindra Accelo and MSTC have an equal partnership to set up these recycling centres under a company called CERO. CERO is buying vehicles directly from owners and at auctions

Commerce Minister attends informal gathering of WTO in Paris

- Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu, attended an Informal Gathering of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministers in Paris on 31 May 2018. Twenty-Eight (28) member countries of the WTO and the Director General of the WTO attended the informal meeting.

World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade. The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 124 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. It is the largest international economic organization in the world. The WTO's current Director-General is Roberto Azevêdo, who leads a staff of over 600 people in Geneva, Switzerland.

India among the top five countries in e-waste generation: ASSOCHAM-NEC study

- Despite the government's emphasis on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and Smart Cities project, India continues to be generating highest e-waste vis-à-vis China, USA, Japan and Germany an ASSOCHAM-NEC recent study coinciding with the "Environment Day" noted.
- In India, Maharashtra contributes the largest e-waste of 19.8% but recycles only about 47,810 TPA (tonnes per annum) whereas as its counterparts Tamil Nadu (13%) recycles about 52,427, Uttar Pradesh (10.1%) recycles about 86,130, West Bengal (9.8%), Delhi (9.5%), Karnataka (8.9%), Gujarat (8.8%) and Madhya Pradesh (7.6%), the joint study noted.

E-waste typically includes discarded computer monitors, motherboards, Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT), Printed Circuit Board (PCB), mobile phones and chargers, compact discs, headphones, white goods such as Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD)/ Plasma televisions, air conditioners, refrigerators and so on. As Indians become richer and spend more electronic items and appliances, Computer equipment accounts for almost 70% of e-waste material followed by telecommunication equipment (12%), electrical equipment (8%) and medical equipment (7%). Other equipment, including household e-crap account for the remaining 4%.

FDI inflows to India decline by \$4 bn in 2017: World Investment Report

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India declined to \$ 40 billion in 2017 from \$ 44 billion in the previous year, said UNCTAD'S World Investment Report 2018.
- "FDI inflows to South Asia contracted by 4 per cent to \$ 52 billion, owing to a drop in inflows to India" the report said.
- As per the UNCTAD, the foreign inflows to India decreased from \$ 44 billion in 2016 to \$ 40 billion in 2017.

World Bank forecasts 7.3 per cent growth for India in FY2018-2019

- The World Bank has forecast a growth rate of 7.3 per cent for India this year and 7.5 per cent for the next two years, making it the fastest growing country among major emerging economies.

- **Growth in India is projected to advance 7.3 per cent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19** (April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019) and **7.5 per cent in FY 2019/20**, reflecting robust private consumption and strengthening investment, the bank said in its June 2018 edition of the Global Economic Prospect report.

Baba Kalyani heads group to study SEZ Policy

- **Government of India has constituted a group of eminent persons to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India. This group is headed by Baba Kalyani.**
- **The SEZ Policy was implemented from 01st April, 2000. Subsequently the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 and received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Act was enacted. The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10th February, 2006.**

President gives nod for IBC amendment

- **The President gave his assent to promulgate the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.**
- **“The ordinance provides significant relief to homebuyers by recognising their status as financial creditors,” the government said in a statement. “It will also enable homebuyers to invoke Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 against errant developers. Another major beneficiary would be micro, small and medium sector enterprises (MSME), which form the backbone of the Indian economy as the biggest employer, next only to the agriculture sector.**

Under the insolvency process, an interim resolution professional (IRP) is appointed first and then, a resolution professional. As per the amendment, the tenure of the IRP would continue till the appointment of the resolution professional (RP), compared with the earlier 30-day fixed tenure. Also, for the appointment of the RP, a written consent from the professional is required in a specified format.

"Fund of Funds" will ensure Rs. 1 Lakh crore funding to Startups

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Rs. 10,000 crore fund of funds created by the government will ensure funding to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh crore for startups, which are now mushrooming in smaller towns and also in unconventional segments like agriculture and social sectors.**
- **He said the Rs. 10,000 crore fund has helped venture capital funds provide assistance of Rs. 7,000 crore to startups. This fund, he said, in the long run will ensure funding of Rs. 1 lakh crore to startups in the country.**

World Bank approves India's Rs 6,000 crore ground water conservation scheme

- **The World Bank has approved India's Rs 6,000 crore central scheme which aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23.**

India counters UN report on fall in FDI, claims it rose to \$61.96 bn in FY18

- **Two days after a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) showed that foreign direct investments into India fell by \$4.5 billion in 2017, the government pointed to latest statistics to say that FDI has actually risen.**
- **Addressing the media on four years of the Modi government, Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary at the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) pointed out that FDI rose to \$61.96 billion in 2017-18 from \$60.08 billion the year before. FDI in the first four years of the Narendra Modi government rose to \$222.75 billion from \$152 billion in the previous four years, Abhishek added.**

NSE IFSC issues 'omnibus' trade framework to ease market access for overseas investors

- NSE IFSC, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange, has put in place a **framework for 'omnibus' trade**, which will help **overseas investors escape direct registration process** and go through authorised brokers.
- The move will also help in **smooth transition of liquidity from Singapore Exchange (SGX)** to Indian offshore exchange at **Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City**.

The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** is the leading stock exchange in India located in **Mumbai** and the **fourth largest in the world by equity trading volume** in 2015, according to World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). It began operations in 1994 and is ranked as the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total and average daily turnover for equity shares every year since 1995, based on annual reports of SEBI. NSE launched **electronic screen-based trading** in 1994, **derivatives trading (in the form of index futures)** and **internet trading** in 2000, which were each the first of its kind in India. **Mr. Ashok Chawla** is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NSE and **Mr. Vikram Limaye** is the Managing Director and CEO of NSE.

India to soon start producing first indigenous Lithium-Ion batteries

- India will soon start producing **first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries**.
- A memorandum of understanding for transfer of technology for **India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project** was signed between **CSIR's Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI)**, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu and **RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd**.

India mulls new group in WTO

- India is considering bringing together a group of **8-10 member countries of the WTO** to prepare an agenda for creation of a conducive atmosphere in Geneva to ensure **smooth functioning of the global trade body**.
- It would be an **informal group within the World Trade Organisation (WTO)**, which may also include nations like **Brazil, China, South Africa, China, Indonesia and Columbia**.

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

India second-largest recipient of World Bank's loans in 2017

- India no longer borrows from the **World Bank's International Development Association (IDA)** arm that gives highly concessional loans to poor countries; however, it still makes use of funds from **WB's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** unit to fund schemes for rural roads, cheap LED lights, etc.

India at bottom of 2018 global environment performance index

- Unable to improve its air quality, protect its biodiversity, and cut its **greenhouse gas emissions**, India say all available data stands at the **bottom of the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings**.
- In 2016, the country had ranked **141 out of 180 countries**.
- In 2018, according to the just released **State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures**, it has slipped to the **177th position**.

SEBI sets up panel to recommend ways to make stock market listing attractive for startups

- Market regulator **SEBI** has set up a panel to recommend the ways to make stock market listing attractive for startups.

- **Members of the group include** representatives from the **Indian Software Product Industry Round Table (iSPIRT)**, **The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE)**, the **Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA)**, law firms, merchant bankers, and stock exchanges.

Cashless Ticketing through 'Utsonmobile' app developed by CRIS

- **Continuing towards digitalization and moving towards becoming a cashless economy**, the initiative of faster and more techno-advanced transactions in **Indian Railways** is being taken up, the **Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS)** has developed a mobile based application 'utsonmobile'.
- **First the passenger will get registered by providing his/her mobile number, name, city, default booking train type, class, ticket type, number of passenger and frequently travelling routes.**

The 'utsonmobile' application enables booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and helps maintain user profile management and booking history. The 'utsonmobile' application is very handy, free and is available for both Android and Windows smart phone. Users can download this app from Google Play Store or Windows store free of cost.

Greece wins new eurozone bailout payment

- **Eurozone authorities agreed to make a fresh €1 billion cash injection to Greece** following its latest reforms, positioning Athens well to leave its painful bailout programme in August.
- The new tranche agreed by the EU's bailout fund is the latest from Greece's third financial rescue package since 2010.

Virtual ID Can be used in place of Aadhaar to get New SIM Card

- The telecom department has instructed telecom service providers to allow consumers to share their **Virtual ID in lieu of Aadhaar** to get new SIMs or verify existing ones.
- The DoT has instructed telecom operators to tweak their systems and networks to enable the use of **Virtual IDs in lieu of Aadhaar number and migrate to the 'limited KYC' mechanism for mobile subscribers.**
- The **Virtual ID system — a random 16-digit number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number —** is scheduled to be fully operational from next month. It aims to strengthen the privacy and security of Aadhaar data amid heightened concerns around the collection and storage of personal and demographic information of individuals.

Millionaires now own half of world's personal wealth

- **Personal wealth around the globe reached \$201.9 trillion last year, a 12% gain from 2016 and the strongest annual pace in the past five years.**
- Booming equity markets swelled fortunes, and investors outside the US got an exchange-rate bonus as most major currencies strengthened against the greenback.

The growing ranks of millionaires and billionaires now hold almost half of global personal wealth, up from slightly less than 45 percent in 2012, according to the report. In North America, which had \$86.1 trillion of total wealth, 42 percent of investable capital is held by people with more than \$5 million in assets. Personal wealth continues to mushroom in Asia, climbing 19 percent to \$36.5 trillion last year. Almost 57 percent of that is held by Chinese residents.

Funds collected under GST anti-profiteering rules to be split between Centre, state

- **Centre and the 'concerned state' will equally share the amount deposited by erring businesses in the consumer welfare fund set up as part of the GST anti-profiteering rules.**
- Following the rollout of GST in July last year, the government set up a national anti-profiteering authority to penalise businesses for failure to pass on tax benefits to consumers.

US pips India as top Greenfield FDI investment destination

- The US has surpassed India to become the top destination for Greenfield FDI investment in 2017.
- The number of Greenfield FDI projects in India during the year fell sharply by 21 per cent to 637, said the FDI Report 2018 compiled by FDI Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd.

India had maintained the numero uno slot in greenfield FDI investment in 2015 and 2016. However, in 2017, the US reclaimed the spot from India, recording USD 87.4 billion of announced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In the Asia and Pacific region, China was on top in terms of FDI in total number of new projects and capital investment, followed by India, as per the FDI report.

OPEC to hold 7th International Seminar in Vienna 20–21 June 2018

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will host the 7th OPEC International Seminar at the Imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria, on 20–21 June 2018 under the theme, ‘Petroleum – cooperation for a sustainable future’.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 14 nations as of February 2018, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria.

Panel identifies 6,000 Mhz spectrum for 5G services

- The 5G committee of the Telecom Ministry has said that about 6,000 Mhz of spectrum can be made available without delay for the next generation mobile service. If accepted, the panel’s recommendation, which has been submitted to the government, can lead to India’s largest-ever spectrum allocation for a service.

States collect taxes worth Rs 10K cr online post e-gov initiative

- States have collected taxes to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore online since the rollout of Transport Mission Mode Project (MMP), which has also automated regional transport operations (RTOs), under the Centre’s e-Governance initiative.
- Two flagship applications under Transport MMP -- Vahan and Sarathi Vahan -- deal with vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services; while Sarathi is related to driving licence, learner licence, driving schools and related activities.

SEBI caps tenure of MDs at stock exchanges

- Regulator Sebi decided to amend the norms governing initial public offers, takeovers and buybacks as well as harmonise shareholding patterns in market infrastructure institutions and cap the tenure of managing directors at stock exchanges.
- In the case of public and rights issues, financial disclosures have to be made only for three years instead of five years requirement at present.

Government asks AC manufacturers to regulate default AC settings at 24 degree Celsius

- The Government has advised AC manufacturers to keep default setting at 24 degree Celsius.
- AC manufacturers have been asked to maintain default temperature setting at 24 degrees Celsius, which may also be made mandatory at a later stage, the power ministry said.
- Every one-degree increase in the air-conditioner temperature setting results in saving of 6 per cent of electricity consumed.
- As per the findings of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, the total connected load in India due to air conditioning will be 200 GW by 2030 going by the current market trends.

Panel to study impact of floating solar plant

- After having received 24 expression of interests (EoI) from companies for **Maharashtra's first-ever floating solar power plant at Ujani dam in Solapur**, the government now wants to study the impact the project may have on the fauna and the fisheries business.
- A **six-member committee headed by Satish Chavan, director (commercial) MAHADISCOM**, has been set up, with members from the environment and irrigation departments.

Kerala is the first State to have a floating solar power plant with a capacity of 250 MW.

Dubai-Mumbai busiest international route with 2.5 million passenger flow

- The **Dubai-Mumbai air sector** witnessed the highest flow of passengers at about **2.5 million** during the **2017-18 financial year**, primarily led by migrant workers, according to data released by the ministry of Civil Aviation.
- The route took the pole position in a list of **top 10 international destinations** that are connected to Indian cities by both Indian and foreign air carriers.

The **Dubai-Mumbai sector** was followed by the **Dubai-Delhi sector** with about **two million passenger** movements. The **Dubai-Kochi sector** came next with just over one million passenger flow, the data showed. The **data showed that United Arab Emirates -- with Dubai as one of the key cities -- constituted almost half of the total international seats** from India during the 2017-18 fiscal, "primarily led by migrant workers and business market in the Middle East".

India targets plastics exports worth \$10.6 billion in FY19

- **India has targeted plastics exports of \$10.6 billion in FY19** and plans to corner **3% of the global plastics exports market by 2025** from the current size of less than 1% through a multi-pronged strategy, according to the Plastics Exports Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL). The **global plastics export market is estimated at \$850 billion**.

Gujarat launches SKY Scheme for farmers to generate solar power

- The **Gujarat government** launched a solar power scheme for farmers- **Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY)** enabling them to **generate electricity for their captive consumption** as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.
- **Announcing the pilot project of the scheme in Gandhinagar**, chief minister **Vijay Rupani** termed it a revolutionary step towards empowering farmers to **generate their own electricity using solar energy** and help doubling their income.

As per the scheme, farmers having existing electricity connection will be given solar panels as per their load requirements. This is a first such scheme in the country, where farmer would produce his power and sell the surplus to the State power utility," said the Chief Minister.

Government of India simplifies the process for permission of Additional Fiscal Deficit Limit over and above 3 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product for the States (GSDP)

- As per recommendation of the **14th Finance Commission**, the States have the access to additional borrowing limits subject to fulfillment of conditions mentioned therein **Fiscal deficit of all States will be anchored to an annual limit of 3 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product(GSDP)**.
- The **States will be eligible for flexibility of 0.25 per cent over and above this** for any given year for which the borrowing limits are to be fixed if their **debt-GSDP ratio is less than or equal to 25 per cent in the preceding year**.

- States will be further eligible for an additional borrowing limit of 0.25 per cent of GSDP in a given year for which the borrowing limits are to be fixed if the interest payments are less than or equal to 10 per cent of the revenue receipts in the preceding year.

The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit. It is an indication of the total borrowings needed by the government. While calculating the total revenue, borrowings are not included.

Third annual meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- The third annual meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) kicked off in India's financial hub Mumbai with the theme "Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration."

During the meeting Prime Minister, Shri Modi said, "With a size of 2.8 trillion US Dollars, India is the seventh largest economy in the world. It is the third largest in terms of purchasing power parity. In the fourth quarter of 2017-18, we grew at 7.7 per cent. In 2018-19, we are projected to grow at 7.4 per cent." In the past, AIIB Annual Meetings were held at Beijing, China in 2016 and Jeju, Republic of Korea in 2017.

India cuts export quotas for Maldives

- India has lowered the limits on the export of certain essential commodities such as potatoes, onions, and eggs to the Maldives, according to a recent notification, in a move that sparked reports of possible food shortages in the Maldives.
- According to a bilateral pact that came into effect in 1981, India exports essential commodities by and large in line with the requirement as communicated by the government of Maldives.

Maldives is a South Asian sovereign state, located in the Indian Ocean, situated in the Arabian Sea. Male is the capital and most populated city, traditionally called the "King's Island" for its central location. Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom is the President of the Maldives, in office since 2013.

BSE to launch new platform to list new-age companies

- To make stock market listing attractive for start-ups, leading stock exchange BSE has decided to launch a new platform to list the new-age companies from July 9. This platform will facilitate the listing of companies in sectors like IT, ITES, bio-technology and life sciences, 3D printing, space technology and e-commerce.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It was established in 1875. BSE is Asia's first stock exchange. BSE claims to be the world's fastest stock exchange, with a median trade speed of 6 microseconds.

India-SCO partnership set to boost with AIFC

- India's economic partnership with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Eurasia is set for a boost next week with the inauguration of the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) in the capital of Kazakhstan, Central Asia's biggest country and a strong votary of Delhi's expanding presence in the region.

AIFC will be inaugurated in July on the occasion of Astana's 20th anniversary. AIFC will be based on the principles of English law, offer a preferential tax regime and house an independent financial court. AIFC is positioning itself as a financial hub for Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Eurasian Economic Union, West Asia, western China, Mongolia and Europe.

India to build two more strategic petroleum reserves

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved destablishment of additional 6.5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facilities at two locations, i.e.

Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka, including construction of dedicated SPMs (Single Point Mooring) for the two SPRs.

EPFO member can withdraw 75 per cent funds after 30 days of unemployment

- Retirement fund body EPFO decided to give its members an option to withdraw 75 per cent of their funds after one month of unemployment and keep their PF account with the body.
- The members would also have an option to withdraw remaining 25 per cent of their funds and go for final settlement of account after completion of two months of unemployment under the new provision in the Employee Provident Fund Scheme 1952.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is an Organization tasked to assist the Central Board of Trustees, a statutory body formed by the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. EPFO assists the Central Board in administering a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, a Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.

NITI Aayog's WEP signs SoI with financial institutions & social organisations

- NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurs Platform (WEP) has signed five Statements of Intent (SoIs) with financial institutions and social organisations to provide assistance to women entrepreneurs and address the finance related challenges faced by them.
- The SoIs were inked with Shri Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank Limited, Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited, Sreemanta Sankar Mission and the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA).
- The WEP intends to undertake this task through its partner organizations, private as well as public organizations; by bringing their existing as well as new women specific initiatives on a single platform, which in turn will also address knowledge gaps, promote partner connects and will increase the outreach of partner programmes.

The Women Entrepreneurs Platform is an initiative under the NITI Aayog which was launched on March 8, 2018 on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The idea of the Platform was first mooted by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog who announced the setting-up of a Women Entrepreneurship Platform in NITI Aayog at the conclusion of the 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) held in Hyderabad in 2017 with an overarching theme of 'Women first, Prosperity for All'.

Mumbai costlier than Washington and Melbourne

- Due to continuously surging food prices and leisure activities, Mumbai continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates, ahead of global peers Washington and Melbourne.
- According to the Cost of Living Survey published by global personnel consultants Mercer, India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru has fallen in the cost of living ranking.
- Mumbai at 55 continues to inch towards the Top 50 club and continues to be more expensive than Washington (56), Melbourne (58), Frankfurt (68), Buenos Aires (76), Stockholm (89) and Atlanta (95).

Hong Kong is ranked as the world's costliest city to live in for expatriates, followed by Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, and Seoul. This year's ranking includes 209 cities across five continents and measures the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.

India records highest number of IPOs globally in first half of 2018

- Globally, **Indian exchanges recorded the highest IPO activity** as the country saw **90 IPO launches** that **raised USD 3.9 billion** in the first half of this year.
- According to EY India IPO Readiness Survey Report, globally, **Indian exchanges recorded the highest IPO activity in terms of number of deals accounting for 16 per cent of the total issues** in the first half of this year (January-June).

Indian real estate transparency improves on reforms, ranked 35th globally

- **India has improved its ranking by one notch to 35th in the global real estate transparency index**, driven by **policy reforms and liberalisation of FDI rules in property** as well as **retail sectors**, showed JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2018.
- **India was ranked 36th in the index during the last bi-annual survey conducted in 2016 and 40th in 2014.** The country's real estate market is **currently placed in the 'semi-transparent' zone.** India has emerged as one of the **top 10 countries** to have **registered maximum improvement in transparency in real estate over last two years**, showed JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2018.

According to the survey, UK is at the top position followed by Australia and the US. Venezuela is the least transparent market with 100th rank.

Electoral Bond Scheme 2018

- As per provisions of the Scheme, **Electoral Bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.**
- A person being an individual can buy Electoral Bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Only the **Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951)** and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.
- The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorized Bank.

An electoral bond is designed to be a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note — in effect, it will be similar to a bank note that is payable to the bearer on demand and free of interest. Electoral Bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issue and bonds will be issued in multiples of Rs.1,000, Rs.10,000, Rs.1 lakh, Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore and will be available at specified branches of State Bank of India.

IISc to boost science start-up incubation

- The **Indian Institute of Science, founded in 1909 by Jamsetji Tata and former Maharajah of Mysore Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV,** plans to open a research park at its Bengaluru facility within the next three years to incubate sci-tech companies.

Hyderabad may house first government blockchain centre

- The Centre is considering a proposal to set up a Centre of Excellence for blockchain technology in Hyderabad to drive innovation.
- The proposal has been submitted by C-DAC Hyderabad, along with the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), Mumbai.

Blockchain is a continuously growing list of records, called *blocks*, which are linked and secured using cryptography. Each block typically contains a cryptographic hash of the previous block, a timestamp, and transaction data. By design, a blockchain is resistant to modification of the data.

Banks in News

HDFC Bank Recognized for Best Practices in Payment Security at Visa Summit

- **HDFC Bank** has once again been recognized with the **Champion Security Award** at the **14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit**.
- For the second time in a row, the bank has won the award in the **India & South Asia category**. The Award is a mark of excellence reflecting leadership in risk management and payment security performance.

Eight financial institutions from **eight Asia Pacific markets** receive the **Visa Champion Security award** in recognition of their **leadership in payment security best practices**. **Visa Inc. (NYSE: V)** is the world's leader in **digital payments**. Our mission is to connect the world through the most innovative, reliable and secure payment network - enabling individuals, businesses and economies to thrive.

SoftBank elevates Vision Fund CEO Rajeev Misra to executive VP

- **SoftBank Group Corp** has elevated its **Vision Fund chief executive officer Rajeev Misra** to **executive vice president of the board of directors**, a move that potentially places the veteran banker among those in line to succeed the Tokyo-based company's founder **Masayoshi Son**.

India is the largest borrower from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- With the **total project portfolios of US\$4.4 Billion**, **India** has been the **largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** lending since the time the Bank started its operations.
- Unlike most other multilateral development banks set up by advanced economies, **AIIB is the first major multilateral development bank where principal contributors are the borrowing members themselves**. The third Annual Meeting of the bank focuses on infrastructure, with the theme of innovation and collaboration.

AIIB is a **multilateral development bank** that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the **Asia-Pacific region**. It is headquartered in **Beijing, China**. **Jin Lique** is the current **President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**.

India, World Bank sign \$500 million loan pact for rural roads

- **India** signed a **\$500 million (Rs 3,371 crore)** loan pact with **World Bank** to provide **additional financing for PMGSY rural road projects**.
- The loan has a **3-year grace period**, and a maturity of **10 years**.
- It will provide additional financing for the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project** "which will build **7,000 km of climate resilient roads**, out of which **3,500 km** will be constructed using **green technologies**",

Yes Bank inks MoU with SIDBI to provide loans to SMEs, MSMEs

- **Yes Bank** has entered into an agreement with **SIDBI** under which it will act as a **preferred financial institution for giving loans** to the **small and medium enterprising customers** of the latter.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** and **Yes Bank** have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to channelise various banking solutions to **SMEs**.

Yes Bank is **India's fourth largest private sector bank**, founded by **Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur** in **2004**. **Yes Bank** is the only **Greenfield Bank licence** awarded by the **RBI** in the last one decade. **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is a **development financial institution in India** headquartered at **Lucknow**. Set up on **April 2, 1990** through an Act of Parliament, **SIDBI** acts as the **Principal Financial Institution for the Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector**.

Citi is the first corporate bank to enroll in the U.K.'s Open Banking Directory

- Citi is the first corporate bank to enroll in the U.K.'s Open Banking Directory in an effort to enhance payment and collection services for business clients.
- Citi announced it is joining the Directory as a Payment Initiation Service Provider (PISP), enabling the bank to pilot payment and collection services for its corporate customers.
- The CMA's nine banks are the U.K.'s largest banks that are required under open banking legislation to develop open APIs and enable third parties to access data held by the FIs.

Modi government planning another SBI-like mega bank merger: Report

- Enthused by the success of India's largest bank State Bank of India's (SBI) merger, the government is reportedly mulling another mega bank merger. As per a report, the government is planning to merge Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, Oriental Bank and Central Bank. These four banks had reported a combined loss of Rs 21,646.38 crore in the year ended 31 March.
- The government had merged five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI on April 1, 2017, to catapult the country's largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world.
- If the new plan goes through, it will create India's second largest bank after State Bank of India with a combined asset of Rs 16.58 trillion, added the report.

RBI amends Gold Monetisation Scheme to make it more attractive

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) of 2015 to enable people to open a hassle-free gold deposit account. In a notification issued, RBI said that the short-term deposits should be treated as bank's on-balance sheet liability.
- It further said that these deposits will be made with the designated banks for a short period of 1-3 years (with a facility of rollover).
- While deposits can also be allowed for broken periods (e.g. 1 year 3 months; 2 years 4 months 5 days or other.

In 2015, the government launched the GMS with the objective of mobilising the gold held by households and institutions in the country. "The Medium Term Government Deposit (MTGD) can be made for 5-7 years and Long Term Government Deposit (LTGD) for 12-15 years or for such period as may be decided by the Central Government from time to time. Deposits can also be allowed for broken periods (e.g. 5 years 7 months; 13 years 4 months 15 days; etc.)," The scheme allows banks' customers to deposit their idle gold holdings for a fixed period in return for interest in the range of 2.25 per cent to 2.50 per cent.

RBI to set up Public Credit Registry on all borrowers

- Public Credit Registry (PCR) will be set up containing information on all borrowers to ensure financial stability.
- Following a report by Yeshwant M Deosthalee headed High Level Task Force; RBI said it has considered the recommendations and decided to set up a PCR in a modular and phased manner.
- An Implementation Task Force (ITF) is being constituted to help design and undertake logistics for the next steps in setting up of the PCR, it said after the second bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19.

Co-op banks can become small finance banks

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow urban co-operative banks (UCB) to convert into small finance banks (SFB), a move aimed at bringing these entities into mainstream banking.
- "It has been decided to allow voluntary transition of UCBs meeting the prescribed criteria into SFBs".

The term Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), though not formally defined, refers to primary cooperative banks located in urban and semi-urban areas. These banks, till 1996, were allowed to lend money only for non-agricultural purposes. The first urban cooperative credit society was registered in Canjeevaram (Kanjivaram) in the erstwhile Madras province in October, 1904.

Chaturvedi named ICICI Bank chairman

- ICICI Bank has appointed former bureaucrat Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as non-executive, part-time chairman and an independent director of the board for three years with effect from July 1.
- Mr. Chaturvedi, a former Indian Administrative Service officer, retired in 2013 as the petroleum secretary.
- He has also served on the boards of Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank as a government nominee. ICICI Bank's present chairman M.K. Sharma's term expires on June 30.

RBI eases norms for FPIs to invest in debt; to help RE, corporate bonds

- The Reserve Bank has eased investment norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in debt, especially into individual large corporates, a move that can help attract more overseas flows and thereby help arrest the recent fall in the rupee on one hand and also lift the recent fall in demand for corporate bonds.
- FPIs are allowed to invest in various debt market instruments such as government bonds, treasury bills, state development loans and corporate bonds, but with certain limits and restrictions. The RBI increased the FPIs cap on investment in government security to 30 per cent of the outstanding stock of that security, from 20 per cent earlier.

Bandhan Bank appoints former RBI deputy governor H R Khan as chairman

- Bandhan Bank has appointed H R Khan, a former RBI deputy governor, as non-executive chairman.
- The board of directors of the bank at its meeting held appointed Harun Rasid Khan as the non-executive, part time chairman of the bank, Bandhan Bank said in a filing to BSE.

Yes Bank launches deposit scheme with an eye to raise Rs 1,000 crore

- Private sector lender Yes Bank launched a deposit scheme, which could fetch up to 8 per cent for tenure of little over 18 months.
- The bank is eyeing Rs 1,000 crore from the scheme 'Green Future:Deposit' in next three months. The launch coincides the World Environment Day.
- The bank said in a statement that this deposit account can be opened for 18 months and 8 days to 18 months and 18 days, with peak interest rate of 7.50 per cent per annum for a regular Green Future. For senior citizens, the account will offer an interest rate of 8 per cent per annum.

Yes Bank is India's fourth largest private sector bank, founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur in 2004. Yes Bank is the only Greenfield Bank licence awarded by the RBI in the last one decade. BHIM YES PAY is the 1st Wallet to fully integrate the India Stack APIs and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) Products supporting the national agenda of making India Digital.

RBI seeks update on payments data storage every fortnight

- Amid concerns rising around data security, the Reserve Bank of India is learnt to have asked payment services firms to provide an update, on action taken by them to store transaction data in India, every fortnight.

Axis tops value, Paytm volumes in mobile banking

- At 17.2 per cent, Axis Bank commands the largest value share of mobile banking transactions but it's Paytm that tops volumes with 22 per cent.

- However, Paytm's value share is a meagre 0.25 per cent, according to State Bank of India's (SBI) annual report for 2017-18 which has put out Reserve Bank of India's data for January 2018.

Credit Suisse believes digital payments could become a \$1 trillion market over the next five years and growth could be driven by payment integrations into popular apps, such as WhatsApp. "Data usage for 300 million Indian smartphone users has jumped to 5-10 GB/month from 1 GB in the last year.

HDFC Bank wins Cabinet nod to raise Rs. 24,000 crore via FDI

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to grant private-sector lender HDFC Bank permission to raise additional capital of up to Rs. 24,000 crore through foreign direct investment.

RBI introduces rupee interest rate options

- The Reserve Bank of India has introduced an interest rate option, a derivative contract whose value is based on the rupee interest rate.
- It was first announced in the first bi-monthly policy in April and will now be effective from 15th June.

Forbes ranks HDFC 5th biggest consumer financial services company worldwide

- Housing finance major HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category' on a list compiled by Forbes magazine.
- American Express has topped this category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.

In the overall list, topped by China's banking behemoth ICBC, HDFC took 321st place, up from 404th a year ago. There are a total of 58 Indian companies on the overall list of 2,000 firms from across the world. These include Reliance Industries at 83rd place, the only from India in the top-100. Besides, HDFC Bank is at 202nd, ONGC at 266th, Indian Oil at 270th and ICICI BankNSE 1.64 % at 320th.

Karnataka Bank unveils 'Deposit Only' card

- Karnataka Bank, unveiled a 'Deposit Only' card that enables cash deposit up to Rs. 10 lakh in a day round the clock at its e-Lobby services.
- Aimed at the bank's current/overdraft customers, the card also facilitates higher deposit limit at the bank's bunch note acceptor/cash recycler kiosks.
- The card can be used only for cash deposit while multiple cards could be issued to a particular account and multiple accounts too could be linked to one particular card.

ICICI Bank & Marg ERP's maiden tie up to provide integrated payments platform to MSMEs

- Marg ERP limited, a leading Inventory and Accounting software solution company has partnered with ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, to offer an integrated payments platform to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers, using MARG's accounting software.

ICICI Bank appoints Sandeep Bakhshi as fulltime director

- ICICI Bank has appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as fulltime director and Chief Operating Officer (COO), a statement by the private sector lender said. The statement added that Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chanda Kochhar, who faces a complaint of alleged non-adherence of code of conduct, will be on leave till the completion of the internal enquiry against her.

- **Bakhshi, whose appointment is for a period of five years** beginning June 19, pending regulatory approvals, will report to Kochhar, the bank said in the statement. On the other hand, the **bank's Chief Financial Officer N S Kanna will replace Bakshi as ICICI Prudential Life MD and CEO.**

ICICI Bank, stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, it is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.

Arijit Basu to be State Bank of India's new Managing Director

- The government appointed Arjit Basu as managing director of the country's largest lender State Bank of India.
- He will fill the position that fell vacant following the elevation of Rajnish Kumar as the chairman.
- Now, after this the SBI will have four managing directors. As per the SBI Act, the bank can have four managing directors.

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

DBS Bank to launch India subsidiary in October

- **DBS Bank of Singapore will launch its India subsidiary in October, the second foreign bank in the country to convert its local operations into a wholly-owned entity.**
- **State Bank of Mauritius was the first to open a local subsidiary in India last year, after RBI came out with the regulations in 2013.**

DBS Bank is a multinational banking and financial services corporation headquartered in Marina Bay, Singapore. The company was known as The Development Bank of Singapore Limited, before the present name was adopted in July 2003. DBS Bank is the largest bank in South East Asia by assets. DBS Group CEO is Piyush Gupta.

Public Sector Banks account for 85% of bank fraud cases

- **State-run lenders accounted for a staggering 85 per cent of nearly 6,500 fraud cases, amounting to more than Rs 30,000 crore, RBI's latest edition of Financial Stability Report showed.**
- **Top 10 banking frauds in 2018 alone lead to a financial loss of Rs 10,000 crore. Banks had reported nearly 5,000 frauds amounting to Rs 20,000 crore in fiscal year 2017.**

RBL Bank raises its stake in Swadhaar FinServe to 100%

- **Private sector lender RBL Bank has fully acquired Mumbai-based financial product distribution firm Swadhaar FinServe Pvt Ltd where it had 60.49 per cent holding earlier.**
- **Swadhaar has now become fully owned subsidiary of the RBL bank.**

RBL Bank Limited is a scheduled commercial bank, headquartered in the Mumbai region of Maharashtra, India. RBL founded in August 1943, RBL is one of the oldest private sector banks in India. Vishwavir Ahuja is the current MD & CEO of the RBL Bank.

Firms in News

IOC most profitable PSU for second year in a row

- Fuel retailer IOC has for the second year in a row beaten ONGC to become India's most profitable state-owned company, raising questions over calls for the explorer to subsidise retailers amid soaring petrol and diesel rates.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is an Indian state owned oil and Gas Company with registered office at Mumbai and primarily headquartered in New Delhi. It is the largest commercial enterprise in the country.

Facebook to offer digital literacy programme for women

- Facebook has partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a digital literacy programme in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).
- As part of the digital literacy programme pilot, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities in Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu over a one-year period.

Rebuilt blast furnace of Rourkela Steel Plant commissioned

- Union Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated to the nation the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) which will increase its annual production capacity from 0.438 million tonnes (MT) to 1.015 MT.
- Parvati is the first Blast Furnace of SAIL that was dedicated to the nation on February 3, 1959 by the first President of India, Rajendra Prasad. The Blast Furnace was put down on August 6, 2013 for total rebuilding."

Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), in Rourkela, Odisha is the first integrated steel plant in the public sector in India. It was set up with West German collaboration with an installed capacity of 1 million tonnes in the 1960s. It is operated by Steel Authority of India.

Munoth Industries to set up lithium-ion cell plant in A.P.

- Chennai-based Munoth Industries announced setting up of a Lithium-ion cell manufacturing plant, said to be the first in India, at an investment of Rs. 799 crore.
- The plant, which would target the mobile phone industry in the first phase, would come up in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Reliance investing in India's first carbon fibre unit

- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) is investing in setting up India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs.
- The owner of world's largest oil refining complex will also make low-cost and high-volume composite products like modular toilets, homes and composites for windmill blades and rotor blades.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is an Indian conglomerate holding company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. On 18 October 2007, Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to breach \$100 billion market capitalization. It is also the highest income tax payer in the private sector in India. The company is ranked 203th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations as of 2017. Dhirubhai Ambani founded Reliance Industries in Bombay with his cousin.

TCS First Company to close over Rs. 7 Trillion Market Cap

- India's IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the first listed company in India to close the day's trade with a market capitalisation of over Rs. 7 lakh crore (over \$103 billion) after the firm's board approved a share buy back for about Rs. 16,000 crore.

Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) is an Indian multinational information technology (IT) service, consulting and business solutions company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is a subsidiary of the Tata Group. On 12 January 2017, N.Chandrashekar was elevated as the chairman for Tata Sons.

Almost 1 mn people 'testing' WhatsApp payments service in India

- Almost one million people in India are "testing" WhatsApp's payments service, and the firm is working with the Centre, NPCI and multiple banks to further expand the feature to more users.

Muthoot Fincorp, NSDC to train 10,000 youth under PMKVY

- Muthoot Fincorp Limited announced its partnership with National Skill Development Corporation to train over 10,000 youth over the next three years and make them job ready.
- With the partnership, Muthoot Fincorp claims to have become the first major private sector player to partner with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to launch the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY.2) programme.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Northeast India's first small bank, North East Small Finance bank starts operation

- Northeast India's first small bank, North East Small Finance bank (NESFB) started its services.
- Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi or RGVN (North East) Microfinance Limited got Reserve Bank of India's Small Finance Bank license on March 31, 2017 mandating it to carry out banking services in remote and "unbanked" areas of India's eight Northeastern states, as well as in West Bengal and registered a Public Limited Company by the name 'North East Small Finance Bank Ltd'.

Sunil Mittal becomes honorary chairman of International Chamber of Commerce

- The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) named Bharti Enterprises' chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal as honorary chairman after his two-year long tenure as the chairman comes to an end.
- Mittal, who is being replaced by Unilever Chief Executive Paul Polman, stepped down as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) chair on June 21, 2018. He will assume the role of ICC honorary chair commencing July 1, 2018, and served the Paris-based group as a chairman since June 15, 2016.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the largest, most representing private-sector views before national governments and intergovernmental bodies around the world. ICC was the first organization granted general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UN Observer Status. ICC is headquartered in Paris, France.

Kanwaljeet Jawa becomes first Indian to be appointed as board member of Daikin

- Japanese air-conditioner maker Daikin Industries Ltd has appointed its India operations MD & CEO Kanwaljeet Jawa into the board of the parent company.

- **Mr Jawa will be the first Indian on the Daikin Industries board** and will be part of the ten member board council that will steer the future of Daikin globally.

Jawa joined Daikin India in 2010 as the **COO** and later became the **MD & CEO** who transformed an engineering company to a full scale HVAC organisation. **Daikin Industries, Ltd.** is a **Japanese multinational air conditioning manufacturing company** headquartered in **Osaka**.

Adani's APSEZ to acquire Marine Infrastructure Developer for Rs 1,950 crore

- **India's largest port developer** and part of **Adani Group APSEZ** entered a pact for acquiring **Marine Infrastructure Developer Private Limited (MIDPL)** for **Rs 1,950 crore**. Of the Rs 1,950 crore, **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)** will be paying Rs 1,562 crore towards settlement of dues of MIDPL.

China's BYD launches world's biggest battery factory

- **Chinese electric carmaker BYD Co Ltd** has opened a new **lithium battery plant in the northwestern province of Qinghai**, which will be the world's biggest when construction is fully completed next year.
- The factory, **BYD's third**, can eventually produce **24 gigawatt-hours of batteries a year**, and is part of the company's plans to raise its **total production capacity to 60 GWh by 2020**.

Total market cap of top 100 global companies reaches USD 20 trillion

- The **total market capitalisation of the top 100 global companies** has increased by **15 per cent** since last year to **USD 20 trillion**, as the **US** retained the leading position with **54 companies** in the list.
- According to **PwC's Global Top 100** ranking the total capitalisation of the top 100 global companies has grown on a year-on-year basis, since the global financial crisis.
- **Amazon is the strongest performer in terms of absolute increase in market capitalisation**, gaining **USD 278 billion** or **66 per cent** in value compared to 2017. The **next three highest performers in absolute terms** are all from the **US - Microsoft, Alphabet and Apple**.

As per the report for the fourth year running, the **US** accounts for more than half of the top 100 (**54 companies**, down from 55 in 2017). **No Indian company** made it to the list.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Methane ice dunes found on Pluto by NASA

- **Scientists from NASA** say they have **found evidence of dunes of frozen methane on Pluto**. The **distant world is more dynamic** than previously thought.
- **Pluto's atmosphere** was believed to be **too thin to create the features familiar in deserts on Earth**.
- **Dunes are 0.4-1km** apart and that they are **made up of particles of methane ice between 200-300 micrometers in diameter** - roughly the size of grains of sand.

The findings come from analysis of the startling images sent back by Nasa's New Horizons mission, which flew close to Pluto in July 2015.

India successfully test-fires SFDR propulsion based missile

- Making a breakthrough in missile technology, **India successfully carried out the flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion based missile**.
- The technology demonstrator flight test was **conducted from the Launch Centre-III of Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha**.
- "The flight test met all the mission objectives. The technology of nozzle less booster has been successfully demonstrated in the mission for the first time in the country". **SFDR is a propulsion technology different than that of conventional solid fuelled or liquid fuelled missiles**.

China successfully launches new earth observation satellite

- **China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite** which will be **mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring**.
- The **Gaofen-6 satellite** was launched on a **Long March-2D rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China**.
- A scientific experiment **satellite named Luoja-1** was sent into space at the same time.

Traces of water, metal found in unique exoplanet

- **Scientists from UK** have **identified traces of multiple metals, along with possible signs of water**, in one of the least dense exoplanets ever found. The team, from the University of Cambridge and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Spain **used the Gran Telescopio Canarias to observe WASP-127b**, a giant gaseous planet with partly clear skies and strong signatures of metals in its atmosphere.

WASP-127b has a radius 1.4 times larger than Jupiter but has only 20 per cent of its mass. Such a planet has no analogue in our solar system and is rare even within the thousands of exoplanets discovered to date. It takes just over four days to orbit its parent star and its surface temperature is around 1127 degree Celsius. The observations of WASP-127b reveal the presence of a large concentration of alkali metals in its atmosphere, allowing simultaneous detections of sodium, potassium and lithium for the first time in an exoplanet. The planet's host star, WASP-127, is also lithium rich.

Agni-5 missile successfully tested

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable long range ballistic missile Agni-5 with a strike range of 5,000 km.
- The missile was launched from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. Agni-5's navigation systems, very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System or RINS, and the most modern and accurate Micro Navigation System or MINS ensured that the missile reached its target with precision.
- The three-stage, 17-metre tall, two-metre wide Agni-5 missile is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead of about 1.5 tonnes.

The surface-to-surface missile was launched with the help of a mobile launcher from launch pad number 4 of the Integrated Test Range at Dr Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island, in the Bay of Bengal. This was the sixth trial of the state-of-the-art Agni-5 ballistic missile. Unlike other missiles of the series, Agni-5 is the most advanced with new technologies in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead, and engine. At present, apart from the Agni-5, other Agni missiles that India has in its armoury are: Agni-1 with a 700-km range, Agni-2 with a 2,000-km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range.

NASA's mini-satellites successfully steer towards Mars

- The world's first mini-satellites to venture into deep space – designed to monitor NASA's InSight Mars lander – have successfully oriented themselves towards the Red Planet, according to the US space agency. Over the last week, two CubeSats called MarCO-A and MarCO-B have been firing their propulsion systems to guide themselves toward Mars.
- This process, called a trajectory correction manoeuvre, allows a spacecraft to refine its path to Mars following launch. Both CubeSats successfully completed this manoeuvre, NASA said in a statement.
- The pair of CubeSats that make up the Mars Cube One (MarCO) mission were both launched on May 5, along with the InSight lander, which is headed toward a November 26 touchdown on the Red Planet.

Cabinet approves Continuation Programme for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved funding for the for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) continuation programme (Phase-I) consisting of ten (10) GSLV (Mk-III) flights, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 4338.20 crores. This includes Rs. 4338.20 Crores and includes the cost of ten GSLV Mk-III vehicles, essential facility augmentation, Programme Management and Launch Campaign.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) has been developed towards achieving indigenous launch capability to launch 4 tonne class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Aletta Now the First Hurricane in the Western Hemisphere in 2018

- Aletta has become the first hurricane of the 2018 Eastern Pacific hurricane season, and another area off the Mexican coast could become the second named storm.
- Aletta is just over 450 miles off the Mexican coast and well south of Mexico's Baja Peninsula.

In a first for Indian science, team from Ahmedabad finds an exoplanet

- **Indian researchers have discovered their first exoplanet** orbiting a star 600 light years away from earth. Planets that orbit around stars other than the sun are called exoplanets.
- The discovery came after a team, led by Abhijit Chakraborty of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, spent one and half years studying data on the light emitted by the planet's host star, EPIC 211945201 or K2-236. The planet will be called EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b.

India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "Dhanush" has passed its final test

- India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "Dhanush" has passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army.
- Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun and is also called the "desi Bofors". "Six guns in battery formation (at one go and at one target) successfully fired 101 rounds.

Dhanush has a strike range of 38 kilometres and 81 per cent of its components are indigenously sourced. The gun has been developed by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata, after going through design documents running into over 12,000 pages.

Russia, China join forces to make next-generation nuclear reactors

- China has agreed to pursue building next-generation nuclear reactors designed by Russia's Rosatom Corp., the latest player seeking a boost for its new technology from China's embrace of atomic power.
- A plan to build four Russian units was among four deals signed during a ceremony in Beijing attended by presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin. The agreements are worth more than 20 billion yuan (\$3.1 billion) and total construction costs could exceed 100 billion yuan, according to China National Nuclear Corp., adding it's the biggest nuclear pact ever between the two countries.

US supercomputer leaves China behind with 1,000 trillion calculation a second

- The United States has dethroned China after five years by unveiling the world's most powerful supercomputer, Summit.
- Summit is capable of operating at 200 petaflops which translates to 200 quadrillion calculations per second. In comparison, the previous record holder Sunway TaihuLight by China has a 93 petaflop capacity.

The supercomputer is equipped with 4,608 servers, over 9,000 22-core IBM Power9 processors and more than 27,000 NVIDIA Tesla V100 GPUs. Summit has been already used for scientific calculations and upcoming projects include analysing exploding stars and crunching health data.

IIT-Kharagpur develops prototype using batteryless sensor nodes to monitor soil health

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp) have developed a smart solution for farmers based on Internet of Things (IoT) to help monitor soil moisture, soil temperature, nutrient contents and water levels.
- Researchers from its department of computer science and engineering have developed a prototype using batteryless sensor nodes to monitor agricultural field parameters.
- This solution can also be used in other areas like construction, traffic management and health-care systems.

There are two parts to this solution both of which do not need any Internet connectivity, allowing the solution to work even in the remotest parts of the country. One part of the device is placed in the field. It uses sensor nodes and has a processor, a radio unit and sensors for reading the soil moisture, soil temperature and water level in fields. The other portion is handheld, which tracks or reads the data from the device present on the field. The size of the two devices is about 10 cm by 10 cm — roughly the size of a tiffin box — and is developed at the Smart Wireless Applications and Networking (SWAN) Lab of the IIT.

ISRO floats RFQ for Li-ion tech transfer

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ), for transfer of its in-house technology of Li-ion (Lithium Ion) cell.
- Developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO is looking for competent Indian Industries on non-exclusive basis to establish Li-ion cell production facilities in the country.
- “This initiative is expected to enable Zero Emission Policy of India and accelerate the development of indigenous electric vehicle industry”.

Over 100 planets with life-hosting moons identified

- Researchers from USA have identified more than 121 giant planets that potentially host moons capable of supporting life.
- These giant planets have orbits within the habitable zones of their stars, meaning it's neither too hot nor too cold for liquid water -- and potentially life -- to exist.
- At more than three times the radii of the Earth, these gaseous planets are less common than terrestrial (rocky) planets, but each is expected to host several large moons.

There are currently 175 known moons orbiting the eight planets in our solar system. While most of these moons orbit Saturn and Jupiter, which are outside the Sun's habitable zone that may not be the case in other solar systems.

DRDO turns Pinaka rocket system into guided missile

- Indigenous Pinaka rocket system of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), known for firing a salvo of 12 rockets in just 44 seconds, is being evolved into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.
- The missile, which has completed the initial trial, will undergo developmental trials next month and is expected to be delivered to the Army in two years.

Russia successfully launched Glonass- M positioning satellite

- Russia successfully launched a Glonass- M positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket.
- The Glonass network provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around the globe, at accuracy reportedly at par with the U.S. Global Positioning System.

GLONASS was developed by the Soviet Union as an experimental military communications system during the 1970s. The first GLONASS satellite was launched in 1982 and the system was declared fully operational in 1993. Russia's Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) consists of 25 units. GLONASS fills the same functions as the U.S. GPS system and is added to most smartphones and tablets, including both iPhones and Android devices.

NASA's record-breaking spacewoman Peggy Whitson retires as astronaut

- NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson, retired less than a year after returning from her last and longest spaceflight.
- She's spent more time off the planet than any other American: 665 days over three space station missions. She's also the world's most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 under her spacesuit belt.
- In 2017, Whitson became the first female astronaut to command the International Space Station twice. On April 24, 2017, Whitson broke the record for most total days spent in space by any NASA astronaut, at more than 534 days.

- In June 2017, **Whitson broke the record for the longest single space flight by a woman** which had previously been held by **Samantha Cristoforetti** at 199 days, 16 hours. Whitson spend 289 days on orbit before returning aboard Soyuz MS-04 and the oldest woman ever to fly in space.

Peggy Annette Whitson is an American biochemistry researcher, retired NASA astronaut, and former NASA Chief Astronaut. She was also the only woman to have served as chief of NASA's male Fellow astronauts called her a "space ninja." Her first space mission was in 2002, with an extended stay aboard the International Space Station as a member of Expedition 5.

World's most powerful supercomputer unveiled

- US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second – providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (AI).
- The US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) supercomputer called Summit will be eight times more powerful than its previous top-ranked system, Titan.

Mars to come closest to Earth in 15 years on July 27: NASA

- Star gazers could have a good view of the **Red Planet** next month as Mars is set to come to the closest point to Earth since 2003 when it reaches opposition with the Sun in late July. This year, Mars opposition will occur on July 27, according to NASA.

Every 15 or 17 years, opposition occurs within a few weeks of Mars' perihelion – the point in its orbit when it is closest to the Sun. "An opposition can occur anywhere along Mars' orbit. When it happens while the Red Planet is closest to the Sun (called 'perihelic opposition'), Mars is particularly close to Earth".

At 93 per cent, women bear burden of sterilization

- A National Health Mission report has flagged the "uneven burden" women bear in family planning with latest data showing women account for more than 93 per cent of sterilisations in the country.
- The report also found that male sterilisation services still remain inadequately available.
- The 11th report of the Common Review Mission of the National Health Mission, released has flagged the issue citing latest data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS) where states upload data on various parameters of NHM including sterilisations.

World's first manta nursery found

- Scientists from USA have discovered the world's first known natural manta ray nursery, which could allow them to observe the juvenile marine creatures in their habitat and learn more about them.
- Located in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Texas at U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, the juvenile manta ray habitat is the first-of-its-kind to be described in a scientific study.

Made in India robot 'Mitra' hosts launch event of 'Smartworks'

- India's largest provider of tailor-made, flexible workspace, Smartworks, has unveiled its new facility in Hyderabad's Hitech City. The center has deployed the much talked about 'Made in India' human robot 'Mitra' at its facility.
- The humanoid will streamline the visitor management system, allowing the workspace to do away with paperwork and enforce a more environment friendly approach. The installation of Mitra is first of its kind in the shared office industry.

Bihar's Shahi litchi to have GI tag

- The famed Shahi litchi, grown extensively in many north Bihar districts, may soon be bestowed with the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- Three agricultural products of Bihar — Bhagalpur's Jardalu mango and Katarni rice as well as Magahi paan (betel leaf) cultivated mainly in Nawada, Aurangabad and Gaya districts of the state — had recently been recognised in the Geographical Indication (GI) registry.

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin.

Scientists develop stealth sheet to escape infrared cameras

- American researchers have developed a stealth sheet that can help objects and people to hide from infrared cameras.
- Less than 1 mm in thickness, the sheet absorbs approximately 94% of the infrared light it encounters, which means that warm objects beneath the cloaking material become almost completely invisible to infrared detectors.

Black silicon absorbs light because it consists of millions of microscopic needles called nanowires, all pointing upward like a densely-packed forest. Incoming light reflects back and forth between the vertical spires, bouncing around within the material instead of escaping.

India's first robotic telescope opens its eyes to the universe

- India's newest telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh has started observing the skies.
- The country's first robotic telescope observed its first light of the targeted Messier catalog a catalog of nearby, bright astronomical sources accessible from the northern hemisphere.
- The hemisphere involves different stars, thus allowing for various image quality tests but are also visually stunning. Called GROWTH-India, the office at Hanle is a piece of a multi-nation community-oriented activity known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to watch transient events in the universe.

James Webb Space Telescope to study Jupiter's Great Red Spot

- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope - the most ambitious and complex space observatory ever built - will be used to study Jupiter's Great Red Spot, shedding new light on the enigmatic storm that has been raging on the planet for over 350 years.
- Jupiter's iconic storm is on the Webb telescope's list of targets chosen by guaranteed time observers, scientists who helped develop the incredibly complex telescope.

Pratyush, Mihir in top 100 supercomputers

- India's two fastest supercomputers built for weather forecasting Pratyush and Mihir have broken into the top 100 list globally, surpassing the country's earlier ranking of 228 in November 2017.
- Pratyush, the 4. OPeta flops (PF) high performance computer at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune ranks 39th according to the Top 500, a listing of supercomputers compiled university professors in the US and Germany.

The Two High Performance Computing (HPC) Systems Pratyush and Mihir installed at IITM, Pune and NCMRWF, Noida respectively have a total computing capacity of 6.8 peta flops. After the current augmentation, the total HPC capacity of the ministry has gone up to 8.0 Peta Flops. The Ministry HPC system with a combined capacity of 8.0 Peta Flops is now placed at the 4th position after Japan, UK and USA for dedicated HPC resources for weather/climate community.

Britain-built satellite on mission to test ways to collect space junk

- Britain's mission to test ways to clean up space junk has been deployed for the first time from the International Space Station.
- The Britain-built satellite testing possible solutions to clean up space junk is soon to begin experiments in orbit.
- The Remove DEBRIS mission, led by the University of Surrey and built by the world's leading small satellite manufacturer Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), with technology on board designed by Airbus, is one of the world's first attempts to tackle the build-up of dangerous space debris orbiting the Earth.
- The mission will attempt to capture simulated space debris using a net and a harpoon while also testing advanced cameras and radar systems.

RemoveDEBRIS was launched on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft from Florida in April in a project co-funded by the European Commission.

Haryana approves SPV for Horticulture International market

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar gave approval for the setting up of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) - Haryana International Horticultural Marketing Corporation Limited (HIHMCL) incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 - to facilitate work on the international terminal market.
- Now, the government has decided to set up HIHMCL to ensure speedy and world class execution of the international terminal market.

The State Government has proposed to develop a modern terminal market, one of the largest markets in the world, at Ganaur. It is proposed to make it functional by the year 2019.

James Webb Space Telescope launch to 2021

- NASA said that human and technical errors had caused a fresh delay in the launch of James Webb Space Telescope, which will now not be deployed before March 2021.
- The move will likely cost the agency an additional \$8.8 billion. The telescope was earlier scheduled for launch in 2020.

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

Inventions/Discoveries

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.

Faster, cheaper way to synthesise DNA developed

- Scientists at the Berkeley Lab in the U.S. have pioneered a new way to synthesise DNA sequences through a creative use of enzymes that promises to be faster, cheaper and more accurate.

Discovery of a Sub-Saturn like Planet around a Sun-like star

- A Team of scientists and engineers led by Prof. Abhijit Chakraborty of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-neptune size planet (mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii) around a Sun-like star. The planet will be known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b.
- The discovery was made by measuring the mass of the planet using the indigenously designed “PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search” (PARAS) spectrograph integrated with 1.2m Telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu, India. PARAS is the first of its kind spectrograph in Asia, which can measure the mass of a planet going around a star.

Researchers create world's smallest 'computer'

- Researchers at the University of Michigan (UM) in the US have come out with the world's smallest "computer" -- a device measuring just 0.3 mm to a side, completely dwarfed by a grain of rice.
- Unlike traditional desktops that retain their program and data with or without a power back-up, these new microdevices lose all prior programming and data as soon as they are switched off.

IIT-Roorkee students develop inflatable helmet

- Students from IIT-Roorkee have developed a helmet that can be worn like a collar around the neck and inflates like an airbag before impact during an accident.
- Made of Kevlar, a synthetic fibre used to make bullet-proof jackets, the inflatable helmet offers better protection than traditional ones.

Vijayanta is Indian army's first indigenously built tank

- Vijayanta is Indian army's first 'made in India' tank, based on a licensed design of the Vickers Mk 1.

Vijayanta (Victorious) was a main battle tank built in India based on a licensed design of the Vickers Mk.1. The Vijayanta was the first indigenous tank of the Indian Army. The prototype was completed in 1963 and the tank entered service in 1965. The Vijayanta has been supplemented by the T-72M1 in Indian service.

Scientists discover hundreds of new 'smart genes'

- Scientists have identified hundreds of new genes associated with intelligence.
- In a joint research project from the University of Queensland's Brain Institute and its partners in the Netherlands, the scientists identified 939 new "smart genes," and over 500 genes associated with neuroticism -- an important risk factor for depression and schizophrenia.

Japanese mission reaches unexplored asteroid Ryugu

- A Japanese probe has reached an asteroid 300 million km away to collect information about the birth of the solar system and the origin of life after a more than three-year voyage through deep space.
- The Hayabusa 2 probe successfully settled into an observation position 20 km above the Ryugu asteroid.

‘Epidiolex’ – world’s first medicine made from marijuana

- The US Food and Drug Administration on June 25 approved the first medical drug made from marijuana. Created by GW Pharmaceuticals, Epidiolex is an oral solution of cannabidiol (OSC) and does not cause intoxication or a high.
- The drug will be used to cure severe forms of epilepsies in children.

Epidiolex is a historic milestone, offering patients and their families the **first and only FDA-approved CBD medicine to treat two severe, childhood-onset epilepsies**. According to GW Pharmaceuticals, **Epidiolex is the first prescription pharmaceutical formulation of highly-purified, plant-derived cannabidiol (CBD)**, a cannabinoid lacking the high associated with marijuana, and the **first in a new category of anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs)**.

Health/ Disease

WHO launches Global Action Plan on Physical Activity

- **WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is joined Prime Minister António Costa of Portugal to launch the new "WHO Global action plan on physical activity and health 2018-2030: More active people for a healthier world."**
- **Worldwide, one in five adults, and four out of five adolescents (11-17 years), do not do enough physical activity.** Girls, women, older adults, poorer people, people with disabilities and chronic diseases, marginalized populations, and indigenous people have fewer opportunities to be active.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

In a first, WHO recommends quadrivalent influenza vaccine

- **Sanofi Pasteur's injectable influenza vaccine (FluQuadri) containing two A virus strains H1N1 and H3N2 and two B virus strains Victoria and Yamagata for active immunisation of adults of age 18 to 64 years was approved in May last year by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).**

IISc researchers find asthma drug effective in treating TB

- **A drug (Pranlukast) currently used for treating asthma has been found to be effective against tuberculosis,** researchers from the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru,** have found. Studies carried out in mice models found the drug to be effective in treating TB both when used alone and in combination with an anti-TB drug rifampicin.

How insects evolve immune-memory against bacterial infections

- **Much like humans, insects too develop an immune-memory in response to infection,** a team at the **National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru** has found.
- **In humans, for instance, natural infection or vaccination can lead to the formation of important immunological memory** in the human immune system. In other words, once infected, the **immune system becomes ready to deal with that particular antigen because of immune-memory.**
- For long, it has been a point of debate **whether insects have such a memory that can protect them against future infections.** The present study shows that such a memory can evolve over generations in red flour beetles (*Tribolium castaneum*) infected with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Environment ministry to have resource efficiency cell, signs MoU with TERI

- The **Environment Ministry** has signed a **MoU** with **TERI** for setting up a **resource efficiency cell**.
- In the run up to the **World Environment Day**, a **number of initiatives** were launched by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** to help the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** focus on **waste management and resource efficiency**.

The **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** is a research institute based in **New Delhi** that conducts research work in the fields of **energy, environment and sustainable development**. The **Institute's present Director General** is **Ajay Mathur**.

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”**.

Severe uranium contamination in India's groundwater

- **Scientists have found widespread uranium contamination in groundwater** from aquifers across **16 states in India**, much above the **WHO provisional standard** for the country.
- The findings published in the journal **Environmental Science & Technology Letters** are the **first to demonstrate the predominant prevalence of uranium in India's groundwater**.
- The **researchers from Duke University in the US** unveiled new data showing that the **occurrence in uranium in Indian groundwater** - a primary source of drinking water and irrigation - is an emerging and widespread phenomenon.

Two frog species discovered in Eastern and Western Ghats

- In a significant discovery, **two species of frogs** have been recorded in the **Indian peninsular** — **Fejervarya kalinaga** from the **Eastern Ghats** and **Fejervarya krishnan** from the **Western Ghats**.

- Its type locality is from Mahendragiri in Odisha (west of Srikakulam). In Andhra Pradesh it is found in high elevation region of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam (Araku, Chintapalli, Sileru) and Papikonda National Park of East Godavari district.

The discovery is a collaborative effort of institutions like the Wildlife Institute of India, the Zoological Survey of India and the North Orissa University. “These new species are habitat specialists, living in perennial hill streams and have been unnoticed due to their secretive habit and morphological similarities with similar looking species of cricket frogs.

Rare spider found again after 150 years

- Scientists rediscovered after 150 years a rare species of spider, which was believed have become extinct, from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) located in the Western Ghats region of Kerala.
- World famous Arachnologist Dr. Ferdinand Anton France Karsch of Berlin Zoological Museum, Germany, had described the inventory of a species of spider from Periyar Lake in Kerala in 1868. But subsequently it had vanished.

First Inter-state translocation project: Odisha gets second big cat from Madhya Pradesh

- As part of the India’s first inter-state translocation of tigers project, a female cub was shifted from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh to Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha.
- The 27-month-old tigress will join MB2, a sub-adult male that was shifted from Kanha Tiger Reserve in MP to STR last week.
- In all six tigers — three pairs — will be shifted from MP to Satkosia under an ambitious project conceived by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.

Agra students develop solar car to protect Taj Mahal from pollution

- A four-seater solar car that can attain a top speed of 30 kmph has been developed by Sanjay Garg and Sanyam Agarwal, students of an engineering college in Agra to protect the Taj Mahal which, as per some reports, is slowly turning brownish-yellow due to rising air pollution in the city.
- Priced at Rs 50,000, the car named 'Nexgen' has been created by students of ACE college of engineering and management, Agra using recycled and scrap materials.

The Taj Mahal is located on the right bank of the Yamuna River in a vast Mughal garden that encompasses nearly 17 hectares, in the Agra District in Uttar Pradesh. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal with construction starting in 1632 AD and completed in 1648 AD, with the mosque, the guest house and the main gateway on the south, the outer courtyard and its cloisters were added subsequently and completed in 1653 AD. Taj Mahal is an immense mausoleum of white marble, built in Agra. Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage.

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Nepal, Scotland among 4 teams inducted in ICC ODI rankings

- The ICC included Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland and the UAE in their ODI rankings list apart from the 12 existing countries.
- The ICC release states that results of all the bilateral ODIs involving these new teams will henceforth be taken into account while calculating the rating points.
- International Cricket Council was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from England, Australia and South Africa, renamed the International Cricket Conference in 1965. Shashank Vyankatesh Manohar is the current chairman of the International Cricket Council. Syed Zaheer Abbas Kirmani is the current ICC president.

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).

Rabada wins South Africa's top player prize

- Kagiso Rabada, the World's No. 1 Test bowler, was named South Africa's Cricketer of the Year.
- The fast bowler 72 wickets at an average of 19.52 in 12 Tests going back to a series in England last July.
- He has joined Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, Makhaya Ntini and A.B. de Villiers as two-time winners.

Jannia Singh becomes first Chandigarh squash player to feature in World Junior Championship

- Squash Rackets Federation of India announced the five-member Indian team for the WSF World Junior Squash Championship to be played in Chennai next month; 15-year-old Chandigarh player Jannia Singh was practising at the Chandigarh Club under coaches Vikas Nayar, Saurab Nayar and Amitoj Singh.
- Jannia, who has so far won three titles in the SRFI U-17 junior circuit, became the first Chandigarh squash player to feature in World Junior Championship and will be the second youngest member of the Indian squad. The Indian team was selected after five-day trials from May 24 to 29 at Indian Squash Academy, Chennai.

Virat Kohli ranked 83rd in Forbes World's Highest-Paid Athletes in top-100

- **Virat Kohli is among the world's highest-paid athletes**, according to a Forbes' compilation topped by American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather. Kohli, the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the list, is ranked 83rd with earnings of USD 24 million. Surprisingly, the 'World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2018' compilation is an all-male affair with no women being featured in the list.
- The 'World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2018' list is topped by 41-year-old Mayweather, with USD 285 million earnings. NBA's top earner LeBron James banked USD 85.5 million, including endorsements, over the last 12 months to rank sixth among the highest-paid athletes. Argentine professional footballer Lionel Messi is ranked second in the list, followed by soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo.

Indian captain Virat Kohli to receive Polly Umrigar Award

- Indian captain Virat Kohli has been awarded with Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer, for 2 seasons, at the BCCI Awards.
- The Indian cricket team captain has been awarded with the trophy after his phenomenal show in the past two seasons — 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana have received their maiden award for best international cricketer for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons respectively.
- The BCCI has also raised prize money for nine categories by Rs. 1 lakh and the revised prize money is Rs. 1.5 lakh.

Bopanna is IOC's icon of the year

- Rohan Bopanna's disappointment in losing the French Open men doubles quarterfinals stood largely negated by the joy of receiving the "Sports Icon of Year" award at the conclusion of the sports conclave.
- He won the 2017 French Open - Mixed Doubles title with Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada becoming the fourth Indian player to win a Grand Slam title.

Harry Kane is the most valuable player of the FIFA World Cup 2018

- The lead striker from the English National Team, Harry Kane is named as most valuable player for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, which is set to begin from June 14.
- Kane managed to beat global icons like Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar to top this list.
- In the list, Kane is followed by Brazilian ace player Neymar, who is worth 197.5 million euros and Kylian Mbappé worth 186.5 million euros.

French Open 2018: Simona Halep beats Sloane Stephens in final

- World number one Simona Halep finally won her first Grand Slam title with a gutsy comeback victory over American 10th seed Sloane Stephens in the French Open final.
- She rallied to defeat Sloane Stephens, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, to win the French Open and join the ranks of leading players whose perseverance paid off with a major singles title. Halep had lost in two previous French Open finals - to Maria Sharapova in 2014 and Jelena Ostapenko in 2017 - and against Caroline Wozniacki in this year's Australian Open showpiece.

Rafael Nadal claimed an 11th French Open title

- Rafael Nadal claimed an 11th French Open title with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 against first-time finalist Dominic Thiem.
- The World No.1 now has 17 Grand Slam titles, just three behind great rival Roger Federer.

Simran-Ritika wins Mauritius Open women's doubles

- Young Indian women's doubles pair of **Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker** clinched their second international title by beating **Aminath Nabeeha Abdul Razzaq and Fathimath Nabeeha Abdul Razzaq** of Maldives in the Mauritius Senior International badminton tournament in Mauritius.

Vettel claims 50th win and goes top in title race

- **Sebastian Vettel** claimed the 50th win of his career and reclaimed the lead of this year's world championship when he ended Lewis Hamilton's run of supremacy at the Canadian Grand Prix.

Gavit Murali Kumar bags gold in men's 10,000 metre race at Gouden Spike meeting

- Young long distance runner **Gavit Murali Kumar** bagged a gold in men's 10,000 metre race at the Gouden Spike meeting in Leiden, The Netherlands.
- It was the best by an Indian in the ongoing season. It was also the second fastest time by an Indian ever in the distance race.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana received their maiden BCCI awards for being best international cricketer (women)]

- India women cricket team Captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** and opener **Smriti Mandhana** received the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for her stellar 2016-17 season and Mandhana for season 2017-18.

Smriti to play in Kia Super League

- **Smriti Mandhana** will become the first Indian player to appear in the Kia Super League, the women's cricket super league in England.
- **Smriti** was signed by **Western Storm** and will represent the side in the upcoming edition of the tournament that features six teams.

Dhawan joins elite club

- When a rampant **Shikhar Dhawan** walked back unbeaten on 104 at lunch, he not only became the first Indian to achieve the feat but also only the sixth batsman in Test history.

Kiwi teen Amelia Kerr sets world record in ODI

- New Zealand's teenage player **Amelia Kerr** snapped a world record in the women's ODI cricket by hammering a scintillating unbeaten knock of 232 runs during a match against Ireland in Dublin.
- The 17-year-old amassed the record total, including 31 boundaries and two sixes, in 145 balls as she became the highest individual scorer in women's ODI.
- With the feat, **Kerr** broke the 21-year-old record held by Australian **Belinda Clarke**, who scored unbeaten knock of 229 against Denmark in 1997.
- **Kerr's** record comes just few days after New Zealand's 490 for four against Ireland set a new record for highest-ever total in ODI cricket.

Federer claims 98th ATP Tennis title with victory in Stuttgart

- **Roger Federer** claimed his 98th ATP Tennis title and re-established his unrivalled superiority on grass with a 6-4, 7-6 7-3 victory over **Milos Raonic** in the Stuttgart Cup final.

Roger Federer is a Swiss professional tennis player who is currently ranked world No. 2 in men's singles tennis by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). Federer has won 20 Grand Slam singles titles—the most in history for a male player.

Kidambi Srikanth, H S Prannoy slip in BWF ranking

- Indian shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth, H S Prannoy slipped three and five places to be placed at the seventh and 13th spots respectively in the latest BWF world ranking.
- In women's singles, P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal continued to remain static at the third and 10th spot respectively.

Kidambi Srikanth wins Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year award for 2017

- The Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medal winning shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, was adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for 2017 by the Sports Illustrated India magazine. The eight annual Sportsperson of the Year awards took place at the Roseate House, Aerocity in New Delhi, where the badminton ace, who recently rose to the No.1 in World Rankings, was given the prestigious honour.
- In 2017, the shuttler won 4 Superseries titles – Indonesia, Australia, Denmark and France and finished the season as World No. 2. In April, he became the only male Indian badminton player to rise to the No. 1 in badminton rankings. He also became only the second Indian to achieve the feat.

Roger Federer loses world No.1 spot after Borna Coric defeat at Halle

- Croatian Borna Coric denied Roger Federer the 99th title of his career with a 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 defeat in the final of the ATP Halle grass event.
- Federer also lost the number one spot in ATP rankings to Rafael Nadal, and missed a chance to earn a record 10th title at the German venue.

SJFI honour for Vijay Amritraj

- The Sports Journalists Federation of India at the annual General Body meeting decided to confer the inaugural SJFI Medal to tennis legend Vijay Amritraj.
- The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games gold medallist in javelin Neeraj Chopra was named the Sportsperson of the year.

Sport Events

Sanjana Ramesh stars as India successfully hosts NBA's Basketball without Borders Asia camp

- India successfully hosted the 10th edition of the Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018 camp in Greater Noida, where 66 young cagers from 16 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region trained and competed under the watchful eyes of coaches from the United States' National Basketball Association, or NBA.

Sports ministry approves upward revision of pension to meritorious Sportspersons

- In a major step for the welfare of Sportspersons, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore has approved the upward revision of pension to meritorious Sports persons.
- Under the revision, the rate of pension has been doubled of the existing rate of pension on winning medals in international sports events.

Virat Kohli takes his place at Madame Tussauds

- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli's wax statue was unveiled at the Madame Tussauds museum in New Delhi. Kohli joins David Beckham, Lionel Messi, Kapil Dev and Usain Bolt, whose statues are already in the museum. The museum also features statues of famous personalities from Bollywood, Hollywood, musicians and even politicians.

New Zealand women's cricket team posted highest ever total in ODI

- New Zealand women's cricket team posted the highest ever total in One-day cricket by scoring an incredible 490 for four against Ireland.

Bangladesh beat India to lift maiden Women's Asia Cup T20 title

- Bangladesh stunned India by three wickets in a last-ball finish to win their maiden Women's Asia Cup T20 title at the Kinrara Academy Oval, Kuala Lumpur.

India wins 3 more medals on third & penultimate day of Asian Junior Athletics Championships at Gifu in Japan

- India won three more medals on the third and penultimate day of Asian Junior Athletics Championships at Gifu in Japan, taking their overall tally to three gold, one silver and nine bronze medals.
- Middle distance runner Anu Kumar claimed gold in the men's 800 metres while Arpandeep Kaur Bajwa grabbed a bronze in the women's discus throw. Another bronze medal came in the Men's 4 x 100 relay.

India lifts Intercontinental Cup

- Twin strikes from Sunil Chhetri and two timely blocks from Gurpreet Singh were the key as India beat Kenya 2-0 to win the four-nation Intercontinental Cup in Mumbai.

Six kids to represent India at FIFA World Cup 2018

- Six kids have been shortlisted after the auditions held in Gurugram to represent India at FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia under Official Match Ball Career (OMBC).
- Children from all over the country auditioned for the OMBC.
- A total of 64 fortunate youngsters from all over the world will participate in the program.

2018 World Cup started in Russia

- The **2018 FIFA World Cup** is the **21st FIFA World Cup**, a quadrennial international football tournament contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA.
- It is **currently ongoing in Russia** starting from **14 June** and will end with the final match on **15 July 2018**.
- The country was awarded the hosting rights on **2 December 2010**.

This is the first World Cup to be held in Eastern Europe and the eleventh time that it has been held in Europe. The winners of the World Cup will qualify for the 2021 FIFA Confederations Cup. The official mascot for the tournament was 'Zabivaka' unveiled 21 October 2016. Zabivak WAS an anthropomorphic wolf dressed in the colors of the Russian national team.

Australia slump to lowest ODI ranking in 34 years

- A year before the **ICC 2019 World Cup** begins; defending champions **Australia** have slumped to their lowest **ODI ranking in 34 years**. The last time **Australia** was placed in the sixth position was in **1984**. **Pakistan** has replaced them in the fifth spot.
- **England, India, South Africa and New Zealand** complete the top four spots in the latest **ICC one-day international rankings** were released.

England hit ODI world record 481 in thrashing Australia

- **England** stormed to a **one-day international world record of 481** for six as they thrashed **Australia** by **242 runs** at **Trent Bridge** to take an unassailable **3-0** lead in the five-match series.

ICC Women's World T20 will be held in West Indies

- The **ICC Women's World T20** will be **held in the West Indies** from **November 9 to 24** this year.
- This is the **first standalone ICC women's event** in the shortest format of the game. **India** will begin their campaign against **New Zealand** on the opening day.

National Senior Athletics meet begins in Guwahati

- The **58th National Interstate Senior Athletics** meet has got to a flying start at **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** in **Guwahati**.
- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal** was the **chief guest** in the inaugural ceremony.

India finishes on top of medals tally at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup

- **Indian shooters** picked up **eight more medals, including five gold**, on the concluding day of the **ISSF Junior World Cup** in **Suhl, Germany**.
- Their successful campaign saw them **finish on top of the medal standings** among **61 participating countries**, collecting **26 medals in all including 15 gold, two silver and nine bronze medals**.

AWARDS



Kamila Shamsie's "Home Fire" wins 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction

- Renowned British Pakistani author Kamila Shamsie's book "Home Fire" has won the Women's Prize for Fiction, 2018.
- The book, also longlisted for last year's Man Booker Prize, is a contemporary reimagination of Sophocles' "Antigone". Founded in 1996, the annual British award recognises and celebrates the excellence, originality and accessibility in writing by women across the world.

Anupam Kher to receive IIFA Lifetime Achievement award 2018

- Veteran actor Anupam Kher will be given the lifetime achievement honour at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.
- The 63-year-old actor has worked in over 500 films in a variety of languages over three decades in India and abroad.

Nashik's Vishwas Mandlik, Mumbai's Yoga Institute win PM awards

- The Ayush Ministry said Vishwas Mandlik of Nashik and The Yoga Institute in Mumbai are the recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution to promotion and development of yoga.
- Mandlik won the award in the category Individual - National and The Yoga Institute won in the category Organisation - National. The selection was done from among 186 nominations received under different categories for the year 2018.

Kalki Koechlin to be conferred with French honour

- Kalki Koechlin will be conferred with the French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.
- Kalki, who has French roots, has done films such as 'Dev.D', 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Shanghai' and 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' to name a few.

Black Panther wins big at MTV Awards

- Black Panther won four honours, including two awards for its star, Chadwick Boseman, at The MTV Movie and TV Awards. Stranger Things was the top television honouree, winning four awards including a repeat win for best show.

- **Mr. Boseman, who starred as T'Challa in Black Panther also won the award for best performance in a movie and quickly handed off his best hero award to James Shaw Jr., who wrestled an assault-style rifle away from a gunman in a Tennessee Waffle House in April. Michael B. Jordan, who played the villain Erik Killmonger, won best villain.**

Master of cinema Martin Scorsese to receive Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Veteran director Martin Scorsese will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Rome Film Fest.**
- **The announcement was made by director Antonio Monda and Laura Delli Colli, the head of the Fondazione Cinema per Roma.**
- **Italian director Paolo Taviani will present the award to Scorsese, who is best known for modern American classics such as "Taxi Driver", "Raging Bull", "Goodfellas", "The Aviator" and "The Departed".**



PERSONS IN NEWS

Sarita Nayyar appointed to Managing Board: WEF

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has appointed Sarita Nayyar to its Managing Board.
- In addition to her role as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the World Economic Forum LLC, Nayyar will help lead the international expansion of the Forum's centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network.

Ravindra Prasad Jaiswal

- Shri Ravindra Prasad Jaiswal (IFS: 1999), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Sudan, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea.

New CEO for Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

- Social entrepreneur Vijay Mahajan was appointed as secretary and chief executive officer of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and director of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Contemporary Studies.
- The foundation was launched in 1991, a month after the death of the former Prime Minister, and the Rajiv Gandhi Institute is an independent national policy thinktank promoted by the foundation.

Pranjal Patil, India's first visually challenged woman IAS officer

- Pranjal Patil took charge as the Assistant Collector of Ernakulam on May 28 this year, becoming the country's first visually challenged woman IAS officer. Hailing from Maharashtra, she was placed 124th in UPSC 2017.
- Patil will hold the position of the Assistant Collector for a year as part of her training period, whose first leg she completed at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

Sharad Kumar appointed vigilance commissioner

- At present, K.V. Chowdary is the Central Vigilance Commissioner and T.M. Bhasin is the other vigilance commissioner.
- Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar was on June 10 appointed vigilance commissioner in the probity watchdog CVC.

YES Bank Shareholders Reappoint Rana Kapoor as Managing Director, CEO

- Private sector lender YES Bank has said that its shareholders have approved re-appointment of Rana Kapoor as the bank's MD and CEO for a further period of three years, effective from September 1.
- Kapoor's re-appointment is subject to final approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

BN Srikrishna to probe conflict charges against Chanda Kochhar

- Former Supreme Court judge BN Srikrishna will conduct an investigation into various allegations of impropriety against ICICI Bank chief executive Chanda Kochhar.

Chennai's Dhivya Suryadevara named first female CFO of General Motors

- Dhivya Suryadevara has been appointed as Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the US largest automaker, General Motors.
- It may be noted that Google CEO Sundar Pichai was another Chennaiite who has made it to the top of the global multinational internet major.

Sikkim govt. announces A.R. Rahman as its Brand Ambassador

- Renowned music composer A.R. Rahman has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Sikkim government. Mr. Rahman will promote and project the State's achievements nationally and globally.

CEA resigns, cites personal reasons

- Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian has resigned, as he wished to return to the U.S. for personal reasons.
- Dr. Subramanian, who started his initial three-year term as CEA on October 16, 2014, had been asked to continue for another year, which would have taken his term to October 2018.

Ex-RBI Deputy Governor Rama Gandhi joins Paytm as Advisor

- One97 Communications, which runs Paytm, has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as an advisor.
- Gandhi was a member of the first Monetary Policy Committee. He has also been the head of two regional offices of the Reserve Bank and held a charge as the Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad.

SBI's Sriram to be IDBI's interim head

- The Centre gave B. Sriram, one of the managing directors of State Bank of India, the additional charge of officiating as MD and chief executive officer of IDBI Bank for an interim three-month period
- IDBI Bank's current MD & CEO M.K. Jain has been appointed as RBI deputy governor.

Monti Rajkhowa becomes the first Assamese to scale Mt. Kanchenjunga

- Monti Rajkhowa, who hails from the northeastern province of Assam, has made the state and country proud by becoming the first Assamese to scale Mount Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world.
- Monti, who is professionally an executive engineer of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation based in Mumbai, is the first lady ONGC officer among her male counterparts to have managed to scale the world's toughest peak.
- The ONGC Kanchenjunga expedition was flagged off by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in April 2018.

Navy Officer Abhilash Tomy to circumnavigate globe

- Indian Navy officer, Commander Abhilash Tomy, who became the first Indian to have circumnavigated the globe in 2013 is now preparing for a bigger challenge.
- He will be the only Indian to participate in the Golden Globe Race that involves a gruelling 30,000-mile solo circumnavigation of the globe from France beginning in July.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw elected as a member of MIT

- Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairman and managing director of Biocon, has been elected as a full-term member of the U.S.-based MIT Corporation, or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- She is among the eight full-term members who will each serve a term of five years starting July 1, 2018.

Obituary

War photographer David Douglas Duncan passed away

- The **American** photographer **David Douglas Duncan**, who was acclaimed for his stark photographs of **World war-II** and also took some of the most famous pictures of **Pablo Picasso**, **has died in France**.
- **Duncan**, who had lived on the **French Riviera** since the **1960s**, had a home in **Castellaras**, near **Cannes**.

Maria Bueno, Brazilian tennis star passed away

- **Maria Bueno**, a **Brazilian** tennis great who won three **Wimbledon** singles titles and four at the **US Open** in the **1950s** and **1960s**, and helped usher in modern women's tennis, **has died** after suffering from mouth cancer.
- Nicknamed **“The Tennis Ballerina”** because of her graceful style, Bueno spent most of her career on court before the professional era. She won **19 Grand Slam** titles overall, **seven in singles**, **11 in doubles** and **one in mixed doubles**, between **1959** and **1966**. She also reached the singles final at both the **Australian** and the **French Open**.
- **Bueno** was inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** in **1978**. She won her first major at **Wimbledon** in **1959**, when she was **19**.



MISCELLANEOUS

Indian-American boy wins National Spelling Bee title

- **Karthik Nemmani**, a 14-year-old **Indian-American boy**, won the prestigious **Scripps National Spelling Bee**, taking home more than **USD 42,000 in cash and prizes** after correctly spelling “**koinonia**” to become the **14th champion** from the community in **11 consecutive years**.

Indian-origin biochemist features on coveted list of UK's most influential women alongside Meghan Markle

- An **Indian-origin biochemist** has been named alongside the likes of **actress-turned-royal Meghan Markle**, **human rights lawyer Amal Clooney** and **bestselling author J K Rowling** as the **25 most influential and aspirational women in the UK** by 'Vogue' magazine.
- **Priyanka Joshi** has been chosen for her **cutting-edge research** in the inaugural 'The Vogue 25' list released, which includes artists, activists and executives across different fields.

Assam girl ambassador of 'promote science' initiative in France

- Assam's **Priyanka Das**, working on **satellite navigation for French major Safran**, has been **appointed ambassador** for an initiative in France to encourage girls to follow scientific careers and take it to higher education levels.
- "For Girls and Science" initiative was launched in **2014** to **promote more scientific vocations among young people, especially girls**, and inspire them to become scientists of tomorrow and supported by the **Ministry of National Education of France** and the **L'Oreal Foundation**.

Prime Minister addressed global celebrations of World Environment Day

- Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi** was addressed the global celebrations of **World Environment Day 2018** at New Delhi. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. India is the **global host nation for the 43rd edition of this event**. Environment Ministers, representatives from United Nations and members from various industry bodies will be among the various dignitaries attending the event.

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**.

Malabar 2018

- The **22nd edition of the Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan and India** kicked off on **June 7 at Guam in the Pacific Ocean** and will continue till **June 16**. The Malabar exercise usually features both ashore and at-sea training.

New committee of agricultural scientists to weigh Madhya Pradesh's claim to GI basmati tag

- The tussle over **Madhya Pradesh's** seeking geographical indication (GI) certification for basmati paddy grown in the state has taken a new turn.
- A **committee of agricultural scientists** has been set up under **R R Hanchinal**, a former chairperson of the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority, to study the claims of Madhya Pradesh and make appropriate recommendations.

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin.

Four-year-old Assamese boy named 'Youngest Author of India'

- A four-year-old boy, **Ayan Gogoi Gohain** hailing from Assam's North Lakhimpur, has earned the unique achievement of being the 'Youngest Author of India'.
- The wonder kid from Assam has managed to pen a book titled '**Honeycomb**', published in January this year.
- **Gohain** is a student of **St Mary's School** in North Lakhimpur and has earned himself a rare distinction of being titled the 'Youngest Author of India' by the India Book of Records.

'Taj Mahal Declaration' adopted to check plastic pollution in Agra

- Ahead of **World Environment Day** on **June 5**, Union minister for culture and environment **Mahesh Sharma** administered a pledge to Agra residents for making areas around **Taj Mahal**, in a radius of **500 metres**, free of litter and polythene and reducing the presence of single-use plastic products near and around the monument.
- At a programme of '**Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution**', the Union minister said this decision was taken by the central and state government and a similar rule would be applied to **100 "adarsh"** monuments across the nation.
- The **Taj Mahal** is turning yellow and green in the world's eighth most polluted city. One of the seven Wonders of the World, the 17th-century mausoleum flanks a garbage-strewn river and is often enveloped by dust and smog from belching smokestacks and vehicles in Agra.

Centre not to file counter-affidavit on Article 35A

- The Centre has decided not to file any "counter-affidavit" on **Article 35A**, which has been challenged in the Supreme Court through a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition.
- **Article 35A** allows the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to decide the "permanent residents" of the State, prohibits a non-State resident from buying property in the State and ensures reservation in employment for residents.
- **Article 35A** was incorporated into the Constitution by an order of the then President **Rajendra Prasad** on the advice of the **Jawaharlal Nehru** Cabinet in 1954.

Maternal mortality ratio in the country drops to 130 from 167

- The latest Sample Registration System (SRS) data indicating the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has brought glad tidings.
- As per the data, the MMR (number of maternal deaths per 1, 00,000 live births) has dropped from **167** (in 2011-2013, the last SRS period) to **130** for the country. This 28% drop is an achievement arising from painstakingly reducing the MMR in each of the States.

IIT Bombay climbs 17 spots; IISc jumps 20 in the QS World University Rankings

- **Indian Institute of technology Bombay (IIT-B)** has climbed 17 places to bag the 162nd spot of the QS World University Ranking 2019, closely followed by **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** that has jumped 20 places and now sits at the 170th spot.
- Both the **IIT-B** and **IISc** were placed behind **Indian institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D)** in the previous year's ranking which were 179, 190 and 172 respectively. IIT-D has however not made any headway.

President of India inaugurated the National Highway from Matabari to Sabroom in Udaipur, Tripura

- The **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **National Highway from Matabari to Sabroom in Udaipur, Tripura**.
- The **President emphasised that the Northeast and Tripura have a pivotal place in India's Act East Policy**. This will help enhance business with ASEAN countries and serve to realise Tripura's economic potential.

IN Ships arrive Guam to participate in Ex-Malabar 2018

- **Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kamorta of the Eastern Fleet** arrived at Guam on 07 June 18 to participate in the 22nd edition of **Exercise Malabar**, off Guam, USA from 07 to 16 June 2018.
- **Exercise Malabar**, which started as a bilateral exercise between the **US Navy and the Indian Navy in 1992**, has evolved over the years with the participation of the **Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)** from 2007.

Ministry of Health launches "What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do"

- At a **World Health Organization event**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India** launched a national media campaign to encourage smoking cessation. Entitled "**What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do**," the public service announcement (PSA) prompts smokers to think about each cigarette or bidi as the path to one of many potential harmful events: heart attacks, cancer, lung disease, and more.
- By highlighting tobacco's links to stroke and heart disease, the leading cause of death among tobacco users globally, the campaign amplifies the theme of this year's **World No Tobacco Day**, which is "**Tobacco Breaks Hearts**." **Vital Strategies** provided technical support for the development and implementation of this campaign.
- According to **The Tobacco Atlas**, more than 9 lakh Indians die due to tobacco-related diseases every year.

'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' wins big at 72nd Tony Awards

- "**Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Parts One and Two**" roped in **Best Play** while "**The Band's Visit**" was recognised as the **Best Musical** at the **72nd Tony Awards** that mixed Broadway razzle-dazzle with politically-charged calls to arms.
- "**Angels in America**", a sprawling two-part drama about the **AIDS crisis**, was named the year's **Best Play Revival**. The honour, one of three statues it picked up, came roughly 25 years after the **original production of "Angels in America"** swept the 1993 Tony Awards.

Quad will sail together across Pacific in largest military drill

- **Australia** may have been missing from this year's edition of the **Malabar naval exercise** but it will join **India, Japan and the US** in a 'group sail' to the world's largest wargames later this month.
- **Warships of the four nations** will traverse the **Pacific** for over a week to arrive for the **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** exercise at **Hawaii**. While warships of the **four nations**—being increasingly termed as the **Quadrilateral in the Indo Pacific**—will sail together.

National Tribal Museum proposed to be set up at Delhi

- A National Tribal Museum along with a National Level Tribal Research Institute is proposed to be set up at Delhi by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

India to host European Union Film Festival

- Putting a spotlight on the latest **European cinema**, the **European Union Film Festival (EUFF)** will premiere in New Delhi.
- With a selection of **24 latest European films from 23 EU Member States**, this year's film festival brings some unusual stories for the world cinema enthusiasts.
- **Slovakian Producer Katarina Krnacova**, whose film **Little Harbour** is the opening movie at the festival this year will also be attending the inauguration.

Nitin Gadkari Releases Nabard Publication on Water Productivity Mapping of Major Indian Crops

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari** released a book '**Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops**' published by **NABARD** in a function at New Delhi.

Safer train rides for women with 'Subhadra Vahini'

- In a unique initiative to give a boost to women security, the **Visakhapatnam railway station of Waltair Division, East Coast Railway**, has launched an all-female group of railway personnel, named **Subhadra Vahini**, who will assist lady passengers subjected to inconveniences.
- **Subhadra Vahini** is a group of 32 railway personnel comprising 16 from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and an equal number from the commercial wing of the division.

Goa Revolution Day being celebrated

- **Goa Revolution Day** is celebrated on **18th June** to pay tributes to the martyrs of the state's liberation struggle.
- On this day in 1946, freedom fighter **Dr Ram Manohar Lohia** gave a clarion call to the people of the state to unite and fight against the Portuguese colonial regime.

Piyush and Prasoon Pandey to be honoured this year

- Advertising veterans **Piyush Pandey** of **Ogilvy** and **Prasoon Pandey** of **Corcoise** will receive the highest honour in the industry.
- The brothers are the joint recipients of the **Lion of St Mark**.

Award-winning Slovakian movie opens European Union Film Festival in New Delhi

- Slovak film producer **Katarína Krnacovas** award-winning film '**Little Harbour**' officially opened the **European Union Film Festival** in New Delhi. The film has won many awards and accolades including the main prize at the **4th Chinese International Film Festival Silk Road**.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** inaugurated the event that will be showcasing a selection of **24 latest European films from 23 European Union (EU) Member States**. The event was held from June 18-24 in New Delhi will traverse through 11 more Indian cities later in the year bringing some unusual and inspiring stories for world cinema enthusiasts.

The 3-day National Yoga Olympiad -2018 organized by NCERT begins in New Delhi

- A 3-day National Yoga Olympiad was inaugurated at the National Council of Educational Research and Training in CIET in New Delhi by Mr. Eric Falt, Director and UNESCO Representative of the New Delhi Cluster Office for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- This is the **third consecutive year of National Yoga Olympiad of NCERT and this year** about 500 students from 26 States and 4 RIEs are participating in the Olympiad as compared to the participation of students from 25 States/UTs last year.

Green goddess

- A “thousand-hand Bodhisattva” created using **different varieties of rice in a paddy field at Shenyang in China’s northeast Liaoning province.**

Anukreethy Vas is the winner of the 55th Femina Miss India World 2018

- The **55th Femina Miss India World 2018 winner is Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu**, while **first runner-up is Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana** and second **Shreya Rao from Andhra Pradesh.**

Osteria Franciscana tops World’s 50 Best Restaurants List

- Italy’s Osteria Franciscana was crowned the world’s best restaurant for the second time at the World’s 50 Best Restaurants awards ceremony put on by British trade magazine Restaurant , beating out top eateries in Spain and France.

Rajasthan records biggest yoga gathering

- Rajasthan created a world record bringing over a lakh of people together at a yoga session to mark the International Day of Yoga. Two representatives from Guinness World Records, watched as Yoga guru Ramdev put the gathering – which included Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje – through a series of asanas.

WWF-India launches first-ever nature-themed comic book

- Aiming to foster love for the nature and raise awareness about its protection among children, the **WWF-India has launched its first-ever comic book that also celebrates the geographical diversity of the country.**
- 'The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikkly', was launched follows the travels of its protagonists Uncle Bikkly, Chunmun and their dog Duggu as they learn about wildlife across India, and uses a humorous approach towards raising knowledge and awareness for wildlife protection and conservation.
- The book has been the joint work of Rohan Chakravarty and Bijal Vachharajani.

South Central Railway introduces ‘Train Captain’ service in Venkatadri Express

- Venkatadri Express which started from Kacheguda towards Chittoor became the first train across South Central Railway (SCR) to have a ‘Train Captain’.
- At least one train in each of the six divisions of the zone will be **having the new concept of a ‘Train Captain’ who will be overall in charge of the train** as decided by the Railway Board recently.

Ramdev to get wax statue at London's Madame Tussauds

- **Baba Ramdev will soon have a wax replica at the Madame Tussauds museum of London.**
- After Swami Vivekanand, Ramdev will be the second swami to be depicted at the museum.

India facing worst water crisis in history, Delhi, Bengaluru to run out of groundwater by 2020

- **India is facing water crisis and this is going to get worse in the coming years** if right steps are not taken. Various global reports have said it again and again and now Niti Aayog has also pointed it out.

- The Niti Aayog's 'Composite Water Management Index' said that **most states have scored less than 50 per cent when it comes to augmentation of ground water resources.**
- Talking about the growing water crises and depleting water table, the report said that **54 per cent of India's groundwater wells are declining and 21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater as soon as 2020.**

Sindhu Darshan festival commences

- The symbolic festival of Indus River known as Sindhu Darshan festival is **organized by Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti and Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa** commenced with religious fervour and gaiety in **Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- The programme is focused at **national integration, communal harmony and national pride.**
- **This year mark the 22nd Sindhu Darshan festival** and it was started by the former Deputy Prime Minister **L K Advani in 1997.**

Academy invites SRK, Madhuri, Soumitra Chatterjee; also makes place for 20 other Indians

- **Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Tabu and veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah are among a record 928 new members invited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as the body behind the Oscars seeks to enhance diversity.**
- In an announcement, the Academy said the new members will increase the diversity in a major way as **49 per cent of its invitees are female and 38 per cent are people of colour.**

TechnipFMC India CSR initiative wins special recognition from GCNI

- **TechnipFMC has received a special recognition award for their flagship community development initiative in India, 'Seed of Hope', at the 13th National Convention 2018 held by Global Compact Network India on June 8 at Shangri-La, Bengaluru.**
- Over 65 entities from private sector, public sector, NGOs and academic institutes contested in the Case Study Competition to demonstrate Innovative Practices on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The shortlisted ones presented to the eminent jury panel, followed by Q&A round.

Launch of the book "Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos"

- It is **collection of essays and lectures by Dr. R.P. Dhokalia.**
- The thrust of the **book is on the connection between human rights and the intrinsic and core human values which in turn manifest in the cultural ethos of a society.**

'Sagarmala' receives Gold Award at the 52nd Skoch Summit 2018

- The **Ministry of Shipping's flagship programme for port-led-prosperity 'Sagarmala' received the 'Gold Award' in infrastructure sector** in the recently concluded **52nd Skoch Summit 2018 in New Delhi**, recognizing the programmes's contribution to **India's socio-economic transformation** and its role in propelling fast-track growth and infrastructure development.
- The **Sagarmala Programme also received the 'Order of Merit' at the Summit.**

France's EDF, GE to co-build reactors for huge Indian nuclear plant

- **GE and French utility EDF have agreed to team to build six reactors for a nuclear power project in western India, which is due to be the world's biggest when finished.**
- India is building nuclear power stations to meet the growing energy demands of its increasingly urban population and to **shift away from environmentally-damaging coal-fired electricity.**

- The six European Pressurised Water reactors will be for a 9,900 mw nuclear power project at Jaitapur, south of Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra.

India wins GRR award for "most improved jurisdiction"

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) said that India has won Global Restructuring Review's "most improved jurisdiction" award.
- The honour recognises the jurisdiction which improved its restructuring and insolvency regime the most over the last year.
- Global Restructuring Review (GRR) is an online daily news service and magazine on cross-border restructuring and insolvency law.

WCD Ministry to organise TECH-THON: Seminar on Technology Partnership for POSHAN Abhiyaan in New Delhi

- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India organized a day-long Seminar on Technology Partnerships for Steering POSHAN Abhiyaan called 'TECH-THON' for POSHAN Abhiyaan - PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment on 28th June, 2018 at PravasiBharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.

Panel to lay down standards for metro rail systems

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a proposal to set up of a committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in the country.
- The committee will be headed by E Sreedharan, also known as the "Metro Man".

Suresh Prabhu launches Mobile App 'ReUnite'

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile application called 'ReUnite' which helps to track and trace missing and abandoned children in India.
- The Minister appreciated the work being done by the NGO, Bachpan Bachao Andolan & Capgemini for developing this app.

PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of National Centre for Aging at AIIMS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the National Centre for Aging at All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- The ward, with around 200 beds centre, will provide Multi-Speciality healthcare to the older people.

Turkmenistan horse sets world record

- Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov's favourite horse gave his owner the perfect birthday by breaking the world record for an equine dash on hind legs.
- Ak Khan (White Khan) set the new record at Turkmenistan's state circus, by rearing up and covering 10 metres without landing on its front legs.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Environment Day 2018

- **June 5 is marked by the United Nations as World Environment Day, a day set aside since 1974 to promote “worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.”**
- **This year’s theme is “beat plastic pollution.”**

World Oceans Day

- **World Oceans Day takes place every 8 June. It has been celebrated unofficially since its original proposal in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit – UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**
- **The conservation action theme for World Oceans Day 2018 will be "Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean".**

World Day against Child Labour

- **The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.**
- **Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.**
- **The theme for the 2018 World Day Against Child Labour is “Generation Safe & Healthy”.**

World Blood Donor Day

- **Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.**
- **The theme of this year’s campaign is ‘blood donation as an action of solidarity’.**

International Day of Family Remittances

- **The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR), celebrated every year on 16 June, is aimed at recognizing the significant financial contribution migrant workers make to the wellbeing of their families back home and to the sustainable development of their countries of origin. It is also aimed at encouraging the public and private sectors, as well as the civil society, to do more together and collaborate to maximize the impact of these funds in the developing world.**

International Yoga Day

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the 4th International Yoga Day Celebrations in Dehradun on June 21, 2018.**

The United Nations General Assembly in 2014 adopted a resolution declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, co-sponsored by 175 countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed the idea of taking India's 5000-year-old Yoga tradition to every corner of the world.

World Music Day

- **World Music Day** is an **annual music celebration that takes place on 21 June**. On Music Day the citizens of a city or country are allowed and urged to play music outside in their neighborhoods or in public spaces and parks.
- The **first all-day musical celebration on the day of the solstice was originated by the French Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, and by Maurice Fleuret, and was first celebrated in Paris in 1982.**

International Olympic Day celebrated

- **Kerala Governor P. Sathasivasam flagged off the Olympic Run held in connection with the International Olympic Day celebrations.** It has been celebrating **International Olympic Day on June 23 since 1948 to promote people's participation in sports** regardless of age, gender or athletic ability. The **Olympic Day commemorates the birth of modern Olympics** which promotes fitness and the Olympic ideals of Fair Play, Respect and Sportsmanship all over the world.

QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian universities 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?
(a) AMU (b) Delhi University (c) IISc Bengaluru (d) JNU
2. Name the Indian, who has been chosen for her cutting-edge research in the inaugural 'The Vogue 25' list released, which includes artists, activists and executives across different fields.
(a) Arti Nagpal (b) Shruti Mendon (c) Priyanka Joshi (d) Deepti Singh
3. Recently, which of the following apps was not among the apps launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Singapore at a business event aimed at internationalisation of the country's digital payment platform?
(a) RuPay (b) PhonePe (c) BHIM (d) SBI app
4. Recently, the Government of India and the World Bank signed a _____ loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project.
(a) \$250 million (b) \$500 million (c) \$700 million (d) \$850 million
5. Recently, Scientists 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 in:
(a) Himalayas (b) Rockies (c) Andes (d) Alps
6. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court through a notification issued on 31 May?
(a) Justice Krishna Murari (b) Justice Srikant Anand
(c) Justice Ved Vyas Rana (d) Justice Viplav Thakur
7. The new state bird of Andhra Pradesh is:
(a) Great hornbill (b) Indian Roller (c) Rama Chiluka (d) House sparrow
8. Which of the following banks has once again been recognized with the Champion Security Award at the 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit?
(a) ICICI Bank (b) Yes Bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) IDFC Bank
9. Recently, who has become the first non-classical and non-jazz album to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music 2018?
(a) Angel's Bone (b) In for a Penny, In for a Pound
(c) Damn (d) Anthracite Fields
10. Recently, Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid foundation of Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory in:
(a) Lucknow (b) Hyderabad (c) Bengaluru (d) Chandigarh
11. According to the index by global child rights group "Save the Children", the present rank of India in the world childhood index is:
(a) 94th (b) 105th (c) 113th (d) 129th

12. Who is the new Prime Minister of Spain?
(a) Mariano Rajoy (b) Carles Puigdemont (c) Pedro Sánchez (d) Pablo Iglesias Turrión
13. Which of the following PSU's has for the second year became India's most profitable state-owned company?
(a) SAIL (b) BHEL (c) IOC (d) ONGC
14. The Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies will begin off the coast of Guam located in:
(a) Philippine Sea (b) Java Sea (c) Andaman Sea (d) South China Sea
15. Recently, who has been sworn in as Italy's new Prime Minister?
(a) Sergio Mattarella (b) Matteo Renzi (c) Giuseppe Conte (d) Luigi Di Maio
16. Telangana celebrates its formation day every year on 2nd June. Telangana was formed in which year?
(a) 2012 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
17. Recently, Scientists have found evidence of dunes of frozen methane on:
(a) Moon (b) Jupiter (c) Neptune (d) Pluto
18. Abdel Fattah el-Sissi was sworn in as the President of:
(a) Libya (b) Syria (c) Egypt (d) Iraq
19. Which among the following countries is the world's largest milk producer?
(a) China (b) Brazil (c) India (d) USA
20. _____government launched a health insurance scheme called "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana" for working journalists in the state.
(a) Jharkhand (b) Telangana (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Odisha
21. The Data Security Council of India (DSCI), an arm of the Nasscom, has signed an agreement with the _____government to set up the Centre of Excellence for cyber security.
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Telangana (d) Karnataka
22. Which among the following states of India is the first state to have a dedicated fintech policy?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
23. The Gaofen-6 satellite was a new Earth observation satellite launched by:
(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) USA
24. Changi Naval Base (CNB) is the latest naval facility of the Republic of:
(a) India (b) China (c) Singapore (d) Malaysia
25. Who has been invited to throw the ceremonial 'First Pitch' by Major League Baseball club Seattle Mariners and will become the first Indian cricketer to be given this honour?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) M.S.Dhoni (d) Rahul Dravid
26. Which Indian beach will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists?
(a) Kalingapatnam Beach (b) Chandrabhaga beach
(c) Ramayapatnam Beach (d) Marina Beach

27. Recently, India successfully hosted the 10th edition of the Basketball without Borders Asia 2018 camp in:
(a) Gurugram (b) Greater Noida (c) Navi Mumbai (d) Pune
28. Recently, the first official World Bicycle Day was celebrated on:
(a) 1st June (b) 2nd June (c) 3rd June (d) 27th May
29. Name the Indian origin girl, who has been appointed as the ambassador for an initiative in France to encourage girls to follow scientific careers and take it to higher education levels.
(a) Priyanka Das (b) Rupali Dhar (c) Srideeta Ganguly (d) Astha Bharadwaj
30. Recently, the long range ballistic missile Agni 5 is successfully flight tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island). The strike range of Agni- 5 is:
(a) 2500 Kilometers (b) 3500 Kilometers (c) 5000 Kilometers (d) 6000 Kilometers
31. Which of the following Maharatna CPSE's has adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India?
(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) NTPC Limited
(c) Steel Authority of India Limited (d) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
32. The Reserve Bank of India has decided to celebrate "Financial Literacy Week" from:
(a) 28th May - 1st June (b) 4th June- 8th June (c) 11th June-15th June (d) 2nd July- 6th July
33. Benami asset attachments worth crores may fall flat as no authority for:
(a) 6 months (b) 1.5 years (c) 3 years (d) 5 years
34. Who is the first non-Malay to take the post of attorney-general since Malaysia was formed in 1963?
(a) John Robert (b) Mohamad Apandi Ali (c) Tommy Thomas (d) Mohamad Irfan Ali
35. Who has become the Britain's youngest convicted female Islamic State terrorist after a court found her guilty of plotting a terror attack on the iconic British Museum at London?
(a) Safaa Boular (b) Sally Jones (c) Meiya Khan Mirza (d) Thenmozhi Rajaratnam
36. _____ issued the first driving licenses to 10 women as the kingdom prepares to lift the world's only ban on women driving in three weeks.
(a) Iran (b) UAE (c) Syria (d) Saudi Arabia
37. The Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan will be undertaken in 25 Villages with more than _____ population each in Aspirational Districts identified in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development as per directions of NITI Ayog.
(a) 500 (b) 1000 (c) 5000 (d) 10,000
38. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya launched the 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA', the Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana in:
(a) Chennai (b) New Delhi (c) Bhopal (d) Kochi
39. India's first automated and organised vehicle scrapping and recycling facility is up and running in:
(a) Greater Noida (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad
40. The world's first mini-satellites to venture into deep space - designed to monitor _____ InSight Mars lander have successfully oriented themselves towards the Red Planet.
(a) NASA (b) ISRO (c) JAXA (d) CERN

41. Pranjal Patil has become the India's first visually challenged woman IAS officer. She is hailing from:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Kerala
42. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is:
(a) Protect our nature for future generations (b) Beat Plastic Pollution
(c) Solid Pollution free world (d) Save and protect our Environment with care
43. Jannia Singh becomes first _____squash player to feature in World Junior Championship.
(a) New Delhi (b) Chandigarh (c) Lakshadweep (d) Daman & Diu
44. Who has earned the unique achievement of being the 'Youngest Author of India'?
(a) Joseph Tarun (b) Ayan Gogoi Gohain (c) Pakaj Jain (d) Vikram Gowda
45. 'Taj Mahal Declaration' adopted a pledge to Agra residents for making areas around Taj Mahal, in a radius of _____ metres, free of litter and polythene and reducing the presence of single-use plastic products near and around the monument.
(a) 100 (b) 500 (c) 1000 (d) 1500
46. Which among following state governments is all set to host its first ever "global investors meet" in July 2018?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Assam (c) Kerala (d) Punjab
47. What is the national deadline to achieve open defecation free (ODF) status in India?
(a) 2nd October 2018 (b) 2nd October 2019 (c) 2nd October 2020 (d) 2nd October 2022
48. Olivier Mahafaly has resigned as the Prime Minister of:
(a) Malaysia (b) Indonesia (c) Madagascar (d) Mongolia
49. Article 35A allows the _____legislature to decide the "permanent residents" of the State, prohibits a non-State resident from buying property in the State and ensures reservation in employment for residents.
(a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Goa
50. According to the ASSOCHAM-NEC recent study, In India, _____contributes the largest e-waste of 19.8%.
(a) Maharashtra (b) Bihar (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh
51. _____is the first corporate bank to enroll in the U.K.'s Open Banking Directory in an effort to enhance payment and collection services for business clients.
(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) Citi Bank (d) ICICI Bank
52. Who is the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the world's highest-paid athletes list in 2018?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) M.S.Dhoni (d) K. Srikanth
53. World Environment Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) June 2 (b) June 3 (c) June 4 (d) June 5
54. How many Indian cities are ranked among the top 10 cities globally for GDP risk from terrorism threats in the latest edition of Lloyd's India's City Risk Index (CRI)?
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
55. What is the latest rank of India on the 2017 Global Peace Index?
(a) 120 (b) 126 (c) 137 (d) 141

56. Which among the following countries is not a member country in Quadrilateral Security Dialogue?
(a) India (b) Japan (c) Australia (d) Russia
57. Volcan de Fuego, which means "Volcano of Fire," exploded violently in which among following countries?
(a) Guatemala (b) Indonesia (c) Maldives (d) Syria
58. Government of India has constituted a group of eminent persons to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India. This group is headed by:
(a) Neel Raheja (b) Baba Kalyani (c) Ravindra Sannareddy (d) Anita Arjunda
59. The World Bank has forecast a growth rate of _____ per cent for India this year and 7.5 per cent for the next two years.
(a) 7.2 (b) 7.3 (c) 7.0 (d) 7.1
60. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) has been developed towards achieving indigenous launch capability to launch _____ tonne class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
(a) 4 (b) 8 (c) 10 (d) 12
61. Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli's wax statue was unveiled at the Madame Tussauds museum in:
(a) London (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Dubai
62. Who among the following Indian cricketer has been awarded with Polly Umrigar Award for Best International cricketer for season 2016-17 and 2017-18?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Ajinkya Rahane (c) Virat Kohli (d) Bhubaneswar Kumar
63. Recently, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly elected Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces as its next president. She belongs to:
(a) Finland (b) Honduras (c) Ecuador (d) Switzerland
64. Recently, World first European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) nuclear reactor started working in:
(a) USA (b) China (c) Canada (d) Russia
65. The joint exercise code-named "MAITREE-2018" is scheduled to take place between:
(a) India and Myanmar (b) India and Maldives (c) India and Thailand (d) India and Japan
66. Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) of 2015. Under this scheme deposits will be made with the designated banks for a short period of _____ with a facility of rollover.
(a) 1-3 years (b) 6 months-2 years (c) 2 years-4 years (d) 3 years -5 years
67. What is the name of the first hurricane of the 2018 Eastern Pacific hurricane season?
(a) Irma (b) Aletta (c) Matthew (d) Harvey
68. Which Bollywood actor will be given the lifetime achievement honour at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards?
(a) Paresch Rawal (b) Boman Irani (c) Anupam Kher (d) Rajnikanth
69. Which of the following becomes the topped ranked Indian institute in the QS World University Ranking 2019?
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IISc Bengaluru (c) IIT Delhi (d) Delhi University

70. Which of the following Indian airports will become the first airport in the country to have an automated smart facial recognition system?
(a) Visakhapatnam Airport (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport
(c) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (d) Jaipur International Airport
71. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind declared queen variety pineapple as the state fruit of:
(a) Meghalaya (b) Sikkim (c) Nagaland (d) Tripura
72. Which of the following Indian cities has hosted a festival dedicated to languages in June 2018?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Itanagar (c) Gangtok (d) Bengaluru
73. Name India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun, which has passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army.
(a) Dhanush (b) Gandeerv (c) Sudarshan (d) Astra
74. Who among the following is named as most valuable player for the upcoming FIFA World Cup?
(a) Neymar (b) Harry Kane (c) Cristiano Ronaldo (d) Lionel Messi
75. Recently who has been appointed by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to its managing board?
(a) Sushma Rath (b) Neeti Raaghav (c) Sarita Nayyar (d) Deepika Nair
76. "World Ocean Day" is celebrated every year on:
(a) 5 June (b) 7 June (c) 8 June (d) 31 May
77. Recently, Scientists have found widespreadcontamination in groundwater from aquifers across 16 states in India, much above the WHO provisional standard for the country.
(a) Uranium (b) Plutonium (c) Sulphur (d) Xenon
78. Ayushman Bharat is the world's largest healthcare programme, which aims to provide a cover of Rs._____lakh per family annually to 10 crore vulnerable families.
(a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6
79. The 44th G7 Summit was held in:
(a) Quebec (b) New York (c) Beijing (d) Rome
80. Who has won the Women's Prize for Fiction, 2018?
(a) Sara Aboobacker (b) Kamila Shamsie (c) Joan Didion (d) Eliza Acton
81. National media campaign to encourage smoking cessation, which entitled "What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do", was launched by:
(a) UNO (b) World Health Organization (c) India (d) USA
82. Which among the following countries has dethroned China after five years by unveiling the world's most powerful supercomputer, Summit?
(a) Japan (b) UK (c) USA (d) India
83. David Douglas Duncan acclaimed for his stark photographs of World war-II and also took some of the most famous pictures of Pablo Picasso has passed away. He belongs to:
(a) USA (b) Russia (c) UK (d) Germany

84. Maria Bueno is a great tennis player, who won three Wimbledon singles titles and four at the US Open in the 1950s and 1960s passed away recently. She is associated with:
(a) Cuba (b) USA (c) Brazil (d) Russia
85. Who has won her first Grand Slam title in the French Open 2018 final?
(a) Simona Halep (b) Serena Williamson (c) Maria Sharapova (d) Sloane Stephens
86. India will have its first national police museum in:
(a) Maharashtra (b) Delhi (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Assam
87. Which is the only member in the eight-nation SCO bloc to refuse to endorse China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project?
(a) Russia (b) India (c) Kazakhstan (d) Tajikistan
88. Recently, which two countries have decided to set up a new "people to people mechanism" to build on the momentum in bilateral ties from the Wuhan Summit?
(a) India and Russia (b) China and Pakistan
(c) India and China (d) Russia and Pakistan
89. According to national disaster risk index mapping hazards and vulnerabilities across 640 districts of India, which of the following states topped the chart?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Kerala
90. What is the name of the newly appointed vigilance commissioner in June 2018?
(a) Sharad Kumar (b) Sanjay Suri
(c) Deepak Ranawat (d) Samar Pratap Singh
91. Recently, United Nations General Assembly voted to elect five members for two-year term. Which of the following country is not among these countries?
(a) New Zealand (b) Germany (c) South Africa (d) Indonesia
92. Which of the following countries will soon start producing first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries?
(a) Bolivia (b) China (c) India (d) Russia
93. Recently, who among the following tennis great won his 11th French Open title?
(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Roger Federer (c) Andy Murray (d) Novak Djokovic
94. Recently India won the four-nation Intercontinental Cup football tournament by defeating _____ in final.
(a) Pakistan (b) Oman (c) Nigeria (d) Kenya
95. Which of the following country won their maiden Women's Asia Cup T20 title beating India in the final?
(a) Malaysia (b) Sri Lanka (c) Bangladesh (d) Nepal
96. Which of the following countries will host the first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September 2018?
(a) Myanmar (b) India (c) Sri Lanka (d) Nepal
97. Recently, the two apps, 'Rail MADAD' and 'Menu on Rails', were launched by:
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Ramnath Kovind
(c) Shri Piyush Goyal (d) Shri Amit Shah

98. According to State Bank of India's (SBI) annual report for 2017-18 which has put out Reserve Bank of India's data for January 2018. Which of the following banks Bank commands the largest value share of mobile banking transactions?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Axis Bank (d) IDFC Bank
99. According to recent released data, India is _____ largest recipient of World Bank's loans in year 2017.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Sixth
100. According to the just released State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018, India's present rank is:
(a) 154th (b) 157th (c) 163rd (d) 177th
101. According to the government sponsored Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS). How many primary health centres and sub-centres will be converted to health and wellness centres by 2022?
(a) 85 Thousand (b) 1 Lakh (c) 1.5 Lakh (d) 2 Lakh
102. Recently, Researchers at _____ have developed a smart solution for farmers based on Internet of Things (IoT) to help monitor soil moisture, soil temperature, nutrient contents and water levels.
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
(b) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
(d) Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
103. Recently, The union government has set up a committee headed by _____ to bring in transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation in the country.
(a) T.C.A. Anant (b) Sudhakar Bokade (c) P.C.N Modi (d) Ritesh Chawla
104. Which of the following places is not included under Phase III of the flagship project Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of the Swachh Bharat Mission?
(a) Hazardwari Palace (b) Pangong Lake
(c) Gorakhnath Temple (d) Brahma Sarovar Temple
105. Recently, Exercise 'SURYA KIRAN-XIII', a joint military training exercise between India & Nepal was culminated at:
(a) Dispur (Assam) (b) Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)
(c) Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) (d) Manali (Himachal Pradesh)
106. Recently, which Indian state government plans to introduce an awareness programme 'Sanskar' in all development blocks and panchayats of the states in the wake of incidents triggered by superstition and ignorance?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Assam
107. Recently, the government in Uttar Pradesh has constituted a 4-member committee to assess the socioeconomic and educational condition of backward classes. The head of this committee is:
(a) Justice (Retired) Vijay Pratap Singh (b) Justice (Retired) Rajesh Shukla
(c) Justice (Retired) Raghvendra Kumar Singh (d) Justice (Retired) Devendra Singh Kang
108. Recently, US President Donald Trump and North Korea leader Kim Jong Un met in:
(a) China (b) Canada (c) North Korea (d) Singapore
109. Recently, Union Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated to the nation the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of:
(a) Rourkela Steel Plant (b) Bhilai Steel Plant (c) Bokaro Steel Plant (d) Durgapur Steel Plant

110. "World Day against Child Labour" is celebrated every year on:
(a) 7th June (b) 10th June (c) 12th June (d) 4th June
111. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the nomination of the _____ as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC).
(a) Prime Minister (b) Union Home Minister
(c) Union Finance Minister (d) Union Defence Minister
112. Recently, Integrated Command & Control Centre of _____ becomes the 10th Smart City Centre to be operational in the country.
(a) Jaipur (b) Kanpur (c) Naya Raipur (d) Dispur
113. Recently, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first office of leading defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited in:
(a) Laos (b) Cambodia (c) Vietnam (d) Thailand
114. Which of the following countries has approved a deal to sell the Indian military six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for 930 million dollars?
(a) France (b) Russia (c) USA (d) Japan
115. Recently, Private sector lender YES Bank has approved re-appointment of _____ as the bank's MD and CEO for a further period of three years, effective from September 1.
(a) Rana Kapoor (b) Devika Rana (c) Rohit Ranjan (d) Kuldeep Rajawat
116. Recently, Chennai-based Munoth Industries announced setting up of a Lithium-ion cell manufacturing plant, said to be the first in India at:
(a) Gurugram (b) Noida (c) Tirupati (d) Mangalore
117. Recently, who among the following Indian cricketer bagged the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for her stellar 2016-17 season?
(a) Jhulan Goswami (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
(c) Shikha Pandey (d) Pooja Vastrawarkar
118. Who among the following Indian woman cricketers will become the first Indian player to appear in the Kia Super League, the women's cricket super league in England?
(a) Harmanpreet Kaur (b) Smriti Mandhana
(c) Jhulan Goswami (d) Veda Krishnamurthy
119. Recently, which North Eastern Indian state has inked an agreement with Andhra Pradesh-based Smart Village Movement (SVM) to facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of the north-eastern state?
(a) Nagaland (b) Assam (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Manipur
120. Recently, which Indian state has announced compensation scheme for poor families that "If head of a poor family dies before the age of 60 years, Rs 2 Lakh will be provided to the family and Rs 4 Lakh, in case of death in an accident?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Jharkhand (d) Bihar
121. Recently, which of the following Indian banks has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category' on a list compiled by Forbes magazine?
(a) ICICI Bank (b) RBL Bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) IDFC Bank

122. Recently, which of the following has introduced an interest rate option, a derivative contract whose value is based on the rupee interest rate?
(a) Finance Ministry (b) RBI (c) SBI (d) NSE
123. Recently, the telecom department has instructed telecom service providers to allow consumers to share their Virtual ID in lieu of Aadhaar to get news SIMs. Virtual ID system is a random _____ number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number.
(a) 8-digit (b) 10-digit (c) 12-digit (d) 16-digit
124. Who among the following will conduct an investigation into various allegations of impropriety against ICICI Bank chief executive Chanda Kochhar?
(a) Justice [Retd.] Markandeya Katju (b) Justice [Retd.] Gyan Sudha Mishra
(c) Justice [Retd.] Sushil Kumar Bhargava (d) Justice [Retd.] BN Srikrishna
125. Recently, Giorgi Kvirikashvili resigned as the Prime Minister of:
(a) Iceland (b) Georgia (c) Armenia (d) Ukraine
126. Recently, the 2018 FIFA World Cup which is the 21st FIFA World Cup began in:
(a) Qatar (b) Russia (c) Canada (d) Saudi Arabia
127. 'World Blood Donor Day' is celebrated across the world every year on:
(a) 11th June (b) 13th June (c) 14th June (d) 15th June
128. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate '106th Indian Science Congress', to be held at:
(a) Lucknow University (b) Lovely Professional University
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University (d) Sikkim Manipal University
129. A National Tribal Museum along with a National Level Tribal Research Institute is proposed to be set up in:
(a) Delhi (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Chhattisgarh
130. Which of the following Indian states has emerged the top state in composite water management in the country in the first-of-its-kind ranking of states on management of water?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Odisha (c) Jharkhand (d) Gujarat
131. Which is the only region in India for which the Centre has formulated a Regional Road Corporation to boost development?
(a) Western Ghats (b) Eastern Ghats (c) Mountainous (d) Northeast
132. Recently, who released a book 'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops' published by NABARD in a function in New Delhi?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Nitin Gadkari (c) Piyush Goyal (d) Ramnath Kovind
133. Which of the following banks unveiled a 'Deposit Only' card that enables cash deposit up to Rs. 10 lakh in a day round the clock at its e-Lobby services?
(a) Karnataka Bank (b) RBL Bank
(c) Kotak Mahindra Bank (d) IDFC Bank
134. Who has been appointed as Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the US largest automaker, General Motors recently?
(a) Tripti Asthana (b) Namrata Parekh
(c) Dhivya Suryadevara (d) Ramya Suryanathan

135. Personal wealth around the globe reached _____ trillion in year 2017.
(a) \$201.9 (b) \$231.2 (c) \$256.5 (d) \$268.1
136. Recently, Swajal was launched in _____ aspirational districts of India.
(a) 93 (b) 102 (c) 115 (d) 134
137. Who chaired the fourth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan?
(a) Prime Minister (b) CEO NITI Aayog
(c) Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog (d) Home Minister
138. Recently, Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz was sworn in as PM of:
(a) Syria (b) Iraq (c) Jordan (d) Lebanon
139. Recently, Marg ERP limited, a leading Inventory and Accounting software solution company has partnered with _____ to offer an integrated payments platform to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers, using MARG's accounting software.
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) IDFC Bank (d) Canara Bank
140. Which of the following companies is investing in setting up India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs?
(a) TCS (b) RIL (c) Infosys (d) Kalyani
141. Recently, the 22nd edition of the Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan and India kicked off at:
(a) New Jersey (b) Guam (c) Panaji (d) Port Blair
142. Currently, there are _____ known moons orbiting around the eight planets in our solar system.
(a) 105 (b) 132 (c) 156 (d) 175
143. Which of the following countries successfully launched a Glonass- M positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket recently?
(a) Australia (b) Canada (c) Russia (d) USA
144. Recently, Amelia Kerr snapped a world record in the women's ODI cricket by hammering a scintillating unbeaten knock of 232 runs during a match against Ireland. Amelia Kerr is woman cricketer of:
(a) England (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) West Indies
145. International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is celebrated every year on:
(a) 12th June (b) 14th June (c) 16th June (d) 11th June
146. The United Nations has declared _____ as the UN International Day of Yoga in 2014.
(a) June 17 (b) June 18 (c) June 20 (d) June 21
147. Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund will be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the _____ member states including India.
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8
148. Recently, Ivan Duque has been elected President of:
(a) Norway (b) Colombia (c) Finland (d) Suriname

149. Which among the following countries has surpassed India to become the top destination for Greenfield FDI investment in 2017?
(a) Canada (b) USA (c) Japan (d) China
150. Recently, which of the following companies became the first listed company in India to close the day's trade with a market capitalisation of over Rs. 7 lakh crore?
(a) Infosys (b) TCS (c) RIL (d) Adani Wilmar
151. Recently, Northeast India's first small bank _____ had started its services.
(a) NESFB (b) NEDREW (c) NESTRG (d) NESM
152. What is the name of the first woman to command the International Space Station, holding the position twice, and the oldest woman ever to fly in space?
(a) Alexandra Stanvokovic (b) Peggy Whitson
(c) Sonila Maresuric (d) Perry Dearson
153. Recently, who claimed his 98th ATP Tennis title by victory over Milos Raonic in the Stuttgart Cup?
(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Roger Federer (c) Stan Wawarinka (d) Andy Murray
154. India's largest national data centre will be set up in:
(a) Bhopal (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Chennai
155. Slovak film producer Katarina Krnacovas award-winning film 'Little Harbour' officially opened the European Union Film Festival in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Pune (d) Chennai
156. _____ and Macedonia signed a historic preliminary agreement to rename the country the Republic of North Macedonia.
(a) Greece (b) Mongolia (c) Denmark (d) Iceland
157. Which among the following countries President has ordered the creation of a "Space Force", that would be "separate but equal" from the Air Force in June 2018?
(a) Russia (b) China (c) USA (d) France
158. According to the Forbes World's Billionaires list 2018, who has become the richest man in the world with a net wealth of USD 141.9 billion?
(a) Bill Gates (b) Warren Buffet (c) Tim Cook (d) Jeff Bezos
159. Who has been appointed as the fulltime director and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ICICI Bank?
(a) Suresh N. Patel (b) Ravi Venkatesan (c) Sandeep Bakhshi (d) Rajnish Kumar
160. Which among the following countries scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer called 'Summit' in June 2018?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) USA (d) UK
161. According to NASA, this year, Mars opposition will occur on:
(a) June 27 (b) July 27 (c) August 27 (d) September 27
162. In the latest ICC one-day international rankings 2018, which among the following countries cricket team has topped the rankings?
(a) England (b) India (c) South Africa (d) New Zealand

163. The tri-service joint Russia-India military exercise _____ will take place in an Indian military base in the second half of this year.
(a) Indra-2018 (b) Surya-2018 (c) Vayu-2018 (d) Rudra-2018
164. Indian Railways will become a "net zero" carbon emitter by:
(a) 2023 (b) 2025 (c) 2027 (d) 2030
165. Union Minister for Water Resources Shri Nitin Gadkari represented India in the high-level Conference on "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028" held in:
(a) Greece (b) Egypt
(c) Republic of Tajikistan (d) Republic of Congo
166. Recently, Scientists have rediscovered after 150 years a rare species of spider, which was believed have become extinct, from _____ located in the Western Ghats region of Kerala.
(a) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
(b) Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary
(c) Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park
(d) Srivilliputtur Wildlife Sanctuary
167. Which among the following countries cricket team stormed to a one-day international world record of 481 in Fifty overs recently?
(a) New Zealand (b) South Africa (c) Australia (d) England
168. Recently, the world's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics was launched in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) Gandhinagar (c) Nagpur (d) Kochi
169. What is the name of the city finally announced by the Centre as the 100th and the last city which will be part of the smart city project?
(a) Kohima (b) Aizawl (c) Shillong (d) Dispur
170. Recently, who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Sikkim government?
(a) A.R.Rehman (b) Danny Denzongpa (c) Papon (d) Mala Sinha
171. Which of the following smart city was selected for 'City Award' for showing great momentum in Implementation of Projects Under 'India Smart Cities Award' 2018?
(a) Surat (b) Bhopal (c) Pune (d) Kochi
172. Recently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi performed the 4th International Yoga Day Celebrations in:
(a) Chandigarh (b) Pune (c) Lucknow (d) Dehradun
173. Recently, which among the following countries announced its withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) terming it "hypocritical and self-serving"?
(a) Canada (b) USA (c) China (d) Russia
174. Recently, Scientists have discovered the world's first known natural manta ray nursery, which could allow them to observe the juvenile marine creatures in their habitat and learn more about them. This nursery is located in:
(a) Gulf of Aqaba (b) Gulf of Mexico (c) Gulf of Persia (d) Gulf of Khambat

175. Osteria Franciscana was crowned as the world's best restaurant for the second time at the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards ceremony put on by British trade magazine Restaurant. It is located in:
(a) Italy (b) France (c) USA (d) Brazil
176. Which of the following countries is set to become second country in the world to legalise cannabis?
(a) Belgium (b) France (c) Canada (d) Mexico
177. Which among the following Indian States has created a world record bringing over a lakh of people together at a yoga session to mark the International Day of Yoga in June 2018?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Andhra Pradesh
178. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated _____first and biggest Nature Cure facility YO1 via video conference on the occasion of International Yoga Day.
(a) UK (b) Germany (c) USA (d) France
179. Which among the following High Courts of India has banned white river rafting, paragliding and other water sports in the state in June 2018?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Uttarakhand (c) Assam (d) Karnataka
180. Jacinda Ardern is the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office after late Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. She is current Prime Minister of:
(a) UK (b) New Zealand (c) Georgia (d) Somalia
181. International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water For Sustainable Development," 2018-2020 was held in:
(a) Dushanbe (b) Beijing (c) Astana (d) Tokyo
182. Who has been named as honorary chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in June 2018?
(a) Robert John (b) Sunil Bharti Mittal (c) Anil Agarwal (d) Vijay Sharma
183. What is the name of the 'Made in India' human robot, which has been deployed in Hyderabad's Hitech City?
(a) Manav (b) Akas (c) Mitra (d) Surya
184. A Team of scientists from which among the following countries have discovered a sub-Saturn or super-neptune size planet known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b in June 2018?
(a) USA (b) UK (c) India (d) China
185. World Music Day is an annual music celebration that takes place every year on:
(a) 20 June (b) 21 June (c) 22 June (d) 21 July
186. Who has been adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for 2017 by the Sports Illustrated India magazine in June 2018?
(a) M.S. Dhoni (b) Kidambi Srikanth (c) Virat Kohli (d) H S Prannoy
187. India and the US will hold the inaugural 2+2 Dialogue in:
(a) New York (b) Washington D.C. (c) New Jersey (d) New Delhi
188. Maharashtra's first-ever floating solar power plant is to come up on:
(a) Koyana Dam (b) Jayakwadi Dam (c) Ujjani Dam (d) Bhima Dam

189. Recently, which of the following ministries had received the 'Best Performing Social Sector Ministry' SKOCH Award for its Achievements and Initiatives?
(a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
(b) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
(c) Ministry of Women & Child Development
(d) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
190. Recently, Union Government has advised AC manufacturers to keep default setting at:
(a) 18 degrees Celsius
(b) 21 degrees Celsius
(c) 24 degrees Celsius
(d) 27 degrees Celsius
191. The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will jointly host the third Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in:
(a) Bangkok
(b) Dhaka
(c) Mumbai
(d) Manila
192. Recently, which of the following countries broke ground for the construction of country's first oil refinery with the help of a USD 1 billion loan from India?
(a) Mongolia
(b) Serbia
(c) Iceland
(d) Bhutan
193. Recently, which of the following countries scientists have come out with the world's smallest "computer" a device measuring just 0.3 mm to a side, completely dwarfed by a grain of rice?
(a) Russia
(b) China
(c) Canada
(d) USA
194. The famed Shahi litchi will be bestowed with the Geographical Indications (GI) tag. The shahi litchi is grown extensively in:
(a) North Bihar
(b) Bundelkhand
(c) East Assam
(d) West Gujarat
195. The first train across South Central Railway (SCR) to have a 'Train Captain' IS:
(a) Venkatadri Express
(b) Yesvantpur-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Yeavampur Suvidha Express
(c) Chennai Egmore-Jodhpur-Chennai Egmore Express
(d) Vijayawada-Bhadrachalam Road-Vijayawada Passenger
196. Who has been conferred with the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for remarkable work in e-governance in June 2018?
(a) N. Chandrababu Naidu
(b) Vasundhara Raje
(c) Mamatha Benerjee
(d) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
197. Chabahar Port is located in which among the following countries?
(a) Iraq
(b) Iran
(c) Italy
(d) Afghanistan
198. The European Union began deploying election observers in _____ for the first time in 16 years.
(a) Kenya
(b) Zimbabwe
(c) UK
(d) Spain
199. Which among the following has launched its first-ever comic book 'The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikky' in June 2018?
(a) Botanical Survey of India
(b) IUCN-India
(c) WWF-India
(d) International Conservation

200. According to data released by the ministry of Civil Aviation, _____ air sector witnessed the highest flow of passengers at about 2.5 million during the 2017-18 financial year.
(a) Dubai-New Delhi (b) Dubai-Mumbai (c) Dubai-Hyderabad (d) Dubai-Kolkata
201. Who will be conferred with the French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), for contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema in June 2018?
(a) Vinod Khanna (b) Kalki Koechlin (c) Amitabh Bachchan (d) Anupam Khere
202. Who was the first swami to be depicted at the Madame Tussauds museum of London?
(a) Baba Ramdev (b) Swami Vivekanand (c) Dayananda Saraswati (d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa
203. Researchers from the _____ have found a drug (Pranlukast) currently used for treating asthma has been found to be effective against tuberculosis.
(a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Kolkata
(b) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Mumbai
(c) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Chennai
(d) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
204. International Olympic Day is celebrated across the world every year on:
(a) June 23 (b) July 23 (c) June 24 (d) May 23
205. Croatian Borna Coric denied Roger Federer the 99th title of his career and Federer also lost the number one spot in the latest ATP rankings to whom among the following?
(a) Sir Andrew Barron Murray (b) Dominic Thiem
(c) Rafael Nadal (d) Novak Djokovic
206. Under the Swachh Survekshan 2018, which among the following Indian states takes the lead with 28 cities from the state featuring in the list of top 100 cities?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
207. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on:
(a) June 25 (b) July 26 (c) June 26 (d) May 26
208. Who has been awarded with the Best Female Actor for "Mom" at the Indian International Film Awards 2018?
(a) Alia Bhatt (b) Sridevi (c) Zaira Wasim (d) Bhumi Pednekar
209. Who has been declared victory in Turkey's key Presidential election in June 2018?
(a) Ahmet Necdet Sezer (b) Abdullah Gul (c) Mustafa Bumin (d) Tayyip Erdogan
210. India and _____ have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two navies.
(a) Colombia (b) South Korea (c) Nepal (d) Bangladesh
211. Which among the following countries has been the largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) lending since the time the Bank started its operations?
(a) China (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Russia

212. Which among the following Indian States has been seeking geographical indication (GI) certification for basmati paddy grown in the state?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Kerala
213. India's first robotic telescope has started observing the skies. The telescope is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in:
(a) Shimla (b) Ladakh (c) Mumbai (d) Dehradun
214. Who among the following will become the first woman to lead France's team at the Davis Cup over the next two years?
(a) Claire Marie Annie Lavogez (b) Kenza Dali
(c) Amelie Mauresmo (d) Louisa Nécib Cadamuro
215. Who has become the youngest Indian Grandmaster in June 2018?
(a) Nihal Sarin (b) R Praggnanandhaa (c) Parimarjan Negi (d) Anish Kumar Giri
216. The 19th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards paid a tribute to late legendary actor _____ for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema.
(a) Om Puri (b) Neeraj Vora (c) Shashi Kapoor (d) Vinod Khanna
217. Who reclaimed the world championship lead with a dominant victory in the French Grand Prix Formula One?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Max Verstappen (c) Sebastian Vettel (d) Kimi Räikkönen
218. Recently, the third annual meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) kicked off in Mumbai with the theme of:
(a) Stronger Partnership for brighter Future
(b) Broad Vision, Shared Prosperity
(c) Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions
(d) Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration
219. Recently, the 15th Session of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission was held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Canberra (c) Sydney (d) Hyderabad
220. Recently, which of the following countries has gifted a pair of giant Aldabra tortoise to India in a goodwill gesture?
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Seychelles (d) New Zealand
221. The Government of India simplifies the process for permission of Additional Fiscal Deficit Limit over and above _____ per cent of Gross State Domestic Product for the States (GSDP).
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 5
222. Recently, students from which of the following Indian institutes have developed a helmet that can be worn like a collar around the neck and inflates like an airbag before impact during an accident?
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IISc Bengaluru (c) ISM Dhanbad (d) IIT Roorkee
223. Recently, the Godikan panchayat in _____ has become the first panchayat in the country to pass a resolution to marry off girls only to families that have a toilet in their house.
(a) Rajasthan (b) Haryana (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh

224. Recently Yousaf Saleem, a visually impaired lawyer became _____ first blind judge as he took oath of office.
(a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Maldives
225. The world's largest multilateral naval exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) will begin off Hawaii in the Western Pacific Ocean. How many countries are likely to attend this exercise?
(a) 12 (b) 16 (c) 26 (d) 31
226. According to the Top 500, a listing of supercomputers compiled university professors in the US and Germany. How many Indian supercomputers made into the top 100 list globally?
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Five
227. What is the name of the Indian army's first 'made in India' tank, based on a licensed design of the Vickers Mk 1?
(a) Vimal (b) Vijayanta (c) Vishwas (d) Vidhan
228. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope will be used to study _____ Great Red Spot, shedding new light on the enigmatic storm that has been raging on the planet for over 350 years.
(a) Mars (b) Jupiter (c) Saturn (d) Uranus
229. Recently, the 58th National Interstate Senior Athletics meet began in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Navi Mumbai (c) Guwahati (d) Shillong
230. Name the two scientists, who have been awarded "World Food Prize 2018".
(a) Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Dr. Sanjaya Rajaram
(b) Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro
(c) Dr. Marc Van Montagu and Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton
(d) Dr. Daniel Hillel and Dr. Robert T. Fraley
231. According to data on language released as part of Census 2011, which of the following Indian languages is the most spoken language among Indian languages?
(a) Bhojpuri (b) Hindi (c) Bengali (d) Marathi
232. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind launched the _____ Mission covering artisans in 50 identified clusters and the _____ a digital platform to connect five lakh job seekers with recruiters -- at an event to mark the important economic role played by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
(a) Solar Charkha and Sampark portal (b) Lunar Charkha and Smarak portal
(c) Gandhi Charkha and Laghu Udyog portal (d) Gujarat Charkha and Udyog Bandhu portal
233. According to the Cost of Living Survey published by global personnel consultants Mercer, which city continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates?
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad
234. Recently, DBS Bank of _____ will launch its India subsidiary in October, the second foreign bank in the country to convert its local operations into a wholly-owned entity.
(a) Netherlands (b) Belgium (c) Singapore (d) Australia
235. According to RBI's latest edition of Financial Stability Report, state-run lenders accounted for a staggering _____ of nearly 6,500 fraud cases, amounting to more than Rs 30,000 crore.
(a) 60 Percent (b) 67 Percent (c) 75 Percent (d) 85 Percent

236. India's first inter-state translocation of tiger's project is taking place between which of the following two states?
(a) Rajasthan and Maharashtra (b) Assam and Chhattisgarh
(c) Jharkhand and Bihar (d) Madhya Pradesh and Odisha
237. Recently, which of the following government flagship program received the 'Gold Award' in infrastructure sector in the recently concluded 52nd Skoch Summit 2018?
(a) Ayushman Bharat (b) Make in India (c) Sagarmala (d) MNREGA
238. ISRO will be launching a new Moon mission, which is expected to be worth \$125 million and launch a lunar rover to travel to the 'untouched' south side of the moon in order to find a rare and very expensive nuclear fuel called:
(a) Helium 2 (b) Helium 3 (c) Hydrogen Peroxide 45 (d) Oxygen 47
239. Government of India has designated _____ as the "Statistics Day" in the category of Special Days to be celebrated every year at the National level.
(a) 23rd June (b) 25th June (c) 26th June (d) 29th June
240. Which among the following releases the First Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) RBI
(c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (d) Ministry of Rural Development
241. Recently, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited _____ of Uttar Pradesh and paid homage to the great saint and poet, Kabir on the occasion of 500th death anniversary of the great saint.
(a) Lamhi (b) Maghar (c) Auraiya (d) Nawabganj
242. Recently, India has voted against the draft decision on addressing the threat from chemical weapons use at a special conference of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) citing "incomplete consultations". OPCW is headquartered in:
(a) Paris (b) New York (c) London (d) The Hague
243. Which of the following Indian state was awarded for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh
244. Name the Indian, who has been appointed by Singapore President Halimah Yacob as the Supreme Court's judicial commissioner for a period of two years.
(a) Prakash Veer Pandey (b) Devraman Pillai (c) Dedar Singh Gill (d) Murugan Shantaram
245. Recently, the Financial Action Task Force has placed which among the following countries on the 'grey list' for failing to curb anti-terror financing?
(a) Syria (b) Iraq (c) Pakistan (d) Nigeria
246. Recently, which of the following Indian private sector banks has fully acquired Mumbai-based financial product distribution firm Swadhaar FinServe Pvt Ltd?
(a) ICICI Bank (b) IDFC Bank (c) RBL Bank (d) Yes Bank
247. According to JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2018, Indian real estate transparency ranked _____ Globally.
(a) 12th (b) 21st (c) 35th (d) 43rd

248. Which of the following countries finishes on top of medals tally at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup held in Suhl, Germany?
(a) Germany (b) USA (c) India (d) Australia
249. Recently, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra laid the foundation stone for Dharmashastra National Law University in:
(a) Bhopal (b) Indore (c) Jabalpur (d) Gwalior
250. According to the World Bank, Rising temperatures and changing monsoon rainfall patterns associated with climate change could shave off _____per cent of India's GDP.
(a) 0.9 (b) 1.5 (c) 2.8 (d) 3.7
251. According to the US State Department's annual "2018 Trafficking in Persons Report", which of the following countries is the worst human trafficking nations for the 16th consecutive year?
(a) Iraq (b) North Korea (c) Syria (d) Russia
252. Recently, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile application called _____which helps to trackandtrace missing and abandoned children in India.
(a) ReUnion (b) ReUnite (c) ReCare (d) ReMark
253. Recently, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan proposed setting up a natural gas pipeline along the Maharashtra Prosperity Corridor, an eight-lane 701-km hi-speed super communication expressway between:
(a) Pune and Thane (b) Mumbai and Nagpur (c) Nagpur and Pune (d) Nasik and Panvel
254. Who among the following has been elected as a full-term member of the U.S.-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts recently?
(a) Shikha Sharma (b) Nita Ambani (c) Indra Nooyi (d) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
255. Recently, who has been appointed as non-executive, part-time chairman and an independent director of the board of ICICI Bank for three years?
(a) Sarat Chandra Sen (b) Paulomi Ganguly (c) Vikas Chandra Rana (d) Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
256. According to PwC's Global Top 100 ranking the total capitalisation of the top 100 global companies has increased by 15 per cent since last year to _____trillion.
(a) USD 7 (b) USD10 (c) USD 20 (d) USD 28
257. What is the name of the world's first medicine made from marijuana recently?
(a) Epidiolex (b) Allidiolex (c) Diloolex (d) Zerolex
258. Recently, the International Day of the Tropics was celebrated on:
(a) 13th June (b) 17th June (c) 23rd June (d) 29th June

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c 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.
2. c Priyanka Joshi has been chosen for her cutting-edge research in the inaugural 'The Vogue 25' list released, which includes artists, activists and executives across different fields.
3. b At the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' where digital platform was the main feature, Modi launched India's BHIM, RuPay and SBI app.
4. b The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$500 million loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project, implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technology.
5. d Found in the Italian Alps 20 years ago, the newly studied fossil is being hailed by scientists as the "mother of all lizards."
6. a Justice Krishna Murari of Allahabad High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court through a notification issued on 31 May.
7. c The new state bird of Andhra Pradesh is Rama Chiluka (psittacula krameri) or rose ringed parakeet. Palapitta is now the state bird of Telangana, Odisha and Karnataka.
8. c HDFC Bank has once again been recognized with the Champion Security Award at the 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit.
9. c Kendrick Lamar's 2017 album, Damn, became the first non-classical and non-jazz album to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music.
10. d Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid foundation of Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory in the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab, Chandigarh.
11. c India has improved its ranking in the world childhood index but stays at a poor 113th position -- up from 116 in 2017 -- in the list of 175 countries indexed by global child rights group, Save the Children.
12. c Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon is a Spanish politician serving as Prime Minister of Spain since June 2018.
13. c Fuel retailer IOC has for the second year in a row beaten ONGC to become India's most profitable state-owned company, raising questions over calls for the explorer to subsidise retailers amid soaring petrol and diesel rates.
14. a The Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies will begin next week off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea with a focus on greater inter-operability in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region.
15. c New Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and his Cabinet, the first populist government in an EU founding member were sworn in by President Sergio Mattarella at the presidential palace.

16. b Telangana was formed on this day in 2014 following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.
17. d Scientists have found evidence of dunes of frozen methane on Pluto. Pluto's atmosphere was believed to be too thin to create the features familiar in deserts on Earth.
18. c Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi was sworn in for a second four-year term in office as the country faces major economic and security challenges.
19. c The annual growth in milk production will increase to 9 per cent by 2022 from the current 6.3 per cent on the back of several initiatives taken by the government to boost the dairy sector. Milk output of India, the world's largest producer, stood at 165 million tonnes in 2016-17.
20. d Odisha government launched a health insurance scheme for working journalists in the state. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the scheme called "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana".
21. c The Data Security Council of India (DSCI), an arm of the Nasscom, has signed an agreement with the Telangana government to set up the Centre of Excellence for cyber security.
22. b In its efforts to develop the financial capital into a fintech hub, the Maharashtra government announced a 'sandbox' to aid startups in the space. Maharashtra, the first state to have a dedicated fintech policy, is also planning to have a dedicated 'Fintech Officer' in the Department of Information Technology.
23. b China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring. The Gaofen-6 satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
24. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Changi Naval Base and met officers and sailors of the Indian Navy and the Royal Singapore Navy. Changi Naval Base (CNB) is the latest naval facility of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and was built to replace Brani Naval Base. Located about 1.5 kilometres east of Changi Air Base (East) and 3.5 kilometres east of Singapore Changi Airport, the base was built on 1.28 km² (0.50 sq mi) of reclaimed land.
25. b Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma has been invited to throw the ceremonial 'First Pitch' by Major League Baseball club Seattle Mariners. Rohit, who is on a three-city US tour, will become the first Indian cricketer to be given this honour.
26. b The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists.
27. b India successfully hosted the 10th edition of the Basketball without Borders Asia 2018 camp in Greater Noida.
28. c On June 3, 2018, the first official World Bicycle Day was celebrated.
29. a Assam's Priyanka Das, working on satellite navigation for French major Safran, has been appointed ambassador for an initiative in France to encourage girls to follow scientific careers and take it to higher education levels.
30. c India successfully test fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable long-range ballistic missile Agni-5 with a strike range of 5,000 kilometres from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

31. b NTPC Ltd has adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. This is part of a special drive under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.
32. b The Reserve Bank of India has chosen customer protection as theme for the Financial Literacy Week beginning on June 4. This week long event ending on June 8 will focus on creating awareness among customers of banks about financial products and services, good financial practices and going digital.
33. b Benami asset attachments worth crores may fall flat as no authority for 1.5 years.
34. c Malaysia's king has approved the appointment of an ethnic Indian lawyer as the new attorney general, amid protests from Islamic groups that the job must be held by a Muslim. A palace statement says Sultan Muhammad V has approved terminating current Attorney General Mohamad Apandi Ali and replacing him with Tommy Thomas, the first minority to hold the post in 55 years. Thomas is the first non-Malay to take the post of attorney-general since Malaysia was formed in 1963.
35. a An 18-year-old woman become Britain's youngest convicted female Islamic State terrorist after a court found her guilty of plotting a terror attack on the iconic British Museum at London with Britain's first all-woman cell. Safaa Boular was accused of planning to travel to Syria to join IS militants and later preparing to carry out a terrorist attack in London after her fiance, an Islamic State fighter, died.
36. d Saudi Arabia issued the first driving licenses to 10 women as the kingdom prepares to lift the world's only ban on women driving in three weeks, but the surprise move comes as a number of women who'd campaigned for the right to drive are under arrest and facing charges related to their activism.
37. b The Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan will be undertaken in 25 Villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational Districts identified in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development as per directions of NITI Ayog. In districts where number of villages (with more than 1000 population) is less than 25, all villages will be covered.
38. b Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, launched the 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA', the Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in New Delhi.
39. a India's first automated and organised vehicle scrapping and recycling facility is up and running in Greater Noida, a satellite town outside the capital. The five-acre facility, set up by M&M through a joint venture with government owned company MSTC, went on stream in April this year.
40. a The world's first mini-satellites to venture into deep space - designed to monitor NASA's InSight Mars lander have successfully oriented themselves towards the Red Planet, according to the US space agency. Over the last week, two CubeSats called MarCO-A and MarCO-B have been firing their propulsion systems to guide themselves toward Mars.
41. c Pranjal Patil took charge as the Assistant Collector of Ernakulam on May 28 this year, becoming the country's first visually challenged woman IAS officer. Hailing from Maharashtra, she was placed 124th in UPSC 2017.
42. b Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was addressed the global celebrations of World Environment Day 2018 at New Delhi. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
43. b 15-year-old girl, Jannia Singh becomes first Chandigarh squash player to feature in World Junior Championship.

44. b A four-year-old boy, Ayan Gogoi Gohain hailing from Assam's North Lakhimpur, has earned the unique achievement of being the 'Youngest Author of India'. The wonder kid from Assam has managed to pen a book titled 'Honeycomb', published in January this year.
45. b 'Taj Mahal Declaration' adopted a pledge to Agra residents for making areas around Taj Mahal, in a radius of 500 metres, free of litter and polythene and reducing the presence of single-use plastic products near and around the monument.
46. a Jammu and Kashmir economy, the Mehbooba Mufti-led government is all set to host in July-end its first ever "global investors meet", aimed at harnessing hydro power potential of 20,000 megawatts in the state.
47. b Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reiterated the state's commitment to achieve open defecation free (ODF) status for UP by 2nd October 2018, one year ahead of the national deadline of 2nd October 2019.
48. c Madagascar's Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly resigned to comply with a court ruling that ordered the formation of a new consensus government to end the country's political crisis. President Hery Rajaonarimampianina approved an election law under which the main opposition candidate, Marc Ravalomanana, could run for office. The law generated deadly street demonstrations on the Indian Ocean island nation.
49. c Article 35A allows the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to decide the "permanent residents" of the State, prohibits a non-State resident from buying property in the State and ensures reservation in employment for residents.
50. a Despite the government's emphasis on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and Smart Cities project, India continues to be generating highest e-waste vis-à-vis China, USA, Japan and Germany an ASSOCHAM-NEC recent study coinciding with the "Environment Day" noted. In India, Maharashtra contributes the largest e-waste of 19.8% but recycles only about 47,810 TPA (tonnes per annum).
51. c Citi Bank is the first corporate bank to enroll in the U.K.'s Open Banking Directory in an effort to enhance payment and collection services for business clients. Citi announced it is joining the Directory as a Payment Initiation Service Provider (PISP), enabling the bank to pilot payment and collection services for its corporate customers.
52. a Virat Kohli is among the world's highest-paid athletes, according to a Forbes' compilation topped by American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather. Kohli, the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the list, is ranked 83rd with earnings of USD 24 million. Surprisingly, the 'World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2018' compilation is an all-male affair with no women being featured in the list.
53. d June 5 is marked by the United Nations as World Environment Day, a day set aside since 1974 to promote "worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment." This year's theme is "beat plastic pollution."
54. b Three Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are ranked among the top 10 cities globally for GDP risk from terrorism threats, a recent study has found out. Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore stood at fifth, sixth and seventh in this aspect, in the latest edition of Lloyd's India's City Risk Index (CRI).
55. c India has moved up four places to the 137th rank among 163 countries on the 2017 Global Peace Index, due to a reduction in the level of violent crime driven by increased law enforcement, according to a report by an Australian think tank. India has improved by four positions in the overall ranking from 141st to 137th. Syria remains the least peaceful country in the world, a position it has held for the past five years.

56. d Seven Months after India participated in the revived Quadrilateral Security Dialogue meeting in Manila; New Delhi will participate in the second round of the meeting with officials from US, Japan and Australia. The meeting will take place in Singapore on the sidelines of the Senior Officials' meeting (SOM) on ASEAN.
57. a The death toll from a massive volcano eruption in Guatemala rose to 99, the Central American country's disaster and forensic agency Inacif said. Volcan de Fuego, which means "Volcano of Fire," exploded violently, shooting thick plumes of ash miles into the sky that rained down on residents and sending superheated pyroclastic and lava flows barrelling through nearby towns.
58. b Government of India has constituted a group of eminent persons to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India. This group is headed by Baba Kalyani.
59. b The World Bank has forecast a growth rate of 7.3 per cent for India this year and 7.5 per cent for the next two years, making it the fastest growing country among major emerging economies.
60. a The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) has been developed towards achieving indigenous launch capability to launch 4 tonne class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
61. c Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli's wax statue was unveiled at the Madame Tussauds museum in New Delhi. Kohli joins David Beckham, Lionel Messi, Kapil Dev and Usain Bolt, whose statues are already in the museum.
62. c Indian captain Virat kohli has been awarded with Polly Umrigar Award for Best Int'l Cricketer, for 2 seasons, at the BCCI Awards.
63. c The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly elected Ecuador's Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces as its next president, making her only the fourth woman to lead the 193-member world body in its 73-year history.
64. b World first European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) nuclear reactor begins work in China.
65. c In the series of joint bilateral exercises between India and Thailand, the joint exercise code-named "MAITREE-2018" is scheduled to take place in Mueang, Chachoengsao Province, Thailand.
66. a The deposits will be made with the designated banks for a short period of 1-3 years (with a facility of rollover). While deposits can also be allowed for broken periods (e.g. 1 year 3 months; 2 years 4 months 5 days or other).
67. b Aletta has become the first hurricane of the 2018 Eastern Pacific hurricane season, and another area off the Mexican coast could become the second named storm.
68. c Veteran actor Anupam Kher will be given the lifetime achievement honour at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.
69. a Indian Institute of technology Bombay (IIT-B) has climbed 17 places to bag the 162nd spot of the QS World University Ranking 2019, closely followed by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) that has jumped 20 places and now sits at the 170th spot.
70. b The Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi will soon become the first airport in the country to have an automated smart facial recognition system, ensuring hassle-free movement of travellers from entry to boarding points.
71. d President Ram Nath Kovind declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit. The state holds good potential in world trade.

72. d Bengaluru has hosted a festival dedicated to languages this weekend. The Language Festival 2018 (LF18) will bring together writers, poets, lyricists and stand-up comedians across seven Indian languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu, apart from English.
73. a India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "Dhanush" has passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army.
74. b The lead striker from the English National Team, Harry Kane is named as most valuable player for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, which is set to begin from June 14.
75. c The World Economic Forum (WEF) has appointed Sarita Nayyar to its Managing Board.
76. c World Oceans Day takes place every 8 June. It has been celebrated unofficially since its original proposal in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit - UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
77. a Scientists have found widespread uranium contamination in groundwater from aquifers across 16 states in India, much above the WHO provisional standard for the country. The findings published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters are the first to demonstrate the predominant prevalence of uranium in India's groundwater.
78. c Eight States and four Union Territories have signed MoUs with the Union Health Ministry to implement the government's ambitious national health protection mission Ayushman Bharat. Ayushman Bharat aims to provide a cover of Rs.5 lakh per family annually to 10 crore vulnerable families. The scheme is the world's largest healthcare programme because of the size of India's population.
79. a The 44th G7 Summit was held on June 8-9 in Quebec, Canada. Each year, the location of the summit rotates among the member countries. G7 Summit is an event conducted annually where world leaders from seven powerful economies of the world, US, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy come together to discuss burning issues happening around the globe. For the first time in the last 44 years, the G7 will have a Gender Equality Advisory Council.
80. b Renowned British Pakistani author Kamila Shamsie's book "Home Fire" has won the Women's Prize for Fiction, 2018. The book, also longlisted for last year's Man Booker Prize, is a contemporary reimagination of Sophocles' "Antigone". Founded in 1996, the annual British award recognises and celebrates the excellence, originality and accessibility in writing by women across the world.
81. c At a World Health Organization event, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India launched a national media campaign to encourage smoking cessation. Entitled "What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do," the public service announcement (PSA) prompts smokers to think about each cigarette or bidi as the path to one of many potential harmful events: heart attacks, cancer, lung disease, and more.
82. c The United States has dethroned China after five years by unveiling the world's most powerful supercomputer, Summit. Summit is capable of operating at 200 petaflops which translates to 200 quadrillion calculations per second. In comparison, the previous record holder Sunway TaihuLight by China has a 93 petaflop capacity, Engadget reported.
83. a The American photographer David Douglas Duncan, who was acclaimed for his stark photographs of war and also took some of the most famous pictures of Pablo Picasso, has died in France aged 102.

84. c Maria Bueno, a Brazilian tennis great who won three Wimbledon singles titles and four at the US Open in the 1950s and 1960s, and helped usher in modern women's tennis, has died after suffering from mouth cancer.
85. a World number one Simona Halep finally won her first Grand Slam title with a gutsy comeback victory over American 10th seed Sloane Stephens in the French Open 2018 final. She rallied to defeat Sloane Stephens, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, to win the French Open and join the ranks of leading players whose perseverance paid off with a major singles title.
86. b India will soon have its first national police museum as the central government has decided to establish the unique facility in Lutyens' Delhi.
87. b India was the only member in the eight-nation bloc to refuse to endorse Chinese president Xi Jinping's pet One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project.
88. c India and China have decided to set up a new "people to people mechanism" to build on the momentum in bilateral ties from the Wuhan Summit.
89. c A national disaster risk index mapping hazards and vulnerabilities across 640 districts puts Maharashtra at the top of the chart followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
90. a Former NIA Chief Sharad Kumar was on June 10 appointed vigilance commissioner in the probity watchdog CVC.
91. a The United Nations General Assembly voted to elect Germany, Belgium, South Africa, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia for a two-year term in the Security Council starting on Jan. 1, 2019.
92. c India will soon start producing first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries. A memorandum of understanding for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project was signed between CSIR's Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd.
93. a. Rafael Nadal claimed an 11th French Open title with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. The World No.1 now has 17 Grand Slam titles, just three behind great rival Roger Federer.
94. d Twin strikes from Sunil Chhetri and two timely blocks from Gurpreet Singh were the key as India beat Kenya 2-0 to win the four-nation Intercontinental Cup in Mumbai.
95. c Bangladesh won their maiden Women's Asia Cup T20 title beating India in the final.
96. b India will host the first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September.
97. c The two apps, 'Rail MADAD' and 'Menu on Rails', were launched by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State (MoS) Manoj Sinha.
98. c At 17.2 per cent, Axis Bank commands the largest value share of mobile banking transactions but it's Paytm that tops volumes with 22 per cent.
99. a India is second-largest recipient of World Bank's loans in 2017.
100. d In 2018, according to the just released State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures, it has slipped to the 177th position.

101. c 1.5 lakh primary health centres and sub-centres will be converted to health and wellness centres by 2022.
102. b Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp) have developed a smart solution for farmers based on Internet of Things (IoT) to help monitor soil moisture, soil temperature, nutrient contents and water levels.
103. a The union government has set up a committee headed by former chief statistician of India T.C.A. Anant to bring in transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation.
104. c Ten new iconic sites, namely, RaghavendraSwamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh); Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal); Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana); VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh); Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand); Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, J&K); Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh); ImaKeithal/market (Imphal, Manipur); Sabarimala Temple (Kerala); and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand) have been taken up under Phase III of the flagship project Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
105. c Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII, a joint military training exercise between India & Nepal culminated at Pithoragarh, wherein the troops of both Armies participated in 14-day long joint training based on counter terrorist operations.
106. d The Assam government plans to introduce an awareness programme -- 'Sanskar'-- in all development blocks and panchayats in the wake of incidents triggered by superstition and ignorance.
107. c The committee, to be headed by Justice (Retired) Raghvendra Kumar Singh, is expected to submit its report to the government at the earliest possible date, preferably within three months.
108. d Donald Trump's handshake with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore marked a historic moment - the first meeting ever between a sitting US president and the leader of North Korea.
109. a Union Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated to the nation the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) which will increase its annual production capacity from 0.438 million tonnes (MT) to 1.015 MT.
110. c Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.
111. b The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the nomination of the Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC) - a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member.
112. c Integrated Command & Control Centre of Naya Raipur becomes the 10th Smart City Centre to be operational in the country.
113. c Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first office of leading defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited in Hanoi, reflecting India's deepening military cooperation with Vietnam.
114. c US government has approved a deal to sell the Indian military six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for 930 million dollars.

115. a Private sector lender YES Bank has said that its shareholders have approved re-appointment of Rana Kapoor as the bank's MD and CEO for a further period of three years, effective from September 1
116. c The plant, which would target the mobile phone industry in the first phase, would come up in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
117. b India women cricket team Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Smriti Mandhana received the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for her stellar 2016-17 season and Mandhana for season 2017-18.
118. b Smriti Mandhana will become the first Indian player to appear in the Kia Super League, the women's cricket super league in England.
119. c The Arunchal Pradesh government has inked an agreement with Andhra Pradesh-based Smart Village Movement (SVM) to facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of the north-eastern state.
120. b Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced compensation scheme for poor families. "If head of a poor family dies before the age of 60 years, Rs 2 Lakh will be provided to the family. Rs 4 Lakh, in case of death in an accident, will be given to them,".
121. c Housing finance major HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category' on a list compiled by Forbes magazine.
122. b The Reserve Bank of India has introduced an interest rate option, a derivative contract whose value is based on the rupee interest rate.
123. d The Virtual ID system a random 16-digit number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number is scheduled to be fully operational from next month.
124. d Former Supreme Court judge BN Srikrishna will conduct an investigation into various allegations of impropriety against ICICI Bank chief executive Chanda Kochhar.
125. b Giorgi Kvirikashvili, prime minister of Georgia, has announced his resignation amid a disagreement with Bidzina Ivanishvili, the leader of the ruling party.
126. b 2018 FIFA World Cup is currently ongoing in Russia starting from 14 June and will end with the final match on 15 July 2018.
127. c Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.
128. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate '106th Indian Science Congress', to be held at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, and Punjab from January 3 to 7, 2019.
129. a A National Tribal Museum along with a National Level Tribal Research Institute is proposed to be set up at Delhi by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
130. d Gujarat has emerged the top state in composite water management in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra in the first-of-its-kind ranking of states on management of water.

131. d The northeast is the only region in India for which the Centre has formulated a Regional Road Corporation to boost development.
132. b Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari released a book 'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops' published by NABARD in a function at New Delhi.
133. a Karnataka Bank, unveiled a 'Deposit Only' card that enables cash deposit up to Rs. 10 lakh in a day round the clock at its e-Lobby services.
134. c Dhivya Suryadevara has been appointed as Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the US largest automaker, General Motors.
135. a Personal wealth around the globe reached \$201.9 trillion last year, a 12% gain from 2016 and the strongest annual pace in the past five years.
136. c A National Consultation on the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Swajal was held in the Capital to discuss the reforms needed in NRDWP and to outline a road map for the Swajal scheme.
137. c Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chairs the fourth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
138. c King Abdullah swore in Jordan's new government headed by former World Bank economist Omar Razzaz who will now attempt to tackle tax reforms while trying to avoid similar nationwide protests that brought down his predecessor.
139. b Marg ERP limited, a leading Inventory and Accounting software solution company has partnered with ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, to offer an integrated payments platform to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers, using MARG's accounting software.
140. b Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) is investing in setting up India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs.
141. b The 22nd edition of the Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan and India kicked off at Guam in the Pacific Ocean.
142. d "There are currently 175 known moons orbiting the eight planets in our solar system,".
143. c Russia successfully launched a Glonass- M positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket.
144. c New Zealand's teenage player Amelia Kerr snapped a world record in the women's ODI cricket by hammering a scintillating unbeaten knock of 232 runs during a match against Ireland in Dublin.
145. c The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR), celebrated every year on 16 June, is aimed at recognizing the significant financial contribution migrant workers.
146. d The United Nations has declared June 21 as the UN International Day of Yoga in 2014.
147. d Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the 8-member states including India.

148. b Conservative political newcomer Ivan Duque has been elected President of Colombia.
149. b The US has surpassed India to become the top destination for Greenfield FDI investment in 2017.
150. b India's IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the first listed company in India to close the day's trade with a market capitalisation of over Rs. 7 lakh crore.
151. a Northeast India's first small bank, North East Small Finance bank (NESFB) started its services.
152. b NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson, retired less than a year after returning from her last and longest spaceflight.
153. b Roger Federer claimed his 98th ATP Tennis title and re-established his unrivalled superiority on grass with a 6-4, 7-6 7-3 victory over Milos Raonic in the Stuttgart Cup final.
154. a Union government will be setting up the country's largest national data centre in Bhopal, with capacity for 500,000 virtual servers, according to the Union Electronics and information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
155. b Slovak film producer Katarina Krnacovas award-winning film 'Little Harbour' officially opened the European Union Film Festival in New Delhi. The film has won many awards and accolades including the main prize at the 4th Chinese International Film Festival Silk Road.
156. a Greece and Macedonia signed a historic preliminary agreement to rename the country the Republic of North Macedonia, ending a row that has poisoned relations between the two neighbours since 1991.
157. c US President Donald Trump has ordered the creation of a "Space Force", saying it would be "separate but equal" from the Air Force. President directed the Department of Defence and Pentagon to immediately begin the process necessary to establish the Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces.
158. d Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos has become the richest man in the world with a net wealth of USD 141.9 billion, the Forbes World's Billionaires list. Bezos' wealth has grown more than USD 5 billion since June 1 to beat Bill Gates, the principal founder of Microsoft Corporation, who is the second-richest man in the world with USD 92.9 billion.
159. c ICICI Bank has appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as fulltime director and Chief Operating Officer (COO), a statement by the private sector lender said. The statement added that Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chanda Kochhar, who faces a complaint of alleged non-adherence of code of conduct, will be on leave till the completion of the internal enquiry against her.
160. c US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second - providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (AI). The US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) supercomputer called Summit will be eight times more powerful than its previous top-ranked system, Titan.
161. b Star gazers could have a good view of the Red Planet next month as Mars is set to come to the closest point to Earth since 2003 when it reaches opposition with the Sun in late July. This year, Mars opposition will occur on July 27, according to NASA. During opposition, Mars is especially photogenic because it can be seen fully illuminated by the Sun as viewed from Earth.

162. a A year before the ICC 2019 World Cup begins, defending champions Australia have slumped to their lowest ODI ranking in 34 years. The last time Australia was placed in the sixth position was in 1984. Pakistan has replaced them in the fifth spot. England, India, South Africa and New Zealand complete the top four spots in the latest ICC one-day international rankings were released.
163. a The tri-service joint Russia-India military exercise Indra-2018 will take place in an Indian military base in the second half of this year.
164. d Indian Railways will become a "net zero" carbon emitter by 2030.
165. c Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari visited Republic of Tajikistan capital to represent India in the high-level Conference on "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028" on 20-21 June 2018.
166. a Scientists rediscovered after 150 years a rare species of spider, which was believed have become extinct, from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) located in the Western Ghats region of Kerala.
167. d England stormed to a one-day international world record of 481 for six as they thrashed Australia by 242 runs at Trent Bridge to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.
168. b The world's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics was launched at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
169. c As the Smart Cities Mission enters its fourth year, the Centre has finally announced the 100th and the last city which will be part of the project: Shillong.
170. a Renowned music composer A.R. Rahman has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Sikkim government. Mr. Rahman will promote and project the State's achievements nationally and globally.
171. a Surat Smart City Selected for 'City Award' for showing great momentum in Implementation of Projects Under 'India Smart Cities Award' 2018.
172. d Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the 4th International Yoga Day Celebrations in Dehradun on June 21, 2018.
173. b The United States announced its withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) terming it "hypocritical and self-serving."
174. b Located in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Texas at U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, the juvenile manta ray habitat is the first-of-its-kind to be described in a scientific study.
175. a Italy's Osteria Francescana was crowned the world's best restaurant for the second time at the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards ceremony put on by British trade magazine Restaurant , beating out top eateries in Spain and France.
176. c The Canadian government will soon announce the date when cannabis will become legal but warned it will remain illegal until then.

177. a Rajasthan created a world record bringing over a lakh of people together at a yoga session to mark the International Day of Yoga. Two representatives from Guinness World Records, watched as Yoga guru Ramdev put the gathering - which included Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje - through a series of asanas.
178. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated US' first and biggest Nature Cure facility YO1 via video conference on the occasion of International Yoga Day. A dream project of Essel Group chairman and Rajya Sabha member Subhash Chandra, the centre is built on the Catskill Mountain in Southeastern New York.
179. b The Uttarakhand High Court has banned white river rafting, paragliding and other water sports in the state until a policy on the same is framed by the Trivendra Singh Rawat-led government.
180. b New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern gave birth to a daughter and she is the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office after late Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who gave birth to daughter Bakhtawar in 1990.
181. a The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the decade 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development'. International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water For Sustainable Development," 2018-2020 was held in the Tajikistan capital, Dushanbe from June 20 to 21.
182. b The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) named Bharti Enterprises' chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal as honorary chairman after his two-year long tenure as the chairman comes to an end
183. c India's largest provider of tailor-made, flexible workspace, Smartworks, has unveiled its new facility in Hyderabad's Hitech City. The center has deployed the much talked about 'Made in India' human robot 'Mitra' at its facility.
184. c A Team of scientists and engineers led by Prof. Abhijit Chakraborty of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-neptune size planet (mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii) around a Sun-like star. The planet will be known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b.
185. b World Music Day is an annual music celebration that takes place on 21 June. On Music Day the citizens of a city or country are allowed and urged to play music outside in their neighborhoods or in public spaces and parks.
186. b The Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medal winning shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, was adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for 2017 by the Sports Illustrated India magazine.
187. b India and the US will hold the inaugural 2+2 Dialogue on July 6 in Washington, DC.
188. c 1,000 MW of solar power on the Ujjani Dam in Solapur district.
189. c Ministry of Women & Child Development receives the 'Best Performing Social Sector Ministry' SKOCH Award for its Achievements and Initiatives.
190. c Union Government has advised AC manufacturers to keep default setting at 24 degree Celsius.
191. c The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will jointly host the third Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) at Hotel Trident/Oberoi and NCPA, Mumbai, India.
192. a Mongolia broke ground for the construction of country's first oil refinery with the help of a USD 1 billion loan from India.

193. d Researchers at the University of Michigan (UM) in the US have come out with the world's smallest "computer" -- a device measuring just 0.3 mm to a side, completely dwarfed by a grain of rice.
194. a The famed Shahi litchi, grown extensively in many north Bihar districts, may soon be bestowed with the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
195. a Venkatadri Express which started from Kacheguda towards Chittoor became the first train across South Central Railway (SCR) to have a 'Train Captain'.
196. b Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance. The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit.
197. b India is trying to make the strategic Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, said in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
198. b The EU began deploying election observers in Zimbabwe for the first time in 16 years, ahead of next month's vote.
199. c WWF-India has launched its first-ever comic book that also celebrates the geographical diversity of the country. 'The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikky' follows the travels of its protagonists Uncle Bikky, Chunmun and their dog Duggu as they learn about wildlife across India, and uses a humorous approach towards raising knowledge and awareness for wildlife protection and conservation.
200. b The Dubai-Mumbai air sector witnessed the highest flow of passengers at about 2.5 million during the 2017-18 financial year, primarily led by migrant workers, according to data released by the ministry of Civil Aviation.
201. b Kalki Koechlin will be conferred with the French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.
202. b Baba Ramdev will soon have a wax replica at the Madame Tussauds museum of London. After Swami Vivekanand, Ramdev will be the second swami to be depicted at the museum.
203. d A drug (Pranlukast) currently used for treating asthma has been found to be effective against tuberculosis, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have found. Studies carried out in mice models found the drug to be effective in treating TB both when used alone and in combination with an anti-TB drug rifampicin.
204. a Kerala Governor P. Sathasivasam flagged off the Olympic Run held in connection with the International Olympic Day celebrations. It has been celebrating International Olympic Day on June 23 since 1948 to promote people's participation in sports regardless of age, gender or athletic ability. The Olympic Day commemorates the birth of modern Olympics which promotes fitness and the Olympic ideals of Fair Play, Respect and Sportsmanship all over the world.
205. c Croatian Borna Coric denied Roger Federer the 99th title of his career with a 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 defeat in the final of the ATP Halle grass event. Federer also lost the number one spot in ATP rankings to Rafael Nadal, and missed a chance to earn a record 10th title at the German venue.
206. d Under the Swachh Survekshan 2018, Maharashtra takes the lead with 28 cities from the state featuring in the list of top 100 cities, whereas, 58 cities of Maharashtra figured in Western Region of India.
207. c President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Fourth National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26 June,

since 1989, a date chosen to commemorate Lin Zexu's dismantling of the opium trade in Humen, Guangdong, just before the First Opium War in China.

208. b Sridevi was posthumously awarded the Best Female Actor for "Mom" and her husband, Boney Kapoor, received the trophy for her at the Indian International Film Awards 2018. Other nominees included Vidya, Alia Bhatt ("Badrinath Ki Dulhania"), Zaira Wasim ("Secret Superstar") and Bhumi Pednekar ("Shubh Mangal Saavdhan").
209. d President Tayyip Erdogan has declared victory in Turkey's key Presidential election. This result will allow Erdogan, who has ruled the country for more than 15 years as the Prime Minister and President, to keep his seat with increased powers and become the country's first executive President.
210. d India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two navies. The first edition inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his visit from June 24 to 29.
211. b With the total project portfolios of US\$4.4 Billion, India has been the largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) lending since the time the Bank started its operations.
212. a The tussle over Madhya Pradesh's seeking geographical indication (GI) certification for basmati paddy grown in the state has taken a new turn. A committee of agricultural scientists has been set up under R R Hanchinal to study the claims of Madhya Pradesh and make appropriate recommendations.
213. b India's newest telescope has started observing the skies. The telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh is the country's first robotic telescope and the first one designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.
214. c Former world number one Amelie Mauresmo will become the first woman to lead France's team at the Davis Cup over the next two years. Mauresmo will replace former French champion Yannick Noah as captain at the all-male tournament.
215. b Twelve years and ten months old, R Praggnanandhaa made history by becoming the youngest Indian Grandmaster and the second youngest overall by earning his third GM norm during the Gredine Open in Italy.
216. c The 19th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards paid a tribute to late legendary actor Shashi Kapoor for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema
217. a Lewis Hamilton reclaimed the world championship lead with a dominant victory in the French Grand Prix.
218. d The third annual meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) kicked off in India's financial hub Mumbai with the theme "Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration."
219. b Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India, Suresh Prabhu co-chaired the 15th Session of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission with the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Steven Ciobo, in Canberra.
220. c In a goodwill gesture, Seychelles has gifted a pair of giant Aldabra tortoise to India.
221. c Government of India simplifies the process for permission of Additional Fiscal Deficit Limit over and above 3 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product for the States (GSDP).
222. d Students from IIT-Roorkee have developed a helmet that can be worn like a collar around the neck and inflates like an airbag before impact during an accident.

223. b The Godikan panchayat in Haryana has become the first panchayat in the country to pass a resolution to marry off girls only to families that have a toilet in their house.
224. c Yousaf Saleem, a visually impaired lawyer from Lahore became Pakistan's first blind judge as he took oath of office.
225. c The two-month long biennial exercise is likely to be attended by navies of 26 countries including India.
226. b India's two fastest supercomputers built for weather forecasting Pratyush and Mihir have broken into the top 100 list globally, surpassing the country's earlier ranking of 228 in November 2017.
227. b Vijayanta is Indian army's first 'made in India' tank, based on a licensed design of the Vickers Mk 1.
228. b NASA's James Webb Space Telescope - the most ambitious and complex space observatory ever built - will be used to study Jupiter's Great Red Spot, shedding new light on the enigmatic storm that has been raging on the planet for over 350 years.
229. c The 58th National Interstate Senior Athletics meet has got to a flying start at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Guwahati.
230. b Dr. Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro will receive the 2018 World Food Prize for their individual and complementary global leadership in elevating maternal and child under nutrition to a central issue within the food security and development dialogue at national and international levels.
231. b The percentage of Indian population with Hindi as their mother tongue has risen to 43.63% from 41.03% in 2001, according to data on language released as part of Census 2011. Bengali remains the second most spoken language while Marathi has replaced Telugu in third place.
232. a President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Solar Charkha Mission covering artisans in 50 identified clusters and the Sampark portal -- a digital platform to connect five lakh job seekers with recruiters -- at an event to mark the important economic role played by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
233. b Mumbai continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates, ahead of global peers Washington and Melbourne.
234. c DBS Bank of Singapore will launch its India subsidiary in October, the second foreign bank in the country to convert its local operations into a wholly-owned entity.
235. d State-run lenders accounted for a staggering 85 per cent of nearly 6,500 fraud cases, amounting to more than Rs 30,000 crore, RBI's latest edition of Financial Stability Report showed.
236. d As part of the India's first inter-state translocation of tiger's project, a female cub was shifted from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh to Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha.
237. c The Ministry of Shipping's flagship programme for port-led-prosperity 'Sagarmala' received the 'Gold Award' in infrastructure sector in the recently concluded 52nd Skoch Summit 2018 in New Delhi, recognizing the programmes's contribution to India's socio-economic transformation and it's role in propelling fast-track growth and infrastructure development.

238. b ISRO chairman K Sivan has confirmed that the Indian space agency will be launching a new Moon mission, which is expected to be worth \$125 million and launch a lunar rover to travel to the 'untouched' south side of the moon in order to find a rare and very expensive nuclear fuel called Helium-3.
239. d In recognition of the notable contributions made by Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning, Government of India in 2007, has designated 29th June as the "Statistics Day" in the category of Special Days to be celebrated every year at the National level.
240. a NITI Aayog releases the First Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme. The ranking will measure the incremental progress made by districts between March 31, 2018 and May 31, 2018.
241. b The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh and paid homage to the great saint and poet, Kabir on the occasion of 500th death anniversary of the great saint.
242. d The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its seat in The Hague, Netherlands, and oversees the global endeavour for the permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.
243. a Madhya Pradesh was awarded for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign. The award ceremony was held in New Delhi.
244. c Dedar Singh Gill has been appointed by President Halimah Yacob as the apex court's judicial commissioner for a period of two years.
245. c In a blow to Pakistan, the Financial Action Task Force has placed it on the 'grey list' for failing to curb anti-terror financing despite Islamabad submitting a 26-point action plan and launching a concerted diplomatic effort to avert the decision.
246. c Private sector lender RBL Bank has fully acquired Mumbai-based financial product distribution firm Swadhaar FinServe Pvt Ltd where it had 60.49 per cent holding earlier. Swadhaar has now become fully owned subsidiary of the bank.
247. c Indian real estate transparency improves on reforms, ranked 35th globally.
248. c India finishes on top of medals tally at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup.
249. c In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra laid the foundation stone for Dharmashastra National Law University in Jabalpur.
250. c Rising temperatures and changing monsoon rainfall patterns associated with climate change could shave off 2.8 per cent of India's GDP.
251. b The United States designated North Korea as one of the worst human trafficking nations for the 16th consecutive year, citing its use of forced labour.
252. b Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile application called ReUnite which helps to track and trace missing and abandoned children in India.
253. b Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan proposed setting up a natural gas pipeline along the Maharashtra Prosperity Corridor, an eight-lane 701-km hi-speed super communication expressway between Nagpur and Mumbai.

254. d Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairman and managing director of Biocon, has been elected as a full-term member of the U.S.-based MIT Corporation, or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts.
255. d ICICI Bank has appointed former bureaucrat Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as non-executive, part-time chairman and an independent director of the board for three years with effect from July 1.
256. c The total market capitalisation of the top 100 global companies has increased by 15 per cent since last year to USD 20 trillion, as the US retained the leading position with 54 companies in the list.
257. a The US Food and Drug Administration on June 25 approved the first medical drug made from marijuana. Created by GW Pharmaceuticals, Epidiolex is an oral solution of cannabidiol (OSC) and does not cause intoxication or a high.
258. d International Day of the Tropics: 29 June. The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.

