

# MANTHAN

## Current Affairs Supplement

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### September, 2018

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# Preface

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**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**



#### **For the first time, Census 2021 will collect data on OBCs**

- The **Home Ministry** announced that the **Census 2021** will for the first time collect data on **Other Backwards Castes (OBC)**. The **Census 2021** will be finalised in three years after conducting the census instead of seven to eight years now.
- The **National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)**, a wing of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, had announced a sample survey report on the country's population in 2006 and suggested that the **OBC population** in the country is around **41 per cent** of the total population. The **NSSO** had enumerated **79,306 households** in rural areas and **45,374** in urban regions.

The **decennial Census of India** has been conducted **15 times**, as of **2011**. While it has been conducted every **10 years**, beginning in **1872**, the first complete census was taken in the year **1881**. Post **1949**, it has been conducted by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India. All the census since **1951** are conducted under **1948 Census of India Act**. The last census was held in **2011** and next census will be held in **2021**.

#### **INS Sahyadri reaches Australia for Exercise KAKADU 2018**

- After having been deployed to the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean for over four months, representing **Indian Navy** in multinational exercises **MALABAR 18** at **Guam** and **RIMPAC 18** at **Hawaii**, **INS Sahyadri** has now reached the **Port of Darwin, Australia** to participate in **Exercise KAKADU 2018**.
- **Exercise KAKADU**, which started in **1993**, is a **multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise** hosted by the **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** and supported by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- The exercise is held biennially in **Darwin** and the **Northern Australian Exercise Areas (NAXA)**. It derives its name from **Kakadu National Park** and the **14th edition** of the exercise is scheduled from **August 29** and would see participation from **23 warships**, one submarine, **45 aircraft**, **250 marines** and about **52 foreign staff** from over **25 different countries**.

**INS Sahyadri (F49)** is a **Shivalik-class stealth multi-role frigate** built for the **Indian Navy**. This class features improved stealth and land attack capabilities over the preceding **Talwar-class frigates**. **INS Sahyadri** was built at the **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** located in **Mumbai**. It was commissioned on **21 July 2012** into the **Eastern Naval Command** headquartered at **Visakhapatnam**.

#### **Justice Ranjan Gogoi to take charge as the new Chief Justice of India on October 3**

- **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** is set to take over as the new **Chief Justice of India** on **October 3, 2018**. His name has been recommended for the post by **Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra** to the government.

- Justice Gogoi is expected to take oath on October 3. He is slated to retire on November 17, 2019. As per convention, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed the Chief Justice of India and Justice Ranjan Gogoi by virtue of his seniority should be next in line.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi was appointed a judge in the Gauhati High Court on February 28, 2001. He later became the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on February 12, 2011. Justice Gogoi was elevated to the Supreme Court in April 2012.

### Innovation Cell launched by Union Minister for HRD

- In yet another game changing initiative, the Union Minister for HRD, Shri Prakash Javadekar and Union Minister of State for HRD, Dr. Satya Pal Singh launched the Innovation Cell at AICTE, New Delhi.
- Innovation cell is MHRD's initiative and has been established at AICTE premises with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years fostered through Network of Innovation clubs in Higher Educational Institutions.

Prakash Javadekar was elected to the upper house Rajya Sabha as a Member of Parliament from Maharashtra in 2008, and re-elected from Madhya Pradesh in 2014.

### IWAI Makes India's First Standardised Modern Ship Design for Ganga a Reality

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 first standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). It will serve as an enabler for domestic shipbuilding industry working on inland vessels and open huge possibilities for cargo and passenger movement on National Waterway-1.
- The Government is implementing Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1 (Varanasi-Haldia stretch) at a cost of Rs 5369.18 crore with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was created by Government of India on 27 October 1986 for development and regulation of Inland waterways for shipping and navigation. IWAI is the statutory authority in charge of the waterways in India. Its headquarters is located in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

National Waterway 1 or NW-1 or Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system is located in India and runs from Haldia (Sagar) to Allahabad across the Ganges, Bhagirathi and Hooghly river systems. It is 1,620 km (1,010 mi) long, making it the longest waterway in India. The NW-1 passes through West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

### CJI Misra names Ranjan Gogoi as his successor and the 46th Chief Justice of India

- Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra recommended Justice Ranjan Gogoi as his successor and the 46th Chief Justice of India.
- If the government approves the recommendation, Justice Gogoi would have tenure as Chief Justice of India of about 13 months, from October 3, 2018 till his retirement on November 17, 2019. Chief Justice Misra has followed convention by recommending the next senior most Supreme Court judge, Justice Gogoi, as his successor. This convention has held, barring two exceptions, both during the tenure of Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister — in 1973, Justice A N Ray's name was cleared for the CJI, superseding three others, and in 1977 when Justice M H Beg was chosen ahead of Justice H R Khanna who had stood up to the Emergency and the Prime Minister.

- Justice Gogoi is a native of Assam. He joined the Bar in 1978 and practiced mainly in the Gauhati High Court. He was appointed as permanent judge of the High Court on February 28, 2001. He was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on September 9, 2010 and appointed its Chief Justice in February 2011. He was elevated to the Supreme Court on April 23, 2012. He would be the first CJI from the north-eastern region. He is the son of Keshab Chandra Gogoi, a former Assam Chief Minister during the Congress regime in 1982.

The Supreme Court of India came into being on 28 January 1950. It replaced both the Federal Court of India and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which were then at the apex of the Indian court system. The first Chief Justice of India was Sir H J Kania. Originally, the Constitution of India envisaged a supreme court with a chief justice and seven judges; leaving it to parliament to increase this number. At present, SC is consisting of the Chief Justice of India and 30 sanctioned other judges. The motto of the Supreme Court is 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah', means "whence law (dharma), thence victory". It is also referred to – as the wheel of righteousness, encompassing truth, goodness and equity.

### First Jaipur Literature Festival will be held in Houston from September 14-15

- The Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) will be held in Houston for the first time as part of the larger umbrella of the literary event in the US. Congress leader and writer Shashi Tharoor and Indian ambassador to the US, Navtej Sarna will be attending the event in Houston, Texas, from September 14 to 15. Sarna is one of the chief guests.
- Hailed as one of the greatest literary shows globally, the JLF after Houston will be held in New York from September 19 to 20 and from September 21 to 23 in Boulder, Colorado. Producer JLF Teamwork Arts would be organising the event in association with the society and Inprint.

Jaipur Literature Festival is an annual literary festival which takes place in the Indian city of Jaipur each January. It was founded in 2006, and from 2008 has been produced by Teamwork Arts. It is the world's largest free literary festival. The 2018 Jaipur Literature Festival was organised from 25 January to 29 January at the Diggi Palace in Jaipur.

### Assam government extends AFSPA for another six months

- Despite BJP led Assam government claiming that law and order has improved drastically, the state government extended Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) for another six months.
- Withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is widely favoured in Assam following lifting of AFSPA from Meghalaya while its coverage area has been reduced in Arunachal Pradesh. AFSPA was clamped in Assam in 1990.
- It can be applied only after an area has been declared "disturbed". Earlier, states had the power to declare a territory thus, but in 1972, it passed to the centre.

AFSPA was enacted on 11 September 1958 to bring under control what the government considered 'disturbed areas', essentially conflict-hit areas. It was first implemented in the Northeast, and then in Punjab. In September 1990, Parliament passed the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, which came into force retrospectively from 5 July 1990. The Article 355 of the Constitution of India confers power to the Central Government to protect every state from internal disturbance.

### Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise KAZIND 2018

- Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' is being conducted between the Indian and Kazakhstan Army from 10 to 23 Sep 2018 in Otar region, Kazakhstan.



- This is the **third joint military exercise** between the **two countries** which have a history of extensive cooperation in the defence arena. The **second edition of the exercise was held in India** last year.
- The **aim of the exercise is to build and promote bilateral Army to Army relations and exchange skills and experiences** between Kazakhstan Army and the Indian Army.

Nursultan Nazarbayev is a Kazakh statesman **serving as President of Kazakhstan since the office was created on April 24, 1990. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country and the ninth largest in the world. Astana is the capital city of Kazakhstan. The tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan.**

### PM Jan Dhan Yojna to be open-ended scheme with more incentives

- **Union Government has decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts.**
- **PMJDY is financial inclusion program of Government of India that aims to expand and make affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions.**
- **The overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.**
- **The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.**
- **Accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Card holders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh.**
- **32.41 crore accounts have been opened under it with more than 81 thousand 200 crore rupees of deposit balance. More than 7.5 crore Jan Dhan accounts are receiving Direct Benefit Transfer.**

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is financial inclusion campaign was launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014. Under this scheme 1.5 Crore (15 million) bank accounts were opened on inauguration day. The Guinness Book of World Records recognised this achievement, stating: "The most bank accounts opened in one week as a part of the financial inclusion campaign is 18,096,130 and was achieved by the Government of India from August 23 to 29, 2014".**

### Supreme Court decriminalises gay sex in landmark verdict

- **In a landmark judgment on September 6, the Supreme Court of India struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), thereby decriminalising gay sex.**
- **The court heard petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalised consensual unnatural sex.**
- **A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice unanimously decriminalised part of the 158-year-old colonial law.**
- **The bench, which also comprised Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, struck down Section 377 as irrational, indefensible, manifestly arbitrary and violative of the right to equality.**
- **The Supreme Court said other aspects of Section 377 remain in force. It said bestiality would continue to be an offence. These deal with unnatural sex with animals and children.**

**Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is a section of the Indian Penal Code introduced in 1861 during the British rule of India. Modelled on the Buggery Act of 1533, it is used to criminalise sexual activities "against the order of nature".**

### India, US ink COMCASA deal at 2+2 dialogue

- **A military-information sharing pact, which will give India access to the US technology to keep an eye on China and the neighbourhood, was signed at the 2+2 bilateral summit.**

- It was decided to conduct a new tri-Services joint exercise on the eastern coast next year. Also, a new pact was signed for cooperation between the defence innovation organisations of the two nations.
- The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (Comcasa), which will give India access to advanced new defence systems like armed drones and will enable the armed forces to exploit existing US-origin platforms much more efficiently, was inked after concerns on security raised by New Delhi were addressed and specific assurances given that there would be no disruptions even if ties take a dive.

### PM Modi inaugurates India's first ever Global Mobility Summit

- India's first ever Global Mobility Summit - MOVE - was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Making Indian cities pollution free is the prime focus of the two-day summit organised by the NITI Aayog.
- PM also stated his vision for future of mobility in India, which is based on (GFX IN) 7 C's: Common, Connected, Convenient, Congestion-free, Charged, Clean and Cutting-edge.
- The focus of the summit is on raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility and bringing various stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility across different platforms.

### Telangana Assembly dissolved eight months ahead of its tenure completion

- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has dissolved the State Legislative Assembly, eight months before it completes its tenure.
- The state cabinet passed a resolution making a recommendation to the Governor in this regard.
- Governor ESL Narasimhan has asked Mr Chandrasekhar and the council of Ministers to continue as caretaker Government while accepting the Cabinet resolution.

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

### In a first in Asia, Bengaluru airport set to use face recognition as 'boarding pass'

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is set to become the first airport in Asia next year to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport.
- Hari Marar, CEO of Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), which operates KIA, and Miguel Leitmann, CEO of Vision Box, a Portuguese software firm, signed an agreement to this effect in Lisbon on September 5 to introduce face recognition technology at the airport from 2019. The agreement was signed in the presence of Indian-origin Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa and India's Ambassador to Portugal Nandini Singla.
- "Vision-Box's state-of-the-art biometric technology combined with its passenger flow platform will enable a seamless journey for our passengers, without obstacles, waiting lines or hassles, from registration to boarding. Your face is your boarding pass".

Kempegowda International Airport is an international airport serving Bangalore, the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. The airport opened in May 2008. It is named after Kempe Gowda I, the founder of Bangalore. Kempegowda International Airport became Karnataka's first fully solar powered airport developed by CleanMax Solar.



## Home minister Rajnath Singh set to launch first smart fence project along Pak border

- The first 'smart fence' pilot project, which entails deploying laser fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug venerable gaps along India's borders, is expected to be formally launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh in this month, the BSF chief K K Sharma said. Such gadgetry will be deployed along 2,400 kilometers of India's border with Pakistan and Bangladesh in the future, he said.

Bangladesh and India share a 4,156 km (2,582 mi)-long international border; it is the longest border of India and the fifth-longest land border in the world. India-Pakistan Border is drafted and created based upon the Radcliffe line in 1947, the border, which divides Pakistan and India from each other. The border's total length is 2,900 km (1,800 mi).

## India and France sign an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC)

- India and France have signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC) in New Delhi in the presence of Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Shri Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India.
- Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative which is supported by the French and the German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015. Based on a proposal made by AFD in 2015, the European Union has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million through the AFD to contribute to specific investments and technical assistance components within the Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India.
- The MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities viz. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

## Indian, US armies to carry out 2-week combat exercise in Uttarakhand

- Armies of India and the US will hold their annual combat exercise "Yudh Abhyas" at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from September 16 to 29 with an aim to enhance inter-operability between the two forces, officials said. They said the exercise will also focus on enhancing counter-terror cooperation.
- The two countries signed a path-breaking agreement which will allow Indian defence forces to receive military-grade communications equipment from the US and ensure access to real-time encrypted information. The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) will also help India to obtain critical defence technologies from the US.
- In June 2016, the US had designated India as "Major Defence Partner" intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.

In July, the US announced granting India the status of Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country, the only South Asian nation to be given the designation along with the US' NATO allies like South Korea, Australia and Japan. The STA-1 status will help India get critical technology from the US in the defence and certain other key areas. Currently there are 36 countries on the STA-1 list. Till recently India was designated as STA-2 countries, along with seven others.

## India along with 23 other nations participated in tsunami mock drill

- India along with 23 other nations were participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill which involved evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states in the Indian Ocean region.

- The exercise, known as IOWave18, is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of December 2004 tsunami.

Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), based out of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, is an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

### Rajasthan Assembly passes Panchayati Raj amendment bill

- The Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill which relaxes the provision "two-child" provision for those aspiring to contest panchayat elections provided one of the children is differently-abled. It also passed an amendment aimed at allowing people suffering from leprosy to contest panchayat elections.
- The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2018, was passed by voice vote. The bill aims at deleting a provision under the Act that if a person is suffering from Leprosy, he will be disqualified for contesting panchayat elections.

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. India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre will come up in Jaipur on a 50-acre land. Jaipur is the capital city of the Rajasthan. It was founded in 1727 by Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amer, and after whom the city is named. Jaipur is also known as the Pink City, due to the dominant color scheme of its buildings. Jaipur is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Jantar Mantar and the Amer Fort.

### World Summit on Accreditation held in New Delhi

- The World Summit on Accreditation pertaining to educational institutes held in New Delhi.
- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 4th edition of the Summit.
- The three-day Summit will focus on challenges and opportunities in outcome-based accreditation.
- The theme of this year summit is – 'Challenges and Opportunities in Outcome-Based Accreditation'.

The Summit is a biennial event organized by the National Board of Accreditation which provides platform to its stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation. Prakash Javadekar is the incumbent Union Minister of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. He was elected to the upper house Rajya Sabha as a Member of Parliament from Maharashtra in 2008, and re-elected from Madhya Pradesh in 2014.

### India's first railway university starts operations in Vadodara

- India's first railway university will be offering two courses -- Bachelor of Science in Transportation Technology and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Transport Management.
- India's very first Railway University at Vadodara in Gujarat, which is the brainchild of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is begin classes on Teachers' Day next month i.e., on September 5, 2018.

### Conference on Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts begins in Bhopal

- Union Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances is organized a two-day regional conference on 'Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts' at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
- Department of Administrative Reforms and Madhya Pradesh government are jointly organized the conference where delegates from 12 States and two Union Territories will participate.

Dahod district in Gujarat has been ranked first among 108 ‘aspirational districts’ by the NITI Aayog on the basis of incremental development over two months from March 31 this year. West Sikkim district stood second. The NITI Aayog has ranked 108 districts on the basis of the improvements in five developmental areas that they have made from March 31 to May 31 this year. The Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme was launched by the Prime Minister that aims to develop some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on the twenty-fifth day of December, the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

### First honour: Irrigation project gets heritage tag

- For the first time in the country, an irrigation anicut and a lake have been recognized as heritage structures by international agencies.
- A meeting of the International Executive Council, the highest decision making body of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), at Saskatoon in Canada has accepted Telangana government's nomination of Sadarmatt anicut across river Godavari in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu in Kamareddy district in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

The anicut, which is English word for Telugu's ana-katta, meaning a rainfall bund, was built by Nawab Ikbāl-ud-Dowla who bore the title of Vicar-ul-Umrah Bahadur in 1891-92 about 50 km downstream of the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP). The Pedda Cheruvu (big tank in Telugu) located on the outskirts of this district headquarters town is spread over an area of 618 acres and was built in 1897 during the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State.

### INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018

- Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ullanbaatar, Mongolia with a brief but impressive opening ceremony.
- The 12 days long joint exercise is being conducted from 10 Sep to 21 Sep 2018. The exercise will see them improve their tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario under United Nations mandate.

Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual, bilateral exercise since 2006 which is designed to strengthen the partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces. The Indian contingent is represented by a contingent of 17 PUNJAB Regiment while the Mongolian contingent is represented by Unit 084 of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

### India, Bangladesh jointly inaugurate three projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, and Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Tripura jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh via video conferencing.
- These include 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, Akhaura - Agartala Rail Link and Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16th and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013.

## First ever BIMSTEC military exercise begins near Pune

- In a first such initiative, militaries of **BIMSTEC member nations** barring Nepal began a week-long anti-terror exercise at **Aundh near Pune** to enhance cooperation in dealing with the challenge of terrorism in the region.
- Indian Army officials said the exercise is **focused on boosting inter-operability among the forces and exchanging best practices to contain terror- related activities.**

**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. BIMSTEC permanent secretariat is in **Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

## India, Iran and Afghanistan hold first tripartite meeting in Kabul

- **India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul** during which **implementation of the Chabahar port project** and a host of other issues were discussed.
- The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary **Vijay Gokhale**, while the Iranian team was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi.** Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister **Hekmat Khalil Karzai** chaired the meeting.

The Chabahar port is being considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries besides ramping up trade among the three countries in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi. **Under an agreement signed between India and Iran in May 2016, India is to equip and operate two berths in Chabahar Port Phase-I with capital investment of USD 85.21 million and annual revenue expenditure of USD 22.95 million on a 10-year lease.**

## Shri Piyush Goyal launches a web portal “Rail Sahyog”

- Indian Railways, the Minister of Railways and Coal, **Shri Piyush Goyal** launched a web portal **www.railsahyog.in.**
- The web portal will provide a platform for the **Corporates and PSUs to contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility funds.**

**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** in the Government of India. He was elected as the **BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha on 3 June 2016.** He was also served as **Finance Minister for short duration, Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy** in the Government of India.

## Asia’s first narrow-gauge line in Gujarat set to broaden

- **India is set to lose Asia’s first narrow-gauge railway line between Dabhoi and Miyagam in Gujarat,** operational since the 19th Century.
- **Dabhoi-Miyagam line was India’s first narrow gauge stretch.** All the lines are in Gujarat, totalling 204 km, and were originally owned by the princely state’s **Gaekwad Baroda State Railway.**

## NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR collaborate to set up a Model International Center for Transformative AI (ICTAI)

- **NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)** announced that they are **collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI)** towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.



- This initiative is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' Discussion Paper that focuses on establishing ICTAI in the country through private sector collaboration.
- Based in Bengaluru, the Model ICTAI aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas – healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility – by bringing together the expertise of Intel and TIFR.

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

### Rajnath Singh launched first smart fence project along Pakistan border next week

- The India's first 'smart fence' pilot project, which entails deploying laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug vulnerable gaps along borders, was formally launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the India-Pakistan border.
- The 'laser fence' and other gadgets have been integrated and a CCTV-like feed will be given to the BSF post so that immediate action can be taken against any intrusion or infiltration attempt.

Bangladesh and India share a 4,156 km (2,582 mi)-long international border; it is the longest border of India and the fifth-longest land border in the world. India-Pakistan Border is drafted and created based upon the Radcliffe line in 1947, the border, which divides Pakistan and India from each other. The border's total length is 2,900 km (1,800 mi).

### Union Government clears 100% Railways electrification

- The PM-led Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 100 per cent electrification of the Indian Railways, tentatively by 2021-22.
- When complete, this will make Indian Railways one of the largest electrified railway networks in the world — after China, which has 87,000 km (around 68 per cent of its network) electrified — and the only large railway with 100 per cent electrification.
- Currently, around 48 per cent of the country's 61,680 km broad gauge railway network is electrified. These are mostly traffic-intensive routes, signifying healthy return on investments.

The practice of a separate Railway Budget was started by the British in 1924 under the recommendation of a 10-member Acworth Committee headed by British economist William Mitchell Acworth in 1920-21. On 21 September 2016, Government of India approved the merger of the Railway Budget with the Union budget of India, and thus came to end — a 92-year-old practice of separate rail and general budgets. In the past, every year the Railway Budget was presented in the Parliament by the Railway Minister few days prior to the general budget. On 25 February 2016, Suresh Prabhu became the last railway minister to present a separate Railway Budget in the parliament.

### 'SLINEX-2018' joint exercise conducts between navies of India and Sri Lanka

- The joint exercise between the navies of India and Sri Lanka titled SLINEX-2018 is underway in Trincomalee.
- It is primarily focused on fleet work, seamanship, communication, replenishment at sea, joint training, helicopter and maritime patrol aircraft operations, search and rescue and maneuvers at sea.

**SLINEX-2017** was held at Visakhapatnam in September last year, where two ships from the Sri Lanka Navy participated. The exercise which was previously held once in two years has been converted to an annual event from this year onwards. This signifies the desire of both countries to enhance cooperation in the maritime domain and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the two navies.

### Justice Ranjan Gogoi to be next Chief Justice of India

- **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** will be the next Chief Justice of India. Law Ministry notified the appointment of Justice Gogoi.
- He will succeed Chief Justice Dipak Misra, who will retire on 2nd of October. **Justice Gogoi** is the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court after Chief Justice Misra. He will assume charge on 3rd October and will have tenure of nearly 13 months.

**Justice Gogoi** is a native of Assam. He joined the Bar in 1978 and practiced mainly in the Gauhati High Court. He was appointed as permanent judge of the High Court on February 28, 2001. He was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on September 9, 2010 and appointed its Chief Justice in February 2011. He was elevated to the Supreme Court on April 23, 2012. He would be the first CJI from the north-eastern region. He is the son of Keshab Chandra Gogoi, a former Assam Chief Minister during the Congress regime in 1982.

### India's first Tribal Tourism Circuit launched in Chhattisgarh

- The **India's first tribal circuit tourism project** under the Swadesh Darshan scheme was inaugurated at Gangrel in Chhattisgarh.
- **Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphons** was inaugurated the project. It covers 13 sites in Chhattisgarh which are Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot and Tirthgarh.
- The objective of the Tribal Tourism Circuit is to showcase the state's rich and diverse tribal culture and traditions to the tourists. Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched in 2014 -15 and it is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Tourism, for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.

**Chhattisgarh** was formed on 1 November 2000 by partitioning 10 Chhattisgarhi and 6 Gond speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the land locked state in India. The capital city is Raipur. Balram Das Tandon is present Governor of Chhattisgarh. Raman Singh is the current Chief Minister of the state since 2003.

### Suresh Prabhu takes part in G-20 meet in Argentina

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu** participated in G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting at Mar del Plata in Argentina.
- Issues including increasing protectionism, challenges to promote global commerce and new industrial revolution are discussed at the meeting.
- The G20 members include India, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, UK and the US.

### EAM Sushma Swaraj co-chaired 23rd meeting of IRIGC-TEC in Moscow

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** co-chaired the 23rd meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) with Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation, Yuri Borisov in Moscow.
- IRIGC-TEC is a standing body which annually meets and reviews ongoing activities of bilateral cooperation in the fields of bilateral trade and investment, science and technology, culture and other issues of mutual interest.



## India's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App in New Delhi

- **Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** launched the **India's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App** in New Delhi.
- This **Portal** will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students belonging to poor and weaker sections.
- All the scholarships are being directly transferred into bank accounts of the needy students under **Director Benefit Transfer mode**, which has prevented duplication and leakage.

**Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** became **Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs** on 26 May 2014 in Narendra Modi ministry. After **resignation of Najma Heptulla** on 12 July 2016, he got **independent charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs**. He was elected to **Rajya Sabha** in 2016. He is **currently representing Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand**.

## Narendra Modi first Indian PM to prioritise universal health coverage

- **Narendra Modi** is the **first prime minister of India**, which is engulfed in a "swirling epidemic of non-communicable diseases", to have **prioritised universal health coverage** as part of his **political platform** under the '**Ayushman Bharat**' programme.
- **Richard Horton**, editor-in-chief of the '**The Lancet**', said the **prime minister** has grasped the importance of health not only as a natural right of citizens, but also as a political instrument to meet the growing expectations of India's emerging middle class.
- The scheme will be launched across the country from **September 25**, on the birth anniversary of the RSS ideologue **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya**.

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)**.

## PM Modi launched Swachhata Hi Sewa, a fortnight long nationwide campaign

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched **nationwide Swachhata Hi Sewa Movement** from New Delhi.
- The objective of the campaign, which will continue till **Gandhi Jayanti** on **2nd October**, is to mobilise people and reinforce the public movement for sanitation to contribute to father of the nation **Mahatma Gandhi's** dream of a **Clean India**.

## India's first exclusive dog park comes up in Hyderabad

- **Billed as the India's first**, an **exclusive and certified 'Dog Park'** boasting of facilities including a walking track, off leash areas and a clinic is **all set for inauguration at Kondapur in Hyderabad**.
- Spread over **1.3 acres**, the park has been **developed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)** at a cost of **Rs 1.1 crore** on a site which was earlier a dump yard.

## Rajasthan's forest minister inaugurates state's first lion safari

- **Rajasthan Forest Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar** inaugurated the state's first lion safari at **Nahargarh Biological Park**.
- The park is located on the **Delhi-Jaipur National Highway**, nearly **12 kilometers** from Jaipur. Located in the **Aravalli foothills**.

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. India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre will come up in Jaipur on a 50-acre land. Rajasthan became the second state after Madhya Pradesh to award death penalty to child rapists.

### Indo-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 commenced in Uttarakhand

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 a joint military exercise of Indian and US armies, commenced at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand with the unfurling of the national flags of both countries to the strains of "Jana Gana Mana" and "The Star Spangled Banner".
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA. This was the 14th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

Annual training with the Indian army began in 2004 at the platoon exchange level to enhance our ability to conduct joint and multi-national operations in support of U.S. Pacific Command's theater campaign plan by conducting a combined exercise with the Indian army to improve cultural awareness, develop friendships, and enhance cooperation among the two armies. General Bipin Rawat is the 27th and current Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army. He assumed office on 31 December 2016 after retirement of General Dalbir Singh.

### Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates the first ever India tourism Mart 2018

- The Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in New Delhi.
- The India Tourism Mart is organized by the Ministry of Tourism from 16th to 18th September 2018, in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) and with support of State /UT Governments.
- The objective of the event is to create an annual Global Tourism Mart for India in line with major international travel marts being held in countries across the world.

India Tourism Mart (ITM) is held for the first time and the Tourism industry stakeholders are coming together for such a large scale event with Ministry's support. FAITH is the apex organization of all the important trade and hospitality associations of the country with all the 10 major Tourist organizations like FHRAI, HAI, IATO being involved in this mega event and India Convention Promotion Board (ICPB) is coordinating the whole event. This is a Business to Business Event.

Piyush Vedprakash Goyal is currently serving as the Minister of Railways in the Government of India. He was elected as the BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha on 3 June 2016. He was also served as Finance Minister for short duration, Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy in the Government of India.

### India, Bangladesh PMs jointly inaugurate two projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly flagged off the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project and Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur Railway Project through video conferencing.
- The 130-kilometre pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. The estimated project cost will be 346 crore rupees. The capacity of the pipeline will be 1 million metric tons per annum.

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16th and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013.

### TISS, India's First Campus to Start Gender-Neutral Hostel

- After the historic verdict by the Supreme Court to scrap Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that criminalised homosexuality, India has become the first-ever country to have a gender-neutral hostel.
- The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai's Deonar has become the first campus in the country to have a gender-neutral hostel.

Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is a section of the Indian Penal Code introduced in 1861 during the British rule of India. Modelled on the Buggery Act of 1533, it is used to criminalise sexual activities "against the order of nature".

### Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 'All India Pension Adalat

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 'Pension Adalat' in Delhi, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.
- He also presented the 'Anubhav' awards 2018 to six pensioners for their contribution towards creating institutional memory for the departments. On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh also launched a booklet—"An era of sustained reforms for Central Government Pensioners" enumerating simplification of rules and steps initiated to strengthen the Grievance Portal and make it user friendly.

### Uttar Pradesh launched first-ever dial-FIR scheme

- The Uttar Pradesh Police launched a first of its kind dial-FIR scheme in the country where a common man can register regular crimes without going to a police station even as it is preparing an online photographic dossier of criminals that will be provided to policemen on 22,000 new i-pads.
- It is the FIR (first information report) that sets the law into motion and unless you register a police case your investigation does not start. Everything that is reported to U.P. 100 relates to certain categories of crime that includes cases like those of vehicle theft. Now, for such crimes, one can dial the emergency number and file an FIR, a call-based FIR. This will be like a regular FIR, under similar sections of IPC.

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the Republic of India. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950. Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Ram Naik is currently the 24th Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Yogi Adityanath is the current Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

### The President of India launches the logo and web portal for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind launched the logo and the web portal (<http://gandhi.gov.in/>) for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- The logo has been obtained through crowd sourcing. The logo and web portal is part of the two-year-long celebrations from October 2, 2018 to October 2, 2020 across the country and on foreign soil to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the leader of the Indian independence movement against British rule. Gandhi's birthday, 2 October, is commemorated in India as Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday, and worldwide as the International Day of Nonviolence. Indians widely describe Gandhi as the father of the nation. Origin of this title is traced back to a radio address (on Singapore radio) on 6 July 1944 by Subhash Chandra Bose where Bose addressed Gandhi as "The Father of the Nation". Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a celebratory day observed on 9 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

### India is the first country in world to develop India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

- **Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan** released a **draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** which lists out actions which can help **reduce the cooling demand, thus helping in reducing emissions**. This will **help in reducing both direct and indirect emissions**. The **overarching goal of ICAP is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all** while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.
- **India is the first country in world to develop such a document - ICAP**, which also gives thrust towards looking for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.

### Exercise Aviaindra-18 Commences at Lipetsk (Russia)

- **Exercise Aviaindra** is an **Air Force level exercise** between **India and the Russian Federation**. **First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014** and has been **planned as a bi-annual exercise**.
- **Exercise Aviaindra 18** is being **conducted at Lipetsk, Russia** from **17 Sep to 28 Sep 18** and will be **conducted in Jodhpur, India** from **10 Dec to 22 Dec 18**.

The **aim of the exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in a bi-lateral scenario**. The exercise would further **enhance the co-operation and understanding each other's Concept of Operations**. The **aircraft that would participate in the exercise include Su-30 SM, Mig-29, Su-25, Mi-8 and An-26**.

### Uttarakhand becomes the first state to pass resolution declaring Cow as 'Rashtra Mata'

- The **Uttarakhand state Assembly** passed a resolution declaring cow as '**Rashtra Mata** or the mother of the nation'.
- **Uttarakhand state** has become the **first state in India** to do so. It will now be sent to the **Central Government** for its final approval.
- **Sant Gopalamani Maharaj of Uttarakhand** has been **campaigning for giving cow status to nation mother**. In this connection, he has organized many major events in the capital Delhi along with all the districts of the country.

**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**. **Trivendra Singh Rawat** is the **eighth and current Chief Minister** of Uttarakhand. **Baby Rani Maurya** is serving as the **seventh governor of Uttarakhand** since 26 August 2018.

### PM Modi inaugurates first airport of western Odisha in Jharsuguda

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched a **series of developmental projects in Odisha and Chhattisgarh**.
- The **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated a new airport in **Jharsuguda** - also known as the **powerhouse of Odisha**. The Prime Minister also **flagged off the UDAN flight on Jharsuguda-Raipur sector**.
- **Jharsuguda** is the **second airport of Odisha** after **Bhubaneswar** to become operational and the **first one to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under RCS UDAN**. In Odisha, other than



Jharsuguda, three more airports, namely, Jeypore in Koraput District, Rourkela in Sundargarh District and Utkela in Kalahandi District are being developed to provide connectivity to remote and far flung areas.

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

### Prime Minister inaugurates Sikkim's first airport in Pakyong

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Pakyong Airport in East Sikkim district, connecting Gangtok to India's air network map. Pakyong Airport is the first airport in Sikkim and 100th operational one in India. Pakyong Airport has come up as part of the UDAN scheme of the government.

At 4500 ft, Pakyong Airport is one of the five highest airports in India. It is also the first Greenfield airport to be constructed in the Northeastern Region of India. The Pakyong Airport project is one of the tallest reinforced soil structures in the world.

### Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's India Region-IV conference held in Shimla

- In Himachal Pradesh, two day Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Indian Region-IV, Conference and Workshop is organised in Shimla.
- Lok Sabha, Speaker and the President of Commonwealth Parliamentary Union Indian Region, Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated and presided over the Conference.
- Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Snehlata Shrivastav, Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Surendra Nath Tripathi, and Secretaries of all State Legislative Assemblies were participated in the Conference.
- A deliberation on Loksabha and vidhan sabha election to held together and increased consumption of narcotics- its side effect and solution were also discussed during the conference.

### First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance to be inaugurated on 2nd of October in Delhi

- The first General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, ISA, will be inaugurated on the 2nd of October in Delhi. The Ministerial level Assembly will be held in Greater Noida.
- The ISA is a major initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in contributing to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy.

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India.

### Ayushman Bharat –Pradhan Mantri Jan AarogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY) launched in Ranchi, Jharkahnd

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana from Ranchi in Jharkhand and termed it a game-changer initiative to serve the poor. .
- Under the vision of Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan AarogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY) shall be implemented so that each and every citizen receives his due share of health care.

- The Prime Minister said, the **number of beneficiaries of this scheme is equal to the total population of the entire the European Union**. He said, the **number of beneficiaries is almost equal to the population of Canada, Mexico and the US taken together**.
- The scheme was launched across the country from September 25, on the birth anniversary of the RSS ideologue **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya**.

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 (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) 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)**.

### Israel, India to commemorate Centenary of the Battle of Haifa

- **Centenary celebrations to commemorate hundred years of liberation of Haifa in Israel by the Indian troops in 1918** culminate with a grand function in New Delhi.
- The **Battle of Haifa is being commemorated in Israel, Delhi and Jaipur**.
- The **Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the two brave Indian Cavalry Regiments, Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers**, that helped liberate the city following a **dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade**.

The **Battle of Haifa** was fought on **23 September 1918** towards the end of the **Battle of Sharon** which together with the Battle of Nablus formed the set piece Battle of Megiddo fought between 19 and 25 September **during the last months of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of the First World War**. During the **Battle of Haifa**, the **Indian 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade, 5th Cavalry Division** and part of the **Desert Mounted Corps** attacked rearguard forces of the **Ottoman Empire** that resulted in the capture of the towns of **Haifa and Acre, Israel**.

### Indo-kazakhstan Joint exercise kazind 2018

- **Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army completed the third edition of their joint military Exercise KAZIND 2018 in Otar Military area, Kazakhstan** in a significant step towards fostering military and diplomatic ties between the two countries. The two week long exercise had commenced on 10 Sep 2018.
- The **primary focus of the exercise was to train and equip the contingents to undertake joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in urban and rural environment under mandate of United Nations**.

The **second joint military exercise between the two countries was held in Himachal Pradesh** to strengthen bilateral relations and exchange skills and experience. The first edition of “**Prabal Dostyk**” was held in **Kazakhstan in 2016**.

### PM Modi rolls out world’s largest health insurance scheme at Ranchi, Jharkhand

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the health assurance scheme: Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - at Ranchi, Jharkhand**.
- At the same event, the **Prime Minister unveiled plaques to lay the Foundation Stone for medical colleges at Chaibasa and Koderma**. He also inaugurated 10 Health and Wellness Centres.
- The scheme was launched across the country from September 25, on the birth anniversary of the RSS ideologue **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya**.

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 (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) 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).

### Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of “Ease of Living Index” rankings

- Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of “Ease of Living Index” rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
- The three States were awarded best performing States at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018.
- Shri Hardeep Puri pointed out that Ease of Living framework comprised four pillars namely Institutional, Social, Economic and Physical which are further broken down into 78 indicators across 15 categories (governance, identity and culture, education, health, safety and security, economy, affordable housing, land use planning, public open spaces, transportation and mobility, assured water supply, waste-water management, solid waste management, power, and quality of environment).

“Ease of Living Index” was launched in June 2017 to rank 116 cities (all smart cities and million plus cities) based on the liveability parameters. The implementation of the assessment commenced formally on 19 January 2018. The MoHUA released the first ever ‘Ease of Living Index’ covering 111 Indian cities on 13 August, 2018, which serves as a litmus test to help assess the progress made in cities through various initiatives. All cities were evaluated out of 100. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given the highest weightage of 45, while institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.

### 4th India International Science Festival to be inaugurated by President of India

- The fourth edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in Lucknow on October 6, 2018. Dr Harsh Vardhan added that, the current edition of the festival in Lucknow is a tribute to former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who had brought Science to the centre stage of national agenda. It was Shri Vajpayee who had added Jai Vigyan to Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan of “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan”.
- IISF is the biggest platform in the country to bring together students, researchers, innovators, artists and general public to celebrate India's achievements in science and technology.
- IISF-2018 with its focal theme “Science for Transformation” will have 23 special events.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan is the incumbent minister at Ministry of Science & Technology (India), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Earth Sciences in the BJP-led NDA government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He represents Chandni Chowk in Delhi as a Member of Parliament in the 16th Lok Sabha.

### Shri Arun Jaitley launches the Financial Inclusion Index in New Delhi

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley launched the Financial Inclusion Index after his Annual Performance Review Meeting with CEOs of the Public Sector Banks in New Delhi.
- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance will release an Annual Financial Inclusion Index (FII) which will be a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.
- The index will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.

Arun Jaitley previously held the cabinet portfolios of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Commerce and Industry and Law and Justice in the Vajpayee government (1998–2004) and served as the Minister of Defence in the Narendra Modi government as additional charge. From 2009 to 2014 he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. He is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India. In June, 2014, Jaitley was appointed leader of the House in Rajya Sabha. Upon re-election from Uttar Pradesh in April 2018, he has again been named as Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Leader of the House in Lok Sabha.

### First assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) is being held in India

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is organising the **First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)**; the **2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting** and the **2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018)** is being held from 2nd to 5th October 2018 in New Delhi.
- The three events inaugurated in a common function by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the presence of Mr Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations on 2nd October 2018 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Modi, along with French President Emmanuel Macron, had co-hosted the founding conference of the ISA in March this year. The initiative had earned the duo the United Nations' highest environmental honour, 'Champions of the Earth'.

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India.

### Aadhaar gets thumbs up from Supreme Court

- The **Supreme Court**, in a majority opinion upheld Aadhaar as a reasonable restriction on individual privacy that fulfils the government's "legitimate aim" to provide dignity to a large, marginalised population living in abject poverty.
- The majority view by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Justices A.K. Sikri and A.M. Khanwilkar **declared Aadhaar a "document of empowerment."** An **"unparalleled" identity proof.** A document that **cannot be duplicated unlike PAN, ration card, and passport.**
- The majority opinion upheld the PAN-Aadhaar linkage, but declared linking Aadhaar with bank accounts and mobile SIM cards unconstitutional.
- The court insulated children from the Aadhaar regime. The card was not necessary for children aged between six and 14 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as right to education was a fundamental right.
- Statutory bodies like CBSE and UGC cannot ask students to produce their Aadhaar cards for examinations like NEET and JEE.

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.

## Exhibition "India - Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures" inaugurated in New Delhi

- Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Shri Arun Goel inaugurated the exhibition "India - Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures" at National Museum, New Delhi.
- This exhibition "India - Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures" showcases original artifacts from the National Museum collection which include coins from the royal mints of Kushans including coins depicting portraits of Kanishka, Huvishka, alluring sculptures from the Kushan period, the intricate manuscripts including miniature paintings from Baburnama, manuscripts of the Holy Quran, Timurnamah, Bukharisharif, Bayaz, Tuzk-i-Jahangiri and others.

National Museum, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in Collaboration with the Embassy of Uzbekistan in New Delhi; Rampur Raza Library, Rampur; Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna and the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan for the first time has exhibited a collection of "Kushan coins, Archaeological artifacts related to Kushan, manuscripts and paintings of shared cultural heritage of India and Uzbekistan made in different time epoch covering religious and scientific subjects.

## Kolkata launches India's first flood forecast system

- The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, launched the country's first flood forecasting and early-warning system, which will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data.
- This is expected to help policy-makers make informed decisions during disasters.

Kolkata also known as Calcutta (the official name until 2011) is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. It is located on the east bank of the Hooghly River. According to the 2011 census, it is the third-most populous metropolitan area in India. The city is widely regarded as the "cultural capital" of India, and is also nicknamed the "City of Joy". Under the British Raj, Calcutta served as the capital of British-held territories in India until 1911, when its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, led to a shift of the capital to New Delhi.

## Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Smart City Expo India-2018

- Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur. Vice President said that Smart Vision, Smart execution and smart Implementation are essential to develop smart cities.
- The object of this three days long expo is to have discussions among different experts and groups to utilize benefits of new technology, town planning, capacity management, challenges before socio-economic development and development of networking in the Smart City sector.

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

## Adultery is not a crime, rules SC; strikes it off IPC

- The Supreme Court unanimously struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code that makes adultery a punishable offence for men. In four separate but concurring judgments, the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court said the 158-year-old law was unconstitutional and fell foul of Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) and Article 14 (Right to equality). This provision drafted by Lord Macaulay in 1860.

- The apex court also declared Section 198(1) and 198(2) of the CrPC, which allows a husband to bring charges against the man with whom his wife committed adultery, unconstitutional. Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, who pronounced the judgment in concurrence with Justice AM Khanwilkar, said while adultery could be a ground for civil issues, including dissolution of marriage, it could not be a criminal offence.

Section 497, whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor.

### Tribes India launches “Punch Tantra Collection and Ms Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador”

- Tribes India and TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched “Punch Tantra Collection and Ms. Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador of Tribes India”.
- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs introduced the Indian Sporting Legend and the World Boxing Champion Ms. Mary Kom as the Brand Ambassador of “Tribes India” and launched the “Punch Tantra” Diwali collection.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987. TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi. Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (India) to have a more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the Indian Society. Jual Oram is a member of the 16th Lok Sabha of India. He represents the Sundargarh constituency of Odisha and is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He is the current minister for Tribal Affairs.

### ADB approves \$150 mn loan for Madhya Pradesh’s first multi-skills park setup

- The board of directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 150 million loan to establish the first multi-skills park in Madhya Pradesh, India. The skills park is to be equipped with international training facilities to enhance the quality of Madhya Pradesh’s technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system. It will create a more skilled workforce that meets the labour market needs of the state, ADB said.
- “Madhya Pradesh has one of the largest working-age populations in India, with the labour force expected to expand from 48 million in 2016 to 56 million in 2026. ADB’s assistance will help open up opportunities to the men and women of Madhya Pradesh to gain high-level skills that increase their employability and capacity to contribute to growth, Lee said.

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

### Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad to launch Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics and DigiVaarta

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS) have jointly set up a Centre of Excellence for data analytics to support Government departments to unlock the hidden potential of the data that they are generating as part of the governance processes and use it to improve the overall governance.



- **Launch of Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA)** by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State, Electronics & Information Technology, **as part of Workshop on Data Analytics in Government.**
- The event will be attended by several dignitaries from the Central Government.

**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.**

### Naveen Patnaik inaugurates 'Kalahandi Dialogue' conclave

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- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** launched the **three-day 'Kalahandi Dialogue'**, a global conclave on development for the district.
- **Sujeet Kumar, the Chairperson of Kalahandi Dialogue**, explained the reason behind creating the collaborative platform **to engage the youth in development dialogue and action.**
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** congratulated the **people of Kalahandi** for making the district the **"green basket"** of Odisha.

The **modern state of Odisha** was established on **1 April 1936**, as a **province in British India**. The **ancient kingdom of Kalinga**, which was **invaded by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in 261 BCE** resulting in the **Kalinga War**, coincides with the borders of **modern-day Odisha**. **Konark Sun Temple** is a **13th-century CE sun temple** at **Konark** about **35 kilometres northeast from Puri** on the **coastline of Odisha, India**. The **temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty** about **1250 CE**. **Dr. Senayangba Chubatoshi Jamir** is **current Governor of Odisha.**

## International



### First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum held in Kathmandu

- The **First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum** held in Kathmandu.
- The theme of three-day Forum is the '**Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia**'.
- It is co-organized by the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** and **Asian Farmers' Association** with the support from the **International Fund for Agricultural Development**.
- The Forum brings together representatives both from the government and non-governmental entities from the Member States of SAARC as well as from regional and international organizations. Addressing the inaugural session of the Forum, the **Secretary-General of SAARC Amjad Hussain B. Sial** said that South Asia is home to around a quarter of the global population and majority of whom live in the rural areas and depend on natural resources like land, freshwater, coastal fisheries and forests.

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.

### Zimbabwe's leader names ex-military commander as a Vice-President

- **Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa** has re-appointed as one of his Vice-Presidents a former military general who helped him come to power.
- **Constantino Chiwenga** had led the defence forces when the military rolled into the capital in November to pressure long-time leader **Robert Mugabe** to resign.

### China pulls out of \$1.2-billion Nepal project

- **China's Three Gorges International** has decided to pull out from the **\$1.2 West Seti Hydro project in Nepal**, six years after it signed the **MoU to build it**. A high-level team of the CTGI, a subsidiary of the **China Three Gorges**, conveyed to the Nepal government that the project is not cost-effective.
- The **750-MW project, the first reservoir project in Nepal**, was to be completed by next year as per the CTGI's earliest commitment, but its pull-out without even beginning construction.

### The 4th Bimstec summit kicks off in Kathmandu

- The **4th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec)** began with the theme '**Towards Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region**'.
- **Leaders of its seven member countries**, including **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Adviser (head of interim government) of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, Sri**



Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, Myanmar President Win Myint and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha are represented their respective countries in the two-day summit.

- **Current Bimstec Chairperson and Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli inaugurated the summit at Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza in Kathmandu.**

**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. BIMSTEC permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

### Sixth East Asia Summit -Economic Ministers Meeting held in Singapore

- **Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN.**
- **The 6th East-Asia Economic Ministers' Meeting was chaired by Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore, and was attended by Economic Ministers from 10 ASEAN countries and their eight dialogue partners, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.**
- **The 6th EAS-EMM was followed by the 15th ASEAN Economic Ministers - India Consultation. It was co-chaired by Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore, and Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India.**
- **ASEAN has emerged as the second largest trade partner of India in 2017-18 with bilateral trade valued at USD 81.33 billion, comprising 10.58% of India's total trade with the world.**

**It was also announced in the Singapore meeting that the next ASEAN-India Business Summit will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2018 with the theme "Towards Building Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India in the Era of the 4<sup>th</sup> IR and Digital Economy" which will be followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN Dialogue Partner Expo and Summit scheduled for 21-23 February 2019, in New Delhi.**

### International tourism arrivals hit record high in 2017; India leads growth in South Asia: UN report

- **The number of people travelling abroad hit record levels in 2017 with a total of 1,323 million international tourist arrivals recorded in destinations around the world, with India leading the growth in the South Asian region, according to data from the UN's tourism organisation.**
- **The latest edition of its Tourism Highlights shows international arrivals reached 1.323 million last year. The figure represents an 84 million increase over 2016, and a new record, with the sector also recording "uninterrupted growth" in arrivals for eight consecutive years. The UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, added that tourism is the world's third largest export category, earning USD 1.3 trillion in receipts in 2017: an increase of five per cent.**
- **The report said positive results in South Asia were largely driven by the strong performance of India, the "subregion's largest destination, which benefited from increasing demand from western source markets and simpler visa procedures." In India, international tourists arrivals grew from 14.57 million in 2016 to 15.54 million in 2017. International tourism receipts for India grew from 22.42 billion dollars in 2016 to 27.36 billion dollars last year.**

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. WTO came into operation on November 1, 1974. Its headquarters are located in Madrid, Spain.

### Iraq's Sadr and Abadi form biggest parliamentary bloc

- In Iraq, sixteen political groupings reached an accord to create the biggest bloc in parliament. The groupings include nationalist Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and outgoing Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.
- The bloc consists of 177 deputies, which is more than half of the 329 lawmakers elected in legislative polls. As the largest bloc, it would be tasked by the President to form the government.

Iraq is a country in Western Asia, capital, and largest city, is Baghdad. The "Cradle of Civilization" is thus a common term for the area comprising modern Iraq as it was home to the earliest known civilisation, the Sumerian civilisation, which arose in the fertile Tigris-Euphrates river valley of southern Iraq in the Chalcolithic (Ubaid period). Muhammad Fuad Masum is the President of Iraq since 24 July 2014. Dinar is the currency of Iraq.

### Spain PM proposes new 'autonomy' referendum

- Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez proposed holding a referendum in Catalonia on greater autonomy for the wealthy region but ruled out allowing a vote on independence as demanded by Catalan leaders.
- In 2006, a statute granting greater powers to the region was approved by the Spanish and Catalan parliaments. In a referendum, more than 70 percent of voters in Catalonia approved the deal. However, in 2010 Spain's Constitutional Court struck down several parts of the statute, a move that led to a rise in support for independence.

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.

### Xi offers \$60 bn aid to Africa

- China has pledged a \$60 billion fund to bolster industry, counter hunger, and enhance security in Africa, a continent that has been chronically plagued by piracy and terrorism.
- In his inaugural address at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), President Xi Jinping was authoritative in messaging that Beijing had become the locomotive of Africa's all-round progress.

Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous continent (behind Asia in both categories). Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is its largest by population. Africa is often called Dark Continent in the world. Africa's smallest country is Seychelles, an archipelago off the east coast. The smallest nation on the continental mainland is The Gambia.

### Ukraine launches joint military drills with NATO

- Ukraine launched joint military exercises with the U.S. and a string of other NATO countries as tensions with Russia remain high over the Kremlin-backed insurgency in the country's east.
- The annual Rapid Trident military exercises, taking place in the western Ukrainian village of Starychi until September 15, involve some 2,200 soldiers from 14 countries.

Ukraine is a sovereign state in Eastern Europe. Its capital and largest city is Kiev. Petro Oleksiyovych Poroshenko is the fifth and current President of Ukraine. Volodymyr Groysman has been the Prime Minister of Ukraine since 14 April 2016. The hryvnia, sometimes hryvnya has been the national currency of Ukraine since 2 September 1996. The Crimean peninsula was annexed from Ukraine by the Russian Federation in February–March 2014 and since then has been administered as two Russian federal subjects—the Republic of Crimea and

the federal city of Sevastopol.

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

## Arif Alvi is Pakistan President

- Arif Alvi, a close ally of Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of the founding members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, was elected as President of Pakistan.
- The former dentist defeated Pakistan Peoples Party candidate Aitzaz Ahsan and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz nominee Maulana Fazlur Rehman to become the 13th President.
- Of the 430 votes cast through a secret ballot in the National Assembly and the Senate, Dr. Alvi received 212 votes, Mr. Rehman 131 and Mr. Ahsan 81.

Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency of Pakistan.

## International Women Entrepreneurs Summit held in Nepal

- The International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 is held in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.
- Vice President of Nepal Nanda Bahadur Pun inaugurated the summit. In his address, Mr Pun emphasized upon empowering women in all areas including social, political and economic.
- The theme of the 3-day event is “Equality begins with Economic Empowerment”.
- The main objective of the summit is to bring together achievers, women business leaders, professionals, international service providers, resource organizations, experts, government representatives and other stakeholders with a focus on innovative economic transformation through discussions and collaborations.
- According to organizers the delegates from the SAARC, ASEAN, EU, Africa, Arab countries and China participated in the summit. The event is organised by the South Asian Women Development Forum.

The South Asian Women Development Forum, is incorporated under the Organization Registration Act 1977, is an autonomous, nonprofit organization based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is the first SAARC Recognized Body organisation, working on women entrepreneurs issues.

## Navin Kumar Ghimire recommended as new Chief Commissioner of CIAA in Nepal

- The Constitutional Council of Nepal has recommended Navin Kumar Ghimire as the new Chief Commissioner of Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA).
- He has been working as the acting Chief Commissioner of CIAA since February this year after the retirement of Deep Basnyat.

## India supports Mauritius' claim over disputed Chagos islands under UK-control

- India has backed Mauritius over its claim on the disputed Chagos islands, which is home to Diego Garcia the key military base of the U.K. and the U.S. in the Indian Ocean, saying its decolonisation was incomplete as long as the atolls were under British control.
- India's stand was presented before the ICJ by India's Ambassador to the Netherlands Venu Rajamony.
- The sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago is disputed between the UK and Mauritius.

Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean about 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi) off the southeast coast of the African continent. Ameenah Gurib was the first woman to ever hold the title of President of Mauritius. Barlen Vyapoory is serving as Acting President of Mauritius, after the Ameenah Gurib's resignation. Port Louis is the capital city of Mauritius. The rupee is the currency of Mauritius.

### First ever G20 Education Ministers' Meeting held at Mendoza, Argentina

- The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Satya Pal Singh lead a high level delegation to the G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting as well as Joint Ministerial Meeting held at Mendoza, Argentina on 5th & 6th September, 2018. It was the first ever meeting of Education Ministers in the history of G-20.
- While speaking on the inaugural day in Educational Ministerial meeting, Dr Satya Pal Singh appreciated and thanked Argentina for hosting an exclusive meeting of Education Ministers for first time in the history of G20 Summit. He mentioned that India is one of the largest education systems in the world with over 1.53 million schools, 864 Universities and enrolment of about 300 million students.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for its members' international economic cooperation and decision-making. Its membership comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. The G20 started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held, and the group played a key role in responding to the global financial crisis. The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85 per cent of global gross domestic product and over 75 per cent of global trade.

### World's largest offshore wind farm opens off Cumbrian coast

- The world's biggest offshore wind farm has officially opened in the Irish Sea, amid warnings that Brexit could increase costs for future projects.
- Walney Extension, off the Cumbrian coast, spans an area the size of 20,000 football pitches and has a capacity of 659 megawatts, enough to power the equivalent of 590,000 homes.

### China engages in Australia's largest maritime drill for first time

- China is participating for the first time in Australia's largest maritime exercise Kakadu as more than 3,000 personnel from 27 countries engage in joint training off the strategic northern port of Darwin.
- Exercise Kakadu is hosting 23 ships and submarines from across the Indo-Pacific region, enabling them to establish familiarity which helps to prevent conflict on the high seas and to coordinate disaster relief efforts.
- The joint military practice, which will continue until Sept. 15, is supported by the Royal Australian Air Force and involves 21 aircraft. Darwin, on the doorstep of Asia, is Australia's most strategically important city and has been home to a contingent of U.S. Marines since 2011 making it the logical place for the exercise.

Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993, is a multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The exercise is held biennially in Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise Areas (NAXA). It derives its name from Kakadu National Park.

### Abrar Alvi sworn in as Pakistan's 13th President

- Pakistan's new President Arif Alvi was sworn in at a ceremony in Islamabad, concluding the country's peaceful transfer of power to its new government.



- Arif Alvi, an ally of Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of the founders of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, becomes the country's 13th President, replacing Mamnoon Hussain.

Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency of Pakistan. The incumbent Governor-General, Iskander Mirza, became Pakistan's first president. He reportedly suspended the first Constitution in 1958, and appointed Army Commander-in-Chief General Ayub Khan as the first chief martial law administrator.

### Nepal backs out of BIMSTEC joint military exercise in Pune

- Nepal has decided not to participate in the week-long joint military exercise of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries beginning in Pune.
- The withdrawal of the Nepal Army from the event a first-of-its-kind in BIMSTEC history which is yet to be announced officially.

Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Nepal. He was the first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal. Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia located in the Himalaya. Nepalese rupee is the official currency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

### General Purna Chandra Thapa becomes new Chief of Army Staff of Nepal

- General Purna Chandra Thapa has become the new Chief of Army Staff of Nepal. President Vidya Devi Bhandari conferred insignia and administered oath of office and secrecy to Gen. Thapa in Kathmandu.
- He served as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force from 19 January 2015 until 7 February 2016.

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

### Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir dissolves government amid economic crisis

- President Omar al-Bashir dissolved the Sudanese government and named a new prime minister, moves aimed at fixing a crisis-hit economy battered in recent months by shortages of bread, fuel and hard currency.
- Bashir named Motazz Moussa as the country's prime minister. He replaces Bakri Hassan Saleh, who was appointed in 2017 as the country's first prime minister since Bashir came to power in 1989.

The Sudan or Sudan also known as North Sudan since South Sudan's independence is a country in Northeast Africa. The capital is Khartoum. Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Sudanese currency.

### Indo-US joint military drill in Uttarakhand from September 16

- As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2018" will be conducted in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand's Chaubattia from September 16-29.
- This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both the countries.

In July, the US announced granting India the status of Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country, the only South Asian nation to be given the designation along with the US' NATO allies like South Korea, Australia and Japan. The STA-1 status will help India get critical technology from the US in the defence and certain other key areas. Currently there are 36 countries on the STA-1 list. Till recently India was designated as STA-2 countries, along with seven others.

## Russia launches biggest ever war games

- **Russia launched what it called its largest ever military drills**, with **hundreds of thousands of troops taking part** along with Chinese soldiers in a show of force NATO condemned as a rehearsal for "large-scale conflict."
- **President Vladimir Putin** is expected to attend the games after hosting an economic forum in Russia's far eastern city Vladivostok where his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping is one of the prominent guests.
- The week-long war games dubbed "Vostok-2018"(East-2018) "have kicked off" in far eastern Russia.

Russia is a sovereign country in Eurasia. Russia is the largest country in the world by area, covering more than one-eighth of the Earth's inhabited land area and the ninth most populous, with over 144 million people at the end of December 2017. Russia's capital Moscow is one of the largest cities in the world. The Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of the Russian Federation. Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in 1999. He has held the office since then except for one term when Dmitry Medvedev was in office due to term-limit restrictions. The presidential term in Russia is six years but it was four years during Putin's first two terms. A дума is a Russian assembly with advisory or legislative functions.

## Ban Ki-moon, Bill Gates to head international commission on climate change

- **Former UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon and billionaire businessman and philanthropist Bill Gates** will head an international commission on climate change to launch next month.
- The commission, to be co-hosted by the Global Center on Adaptation, hosted by the Netherlands in partnership with the World Resources Institute, seeks to "convince countries across the globe to take measures to arm themselves against the consequences of climate change," the Dutch minister for infrastructure and water management.

Ban Ki-moon is a South Korean politician and diplomat who was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 2007 to December 2016. Before becoming Secretary-General, Ban was a career diplomat in South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the United Nations.

## ASEAN leaders gather for WEF in Hanoi

- It's the **biggest World Economic Forum in the ASEAN region to date**. Ten countries that are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are **currently meeting in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi**, to discuss economic challenges, inequality and digitalization.

The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia is a peace treaty among Southeast Asian countries established by the founding members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a geo-political and economic organization of 10 countries located in Southeast Asia. On 24 February 1976, the treaty was signed into force by the leaders of the original members of ASEAN.

## South Korea launches its first missile-capable submarine

- **South Korea launched its first ever missile-capable attack submarine** despite a recent diplomatic thaw with the nuclear-armed North.
- The \$700 million, 3,000-tonne Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine is capable of firing both cruise and ballistic missiles and the first of three planned diesel-electric boats to go into service in the next five years.

Park Geun-hye was the first woman to be President of South Korea and also the first female president popularly elected as head of state in East Asia. She served as the 18th President of South Korea from 2013 to 2017. Moon Jae-in is serving as the 19th and current President of South Korea since 2017. Seoul is the capital and largest metropolis of South Korea. South Korean won is the currency of South Korea.



## 4th Eastern Economic Forum opens in Russia's Vladivostok

- World leaders and business tycoons gathered in Russia's Far Eastern port city of Vladivostok to discuss cooperation at the fourth Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).
- The three-day forum under the theme of "The Far East: Expanding the Range of Possibilities" has attracted thousands of attendees from more than 60 countries.

Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year since 2015 in September, at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East. The Russian president and the Japanese premier have attended this forum since its beginning.

## Moutaz Mousa Abdallah becomes Sudan's new PM

- Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become the Sudan's new Prime Minister. A 21-member cabinet was sworn in at the presidential palace in Khartoum.
- Mousa Abdallah is also holding the finance portfolio in a bid to revive the country's ailing economy.

## Bhutan PM's party ousted in election

- In a major upset verdict in the first round of polls in Bhutan, incumbent Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's People's Democratic Party (PDP) has been ousted from the race, and will not run in the second and final round next month.
- Instead, the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) headed by Dr. Lotay Tshering, and the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) will face off on October 18th. The DNT won the highest number of votes.

Bhutan is a landlocked country in South Asia. Thimphu is its capital and largest city, while Phuntsholing is its financial center. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is the current reigning Druk Gyalpo or "Dragon King" of the Kingdom of Bhutan. DASHO Tshering Wangchuk is a Bhutanese jurist currently serving as the Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bhutan, following its dissolution in preparation for National Assembly elections. Bhutan is the first country in the world to come up with a happiness index and linked it to development, which is otherwise based on GDP numbers. The ngultrum is the currency of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

## Inaugural Edition of Bimstec Milex-18 Culminates at Pune

- The Inaugural Edition of the BIMSTEC Nations Military Field Training Exercise i.e. MILEX - 2018 culminated on 16 September 18 after a Validation Exercise and an impressive Closing Ceremony held at Foreign Training Node, Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- Dr Subash Bhambre, Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri was the Chief Guest for the Ceremony. The entire exercise was monitored and controlled through the Joint Command Post established with representatives of the participating contingents. The Exercise demonstrated the commitment and capabilities of the participating BIMSTEC National armies in working closely with each other to eradicate the menace of terrorism existing in different forms.

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. BIMSTEC permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Scotland Yard's first Indian-origin counter-terror chief wins award in UK

- Scotland Yard's first Indian-origin counter-terrorism chief has won the Asian Achievers' Award in the Uniformed and Civil Services category for his contribution to policing in the UK.

- Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, who is the Metropolitan Police's National Lead for Counter Terrorism and the Head of the Met Police's Specialist Operations, received the award at the 18th annual awards event, organised by UK-based media house Asian Business Publications Limited (ABPL) Group.

### Bangladesh Cabinet clears deal with India for port usage

- Bangladesh's Cabinet has approved a draft agreement with India to enable New Delhi to use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from northeast India.
- The Port of Chittagong is the busiest seaport on the coastline of the Bay of Bengal.

### Nepal, China begin joint military exercises

- Days after pulling out of the first Bimstec joint military exercise in India at the last minute, the Nepal Army began its second wargame with the Chinese military at Chengdu. The "Sagarmatha Friendship-2" military exercise in China's Sichuan province will last 10 days.
- Both sides Nepal and China have fielded a platoon for the drill that will focus on counter-terrorism and disaster management.

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.

### Over 28% of Japanese population officially old

- More than 28% of Japan's population is now officially classified as elderly according to government data, the highest rate in the world as the first wave of postwar baby boomers enter old age.
- Those aged 65 or older now make up a record 35.6 million, or 28.1% of the total population. The proportion is the highest in the world.
- The proportion is the highest by far in the world, ahead of 23.3 per cent in Italy, 21.9 per cent in Portugal and 21.7 per cent in Germany, according to UN data for those countries.

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

### North Korea agrees to dismantle main nuclear site

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has agreed to permanently dismantle his main nuclear complex at Yongbyon if the United States takes corresponding measures.
- This was stated by South Korean President Moon Jae-in after the two leaders held summit talks in Pyongyang to try to sustain nuclear diplomacy with Washington.

North Korea, officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a country in East Asia constituting the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang is the capital and largest city. Kim Jong-un is serving as Supreme Leader of North Korea since 2011 and Leader of the Workers' Party of Korea since 2012. Korean People's won is the official currency of North Korea.

### Nepal scraps \$1.5-billion dam project with China

- The Nepal government announced it has scrapped an agreement with China Three Georges Corporation for building the \$1.5-billion West Seti hydropower project.

- The **proposed 750-MW project in western Nepal** was considered one of the major Chinese ventures in Nepal, which has **signed up for the Belt and Road Initiative**. The two sides signed a **memorandum of understanding for the project in 2012**.
- The move came 10 months after **Nepal scrapped the award of the 1,200-MW Budhi Gandaki hydropower project to China's state-owned Gezhouba Group**.

**Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Nepal. He was the first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal. Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia located in the Himalaya. Nepalese rupee is the official currency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.**

### Nepal celebrates its Constitution Day

- **Nepal is celebrated its Constitution Day which is also known as the National Day on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.**
- **The new constitution of Nepal was promulgated on this day in 2015. The main function was held at Nepal Army Pavilion in Kathmandu, which was attended by the President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, Chief Justice, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the National Assembly, ministers, government officials, security chiefs and heads of diplomatic missions.**

**Constitution of Nepal is the present governing Constitution of Nepal. Nepal is governed according to the Constitution which came into effect on September 20, 2015, replacing the Interim Constitution of 2007. The constitution of Nepal is divided into 35 parts, 308 Articles and 9 Schedules. Its institutions were put in place in 2017 and 2018 through a series of direct and indirect elections in all governing levels.**

### 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism

- **The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) organized the 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism: A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, jointly with the Seoul Metropolitan Government and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, the Korea Tourism Organization and the Seoul Tourism Organization.**

**World Tourism Organization (WTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. Its headquarters are located in Madrid, Spain. WTO was established in 1975.**

### Shinzo Abe wins party vote, on track to becoming Japan's longest-serving premier

- **Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won comfortable re-election as leader of his ruling party setting him on course to become Japan's longest-serving premier.**
- **Abe secured 553 votes against 254 won by former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba.**
- **The win effectively hands Abe three more years as PM, giving him the chance of breaking the record for the nation's longest serving premiership held by Taro Katsura, a revered politician who served three times between 1901 and 1913.**

**At the age of 52, Shinzo Abe became Japan's youngest post-war Prime Minister and the first to have been born after World War II. National Diet is Japan's bicameral legislature.**

### India to prepare project report for Sri Lanka's Palaly airport

- **State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) will prepare a detailed project report for development of Palaly airport in Sri Lanka. This would be the first project for the AAI in the island nation.**
- **The AAI has signed an agreement with External Affairs Ministry for "preparation of a Detailed Project Report for development of Palaly airport in Sri Lanka". Palaly airport is in northern Sri Lanka.**

Airports Authority of India or AAI under the Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

## Nepal to be world's first country to double its tiger population

- Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population.
- On the occasion of National Conservation Day, Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.

## Pakistan invites Saudi Arabia to be third partner in CPEC

- Saudi Arabia will be the third “strategic partner” of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The CPEC is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping, aimed at enhancing Beijing’s influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects.

China–Pakistan Economic Corridor is a collection of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan. Originally valued at \$46 billion, the value of CPEC projects is now worth \$62 billion. On 13 November 2016, CPEC became partly operational when Chinese cargo was transported overland to Gwadar Port for onward maritime shipment to Africa and West Asia while some major power projects were commissioned by late 2017.

## Maldives set to vote in crucial election

- Around 2, 60,000 Maldivians will cast their vote in the nation’s third-ever multi-party presidential election since 2008.
- The election has come under focus amid fears of possible poll rigging and violence.

Maldives is a South Asian country, 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. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the President-elect of the Maldives, due to take office on 17 November 2018, after having defeated incumbent Abdulla Yameen in the 2018 presidential election.

## 3rd edition of MahaBiz 2018 to be held in Dubai on 12th, 13th October

- The 3rd edition of acclaimed International Business Conference ‘MahaBiz 2018’ will be held in Dubai on 12th and 13th October 2018.
- MahaBiz is considered a bridge for business opportunities between Maharashtra state and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- GCC is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries. It includes Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.
- MahaBiz 2018 proposes to bring together businesses, investors and key government decision makers on a common platform to share and discuss various opportunities in over 10 different industry sectors.

## UN chief Antonio Guterres to visit India in October

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will arrive in New Delhi on October 1. His trip coincides with the commencement of events marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- He will meet President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3.



**United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5) are China (formerly the Republic of China), Russia (formerly the Soviet Union), France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.

### Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins presidential election

- **Maldives opposition legislator Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** won the country's bitterly fought presidential election with 58.3 per cent of the popular vote.
- Results released by the Elections Commission showed Mr Solih securing 133,808 votes compared to the 95,526 for incumbent Abdulla Yameen. The voter turnout was over 88 per cent out of the 262,000-strong electorate.
- There were no other candidates at election, which was held with all key dissidents either in jail or exile.

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### First Women Foreign Ministers meet held in Montreal

- **Women Foreign Ministers meeting for the first summit of its kind** vowed to bring a 'women's perspective' to foreign policy held in Montreal.
- The two-day meeting, which began in Montreal and brought together more than half of the world's top women diplomats, focussed on topics such as conflict prevention, democratic growth and eliminating gender-based violence.
- The meeting is being co-chaired by Canada's top diplomat, Chrystia Freeland, and the foreign affairs representative of the EU, Federica Mogherini.

### In a first, Hong Kong bans pro-independence political party

- In an unprecedented move, **Hong Kong has banned a pro-independence political party 'Hong Kong National Party (HKNP)'**, causing outcry among critics who see the measure as another sign of the China's tightening grip over the city.
- **It is the first time since Hong Kong was handed back to China by Britain** that a political party has been banned.
- Under the terms of the handover, semi-autonomous Hong Kong is meant to enjoy freedoms unseen on the mainland, including freedom of expression, association, and elections.

**Hong Kong** officially the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China is a specially administered territory on the eastern side of the Pearl River estuary in southern China. Hong Kong is the fourth-most densely populated region in the world. Hong Kong was formerly a colony of the British Empire, after Qing China ceded Hong Kong Island at the conclusion of the First Opium War in 1842. Carrie Lam is the 4th and current Chief Executive of Hong Kong. She is the first female Chief Executive of Hong Kong. Hong Kong dollar is the official currency of Hong Kong. The Chief Executive is the head of government and serves for a five-year term, renewable once.



## Statue of Nelson Mandela unveiled at United Nations

- A statue of Nelson Mandela has been unveiled at the United Nations to honour the late South African leader's birth.
- This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth, and the United Nations is declared 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the dedication that Mandela embodied the highest values of the United Nations peace, forgiveness, compassion and human dignity.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. Among his awards were the Nobel Peace Prize, the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Soviet Union's Lenin Peace Prize and the Libyan Al-Gaddafi International Prize for Human Rights. In 1990, India awarded him the Bharat Ratna, and in 1992 Pakistan gave him their Nishan-e-Pakistan. In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed Mandela's birthday, 18 July, as "Mandela Day", marking his contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle.

## UAE to host Interfaith Alliance Forum in November

- The UAE will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in the nation's capital, Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th November.
- The forum aims to address and discuss social challenges and to strengthen efforts by religious leaders to formulate cohesive ideas that enhance the protection of the young individuals from extortion and crime via the internet.

Abu Dhabi is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates.

## New Zealand PM brings 3-month-old daughter to UN assembly

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, is only the second world leader to ever give birth while in the office. The first was the late Benazir Bhutto, who was prime minister of Pakistan when her daughter was born in 1990. Ms Ardern is the first female world leader to bring an infant to the meeting.

## India only SAARC country to have a quit-line number for tobacco users

- India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products.
- The Union Health Ministry has already made 85% pictorial health warning mandatory on both sides of packets containing cigarettes, bidis, and chewing tobacco. The quit-line number will be printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018.
- India is the fourth country in Asia after Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to have this government helpline for those looking at quitting tobacco.

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.

## Swedish Parliament ousts Prime Minister in vote of no-confidence

- Sweden's centre-right **Opposition** and the far right ousted **Prime Minister Stefan Lofven** in a vote of **no-confidence**, as the left and right blocs wrangle over who can form a new government after neither won a majority in September 9 elections.
- Mr. Lofven's departure was widely anticipated. The **head of the Opposition four-party Alliance**, **Ulf Kristersson** insisted that he **intends to try to form a government**.

Sweden is a **Scandinavian country in Northern Europe**. **Stockholm** is the **capital of Sweden** and the **most populous city in the Nordic countries**. The **Riksdag** is the **national legislature** and the **supreme decision-making body of Sweden**. The **krona** has been the **currency of Sweden since 1873**. **Carl XVI Gustaf** is the **King of Sweden**.

## Famous 'Indra Jatra' festival being celebrated in Kathmandu

- In **Nepal**, the famous **Indra Jatra festival** is being celebrated in **Kathmandu** with gaiety and religious fervor. The **eight day long annual festival** is observed to worship **Indra**, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- It also marks **end of monsoon and beginning of harvest season and festivity**. The **chariot procession and mask dances** are the main attraction of **Indra Jatra**.

## China's new multi-role combat aircraft makes debut flight

- China's **indigenously-built new multi-role combat aircraft** for exports has made its debut flight.
- The **FTC-2000G**, a new **multirole combat aircraft developed for export by the State-owned Aviation Industry Corp of China**, (**AVIC**) made its debut flight in the southwest **Guizhou province**.

## Maldives poll body officially declares Solih President-elect

- The **Elections Commission of Maldives** officially named **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih President-elect** after he dislodged **incumbent President Abdulla Yameen** in a crucial election that saw a near-90% voter turnout.
- The **Commission declaring Mr. Solih winner** brought relief to **Opposition members** who feared **Mr. Yameen** might attempt tampering with the official results.

## Canada's parliament unanimously voted to strip Myanmar's leader of her honorary citizenship

- Canada's parliament has **voted unanimously to effectively strip Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi** of her **honorary Canadian citizenship** over the **Rohingya crisis**. **Ottawa** had given the long-detained democracy advocate and **Nobel laureate** the rare honour in **2007**.
- But her **international reputation** has become tarnished by her refusal to call out the atrocities by her nation's military against the **Rohingya minority**, which **Ottawa** declared genocide. **Adam Austen**, spokesman for **Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland**, said the **House of Commons of Canada** unanimously passed a motion to remove this status.

**Aung San Suu Kyi** is a **Myanmar politician, diplomat, author, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1991)**. She is the **leader of the National League for Democracy** and the **first and incumbent State Counsellor**, a position akin to a **prime minister**. She is also the **first woman to serve as Minister for Foreign Affairs**, for the **President's Office**.

## ECONOMY AND FINANCE



### Economy News

#### Launch of National Mission on GeM

- **National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM) launched** on 5th September 2018 to accelerate the adoption and use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments and their agencies.
- The aim of the National Mission is to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement and achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction. This will increase overall efficiency and lead to cost saving on government expenditure in procurement.
- During the 6 weeks' special drive beginning from 6th September up to 15th October 2018, the mission will be launched at state headquarters by Chief Ministers and will cover important sectors and flagship programmes, launch of IEC campaign along with training on usage of GeM for buyers and sellers, buyer registration drive to on board government agencies and vendor registration drive with special focus on MSMEs.

#### ADB, India sign \$346 Million loan to improve state highways in Karnataka

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$346 million loan to finance improvement of over 400 kilometers (km) of Karnataka State Highways Improvement III Project (KSHIP-III) that will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.
- This KSHIP-III project will upgrade about 419 km of state highways to two and four lanes with paved shoulders, and will reconstruct, widen, and strengthen culverts and bridges.

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

#### USIBC held its first India Idea Summit in Mumbai

- The US-India Business Council (USIBC), a top American business advocacy group, to showcase the positive impact of the US-India relationship and focus on future opportunities for companies in the two nations.
- The summit is held on the eve of the maiden 2+2 India-US dialogue in New Delhi on September 6.
- This is for the first time that US India Business Council (USIBC) is held its annual general body meeting in India.

U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows. The organization serves as a direct link between business and Government leaders, resulting in increased trade and investment to

strengthen ties between the two nations. **USIBC is headquartered in Washington, D.C., USA. President Nisha Biswal currently serves as the current chairman of USIBC.**

### Paytm Money unveils app

- **Paytm Money Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited, introduced a dedicated app on Google's Android platform and Apple's mobile operating system iOS with the aim of doubling the mutual fund investor base in India to 50 million in the next five years.**

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

### India ranks 19 in 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons usable nuclear materials

- **India has improved its ranking by one spot from 2016 and now stands 19th in the 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons usable nuclear materials, according to the Nuclear Security Index.**
- **The index was released by the US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), which is co-chaired by Sam Nunn and Ernest Moni.**
- **The biennial NTI index finds that despite these growing risks, progress to secure, minimise and eliminate the world's deadliest materials as well as to ensure the security of nuclear facilities has accelerated since 2016.**

**Australia, which was at the top in 2012, 2014, and 2016 among the 22 countries with weapons-usable nuclear materials, this time, shares the top spot with Switzerland. Pakistan ranks 20th in the Theft Ranking for countries with weapons usable nuclear materials.**

### Monetary limit for filing cases in DRT doubled to Rs 20 lakh

- **The Union government doubled the monetary limit to 20 lakh rupees for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions to help reduce pendency of such cases. There are 39 DRTs in the country.**
- **To make the tribunals more effective and to facilitate fast disposal of debt recovery cases, the government has made several amendments in different laws, including the SARFAESI Act.**
- **As a result, any bank or financial institution or a consortium of banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if the amount due is less than Rs. 20 lakh.**

**Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) is an Indian law. It allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties to recover loans. The first asset reconstruction company of India, ARCIL, was set up under this act.**

### 'Source India' at 87th Izmir International tradeshow in Turkey

- **India is the Partner Country in the 87th Izmir International tradeshow which begins in Turkey.**
- **In this tradeshow India launched a mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies with the aim of tie-ups in order to increase India's exports to Turkey and other neighbouring countries.**
- **This is part of a series of Source India pavilions that the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is hosted in important tradeshow across the world for boosting India's exports.**

**Turkey's ceramic imports from the world is USD 339.8 million and only USD 16.6 million from India and India exports more than USD 1.2 billion worth of ceramic products to the world. India exports cereals worth USD 91.6 million to Turkey compared to Turkey's import of USD 1.7 billion worth of cereals from the world.**



## Facebook to build \$1 bn Singapore data centre, first in Asia

- Facebook will invest over \$1 billion to build a data centre in Singapore, its first in Asia, powered by renewable energy and adapted to the city-state's tropical climate.
- The centre is expected to be operational around 2022, and will host Facebook servers and centralise its IT operations.

Facebook is an American online social media and social networking service company based in Menlo Park, California. Its website was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg along with Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes.

## Sebi panel eases deal for FPIs, allows NRIs to hold 25% in offshore funds

- A Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)-appointed experts group made a slew of recommendations which are likely to soothe the nerve of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).
- The HR Khan-led committee on easing access norms for overseas investors has recommended significant relaxations and the committee has proposed allowing non-resident Indians (NRIs) to hold a non-controlling stake in foreign funds. Addressing another the key concern of the NRIs, the committee has said a single NRI could own up to 25 per cent and NRIs put together can own up to 50 per cent in a foreign fund.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Shri Ajay Tyagi is the current chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

## Bimal Jalan heads panel to select next chief economic adviser

- The government has appointed a panel under former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan to select the next chief economic adviser in the finance ministry, two months after it sought applications for the post after Arvind Subramanian resigned from office.
- Arvind Subramanian resigned from his post before his tenure ends in May 2019 citing personal reasons. He has since joined as a visiting professor at Harvard University. The maximum age limit for the position has been fixed at 56 years.

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) is the economic advisor to the Government of India. The CEA is the ex-officio cadre controlling authority of the Indian Economic Service. The CEA is under the direct charge of the Minister of Finance. JJ Anjaria is the first Chief Economic Adviser of India, After Raghuram Rajan demitted the office of CEA in September 2013 to become the governor of the Reserve Bank of India, UPA government did not appoint a CEA for the rest of its term. The post remained vacant for more than a year, until Arvind Subramanian took charge on 16 October 2014 after the National Democratic Alliance came to power.

## First ever awards to secondary Steel Sector

- For the first time, the Ministry of Steel will be giving away awards to the secondary steel sector on 13th September 2018 at a function in New Delhi.
- The awards have been instituted in order to encourage the secondary steel sector as it plays a key role as a growth engine for the national economy and employment generation.
- The secondary steel sector comprises various sub-sectors such as sponge iron units, EAFs, IF units, re-rolling mills, cold rolling mills, galvanizing units, wire drawing units, and tinplate producers with annual production capacity of less than 1 million tonne and they meet the country's demand for value added steel products.



World crude steel production in 2017 registered a growth rate of about 5.3% as compared to the previous year. The global production in 2017 stands at 1691.2 million tonnes. With about 6% share in the total world crude steel production, India occupies the third position behind China and Japan. The steel industry in India contributes nearly 2 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

### Mumbai tops list of most expensive cities to build a home in India

- Cost of construction for a residential apartment in a mid-rise building in the Mumbai city is the highest among the top urban centres in the country at Rs 3,125 per sq ft,
- Delhi and Pune came a close second in average cost of construction at Rs 2,750 per sq ft, followed by Chennai and Bengaluru at Rs 2,500 sq ft, and Hyderabad at Rs 2,375 sq ft, property consultancy CBRE said in its report. Among the six leading cities in India, Mumbai remains the most expensive

### Hyderabad Airport gets ACI ASQ World No 1 trophy for 2nd consecutive year

- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has received the Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award trophy in the 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category for the second consecutive year.
- The airport was adjudged World no 1 Airport in its category in 2016 as well.

### India ranks 130 in UN's human development index

- India climbed one spot to 130 among 189 countries in the latest human development index released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- Within South Asia, India's human development index (HDI) value is above the average of 0.638 for the region, with Bangladesh and Pakistan, countries with similar population size, being ranked 136 and 150 respectively. In 2016, India's HDI value of 0.624 put it at 131 rank.
- The HDI is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living.

Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany led the ranking, while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI's measurement of national achievements in health, education and income.

### India ranks 3rd globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses

- India ranks third globally in terms of number of family owned businesses with 111 companies of USD 839 billion total market capitalisation, followed closely after China with 159 firms and the United States with 121 firms, says a report.
- According to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' report, published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI), in terms of number of family owned businesses, within the non-Japan Asian region, China, India and Hong Kong dominate the list.

### Andhra Pradesh launches e-Rythu to promote cashless payments in its agricultural ecosystem

- E-Rythu makes payments safer and simpler for all stakeholders—farmer, buyer, and the agent—in the agricultural supply chain.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh launched e-Rythu, a mobile platform that digitises agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and provides farmers an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products via their feature phones.

- The platform has been developed by Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi, Kenya and customised for India by the Labs team based at Pune.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to be formed under the State reorganisation act in 1956 and first state to be created based on the language in India. On 2 June 2014, the north-western portion of Andhra Pradesh was separated to form the new state of Telangana. The longtime capital of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, was transferred to Telangana as part of the division. Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Andhra Pradesh. Nara Chandrababu Naidu is the current and first chief minister of the state since it was divided from Telangana.

### Uttarakhand ranked best among states in PMGSY

- Uttarakhand has been ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018.
- The state constructed a maximum of 1,839 kilometre roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana against a target of 1,500 km set for the year 2017-18.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a nationwide plan in India to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme was introduced in 2000 by the then-prime minister of India Atal Behari Vajpayee. The PMGSY is under the authority of the Ministry of Rural Development.

### India brought 271 million out of poverty between 2005-16, similar to China: UNDP-Oxford report

- In India, more than 271 million people moved out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16, said the estimates released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- India has made giant strides in reducing multidimensional poverty, bringing down its poverty rate from 55 per cent to 28 per cent in ten years, one of the key findings of the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has revealed.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nations' global development network. Headquartered in New York City, UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries.

### India ranks 158th among 195 countries in health care investment

- India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and healthcare, a survey of 195 countries has revealed. It ranks below countries like Sudan, Azerbaijan, China and Bosnia Herzegovina. According to the survey, Finland tops the list of 195 countries in the two key sectors.
- The nation is placed behind Sudan (ranked 157th) and ahead of Namibia (ranked 159th) in the list. The U.S. is ranked 27th, while Pakistan is at 164th.
- A study by Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation published in The Lancet says that India's ranking of 158th in 2016 represents an improvement from its 1990 ranking of 162nd.

The rankings are based on four key parameters: life expectancy, years of schooling, learning and functional health. Each of these parameters is based on different indices.

## India to be 100 billion FDI destination by 2022: PHD Chamber

- India is approaching towards USD 100 billion FDI inflow per annum by 2022 as volumes of foreign direct investment are increasing year after year.
- The annual FDI inflows in the country increased from USD 36 billion in 2013-14 to USD 62 billion in 2017-18. Make in India has been instrumental during the last four years to attract FDI reforms in the country.

The Make in India initiative was launched by Prime Minister in September 2014 as part of a wider set of nation-building initiatives. Devised to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub, Make in India was a timely response to a critical situation: by 2013, the much-hyped emerging markets bubble had burst, and India's growth rate had fallen to its lowest level in a decade.

## Agmark online system is being implemented across the country to conduct quality control functions

- Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh launched the online software for Agmark.
- The application processes related to Agmark certification are being done online by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI). Through the Agmark online system, certificate of authorisation (domestic), permission of printing press, permission of laboratories (domestic) and services related to laboratory information management system will be provided online.

AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency of the Government of India. AGMARK Head Office at Faridabad, Haryana is legally enforced in India by the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 (and amended in 1986).

## Finance Ministry launches Jan Dhan Darshak as a Part of Financial Inclusion

- Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application Jan Dhan Darshak as a Part of Financial Inclusion.
- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed the app Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion initiative.
- Jan Dhan Darshak app will be in a unique position to provide a citizen-centric platform for locating financial service touch points across all providers such as banks and post office.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is financial inclusion program of Government of India that aims to expand and make affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions. This financial inclusion campaign was launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014. Run by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, under this scheme 1.5 Crore (15 million) bank accounts were opened on inauguration day. The Guinness Book of World Records recognised this achievement.

## Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna Rolled Out

- The ESI Corporation has approved a Scheme named "ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA" for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement. Detailed instructions including eligibility conditions, application format, etc. will be issued separately.
- ESI Corporation has approved the proposal for reimbursement of Rs. 10/- per person to the employers to encourage the seeding of Aadhar (UID) in ESIC database of their workers and their family members.

- It will curtail the multiple registrations of same Insured Persons and thus enable them to avail the benefits requiring longer contributory conditions.

### GDP growth will lie in the range of 6.5-7.5% in 2018-19,” CII’s Business Confidence Index (CII-BCI) report

- About 64% of respondents feel that the GDP growth in 2018-19 will be between 6.5%-7.5% while 60% expect inflation to remain 4-5% during the year, according to a CII Business Confidence Index (BCI) of about 200 companies.
- The overall index reading—a composite of two sub-indices, the Current Situation Index and the Expectation Index—improved significantly to stand at 64.9, its highest level so far.

### New telecom policy aims to provide broadband access to all citizens by 2022

- The Union Cabinet approved the new telecom policy that aims to provide broadband access to every citizen at 50 Mbps speed by the year 2022.
- The National Digital Communications Policy 2018, which envisions attracting \$100 billion investments into the country’s digital communications sector, aims at creating at least 40 lakh new jobs in the sector in the next four years.

### SEBI approves new KYC norms for FPIs

- SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the board has approved new KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors.
- The watchdog has approved a proposal to allow foreign investors to trade in commodity derivatives market, except for sensitive commodities, as well as common application form for the registration of FPIs in the domestic markets.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Shri Ajay Tyagi is the current chairman of SEBI.

### PM Modi launched second phase of FAME India scheme on September 7

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of the FAME India scheme in New Delhi on September 7 at India's First Global Mobility Summit 'MOVE'.
- The prime minister launched FAME II offering incentives for mass adoption of electric vehicles with an outlay of Rs 5,500 crore on September 7.

FAME India - Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles in India - is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. To promote eco-friendly vehicles, the government formally launched the FAME India scheme offering incentives on electric and hybrid vehicles of up to Rs 29,000 for bikes and Rs 1.38 lakh for cars.

### BSE can now launch gold, silver futures

- BSE has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch delivery-based futures contract in gold (1 kg) and silver (30 kg).
- Trading in these contracts will be launched on October 1. Delivery centre of gold and silver futures contract will be exchange designated vaults at Ahmedabad initially.

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.



## Cabinet approves 100% govt stake in GST Network

- The Union Cabinet approved increasing the government's ownership in the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to 100% from the existing 49% and also changes the existing structure in line with a transition plan.
- "The Union Cabinet approved acquisition of the entire 51% equity held by the non-government institutions in GSTN equally by the Centre and the State governments".

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

## India ranks 96th on Economic Freedom Index; HK, Singapore retain top spot

- India's rank improved by a couple of notches, but it was still placed 96th among 162 countries in this year's report on Economic Freedom in the World, released by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute. Last year, India's rank was 98.
- India improved its score on parameters such as legal system and property rights, access to sound money, freedom to trade internationally and regulation of credit, labour and business. However, its score declined in size of the government.
- In overall ranking, India was evenly placed among BRICS nations. While Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th, China and Brazil are behind at 108th and 144th positions. The 2018 report is based on data from 2016.

Hong Kong and Singapore again topped the index, continuing their streak as the first and the second country, respectively. New Zealand, Switzerland, Ireland, the US, Georgia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada (tied for 10th) were among the top 10. Venezuela, Iran and Zimbabwe are placed at the bottom of the index.

## Argentina gets biggest loan in IMF's history at \$57bn

- Argentina has received the biggest loan package ever from the International Monetary Fund, aimed at shoring up the country's ailing finances: a whopping \$57.1bn that will be disbursed over the next three years.
- The loan – \$15bn of which has already been received by Argentina – comes with stringent conditions, including a commitment to a zero deficit for 2019.
- Argentina had initially secured \$50bn in a deal worked out in June after the South American country was battered by a currency crisis, a run on the peso and double-digit inflation.

The IMF, also known as the Fund, was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, in July 1944. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., of ". At present, 189 countries are the member countries in IMF. The current Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund is noted French lawyer and former politician, Christine Lagarde, who has held the post since 5 July 2011.

## Banks in News

### HDFC Bank plans to adopt 30 villages in flood-hit Kerala

- **HDFC Bank** has announced that it will adopt 30 villages in flood-hit Kerala as part of its long-term relief and rehabilitation efforts. This initiative is aimed at helping people in the worst-hit parts of the State recover.
- Additionally, the bank has contributed Rs.10 crore to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) as an immediate relief measure. Employees contributed a day's salary with the bank bringing in the balance.

**HDFC Bank Limited** is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. **HDFC Bank** is India's largest private sector lender by assets. In 1994 **HDFC Bank** was incorporated, with its registered office in Mumbai, India. **Aditya Puri** is the current Managing Director of **HDFC Bank**.

### IBA elects PNB's Sunil Mehta as chairman

- The **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** has elected **Punjab National Bank's** managing director and chief executive, **Sunil Mehta**, as the new chairman for 2018-19.
- The managing committee of the banking lobby has also elected **Bank of India's** managing director and chief executive, **Dina Bandhu Mohapatra**, as the deputy chairman, an official release said.
- **State Bank of India's** chairman, **Rajnish Kumar**, and **Federal Bank's** managing director, **Shyam Srinivasan**, will continue as deputy chairmen of **IBA**, it added. **Madhav Nair**, country head and chief executive, **Mashreqbank PSC**, has been elected as the **Honorary Secretary** of the association for 2018-19, the **IBA** said.

**Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**, formed on 26 September 1946 as a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai. With an initial membership representing 22 banks in India in 1946, **IBA** currently represents 237 banking companies operating in India. **Indian Banks' Association** is managed by a managing committee, and the current managing committee consists of one chairman, 3 deputy chairmen, 1 honorary secretary and 26 members.

### RBI cancels the licence of Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhilwara, Rajasthan

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of **Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhilwara, Rajasthan** to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on August 31, 2018. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Rajasthan has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- The Reserve Bank cancelled the licence of the bank as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** at **Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi**. The function was witnessed at over 3000 locations across the country, which was connected to the main event in Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that **through the India Post Payments Bank, banking services will conveniently reach the remotest places in the country**, and the people living there. He recalled that the Union Government had earlier rolled out the **Jan Dhan Yojana** to establish financial inclusion. He said that launch of **IPPB** is one more step to achieve this objective. He said **IPPB** branches have opened across 650 districts.

- **India Post started its long-awaited payments bank by launching 650 branches across the country, making it the fourth such entity to start operations;** three years after the Reserve Bank of India gave its in-principle approval for the new kind of banks.

**Payments banks are a new model of banks conceptualised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These banks can accept a restricted deposit, which is currently limited to Rs.1 lakh per customer and may be increased further. These banks cannot issue loans and credit cards. Both current account and savings accounts can be operated by such banks. Payments banks can issue services like ATM cards, debit cards, net-banking and mobile-banking. Bharti Airtel set up India's first live payments bank.**

### Reserve Bank tightens ombudsman scheme

- The **Reserve Bank of India has tightened the banking ombudsman scheme** with the objective to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for customers.
- The **banking regulator has asked all commercial banks having 10 or more banking outlets to have an independent internal ombudsman (IO) to review customer complaints** that are either partly or fully rejected by the banks. The instructions are not applicable for Regional Rural Banks sponsored by commercial banks.

**The Banking Ombudsman Scheme is introduced under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 by RBI with effect from 1995. Presently the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006 (As amended upto July 1, 2017) is in operation. The Banking Ombudsman is a senior official appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to redress customer complaints against deficiency in certain banking services covered under the grounds of complaint specified under Clause 8 of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006 (As amended upto July 1, 2017). All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.**

### Karur Vysya Bank rolls out tab-based loan processing system

- **Karur Vysya Bank Ltd (KVB) has rolled out KVB Next, a tab-based digital initiative, intended to help eligible retail and business customers get in-principle sanctions for loans within 15 minutes.**
- **Business customers can enter the details through a self-service web portal to complete the loan application process.**

**Karur Vysya Bank (Tamil) is an Indian old private-sector bank, headquartered in Karur in Tamil Nadu. It was set up in 1916 by M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar and Athi Krishna Chettiar. Shri P R Seshadri is the current Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank.**

### India Post Payments Bank replaces ATM/debit cards with QR cards

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, does away with ATM cards and debit cards for both cash and cashless transactions.**
- **Instead, IPPB will issue new QR (Quick-Response) cards which work on biometric authentication and not on passwords or PINs.**
- **IPPB has already launched its app, which can be used for mobile banking and even for opening an Aadhaar-based account without visiting a post office. However, the mobile app is expected to be fully functional in the next few days.**

**India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was setup under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. IPPB was launched as a pilot project on 30 January 2017 in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh), with the objective of being present across India by the FY 2018-2019. IPPB will expand in phases across India covering all post offices, through a network of 650 IPPB branches/controlling offices, working on a hub and spoke model.**

## HDFC bank most valuable Indian brand, LIC follows

- WPP-owned Kantar Millward Brown unveiled the Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands as part of its annual Brand Z report.
- HDFC Bank is 2018's most valuable Indian brand followed by one of the country's oldest brands, LIC. IT services major TCS took third place.
- The research firm's India listing was launched in 2014 and this year, the company extended the list to include 75 brands versus 50 in 2017. Brand Z also introduced B2B companies in the research for the first time.

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## NABARD approves Rs 65,635 cr loan for 93 irrigation projects

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has approved Rs 65,634.93 crore loan so far to 93 prioritised irrigation projects under the government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), its chairman H K Bhanwala said.
- The Nabard is funding the central and state share of 99 prioritised irrigation projects under the PMKSY through long term irrigation fund (LTIF). It is mandated to provide Rs 70,000 crore loan to these projects to be completed by 2019.

NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of RBI and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC). NABARD is headquartered at Mumbai. The Bank has been entrusted with "matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India".

## Merger of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank & Dena banks proposed

- The Centre proposed the amalgamation of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third-largest bank.
- The decision was taken at the meeting of a ministerial panel, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, which oversees merger proposals of state-owned banks. The other members of the panel include Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- "This major decision was taken by Alternative Mechanism to amalgamate Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

The amalgamation of the three banks would be through share swap which will be the part of scheme of merger. In April 2017, State Bank had merged with itself five of its subsidiary banks and taking over Bharatiya Mahila Bank, catapulting it to be among top 50 global lenders with over USD 550 billion in combined assets. Post-merger of BoB, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, the number of PSU banks will come down to 19.

## Reserve Bank licence for PayU to open NBFC arm

- PayU India has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate its own non-banking financial company, a development that will provide a big boost to the Naspers-owned fintech major in growing its consumer credit business. PayU India managing director Jitendra Gupta will head the new initiative.
- The NBFC, PayU Credit, which will be a subsidiary of PayU, is the latest offering from the company that looks to expand its suite of credit-focused offerings.



A **non-banking financial company (NBFC)** is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, NBFCs are doing functions akin to that of banks, however there are a few differences: **NBFC cannot accept demand deposits** (demand deposits are funds deposited at a depository institution that are payable on demand -- immediately or within a very short period -- like your current or savings accounts.) and **it is not a part of the payment and settlement system and as such cannot issue cheques to its customers.**

### Airtel Payments Bank users can now withdraw card-less cash at ATMs across India

- **Airtel Payment Bank's savings account holders** will now be able to withdraw cash from ATMs with their mobile phones instead of using debit or credit cards.
- **For this Airtel has partnered with Empays** to enable **Instant Money Transfer** for account holders to withdraw cash from over **20,000 IMT enabled ATMs** in India. The IMT service can be accessed by account holders via USSD (\*400#) and MyAirtel app.

**Airtel Payments Bank Limited** is a public limited company. It was the first company in India to receive a payments bank license from the Reserve Bank of India. The license was received on April 11, 2016.

### IRDAI to set timeline for LIC to cut stake in IDBI Bank to 15 per cent

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India** said it will set the timeline to reduce LIC's shareholding in IDBI Bank from 51 per cent to 15 per cent. IRDAI chairman S C Khuntia said this move will take place only after looking at LIC's business plan post-acquisition of 51 per cent in debt-ridden IDBI Bank.
- **LIC holds 7.98 % in IDBI bank** and is in process of increasing its stake to 51 %, which would help it enter the banking space. **Currently, the permissible limit for insurance companies to hold stake in any listed entity is 15 %.**

**Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company headquartered in Mumbai. It is the largest insurance company in India. The Life Insurance Corporation of India was founded in 1956. **IDBI Bank (Industrial Development Bank of India)** was established in 1964 in Mumbai by an Act of Parliament to provide credit and other financial facilities for the development of the fledgling Indian industry. It is owned by the Government of India.

### HDFC Life's Amitabh Chaudhry appointed as CEO&MD of Axis Bank

- **Amitabh Chaudhry** has been appointed managing director and chief executive of Axis Bank for a three-year term. He will take charge on January 1, 2019.
- Chaudhry, 54, will succeed the current MD & CEO Shikha Sharma, whose term ends on December 31. Chaudhry, who's MD & CEO at HDFC Life Insurance, has resigned from the post.

**Axis Bank** is the third largest of the private-sector banks in India offering a comprehensive suite of financial products. The bank has its head office in Mumbai and registered office in Ahmedabad. Shikha Sharma is the current managing director and CEO of Axis Bank.

### RBI imposed Rs 1 crore fine each on UBI, BoI, Maharashtra Bank for delay in fraud detection

- The Reserve Bank has imposed a total penalty of Rs 3 crore on three state-run banks of Union Bank of India, Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra for delay in detection and reporting of fraud in some accounts.
- The central bank in three separate releases said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore each on the three banks of Union Bank of India (UBI), Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra

## ICICI Bank launches overdraft facility for MSMEs based on GST returns

- Micro, small and medium enterprises will now be able to get quick overdraft of up to Rs 1 crore for working capital requirements, based on their goods and services tax (GST) returns.
- ICICI Bank announced the facility known as 'GST Business Loan' and said it would be available to any such business, including non-customers of the bank.

**ICICI Bank, stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India**, it is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. **Chanda Kochhar** is the **current managing director and chief executive officer** of ICICI Bank. Kochhar has been on leave since **June 19 this year**, while an independent investigation by a panel headed by former Supreme Court Judge Justice BN Srikrishna, looks into allegations of corporate misconduct and quid pro quo in giving loans to the Videocon Group.

## YES Bank raises \$400 million for its IFSC unit

- Private lender Yes Bank is in a fund-raising overdrive. It has just mopped up \$400 million through a syndicated loan facility for its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT).
- The 3-year loan facility involves a syndication led by Bayerische Landesbank, Commerzbank, CTBC Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC, Korea Development Bank, State Bank of India, United Overseas Bank and Westpac Banking Corporation, reflecting representation from across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Asia-Pacific.

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.

## Reserve Bank purchased government securities (G-secs) worth Rs 10,000 crore

- The Reserve Bank purchased government securities (G-secs) worth Rs 10,000 crore on September 19, a move aimed at inducing liquidity in the system.
- The purchase of the government securities will be done through Open Market Operations (OMO).
- Based on an assessment of prevailing liquidity conditions and also of the durable liquidity needs going forward, the Reserve Bank has decided to conduct purchase of Government securities under OMO through multi-security auction using the multiple price method".

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on **1 April 1935** in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI was nationalised on **1 January 1949**. The inaugural officeholder was the British banker Osborne Smith, while C. D. Deshmukh was the first Indian governor. The bank's 15th governor, Manmohan Singh, later became India's 13th prime minister. The position is currently held by Urjit Patel, who took over from Raghuram Rajan on 4 September 2016.

## No extension for Rana Kapoor: RBI allows Yes Bank MD, CEO till January-end

- The Reserve Bank has allowed Rana Kapoor to continue as Yes Bank MD and CEO till January 31, 2019.
- In June this year, Yes Bank's shareholders had approved the re-appointment of Rana Kapoor as the chief executive and managing director for three years, subject to final approval from the Reserve Bank of India.
- His present term ended on August 31. However, the RBI had allowed him to continue till further notice.

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.

## Govt appoints MDs, CEOs in 10 nationalised banks; 5 from SBI alone

- **Mrutyunjay Mahapatra and Padmaja Chundru** are among five deputy managing directors in State Bank of India who have been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of Syndicate Bank and Indian Bank respectively.
- **Three other Dy MDs of SBI** Pallav Mohapatra, J Packirisamy and Karnam Shekhar -- have also been appointed as MD and CEO of Central Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Dena Bank, respectively.
- **Mohapatra and Packirisamy's tenure** will last till February 28, 2021. Shekhar will be the MD and CEO of Dena Bank till June 30, 2020.

**Public Sector Banks (PSBs) or Nationalised Banks** in India are banks where a majority stake i.e. more than 51% is held by a government. In 1969 the Indian government nationalised 14 major private banks, one of the big bank was Bank of India. In 1980, 6 more private banks were nationalised. They dominate the banking sector because of their large size and widespread networks.

## India Post Payments Bank formalises agreement with Bajaj Allianz to sell life-insurance

- Recently launched **India Post Payments Bank** signed a five-year Corporate Agency Agreement with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd.** to provide life insurance products to its consumers.
- **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** is a joint venture between **Bajaj Finserv Limited** owned by the Bajaj Group of India and **Allianz SE**, a European financial services company.
- **IPPB** also has a tie-up with **Punjab National Bank** to provide loans to its customers.
- **Payments banks** are a unique model of banking introduced by the RBI in 2015.

**Payments banks** are a new model of banks conceptualised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These banks can accept a restricted deposit, which is currently limited to Rs.1 lakh per customer and may be increased further. These banks cannot issue loans and credit cards. Both current account and savings accounts can be operated by such banks. Payments banks can issue services like ATM cards, debit cards, net-banking and mobile-banking. **Bharti Airtel** set up India's first live payments bank.

## BRICS bank approves USD 525-million loan for infra projects in Madhya Pradesh

- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** of the BRICS countries has approved a **USD 525-million** loan to **Madhya Pradesh** for infrastructure projects.
- The Board of Directors of the **NDB** approved a **USD 350-million** loan for the **Major District Roads Project II** of **Madhya Pradesh** and **USD 175 million** for building and upgrading 350 bridges.

**New Development Bank (NDB)**, formerly referred to as the **BRICS Development Bank**, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. The first regional office of the NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa. **Kundapur Vaman Kamath**, commonly referred to as **K. V. Kamath**, is the chief of the New Development Bank of BRICS countries; he has served as the Chairman of Infosys Limited.

## SBI raises \$650 million via green bond issue

- India's biggest opened dollar-bond sales to raise funds for clean environment projects, offering hope to domestic companies that have held back overseas debt financing because of the extreme volatility in global currency markets.
- **State Bank of India** raised **\$650 million** via green bonds, proceeds of which will be used to fund environment-friendly projects. It received a total subscription of about **\$1.6 billion**.

## RBI to form regulatory sandbox for fintech, set up data science lab

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working on a regulatory sandbox for financial technology and setting up data science labs to keep pace with innovation in the digital lending space.
- It has set up an inter-regulatory working group to study regulatory issues relating to fintech and digital banking in India.
- “A data science lab will be opened in the RBI with a mixed team of engineers, economists and statisticians and they will be going through internal data of each vertical”.

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on 1 April 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI was nationalised on 1 January 1949. Foreign exchange reserves of India are India's holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee. The reserves are managed by the Reserve Bank of India for the Indian government.

## World Bank endorses plan for India to become higher middle-income country

- The World Bank board endorsed an ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India, which aligns with New Delhi's objectives of high, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Aimed at supporting India's transition to a higher middle-income country by addressing some of its key development priorities resource efficient and inclusive growth, job creation and building its human capital the framework is expected to bring between \$25-30 billion in financial support from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Jim Yong Kim has been serving as the 12th President of the World Bank since July 1, 2012. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.

## NABARD to host B2B Grameena Habba in Bengaluru

- To broaden the market for weavers, rural artisans and craftsmen, SHGs, rural entrepreneurs, and farmers' producer organisations, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Karnataka Regional Office has invited wholesalers and online marketing vendors to its Grameena Habba.
- The Habba is being held from September 28 to October 7 at Premachandra Hall in Jayanagar in Bengaluru.

## ADB approves \$500 mn for Tamil Nadu water supply, sewerage, drainage infra

- The board of directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved financing of up to \$500 million for a multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) that will develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in Tamil Nadu.
- The country's first solar-powered sewage treatment plant on a pilot basis will also be part of the programme.
- With almost half of the state population living in cities, Tamil Nadu is the most urbanised of India's large states.

Tamil Nadu has the second-largest contribution to India's economy. The ADB programme will provide direct assistance in these areas as part of its support to the state's Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 to provide universal access to water and sanitation and to develop world-class cities in high-performing industrial corridors.



## RBI eases cash reserve rules to ease liquidity condition of banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** eased mandatory cash requirement rules for banks to provide “**durable liquidity**” to the economy.
- RBI in a statement said **banks could 'carve out' up to 15 per cent of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13 per cent now.**
- **RBI further announced the relaxation in statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirement** with effect from October 1, 2018. This will supplement the ability of individual banks to avail of liquidity from the repo markets.

At the close of every business day, **every bank is required to maintain a minimum portion of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) in the form of gold, cash, or any liquid asset form.** The ratio of these liquid assets to the demand and time liabilities is referred to as the **Statutory Liquidity Ratio.** The Reserve Bank of India has the authority to increase this ratio up to **40%.**

## RBI withdraws permission to open new branches of Bandhan Bank

- **Private-lender Bandhan Bank** said that **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has withdrawn its general permission to **open new branches** and frozen the remuneration of the lender's MD and CEO **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** till further notice as it failed to comply with a licensing condition.
- "RBI has communicated to us that since the **Bank was not able to bring down the shareholding of Non Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) to 40 per cent,** as required under the licensing condition, general permission to open new branches stands withdrawn and the Bank can open branches with prior approval of RBI.

## Fitch places BoB's viability rating on 'rating watch negative'

- **Fitch Ratings** placed **Bank of Baroda's (BoB) viability rating on 'rating watch negative'** following the government announcement to merge it with **Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank.**
- "The **VR (viability rating)** has been placed on **RWN (rating watch negative)** as we believe the **merger could have a potentially negative impact on BoB's financial position,** depending on the extent of deterioration that is visible after the merger in key financial parameters such as asset quality and core capitalisation"

**Fitch Ratings Inc.** is one of the "**Big Three credit rating agencies**" the other two being **Moody's and Standard & Poor's.** It is **one of the three nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSRO)** designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in 1975. **Fitch Ratings is headquartered in New York, US.**

## Firms in News

### Vodafone completes merger with Idea, creates India's largest mobile operator

- The merger of Idea Cellular and Vodafone India has been completed, creating India's biggest telecom service provider with over 408 million subscribers, the two companies said. A new board has been constituted for the merged entity "Vodafone Idea Ltd" with 12 directors (including six independent directors) and Kumar Mangalam Birla as its Chairman. The board has appointed Balesh Sharma as the CEO, the companies said in a joint statement.
- The combination will have all India revenue market share of 32.2 per cent and take the numero uno slot in nine telecom circles; it said adding that both Vodafone and Idea brands will continue. The telecom giant will topple Bharti Airtel from its current pole position, and will have the firepower to take on competition in the Indian telecom market, which has intensified with the aggressive entry of Reliance Jio.

Vodafone Group is a British multinational telecommunications conglomerate, with headquarters in London. Idea Cellular is an Indian mobile network operator based at Mumbai, Maharashtra. On 20 March 2017, Idea and Vodafone India announced that their respective boards had approved a merger of the two companies. The newly merged entity will be named as Vodafone Idea Ltd.

### TCS crosses Rs. 8 lakh cr. in market cap

- IT major Tata Consultancy Services became the second Indian company to attain a market valuation of more than Rs. 8 lakh crore following a surge in its share price.
- TCS is now the most-valued firm in terms of market capitalisation. Earlier, on August 23, Reliance Industries became the first firm to cross the Rs. 8 lakh crore market capitalisation mark.

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.

### Amazon India launches Hindi app, website to address additional 100 mn customers

- As more and more Indians begin shopping online via smartphones in tier II and III cities, Amazon India launched a Hindi version of its mobile website and app for Android devices, aiming to bring the next 100 million customers online.
- At the moment, only the mobile website and app on Android -- not the desktop version -- have Hindi support. This is the first Indian language. This will also help it take on Google, which has been making a host of language-based products under its "Next Billion Users" initiative.

Amazon.com, Inc., doing business as Amazon is an American electronic commerce and cloud computing company based in Seattle, Washington, that was founded by Jeff Bezos on July 5, 1994. The tech giant is the largest Internet retailer in the world as measured by revenue and market capitalization, and second largest after Alibaba Group in terms of total sales. On September 4, 2018, Amazon reached US\$1 trillion in value, becoming the second publicly traded US company to do so after Apple.

### Samsung opens its largest experience store in Bengaluru

- Samsung Electronics opened its world's largest mobile experience centre in Bengaluru. The iconic 'Opera House' will now showcase experiences revolving around Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things.
- "Noida got the world's largest mobile factory and now Bengaluru has got the world's largest mobile experience centre".

Samsung is a South Korean multinational conglomerate headquartered in Samsung Town, Seoul. Samsung was founded by Lee Byung-chul in 1938 as a trading company. Samsung phones founded back in 1969 as Samsung Electric Industries. Samsung Electronics today makes everything from televisions to semiconductors. It released its first Android smartphone in 2009, and can be credited with the launch of the first Android tablet back in 2010.

### Kochi-based company develops India's first underwater robotic drone

- India's first underwater robotic drone developed at Maker Village, Kochi, which can send real-time video of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance.
- The first commercial remotely operated vehicle (ROV)/ underwater drone, Eyerovtuna, was developed by EyeROV Technologies, a company incubating at Maker Village which is the largest hardware incubator in the country.

### LIC launches group insurance scheme for CDSL demat account holders

- Life Insurance Corporation of India has signed an agreement with Central Depository Services (India) to provide group insurance coverage to all eligible demat account holders serviced through depository participants associated with it.
- The facility will be available to demat account holders between the age of 18 years and 59 years. "The group insurance scheme will provide a cover of Rs.1 lakh for every eligible demat account subject to maximum of Rs.5 lakh for any single individual at a very nominal price".

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company headquartered in Mumbai. It is the largest insurance company in India. The Life Insurance Corporation of India was founded in 1956.

### NSE, London Stock Exchange Group ink deal for dual listing of masala, foreign currency bonds

- The country's leading bourse NSE has signed a pact with the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) to work on a dual listing route for masala bonds as well as foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.
- Both also agreed to explore the launch of ELITE -- LSEG's business support and capital raising initiative for small and medium enterprises -- in India in 2019.

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.

### Fitch raises India growth forecast

- Fitch Ratings upped India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8% from 7.4% earlier, but flagged rising oil bill and higher interest rates as key concerns.
- Fitch, in its Global Economic Outlook, said it expects inflation to rise to the upper end of the central bank's target band (4% plus-minus 2%) on relatively high demand-pull pressures and rupee depreciation.

Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the "Big Three credit rating agencies" the other two being Moody's and Standard & Poor's. It is one of the three nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSRO) designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in 1975. Fitch Ratings is headquartered in New York, US.

### Mukesh Ambani tops Barclays list

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, chairman of India's second-most valued firm 'Reliance Industries', has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the seventh consecutive year, with total net worth of Rs. 371,000 crore.
- Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018 — a compilation of the individuals in India having a net worth of Rs. 1,000 crore or more — featured 831 Indians compared to 617 last year.

Mr. Ambani is followed by S.P. Hinduja & family with net worth of Rs. 1, 59,000 crore, and L.N. Mittal & family with net worth of Rs. 1, 14,500 crore.

### BEML launches India's first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck

- BEML has launched an indigenously designed & developed nation's first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck (Model BHQOS-E).
- BH205E is an electric drive rear dump truck for large scale mining operations. Indigenously designed and developed BH205E Dump Truck is powered by Tier II emission compliant Modular Common Rail Electronic Engine with 2300 HP.

Bharat Earth Movers Limited now known as BEML is an Indian public sector undertaking, with headquarters in Bengaluru. It manufactures a variety of heavy equipment, such as that used for earth moving, transport and mining.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



### **ISRO to launch its first fully owned overseas satellite ground station at North Pole**

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** plans to set up its first fully owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole.
- The agency was supposed to establish a second data reception antenna at Antarctica Ground Station for Earth Observation Satellites this year, but will now do it the next year.
- Earlier in 2016, **China launched its first fully owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole.** China has previously built ground satellite facilities in numerous foreign countries, mostly in Africa and South America, which are all joint ventures.
- **Isro has a full-fledged IRS programme with a constellation of earth observation satellites,** with the **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad** responsible for data acquisition and processing, data dissemination, aerial remote sensing and decision support for disaster management.

Presently, the global requirements are met through NRSC's IMGEOS at Shadnagar, which was commissioned in 2011 and AGEOS in Antarctica, which was commissioned in 2013 and partly through SVALBARD ground station.

### **Japan to test mini 'space elevator'**

- A Japanese team has developed a "space elevator" and will conduct a first trial this month, blasting off a miniature version on satellites to test the technology. **It's the world's first experiment to test travel between two mini satellites in space**
- The test equipment, produced by researchers at Shizuoka University, will hitch a ride on an H-2B rocket being launched by Japan's space agency from southern island of Tanegashima next week. The test involves a miniature elevator stand-in — a box just 6 cm long, 3 cm wide, and 3 cm high.

Japanese construction firm Obayashi, which is collaborating with the Shizuoka university project, is also exploring other ways to build its own space elevator to put tourists in space in 2050. The company has said it could use carbon nanotube technology, which is more than 20 times stronger than steel, to build a lift shaft about 96,000 km above the earth.

### **Google launches new Search engine for scientific community**

- **Google launched a new search engine for the scientific community** that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online.
- The service, called Dataset Search, will help scientists, data journalists and geeks find the data required for their work and their stories -- or simply to satisfy their intellectual curiosity. The new search engine will work like Google Scholar, the company's popular search engine for academic studies and reports.

**Google Inc.** is an American multinational technology company that specializes in **Internet-related services and products**, which include online advertising technologies, search engine, cloud computing, software, and hardware. **Google was founded in 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin** while they were Ph.D. students at **Stanford University, California**. It is now headquartered in **California, USA**. **Pichai Sundararajan** is the **current chief executive officer (CEO)** of Google Inc.

### 34% Indians not active enough: WHO

- **Thirty-four per cent of Indians — 24.7% male and 43.9% females — are not active enough to stay healthy**, according to the latest study released by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, which noted that globally more than 1.4 billion adults are at risk of diseases from not doing enough physical activity.
- Worldwide, around one in three women and one in four men do not do enough physical activity to stay healthy.
- “Levels of insufficient physical activity are more than twice as high in high income countries compared with low income countries, and increased by 5% in high income countries between 2001 and 2016”.

**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 current **Director-General of WHO** is **Tedros Adhanom**, who started his five-year term on **1 July 2017**.

### Shripad Naik inaugurates International Ayurveda Congress at Netherlands

- **Union Minister Shripad Naik** inaugurated the **fourth International Ayurveda Congress; IAvC** in the Netherlands aimed at promotion and propagation of Ayurveda.
- After inaugurating the **IAvC at Leiden in the Netherlands**, the **Minister of state for AYUSH** said integration of ayurveda, yoga and other Ayush systems in the delivery of health services is one of the thrust areas of the Indian government. Mr Naik said **insurance coverage** has been extended to **Ayush treatments and 27 companies** are offering **140 health policies** to beneficiaries in India.

### Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates the 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Conference

- The **Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference** on the theme “**Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility**”, at the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi**.
- Speaking on the occasion, the **Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Ashwani Kumar Chaubey** said that due to economic progress in the country, the **elderly population is increasing at great pace which is expected to touch 30 crore by 2050**. Thus we also need to increase the health facilities for them. For this, he said that the Government will establish around **1, 50,000 Wellness Centres and Sub Centres** across the country.

### ‘71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia’

- **Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** addressed at the inauguration of the **‘71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia’** held in **New Delhi**.
- Highlighting the initiatives of the Government, **Shri Nadda** said that **although the WHO has fixed 2030 as the timeline for elimination of Tuberculosis**, our Prime Minister has exhorted us to do it **five years ahead of target in 2025**.
- “Moving toward this objective, we have adopted the **National Health Policy 2017** with the aim to provide **affordable healthcare for all**”.

- **Ministers of Health from the countries of the WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR), Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog, Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health), Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region and Ms Jane Allison, DDG, WHO were also present at the inaugural session.**

**Jagat Prakash Nadda is currently the member of Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh.**

### Haiyang-1C launched by China's Long March 2C

- **China launched its third ocean survey satellite of the Haiyang-1 series, with the launch taking place from the Taiyuan Satellite Launching Center. A Long March-2C (Chang Zheng-2C) rocket was used to loft the new satellite.**
- **Haiyang-1C will be used to monitor and prevent oceanic pollution, resource investigation, construction of bayou and ports, and for the development of coastal areas, using the system to monitor ocean temperatures.**
- **The Haiyang satellite series — named for the Chinese word for “ocean” — is dedicated to maritime surveillance, environmental monitoring, and oceanography.**

**Chinese officials declared the Long March 2C flight a success, marking the country's 24th space launch of 2018, and extending the record for the highest number of Chinese launches in a year.**

### ELI Beamlines, Europe's leading Laser Research Centre, on tie-up with TIFR in Mumbai

- **The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited ELI Beamlines International Laser Research Centre in Prague. He received detailed briefings at this cutting-edge institution, one of the world's centres of laser technology and research.**
- **Coinciding with President Kovind's visit, ELI Beamlines has signed an agreement with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai. Technologists from TIFR also met the President and briefed him on the implications of their work in a variety of fields, including healthcare, energy, and security.**

**ELI Beamlines is part of the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project, a new Research Infrastructure of pan-European interest and part of the European Strategy Forum on Research (ESFRI). ELI will be a multi-sited Research Infrastructure with complementary facilities located in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania for the investigation of light-matter interactions at the highest intensities and shortest time scales. ELI Beamlines is located in Dolni Brezany on the outskirts of Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. ELI Beamlines is managed by the Institute of Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.**

### India's first missile tracking ship is readying for sea trials

- **Ocean surveillance ship, simply referred as VC 11184 will be India's first, a force multiplier and cruise the country into a global elite club. It will be named after its induction into the Indian Navy. For now, it is simply referred as VC 11184.**
- **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials of India's first missile tracking ship by the first week of October.**
- **This will be the first of its kind ocean surveillance ship being built as part of the efforts under the NDA government to strengthen the country's strategic weapons programme.**

**Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is a shipyard located in Visakhapatnam on the east coast of India. It was founded as the Scindia Shipyard. The first ship to be constructed fully in India after independence was built at the Scindia Shipyard and named Jal Usha. It was launched in 1948 by Jawaharlal Nehru by the first Prime Minister of India.**

## World's oldest hashtag unearthed in South Africa

- Archaeologists at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa have unearthed the oldest known abstract pencil drawing by human hand -- which looks like a present day hashtag -- from South Africa and is over 70,000 years old.
- The drawing bears a crosshatched pattern made up of nine fine lines, like a hashtag and was made with a piece of ochre used as a pencil, said an international team led by Luca Pollarolo, research fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- It was discovered on the surface of a small piece of siliceous rock (silcrete), that is 73,000-year-old, while analysing stone tools collected during an excavation in South Africa's Blombos Cave.

## Space laser to get unprecedented view of Earth's ice

- The American space agency is about to put a laser in orbit to measure the condition of Earth's ice cover.
- The satellite mission, called ICESat-2, should provide more precise information on how these frozen surfaces are being affected by global warming. Antarctica, Greenland and the ice floating on the Arctic Ocean have all lost volume in recent decades.
- ICESat-2 will track ongoing change in unprecedented detail from its vantage point some 500km above the planet. A Delta II rocket is booked to take the satellite laser into space.

ICESat-2 (Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite 2), part of NASA's Earth Observing System, is a satellite mission for measuring ice sheet elevation and sea ice thickness, as well as land topography and vegetation characteristics. ICESat-2, follow-on to the ICESat mission, was launched on 15 September 2018 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

## ISRO's first fully commercial trip this year

- ISRO has launched its first ever commercial satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre launchpad at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Two British satellites — Novasar and S1-4 — will be the main payload aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C42 rocket. Once in orbit, the satellites will add to Britain's Earth observation capabilities.
- This launch marks ISRO's 239th foreign satellite launch. ISRO has carried out satellite launches for 28 different countries so far.

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

## Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa to be SpaceX's first Moon tourist

- Japanese billionaire businessman, online fashion tycoon and art collector Yusaku Maezawa was revealed as the first tourist who will fly on a SpaceX rocket around the Moon.
- Maezawa is the 18th richest person in Japan with a fortune of \$3 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp., doing business as SpaceX, is a private American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company headquartered in Hawthorne, California. It was founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Elon Musk with the goal of reducing space transportation costs and enabling the colonization of Mars. SpaceX has since developed the Falcon launch vehicle family and the Dragon spacecraft family, which both currently deliver payloads into Earth orbit.



### India's first indigenously developed fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam to achieve criticality in 2019

- India's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) prototype fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality next year.
- The project, which was earlier expected to be commissioned in 2012.
- "Indigenously developed prototype fast breeder reactor of 500 mw is now undergoing sodium commissioning.

Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) located at Kalpakkam about 80 kilometres (50 mi) south of Chennai, India, is a comprehensive nuclear power production, fuel reprocessing, and waste treatment facility that includes plutonium fuel fabrication for fast breeder reactors (FBRs). It is also India's first fully indigenously constructed nuclear power station, with two units each generating 220 MW of electricity. The first and second units of the station went critical in 1983 and 1985 respectively.

### Successful Flight Test of Prahar

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore, Odisha.
- 'Prahar' is a contemporary weapon system capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and neutralizing a wide variety of targets.
- Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat and DRDO chairman G. Satheesh Reddy witnessed the launch and complimented all the team members.

Prahaar ("Strike") is an Indian solid-fuel road-mobile tactical ballistic missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Prahaar is expected to replace the Prithvi-I short-range ballistic missile in Indian service.

### Organophosphorus pesticide detection gets simpler

- Using metal-organic framework (MOF) made of cadmium chloride and synthesised under ambient conditions, a research team has been able to detect organophosphorus pesticides such as azinphos-methyl, chlorpyrifos, and parathion both in water solution and in apples and tomatoes.
- The MOF is highly sensitive such that the presence of pesticides as low as in parts per billion (ppb) can be detected.

### ISRO to set up an Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response

- Home Ministry and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have signed a MoU for setting up of a state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Home Ministry.
- ISRO will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER whereas the project will be executed under the overall supervision of MHA. The ICR-ER will cater to the requirement of Disaster Management as well as Internal Security.

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

## Inventions/Discoveries

### Monster galaxy located 12.4 billion light-years away spotted

- Astronomers from Japan have obtained the most detailed anatomy chart of a monster galaxy located 12.4 billion light-years away, using Chile's Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA).
- The Monster galaxy, called as COSMOS-AzTEC-1, was found to form new stars 1000 times faster than our Milky Way Galaxy. COSMOS-AzTEC-1 was first discovered with the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii, and later the Large Millimeter Telescope (LMT) in Mexico, found an enormous amount of carbon monoxide gas in the galaxy and revealed its hidden starburst.

Astronomer Min Yun at UMass Amherst was a member of the team that discovered this galaxy in 2007, using an instrument built at UMass called AzTEC. Note that this galaxy bears the name AzTEC-1. It's likely the first galaxy, or a very important early galaxy, discovered by this instrument; that's one way galaxies are named.

### World's first rollable touch-screen tablet inspired by ancient scrolls developed

- In a first, scientists from Canada have developed a rollable touch-screen tablet – taking inspiration from ancient scrolls to create a modern-day device. The device, called MagicScroll, is comprised of a high-resolution flexible display that can be rolled or unrolled around a central, 3D-printed cylindrical body containing the device's computerised inner-workings.
- Two rotary wheels at either end of the cylinder allow the user to scroll through information on the touch screen. When a user narrows in on an interesting piece of content that they would like to examine more deeply, the display can be unrolled and function as a tablet display.

### India's Tejas Fighter Tests Mid-Air Refueling For the First Time

- In a big achievement, a made-in-India Tejas fighter jet refuelled mid-air placing India in an elite group of countries having air-to-air refuelling system for military planes. The aircraft is being manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and some dry runs were conducted earlier.
- The milestone was achieved when 1,900 kg of fuel was transferred from the mid-air refuelling tanker of IAF's IL78 to the Tejas LSP8 at an altitude of 20,000 feet, HAL said.

The IAF IL78 was piloted by Wing Commander Siddharth Singh with designers from HAL and Aeronautical Development Agency monitoring the system parameters from the Gwalior ground station. According to HAL, the speed of Tejas was 270 knots when all the internal tanks and drop tanks were refuelled.

### New six-sided jet stream spotted at Saturn's North Pole

- Using data from NASA's Cassini spacecraft, scientists have spotted a surprising feature emerging at Saturn's northern pole as it nears summertime -- a warming, high-altitude jet stream with a hexagonal shape.
- The vortex is akin to the famous hexagon seen deeper down in Saturn's clouds, according to the finding published in the journal Nature Communications.
- The results suggest that the lower-altitude hexagon may influence what happens above, and that it could be a towering structure hundreds of miles in height.
- "The edges of this newly-found vortex appear to be hexagonal, precisely matching a famous and bizarre hexagonal cloud pattern we see deeper down in Saturn's atmosphere".

Cassini–Huygens mission commonly called Cassini, was collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) to send a probe to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites. Cassini was the fourth space probe to visit Saturn and the first to enter its orbit. The craft were named after astronomers Giovanni Cassini and Christiaan Huygens. Cassini was launched on October 15, 1997, the spacecraft entered orbit around Saturn on June 30, 2004 (PDT), carrying the European Huygens probe.

### Maiden Flight Test of MPATGM Successful

- DRDO successfully flight tested a low weight, Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) from Ahmednagar range on 15 September 2018. All the mission objectives have been met.

### India successfully test fires Prithvi Defence Vehicle

- India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast, achieving a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system. Defence sources said, the interceptor was launched from Abdul Kalam Island of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientist said that this Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 kilometres of the earth's atmosphere.
- According to DRDO sources, both the PDV interceptor and the target missile were successfully engaged. In an automated operation, radar-based detection and tracking system detected and tracked the enemy's ballistic missile.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

### Indigenously developed air-to-air missile Astra successfully test fired

- A pre-induction trial of India's indigenously developed beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) 'Astra' was successfully conducted over Bay of Bengal near Chandipur in Odisha.
- The missile was fired from a fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force in the afternoon and targeted an unmanned aerial vehicle 'Banshi' which it successfully engaged.
- 'Astra' was successfully test fired by the IAF from a Su-30 aircraft that had taken off from Air Force station, Kalaikunda,

### Second Flight Test of MPATGM Successful

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a low-weight indigenously developed second man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) at its Ahmednagar range.
- All the mission objectives have been met. The two missions on 15 and 16 September 2018 have been successfully flight tested for different ranges including the maximum range capability. Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the team DRDO, Indian Army and associated Industries for the twin success of MPATGM weapon system.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

## Novel insect-inspired flying robot developed

- Scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands have developed a novel autonomous flying robot that mimics the rapid flight of insects. The robot, named **DeFly Nimble**, has exceptional flight qualities which **open up new drone applications**. The robot has a **top speed of 25 kilometers per hour (km/h)** and can even perform aggressive manoeuvres, such as **360-degree flips**, resembling loops and barrel rolls.
- This enables small natural flyers such as insects to hover close to a flower, but also to escape danger rapidly. As in flying insects, the robot's flapping wings, **beating 17 times per second**, **not only generate the lift force needed to stay airborne**, but also control the flight via minor adjustments in the wing motion. Inspired by fruit flies, the robot's control mechanisms have proven to be highly effective, allowing it to hover on the spot and fly in any direction with high agility.

## INMAS develops India's first indigenous anti-nuclear medical kit

- In a major shot in the arm for paramilitary and police forces, **scientists at a central research institute claim to have developed India's first indigenous medical kit** that may ensure protection from serious injuries and faster healing of wounds resulting from **nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage**.
- The kit, developed after two decades of work by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), has over 25 items, including radio-protectors that provide 80-90 per cent protection against radiation and nerve gas agents, bandages that absorb radiation as well as tablets and ointments.

## India joins elite club as first ever mid-air refuelling of Tejas carried out

- The **first ever mid-air refuelling** of the indigenously developed light combat aircraft Tejas was **successfully carried out**. The milestone was achieved when **1,900 kg of fuel** was transferred from the mid-air refuelling tanker of IAF's IL78 to the Tejas LSP8 at an altitude of 20,000 feet.
- It placed India in an elite group of countries having air-to-air refuelling system for military planes.

## Miniature human oesophagus grown in lab

- In a first, researchers at the Cincinnati Children's Center for Stem Cell and Organoid Medicine (CuSTOM) in the US have **successfully grown oesophageal organoids** -- miniature, functional versions of the human food pipe -- using stem cells, paving the way for new ways to study and test drugs against gut disorders.
- The oesophagus is a muscular tube that actively passes food from the mouth to the stomach.
- The organ can be affected by congenital diseases, such as oesophageal atresia -- a narrowing or malformation of the oesophagus caused by genetic mutations.
- There are several diseases that can afflict people later in life. Some include oesophageal cancer, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), or a rare ailment called achalasia -- a disease affecting the muscles of the lower oesophagus that prevents contraction of the organ and the passage of food.

## New exoplanet twice the size of Earth found

- Using data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, an international team of scientists has **discovered a new exoplanet twice the size of Earth** and about 145 light years away.
- The exoplanet 'Wolf 503b' is in the Virgo constellation and it orbits its star every six days and is thus very close to it, about 10 times closer than Mercury is to the Sun. "'Wolf 503b' is one of the only planets with a radius near the gap that has a star that is bright enough to be amenable to more detailed study .

Kepler spacecraft was launched in 2009 with an objective to learn more about the number and frequency of planets in our galaxy, the telescope which is some 94 million miles away from Earth has continuously monitored over 150,000 stars in the Cygnus-Lyra region and has discovered over 4,600 planet candidates as per the data provided by NASA.



## Health/ Disease

### South Africa declares end of listeria outbreak

- **South Africa declared an official end to the world's worst recorded listeria outbreak** after it killed 216 people and sickened more than 1,000 since early 2017.
- Health officials announced in March that they had traced the outbreak to an **Enterprise Food plant, 300 kilometers (185 miles) northeast of Pretoria**, and immediately ordered a nationwide recall of affected processed meat products.

**Listeriosis is a food-borne infection caused by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. The outbreak was determined to originate from Jensen Farms in Holly, Colorado after *Listeria monocytogenes* was found in cantaloupe samples at a Jensen Farms store in Denver, Colorado and at the farm's packaging plant.**

### Scientists have developed new device to treat dizziness

- **Scientists have developed a new vibrating device** that is placed behind a patient's ear to diagnose dizziness, and offers significant advantages over the current tests.
- **Researchers from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden** developed the testing device using bone conduction sounds. Commonly, a 'VEMP' test (Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potentials) needs to be performed.
- A **VEMP test uses loud sounds to evoke a muscle reflex contraction** in the neck and eye muscles, triggered by the vestibular system — the system responsible for our balance.

### India bears 32 per cent global burden of respiratory diseases

- **India has 18% of the world's population but 32% of the global burden of respiratory diseases.**
- **Respiratory disease burden in India is second only to that of ischaemic heart disease**, found a state-level analysis of the Global Burden of Disease data.
- **Chronic respiratory diseases were responsible for 10.9% of the total deaths and 6.4% of the total DALYs** (a globally recognised disease burden estimate calculated on the basis of the number of productive life years cut short by disease) in India in 2016. The corresponding figures for 1990 were 9.6% and 4.5%, respectively.

### India's health report reads worse

- **Indians have registered a 50% increase in the prevalence of ischemic heart disease and stroke over the period from 1990 to 2016**, with the number of diabetes cases climbing from 26 million to 65 million.
- In the same period, the number of people ailing from chronic obstructive lung disease went up from 28 million to 55 million, according to the 'India State-level Disease Burden Initiative' report.

### NACO report says more than 80% decline in estimated new AIDS infection cases from its peak in 1995

- There has been **more than 80 per cent decline in estimated new HIV infection cases in the country since its peak in 1995**. This was disclosed in the HIV Estimations 2017 report released by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in New Delhi.
- According to the report, the **estimated AIDS-related deaths declined by 71 per cent since its peak in 2005**.
- It has also indicated that there is **no place for complacency as country move forward on ambitious goal of attaining the End of AIDS by 2030**. The report also said more than 21 lakh people are affected with HIV in the country.

### World's first human case of rat disease found in Hong Kong

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- **For the first time, a case of rat hepatitis E** has been **discovered in a human in Hong Kong**. A 56-year-old man has been **diagnosed with the disease**, said by researchers from the **University of Hong Kong**. It was **not previously known** the disease could be passed from rats to humans.
- "Previous laboratory experiments have found that **rat hepatitis E virus cannot be transmitted to monkeys, and human hepatitis A virus cannot be transmitted to rats**," said Dr. Siddharth Sridhar, clinical assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong, explaining that monkeys are very close to humans when it comes to disease susceptibility.

### 27% of world's new Tuberculosis infections in India: WHO global report

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- **New tuberculosis (TB) cases** may be coming down, yet **India accounted for 27% of the total new infections** in 2017, which is the **highest among the top 30 high TB burden countries in the world**, says the WHO Global TB 2018 report.
- **Of the 10 million new cases reported in 2017, 2.74 million were from India**, a marginal decrease from the **2.79 million** that the country reported in WHO's 2017 report.

**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**. **Tedros Adhanom** has been **Director-General** of the World Health Organization.

## **ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**



### **Elephant bird Vorombe titan named largest ever bird**

- After decades of conflicting evidence, **scientists at Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in the UK have finally put the 'world's largest bird' debate to rest, conferring the title on Vorombe titan -- an extinct Madagascan species which was three metres tall and weighed up to 800 kg.**
- **Elephant birds (belonging to the family Aepyornithidae) are an extinct group of colossal flightless birds that roamed Madagascar during the Late Quaternary, with two genera (Aepyornis and Mullerornis) previously recognised by scientists.**

**Vorombe is one of three genera of elephant birds, an extinct family of large ratite birds endemic to Madagascar. Specimens belonging to the genus include the heaviest known birds, and were originally considered to be large Aepyornis specimens. Vorombe titan was first described by Charles William Andrews as Aepyornis titan in 1894.**

### **59 plant species in IUCN threat categories**

- **Recently, scientists identified the threat status of 59 Indian plant species based on criteria used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in the hope that this “streamlines” conservation efforts for the plants.**
- **This included the extent and area of each plant’s geographical range, which revealed that 10 species are critically endangered, 18 endangered, six vulnerable, five near threatened and one species each are data deficient and least concern.**
- **Around 2,700 plant species in India are at risk but very few have been assessed by the IUCN. Threatened wildlife is not just about tigers but numerous plants too.**
- **The funding agencies often consider the threat status of species provided in IUCN’s Red List (a catalogue of the world’s threatened species), to sponsor research and conservation activities to save them.**

**International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The organization is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.**

### **Commercial plantation gets nod in new forest draft policy**

- **A revised draft of the forest policy retains the controversial idea of commercial plantations in forest areas, although it now says local communities will get a share of the benefits.**

- A major change is facilitating **tripartite agreements between industry, government and the local community to give the community** a share of economic benefits from private plantation projects.
- **India's annual timber import is worth Rs 42,000 crore**, this gap needs to be bridged. Plus, our aim is to have at least 33% forest cover nationally. We currently have 24%, these plantations will help cover the 9% left.

### Germany rolls out world's first hydrogen train

- **Germany rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train**, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but eco-friendly technology.
- **Two bright blue Coradia iLint trains**, built by French TGV-maker Alstom, began running a 100 km (62-mile) route between the towns and cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany -- a stretch normally plied by diesel trains.
- "The world's first hydrogen train is entering into commercial service and is ready for serial production".

Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, a process that leaves steam and water as the only emissions. Excess energy is stored in ion lithium batteries on board the train. The Coradia iLint trains can run for around 1,000 km on a single tank of hydrogen, similar to the range of diesel trains.

### Tamil Nadu government announces novel scheme for the protection of the exotic Neela Kurinji plants

- **Tamil Nadu government has announced a novel scheme for the protection of the exotic Neela kurinji (Strobilanthus kunthianus) plants** that flower only once in 12 years.
- The Neela Kurinju, native to the Western Ghats, is a major attraction to foreign and native tourists and one of the prime foreign exchange earners from tourism.

### New battery helps to cut carbon emission

- **Researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed a new battery made partly from carbon dioxide captured from power plants.** While still based on early-stage research and far from commercial deployment, this battery could continuously convert carbon dioxide into a solid mineral carbonate as it discharges.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates air pollution control device WAYU in Delhi

- Environment Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated air pollution control device Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit, WAYU**, at ITO in New Delhi.
- The device WAYU is developed by Council of Science and Industrial Research to mitigate air pollution at traffic junctions.
- **Along with particulate matter, the device will remove poisonous gases** such as volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide. This device works on two principles mainly wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and active pollutants removal.

### 8 bird species are the first to be declared extinct this decade

- **According to a statistical analysis conducted by BirdLife International and published in the journal Biological Conservation, five of the eight likely extinctions occurred in South America, the result of deforestation.**
- **BirdLife conducted an eight-year study of 51 critically endangered bird species, weighing three factors: intensity of threats, timing and reliability of records and the timing and quantity of search efforts for the species.**



- They then applied this approach to those species and concluded that their **methods not only aligned with the status of many birds on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List, but that some of those birds needed to be reclassified as extinct.**

**BirdLife International** was founded in 1922 as the International Council for Bird Preservation by American ornithologists **T. Gilbert Pearson** and **Jean Theodore Delacour** under the name International Committee for Bird Protection. It changed its name in 1993 to "**BirdLife International**". It is a **global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity**, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. It is the **world's largest partnership of conservation organisations, with over 120 partner organisations**. It is **headquartered in Cambridge, UK**.



## **SPORTS**



### **Sports Personalities in News**

#### **Virat Kohli becomes second fastest Indian to reach 6000 Test runs**

- **Virat Kohli** added yet another feather to his illustrious career after **becoming the second fastest Indian to reach 6000 Test runs**. Kohli reached the milestone in 119 innings which is **quicker than legendary Sachin Tendulkar (120) and Sir Vivian Richards (120)**.
- However, **Sunil Gavaskar is the fastest** after he did so in 117 innings. Playing in his 70th Test match and 39th as captain, Kohli reached 6000 runs with a streaky boundary.
- The fastest man to 6000 runs is still **Sir Donald Bradman (68 innings)**. Earlier this year, then Australia captain **Steve Smith levelled Sir Garfield Sobers** in second place on the list (111 innings).

#### **Mohammad Irfan sets world record for most economical T20 spell**

- **Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Irfan** has set the world record for the most economical bowling spell in T20 history while playing for the **Barbados Tridents** in the **Caribbean Premier League (CPL)**.
- **Irfan picked up two wickets — Chris Gayle and Evin Lewis — and conceded just one run from his four overs against the St Kitts and Nevis Patriots in Bridgetown.**
- The **first 23 deliveries of his spell were all dot balls** while the batsman denied him a **fourth consecutive maiden over by scoring a run off his 24th and final delivery — which helped the quick register figures of 4-3-1-2.**
- This record was previously shared by **South Africa's Chris Morris and Sri Lanka's Chanaka Welegedara** with an economy rate of 0.5 per over while **Irfan's economy rate of 0.25 was better** than the duo.

#### **Modric named UEFA player of the year**

- **Croatia captain Luka Modric** has been **voted the best player in Europe last season**, edging former Real Madrid teammate **Cristiano Ronaldo** and Liverpool forward **Mohamed Salah** for the UEFA award.
- **Modric helped Madrid win a third straight Champions League title, and fourth in five seasons**, before leading his country to the World Cup final. **Croatia lost 4-2 against France.**

#### **Virat Kohli becomes first Indian to score 4000 Test runs as captain**

- **India captain Virat Kohli** added another record to his statistics as he **became the first Indian to score 4000 runs in Tests as captain**. Virat Kohli achieved the milestone during the fourth Test match against England at The Rose Bowl cricket ground in Southampton.

- **Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is second in the list with 3454 Test runs as captain.** MS Dhoni, who led India in 60 Tests, has five centuries and 24 half-centuries under his belt. **India batting legend Sunil Gavaskar is third in the chart.** He has 3449 runs as Test captain.

### Japan swimmer Rikako Ikee named the Olympic Council of Asia's Most Valuable Player

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- **Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee was named the Olympic Council of Asia's Most Valuable Player at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang by the OCA.**
- **Ikee, won six gold and two silver medals at the GBK Aquatic Centre in Jakarta to become the first female athlete in any sport to win six gold medals at a single Asian Games.**
- **Rikako became the fourth Japanese athlete to win the MVP award since its inception during the 1998 Bangkok Games.**

### Anjum, Apurvi become first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Olympics

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- **Anjum Moudgil bagged the Olympic quota place in women's air rifle, with a silver medal in the 52nd World shooting championship.**
- **With Olympian Apurvi Chandela bagging the second Olympic quota from the event with a fourth place, the joy of the Indian camp was complete. The other two Olympic quota places were sealed by the Koreans.**

### Lewis Hamilton wins Italian Grand Prix

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- **Lewis Hamilton took a thrilling and controversial victory in the Italian Grand Prix following a first-lap clash with title rival Sebastian Vettel.**

### Indian Shooter Om Prakash bags gold at ISSF World Championship

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- **Indian Shooter Om Prakash Mitharwal picked up his maiden gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Championships.**
- **He claimed the top honours in the 50 metres pistol event in Changwon, South Korea.**
- **The 23-year-old, a bronze-winner in the 10m air pistol and the 50m pistol events of the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast earlier this year, shot a score of 564 to finish on top.**

### Sourabh Choudhary smashes junior record for gold at ISSF World Championships

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- **Asian Games gold-medallist Sourabh Chaudhary shattered the world record to claim the junior 10m air pistol gold at the ISSF World Championships 2018 held in Changwon, South Korea.**
- **Arjun Singh Cheema settled for a bronze in the same event and the Indian team took the silver, propelled by Chaudhary's phenomenal individual performance.**

### Asian Games medalist Hima Das named as Sports Ambassador of Assam state

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- **Assam government has made Asian Games medalist Hima Das as the Sports Ambassador of the state. Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal has handed over the letter to Hima at a function in Guwahati.**
- **The Chief Minister announced to develop 500 village stadiums in the state. Hima won 3 medals in recently concluded Asian Games.**

### Ankur Mittal wins double trap gold in World Championship

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- **Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea, for his career's biggest triumph and the Indian shooting team continued their dominance in the premier tournament.**

- The multiple World Cup medallist shot 140 out of 150 to go into a shoot-off for gold with China's Yiyang Yang and Slovakia's Hubert Andrzej. The 26-year-old overcame the Chinese 4-3 to emerge triumphant after the Slovakian had missed his second shoot-off clay target to settle for bronze. **Ankur also won the team bronze in the event along with compatriots Md. Asab and Shardul Vihaan**, their tally of 409 points putting them behind China's 410 and the gold-winning team Italy's tally of 411.

### Naomi Osaka of Japan beat Serena Williams to lift Women's singles title of US Open

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- In tennis, **Naomi Osaka of Japan** has lifted the Women's singles title of US Open 2018. She won the Grand Slam defeating Serena Williams of US in straight sets 6-2, 6-4. Osaka became the first Japanese to win a Grand Slam.
- In Mixed doubles, the British and American pair of Jamie Murray and Bethanie Mattek-Sands lifted the title defeating pair of Croatia and Poland Nikola Pietrangeli and Alicja Rosolska 2-6, 6-3, 11-9.

United States Open Tennis Championships is a hard court tennis tournament. The tournament is the modern version of one of the oldest tennis championships in the world, the U.S. National Championship, for which men's singles was first played in 1881. The 2018 US Open was the 138th edition of tennis' US Open and the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year. It was held on outdoor hard courts at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City.

### Novak Djokovic wins men's title in US open Tennis

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- In the US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Men's singles final. He defeated Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 in straight sets.
- It was Djokovic's 14th Grand Slam title and the third US Open title. With this win, he has equalled Pete Sampras's mark of 14 Grand Slams. He is now just three Slams behind Rafael Nadal and six back from the record 20 held by Roger Federer.

### Super six for Murray as he retains US Open mixed doubles title

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- Jamie Murray hailed the fighting spirit of his partnership with Bethanie Mattek-Sands after claiming his sixth Grand Slam doubles title in the US Open mixed doubles final.
- The British star and his American partner beat Poland's Alicja Rosolska and Croat Nikola Pietrangeli on a match tie-break 2-6 6-3 11-9 in a gripping finale at Flushing Meadows.

### Triple jumper Arpinder Singh creates history by becoming first Indian to win a medal in IAAF Continental Cup

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- Triple jumper Arpinder Singh has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a bronze medal in the IAAF Continental Cup 2018 in Ostrava in Czech Republic.
- The 2018 IAAF Continental Cup is an international track and field sporting event that was held in Ostrava, Czech Republic, on 8-9 September 2018.
- No Indian has ever won a medal in the Continental Cup which was known as the IAAF World Cup before 2010.

### Jimmy Anderson becomes highest Test wicket-taking seamer

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- Jimmy Anderson has become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in Test matches. The wicket of Mohammed Shami took his tally to 564 wickets and surpassed Australian great Glenn McGrath's 563 to become the most successful fast bowler in Test history.
- The list of highest wicket takers in Tests, however, is led by spinners – Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets), Shane Warne (708 wickets) and Anil Kumble (609 wickets) which places Anderson as fourth in the all-time list.



## India's junior shooters win first set of skeet medals at ISSF World Championships

- India's junior shooters won the country's first set of skeet medals at the ISSF World Championships.
- In the competition being held at Changwon, South Korea, the Indian medal tally included a men's team silver and an individual bronze by Gurnihal Singh Garcha.
- The trio of Gurnihal, Ananjeet Singh Naruka and Ayush Rudraraju combined for a score of 355 for a second place finish in the finals.

## Jhulan Goswami became the first women to take 300 international wickets

- With her two-wicket haul in the first ODI against Sri Lanka, the 35-year-old pacer, Jhulan Goswami set another one, this time becoming the first to take 300 wickets.

## India's 102-year-old female athlete wins gold medal at World Masters Athletics Championships

- Hailing from Patiala, Punjab, the 102-year-old athlete, Man Kaur made the country proud by winning a gold medal at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Malaga, Spain. Kaur won the 200 m race medal in the age group of 100 – 104.
- Last year, Man Kaur won 100m gold at the World Masters Games at Auckland, New Zealand.

## MC Mary Kom clinches her 3rd gold medal of the year at Silesian Open boxing in Poland

- Indian five-time world boxing champion M C Mary Kom clinched her third gold medal of the year in 48 kg category, while Jyoti Gulia picked up the country's lone gold in 51 kg of the youth category of the Silesian Open boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice, Poland.
- Mary Kom was up against Kazakhstan's Aigerim Kassanayeva and prevailed 5-0 with a fine tactical performance.

## World shooting: 16 year old Udhayveer Singh wins individual gold

- Sixteen year old Udhayveer Singh has won an individual Gold Medal in Junior Men's 25 metre pistol event in the World Shooting Championships in South Korea.
- In the event being held at Changwon, he also spearheaded India to the team Gold. Singh shot a score of 587 in the individual competition to grab the Gold ahead American Henry Leverett and Korean Lee Jaekyoon.

ISSF World Shooting Championships are governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation. World Shooting Championships began in 1897, after the successful 1896 Summer Olympics. The World Championships were held each year from 1897 to 1931, with the exception of the years 1915–1920 (interruption by World War I) and 1926. From 1933 to 1949, they were held biennially, although the 1941–1945 competitions were canceled (again, because of world war). The current schedule, with large World Championships only every four years, was adapted in 1954.

## Borna Coric steers Croatia into Davis Cup final with France

- Borna Coric kept his cool to prevail in a thrilling winner-takes-all duel with fellow young gun Frances Tiafoe and steer Croatia into the final of the Davis Cup for the second time in three years with a monumental 3-2 victory over the U.S.

The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis. It is run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and is contested annually between teams from competing countries in a knock-out format. It is described by the organisers as the "World Cup of Tennis", and the winners are referred to as the World Champion team.

## France's Kevin Mayer breaks world decathlon record

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- France's Kevin Mayer set a new decathlon world record when he finished with 9126 points at the Decastar event in Talence, France.
- World champion and Olympic silver medalist Mayer surpassed previous holder American Ashton Eaton's 9045 points recorded at the 2015 world championships in Beijing.

## Sakshi Malik settles for Silver medal at Medved International Wrestling

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- Rio Olympics Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik settled for a Silver medal at the Medved International Wrestling tournament at Minsk, Belarus.
- In the Final of the 62 kg category, Sakshi lost to Hungary's Marianna Sastin, 2-6 to finish second best.
- Other Indian grappler Pooja Dhanda bagged a Bronze medal in the 57 kg category after she produced a superb performance in the repechage round.

## Lewis Hamilton wins in Singapore with Sebastian Vettel third

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- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton cruised to victory in the Singapore Grand Prix to strengthen his hold on this year's World Championship.
- It dropped Hamilton's title rival Sebastian Vettel from second to third behind Max Verstappen, throwing away a position the German had earned by overtaking the Red Bull driver on the first lap.

## Sajan Bhanwal becomes first Indian to win back-to-back medals at World Junior Wrestling

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- Sajan Bhanwal became the first Indian to win back-to-back medals at the Junior World Wrestling Championship after he secured silver in the 77kg Greco Roman category in Trnava, Slovakia. The Haryana wrestler, who had won the gold at Junior Asia Championship in July, 2018 and he also won a bronze in the 2017 World Junior Championship at Tampere, Finland

## Vaishali, India's first Braille chess player at World Chess Olympiad

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- Blind chess player Vaishali Narendra Salavkar will become the first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at the world chess Olympiad, starting September 23 at Batumi in Georgia.
- "Vaishali will be the first Indian blind chess player to participate in the World Chess Olympiad".

## Deepak Punia settles for silver medal at junior world wrestling championship

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- India's Deepak Punia settled for silver after losing the 86kg freestyle final to Turkey's Arif Ozen at the junior world wrestling championship in Slovakia.
- In the event held at Trnava, Deepak lost 1-2 to Ozen, scoring the only point with just three seconds to go.

## China Open: Indonesia's Sinisuka stuns Japan's Kento Momota to win Men's singles title

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- In Badminton, Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting beat Japan's Kento Momota to take the Men's singles China Open title in Changzhou.
- Spain's Carolina Marin beat China's Chen Yufei 21-18, 21-13 to take the women's singles title.
- The third seed, Momota who took the Japan Open title on home ground last week, was beaten by world number 13 Ginting 23-21, 21-19. Ginting last beat Momota at the Asian Games in Jakarta last month.

## Rohit Sharma becomes ninth Indian to go past 7000 ODI runs

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- India's stand-in captain **Rohit Sharma** became the ninth Indian to go past 7000 ODI runs and the third fastest from his country to do so. While he took 181 innings to his landmark, only **Virat Kohli (161)** and **Sourav Ganguly (174)** have achieved this much quicker.

## Anthony Ginting's tactical acumen on show in title win; Carolina Marin reigns supreme

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- In men's singles final of the **China Open World Tour Super 1000 badminton championships**, pint-sized Indonesian dynamo, **Anthony Sinisuka Ginting**, repeated his Asian Games triumph over Japan's recently crowned world champion, **Kento Momota**.
- Spaniard **Carolina Marin** continued her recent run of outstanding form by cutting down local hope, **Chen Yufei**, to size at 21-18, 21-13.

## Croatian footballer Luka Modric wins FIFA's best player of the year award

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- Croatian footballer **Luka Modric** was named the world's best male player at the **Best Fifa Football Awards** in London.
- The **Real Madrid** midfielder beat former team-mate **Cristiano Ronaldo**, now with Juventus, and Liverpool's **Mohamed Salah** to the award. **Modric** won his third **Champions League** title in a row in May and guided Croatia to their first **World Cup** final in July. **Brazil** and **Orlando Pride** forward **Marta** won the best female player award.

## Sergio Garcia creates history as Europe beat United States to reclaim Ryder Cup

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- Europe regained the **Ryder Cup** from the **USA** as star man **Francesco Molinari** became the first-ever European to win all five of his matches with a 4 and 2 victory over **Phil Mickelson**.

## Pankaj Advani settles for bronze in Asian Snooker Tour

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- Nineteen-time world champion **Pankaj Advani** settled for a bronze medal in the **Asian 10-red Snooker** after losing to Ireland's **Brendan O'Donoghue** 5-0 in the semifinal.

## Sport Events

### Asian Games 2018:

#### Indian women's squash team settles for silver

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- India settled for silver in women's squash after going down to **Hong Kong** 2-0 in the final on the penultimate day of the **Asian Games 2018**.
- Joshna Chinappa** and **Sunanya Kuruvilla** lost their respective matches and **Dipika Pallikal** never got the chance to play and turn the tide in India's favour.

#### India finish with 69 medals for best-ever medal haul at Asiad

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- With gold medal in the **Men's Light Fly (49kg)** category in boxing, **Amit Panghal** took India's medal tally at the **18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang** to **66 medals**. With the split decision win (3-2) over Uzbekistan's reigning Olympic champion **Hasanboy Dusmatov** in the final, **India's medal tally** read – **14 gold, 23 silver and 29 bronze**.
- With the medal, **India** amassed most medals at an Asian Games event surpassing the previous best of **65 medals** won at the 2010 edition in **Guangzhou, China**. At the **2010 Asian Games**, India had collected **14 gold medals, 17 silver and 34 bronze medals**.

- **India women's squash team** would go down in the final to clinch silver and men's hockey team would down Pakistan for the bronze medal. This took India's final tally at Asian Games 2018 to 69 medals – 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze.

### Asia Cup cricket tournament begins in Dubai

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- **In Cricket, the Asia Cup begins in Dubai.** Six teams are taking part in the ODI tournament, with defending champions India placed alongside Pakistan and Hong Kong in Group-A.

Asia Cup is a men's OneDay International & Twenty20 International cricket tournament. It was established in 1983 when the Asian Cricket Council was founded as a measure to promote goodwill between Asian countries. It was originally scheduled to be held every two years. The first Asia cup was held in 1984 in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. India is the most successful team in the tournament having won it six times (five times in ODI format and once in the T20 format).

### Justice Mukul Mudgal to head selection committee for Dronacharya and Dhyanchand awards

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- **Justice Mukul Mudgal**, who headed the Supreme Court-appointed probe into the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal, has been named chairman of the 11-member selection committee to pick this year's Dronacharya and Dhyanchand awardees.
- The panel headed by Mudgal, the retired Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, has been picked by the Sports Ministry.
- The selection committee features former Commonwealth Games gold-winning air pistol shooter Samresh Jung and shuttler Ashwini Ponnappa among others.
- The panel also comprises former national boxing coach G S Sandhu, hockey coach AK Bansal and archery coach Sanjeeva Singh apart from Sports Authority of India's Special Director General Onkar Kedia and Joint Secretary (Sports) Inder Dhamija.

### Infosys and Australian Open announce strategic partnership

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- **Technology firm Infosys** announced a three-year strategic partnership with the Australian Open. Infosys will be the official digital innovation partner of the tennis tournament, and leverage emerging technologies like big data & analytics, artificial intelligence, and virtual and augmented reality to improve the overall fan experience.

### Hangzhou confirmed as host of 2022 Asian Para Games

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- **Hangzhou** has been confirmed as the host of the 2022 Asian Para Games.
- The Chinese city was already confirmed as the host of the Olympic Council of Asia-run Asian Games in four years' time.

### New Kabaddi Federation launches Indo International Premier League

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- The **New Kabaddi Federation of India (NKFI)** launched the Indo International Premier Kabaddi League beginning on January 26.
- With a winner's cheque of 1.25 crore, the league will see over 1000 players, both domestic and International players, competing as part of eight franchises.

### Women's world boxing in India

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- The **World Women's Boxing Championships**, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, will be held from November 15 in the national capital.



## Track Asia Cup: Indian cyclists bag 3 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze

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- India won 3 Gold, 3 Silver and a Bronze on the opening day of the 5th Track Asia Cup Cycling in New Delhi.
- Mayuri Lute won the country's first Gold in the Women's Junior 500 metres race. Another Gold came after the Indian men's junior team performed as expected in the team sprint event, by defeating Kazakhstan.
- The tournament at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium is being organised by the Cycling Federation of India and has attracted participation from 12 countries.

## Asian Team Snooker Championship: India settle for silver after loss against Pakistan

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- India settled for the silver medal after losing to Pakistan 2-3 in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship in Doha.
- After Babar Masih put a fluent 81 break to win the first frame against Pankaj Advani, Malkeet Singh restored parity with a 52 break win over Mohammad Asif.

## President Ram Nath Kovind presents national sports awards

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- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred National Sports Awards for 2018. Captain of Indian cricket team Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu received the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, the highest sporting award of the country. Apart from a medal and a citation, both the awardees received a cash prize of 7.5 lakh rupees.
- Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, athlete Hima Das, Jinson Jhonson, Shuttler Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy, Boxer Satish Kumar, Golfer Subhankar Sharma, Shooters Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal, Shreyasi Singh, Table Tennis Players Manika Batra, G Sathiyam, Wrestler Sumit, Wushu player Pooja Kadian, Para Athlete Ankur Dhama, Para-Badminton player Manoj Sarkar and Hockey players Manpreet Singh, Savita and Polo player Col. Ravi Rathore got the Arjuna Awards.
- The President also presented the Dronacharya awards to eight coaches. They are Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa for Boxing, Vijay Sharma for Weightlifting, A. Srinivasa Rao for Table Tennis, Sukhdev Singh Pannu for Athletics, Clarence Lobo for Hockey, Tarak Sinha for Cricket, Jiwan Kumar Sharma for Judo and V.R. Beedu for Athletics.
- Dhyan Chand Award was given to four persons. They are Satyadev Prasad for Archery, Bharat Kumar Chetri for Hockey and Ms. Bobby Aloysius for Athletics and Chougale Dadu Dattatray for Wrestling.

## France Football launches Women's Ballon d'Or

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- A woman will win the most prestigious individual trophy in soccer for the first time this year.
- Awarded every year by France Football magazine since Stanley Matthews won it in 1956, the Ballon d'Or for the best player of the year will be given to both a woman and a man on December 3 in Paris.
- The Ballon d'Or merged with the FIFA World Player of the Year award from 2010-15, but the magazine and soccer's governing body split two years ago. FIFA also awards a trophy to the best women's player.

## 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship to begin in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

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- The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation began in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan formally inaugurated the event.
- Nearly 450 participants representing 12 Asian countries showcasing their yoga skills will take part in four-day event. The pan-Asian yoga event is being held in the country for the second time.

## Madrid to host new-format Davis Cup in 2019 and 2020

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- Madrid has been selected as the host city to stage the first two editions of the newly-transformed #DavisCup by BNP Paribas finals in 2019 and 2020.

- Under a format **proposed by the Kosmos group, headed by Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique, and adopted by the International Tennis Federation** in August, the competition will bring together 18 nations in one place for a week at the end of the tennis season.

### India lifts Asia Cup for 7th time; beat Bangladesh by 3 wickets on final ball

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- **India defeated Bangladesh in a nail biting encounter to clinch the Asia Cup title for the second time in the row. India wins record-extending seventh title.** India already had the highest record at the tournament with six titles and extended it with another title.
- The **2018 Asia Cup (also known as Unimoni Asia Cup)** was a **One-Day International (ODI) cricket tournament** that was held in the **United Arab Emirates** in 2018. It was the **14th edition of the Asia Cup** and the **third time the tournament was played in the United Arab Emirates**, after the 1984 and 1995 tournaments.



## **AWARDS**



### **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan awarded with inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence**

- The former Miss World, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was bestowed with the inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award.
- The award ceremony, established to honour the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood took place in Washington DC on September 8.

### **In Assam, Panchayat and Rural Development department has got seven awards from the Centre**

- In Assam, the Panchayat and Rural Development department has got seven awards from the Centre in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Grameen in the state.
- Assam is conferred the best state award in the category of completion of PMAY-G houses amongst the Group I states consisting of North East and Himalayan states. The state has also bagged best three awards in district and block level.

### **Shri Manoj Jhalani, AS & MD (NHM) selected for UNIATF Award**

- Shri Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is in recognition of Government of India's efforts made in the field of prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

### **Aishwarya Rai, Janhvi Kapoor, Zoya Akhtar honoured at first Women in Film and Television India Awards**

- Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was honoured at the Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Awards in Washington on 8 September.
- The 44-year-old actor was felicitated with the Meryl Streep Award for Excellence, which has been established to honour the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood.

- Apart from the actor, **director Zoya Akhtar**, who has helmed films like *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* and *Dil Dhadakne Do* received the **Wyer Award for Excellence in Direction**, and **Janhvi Kapoor** who debuted in **Shashank Khaitan's Dhadak** received the **WIFT Emerald Award**.

### Mirabai Chanu and Virat Kohli conferred with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

- **India men's cricket team captain Virat Kohli** and **weightlifter Mirabai Chanu** were conferred with the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The **annual National Sports Awards** were bestowed on the best athletes that the country has seen in the past one year.
- **Kohli is the third cricketer to be awarded the Khel Ratna after Sachin Tendulkar (1997) and MS Dhoni (2007)**. BCCI had recommended Kohli for the past three years but in 2016 he missed out owing to the Olympics where the award went to wrestler Sakshi Malik, shuttler PV Sindhu and gymnast Deepa Karmakar. Last year it went to hockey player Sardar Singh and para-athlete Devendra Jhajharia.
- **Usually Sports Awards are held on August 29, on Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary**, but this year it has been pushed forward **due to the Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang**.
- **20 athletes were conferred with the Arjuna Award** including javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, sprinter Jinson Johnson and Hima Das, shuttler N Sikki Reddy, cricketer Smriti Mandhana and table tennis player Manika Batra to name a few.
- **The President also presented awards for best coaches under the Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awards.**  
**Dronacharya Awards:** Achaiah Kuttappa (Boxing), Vijay Sharma (Weightlifting), A. Srinivasa Rao (Table Tennis), Sukhdev Singh Pannu (Athletics), Clarence Lobo (Hockey Lifetime achievement), Tarak Sinha (Cricket Lifetime Achievement), Jiwan Kumar Sharma (Judo Lifetime Achievement), V.R. Beedu (Athletics Lifetime Achievement)
- **Dhyan Chand Awards:** Satyadev Prasad (Archery), Bharat Kumar Chetri (Hockey), Bobby Aloysius (Athletics), Chougale Dadu Dattatray (Wrestling)

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna**, officially known as **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** in Sports and Games, is the **highest sporting honour of the Republic of India**. The award is named after **Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India** who served the office from 1984 to 1989. It is awarded annually by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**. **Khel Ratna is usually awarded to two athletes with exceptional cases taking the count to three also recommended subject to Sports Ministry's approval**. As of 2018, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of **Rs. 7.5 lakh (US\$10,000)**.

### Dr. Raghupati Singhanian conferred with civilian honour of Mexico

- **Chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., Dr. Raghupati Singhanian** has been conferred with '**Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle**', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the **Government of Mexico**.
- **The top honor is in recognition of Dr. Singhanian's exemplary leadership**, his noteworthy services towards humanity and his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Mexico.

### Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota wins audience award at TIFF

- **Two Indian films returned with prizes at the Toronto International Film Festival**.
- **Vasan Bala's Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota**, marking the debut of **Bhagyashree's son Abhimanyu Dassani** and co-starring **Radhika Madan (Pataakha)** and **Gulshan Devaiah (Huntermrr)**, won the **Grolsch People's Choice Midnight Madness section award**.
- **Bala's action comedy, the first Indian film to be featured in the festival's Midnight Madness section, beat David Gordon Green's highly anticipated sequel to the 1978 cult horror flick, Halloween, and Sam Levinson's Assassination Nation to nab the popular award**.



## Indian reporter wins Kurt Schork Award

- Shalini Nair has won one of the top international journalism awards named after American reporter Kurt Schork.
- These are awarded by the Kurt Schork Memorial Fund which felicitates journalists under three categories — freelancers, local reporters and a new category added last year for fixers.
- Announcing the winners, the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which hosts the award ceremony in London, said that the Kurt Schork Awards in International Journalism are to “honour some of the most courageous yet least recognised journalists around the world”.

## Bollywood Actress Anushka Sharma Wins Smita Patil Memorial Award

- Actress-producer Anushka Sharma was honored with the Smita Patil Memorial Award, while entrepreneur par excellence Ronnie Screwvala was awarded the Priyadarshni Academy Global Award for his outstanding contribution towards Innovative Entertainment as well as Community Development.

## Daisy Johnson becomes the youngest ever author shortlisted for Booker Prize

- The 27-year-old British novelist Daisy Johnson has become the youngest writer ever to be shortlisted for the Man Booker prize, with her novel *Everything Under*, about a troubled mother-daughter relationship that reimagines Greek myth in modern Britain. It is one of six novels on a shortlist described by the chair of judges as reflecting the “dark times” we live in.

Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK. The prize was originally known as the Booker–McConnell Prize, after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1968; it became commonly known as the "Booker Prize" or simply "the Booker". In 1970, Bernice Rubens became the first woman to win the Booker Prize, for *The Elected Member*.

## Game of Thrones wins nine Emmys

- HBO's record-breaking fantasy epic *Game of Thrones* stormed back onto the Emmys stage winning the coveted best drama series prize full of surprises, including an on-air marriage proposal that stunned the audience.
- The other big story of the Hollywood gala, television's answer to the Oscars, was the huge success of *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*, Amazon's story of a 1950s housewife-turned-stand-up comic, which took home eight Emmys overall, including the best comedy award.

An Emmy Award, or simply Emmy, is an American award that recognizes excellence in the television industry, and is the equivalent of an Academy Award (for film), the Tony Award (for theater), and the Grammy Award (for music). The first Emmy Awards ceremony took place on January 25, 1949, at the Hollywood Athletic Club, but solely to honor shows produced and aired locally in the Los Angeles area. Shirley Dinsdale has the distinction of receiving the very first Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality, during that first awards ceremony. The term "Emmy" is a French alteration of the television crew slang term "Immy", the nickname for an "image orthicon", a camera tube used in TV production.

## Alternative Nobel' for 3 Saudi activists

- The Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel, was awarded to three jailed Saudi human rights defenders and two Latin American anti-corruption crusaders.
- The prize foundation said the 1 million kronor (\$113,400) cash award for 2018 would be shared by Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani and Waleed Abu al-Khair “for their visionary and courageous

efforts, guided by universal human rights principles, to reform the totalitarian political system in Saudi Arabia.

- The 2018 honorary award was given to Thelma Aldana of Guatemala and Colombia's Ivan Velasquez "for their innovative work in exposing abuse of power and prosecuting corruption."

### South Sudan doctor wins UN refugee prize

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- South Sudanese doctor, Evan Atar Adaha, who runs an overcrowded hospital in the town of Bunj with a dimly-lit surgical theatre and no regular supply of general anaesthetics won the UN refugee agency's prestigious Nansen award.

### Pankaj Kapur to get 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award

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- Actor-director Pankaj Kapur was honoured with 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at the closing ceremony of the ninth edition of Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai. Pankaj, also a theatre artiste, is known for featuring in films like "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro", "Raakh" and "Maqbool".
- The festival started in Delhi on June 29 before travelling to cities like Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Dehradun, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bhopal, Indore, Gorakhpur, Agra, Ludhiana, Hissar, Meerut and Raipur.

### Narendra Modi, Emmanuel Macron selected for UN's highest environmental award

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron are selected for this year's 'Champions of the Earth' award - UN's highest environmental honour.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour, also given to five other individuals and organisations, for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single use plastic by 2022.
- Cochin International Airport was honoured with the award for Entrepreneurial Vision, for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### R Madhavan takes charge as new CMD of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

- R Madhavan took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) from T Suvarna Raju. Prior to this, he was heading the Accessories Division of HAL at Lucknow as an Executive Director.
- Madhavan has contributed to 'Make in India' drive by developing MSME vendors for aerospace manufacturing.

### Jeff Bezos is the richest person

- As Amazon became the second U.S. firm to hit a trillion-dollar value on the stock market, founder Jeff Bezos regained the crown as the richest person on the planet.
- Forbes estimated his net worth about \$166 billion. He has gone on record with a formula for success that includes taking bold bets, riding change and rebounding from setbacks.

### SBI appoints Anshula Kant as Managing Director

- State Bank of India said that Government has appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director of the Bank.
- The appointment is with effect from the date of Kant taking over charge of the post and till the date of her attaining the age of superannuation (September 30, 2020) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Prior this appointment, Kant was the bank's Deputy Managing Director. With this appointment SBI now has four MDs - PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.

### Dr Poonam Singh unanimously nominated for 2nd term as Regional Director WHO South-East Asia

- India retained the top WHO position in South-East Asia Region with Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
- Dr. Singh is the first woman to have been elected to the position of Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region after an illustrious career in the Indian civil service, World Bank and WHO.

### Former IPS officer Satish Jha appointed chief of NTRO

- Former Bihar cadre IPS officer Satish Chandra Jha has been elevated to take over country's premier National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- Jha, a 1981 batch IPS officer who was appointed as an advisor to the NTRO more than a year ago, replaces Chairman Alok Joshi.

### Indian-American scientist awarded \$6.5 million for cancer biomarkers'

- An Indian-American scientist, Arul Chinnaiyan, has received an "Outstanding Investigator Award", along with a grant of \$6.5 million, from the U.S. National Cancer Institute.
- The funding is aimed at identifying cancer biomarkers, which may improve diagnosis and help develop targeted therapies for the deadly disease.
- Mr. Chinnaiyan is a Professor at University of Michigan.

### Alibaba's Jack Ma to hand chairman's role to CEO Daniel Zhang next year

- Jack Ma will step down as executive chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. in exactly 12 months' time with Chief Executive Officer Daniel Zhang to succeed him at Asia's most valuable company.

- Ma will remain on the board until Alibaba's annual meeting of shareholders in 2020.

### Nepal: Om Prakash Mishra sworn-in as Chief Justice of Supreme Court

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- Justice Om Prakash Mishra has been sworn in as new Chief Justice of Nepal.
- The President Vidya Devi Bhandari administered oath of office and secrecy to Justice Mishra in Kathmandu.
- He is the senior-most judge of Supreme Court after Justice Deepak Raj Joshee, whose name was rejected by the PHC on August 3.

### Former foreign secy S Jaishankar joins board of USISPF

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- Former foreign secretary S Jaishankar has joined the board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- Mr Jaishankar is currently president of Global Corporate Affairs for the Tata Group.
- USISPF is a forum founded with the objective of promoting a strategic relationship between the US and India, and finding common ground on important issues facing businesses in both countries.

### Indian cine artist Jaya Prada appointed goodwill ambassador for Nepal tourism

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- Former Member of Parliament and Bollywood actress Jaya Prada has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of Nepal tourism.
- The appointment of Jaya Prada is expected to further strengthen the age-old cultural ties between the two neighbours and help in promoting Nepal's tourism in India. The appointment is for a period of four years.

### B.C. Khanduri removed as defence panel chairman

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- BJP MP and former Minister Major General B.C. Khanduri was removed as Chairman of the standing committee on Defence.
- Mr. Khanduri has been replaced by former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra who resigned from the post in September last year as he had crossed the 75 years age-limit set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for public office.

### Varun Dhawan, Anushka Sharma signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign

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- Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The actors through their film "Sui Dhaaga - Made in India" are saluting India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce, especially homegrown artisans, craftspeople and weavers.

### BARC director Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas appointed DAE secretary

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- Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), was appointed as the secretary to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairperson, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
- Vyas (61) will hold the positions until he attains the age of 64 (May 3, 2021) or until further orders. He takes over the reins from Sekhar Basu, who has served as the secretary since October 2015.

### Rajni Kant Mishra, new chief of BSF

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- The government appointed Rajni Kant Mishra as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF) in the place of K.K. Sharma, who is superannuating on September 30. A 1984 batch Indian Police Service officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.



### N. Ravi unanimously elected PTI Chairman

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- N. Ravi, Publisher and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI). Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers, was elected Vice-Chairman.
- Mr. Ravi succeeds Viveck Goenka, chairman and managing director of the Express Group.

## Obituary

### India's first woman IAS officer dead

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- India's first woman IAS officer after Independence, Anna Rajam Malhotra, who served in the Madras State under then Chief Minister C. Rajagopalachari and at the Central government, died in Mumbai.. She later married R.N. Malhotra, who served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1985 to 1990.

### Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang Dies

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- Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang died at the military hospital in Hanoi. He was the eighth President of Vietnam, in office from 2 April 2016 until his death in 2018.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Environment Minister Releases India's National Redd+ Strategy

- Complying with the UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy. The Strategy builds upon existing national circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.
- India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. India's first biennial update report to UNFCCC has revealed that forests in India capture about 12% of India's total GHG emissions.
- In simple terms, REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.

### Land immigration centre along Myanmar border opened

- India has opened an immigration check-post in Mizoram along the border with Myanmar, a reflection of its growing closeness with the eastern neighbour.
- In a notification, the Home Ministry said the central government has designated Zokhawthar land check-post in Mizoram as an authorised immigration centre for entry into and exit from India with valid travel documents for all passengers to or from Myanmar. The move came days after India and Myanmar opened the land border crossing at Zokhawthar-Rih. Zokhawthar is in Champhai district of Mizoram, while Rih is in Myanmar's Chin province.
- Zokhawthar will be the second immigration check-post in Mizoram along the Myanmar border, after Zorinpui in Lawngtlai district, which was opened in September last year.

### Prime Minister released the book "Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office" to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the book "Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office" to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- The Prime Minister said that Shri Venkaiah Naidu always performed whatever duty he had, with utmost diligence, and adapted into that role with ease. He has been in public life for 50 years- 10 years in student politics and 40 years in state as well as national politics, the Prime Minister added.

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu is the current Vice-President of India, in office since 11 August 2017. Previously, he served as the Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Development and Information and Broadcasting in the Modi Cabinet. He also served as national president of Bharatiya Janata Party from 2002 to 2004. Earlier, he was the Union Cabinet Minister for Rural Development in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. On 11 August 2017, he was sworn in as the 15th Vice-President of India, thus becoming the 13th person to hold the office.

### Indian Navy wins KAKADU-18 Cup, beats 22 other teams

- KAKADU 2018, a biannual joint exercise takes place both ashore and at sea off the coast of Darwin and this year's exercise involved 27 nations and more than 3000 personnel.

- The **Indian Navy** has won the coveted **KAKADU Cup 2018** in **Australia** as it participated in a multilateral maritime exercise involving 27 navies.

### **Typhoon Jebi, strongest storm in quarter century**

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- The **strongest typhoon** to hit **Japan** in **25 years** made **landfall**, with more than a million people urged to evacuate as the storm battered the country's west with **violent winds and heavy rainfall**.
- **Typhoon Jebi**, with winds of **up to 216 kilometres (135 miles) per hour**, swept a tanker anchored in **Osaka Bay** into a bridge and partially flooded **Kansai International Airport** on an island in the bay.

### **Vasundhara Raje government to give free smartphones to 1 crore families in Rajasthan**

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- Around **one crore poor families** in **Rajasthan** will get a **Rs 1,000-aid** from the state government to buy smartphones using which they can remain informed of welfare schemes and avail benefits as per their eligibility.
- **Launching the Bhamashah Digital Parivar Yojana** Rajasthan chief minister **Vasundhara Raje** said the subsidy of **Rs 1,000** will be given to card holders in two instalments.
- The government will give a first instalment of **Rs 500**, using which card holders will be able to buy a smartphone. Those who buy the smartphone will get the second **Rs 500** instalment using which they will have to get the internet connection.

### **India to surpass Brazil as top sugar producer, eyes bigger export share**

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- **India** will surpass **Brazil** as the world's top sugar producer next year; with the **South American country** losing its lead for the first time since the **1990s** as its mills allocate increasingly more cane for **ethanol production** and as low investments dent cane yields.
- At the same time, with subsidy schemes for a politically sensitive sector, **India** is expected to churn out a record sugar production of about **35 million tonnes** in **2018/19 year** starting in **October**, while **Brazil's** output could retreat by about **10 million tonnes** from a year ago to about **30 million tonnes**.

### **National Nutrition Month being celebrated across country to mark the fight against malnutrition**

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- The **National Nutrition Month** is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition.
- During this month, various programmes have been organized by the **Women and Child Development Ministry** to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children.
- The **Nutrition Month** will also focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to eliminate the deficiencies prevailing in the Health sector.
- With the aim to bring down stunting of children in the age group of **0-6 years** from **38 per cent** to **25 per cent** by **2022**, **POSHAN Abhiyaan**- the **National Nutrition Mission** was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **March 8th** this year in **Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan**.

### **Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurates Conference on E- Mobility organised by Indian Railways & NITI Aayog**

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- A Conference on **“E-Mobility in Indian Railways”** organized by **Ministry of Railways** through **Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IREE)** in association with **NITI Aayog** concluded.
- The **one-day conference** inaugurated by the **Minister of State of Communication (I/C)** and **Minister of State of Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha** was a pre-cursor to the **“Move: Global Mobility Summit”** organized by **NITI Aayog** on **7th and 8th Sept.** '18.

## Cabinet approves establishment and operationalization of permanent campus of seven new IIMs

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- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the establishment and operationalization of permanent campus of seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmour, Vishakhapatnam and Jammu, and their recurring expenditure at a total cost of Rs 3775.42 crore (Rs 2999.96 crore as Non-Recurring and Rs 775.46 Crore as Recurring Expenditure). These IIMs were established in the year 2015-16/2016-17.

## Asia-Europe Meeting conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'

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- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment left for Seoul (Korea) to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons' jointly organised in Seoul during 5th to 7th September, 2018 by the Republic of Korea and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

## Vice President visited US to participate in second World Hindu Congress

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- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited United States of America on September 8-9, 2018 to address the 2nd World Hindu Congress being held in Chicago on the occasion of 125th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893.
- The Vice President participated in a programme organized by 14 Telugu Associations of the US at Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago.

## Global Sanitation Convention to Herald 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

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- Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will organize a global sanitation convention to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, also coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) will be a 4-day international conference that will bring together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) from around the world.

## Raj Kapoor memorial to get world's largest peace hall

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- Late actor Raj Kapoor's memorial in Loni Khabhor, Pune, will soon contain the world's largest peace hall designed by architect and educationist Dr. Viswanath Karad, founder-chairman, MIT University.
- The hall will be inaugurated on October 2 this year with a World Peace Conference. The hall will be larger than the St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and house statues of various philosophers, saints as well as scientists.

## Akshay Kumar is honorary ambassador for Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation

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- Actor Akshay Kumar is proud about getting selected as an honorary ambassador for Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation. The National Award-winning actor has become the first Honorary Ambassador of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.

## Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10KW transmitter of AIR at Patnitop in J&K

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- The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 10KW transmitter of All India Radio at Patnitop in Ramban District of Jammu & Kashmir that will provide services to people living in a radius of around 60 km (aerial) in various districts.



## J-K, Punjab sign agreement for resuming work on Shahpurkandi dam project

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- The governments of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir signed an agreement to resume work on a dam project that would help reduce the quantum of India's share of Ravi waters flowing into Pakistan.
- **Shahpurkandi dam** is a national project and required financial assistance will be provided by the **Water Resources Ministry for its construction**. The construction of this project was halted in 2014 owing to a dispute between the two states.
- "The project will help in irrigation of about 37,000 ha of land in Punjab and J&K and will produce 206 MW of clean power. It will also help India to achieve a more efficient utilisation of waters of eastern rivers allocated (to it) under the Indus Waters Treaty and reduce the quantum of India's share of Ravi waters flowing into Pakistan".

## Indian Railways deploys 'Plan Bee' to ward off elephants from tracks, and 'it's a success'

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- The **Indian Railways** has come up with an initiative called "Plan Bee" to prevent speeding trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal said that the plan involves setting up of devices near tracks, which emit the 'buzzing' sound of swarming bees, considered as a natural nemesis of elephants.
- **Indian Railways** declared that its "Plan Bee", launched in November last year to stop elephants from being hit by speeding trains in the **Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR)**, has been a great success as the number of casualties has gone down drastically.

## Government grants 'trust' status to 'Bharat Ke Veer' initiative

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- **Union Government** has granted the status of a trust to 'Bharat Ke Veer', a private initiative promoted by actor **Akshay Kumar**, which aids families of paramilitary personnel killed in action. **Contributions to Bharat Ke Veer** have been exempted from **Income Tax**, Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** said.
- **Mr. Kumar** and former national badminton champion **Pullela Gopichand** have been included as trustees. Mr. Singh said the **Home Ministry** had taken up the **Bharat Ke Veer** initiative in April 2017.

## Switzerland to install statue of Sridevi

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- The **Switzerland** authorities are planning to install a statue of veteran Indian actor **Sridevi**, whose superhit movie "Chandni" was shot at the country's picturesque locations.
- The statue of the renowned Indian filmmaker, **Yash Chopra**, was unveiled in **Interlaken** in 2016.
- "Many of Chopra's films featured **Switzerland** as a backdrop and he is credited with boosting the popularity of the Alpine nation among Indian tourists. Now, considering Sridevi's role in promoting tourism.

## Journalist Inderjit Badhwar to represent India as special moderator in Prague Writers Festival

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- **Noted Veteran journalist and author Inderjit Badhwar** will represent India as special moderator in the **Prague Writers Festival** which will start from October 3.
- **Badhwar** will represent India as special moderator at the six-day annual literary conclave, and will also have the participation of **Man Booker Prize** winning author **Kiran Desai**.

## West Bengal gets four 'child friendly courts'

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- Four 'child friendly courts' were inaugurated in **West Bengal** to help juvenile victims and offenders.
- **Justice Madan B. Lokur** of the **Supreme Court** inaugurated the State's first such court at **Bankshall court**. He called for all-out efforts to give the affected children a good life.

## Delhi launches doorstep delivery of govt. services

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- The Delhi government launched its ambitious project to deliver public services at the doorstep of residents.
- From driving licences to marriage certificates, Delhiites can now apply for 40 government documents to be delivered at their homes for a fee of Rs. 50 per service.

## J&K 3rd state to adopt road-accident data software

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- Jammu and Kashmir became the third state in the country to use software for standard and accurate data on road accidents.
- With this, J&K became the third state in the country to move to automated software-based solution on road-accident data.
- RADMS is a geographical information system (GIS) solution for identification of black spots, wrong driving practices, road infrastructure, vehicular defects, road types, damage to property, overloading issues, driver issues and other factors causing or related to road accidents.

## Advani to chair LS ethics panel

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- Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani has been renominated as the Chairman of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
- The Committee examines complaints on unethical conduct by MPs and can also take up suo motu enquiry.
- P. Karunakaran has also been renominated as Chairman of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will head the Committee on Government Assurances.

## Telangana has become the first state to raise concerns over the proposed data protection bill

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- Telangana has become the first state to raise concerns over the proposed data protection bill — submitted by the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee — as it fears implementation of certain clauses, especially one on data localisation, will isolate Indian startups and hurt investments in the state and the country.

## Cabinet clears new procurement policy

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- The Centre has announced a Rs. 15,053 crore scheme to ensure that farmers growing oilseeds, pulses and copra actually get the minimum support prices (MSP) they are promised for their crops every year.
- The umbrella policy Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- It clubs together an existing procurement scheme with newly introduced options — meant for oilseeds only — of additional procurement by private traders or a cash payment scheme.

## 15th Prawasi Bhartiya Diwas to be held at Varanasi in UP in Jan 2019

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- The 15th Prawasi Bhartiya Diwas -2019 will be held at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh in January next year. The three day event will begin from 21st of January, 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the event and President Ram Nath Kovind will give valedictory speech.

## PM Modi to inaugurate Sikkim airport on Sep 23

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Sikkim on September 23 to inaugurate the state's first airport at Pakyong.

## Preeti Shenoy pens new book -- "The Rule Breakers"

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- **Best-selling author Preeti Shenoy announced the launch of her new book "The Rule Breakers".**
- **The book, which claims to explore complex themes of women's equality, gender and inclusion among others, is expected to hit the stands on September 17.**
- **The novel set in the 90s' is the story of "smart and studious" Veda, who harbours big dreams but finds herself trapped in an arranged marriage and realises that her opinions, her choices in real life do not matter.**

## Children rights charity wins \$1 million humanitarian prize

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- **An international children rights charity based in Switzerland has been awarded the 2018 Balzan Prize for humanitarian achievement.**
- **The Balzan Foundation announced that Terre des Hommes will receive 1 million Swiss francs (\$1 million) for a project in the African nation of Mali to save infants during childbirth and help their mothers.**

## First ever bus services between Bihar and Nepal flagged off

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- **For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started.** After flagging off the bus from Patna. The bus services have been commissioned following the agreement between India and Nepal.
- **Four buses will fly from Bodhgaya to Kathmandu. Similarly four buses will fly from Patna to Janakpur.** The Kathmandu bound bus will go via Patna, Raxaul and Beerganj. The Janakpur bound bus will go via Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi.

## Tamil Nadu govt bans e-cigarettes in state

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- **The Tamil Nadu government has banned e-cigarettes in the state.** Listing the ill-effects of using Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, known as E-Cigarettes, it is a myth that it is less harmful than Beedis and cigarettes.

## Festival of Nuakhai being celebrated in Odisha

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- **The festival of Nuakhai is celebrated in Odisha.** During this harvest festival of western Odisha, new produce Nabannis offered to presiding deities. After offering the Nabann, people relish different types of delicacies prepared from the newly harvested crop.
- **The Nuakhai Juhar is a major ritual of the festival, during which greetings are exchanged with friends, relatives and well-wishers.**

## AP Government launches website to tackle unemployment

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- **The Andhra Pradesh government announced to start an unemployment allowance for the state's youth from October 2018.**
- **As per the scheme, the unemployed youth between the age group of 25 years to 35 years will get an allowance of Rs. 1000 along with free of cost skill development training.**

## Treatment of child cancer to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

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- **The government has said that treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.**
- **NITI Aayog member Dr Vinod Kumar Paul said the rate in this regard has been fixed. Dr Paul said the scheme will provide health insurance cover of five lakh rupees to poor families.** He said BPL and lower-middle-class families will benefit from it.
- **Dr Paul said, 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres will be opened in the country by 2022 under Ayushman Bharat.**

- He said, these centres will provide **comprehensive healthcare** against diseases like **diabetes, cancer, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases**.

### On Engineer's Day, Google Doodle Celebrates M Visvesvaraya's Birthday

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- **Google dedicates its doodle to celebrate M Visvesvaraya's 158th birthday** who is known to have lived by the phrase, "Work is Worship".
- The **doodle has a color sketch of Sir MV** with a sketch of a bridge in the background.
- The bridge, among **M Visvesvaraya's most notable projects**, is a representation of the **Krishna Raja Sagara Lake and dam**.
- **In 1924, Sir MV designed the Krishna Raja Sagara Lake and dam**, the **largest reservoir in India at the time**, and oversaw the construction of the project. The dam is known to have provided drinking water for several cities.

### Jeff Bezos unveils \$2 bn philanthropic fund

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- **Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, the richest person on the planet**, has announced that he is **creating a philanthropic fund** to help homeless families and launch preschools in low-income communities, committing an initial \$2 billion.

### HDI report finds inequality high in India, higher in Pakistan and Bangladesh

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- The **latest human development index (HDI) report** released by the **United Nations Development Programme** shows **India's inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) at 0.468**, or a **26.8% drop** from its **unadjusted HDI of 0.640**.
- **On both indices (the higher the better)**, India is ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

**Human Development Index (HDI)** is a statistic composite index of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development. A country scores a higher HDI when the lifespan is higher, the education level is higher, and the GDP per capita is higher. The HDI was developed by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq, and was further used to measure the country's development by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

### Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan won top honours at the first international music festival initiated by President Shavkat Mirzoyev

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- **Strains of the Vande Mataram blended with Amir Khusro's poetry** in the ancient Uzbek city of **Shakhrisabz**, as an Indian artiste won top honours at the first of its kind **International 'Maqom' music festival**.
- **Maqom**, the oriental system of music that is enhanced by string and percussion instruments across Asia, is quite **different from the classical Hindustani "Thaat" system**, but the Uzbek audience voted with its hands, clapping and cheering for **Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan** and accompanying members of the **Dilli (Delhi) gharana**.

### HRD Minister inaugurates more than 3400 Test Practice Centres for entrance examinations for Higher Education

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- The **Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar** has **inaugurated a network of more than 3,400 Test Practice Centres (TPCs)** spread across the **622 Districts** in the country. **25 Test Practice Centres (TPCs)** joined Minister of HRD through **Google Hangouts** in this inauguration at **New Delhi**.
- These test centres have been set up to **facilitate students appearing in entrance examinations for Higher Education to hold practice sessions** to enable them to get used to the changed mode and pattern of examination.
- **NTA has established, a network of 'Test Practice Centres' (TPCs)** across the country in about 622 Districts in 33 States/UTs, so that students of rural areas and others, **get an opportunity to practice the Computer Based Test (CBT) before the exam**.



## Kerala Tourism wins two Pacific Asia Travel Association gold awards

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- **Kerala Tourism's** vigorous efforts to get back on track in the wake of recent devastating floods got a shot in the arm as it **walked away with two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns.**
- The awards were **presented at a glittering function in Langkawi, Malaysia during PATA Travel Mart 2018.**
- **Kerala Tourism got the first gold for its 'Yalla Kerala' travel advertisement print media campaign in the Gulf countries.**
- The **second gold award came for an innovative poster Kerala Tourism had developed for the third edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB), the biggest contemporary art show in South Asia.**

## Union Home Minister launches two portals to strengthen Women Safety

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- **Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh launched two separate portals to strengthen Women Safety.**
- The portal **“cybercrime.gov.in” will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.**
- The **second portal unveiled by the Union Home Minister relates to the National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO).** It is a central database of “sexual offenders” in the country which will be maintained by the NCRB for regular monitoring and tracking by the State Police.

## President of India Inaugurates Centenary Celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha

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- The **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi.**
- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that languages connect people. There are **numerous languages and dialects in India.** This **diversity adds to India's culture and well-being.** He said that **institutions like the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha** have played a very important role in strengthening the **emotional unity of our country.** He noted that the **Sabha has developed a network of about 20,000 Hindi campaigners.**

## Bimstec to launch ambitious land, air, sea transport plan

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- Senior officials of all seven countries of the **Bay of Bengal Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec)** will meet in **Bangkok to discuss an ambitious rail, road, port and air connectivity master plan in another sign** that the grouping has renewed diplomatic energy and is becoming India's preferred mode of encouraging regional cooperation.
- The plan underlines the fact that lack of a regional connectivity plans hampered the economic progress of the region that has an **annual average economic growth rates of between 3.4% and 7.5% between 2012 and 2016.** **India has the largest regional economy, followed by Thailand and Bangladesh.** To put in perspective, one quarter of the world's traded goods cross the Bay of Bengal.

## Satyarup Siddhanta, Mousumi Khatua created history by climbing Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand

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- Mountaineers **Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua** have created history by climbing Asia's highest volcanic peak **Mount Damavand in Iran.**
- **At the elevation of 5,609 metres, Mount Damavand is a potentially active volcano.**
- The expedition team comprised of three members, **Siddhanta, Mousumi and Bhaswati Chatterjee.** **Bhaswati decided to stay back after advancing till 4,600 metres.**

## INSV Tarini crew bestowed with Tenzing Norgay Award

- All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for eight long months.
- The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.

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

## IAF Deputy Chief flies first Rafale fighter jet manufactured for India

- Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar flew the first Rafale fighter jet manufactured by Dassault Aviation for India.
- In 2016, the Modi government signed a government-to-government deal with France for purchase of 36 Rafale jets at a cost of Rs 58,000 crore. The delivery of the jets —capable of carrying a range of potent weapons and missiles—is scheduled to begin from September next year.

## ESIC “Chinta Se Mukti” Mobile App Now on Umang Platform

- Now ESIC “Chinta Se Mukti” mobile app is available on UMANG platform of Govt. of India.
- With this app, the Insured Persons can view their contribution history, personal profile, claim status and also their entitlement to benefits.

UMANG or Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance, is a Government of India all-in-one single unified secure multi-channel multi-platform multi-lingual multi-service freeware mobile app for accessing over 1,200 central and state government services in multiple Indian languages over Android, iOS, Windows and services such as AADHAR, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System, PAN, EPFO services, PMKVY services, AICTE, CBSE, tax and fee or utilities bills payments, education, job search, tax, business, health, agriculture, travel, birth certificates, e-District, passport and much more.

## Medical Cyclotron Facility Cyclone-30 Became Operational at Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), Kolkata

- Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care. Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational this month when 30 MeV beam reached the Faraday Cup for the first time.
- Subsequently, beam from this facility was used to produce 18F (Fluorine-18 isotope) for the preparation of [18 F] Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radio-pharmaceutical used by Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT).

## Union Home Secretary launches ‘e-Sahaj’ portal for grant of Security Clearance

- The Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba launched an online ‘e-Sahaj’ portal for grant of Security Clearance. The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.

## Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates two-day National Convention of National Association of Street Vendors of India, NASVI

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a two-day National Convention of National Association of Street Vendors of India, NASVI, in New Delhi.

- Issues such as the **implementation of Street Vending Act** and how it has benefited the vending community so far were discussed.

### PM Modi lays foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre in New Delhi

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre, IICC, at Dwarka in New Delhi.
- The facilities provided at the centre will be at par with the best in the world in size and quality, offering setting for international and national events, meetings, conferences, exhibitions and trade shows.
- The project is implemented by India International Convention and Exhibition Centre Limited, a 100 per cent Government owned company under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### Inaugural Naval Flight Test Seminar held at Goa

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- The inaugural Naval Flight Test Seminar was held at Goa. There were also a series of papers which were presented on weapon integration on service aircraft and towards building and sustaining the training for Naval Experimental Test Pilots and Flight Test Engineers.
- Among the various Indian panel speakers, the seminar witnessed participation from the International arena including Boeing, Dassault and International Test Pilots School.

### Gujarat Govt forms panel to probe crop insurance complaints

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- Under government-sponsored crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) over 12 lakh farmers in Gujarat have been covered during the ongoing Kharif 2018 season.
- The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme) was launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 18 February 2016.
- PMFBY is an actuarial premium based scheme under which farmer has to pay maximum premium of 2% for Kharif, 1.5% for Rabi food & oilseed crops and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops and remaining part of the actuarial/bidded premium is shared equally by the Centre and State Government.

### Mizoram's first international short film festival inaugurated

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- The first-ever Mizoram International Short Film Festival (MISFF) was inaugurated with the screening Gulshan Grover's internationally acclaimed short film 'Forbidden'.
- The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla at the iconic Aijal Club in Aizawl.
- The film festival, which is the first of its kind in Mizoram, has been jointly organised by the Government of Mizoram and Innovations India, aimed at promoting Mizoram as a preferred destination for film making, and to reach out to the international film makers to showcase the unexplored beauty of the state

Mizoram is a state in Northeast India, with Aizawl as its capital city. The name is derived from "Mizo", the name of the native inhabitants, and "Ram", which means land, and thus Mizoram means "land of the Mizos". Like several other northeastern states of India, Mizoram was previously part of Assam until 1972, when it was carved out as a Union Territory. It became the 23rd state of India, a step above Union Territory, on 20 February 1987, with Fifty-Third Amendment of Indian Constitution, 1986. Lal Thanhawla has been the Chief Minister of Mizoram since 11 December 2008. Kummanam Rajasekharan is the current Governor of Mizoram.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sikkim's first airport in Pakyong

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- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the Sikkim's first-ever airport. During the two-day visit, Modi inaugurated the Pakyong greenfield airport, around 33 km from Gangtok Built at an estimated cost of over Rs. 605 crore, the 100th operational airport in India, and the only airport in the state of Sikkim.

Pakyong airport is a new distinction for the State of Sikkim which has, in the last three to four years, achieved the distinction of becoming the first "Organic State" of India and also the first "Open Defecation Free" (ODF) State of India.

- At 4500 ft, Pakyong Airport is one of the five highest airports in India. It is also the first Greenfield airport to be constructed in the Northeastern Region of India. The Pakyong Airport project is one of the tallest reinforced soil structures in the world.

### PM inaugurates Jharsuguda Airport and flags off UDAN flight between Jharsuguda-Raipur sector

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- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a new airport in Jharsuguda - also known as the powerhouse of Odisha. The Prime Minister also flagged off the UDAN flight on Jharsuguda-Raipur sector.
- Jharsuguda is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational and the first one to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under RCS UDAN. In Odisha, other than Jharsuguda, three more airports, namely, Jeypore in Koraput District, Rourkela in Sundargarh District and Utkela in Kalahandi District are being developed to provide connectivity to remote and far flung areas of the coastal state.

### “Mushairas” to be organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, to celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

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- Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, is organising “Mushairas”, based on the themes of teachings and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, across the country as a part of the Modi Government’s decision to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi that the first such “Mushaira” will be held on 06th October, 2018 at New Delhi’s Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, where renowned Urdu poets will be performing various programmes based on the themes of Mahatma Gandhi’s message of harmony, national integrity, democratic values, non-violence and global peace.

### India to organise 'Gandhi March' in Netherlands

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- India organised 'Gandhi March' from the iconic Peace Palace at The Hague to Grote Kerk to launch the two-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The 'Gandhi March' will see participation of people of all nationalities and around 20 ambassadors of different countries.
- On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, marked as International Day of Non-Violence, five other events were held in The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer.

### I&B ministry nominates Kangna Ranaut, Anup Jalota, Rajkumar Hirani to FTII Society

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- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society, nominating actor Kangna Ranaut, singer Anup Jalota, noted directors and producers Rajkumar Hirani and Vidhu Vinod Chopra, among others, as members.
- Their nomination comes about a year after actor Anupam Kher was appointed as the chairman of FTII.
- Hirani, Chopra, Danny Denzongpa (actor) and Mahesh Aney (cinematographer), have been nominated to the FTII society under the alumnus category.

### No Indian institute in top 250 in THE World University Rankings

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- India has increased its representation in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings with 49 places compared to last year’s 42 --- but a spot in the top 250 continues to elude Indian institutes.
- The Indian Institute of Science -- in the 251-300 band -- continues to retain the lead, but in an impressive debut, IIT Indore becomes India’s second highest-ranked university in the 351-400 rankings bracket.



- Not only has IIT Indore managed to make its place among the global top 400 institutions with its strongest scoring for research volume and research impact, it has, in the rankings, overtaken IIT Bombay, which slips from the 351-400 to 401-500 banding.

### Home Minister chairs meeting of Central Zonal Council in Lucknow

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- Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting of 21st Central Zonal Council in Lucknow in which Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand while representative ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh participated.

### Indian NSA visits Iran for first of its kind regional meet to counter ISIS threat

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- India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval visited Iran on 26 September to participate in a first of its kind of meeting, of regional players, focussing on the rising threat posed by terrorism, including Daesh/ISIS, to regional and global peace, security and stability.

### Lokpal search committee headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

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- The government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, former SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Justice Sukha Ram Singh Yadav among others will be members of the panel.

### Shri J P Nadda addresses High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis at 73rd session of UNGA

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- Our goal continues to be to achieve the vision of universal access to quality diagnosis and treatment for TB and address the social determinants of TB through a multi-sectoral response. This was stated by Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare during his address at the 'High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis at 73rd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at New York'.

### Modi to open Gandhi museum in Rajkot

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated multiple projects in Gujarat, including a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi at the Alfred high School in Rajkot, and a modern chocolate factory set up by Amul in Anand.
- Mr. Modi also inaugurates a gas pipeline project in Kutch and an LNG terminal built by the Gujarat government-promoted Gujarat State Petronet Ltd (GSPL).
- In Rajkot, the museum had been set up by the State government at the school from where Gandhiji passed his matriculation in 1887. Renamed Mohandas Gandhi High School after Independence, the school was closed in 2017 after authorities decided to convert it into a museum.

### Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates International conference on plastics recycling and waste management

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- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has asked industry to adopt recycling of plastic waste. The Marvel material of one-time plastic is now choking the ecosystem and societies must self-regulate before it becomes a menace which could further bring into a mass movement against it.
- Inaugurating an International conference on plastics recycling and waste management: Opportunity and Challenges, in New Delhi the Minister emphasised on solid waste management.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates conference on academic leadership on education for resurgence

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- The 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.

- The conference is attended by vice-chancellors and directors of over 350 higher education institutions.
- The 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' has been organised by are the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the Research for Resurgence Foundation - a sister-concern of the RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal.

### India and UN to sign a five year Sustainable Development Framework

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- CEO NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant and United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, Yuri Afanasiev signed the Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022, at a special signing ceremony on September 28 at NITI Aayog premises. The signing ceremony would be presided over by Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and Members of NITI Aayog and was attended by the heads of UN agencies in India.

### Vice President inaugurates Rs 100 cr culinary institute

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- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a Rs 100 crore Indian Culinary Institute, built by the Ministry of Tourism, close to Renigunta airport, 15 km from Tirupati.
- Indian culture, Indian culinary art and the taste of Indian food have its own enormous value across the world.

### HMR is now second largest metro network in India

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- When Governor E. S. L. Narasimhan flagged off the metro train from the Ameerpet metro interchange station to L. B. Nagar in the city suburb, Hyderabad Metro Rail became the second largest metro network in the country after Delhi with a total of 46 km service.

### Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate national literary and intellectual conference- "Lok Manthan 2018" in Ranchi

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- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates a national literary and intellectual conference- "Lok Manthan 2018" at Khel Gaon in Ranchi.
- This four-day event is organised by Department of Culture of Jharkhand Government in association with a NGO to have discussions on present social and cultural issues facing the country.

### Women of all ages allowed entry to Sabarimala temple

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- The Supreme Court has struck down a rule that disallowed girls and women in the 10-50 age group from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. Chief Justice Dipak Misra-headed Constitution bench in a 4-1 verdict said the temple rule violated their right to equality and right to worship. Sabarimala is built on a story.
- A story that has linkages with faith that said that the main deity of the temple, Lord Ayyappa, is a brahmachari (a celibate god) and the presence of women of the menstruating age group is a hindrance to his meditation. Women outside this age group can enter the temple and that has been always so.
- Sabarimala is a Hindu pilgrimage centre located at the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghat mountain ranges of Pathanamthitta District, Perunad grama panchayat in the state of Kerala. It is one of the largest annual pilgrimages in the world with an estimated 45–50 million devotees visiting every year.

### Indian Ports Association appoints Managed Service Provider for Port Enterprise Business System for Five Major Ports

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- As part of its efforts to promote Ease of doing Business through digital transformation and build a world class port infrastructure in the country, the Indian Ports Association (IPA) has appointed M/s Tech Mahindra as the Managed Service Provider for the five major ports at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Deendayal Port and Paradip Port Trust.

### AAI's Ahmedabad and Indore Airports awarded as Best Airports under National Tourism Awards 2016-17

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- Airports Authority of India's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad were conferred with the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2016-17 at a glittering award function on World Tourism Day.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad received the Best Airport Award in Major Cities category and Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore received the Best Airport Award in 'Rest of India' category for promotion of Tourism at these airports.
- The award was presented by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Shri K.J. Alphons.

### Ahmedabad best heritage city, Qutub Minar best monument for differently-abled

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- UNESCO World Heritage City Ahmedabad and Mandu were jointly declared as the 'Best Heritage City', while Qutub Minar bagged the top award in the differently-abled friendly monument category at the National Tourism Awards.
- The awards were presented by Union Tourism Minister K J Alphons at a ceremony held at the Vigyan Bhavan. India's first World Heritage City Ahmedabad is well-known for Indo-Islamic monumental art and architecture, intricately carved wooden havelis.
- Founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah in 1411 on pre-existing sites of Ashawal and Karnavati, the city was encompassed by massive brick fortification on banks of Sabarmati.
- "Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is a pioneer in people-centric urban conservation since 1996, with establishment of the first heritage cell in India. This has led to awareness creation, framing of heritage regulations, conservation and restoration of invaluable heritage buildings," the citation for the city read. Mandu, an ancient city in Madhya Pradesh, was also bestowed the 'Best Heritage City' award.

### President inaugurates plenary session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi

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- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the plenary session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi. The four day international conference will bring together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) from around the world.
- It culminated on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti, which is also celebrated as the Swachh Bharat Diwas.

### Madhya Pradesh: 1st corn festival of country being held in Chhindwara

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- In Madhya Pradesh, the first corn festival of the country is held in Chhindwara. The festival is one of a kind international event.
- Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest corn producing states in India, with Chhindwara being the highest corn producing district.

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Charity- 5 September

- The **International Day of Charity** is observed annually on **5 September**. It was declared by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 2012.

### International Literacy Day

- **International Literacy Day**, celebrated annually on **8 September**, is an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges.
- The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- This year's theme is 'Literacy and skills development.' Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist, and at the same time the demands for skills required for work, evolve rapidly.

### World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)

- **World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)** is an awareness day observed on **10 September** every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.
- The **International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)** collaborates with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)** to host **World Suicide Prevention Day**.

### International Day for South-South Cooperation: 12 September

- As part of the **40th anniversary** of the **International Day for South-South Cooperation**, the **United Nations** drew together, more than **100 best-practices** developed in the countries of the **Global South**, which embody the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

### International Day of Democracy: 15 September

- This year's **International Day of Democracy** is an opportunity to look for ways to invigorate democracy and seek answers to the systemic challenges it faces **celebrated on 15 September**.
- **2018 Theme: Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World.**

### Hindi Divas being celebrated across country

- **Hindi Divas** is celebrated across the country on **14<sup>th</sup> September**. It was on this day in **1949** that the **Constituent Assembly** adopted **Hindi** written in **Devanagari** as the official language of the country.
- On **September 14, 1949**, the **Constituent Assembly of India** adopted **Hindi** as the official language of the newly formed nation. The **Indo-Aryan language** had been in use across large sections of **India** in multiple forms by then and had in fact been carried outside the shores of the country by those who settled in other parts of the world through centuries.
- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** presented **Rajbhasha Awards** to chiefs of various departments, Ministries and offices for their outstanding performances in promoting the language.

### International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September

- The theme for **World Ozone Day 2018** is a motivational rallying call urging all of us to carry on with the exemplary work of protecting the ozone layer and the climate under the **Montreal Protocol**.



- "Keep Cool and Carry on": The Montreal Protocol is the theme of 24th World Ozone Day celebrations.

## International Day of Peace: 21 September

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- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
- 2018 Theme: "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70".

## International Day of Sign Languages and International Week of the Deaf 2018

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- First International Day of Sign Languages was observed on 23rd September.
- In recognition for sign language in connection with the first International Day of Sign Languages, television channels are conducting week-long programmes in association with the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH).
- A sign language week also observed in connection with the International Day of Sign Languages.

## Antyodaya Divas organised across country on 25th September

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- 25th September is observed as Antyodaya Divas every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Swachhata Hin Sewa Movement on 15th of this month.
- During the Antyodaya Divas, each Swachhagrahi was asked to create an army of her own Swachhagrahis.

## World Rhino Day celebrated in Assam

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- World Rhino Day is celebrated in Assam on 22nd September. The observation of the day will make people aware about the importance of Rhinos which will send a strong message to poachers. There are over 2600 rhinos that have been found in Assam as of now.

## World Rabies Day

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- World Rabies Day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease.
- 28 September also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

## International Translation Day

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- International Translation Day is meant as an opportunity to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.
- International Translation Day is celebrated every year on 30 September on the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators.

## Official celebration of World Tourism Day 2018 in Budapest

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- UNWTO partnered with the Hungarian Tourism Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade held the official celebration of World Tourism Day on 27 September in Budapest.
- Since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has celebrated World Tourism Day as international observances on September 27. This date was chosen as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted.

## QUESTIONS

1. The Home Ministry announced that the Census 2021 will for the first time collect data on:  
(a) Other Backwards Castes (OBC) (b) Schedule Castes (SC)  
(c) Schedule Tribes (ST) (d) All of the above
2. Exercise KAKADU is a multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by:  
(a) Indian Navy (b) Royal Austria Navy  
(c) Royal Australian Navy (d) Royal USA Navy
3. The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Kathmandu (c) Lahore (d) Mali
4. The 4th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) began in:  
(a) Nepal (b) China (c) Bangladesh (d) India
5. The 6th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Trade Ministers' Meeting which begins in:  
(a) USA (b) Japan (c) Singapore (d) Australia
6. The merger of Idea Cellular and Vodafone India has been completed, creating India's biggest telecom service provider with over \_\_\_\_\_ million subscribers.  
(a) 100 (b) 200 (c) 300 (d) 408
7. Astronomers from Japan have obtained the most detailed anatomy chart of a monster galaxy located \_\_\_\_\_ light-years away, using Chile's Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA).  
(a) 10.4 billion (b) 11.4 billion (c) 12.4 billion (d) 15.4 billion
8. Who among the following Indian Cricket players has become the second fastest Indian to reach 6000 Test runs?  
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Cheteshwar Arvind Pujara  
(c) Virat Kohli (d) Ajinka Rahane
9. Which among the following women's hockey team has won the gold medal in the Asian Games 2018?  
(a) India (b) Japan (c) China (d) Nepal
10. India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by:  
(a) 2022 (b) 2025 (c) 2027 (d) 2030
11. Who among the following is set to take over as the new Chief Justice of India on October 3, 2018?  
(a) Justice Ranjan Gogoi (b) Justice Madan Bhimrao Lokur  
(c) Justice Kurian Joseph (d) Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri
12. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 first standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on which among the following rivers?  
(a) Narmada (b) Godavari (c) Ganga (d) Krishna
13. Justice Tahira Safdar was sworn in as the first woman High Court chief justice of:  
(a) Nepal (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) Iraq

14. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Hyderabad (d) New Delhi
15. Who has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA)?  
(a) Dina Bandhu Mohapatra (b) Rajnish Kumar  
(c) Sunil Mehta (d) Shyam Srinivasan
16. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhilwara located in:  
(a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Bihar (d) Andhra Pradesh
17. Eminent neurosurgeon Dr B.K. Misra has been named for this year's prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award as an Eminent Medical Person of the Year. This award was instituted in:  
(a) 1950 (b) 1955 (c) 1958 (d) 1962
18. Who has become the first Indian poet invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.?  
(a) Abhay K (b) Vikram Seth (c) Abhinav Sinha (d) Jitender Singh
19. Amit Panghal became only the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian boxer ever to claim a gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.  
(a) Fourth (b) Fifth (c) Sixth (d) Eighth
20. Who among the following has become the oldest man in Indian contingent to win a medal at the 18th Asian Games 2018?  
(a) Shibhnath Sarkar (b) Man Kaur (c) Dharmapala Singh (d) Pranab Bardhan
21. The Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) 2018 will be held for the first time in:  
(a) Houston (b) London (c) Tokyo (d) Beijing
22. The 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) was held in:  
(a) Indonesia (b) India (c) Myanmar (d) Singapore
23. According to data from the UN's tourism organization, which among the following countries is leading the growth in the international tourist arrivals in the South Asian region?  
(a) China (b) India (c) Singapore (d) Malaysia
24. Who among the following took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in September 2018?  
(a) Raghav Ranjan (b) Madhusudan Mistry (c) R Madhavan (d) T. Subbha Raju
25. In a first, scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have developed a rollable touch-screen tablet called MagicScroll.  
(a) Canada (b) USA (c) South Korea (d) Japan
26. How many medals did India win at the Asian Games 2018?  
(a) 55 (b) 65 (c) 69 (d) 79
27. The Sports Ministry approved the participation of a Kho Kho team from India in the first International Kho Kho Championships to be held in:  
(a) Nepal (b) Indonesia (c) Singapore (d) England

28. Who among the following became the first Indian batsman to score 4000 runs in Tests as captain?  
(a) Sunil Gavaskar (b) M.S.Dhoni  
(c) Virat Kohli (d) Sourav Chandidas Ganguly
29. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the book "Moving On, Moving Forward - A Year in Office" to mark one year in office of:  
(a) Vice President Venkaiah Naidu (b) President Ram nath Kovind  
(c) Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra (d) Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha M. Thambidurai
30. Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 10KW transmitter of All India Radio at Patnitop in Ramban District of:  
(a) Bihar (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Nagaland (d) Jammu & Kashmir
31. Who has been named as the Olympic Council of Asia's Most Valuable Player at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang by the OCA?  
(a) Saina Nehwal (b) Tai Tzu Ying (c) Rikako Ikee (d) Vinesh Phogat
32. Recently, Union Minister Shripad Naik inaugurated the fourth International Ayurveda Congress, IAvC in:  
(a) Singapore (b) France (c) Netherlands (d) Germany
33. Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to set up its first fully owned overseas satellite ground station near:  
(a) South Pole (b) Antarctica (c) North Pole (d) Alaska
34. The US-India Business Council (USIBC), a top American business advocacy group is held its first India Idea Summit in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Chennai
35. Recently, China has pledged a \_\_\_\_\_billion fund to bolster industry, counter hunger, and enhance security in Africa, a continent that has been chronically plagued by piracy and terrorism.  
(a) \$30 (b) \$40 (c) \$50 (d) \$60
36. Recently, 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia was organized in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Jaipur (c) New Delhi (d) Lucknow
37. The exercise, known as IOWave18, is organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. How many countries were participated in this military exercise?  
(a) 16 (b) 19 (c) 24 (d) 32
38. Which of the following months is to be celebrated as "National Nutrition Month" across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition?  
(a) July (b) August (c) September (d) November
39. Recently, which of the following country's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez proposed holding a referendum in Catalonia on greater autonomy for the wealthy region?  
(a) Finland (b) Spain (c) Portugal (d) Latvia
40. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has asked all commercial banks having \_\_\_\_\_or more banking outlets to have an independent internal ombudsman (IO) to review customer complaints that are either partly or fully rejected by the banks.  
(a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 25 (d) 50



41. Who won the "Italian Grand Prix" formula one recently?  
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Kimi Raikkonen (c) Felipe Nasr (d) Sebastian Vettel
42. Which among the following countries navy has won the coveted KAKADU Cup 2018 in Australia that participated in a multilateral maritime exercise involving 27 navies recently?  
(a) Indian Navy (b) New Zealand Navy (c) Australian Navy (d) Thailand Navy
43. Who is the newly elected President of Pakistan?  
(a) Maulana Fazlur Rehman (b) Mirza Intezarul Haq  
(c) Arif Alvi (d) Aitzaz Ahsan
44. Recently, a Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IREE) in association with:  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) RBI (c) NABARD (d) SEBI
45. Name the Indian state, which has recently launched the "Bhamashah Digital Parivar Yojana".  
(a) Gujarat (b) Haryana (c) Rajasthan (d) Maharashtra
46. Recently, which of the following countries declared an official end to the world's worst recorded listeria outbreak?  
(a) Kenya (b) Liberia (c) Uganda (d) South Africa
47. Recently, International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 was held in:  
(a) Thimphu (b) Kathmandu (c) New Delhi (d) Beijing
48. Which among the following is the second Indian company to attain a market valuation of more than Rs. 8 lakh crore following a surge in its share price recently?  
(a) Wipro (b) ITC (c) TCS (d) RIL
49. Recently, which of the following banks launched a tab-based digital initiative, intended to help eligible retail and business customers get in-principle sanctions for loans within 15 minutes?  
(a) Karur Vysya Bank Ltd (b) Kotak Mahindra Bank  
(c) City Union Bank Ltd. (d) IDFC bank Ltd.
50. Which of the following countries is to launch the world's first experiment to test mini 'space elevator' between two mini satellites in space?  
(a) China (b) USA (c) Japan (d) Russia
51. The International Day of Charity is observed annually on:  
(a) 1st September (b) 3rd September (c) 4th September (d) 5th September
52. According to the latest study released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), what percentages of Indians are not active enough to stay healthy?  
(a) 13% (b) 19% (c) 27% (d) 34%
53. Which of the following late Bollywood actor's memorial in Loni Khabhor, Pune, will soon contain the world's largest peace hall?  
(a) Rajesh Khanna (b) Vinod Khanna (c) Raj Kapoor (d) Shashi Kapoor

54. Who has been elevated to take over country's premier National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) recently?  
(a) Shashaikant Ranjan (b) Deepak Pal Singh  
(c) Satish Chandra Jha (d) Preetpal Singh Ahluwalia
55. Name the Indian Shooter, who picked up his maiden gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Championships 2018.  
(a) Om Prakash Mitharwal (b) Bhupinder Rana  
(c) Sandeep Kheterpal (d) Beekesh Sharma
56. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the second phase of the FAME India scheme in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Bengaluru
57. Recently, India has backed \_\_\_\_\_ over its claim on the disputed Chagos islands, which is home to Diego Garcia the key military base of the U.K. and the U.S. in the Indian Ocean.  
(a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Seychelles (d) Sri Lanka
58. The 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons' is held in:  
(a) Beijing (b) Jakarta (c) Tokyo (d) Seoul
59. Name the person, who has recently been unanimously nominated for second term as Regional Director WHO South-East Asia.  
(a) Dr. Nigar Sultana (b) Dr. Durgeshnandini Sharma  
(c) Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh (d) Dr. Jaideep Pandey
60. Recently, the age limit for availing overdraft facility under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has been revised to \_\_\_\_\_ from the earlier 18 to 60 years.  
(a) 18 to 65 years (b) 15 to 60 years (c) 21 to 68 years (d) 21 to 70 years
61. Which of the following Bollywood National Award-winning actor has become the first Honorary Ambassador of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation recently?  
(a) Irfan Khan (b) Rajkumar Rao (c) Akshay Kumar (d) Aamir Khan
62. Recently, The world's biggest offshore wind farm has been officially opened in the:  
(a) Java Sea (b) Irish Sea (c) Adriatic Sea (d) Bering Sea
63. According to the Nuclear Security Index, India at present stands \_\_\_\_\_ in the 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons usable nuclear materials.  
(a) 14th (b) 15th (c) 19th (d) 27th
64. Recently, The government doubled the monetary limit to \_\_\_\_\_ rupees for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions.  
(a) 10 lakh (b) 20 lakh (c) 50 lakh (d) 80 lakh
65. India is the Partner Country in the 87th Izmir International tradeshow which began recently in:  
(a) Indonesia (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Turkey (d) Kazakhstan
66. Who among the following Indian former Miss World was bestowed with the inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award?  
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan  
(c) Diana Hayden (d) Manushi Chhillar

67. Recently, India along with which other country inked Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) deal, which will give India access to advanced new defence systems like armed drones?  
(a) USA (b) France (c) Russia (d) Canada
68. Name the made-in-India fighter jet, which was refueled mid-air from an Indian Air Force tanker aircraft for the first time recently.  
(a) Dassault Rafale (b) Tejas  
(c) Sukhoi/HAL FGFA (d) Sukhoi Su-30MKI
69. India will surpass \_\_\_\_\_ as the world's top sugar producer next year; with the South American country losing its lead for the first time since the 1990s as its mills allocate increasingly more cane for ethanol production and as low investments dent cane yields.  
(a) China (b) Brazil (c) Argentina (d) USA
70. Recently, Facebook decided to invest over \$1 billion to build a data centre in \_\_\_\_\_ its first in Asia, powered by renewable energy and adapted to the city-state's tropical climate.  
(a) Japan (b) Singapore (c) India (d) Mauritius
71. India's first ever Global Mobility Summit - MOVE - was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Kolkata
72. Recently, India and \_\_\_\_\_ have signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC) in New Delhi.  
(a) Germany (b) UK (c) Japan (d) France
73. The first ever G-20 meeting of Education Ministers was held in:  
(a) Brazil (b) USA (c) China (d) Argentina
74. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India?  
(a) Anshula Kant (b) Anurag Sharma  
(c) Rajive Ranjan (d) Surendra Battacharya
75. The first company in India to receive a payments bank license from the Reserve Bank of India is:  
(a) Jio Payment Bank (b) Airtel Payment Bank  
(c) Paytm Payment Bank (d) Aditya Birla Payments Bank
76. Currently, the permissible limit for insurance companies to hold stake in any listed entity is:  
(a) 10% (b) 51 % (c) 15 % (d) 35 %
77. The Reserve Bank has imposed a total penalty of Rs 3 crore for delay in detection and reporting of fraud in some accounts on which among the following banks?  
(a) Union Bank of India (b) Bank of India (c) Bank of Maharashtra (d) All of the above
78. The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference on the theme "Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility" in:  
(a) Chennai (b) Varanasi (c) New Delhi (d) Pune
79. Who has been made as the Sports Ambassador of the Assam State?  
(a) Durga Boro (b) Somdev Devvarman  
(c) Hima Das (d) Bhogeswar Baruah

80. Which among the following airport is set to become the first airport in Asia next year to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights?  
(a) Kempegowda International Airport (b) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport  
(c) Indira Gandhi International Airport (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
81. Armies of India and the \_\_\_\_\_ will hold their annual combat exercise "Yudh Abhyas" at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from September 16 to 29 with an aim to enhance inter-operability between the two forces.  
(a) Japan (b) Nepal (c) USA (d) Bangladesh
82. The Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill which relaxes the "\_\_\_\_\_" provision for those aspiring to contest panchayat elections provided one of the children is differently-abled.  
(a) Two-child (b) Three-child (c) Four-child (d) Five-child
83. Which among the following countries is participating for the first time in Australia's largest maritime exercise Kakadu 2018?  
(a) India (b) Japan (c) China (d) Nepal
84. Amitabh Chaudhry has been appointed managing director and chief executive of:  
(a) Axis Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) SBI Bank (d) Yes Bank
85. One of the world's centres of laser technology and research, ELI Beamlines has signed an agreement with which among the following?  
(a) ISRO  
(b) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai  
(c) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre  
(d) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
86. Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship held in:  
(a) Indonesia (b) South Africa (c) Brazil (d) South Korea
87. International Literacy Day is celebrated annually on:  
(a) 6 September (b) 7 September (c) 8 September (d) 9 September
88. The governments of Punjab and \_\_\_\_\_ signed an agreement to resume work on a Shahpurkandi dam project that would help reduce the quantum of India's share of Ravi waters flowing into Pakistan.  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh
89. The Indian Railways has come up with an initiative called "Plan Bee" to prevent speeding trains from hitting \_\_\_\_\_ crossing tracks.  
(a) Elephants (b) Rhinoceros (c) Cows (d) All of the above
90. Union Government has granted the status of a trust to 'Bharat Ke Veer', a private initiative promoted by:  
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Akshay Kumar (c) Salman Khan (d) M. S. Dhoni
91. Name the first Japanese tennis player, who has won a Grand Slam singles tournament in September 2018.  
(a) Naomi Osaka (b) Kimiko Date (c) Yichi Sugita (d) Kei Nishikori
92. Name the Indian, who created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup.  
(a) Arpinder Singh (b) Deepak Bharadwaj (c) Nirmaljeet Singh (d) Samar Pratap Singh Chandel



93. Who won the Men's singles final in US open Tennis tournament recently?  
(a) Juan Martin Del Potro (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Novak Djokovic (d) Roger Federer
94. Who among the following is chaired the 23rd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) to be held in Moscow?  
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Rajnath Singh (c) Smt. Sushma Swaraj (d) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
95. Recently, The 4th edition of the World Summit on Accreditation pertaining to educational institutes was held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Bengaluru (d) Bhopal
96. Recently, who has been named as the new Prime Minister of Sudan by the President Omar Hassan al-Bashir?  
(a) Salman Jawari (b) Motazz Moussa (c) Adnan Kamiri (d) Bakri Hassan Saleh
97. Recently, Arif Alvi was sworn in as the new president of:  
(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) Afghanistan (d) Turkey
98. Recently, Union Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances is organized a two-day regional conference on 'Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts' in:  
(a) Patna (b) Bhopal (c) Raipur (d) Ranchi
99. Which of the following countries has decided to not participate in the week-long joint military exercise of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries beginning in Pune?  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Bangladesh (c) Myanmar (d) Nepal
100. World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is an awareness day observed every year on:  
(a) 4 September (b) 6 September (c) 8 September (d) 10 September
101. Who has been sworn in as new Chief Justice of Nepal in September 2018?  
(a) Justice Om Prakash Mishra (b) Justice Rajan Pratap Singh  
(c) Justice Deepak Mahatra (d) Justice Deepak Raj Joshee
102. "Yudh Abhyas 2018" is being conducted in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand's Chaubattia from September 16-29. This military exercise takes place between:  
(a) India and France (b) India and Russia (c) India and Canada (d) India and USA
103. Recently, India's first railway university started its operations in:  
(a) Kharagpur (b) Guwahati (c) Vadodara (d) Secunderabad
104. What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and Mongolia that commenced at Five Hills Training Area, Ullanbaatar, Mongolia recently?  
(a) Nomadic Elephant-2018 (b) Saajha Sainya Abhiyaan-2018  
(c) Nomadic Tiger- 2018 (d) InMon -2018
105. Which of the following states/ Union territories government launched its ambitious project to deliver public services at the doorstep of residents starting from driving licences to marriage certificates?  
(a) Puducherry (b) Delhi (c) West Bengal (d) Sikkim
106. Recently, Militaries of BIMSTEC member nations barring Nepal began a week-long anti-terror exercise at Aundh near Pune. Which of the following countries is not among the member countries of BIMSTEC?  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Malaysia (c) Myanmar (d) Thailand

107. Which of the following banks launched overdraft facility for MSMEs based on GST returns recently?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) IDFC Bank
108. Recently, Using data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, an international team of scientists has discovered a new exoplanet 'Wolf 503b' twice the size of Earth and about \_\_\_\_\_light years away.  
(a) 34 light years (b) 74 light years (c) 114 light years (d) 145 light years
109. Who is the author of the new book "The Rule Breakers"?  
(a) Preeti Shenoy (b) Shriya Narayan (c) Deepika Latkar (d) Rakshanda Khan
110. Recently, an international children rights charity based in \_\_\_\_\_has been awarded the 2018 Balzan Prize for humanitarian achievement.  
(a) France (b) USA (c) Switzerland (d) Norway
111. Name the Indian-American scientist, who has received an "Outstanding Investigator Award", along with a grant of \$6.5 million, from the U.S. National Cancer Institute recently.  
(a) Deepak Raj (b) Amitabh Nagar (c) Arul Chinnaiyan (d) Duleep Chaurasiya
112. Recently, India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Tehran (c) Kabul (d) Hyderabad
113. India is set to lose Asia's first narrow-gauge railway line between Dhaboi and Miyagam in \_\_\_\_\_operational since the 19th Century.  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Haryana
114. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) announced that they are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
(c) RBI (d) RIL
115. SLINEX-2018 is the joint exercise between the navies of:  
(a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Saint Lucia (c) India and Seychelles (d) India and Sierra Leone
116. Which of the following countries launched what it called its largest ever military drills, with hundreds of thousands of troops taking part along with Chinese soldiers?  
(a) USA (b) Japan (c) Russia (d) Germany
117. Which of the following private sector banks has mopped up \$400 million through a syndicated loan facility for its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT)?  
(a) IDFC bank (b) Bandhan bank (c) Kotak Mahindra bank (d) Yes Bank
118. Who has become the highest wicket-taker among fast bowlers in Test match cricket recently?  
(a) Stuart Broad (b) James Anderson (c) Lasith Malinga (d) Mashrafe Mortaza
119. Who has been named chairman of the 11-member selection committee to pick this year's Dronacharya and Dhyanchand awardees?  
(a) Justice Mukul Rohtagi (b) Justice Mukund Balakrishna  
(c) Justice Mukul Mudgal (d) Justice Manoj Bhaskar

120. Recently, International Day for South-South Cooperation-2018 was observed on:  
(a) 4th September (b) 7th September (c) 8th September (d) 12th September
121. According to a report by CBRE, which is the most expensive city to build a home in India?  
(a) Pune (b) Bengaluru (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
122. Which state has become the first Indian state to raise concerns over the proposed data protection bill submitted by the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Odisha (d) Tamil Nadu
123. Recently, who has been renominated as the Chairman of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan?  
(a) Murlu Manohar Joshi (b) Lal Krishna Advani (c) Manmohan Singh (d) Mahendra Nath Pandey
124. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that the 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement' commenced on:  
(a) 15 September (b) 25 September (c) 5 October (d) 20 October
125. Recently, the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved \_\_\_\_\_ per cent electrification of the Indian Railways, tentatively by 2021-22.  
(a) 55 (b) 68 (c) 85 (d) 100
126. Recently, World Economic Forum on ASEAN-2018 was organized in:  
(a) Naypyidaw (b) Kuala Lumpur (c) Jakarta (d) Hanoi
127. Recently, Samsung Electronics opened its world's largest mobile experience centre in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Noida (d) Lucknow
128. Who became the first women to take 300 international wickets in cricket recently?  
(a) Dane van Niekerk (b) Jhulan Goswami (c) Sripali Weerakkody (d) Nida Mir
129. India's first tribal circuit tourism project under the Swadesh Darshan scheme inaugurated in:  
(a) Manipur (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Maharashtra
130. Name the 102-year-old athlete, who won a gold medal at the World Masters Athletics Championships in the age group of 100 - 104 in Malaga, Spain.  
(a) Nabhjot Singh (b) Man Kaur (c) Sushma Devi (d) Gujrati Devi
131. Recently, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the India's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App in:  
(a) Raipur (b) Jaipur (c) New Delhi (d) Udaipur
132. G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting 2018 is organized in:  
(a) Italy (b) Canada (c) Argentina (d) South Korea
133. Which of the following Indian airports has received the Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award trophy in the 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category for the second consecutive year?  
(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport (b) Goa International Airport Limited  
(c) Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (d) Kochi International Airport

134. Recently, Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest known abstract pencil drawing by human hand -- which looks like a present day hashtag from:  
(a) Kenya (b) Mexico (c) Nigeria (d) South Africa
135. The festival of Nuakhai is celebrated in Indian state of:  
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Andhra Pradesh
136. Name the actress, who received the WIFT Emerald Award recently.  
(a) Alia Bhatt (b) Shraddha Kapoor (c) Keerti Shanon (d) Janhvi Kapoor
137. Who has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) recently?  
(a) Shri Manoj Jhalani, (b) Shri Deepak Mathani  
(c) Shri Anuj Raizada (d) Shri Deepankar Sujani
138. Recently Asia Cup cricket tournament- 2018 (also known as Unimoni Asia Cup) began in:  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Bangladesh (c) Hong Kong (d) United Arab Emirates
139. Which Indian state was ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018?  
(a) Maharashtra (b) Uttarakhand (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Himachal Pradesh
140. What is the latest ranking of India in the human development index released by the United Nations Development Programme recently?  
(a) 102nd (b) 115th (c) 124th (d) 130th
141. According to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' report, India ranks \_\_\_\_\_ globally in terms of number of family owned businesses.  
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Sixth
142. Which of the following Indian states recently launched e-Rythu, a digital marketplace to promote cashless payments in its agricultural ecosystem?  
(a) Telangana (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Kerala
143. Which of the following countries recently launched 3,000-tonne Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine which is capable of firing both cruise and ballistic missiles?  
(a) North Korea (b) South Korea (c) Japan (d) Thailand
144. Recently, India's first tribal tourism circuit was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphons in \_\_\_\_\_ district of Chhattisgarh.  
(a) Dhamtari (b) Mahasamund (c) Sukma (d) Surajpur
145. Recently, 4th Eastern Economic Forum opened in:  
(a) China (b) France (c) Russia (d) Serbia
146. Every Year in India, Engineer's day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of:  
(a) K Sivan (b) CNR Rao  
(c) Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (d) Duubbsari Mahajan



147. Every year, the United Nations General Assembly observes \_\_\_\_\_ as the International Day of Democracy.  
(a) 11th September (b) 14th September (c) 15th September (d) 17th September
148. India's first exclusive and certified 'Dog Park' boasting of facilities including a walking track, off leash areas and a clinic is all set for inauguration in:  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Jaipur (c) Hyderabad (d) Panaji
149. In January 2019, 15th Prawasi Bhartiya Diwas is set to be held in:  
(a) Bhopal (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Vellore (d) Varanasi
150. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the first airport at Pakyong in:  
(a) Nagaland (b) Mizoram (c) Manipur (d) Sikkim
151. Recently, Justice Madan B. Lokur of the Supreme Court inaugurated \_\_\_\_\_ State's first child friendly courts in Bankshall court.  
(a) West Bengal (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Odisha
152. Recently, Rajasthan Forest Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar inaugurated the Rajasthan's first lion safari at:  
(a) SajjanGarh Biological Park (b) Mewar Biological Park  
(c) Nahargarh Biological Park (d) Marudhara Biological Park
153. Which of the following state government announced to start an unemployment allowance for the state's youth from October 2018 recently?  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Andhra Pradesh
154. Recently, Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become the new Prime Minister of:  
(a) Turkey (b) Sudan (c) Liberia (d) Nigeria
155. Recently, DRDO successfully flight tested a low weight, Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) from \_\_\_\_\_ range.  
(a) Ahmednagar (b) Sriharikota (c) Chandipore (d) Chitradurga
156. Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 a joint military exercise of Indian and US armies, commenced in which among the following states of India?  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Bihar (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) West Bengal
157. Scotland Yard's first Indian-origin counter-terrorism chief has won the Asian Achievers' Award in the Uniformed and Civil Services category for his contribution to policing in:  
(a) Germany (b) UK (c) France (d) Spain
158. The Inaugural Edition of the BIMSTEC Nations Military Field Training Exercise i.e. MILEX - 2018 culminated in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Dhaka (c) Pune (d) New Delhi
159. Which among the following companies has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate its own non-banking financial company in September 2018?  
(a) PayU India (b) Paytm (c) Bharati Airtel (d) Paypal
160. Scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have developed a novel autonomous flying robot named DelFly Nimble that mimics the rapid flight of insects.  
(a) Netherland (b) USA (c) Israel (d) China

161. What is the full name of MPATGM?  
(a) Man-portable any time-tank guided missile (b) Man-portable anti direction guided missile  
(c) Man-portable anti-tank guided missile (d) Mission-portable anti-tank guided missile
162. Kevin Mayer set a new decathlon world record when he finished with 9126 points at the Decastar event in Talence. He hails from:  
(a) Germany (b) UK (c) France (d) Spain
163. Davis Cup is the premier international team event associated with which among the following sports?  
(a) Tennis (b) Badminton (c) Cricket (d) Football
164. Which among the following country artiste won top honours at the first of its kind International 'Maqom' music festival 2018?  
(a) UK (b) India (c) Iran (d) Iraq
165. The Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated a network of more than 3,400 Test Practice Centres (TPCs) spread across the \_\_\_\_\_ Districts in the country.  
(a) 400 (b) 500 (c) 550 (d) 622
166. Which of the following has become the first campus in the country to have a gender-neutral hostel?  
(a) Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai  
(b) Xavier School of Management (XLRI) Jamshedpur  
(c) Indian Institute of Science ( IISc), Bengaluru  
(d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi
167. Recently, "Sagarmatha Friendship-2" military exercise began between which of the following two countries of the world?  
(a) Bhutan and Nepal (b) India and Nepal (c) China and Bhutan (d) China and Nepal
168. Name the country, which rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train recently.  
(a) China (b) France (c) Switzerland (d) Germany
169. According to the country's government data, which of the following countries had the highest elderly population in the world?  
(a) South Korea (b) China (c) Japan (d) Mexico
170. Recently, The Centre proposed the amalgamation of state-owned three banks to create India's third-largest bank. Which of the following is not among the three banks?  
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) Vijaya Bank  
(c) Oriental Bank of Commerce (d) Dena Bank
171. Name the Indian woman wrestler, who settled for a Silver medal at the Medved International Wrestling tournament at Minsk, Belarus in September 2018.  
(a) Kavita Devi (b) Babita Kumari (c) Sakshi Malik (d) Vinesh Phogat
172. Name the Indian state, which won two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns in September 2018.  
(a) Kerala (b) Goa (c) Sikkim (d) Meghalaya

173. Name the Former foreign secretary of India, who has joined the board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) in September 2018.  
(a) Sujatha Singh (b) S Jaishankar (c) Shivshankar Menon (d) Ranjan Mathai
174. Name India's first woman IAS officer after Independence, who died in Mumbai in September 2018.  
(a) Anju Rani Malhotra (b) Bibi Fatima  
(c) Anna Rajam Malhotra (d) Shulbha Deshpandey
175. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed every year on:  
(a) 5th September (b) 9th September (c) 13th September (d) 16th September
176. Name the Indian industrialists, who has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico in September 2018.  
(a) Dr. Raghupati Singhanian (b) Kumarmangalam Birla  
(c) Aziz Premji (d) Ajay Piramal
177. Name the actors, who have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2018.  
(a) Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone (b) Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif  
(c) Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma (d) Siddharth Malhotra and Alia Bhatt
178. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind launched the logo and the web portal for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of:  
(a) Firoze Gandhi (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel  
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
179. Which is the first country in world to develop a draft (ICAP) that can help reduce the cooling demand, thus helping in reducing emissions?  
(a) China (b) USA (c) India (d) Canada
180. The Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme is launched nationwide by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23 from:  
(a) Odisha (b) Jharkhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh
181. Who won the Formula-1, Singapore Grand Prix to strengthen his hold on this year's World Championship?  
(a) Max Verstappen (b) V Bottas (c) Lewis Hamilton (d) Sebastian Vettel
182. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the standing committee on Defence?  
(a) Kalraj Mishra (b) Lalji Tandon  
(c) Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank (d) Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
183. Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for:  
(a) Typhoid (b) Malaria (c) Jaundice (d) Cancer
184. Recently, The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 'Pension Adalat' in:  
(a) Delhi (b) Odisha (c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu
185. Which of the following places has been confirmed as the host of the 2022 Asian Para Games?  
(a) Shenzhen (b) Hangzhou (c) Tianjin (d) Chengdu

186. Recently, All-women crew of \_\_\_\_\_ has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for eight long months.  
(a) INSV Talwar (b) INSV Tarini (c) INSV Tushar (d) INSV Tarkash
187. Who has been appointed as the secretary to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairperson, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) recently?  
(a) Dushyanth Kartik (b) Shubham Kumar Bambawala  
(c) Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas (d) Kamlesh Mohan Mishra
188. Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre, IICC in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Lucknow
189. Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Russian Federation (b) France (c) Germany (d) United Kingdom
190. Nepal celebrated its Constitution Day which is also known as the National Day on:  
(a) 14th September (b) 16th September (c) 17th September (d) 20th September
191. Recently, The ESI Corporation has approved a Scheme named "\_\_\_\_\_BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA" for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.  
(a) ATAL (b) DEENDAYAL (c) SHYAMA PRASAD (d) VEER SAVARKAR
192. Recently, The Reserve Bank has allowed Rana Kapoor to continue as MD and CEO till January 31, 2019 of:  
(a) Yes Bank (b) IDFC Bank (c) Bandhan Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
193. Recently, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has a tie-up with which of the following banks to provide loans to its customers?  
(a) Canara Bank (b) Punjab National Bank  
(c) Oriental Bank of Commerce (d) Union Bank of India
194. According to WHO Global TB 2018 report, India accounted for what percent of the total new infections in 2017?  
(a) 27% (b) 31% (c) 36% (d) 39%
195. Who has become the first Indian to win back-to-back medals at the Junior World Wrestling Championship?  
(a) Deepak Rana (b) Sajan Bhanwal (c) Vibhu Narayan (d) Harsh Namwala
196. Name the two players, who were awarded with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2018.  
(a) Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chanu (b) Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth  
(c) Shikhar Dhawan and Hina Sidhu (d) Rohit Sharma and P.V. Sindhu
197. The first airport project of Airports Authority of India (AAI) in Sri Lanka is:  
(a) Katunayake Airport (b) Palaly Airport  
(c) Mattala Rajapaksa Airport (d) Bandaranaike Airport
198. Recently, The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) organized the 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism in:  
(a) Beijing (b) Seoul (c) Colombo (d) London



199. Which of the following countries will be the third "strategic partner" of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?  
(a) Iran (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Iraq (d) Afghanistan
200. Recently, State Bank of India raised \_\_\_\_\_ via green bonds, proceeds of which will be used to fund environment-friendly projects.  
(a) \$250 million (b) \$370 million (c) \$520 million (d) \$650 million
201. Which of the following banks has approved a USD 525-million loan to Madhya Pradesh for infrastructure projects recently?  
(a) Asian Development Bank (b) World Bank  
(c) New Development Bank (d) International Monetary Fund
202. India's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) prototype fast breeder reactor at \_\_\_\_\_ is expected to achieve criticality next year.  
(a) Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu (b) Chandipore in Odisha  
(c) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (d) BARC, Maharashtra
203. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile \_\_\_\_\_ from Balasore.  
(a) Ghaatak (b) Prahar (c) Pratham (d) Pratikar
204. Name the Deputy Chief of Air Staff, who flew the first Rafale fighter jet manufactured by Dassault Aviation for India recently.  
(a) Air Marshal Shivam Raheja (b) Air Marshal Deepak Chandrawarkar  
(c) Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar (d) Air Marshal Jai Singh Ahlawat
205. International Day of Peace is observed every year around the world on:  
(a) 12th September (b) 15th September (c) 18th September (d) 21st September
206. Name the Indian state, which passed a resolution declaring cow as 'Rashtra Mata', becoming the first state in India to do so.  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
207. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) in:  
(a) Ranchi (b) Bilaspur (c) Indore (d) Jamshedpur
208. Which of the following Indian stock exchanges has signed a pact with the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) to work on a dual listing route for masala bonds as well as foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers?  
(a) BSE (b) NSE  
(c) Multi Commodity Exchange of India (d) OTC Exchange of India
209. The 3rd edition of acclaimed International Business Conference 'MahaBiz 2018' will be held in:  
(a) Hanoi (b) Dubai (c) Ottawa (d) Paris
210. Recently, Tran Dai Quang died. He was the President of:  
(a) Laos (b) Myanmar (c) South Korea (d) Vietnam
211. The first General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, ISA, will be inaugurated on the 2nd of October in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Delhi (c) Jaipur (d) Raipur

212. Recently, Home Ministry and \_\_\_\_\_ have signed a MoU for setting up of a state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Home Ministry.  
(a) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)  
(b) Hindustan Aeronautics limited (HAL)  
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)  
(d) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)
213. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Indian Region-IV, Conference and Workshop is organised in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Chandigarh (c) Shimla (d) Mumbai
214. Which of the following Indian states government has announced a novel scheme for the protection of the exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthus kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years?  
(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
215. Which of the following Bollywood actress is honored with the Smita Patil Memorial Award recently?  
(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Anushka Sharma (c) Alia Bhatt (d) Shraddha Kapoor
216. Recently, First International Day of Sign Languages was observed on:  
(a) 16th September (b) 19th September (c) 21st September (d) 23rd September
217. Name the Bollywood actress, who has been appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of Nepal tourism.  
(a) Hema Malini (b) Jaya Prada (c) Rekha (d) Mala Sinha
218. Name the blind chess player, who will become the first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at the world chess Olympiad in Georgia.  
(a) Vaishali Narendra Salavkar (b) Deepti Nareesh Trivedi  
(c) Sushma Vikas Narwalekar (d) Avantika Dheeraj Khambolkar
219. With Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana is the "world's largest government funded healthcare program" targeting more than \_\_\_\_\_ beneficiaries.  
(a) 20 Crore (b) 30 Crore (c) 40 Crore (d) 50 Crore
220. Recently, Centenary celebrations to commemorate hundred years of liberation of Haifa in \_\_\_\_\_ by the Indian troops in 1918 culminate with a grand function in New Delhi.  
(a) Oman (b) Turkey (c) Israel (d) Singapore
221. Indian Army and \_\_\_\_\_ Army completed the third edition of their joint military Exercise KAZIND 2018 recently.  
(a) Turkmenistan (b) Kazakhstan (c) Armenia (d) Poland
222. Which of the following is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population?  
(a) India (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) Myanmar
223. UN Secretary-General will arrive in New Delhi on October 1, 2018. Name the present Secretary General of United Nations.  
(a) Antonio Guterres (b) María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés  
(c) Ban Ki-moon (d) Mr. Miroslav Lajčák

224. According to the estimates released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), In India how many people moved out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16?  
(a) 271 million (b) 294 million (c) 301 million (d) 316 million
225. Which among the following countries won the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship in Doha recently?  
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar
226. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a new airport in Jharsuguda - also known as the powerhouse of:  
(a) Odisha (b) Sikkim (c) Goa (d) Assam
227. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the presidential elections of:  
(a) Myanmar (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) Maldives
228. The first Women Foreign Ministers meeting was held in:  
(a) Beijing (b) Tokyo (c) New Delhi (d) Montreal
229. In a first, Hong Kong has banned a pro-independence political party. What is the name of the political party?  
(a) Hong Kong National Party (b) Hong Kong Independence Party  
(c) Hong Kong Self Rule Party (d) Hong Kong Democracy Party
230. Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres of the earth's atmosphere.  
(a) 10 (b) 20 (c) 40 (d) 50
231. In Badminton, Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting beat \_\_\_\_\_ to take the Men's singles China Open title in Changzhou.  
(a) Japan's Kento Momota (b) Myanmar's Kento Jinta  
(c) Nepal's Om Prakash (d) China's Xiangning
232. India's stand-in captain Rohit Sharma became the ninth Indian to go past 7000 ODI runs and the \_\_\_\_\_ fastest from his country to do so.  
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth
233. The first Greenfield airport constructed in the Northeastern Region of India is:  
(a) Pakyong Greenfield airport (b) Guwahati Greenfield airport  
(c) Aizwal Greenfield airport (d) Shillong Greenfield airport
234. World Rhino Day is celebrated in Assam every year on:  
(a) 21 September (b) 22 September (c) 23 September (d) 24 September
235. Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, is organising "Mushairas", based on the themes of teachings and principles of \_\_\_\_\_, across the country.  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Dr B.R Ambedkar  
(c) Deen Dayal Upadhaya (d) Swami Vivekananda
236. Antyodaya Diwas is observed every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on:  
(a) 19th September (b) 21st September (c) 23rd September (d) 25th September

237. The Semana da Cultura Indo Portuguesa, an annual event that features cultural exchanges between Portugal and India, will complete a decade with the 10th edition of the event set to begin in:  
(a) Panaji (b) Kochi (c) Kolkata (d) Surat
238. Which of the following states has topped the charts among States in terms of "Ease of Living Index" rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Punjab (d) Maharashtra
239. The fourth edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in:  
(a) Ranchi (b) Jaipur (c) Lucknow (d) Hyderabad
240. The U.N. is declared 2019-2028 as the "\_\_\_\_\_ Decade of Peace".  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Martin Luther king Jr (c) Nelson Mandela (d) Abraham Lincoln
241. Which of the following countries is to host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in November 2018?  
(a) Uganda (b) Norway (c) Indonesia (d) UAE
242. According to a survey published in The Lancet by Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, India ranks \_\_\_\_\_ in the world for its investments in education and healthcare.  
(a) 31st (b) 84th (c) 117th (d) 158th
243. Recently, who won FIFA's best player of the year-2018 award?  
(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Kylian Mbappé (c) Luka Modric (d) Mohamed Salah
244. Who won women's singles title at 2018 China Open, officially VICTOR China Open 2018?  
(a) Nozomi Okuhara (b) Carolina Marin (c) Akane Yamaguchi (d) Chen Yufei
245. Who has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the seventh consecutive year, with total net worth of Rs. 371,000 crore?  
(a) Aziz Premji (b) Mukesh Ambani  
(c) Anil Ambani (d) Sunil Bharti Mittal
246. Name the Indian woman cricket player, who has been awarded the Arjuna Awards in September 2018.  
(a) Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur (b) Ms. Veda Krishnamurthi  
(c) Ms. Smriti Mandhana (d) Ms. Taniya Bhatia
247. Name the doctor, who won the UN refugee agency's prestigious Nansen award 2018 recently.  
(a) Dr. Evan Atar Adaha (b) Dr. Abdul Rehman Sattar  
(c) Dr. Thomas Machher (d) Dr. Alexandria Merthusire
248. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is organising the 2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting in:  
(a) Gurugram (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Bengaluru
249. Which of the following is to release an Annual Financial Inclusion Index (FII) which will be a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services?  
(a) Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) (b) Department of Expenditure  
(c) Department of Financial Services (DFS) (d) Department of Revenue
250. Which country has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products?  
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) India (d) Maldives



251. Recently, Hyderabad Metro Rail became the second largest metro network in the country. Which is the largest metro network in India at present?  
(a) Delhi (b) Kochi (c) Jaipur (d) Kolkata
252. Recently, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a Rs 100 crore Indian Culinary Institute, built by the Ministry of Tourism in:  
(a) Vizag (b) Tirupati (c) Chennai (d) Cuttack
253. Jacinda Ardern, is only the second world leader to ever give birth while in the office. At present Jacinda Ardern is:  
(a) Prime Minister of Peru (b) Prime Minister of New Zealand  
(c) President of Finland (d) Prime Minister of Sweden
254. The famous Indra Jatra festival is being celebrated in which of the following countries?  
(a) Bhutan (b) Bangladesh (c) Nepal (d) Malaysia
255. World Tourism Day is observed across the World every year on:  
(a) 22nd September (b) 24th September (c) 25th September (d) 27th September
256. Who among the following are selected for this year's 'Champions of the Earth' award - UN's highest environmental honour?  
(a) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump  
(b) New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and UK Prime Minister Theresa May  
(c) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron  
(d) Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron
257. Recently, Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application Jan Dhan Darshak as a Part of:  
(a) Financial Inclusion (b) Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas  
(c) Ardh Kumbh Mela 2019 (d) Ayushman Bharat
258. Recently, India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval visited \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in a first of its kind of meeting, of regional players, focusing on the rising threat posed by terrorism.  
(a) Iraq (b) Syria (c) Iran (d) USA
259. The Union Cabinet approved increasing the government's ownership in the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to \_\_\_\_\_ from the existing 49%.  
(a) 51% (b) 70% (c) 80% (d) 100%
260. Recently, Union Cabinet approved the new telecom policy that aims to provide broadband access to every citizen at 50 Mbps speed by the year:  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2022 (d) 2024
261. Which of the following Indian exchanges has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch delivery-based futures contract in gold (1 kg) and silver (30 kg)?  
(a) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) (b) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange  
(c) National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) (d) Multi Commodity Exchange of India
262. The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation will begin in:  
(a) Vizag (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Kolkata (d) Panaji
263. Which of the following cities has been chosen to host the first two new-format Davis Cup finals in 2019 and 2020?  
(a) Helsinki (b) Tokyo (c) Paris (d) Madrid

264. According to report on Economic Freedom in the World, released by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute. The rank of India in this report for this year is:  
(a) 72nd (b) 77th (c) 96th (d) 98th
265. Which of the following cities with the support of the Asian Development Bank launched the country's first flood forecasting and early-warning system?  
(a) Cuttack (b) Kolkata (c) Vizag (d) Dehradun
266. Recently, A five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, in four separate but concurring opinions held that adultery is not a crime and struck of the \_\_\_\_\_ section.  
(a) 377 (b) 397 (c) 427 (d) 497
267. Recently, Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in:  
(a) Jaipur (b) Tirupati (c) Kochi (d) Lucknow
268. Recently, The government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge:  
(a) Justice Gyan Sudha Misra (b) Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai  
(c) Justice Sujata Vasant Manohar (d) Justice Manjula Chellur
269. Recently, Tribes India and TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "Punch Tantra Collection and \_\_\_\_\_ as Brand Ambassador of Tribes India".  
(a) Ms. Mary Kom (b) Ms Hima Das  
(c) Ms Deepika Kumari (d) Ms Laxmirani Majhi
270. Recently, UNWTO partnered with which of the following countries to hold the official celebration of World Tourism Day 2018?  
(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Hungary (d) Finland
271. The board of directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 150 million loan to establish the first multi-skills park in:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Sikkim
272. Which among following countries parliament has voted unanimously to effectively strip Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary Canadian citizenship over the Rohingya crisis?  
(a) Australia (b) UK (c) Canada (d) Poland
273. \_\_\_\_\_ placed Bank of Baroda's (BoB) viability rating on 'rating watch negative' following the government announcement to merge it with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank.  
(a) Fitch Ratings (b) CRISIL (c) Standard & Poor's (d) Moody's Rating
274. For the first time, a case of rat hepatitis E has been discovered in a human in:  
(a) India (b) USA (c) Japan (d) Hong Kong
275. How many times did India men's cricket team win the Asia Cup title so far?  
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8
276. The Supreme Court has struck down a rule that disallowed girls and women in the 10-50 age groups from entering the Sabarimala temple located in:  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Andhra Pradesh

277. Which among the following two cities were jointly declared as the 'Best Heritage City' at the National Tourism Awards in September 2018?  
(a) Jaipur and Varanasi (b) Ahmedabad and Mandu  
(c) Amravati and Hyderabad (d) Kolkata and Agra
278. Who among the following actors was honoured with 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at the closing ceremony of the ninth edition of Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai?  
(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Salman Khan (c) Pankaj Kapur (d) Ranbir Kapoor
279. World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on:  
(a) 26 September (b) 27 September (c) 28 September (d) 29 September
280. In India, Swachh Bharat Diwas is celebrated on:  
(a) 29 September (b) 2 October (c) 30 September (d) 1 October
281. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi in:  
(a) Surat (b) Ahmedabad (c) Gandhinagar (d) Rajkot
282. Which of the following countries has received the biggest loan package \$57 Billion ever from the International Monetary Fund, aimed at shoring up the country's ailing finances?  
(a) Mexico (b) Argentina (c) Venezuela (d) Spain
283. As part of its efforts to promote Ease of doing Business through digital transformation the Indian Ports Association (IPA) has appointed M/s Tech Mahindra as the Managed Service Provider for \_\_\_\_\_ major ports of India.  
(a) Three (b) Four (c) Five (d) Eight
284. Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has withdrawn its general permission to open new branches and frozen the remuneration of \_\_\_\_\_ till further notice as it failed to comply with a licensing condition.  
(a) IDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) RBL Bank (d) Bandhan Bank
285. Which is set to host B2B Grameena Habba in Bengaluru in 2018?  
(a) RBI (b) NABARD (c) Finance Ministry (d) NITI Aayog
286. Recently, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated an International conference on plastics recycling and waste management: Opportunity and Challenges in:  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Lucknow (c) New Delhi (d) Bhopal
287. Recently, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has been declared as the elected President of:  
(a) Fiji (b) Maldives (c) Morocco (d) Myanmar
288. Recently, who launched the three-day 'Kalahandi Dialogue', a global conclave on development for the district?  
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Naveen Patnaik  
(c) Shri Ramnath Kovind (d) Professor Ganeshi Lal
289. Recently, scientists have identified the threat status of \_\_\_\_\_ Indian plant species based on criteria used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).  
(a) 34 (b) 45 (c) 59 (d) 73
290. Recently, the first corn festival of the country was organized in:  
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh

## ANSWSE KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a The Home Ministry announced that the Census 2021 will for the first time collect data on Other Backwards Castes (OBC). A home ministry spokesperson told PTI that the Census 2021 will be finalised in three years after conducting the census instead of seven to eight years now.
2. c After having been deployed to the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean for over four months, representing Indian Navy in multinational exercises MALABAR 18 at Guam and RIMPAC 18 at Hawaii, INS Sahyadri has now reached the Port of Darwin, Australia to participate in Exercise KAKADU 2018. Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993, is a multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
3. b The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum held in Kathmandu. The theme of three-day Forum is the 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.
4. a The 4th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) began in Kathmandu, Nepal with the theme 'Towards Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'.
5. c Union Minister of Commerce& Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu is leading the Indian delegation for the 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting which begins in Singapore.
6. d The merger of Idea Cellular and Vodafone India has been completed, creating India's biggest telecom service provider with over 408 million subscribers, the two companies said. A new board has been constituted for the merged entity 'Vodafone Idea Ltd' with 12 directors (including six independent directors) and Kumar Mangalam Birla as its Chairman. The board has appointed Balesh Sharma as the CEO, the companies said in a joint statement.
7. c Astronomers from Japan have obtained the most detailed anatomy chart of a monster galaxy located 12.4 billion light-years away, using Chile's Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA).
8. c Virat Kohli added yet another feather to his illustrious career after becoming the second fastest Indian to reach 6000 Test runs. Kohli reached the milestone in 119 innings which is quicker than legendary Sachin Tendulkar (120) and Sir Vivian Richards (120).
9. b India women's hockey team loses gold-medal match and an opportunity to book a berth for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan celebrates after defeating India by 2-1 in the women's hockey final. This is their first gold medal in women's hockey at the Asian Games.
10. d Complying with the UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy. The Strategy builds upon existing national circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC. India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
11. a Justice Ranjan Gogoi is set to take over as the new Chief Justice of India on October 3, 2018. His name has been recommended for the post by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra to the government.
12. c Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 first standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1).



13. b Justice Tahira Safdar was sworn in as the first woman Balochistan High Court chief justice. Safdar, who is the first woman to ever take the position of a high court chief justice in Pakistan, was sworn in at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Balochistan.
14. d The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. The function was witnessed at over 3000 locations across the country, which was connected to the main event in Delhi.
15. c The Indian Banks Association (IBA) has elected Punjab National Bank's managing director and chief executive, Sunil Mehta, as the new chairman for 2018-19.
16. b The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhilwara, Rajasthan to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on August 31, 2018.
17. d Eminent neurosurgeon Dr B.K. Misra has been named for this year's prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award as an Eminent Medical Person of the Year. The highest medical honour of India, instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1962, it will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1 next year, the National Doctors Day.
18. a Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K has become the first Indian poet invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. in 'The Poet and the Poem' series conducted by poet Grace Cavalieri.
19. d Amit Panghal (49kg) became only the eighth Indian boxer ever to claim a gold medal at the Asian Games with a stunning tactical win over reigning Olympic and Asian champion Hasanboy Dusmatov in the summit clash.
20. d Pranab Bardhan became the oldest man in Indian contingent to win a medal at the 18th Asian Games as he joined forces with Shibhnath Sarkar to clinch gold in men's pair event of the bridge competition.
21. a The Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) will be held in Houston for the first time as part of the larger umbrella of the literary event in the US.
22. d Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN.
23. b The number of people travelling abroad hit record levels in 2017 with a total of 1,323 million international tourist arrivals recorded in destinations around the world, with India leading the growth in the South Asian region, according to data from the UN's tourism organisation.
24. c R Madhavan took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) from T Suvarna Raju. Prior to this, he was heading the Accessories Division of HAL at Lucknow as an Executive Director.
25. a In a first, scientists from Canada have developed a rollable touch-screen tablet - taking inspiration from ancient scrolls to create a modern-day device. The device, called MagicScroll, is comprised of a high-resolution flexible display that can be rolled or unrolled around a central, 3D-printed cylindrical body containing the device's computerised inner-workings.
26. c India's final medal tally at Asian Games 2018 ended with 69 medals - 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze. India has surpassed the previous best of 65 medals won at the 2010 edition in Guangzhou, China.

27. d The Sports Ministry approved the participation of a Kho Kho team from India in the first International Kho Kho Championships to be held in England from September 1 to 4.
28. c India captain Virat Kohli added another record to his statistics as he became the first Indian to score 4000 runs in Tests as captain.
29. a Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the book "Moving On, Moving Forward - A Year in Office" to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
30. d The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 10KW transmitter of All India Radio at Patnitop in Ramban District of Jammu & Kashmir that will provide services to people living in a radius of around 60 km (aerial) in various districts.
31. c Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee was named the Olympic Council of Asia's Most Valuable Player at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang by the OCA.
32. c Union Minister Shripad Naik inaugurated the fourth International Ayurveda Congress, IAvC in the Netherlands aimed at promotion and propagation of Ayurveda.
33. c Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to set up its first fully owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole.
34. b USIBC is held its first India Idea Summit in Mumbai.
35. d China has pledged a \$60 billion fund to bolster industry, counter hunger, and enhance security in Africa, a continent that has been chronically plagued by piracy and terrorism.
36. c Seventy-first Session of the Regional Committee was organized from 3-7 September 2018 in New Delhi, India.
37. c India along with 23 other nations were participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill which will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states.
38. c Every year September would be celebrated as the National Nutrition Month to mark the country's fight against malnutrition.
39. b Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez proposed holding a referendum in Catalonia on greater autonomy for the wealthy region but ruled out allowing a vote on independence as demanded by Catalan leaders.
40. b The banking regulator has asked all commercial banks having 10 or more banking outlets to have an independent internal ombudsman (IO) to review customer complaints that are either partly or fully rejected by the banks.
41. a Lewis Hamilton took a thrilling and controversial victory in the Italian Grand Prix following a first-lap clash with title rival Sebastian Vettel.
42. a The Indian Navy has won the coveted KAKADU Cup 2018 in Australia as it participated in a multilateral maritime exercise involving 27 navies.
43. c. Pakistan's newly elected President Arif Alvi has been sworn in as the 13th President of the country.

- 44. a A Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IREE) in association with NITI Aayog concluded.
- 45. c Launching the Bhamashah Digital Parivar Yojana Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje said the subsidy of Rs 1,000 will be given to card holders in two instalments.
- 46. d South Africa declared an official end to the world's worst recorded listeria outbreak after it killed 216 people and sickened more than 1,000 since early 2017.
- 47. b The International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 is being held in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.
- 48. c IT major Tata Consultancy Services became the second Indian company to attain a market valuation of more than Rs. 8 lakh crore following a surge in its share price.
- 49. a Karur Vysya Bank Ltd (KVB) has rolled out KVB Next, a tab-based digital initiative, intended to help eligible retail and business customers get in-principle sanctions for loans within 15 minutes.
- 50. c A Japanese team has developed a "space elevator" and will conduct a first trial this month, blasting off a miniature version on satellites to test the technology.
- 51. d The International Day of Charity is observed annually on 5 September. It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
- 52. d Thirty-four per cent of Indians - 24.7% male and 43.9% females - are not active enough to stay healthy, according to the latest study released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which noted that globally more than 1.4 billion adults are at risk of diseases from not doing enough physical activity.
- 53. c Late actor Raj Kapoor's memorial in Loni Khabhor, Pune, will soon contain the world's largest peace hall designed by architect and educationist Dr. Viswanath Karad, founder-chairman, MIT University.
- 54. c Former Bihar cadre IPS officer Satish Chandra Jha has been elevated to take over country's premier National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- 55. a Indian Shooter Om Prakash Mitharwal picked up his maiden gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Championships.
- 56. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the second phase of the FAME India scheme in New Delhi on September 7 at India's First Global Mobility Summit 'MOVE'.
- 57. b India has backed Mauritius over its claim on the disputed Chagos islands, which is home to Diego Garcia the key military base of the U.K. and the U.S. in the Indian Ocean, saying its decolonisation was incomplete as long as the atolls were under British control.
- 58. d The 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons' is jointly organised in Seoul during 5th to 7th September, 2018.
- 59. c India retained the top WHO position in South-East Asia Region with Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
- 60. a The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.

61. c Actor Akshay Kumar is proud about getting selected as an honorary ambassador for Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.
62. b The world's biggest offshore wind farm has officially opened in the Irish Sea.
63. c India has improved its ranking by one spot from 2016 and now stands 19th in the 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons usable nuclear materials, according to the Nuclear Security Index.
64. b The government doubled the monetary limit to 20 lakh rupees for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions.
65. c India is the Partner Country in the 87th Izmir International tradeshow which begins in Turkey.
66. b The former Miss World, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was bestowed with the inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award.
67. a The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (Comcasa), which will give India access to advanced new defence systems like armed drones and will enable the armed forces to exploit existing US-origin platforms much more efficiently.
68. b In a big step in its development cycle, a made-in-India Tejas fighter jet refueled mid-air from an Indian Air Force tanker aircraft for the first time.
69. b India will surpass Brazil as the world's top sugar producer next year; with the South American country losing its lead for the first time since the 1990s as its mills allocate increasingly more cane for ethanol production and as low investments dent cane yields.
70. b Facebook will invest over \$1 billion to build a data centre in Singapore, its first in Asia, powered by renewable energy and adapted to the city-state's tropical climate.
71. a India's first ever Global Mobility Summit - MOVE - was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Making Indian cities pollution free is the prime focus of the two-day summit being organised by the NITI Aayog.
72. d India and France have signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC) in New Delhi in the presence of Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Shri Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India.
73. d The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Satya Pal Singh lead a high level delegation to the G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting as well as Joint Ministerial Meeting held at Mendoza, Argentina on 5th & 6th September, 2018. It was the first ever meeting of Education Ministers in the history of G-20.
74. a State Bank of India said that Government has appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director of the Bank.
75. b Airtel Payment Bank's savings account holders will now be able to withdraw cash from ATMs with their mobile phones instead of using debit or credit cards. For this Airtel has partnered with Empays to enable Instant Money Transfer for account holders to withdraw cash from over 20,000 IMT enabled ATMs in India. It was the first company in India to receive a payments bank license from the Reserve Bank of India.

76. c The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said it will set the timeline to reduce LIC's shareholding in IDBI Bank from 51 per cent to 15 per cent. Currently, the permissible limit for insurance companies to hold stake in any listed entity is 15 %.
77. d The Reserve Bank has imposed a total penalty of Rs 3 crore on three state-run banks of Union Bank of India, Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra for delay in detection and reporting of fraud in some accounts.
78. c The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference on the theme "Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility", at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
79. c Assam government has made Asian Games medalist Hima Das as the Sports Ambassador of the state. Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal has handed over the letter to Hima at a function in Guwahati.
80. a Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is set to become the first airport in Asia next year to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport.
81. c Armies of India and the US will hold their annual combat exercise "Yudh Abhyas" at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from September 16 to 29 with an aim to enhance inter-operability between the two forces, officials said. They said the exercise will also focus on enhancing counter-terror cooperation.
82. a The Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill which relaxes the provision "two-child" provision for those aspiring to contest panchayat elections provided one of the children is differently-abled. It also passed an amendment aimed at allowing people suffering from leprosy to contest panchayat elections.
83. c China is participating for the first time in Australia's largest maritime exercise Kakadu as more than 3,000 personnel from 27 countries engage in joint training off the strategic northern port of Darwin.
84. a Amitabh Chaudhry has been appointed managing director and chief executive of Axis Bank for a three-year term. He will take charge on January 1, 2019.
85. b The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited ELI Beamlines International Laser Research Centre in Prague. He received detailed briefings at this cutting-edge institution, one of the world's centres of laser technology and research. Coinciding with President Kovind's visit, ELI Beamlines has signed an agreement with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai.
86. d Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea, for his career's biggest triumph and the Indian shooting team continued their dominance in the premier tournament.
87. c International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on 8 September, is an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges.
88. b The governments of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir signed an agreement to resume work on a dam project that would help reduce the quantum of India's share of Ravi waters flowing into Pakistan. Shahpurkandi dam is a national project and required financial assistance will be provided by the Water Resources Ministry for its construction.



89. a The Indian Railways has come up with an initiative called "Plan Bee" to prevent speeding trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks.
90. b Union Government has granted the status of a trust to 'Bharat Ke Veer', a private initiative promoted by actor Akshay Kumar, which aids families of paramilitary personnel killed in action.
91. a In tennis, Naomi Osaka of Japan has lifted the Women's singles title of US Open 2018. Osaka became the first Japanese to win a Grand Slam.
92. a Triple jumper Arpinder Singh has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup.
93. c In the US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Men's singles final. He defeated Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina in straight sets.
94. c External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj embarked on a two-day visit to Moscow to attend a meeting of the 23rd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).
95. a The World Summit on Accreditation pertaining to educational institutes got underway in New Delhi.
96. b President Omar al-Bashir dissolved the Sudanese government and named a new prime minister, moves aimed at fixing a crisis-hit economy battered in recent months by shortages of bread, fuel and hard currency. Bashir named Motazz Moussa as the country's prime minister.
97. b Pakistan's new President Arif Alvi was sworn in at a ceremony in Islamabad, concluding the country's peaceful transfer of power to its new government.
98. b Union Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances is organized a two-day regional conference on 'Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts' at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
99. d Nepal has decided to not participate in the week-long joint military exercise of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries beginning in Pune.
100. d World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is an awareness day observed on 10 September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.
101. a Justice Om Prakash Mishra has been sworn in as new Chief Justice of Nepal. The President Vidya Devi Bhandari administered oath of office and secrecy to Justice Mishra in Kathmandu.
102. d As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2018" is being conducted in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand's Chaubattia from September 16-29.
103. c India's first railway varsity starts operations in Vadodara.
104. a Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ullanbaatar, Mongolia with a brief but impressive opening ceremony.
105. b The Delhi government launched its ambitious project to deliver public services at the doorstep of residents. From driving licences to marriage certificates, Delhiites can now apply for 40 government documents to be delivered at their homes for a fee of Rs. 50 per service.

106. b The BIMSTEC member states Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.
107. c ICICI Bank launches overdraft facility for MSMEs based on GST returns.
108. d Using data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, an international team of scientists has discovered a new exoplanet twice the size of Earth and about 145 light years away.
109. a Best-selling author Preeti Shenoy announced the launch of her new book "The Rule Breakers".
110. c An international children rights charity based in Switzerland has been awarded the 2018 Balzan Prize for humanitarian achievement.
111. c An Indian-American scientist, Arul Chinnaiyan, has received an "Outstanding Investigator Award", along with a grant of \$6.5 million, from the U.S. National Cancer Institute.
112. c India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul during which implementation of the Chabahar port project and a host of other issues were discussed.
113. b India is set to lose Asia's first narrow-gauge railway line between Dhaboi and Miyagam in Gujarat, operational since the 19th Century.
114. a NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) announced that they are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.
115. a The joint exercise between the navies of India and Sri Lanka titled SLINEX-2018 is underway in Trincomalee.
116. c Russia launched what it called its largest ever military drills, with hundreds of thousands of troops taking part along with Chinese soldiers in a show of force NATO condemned as a rehearsal for "large-scale conflict."
117. d Private lender Yes Bank is in a fund-raising overdrive. It has just mopped up \$400 million through a syndicated loan facility for its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT).
118. b Jimmy Anderson has become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in Test matches.
119. c Justice Mukul Mudgal, who headed the Supreme Court-appointed probe into the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal, has been named chairman of the 11-member selection committee to pick this year's Dronacharya and Dhyanchand awardees.
120. d As part of the 40th anniversary of the International Day for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations drew together on 12th September for more than 100 best-practices developed in the countries of the Global South, which embody the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
121. c Mumbai tops list of most expensive cities to build a home in India.
122. b Telangana has become the first state to raise concerns over the proposed data protection bill - submitted by the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee.

123. b Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani has been renominated as the Chairman of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
124. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that the 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement' commenced on September 15 and asked people to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary this year by being a part of the Clean India movement.
125. d The PM-led Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 100 per cent electrification of the Indian Railways, tentatively by 2021-22.
126. d Ten countries that are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are currently meeting in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, to discuss economic challenges, inequality and digitalization.
127. b "Noida got the world's largest mobile factory and now Bengaluru has got the world's largest mobile experience centre," of Samsung.
128. b Jhulan Goswami became the first women to take 300 international wickets
129. c India's first tribal circuit tourism project under the Swadesh Darshan scheme inaugurated at Gangrel in Chhattisgarh.
130. b The 102-year-old athlete, Man Kaur made the country proud by winning a gold medal at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Malaga, Spain. Kaur won the 200 m race medal in the age group of 100 - 104.
131. c Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the country's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App in New Delhi.
132. c Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting at Mar del Plata in Argentina.
133. c GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has received the Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award trophy in the 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category for the second consecutive year.
134. d Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest known abstract pencil drawing by human hand -- which looks like a present day hashtag -- from South Africa and is over 70,000 years old.
135. c The festival of Nuakhai is celebrated in Odisha. During this harvest festival of western Odisha, new produce Nabannis offered to presiding deities.
136. d Janhvi Kapoor who debuted in Shashank Khaitan's Dhadak will receive the WIFT Emerald Award.
137. a Shri Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals.
138. d The 2018 Asia Cup (also known as Unimoni Asia Cup) is a One-Day International (ODI) cricket tournament scheduled to be held in the United Arab Emirates in September 2018.
139. b Uttarakhand has been ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018.

140. d India climbed one spot to 130 among 189 countries in the latest human development index released by the United Nations Development Programme.
141. b India ranks third globally in terms of number of family owned businesses with 111 companies of USD 839 billion total market capitalisation, followed closely after China with 159 firms and the United States with 121 firms, says a report.
142. c Andhra Pradesh government launches e-Rythu, a digital marketplace to promote cashless payments in its agricultural ecosystem.
143. b The \$700 million, 3,000-tonne Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine is capable of firing both cruise and ballistic missiles and the first of three planned diesel-electric boats to go into service in the next five years.
144. a India's first tribal tourism circuit was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphons in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh.
145. c 4th Eastern Economic Forum opens in Russia's Vladivostok.
146. c The Engineering Community across India celebrates Engineers Day on 15 September every year as a tribute to the greatest Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
147. c International Day of Democracy: 15 September. 2018 Theme: Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World.
148. c Billed as the country's first, an exclusive and certified 'Dog Park' boasting of facilities including a walking track, off leash areas and a clinic is all set for inauguration at Kondapur in Hyderabad.
149. d The 15th Prawasi Bhartiya Diwas -2019 will be held at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh in January next year. The three day event will begin from 21st of January.
150. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Sikkim on September 23 to inaugurate the state's first airport at Pakyong.
151. a Four 'child friendly courts' were inaugurated in West Bengal to help juvenile victims and offenders.
152. c Rajasthan Forest Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar inaugurated the state's first lion safari at Nahargarh Biological Park.
153. d The Andhra Pradesh government announced to start an unemployment allowance for the state's youth from October 2018.
154. b Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become the Sudan's new Prime Minister. A 21-member cabinet was sworn in at the presidential palace in Khartoum.
155. a DRDO successfully flight tested a low weight, Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) from Ahmednagar range on 15 September 2018. All the mission objectives have been met.
156. a Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 a joint military exercise of Indian and US armies, commenced at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand with a short yet impressive opening ceremony that saw the unfurling of the national flags of both countries to the strains of "Jana Gana Mana" and "The Star Spangled Banner".

157. b Scotland Yard's first Indian-origin counter-terrorism chief has won the Asian Achievers' Award in the Uniformed and Civil Services category for his contribution to policing in the UK.
158. c The Inaugural Edition of the BIMSTEC Nations Military Field Training Exercise i.e. MILEX - 2018 culminated on 16 September 18 after a Validation Exercise and an impressive Closing Ceremony held at Foreign Training Node, Aundh Military Station, Pune.
159. a PayU India has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate its own non-banking financial company, a development that will provide a big boost to the Naspers-owned fintech major in growing its consumer credit business.
160. a Scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands have developed a novel autonomous flying robot that mimics the rapid flight of insects. The robot, named DelFly Nimble, has exceptional flight qualities which open up new drone applications.
161. c The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a low-weight indigenously developed second man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) at its Ahmednagar range.
162. c France's Kevin Mayer set a new decathlon world record when he finished with 9126 points at the Decastar event in Talence, France. World champion and Olympic silver medalist Mayer surpassed previous holder American Ashton Eaton's 9045 points recorded at the 2015 world championships in Beijing.
163. a Borja Pantic kept his cool to prevail in a thrilling winner-takes-all duel with fellow young gun Frances Tiafoe and steer Croatia into the final of the Davis Cup for the second time in three years with a monumental 3-2 victory over the U.S. The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis.
164. b Strains of the Vande Mataram blended with Amir Khusro's poetry in the the ancient Uzbek city of Shakhrisabz, as an Indian artiste won top honours at the first of its kind International 'Maqom' music festival.
165. d The Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated a network of more than 3,400 Test Practice Centres (TPCs) spread across the 622 Districts in the country. 25 Test Practice Centres (TPCs) joined Minister of HRD through Google Hangouts in this inauguration at New Delhi.
166. a The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai's Deonar has become the first campus in the country to have a gender-neutral hostel.
167. d The "Sagarmatha Friendship-2" military exercise in China's Sichuan province will last 10 days. Both sides Nepal and China have fielded a platoon for the drill that will focus on counter-terrorism and disaster management.
168. d Germany rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train.
169. c More than 28% of Japan's population is now officially classified as elderly according to government data, the highest rate in the world as the first wave of postwar baby boomers enter old age.
170. c The Centre proposed the amalgamation of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third-largest bank.
171. c Rio Olympics Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik settled for a Silver medal at the Medved International Wrestling tournament at Minsk, Belarus.



172. a Kerala Tourism's vigorous efforts to get back on track in the wake of recent devastating floods got a shot in the arm as it walked away with two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns.
173. b Former foreign secretary S Jaishankar has joined the board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
174. c India's first woman IAS officer after Independence, Anna Rajam Malhotra, who served in the Madras State under then Chief Minister C. Rajagopalachari and at the Central government, died in Mumbai. She was 91.
175. d International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed every year on 16 September.
176. a Chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., Dr. Raghupati Singhanian has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico.
177. c Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
178. c The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind launched the logo and the web portal (<http://gandhi.gov.in/>) for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
179. c Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan released a draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) which lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand, thus helping in reducing emissions.
180. b The Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme is set to be launched nationwide by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23 from Jharkhand.
181. c Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton cruised to victory in the Singapore Grand Prix to strengthen his hold on this year's World Championship.
182. a BJP MP and former Minister Major General B.C. Khanduri was removed as Chairman of the standing committee on Defence. Mr. Khanduri has been replaced by former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra who resigned from the post in September last year as he had crossed the 75 years age-limit set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for public office.
183. d Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.
184. a The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 'Pension Adalat' in Delhi, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.
185. b Hangzhou has been confirmed as the host of the 2022 Asian Para Games.
186. b All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for eight long months.
187. c Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), was appointed as the secretary to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairperson, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

188. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre, IICC, at Dwarka in New Delhi.
189. a Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation. First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise.
190. d Nepal celebrated its Constitution Day which is also known as the National Day. Nepal, on 20th September, observed the third Constitution Day also known as the National Day, marking the anniversary of the promulgation of the landmark constitution.
191. a The ESI Corporation has approved a Scheme named "ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA" for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
192. a The Reserve Bank has allowed Rana Kapoor to continue as Yes Bank MD and CEO till January 31, 2019.
193. b IPPB also has a tie-up with Punjab National Bank to provide loans to its customers.
194. a New tuberculosis (TB) cases may be coming down, yet India accounted for 27% of the total new infections in 2017, which is the highest among the top 30 high TB burden countries in the world, says the WHO Global TB 2018 report.
195. b Sajan Bhanwal became the first Indian to win back-to-back medals at the Junior World Wrestling Championship after he secured a silver in the 77kg Greco Roman category in Trnava, Slovakia.
196. a Mirabai Chanu and Virat Kohli to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards.
197. b State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) will prepare a detailed project report for development of Palaly airport in Sri Lanka.
198. b The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) organized the 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism: A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism, in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
199. b Saudi Arabia will be the third "strategic partner" of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
200. d State Bank of India raised \$650 million via green bonds, proceeds of which will be used to fund environment-friendly projects.
201. c The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved a USD 525-million loan to Madhya Pradesh for infrastructure projects.
202. a The country's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) prototype fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality next year.
203. b Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore.
204. c Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar flew the first Rafale fighter jet manufactured by Dassault Aviation for India.

205. d Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
206. b The Uttarakhand state Assembly passed a resolution declaring cow as 'Rashtra Mata', becoming the first state in India to do so.
207. a The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
208. b The country's leading bourse NSE has signed a pact with the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) to work on a dual listing route for masala bonds as well as foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.
209. b The 3rd edition of acclaimed International Business Conference 'MahaBiz 2018' will be held in Dubai on 12th and 13th October 2018.
210. d Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang died at the military hospital in Hanoi.
211. b The first General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, ISA, will be inaugurated on the 2nd of October in Delhi.
212. a Home Ministry and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have signed a MoU for setting up of a state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Home Ministry.
213. c In Himachal Pradesh, two day Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Indian Region-IV, Conference and Workshop is organised in Shimla.
214. c Tamil Nadu government has announced a novel scheme for the protection of the exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years.
215. b Actress-producer Anushka Sharma was honored with the Smita Patil Memorial Award, while entrepreneur par excellence Ronnie Screwvala was awarded the Priyadarshni Academy Global Award.
216. d First International Day of Sign Languages was being observed on 23rd September.
217. b Former Member of Parliament and Bollywood actress Jaya Prada has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of Nepal tourism.
218. a Blind chess player Vaishali Narendra Salavkar will become the first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at the world chess Olympiad, starting September 23 at Batumi in Georgia.
219. d With Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, the government is taking healthcare protection to a new aspirational level. This is the "world's largest government funded healthcare program" targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries.
220. c Centenary celebrations to commemorate hundred years of liberation of Haifa in Israel by the Indian troops in 1918 culminate with a grand function in New Delhi.
221. b Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army completed the third edition of their joint military Exercise KAZIND 2018 in Otar Military area, Kazakhstan in a significant step towards fostering military and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

222. b Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population.
223. a UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will arrive in New Delhi on October 1. His trip coincides with the commencement of events marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
224. a In India, more than 271 million people moved out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16, said the estimates released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
225. a India settled for the silver medal after losing to Pakistan 2-3 in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship in Doha.
226. a The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a new airport in Jharsuguda - also known as the powerhouse of Odisha. The Prime Minister also flagged off the UDAN flight on Jharsuguda-Raipur sector. Jharsuguda is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational and the first one to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under RCS UDAN.
227. d Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the Maldives' presidential election. Results released by the Elections Commission and he has secured 58.3 per cent of the popular vote.
228. d Women Foreign Ministers meeting for the first summit of its kind vowed to bring a 'women's perspective' to foreign policy held in Montreal.
229. a In an unprecedented move, Hong Kong has banned a pro-independence political party, causing outcry among critics who see the measure as another sign of the China's tightening grip over the city. Hong Kong's security bureau announced it had upheld a police request to ban the Hong Kong National Party (HKNP), a well-known but small group that promotes the city's independence from China.
230. d India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast, achieving a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system. Defence sources said, the interceptor was launched from Abdul Kalam Island of the Integrated Test Range (ITR). Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientist said that this Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 kilometres of the earth's atmosphere.
231. a In Badminton, Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting beat Japan's Kento Momota to take the Men's singles China Open title in Changzhou. Spain's Carolina Marin beat China's Chen Yufei 21-18, 21-13 to take the women's singles title.
232. b India's stand-in captain Rohit Sharma became the ninth Indian to go past 7000 ODI runs and the third fastest from his country to do so.
233. a The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the Sikkim's first-ever airport. During the two-day visit, Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Greenfield airport, around 33 km from Gangtok. It is also the first Greenfield airport constructed in the Northeastern Region of India.
234. b World Rhino Day is celebrated in Assam on 22nd September. The observation of the day will make people aware about the importance of Rhinos which will send a strong message to poachers. There are over 2600 rhinos that have been found in Assam as of now.

235. a Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, is organising "Mushairas", based on the themes of teachings and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, across the country as a part of the Modi Government's decision to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation.
236. d 25th September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
237. a The Semana da Cultura Indo Portuguesa, an annual event that features cultural exchanges between Portugal and Goa, will complete a decade with the 10th edition of the event set to begin in Panaji.
238. a Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of "Ease of Living Index" rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
239. c The fourth edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in Lucknow on October 6, 2018.
240. c This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth, and the U.N. is declaring 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace."
241. d The UAE will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in the nation's capital, Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th November.
242. d India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and healthcare, a survey of 195 countries has revealed. It ranks below countries like Sudan, Azerbaijan, China and Bosnia Herzegovina.
243. c Croatian footballer Luka Modric was named the world's best male player at the Best FIFA Football Awards in London.
244. b Spaniard Carolina Marin continued her recent run of outstanding form by cutting down local hope, Chen Yufei, to size at 21-18, 21-13.
245. b Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, chairman of India's second-most valued firm 'Reliance Industries', has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the seventh consecutive year, with total net worth of Rs. 371,000 crore.
246. c BCCI congratulated Virat Kohli, Smriti Mandhana for receiving Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award respectively.
247. a South Sudanese doctor, Evan Atar Adaha, who runs an overcrowded hospital in the town of Bunj with a dimly-lit surgical theatre and no regular supply of general anaesthetics won the UN refugee agency's prestigious Nansen award.
248. c The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is organising the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA); the 2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and the 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018) from 2nd to 5th October 2018 in New Delhi.
249. c Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance will release an Annual Financial Inclusion Index (FII) which will be a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.
250. c India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products.



251. a When Governor E. S. L. Narasimhan flagged off the metro train from the Ameerpet metro interchange station to L. B. Nagar in the city suburb, Hyderabad Metro Rail became the second largest metro network in the country after Delhi with a total of 46 km service.
252. b Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a Rs 100 crore Indian Culinary Institute, built by the Ministry of Tourism, close to Renigunta airport, 15 km from Tirupati.
253. Jacinda Ardern, is only the second world leader to ever give birth while in the office. The first was the late Benazir Bhutto, who was prime minister of Pakistan when her daughter was born in 1990.
254. c In Nepal, the famous Indra Jatra festival is being celebrated in Kathmandu with gaiety and religious fervor.
255. d Since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has celebrated World Tourism Day as international observances on September 27.
256. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron are selected for this year's 'Champions of the Earth' award - UN's highest environmental honour.
257. a Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application Jan Dhan Darshak as a Part of Financial Inclusion.
258. c India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval visited Iran on 26 September to participate in a first of its kind of meeting, of regional players, focussing on the rising threat posed by terrorism, including Daesh/ISIS.
259. d The Union Cabinet approved increasing the government's ownership in the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to 100% from the existing 49% and also change the existing structure in line with a transition plan.
260. c The Union Cabinet approved the new telecom policy that aims to provide broadband access to every citizen at 50 Mbps speed by the year 2022.
261. a BSE has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch delivery-based futures contract in gold (1 kg) and silver (30 kg).
262. b The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation will begin in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
263. d Madrid has been chosen to host the first two new-format Davis Cup finals in 2019 and 2020.
264. c India's rank improved by a couple of notches, but it was still placed 96th among 162 countries in this year's report on Economic Freedom in the World, released by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute.
265. b The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, launched the country's first flood forecasting and early-warning system, which will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data.
266. d Chief Justice Misra, in an opinion for himself and Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, observed that Section 497 (adultery) of the Code "commands" married couples to remain loyal to each other.
267. a Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur.

268. b The government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.
269. a Tribes India and TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "Punch Tantra Collection and Ms. Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador of Tribes India".
270. c UNWTO partnered with the Hungarian Tourism Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to hold the official celebration of World Tourism Day 2018 in Budapest.
271. c The board of directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 150 million loan to establish the first multi-skills park in central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.
272. c Canada's parliament has voted unanimously to effectively strip Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary Canadian citizenship over the Rohingya crisis. Ottawa had given the long-detained democracy advocate and Nobel laureate the rare honour in 2007.
273. a Fitch Ratings placed Bank of Baroda's (BoB) viability rating on 'rating watch negative' following the government announcement to merge it with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank.
274. d For the first time, a case of rat hepatitis E has been discovered in a human in Hong Kong.
275. c India defeated Bangladesh in a nail biting encounter to clinch the Asia Cup title for the second time in the row. India wins record-extending seventh title.
276. a The Supreme Court has struck down a rule that disallowed girls and women in the 10-50 age groups from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.
277. b UNESCO World Heritage City Ahmedabad and Mandu were jointly declared as the 'Best Heritage City', while Qutub Minar bagged the top award in the differently-abled friendly monument category at the National Tourism Awards.
278. c Actor-director Pankaj Kapur was honoured with 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at the closing ceremony of the ninth edition of Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai.
279. c World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on 28th September to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease.
280. b President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the plenary session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi. It will culminate on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti, which is also celebrated as the Swachh Bharat Diwas.
281. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Gujarat to inaugurate multiple projects, including a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi at the Alfred high School in Rajkot, and a modern chocolate factory set up by Amul in Anand.
282. b Argentina has received the biggest loan package ever from the International Monetary Fund, aimed at shoring up the country's ailing finances: a whopping \$57.1bn that will be disbursed over the next three years.
283. c As part of its efforts to promote Ease of doing Business through digital transformation and build a world class port infrastructure in the country, the Indian Ports Association (IPA) has appointed M/s Tech Mahindra as the Managed Service Provider for the five major ports at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Deendayal Port and Paradip Port Trust.

284. d Private-lender Bandhan Bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has withdrawn its general permission to open new branches and frozen the remuneration of the lender's MD and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh till further notice as it failed to comply with a licensing condition.
285. b To broaden the market for weavers, rural artisans and craftsmen, SHGs, rural entrepreneurs, and farmers' producer organisations, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Karnataka Regional Office has invited wholesalers and online marketing vendors to its Grameena Habba.
286. c Inaugurating an International conference on plastics recycling and waste management: Opportunity and Challenges, in New Delhi the Minister emphasised on solid waste management.
287. b The Elections Commission of Maldives officially named Ibrahim Mohamed Solih President-elect, about a week after he dislodged incumbent President Abdulla Yameen in a crucial election that saw a near-90% voter turnout.
288. b Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the three-day 'Kalahandi Dialogue', a global conclave on development for the district.
289. c Recently, scientists identified the threat status of 59 Indian plant species based on criteria used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in the hope that this "streamlines" conservation efforts for the plants.
290. c In Madhya Pradesh, the first corn festival of the country is being held in Chhindwara. The festival is one of a kind international event.

