

# **MANTHAN**

## **Current Affairs Supplement**

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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**

# Contents

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1.	<b>POLITY AND GOVERNANCE .....</b>	<b>1–27</b>
	• National	
	• International	
2.	<b>ECONOMY AND FINANCE.....</b>	<b>28–40</b>
	• Economy News	
	• Banks in News	
	• Firms in News	
3.	<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .....</b>	<b>41–49</b>
	• Inventions/Discoveries	
	• Health/ Disease	
4.	<b>ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT.....</b>	<b>50–51</b>
5.	<b>SPORTS.....</b>	<b>52–58</b>
	• Sports Personalities in News	
	• Sport Events	
6.	<b>AWARDS.....</b>	<b>59–62</b>
7.	<b>PERSONS IN NEWS .....</b>	<b>63–65</b>
8.	<b>MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>66–79</b>
9.	<b>IMPORTANT DAYS .....</b>	<b>80–82</b>
10.	<b>QUESTIONNAIRE.....</b>	<b>83–122</b>
	• Questions	
	• Answer Key & Explanation	

## **POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

### **National**



#### **PM Modi unveils world's tallest Statue of Unity built in honour of Sardar Patel**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Statue of Unity, built in honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat.
- Unveiling the 182-metre statue of the Iron Man of India, world's tallest, on his 143rd birth anniversary Prime Minister said Sardar Patel's statue will remind the world about the courage of the man who thwarted attempts to disintegrate India.

Prime Minister described the Statue of Unity as a symbol of the country's engineering and technical capabilities. Gujarat Governor O P Kohli, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and BJP chief Amit Shah were present at the unveiling of the 'Statue of Unity'. The imposing monument is twice the height of the Statue of Liberty in the US and is built on an islet, Sadhu Bet, near the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat's Narmada district. Statue of Unity was built by Larsen & Toubro and It was designed by Indian sculptor Ram V. Sutar.

#### **'Soura Jalanidhi' scheme launched in Odisha**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Soura Jalanidhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
- 'Soura Jalanidhi', is a dug well based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode. Under the scheme, 5,000 solar pumps will be given to Odisha farmers at a subsidy of 90 per cent to irrigate 2,500 acres of land.

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. Naveen Patnaik is the current and 14th Chief Minister of Odisha.

#### **IIT-Madras Develops 'India's First Microprocessor', Shakti**

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) have designed and booted up India's first microprocessor, Shakti, which could be used in mobile computing and other devices.
- According to IIT-M, the Shakti microprocessor can be used in low-power wireless systems and networking systems besides reducing reliance on imported microprocessors in communication and defence sectors.

The Shakti family of processors was fabricated at Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO) in Chandigarh, making it the first 'RISC V Microprocessor' to be completely designed and made in India

### India and Japan signs a Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1817 crore for the 'Project for the Construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I)' in the State of West Bengal

- India and Japan signs a Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1817 crore for the 'Project for the Construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I)' contributing to the Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in the State of West Bengal.
- The objective of the Project is to strengthen the capability to respond to fluctuation in supply and demand of power and to improve stability of the power supply by constructing the pumped storage facilities, thereby contributing to the Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in the State of West Bengal.

### India-Japan military exercise Dharma Guardian-2018 begins in Mizoram

- Armies of India and Japan began their first-ever joint military exercise at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation.
- The focus of the two-week-long exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2018' will be to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase interoperability between the two forces.
- The Japanese contingent is represented by 32nd Infantry Battalion, while the Indian side by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles

Being first of its kind, the 14 days long joint exercise is being conducted from 01 Nov 2018 to 14 Nov 2018. The objective of this exercise is to build and promote army to army relations in addition to exchanging skills and experiences between both the armies. Due emphasis will be laid on enhancing tactical skills to fight against global terrorism and on increasing interoperability between forces of both countries which is crucial for the success of any joint operation.

### Musahary sworn in as first chairperson of Meghalaya Lokayukta

- Justice (Retd) of Gauhati High Court, Pranoy Kumar Musahary, was sworn in as the chairperson of Meghalaya's first Lokayukta.
- Justice Musahary was administered the oath of office at a ceremony by Governor Tathagata Roy.
- The Lokayukta is empowered to probe allegations of corruption against public functionaries such as the chief minister, deputy chief minister, ministers, speaker and deputy speaker of Assembly, MLAs, besides government officials.

Maharashtra was the first state to introduce the institution of Lokayukta through The Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayuktas Act in 1971. The Lokayukta (Lok Ayukta) is an anti-corruption ombudsman organization in the Indian states. Once appointed, Lokayukta cannot be dismissed nor transferred by the government, and can only be removed by passing an impeachment motion by the state assembly. The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) headed by Morarji Desai submitted a special interim report on "Problems of Redressal of Citizen's Grievances" in 1966. In this report, the ARC recommended the setting up of two special authorities designated as 'Lokpal' and 'Lokayukta' for the redressal of citizens' grievances.

### Justice Ramesh Ranganathan sworn in as Uttarakhand HC chief justice

- Justice Ramesh Ranganathan was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. He was administered the oath of office by Governor Baby Rani Maurya at the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun.

- **Justice Ranganathan**, a qualified Chartered Accountant and a Company Secretary, has a Law Degree from Bangalore University. He enrolled as an advocate in the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 1985. **In 2005, he was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court**, and in 2006, he was appointed a permanent judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

**Chief Justice of Uttarakhand** is appointed by the President of India with the advice of Chief Justice of India and the Governor of Uttarakhand. **Justice Ashok A. Desai** is the first the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand.

### Manipur government declares war on drugs

- **Manipur government** has declared a war on drugs affecting a significant number of people in the state. **Chief Minister N Biren Singh** has said the state government and the security forces have initiated projects to wean away drug users from the addiction while initiating strict action against drug peddlers.
- The Northeastern state is close to the **Golden Triangle** in Southeast Asia -- infamous for drug trafficking.

**Manipur** is a state in Northeast India, with the city of **Imphal** as its capital. **Najma Akbarali Heptulla** is the current Governor of Manipur and the Chancellor of **Jamia Millia Islamia**.

### Cabinet approves for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of the United Nations

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has given ex-post facto approval for moving a Resolution in the first Assembly of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of the United Nations.
- Opening the membership of the ISA will put solar energy in global agenda with the **universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy**. It will make ISA inclusive, whereby all member countries that are members of the United Nations could become member. **Expanding membership will lead to ISA initiative benefitting the world at large.**

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**.

### VP Venkaiah Naidu reaches Malawi on final leg of his 3-nations Africa tour

- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** arrived in **Lilongwe**, the capital of **Malawi**. At the **Kamuzu International Airport**, he was received by **Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Malawi, Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano**, **Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Malawi, V Bright Masaka** and Minister in waiting, **George Mkondiwa**.
- He addressed the Indian community in Malawi at a reception function in Lilongwe. **Mr Naidu reached Malawi on the final leg of his three nations Africa tour after visiting Botswana and Zimbabwe.**

**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**.



## Every graduate girl in Bihar to get Rs 25,000 now

- **Bihar government** has approved a proposal to pay Rs 25,000 to every girl graduating in 2018 and onwards. This decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting which was chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- As per decision, the **one-time payment** will be made to every girl who graduated from the colleges of the state on or after April 25 this year, irrespective of pass division, community or region.
- The Cabinet allotted 300 crore rupees for disbursement of this payment to an estimated one lakh twenty thousand girls expected to clear their graduation course this year.

## Uttarakhand celebrates its 18th Foundation Day

- **Uttarakhand** is celebrated its 18th Foundation Day. It became a state of the Union, after separation from Uttar Pradesh.

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. Dehradun is the Capital of Uttarakhand. Baby Rani Maurya is the current governor of Uttarakhand.

## PM Modi inaugurates India's first Multi-Modal Terminal in Varanasi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated an inland waterways terminal on River Ganga in Varanasi to the nation. This is the first of the four multi-modal terminals being constructed on National Waterways-I (River Ganga) as part of the World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project.
- This **multi-modal terminal on the River Ganga in Varanasi** is the first of the three such terminals and two inter-modal terminals being constructed on the river. The project will have three multi-modal terminals in Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia, two inter-modal terminals, five pairs of Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro) terminals, a new navigation lock at Farakka.
- The Jal Marg Vikas Project is being implemented along the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of the Ganga with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank, at an estimated cost of Rs 5,369.18 crore (\$800 million, of which \$375 million is an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loan) on a 50:50 sharing basis between the Government of India and the World Bank.

The terminal is part of the government's Jal Marg Vikas project, which aims to develop the stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi and Haldia in West Bengal for navigation of large vessels up to 1,500-2,000 tonnes in weight, by maintaining a draught of 2 to 3 metres in this stretch of the river and setting up other systems required for safe navigation. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the implementing agency of the project.

## Bilateral Exercise Between Indian & Republic of Singapore Navies – SIMBEX 18 - marks Silver Jubilee this Year

- The 25th edition of SIMBEX, an acronym for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise" is scheduled from 10th to 21st November 2018 off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- **Bilateral cooperation** between Singapore and India was first formalised when RSN ships began training with the Indian Navy in 1994.

## PM Modi to visit Singapore on November 14-15 to attend East Asia Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will pay a two-day visit to Singapore beginning November 14 to attend the **East Asia Summit**, an influential bloc which delves into political, security and trade-related issues in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The **East Asia Summit** is a premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

- Apart from the 10 ASEAN member-states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Russia.

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.

### Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio launches GPS mapping of government schools

- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has launched GPS Mapping of Government Schools and Personnel Location System.
- In a significant step towards computerization and digitization of records and perhaps the first in the country.

Nagaland is a state in Northeast India. The state capital is Kohima, and the largest city is Dimapur. Nagaland became the 16th state of India on 1 December 1963. Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya is currently the Governor.

### Separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh gets Supreme Court approval, to function from January 1, 2019

- Andhra Pradesh will have a separate High Court as the Supreme Court has given the green signal for issuing the notification to this effect.
- It will be the 25th high court in the country and will initially function from a temporary structure till the permanent building comes up in the ambitious Justice City complex in the State's capital Amaravati.
- Since the bifurcation of the state on June 2, 2014, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have had a common High Court situated at Hyderabad, the latter's capital city.

At present, there are 24 high courts at the state and union territory level of India, which together with the Supreme Court of India at the national level, comprise the country's judicial system. Each high court has jurisdiction over a state, a union territory or a group of states and union territories. High courts are instituted as constitutional courts under Part VI, Chapter V, and Article 214 of the Indian constitution.

### Bengaluru ranked India's most congested city

- The report titled 'Mobility and Congestion in Urban India', published by US-based National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), found Bengaluru to be the most congested city in the country followed by Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. The report further found that Bengaluru was the second slowest city in terms of traffic speeds only behind Kolkata.
- Conducted by a team of researchers at the University of California, Berkeley and three other U.S. universities, the research studies the current status of mobility in urban India, using Google maps.

### Election Commission sets up 'Sangwari' polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh to encourage women voters

- The Election Commission has set up 'Sangwari' polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh to encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections.
- In Chhattisgarhi dialect, 'Sangwari' means friend. These women friendly booths will be manned by all-female staff including presiding officers, supervisors and security personnel.

Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. Om Prakash Rawat is the current Chief Election Commissioner.



## WCD launches online portal to promote women farmers and entrepreneurs

- The Women and Child Development Ministry has set up an online marketing portal for unique organic products of the women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country, besides serving as an e-platform to bring them together and promote and celebrate their achievements.
- Named "Mahila-E-Haat", the portal was launched ahead of the "Women of India National Organic Festival, 2018" which was organised by the ministry to promote women entrepreneurs.

The 5th edition of the 10-day Women of India National Organic Festival, 2018, which ended November 4, saw the participation of women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country, who brought with themselves a vast variety of organic products, ranging from food and fabrics to the wellness and personal care products. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi is the current Minister for Women & Child Development in the Government of PM Narendra Modi. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi has been representing the Lok Sabha from Pilibhit constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

## A.P., West Bengal withdraw 'general consent' to CBI

- Andhra Pradesh withdrew the "general consent" granted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effectively curtailing the agency's powers in the State without prior permission.
- The CBI and all agencies under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, will now have to approach the State government for permission on a case by case basis.
- Shortly after Andhra Pradesh's decision, the Trinamool Congress-led West Bengal government also decided to withdraw the "general consent", a senior official at the State secretariat said in Kolkata. The consent had been accorded to the CBI by the then Left Front government in 1989.
- General consent is the periodic approval by a State government to the CBI and other agencies covered by Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. The consent is necessary as the jurisdiction of these agencies is confined to Delhi and Union Territories under this Act.
- CBI derives power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. Section 2 of the Act vests DSPE with jurisdiction to investigate offences in the Union Territories only. However, the jurisdiction can be extended by the Central Government to other areas including Railway areas and States under Section 5(1) of the Act, provided the State Government accords consent under Section 6 of the Act.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India. Operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the CBI is headed by the Director. The agency has been known to investigate several economic crimes, special crimes, and cases of corruption and other high-profile cases. The CBI headquarters are located at Lodhi Road in New Delhi. The founding director of the CBI was D. P. Kohli, who held the office from 1 April 1963 to 31 May 1968. Alok Kumar Verma is the current the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation in India.

## North East's first 'water handloom hut' inaugurated in Manipur

- North East's first 'floating water handloom huts' were inaugurated at Loktak Lake in Bishnupur district of Manipur.
- The five handloom huts were inaugurated by Tripura's Forest and Tribal Welfare Minister, Mevar Kumar Jamatia in presence of other government officials.

Northeast India (officially North Eastern Region) is the easternmost region of India representing both a geographic and political administrative division of the country. It comprises eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. Siliguri Corridor or Chicken's Neck is a narrow stretch of land of about 22 kilometres, located in the Indian state of West Bengal, which connects India's northeastern states to the rest of India.

## Power Minister inaugurates INSPIRE 2018

- “Energy efficiency saves the environment and makes businesses more competitive. While India needs to grow but we need to grow responsibly and the Government has taken several measures in this regard.” said **Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy**. The Minister was speaking at the inaugural of the International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (**INSPIRE 2018**). This is the **second edition of INSPIRE** and is being organised by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** and **World Bank**.
- The **#InnovateToINSPIRE** challenge was **organized by EESL and World resources Institute (WRI)** between 21 August, 2018 and 12 October, 2018 in the **run-up to INSPIRE 2018**.
- The challenge invited participants to submit **sustainable and scalable solutions to seven specific challenges spanning grid management, e-Mobility, energy efficient technologies and financial instruments**.

**Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, under the administration of **Ministry of Power, Government of India**, is working towards mainstreaming energy efficiency and is **implementing the world’s largest energy efficiency portfolio in the country**. By 2020, EESL seeks to be a **US\$ 1.5 billion (INR 10,000 crore) company**.

## Centre clears appointment of Chief Justices of 4 High Courts

- The **Central government** cleared the **appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts of Allahabad, Patna, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura**.
- **Justice Govind Mathur**, the most senior judge of the **Rajasthan High Court** has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court**.
- **Justice A P Sahi**, the most senior judge of the **Allahabad HC**, has been appointed the **Chief Justice of Patna HC**.
- **Justice S K Seth**, who is the senior-most judge of the **Madhya Pradesh HC**, has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the High Court**.
- **Justice Sanjay Karol**, the most senior judge of **Himachal HC**, has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of Tripura HC**. **Justice Karol** has served as **Advocate General of Himachal Pradesh**.

There are **24 high courts at the state and union territory level** of India, which together with the **Supreme Court of India** at the national level, comprise the country's judicial system. **High courts are instituted as constitutional courts under Part VI, Chapter V, Article 214 of the Indian constitution**. Judges in a high court are appointed by the **President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the governor of the state**. High courts are headed by a chief justice.

## INS Rana at Surabaya to participate in Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’

- **INS Rana** of the **Eastern Fleet** based at **Visakhapatnam** under the **Eastern Naval Command** is on deployment to the **South East Asia** and arrived at the port of **Surabaya** to participate in the **inaugural edition of Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’** scheduled from 12 to 18 Nov 18.
- The **aim of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices**.

The **strategic partnership between the India and Indonesia** was elevated to **‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’** during the visit of **Honourable Prime Minister of India** in May 18 and **Defence co-operation** has been a significant pillar in this partnership. **INS Rana** is a **Rajput-class destroyer** in active service with the **Indian Navy**. She was **commissioned on 28 June 1982**. She is a **redesigned Soviet Kashin-class guided missile destroyer**.

## INDO-Russian joint exercise INDRA 2018

- The joint military exercise between Indian and Russia EXERCISE INDRA 2018 on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) is conducted at Babina Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station from 18 November 2018.
- Company sized contingents of the 5th Army of the Russian Federation and a Mechanised Infantry Battalion of Republic of India are being participated in the training exercise spanning for eleven days including induction and de-induction of the Russian contingent.
- The Russian-Indian joint military drills "Indra-2018" kicked off on November 19 and will run until November 28.

Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces were conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia from 19 to 29 Oct 2017. The year 2017 marks a major milestone as this Exercise has been upgraded to involve all the three Services of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy & Air Force), which further accentuates the importance of Joint Services in the present world environment.

## Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurates “Hunar Haat” in New Delhi

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the “Hunar Haat” on 15th November, 2018 at India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The IITF is being organized from 14th to 27th November, 2018.
- “Hunar Haat”, being organised across the country by the Ministry of Minority Affairs has proved to be “Empowerment & Employment Exchange” for master artisans and craftsmen. “Hunar Haat” at Pragati Maidan, is a part of series of “Hunar Haat”, being organised in various parts of the country under a mission to provide market and opportunity to master artisans and craftsmen.

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.

## NITI Aayog launches 72-hour hackathon to solve problems

- NITI Aayog and UNICEF launched UNICEF- Atal Tinkering Lab Hackthon to encourage children towards making new innovations.
- The Hackthon is a 72-hour problem solving quest. Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Innovation Mission are a bridge between innovation and schools across the country, providing solutions to grassroots problems.

AIM and UNICEF have also launched a 72 hour Tinkering Hackathon from 14 to 17 November so that children can come up with innovative solutions for challenges faced by them in school, especially pertaining to quality of education and safety in schools. On October 2 last year, AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) had launched a six month long nationwide challenge called the Atal Tinkering Marathon, across six different thematic areas, namely, clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agri-technology.

## NITI Aayog organizes South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure

- NITI Aayog, the premier think tank of the Government of India, partnered with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to host a South Asian regional conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in the capital to discuss the key issues, perspectives and the way forward in the Urban Infrastructure.
- The two day conference on “Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public & Private Partnerships and Municipal Finance Innovations”, being held in New Delhi on November 15-16.

In India alone, until 2040, estimated investments of around \$4.5 trillion are required in the infrastructure space. With respect to urban needs, the population in South Asia is expected to grow by around 250 million till 2030, while that in India is expected to reach around 590 million during the same period.

### Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Trifed organized “Aadi Mahotsav”

- **Shri Jual Oram, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs** inaugurated the “Aadi Mahotsav” a National Tribal Festival to celebrate, cherish and promote the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine and commerce at Delhi Haat, INA.
- The Mahotsav has been organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED from 16-30 November, 2018 at Dilli Haat, INA; from 21-30 November, 2018 at Nehru Park and from 16-19 November, 2018 at Central Park, New Delhi.
- **Theme of the festival is: “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce”.** The Mahotsav features exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through 100 stalls.

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.

### India's First Elephant Hospital Opens in Mathura

- India's first specialized hospital for elephants was formally opened in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh at Farah block's Churmura village.
- It was formally inaugurated by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS together helped to build and organise the hospital.

### India, China hold 9th Annual Defence & Security Dialogue after one-year gap

- India and China held the **ninth Annual Defence and Security Dialogue in Beijing** after a one-year gap due to the Doklam standoff, as both countries agreed to enhance military exchanges and interactions.
- At the talks **both sides agreed on enhancing defence exchanges** and interactions at different levels between the two militaries.

Doklam, or Donglang in Chinese, is an area spread over less than a 100 sq km comprising a plateau and a valley at the trijunction between India, Bhutan and China.

### 1,023 Fast Track Courts to Be Set Up Under Nirbhaya Fund

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to use Nirbhaya Fund to set up 1,023 fast track courts to dispose off pending cases of rape of children and women.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice had proposed setting up over 1,000 'fast track special courts' across the country, as part of a new scheme to try cases related to rape of children and women.

Nirbhaya Fund is an Indian rupee 10 billion corpus announced by Government of India in its 2013 Union Budget. According to the then Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, this fund is expected to support initiatives by the government and NGOs working towards protecting the dignity and ensuring safety of women in India. Nirbhaya (fearless) was the pseudonym given to the 2012 Delhi gang rape victim to hide her actual identity. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi is the current union minister of Women and Child Development and she has been representing the Lok Sabha from Pilibhit constituency in Uttar Pradesh.



## India, Russia hosts joint military exercise in Jhansi, UP

- The joint military exercise between India and Russia, 'INDRA 2018' aimed at combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) conducted in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 18, 2018 in India.
- The objective of this exercise is to provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in counter-terrorism operations in a multinational scenario. In this joint exercise, the fifth Army of the Russian Federation and Indian Army's Mechanized Infantry Battalion took part.

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

## Maharashtra Cabinet passes Maratha Reservation Bill and creates new 'SEBC' category

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved reservation to Marathas for which the community has been protesting since 2017, demanding quota in government jobs and in admissions in academic institution.
- It has been reported that the state government will create a new category called SEBC (socially and economically backward) as per the recommendation of the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission, under which the community would be provided the quota. The commission had submitted its report to Chief Secretary DK Jain suggesting a 16 percent reservation for the Marathas, stating that the community is socially and economically backward.

## Kerala Introduces New 'KOOL' Open Online Learning Programme

- The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out-- KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform. The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.
- "KOOL is a major step by the State of Kerala to become India's first complete digital state in Education", said Prof C Raveendranath, state Education minister.
- To start with, teachers would be trained and the first batch will commence next month. KOOL has been designed in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) model, which is becoming popular worldwide.

Kerala is a state on the southwestern, Malabar Coast of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganisation Act by combining Malayalam-speaking regions. Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men. Palanisamy Sathasivam is the current Governor of Kerala. Kerala is known as "God's own country" and is one of the popular tourist destinations in India. Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala.

## Retired High Court judge Asim Kumar Roy appointed Bengal Lokayukta

- Retired Calcutta High Court judge Asim Kumar Roy was appointed the Lokayukta of West Bengal.
- He will be the second Lokayukta in the state after Samaresh Banerjee, who had served in the post between 2006 and 2009. Since then the post of Lokayukta had remained vacant in the state.
- The West Bengal Assembly had in July 2018 passed the Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2018, keeping the chief minister out of its purview in matters relating to public order. It, however, allows the Lokayukta to investigate matters relating to the chief minister on the remaining 58 subjects under the State List with the approval of two-third of the members of the assembly present and voting.

### Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan or Women Empowerment campaign launched by CM Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow

- In Uttar Pradesh, Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan or Women Empowerment campaign was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow.
- The month-long campaign is aimed to empower women in the state through various programmes. It includes many issues like education, self-employment, health, cleanliness, nutrition.
- During the campaign, women officers and female staff of the state government will go door-to-door in villages of their respective blocks in every district and inform and educate women about the schemes being run by central and state governments for their welfare and security.

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.

### Foundation of the India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University

- The foundation of the India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University in Palwal district was done through remote control by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Narendra Modi also inaugurated the Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE), also known as the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) stretch among a series of projects in Haryana.

### Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' commences in Jaipur

- The 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- "The aim of the exercise is to promote military relations between the two countries by enhancing interoperability and mutual exchange of tactics between Special Forces. The objectives of the joint training is to share the best practices between the two armies and to develop joint strategies by sharing expertise of conducting operations in a counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism environment, while capitalising on the rich repository of experiences of each other armies.

'Vajra Prahar' is a Indo-US Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US. Though the exercise began in 2010, there was a gap of three years between 2012 and 2015. The last edition was held in Jodhpur in March 2017.

### HRD Minister Javadekar launches Institution's Innovation Council

- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Institution's Innovation Council through video conferencing in New Delhi.
- Mr Javadekar said, the purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils, IICs is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.
- It is a significant step in institutionalizing innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country.

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.

### J&K Assembly dissolved after rival alliances stake claim to form government

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik dissolved the State Assembly even after an alliance of anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parties led by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) staked claim to form the government.



- **Former Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti** staked claim saying that her party, which has 29 MLAs, has the backing of 15 lawmakers of National Conference and 12 of Congress.

Mehbooba Mufti is the first women and current acting Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The state has special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India. Srinagar is the summer capital and Jammu is the winter capital. The Line of Control separates it from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north respectively, and a Line of Actual Control separate it from the Chinese-administered territory of Aksai Chin in the east. Maharaja Hari Singh became the ruler of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1925, and he was the reigning monarch at the conclusion of the British rule in the subcontinent in 1947.

### Odisha Assembly passes resolution seeking 33% reservation for women in state assemblies, Parliament

- The Odisha Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution seeking 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative assemblies and Parliament.
- The move comes after Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved a resolution in the assembly, urging for reservation for women in all representative bodies. The members of the assembly then unanimously passed the resolution giving 33 per cent reservation to women in the assemblies and the Parliament.
- The chief minister's move came at a time when the Women's Reservation Bill or the Constitution (108th amendment) Bill is pending before the Parliament.

### Himachal government approves Sashakt Mahila Yojna

- The Himachal Pradesh government in the cabinet meeting accorded its approval to implement Sashakt Mahila Yojna in the state with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organisation and socio-economic development.
- The scheme not only envisages to link rural women with sustainable livelihood opportunities but also to improve their skill by imparting training.

Himachal Pradesh state's name was coined from the Sanskrit—Him means 'snow' and achal means 'land' or 'abode'—by acharya Diwakar Datt Sharma. Shimla is the capital and the largest city of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. In 1864, Shimla was declared as the summer capital of British India. Dharamshala is the second winter capital of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Jai Ram Thakur is the 13th and the current Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Acharya Dev Vrat is the current Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

### Andhra Pradesh launches 'Bhudaar' portal to make land records accessible to people

- Andhra Pradesh launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers just like Aadhar number.
- The "Bhudaar" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.

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.

## India, China set for first post-Wuhan border talks

- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived in Chengdu for boundary talks with China's Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi, to build on the Wuhan informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping that took place in April.
- India and China have a border dispute along the western, central and eastern sectors of their 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC).

## Maharashtra government passes bill to amend the anti-adulteration law

- Maharashtra government passed the bill to amend the anti-adulteration law to make it more stringent, prescribing life imprisonment and heavy penalty to curb food and milk adulteration. The bill was tabled in the legislative assembly and it was passed subsequently. Due to the amendment, the adulteration offence will be cognizable and non-bailable.

Maharashtra is India's second-most populous state and third-largest state by area. Nagpur is Maharashtra's second capital and hosts the winter session of the state legislature. Pune is its cultural capital. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao is currently serving as Governor of the state of Maharashtra.

## Andhra Pradesh topped in India Skills Report 2019

- Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana, as per the India Skills Report 2019. Further, the report stated that Andhra Pradesh is one of the preferred hiring destinations in India, which offers equal space to both male and female workers.
- The employability levels of B.Tech/B.E have increased across all the sectors, touching a new high of 63.11 per cent, which remained at 42.08 last year. However, the employability levels of MBA and polytechnic stand low between 47.18 per cent and 45.90 per cent.
- The students from ITIs, polytechnic and engineering colleges are identified and ranked for their top skills, including work ethics, verbal communication, analytical and critical thinking, problem-solving, interpersonal skills, written communication skills.
- The India Skills Report 2019 said that around 70 per cent of the youth face problem due to lack of professional guidance in finding desirable jobs that worth their skills.

The survey was conducted jointly by Wheebox, PeopleStrong, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and supported and backed by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

## First-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue being held at St. Petersburg

- The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue is held at St. Petersburg in Russia.
- The Indian side is led by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, with the Russian delegation headed by Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin.

Moscow is the capital and most populous city of Russia. 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.

### UN selects Noida, Greater Noida to participate in Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative

- The United Nations has selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative.
- The twin-cities in Gautam Buddh Nagar district, adjoining the national capital, have been selected in the "University City" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as the only invitee from India.
- Overall 25 cities across the world have been selected in five categories by the UN Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) cities initiative.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals and set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities.

### Sunil Arora is the new Chief Election Commissioner of India

- Sunil Arora is the new Chief Election Commissioner of India. He succeeds Om Prakash Rawat.
- A 1980-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, Arora has worked in ministries such as finance, textiles and the Planning Commission.

Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service. It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once appointed by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions. Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India, serving from 21 March 1950 to 19 December 1958.

### Gujarat tops in implementing Ayushman Bharat

- Two months after the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Gujarat has emerged as the top performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme.
- As of November 23, the Prime Minister's home state accounted for around 26% of the total number of hospital admissions cleared under the scheme so far.
- While Gujarat clocked in around 76,000 hospital admissions since September 23, Tamil Nadu ranked second at 54,273 and Chattisgarh third at 53,180, according to data from the health ministry. Karnataka and Maharashtra, which came on board for the scheme close to its launch, also rank among the top five performers at 40,216 and 27,237, respectively.

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). The scheme is the world's largest healthcare programme because of the size of India's population.

## Gandhi Smriti organised 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' in New Delhi

- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), functioning under Ministry of Culture, Government of India organised a 3 day 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' in partnership with UNESCO- MGIEP and Standing Together to Enable Peace from November 28-30, 2018.
- The three- day 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' was inaugurated by Mr ShriKrishna G Kulkarni, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Darshan, New Delhi. The conference is organized to mark the beginning of celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

## Home Minister Emergency Response Support System in Himachal

- Himachal Pradesh emerged as the first state in the country to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) when Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the system at Mandi.
- All emergency numbers, including 100 for police, 101 for fire, 102 for ambulance and disaster response have been integrated into countrywide one number, 112.

Under this project, one Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in Shimla along with 12 District Command Centers (DCCs) covering entire State. Emergency Response Centre has been integrated with Police (100), Fire (101), Health (108) and Women helpline (1090) Services to provide emergency services via single emergency number - 112. **Rajnath Ram Badan Singh** is the current Union Home Minister and previously served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and as a Cabinet Minister in the Vajpayee Government. He has been representing the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Lucknow constituency.

## PM Modi addressed first session of G-20 summit

- The 13th G-20 summit begins in Buenos Aires, Argentina with focus on building consensus on a fair and sustainable development in the field of agriculture.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 1st session of the summit. Prime Minister made a lead intervention in the first session of the summit, based on the theme - 'Putting People First'.
- India presented a nine-point agenda to G20 member nations calling for strong and active cooperation among them to comprehensively deal with fugitive economic offenders. The agenda was presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the second session of the G20 Summit on international trade, international financial and tax systems. The theme of the summit is - Building Consensus for a Fair and Sustainable Development.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It was founded in 1999; the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU).

## Centre launches Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages

- Union government has launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages.
- The initiative, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, was launched on 22nd of this month and will continue till the 21st of December.
- Bhasha Sangam is a programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages.
- Another objective of Bhasha Sangam is to enhance linguistic tolerance and respect and promote national integration.



## 8 more States achieve 100% household electrification under Saubhagya scheme

- **Eight more States** have achieved hundred per cent household electrification under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya.
- The states are **Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.**

The Saubhagya Scheme or Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana is an Indian government project to provide electricity to all households. The project was announced in September 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said that the aim was to complete the electrification process by December 2018. Certain households identified via the Socio-economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 will be eligible for free electricity connections, while others will be charged Rs. 500.

## Maharashtra passes bill proposing 16 per cent quota for Marathas

- The Maharashtra assembly unanimously passed a bill proposing 16 per cent reservation for Marathas under socially, educationally and economically backward category.
- The additional reservation has breached the existing 52 per cent reservation limit in the State.
- The reservation will now go up to 68 per cent and will be applicable to only those members of the Maratha, who are not a part of the 'creamy layer' of the community. Reservations will be provided to a new category that has been created — the socially and educationally backward class. This will reduce the share of the open category to 32 per cent.

Maharashtra is India's second-most populous state and third-largest state by area. Nagpur is Maharashtra's second capital and hosts the winter session of the state legislature. Pune is its cultural capital. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao is currently serving as Governor of the state of Maharashtra.

## Exercise KONKAN-18 begins at Goa

- Naval cooperation between India and the United Kingdom is based on the long term strategic relationship between both countries.
- The Bilateral KONKAN exercise provides a platform for the two Navies to periodically exercise at sea and in harbour, so as to build interoperability and share best practices.
- The Royal Navy is being represented by HMS Dragon, a Type 45 Class Destroyer equipped with an integral Wildcat helicopter. The Indian Navy is field INS Kolkata, the first ship of latest Kolkata class destroyers, equipped with integral Seaking and an IN submarine.

The KONKAN series of exercises commenced in 2004, and since then has grown in scale. KONKAN-2018 is being conducted from 28 Nov to 06 Dec 18 off Goa with units participating from both navies.

## Uttarakhand adjudged 'best state' at IITF Delhi

- Uttarakhand was adjudged the best state at the 38th India International Trade Fair, New Delhi, which showcased reconstruction work done at Kedarnath in recent months besides steps taken by the state government to boost tourism and promote local products like organic hone
- Himachal Pradesh pavilion has been awarded silver medal at the 38th India International Trade Fair.

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.

## India, Russia, China held second trilateral meeting on sidelines of G20 summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese premier Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a **trilateral meeting**, the second among the three countries after a gap of 12 years, on the **sidelines of the G-20 summit** to discuss cooperation in various areas.
- The **Russia-India-China meeting** came hours after Prime Minister Modi, his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump held their first trilateral meeting on the margins of the summit.

## Air forces of the US and India to hold joint exercise 'Cope India 2019'

- **Air forces of the United States and India** are scheduled to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in West Bengal.
- The exercise will be held from December 3 to 14 at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh).
- The exercise showcases efforts and commitment of the two nations to a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

**Cope India** are a series of international Air Force exercises between the Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force conducted on and over Indian soil. The first such exercise, which required many months of preparation, was conducted at the air force station in Gwalior from February 16 through February 27, 2004, with the US Air Force withdrawing troops and aircraft on February 27. Exercise Yudh Abhyas, a joint Indo-US Military exercise which witnessed participation of an Infantry Battalion of Indian Army and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 23 Infantry Regiment of US Army concluded at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand on 29 September 2018.

## India to Chair Kimberley Process from 1st January 2019

- The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) Plenary 2018, was held in Brussels, Belgium, from 12th-16th November 2018. EU handed over the Chairmanship of KPCS to India from 1st January, 2019.

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is the process established in 2003 to prevent "conflict diamonds" from entering the mainstream rough diamond market by United Nations General Assembly. The process was set up "to ensure that diamond purchases were not financing violence by rebel movements and their allies seeking to undermine legitimate governments."

## Andaman hosted 1st ever Indo-Indonesian biz forum as part of Indo-Pacific strategies

- The first ever India Indonesia Business forum (IIBF) was held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as part of policies of Delhi and Jakarta to expand their strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific Region including Indian Ocean Region.
- The forum aims to facilitate the commercial and people to people linkages between Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India with Aceh and North Sumatera Province of Indonesia.

This edition of IIBF is a step forward in the continuing engagements between Aceh and Andaman, which have commenced since July 2018, when the 1st Business Forum was held in Aceh. For that event, an Indian delegation led by the Ambassador of India Pradeep Kumar Rawat and comprising of members of Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and officials from Andaman and Nicobar Administration visited Banda Aceh, capital of Aceh Province.



## International



### UK plans new fund for Indian soldiers who fought in World Wars

- The UK government has **unveiled plans to offer support to Indian soldiers** who fought for **Britain** during the **two World Wars** but lost out on pensions and other benefits accrued to **British armed forces personnel at the time**.
- The **new programme will be a partnership between the Royal British Legion**, the UK's armed forces charity, and the Department for International Development's UK Aid initiative.

Fund was **announced in the lead up to Remembrance held on November 11 every year** as a day to **commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars** and later conflicts. It marks **Armistice Day of November 11, 1918**, when **World War I finally came to an end**.

### Palau becomes first nation to ban chemical sunscreens

- **Palau is the first country to ban "reef-toxic" sunscreens**. It passed a law **banning sunscreens that contain any one of ten chemicals, including oxybenzone and octinoxate**, which are the same chemicals targeted in Hawaii's chemical sunscreen ban earlier this year.
- **Palau, which is home to 500 islands and over 21,000 people in the Micronesia region of the Pacific Ocean**, is drawing ever greater numbers of tourists, but with this has come environmental degradation. **Palau's president, Tommy Remengesau, Jr., issued a statement, saying that citizens must not relinquish their responsibility for their islands**.

**Palau is an island country located in the western Pacific Ocean. The capital Ngerulmud is located on the nearby island of Babeldaob, in Melekeok State. United States dollar is the currency of Palau.**

### IORA member states establish Mandela internship programme

- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), including India, has established an internship programme in honour of former South African president Nelson Mandela**, who is widely recognised as the initiator of IORA.
- The **IORA Nelson Mandela 'Be the Legacy' internship programme** was announced at the close of the **18th IORA meeting in Durban**. The programme is aimed at **empowering young people under the age of 30 years** from IORA member states with work experience in their chosen fields of study.
- The **IORA was established through the vision of Mandela, when 14 member states launched the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in March 1997**.

- **Currently, the IORA has 21 member states** -- Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

**Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, formerly known as the **Indian Ocean Rim Initiative** and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an **international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean**. The **Coordinating Secretariat of IORA** is located at **Ebene, Mauritius**.

### Turkey unveils world's largest airport in Istanbul

- **Istanbul's new airport, designed to become the biggest airport in the world, was officially opened by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.**
- **Istanbul Airport ultimately will have the capacity to handle 200m passengers a year via six runways, four terminals and 233 aircraft parking positions. The mega-project is being launched in four phases and is scheduled for completion in 2028.**
- **At this point, Turkish Airlines is operating only a limited number of domestic and international routes from the new airport but the airline is planning to transfer all operations, including flights to and from South Africa, from the existing Istanbul Atatürk Airport on 31 December 2018.**

**Ankara is the capital of the Republic of Turkey. The Turkish lira is the currency of Turkey. Binali Yıldırım is the 27th and current Prime Minister of Turkey.**

### The 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting held in Durban, South Africa

- **Gen.(Dr.) VK Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, attended the 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting in Durban, South Africa on 2 November 2018. This meeting took place during the on-going celebrations of the 150th year of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.**
- **The theme of the IORA 2018 meeting was: "IORA: Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through enhanced cooperation for Peace, Stability And Sustainable Development".**
- **Currently, the IORA has 21 member states** -- Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

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### South-South cooperation on agriculture a key ingredient for Zero Hunger

- **Government representatives attended the Ministerial Forum on South-South Cooperation in Agriculture have committed to greater South-South cooperation on agriculture and rural development to increase momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty and hunger.**
- **The Changsha Declaration, formalized at the end of forum, sets out plans to include South-South cooperation principles into national policies and programmes, and was agreed to by 26 countries and 11 international organizations.**
- **"As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 by world leaders calls for the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition, more and more we need to mobilize private sector**

financing in support of the 2030 Agenda, as without the private sector we will never achieve the desired goals by 2030," the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said during his closing remarks.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** (or **Global Goals for Sustainable Development**) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The SDGs are part of Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly: "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". That has been shortened to "2030 Agenda". Achieving all 169 targets would signal accomplishing all 17 goals. The SDGs cover social and economic development issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, global warming, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice.

### India re-elected as member of ITU council till 2022

- India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for another 4-year term - from 2019 to 2022.
- According to an official release, India secured 165 votes and ranked third among the 13 countries elected to the council from the Asia-Australasia region, and eighth among the 48 countries elected to the council globally. The ITU has 193 member states that elect representatives to the Council.

**International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, originally the International Telegraph Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies. ITU, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Houlin Zhao is the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

### South Korea, US resume suspended joint marine drill

- South Korea and the United States resumed their combined marine drills for the first time since they were suspended in June to support diplomacy with North Korea over its denuclearization.
- The allies began the two-week 'Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP)', which involves some 500 troops, including U.S. marines from Okinawa, Japan, and military equipment, such as assault amphibious vehicles.

### United Nations Postal System issue stamps with Diyas lamps to mark the celebration of Deepawali

- United Nations Postal System has issued stamps with Diyas lamps to mark the celebration of Deepawali.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Syed Akbaruddin thanked the United Nations for the gesture. Stamps are available at the UN headquarters post office and online.

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) is the postal agency of the United Nations. It issues postage stamps and postal stationery, denominated in United States dollars for the United Nations offices in New York, in Swiss francs for the offices in Geneva and in euros (formerly schillings) for the offices in Vienna. The idea for the UN to issue stamps originated in 1947 with José Arce the ambassador from Argentina and president of the United Nations General Assembly, who was himself a philatelist.

### 4 Indian-origin members re-elected

- Incumbents, Ami Bera, a physician running from California's 7th district; Ro Khanna, running from the 17th Congressional district of California, which includes Silicon Valley; Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois; and Pramila Jayapal from Washington State all won their seats. Mr. Krishnamoorthi's opponent, Jitendra Diganvker, was also a person of Indian origin — making the Illinois race unique from an Indian perspective.

## Democrats win House, Republicans keep Senate

- The **Democrats made a significant comeback on Capitol Hill in midterm congressional election** as they **took control of the U.S. House of Representatives**, winning at least 220 of its 435 seats. They had 193 seats in the House.
- The **Republicans, however, expanded their thin majority in the Senate**, winning against incumbent Democrats in Indiana, North Dakota and Missouri, all States in Trump country.
- The GOP is expected to expand its presence in the Senate as more results come in. As this report goes to press, **they have 51 seats compared to the Democrats' 45 in the 100-member chamber.**

**United States Congress** is the **bicameral legislature of the Federal government** of the United States. The legislature consists of two chambers: the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**. The **Congress meets in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.** Both senators and representatives are chosen through direct election. Congress has 535 voting members: 435 representatives and 100 senators.

## UN World Food Programme and Alibaba join hands to achieve zero hunger

- The **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** and **Alibaba Group (Alibaba)**, the world's largest e-commerce company by transaction value, have **entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 a world with zero hunger.**
- **WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley, and Alibaba Partner and Chairman of the Alibaba Foundation, Sun Lijun, signed the agreement at Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, China.**

**World Food Programme (WFP)** is the **food-assistance branch of the United Nations** and the **world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.** From its headquarters in Rome and from more than 80 country offices around the world, the WFP works to help people who cannot produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families. It is a member of the **United Nations Development Group.**

## US Attorney General resigns at President Trump's request

- **US Attorney General Jeff Sessions has resigned from the post at the request of President Donald Trump.**
- For the past several months, **Trump has been expressing displeasure at Sessions' functioning in public meetings and social media platform.**
- The **resignation was the culmination of a toxic relationship** that frayed just weeks into the **Attorney-General's tumultuous tenure.** After misleading the US Senate over his personal contacts with the Russian ambassador, Sessions unexpectedly recused him from any involvement in FBI investigations into allegations of Moscow's collusion with Trump's 2016 election campaign team.

**Jeff Sessions served as the 84th United States Attorney General from 2017 to 2018.** A Republican, Sessions previously served as **United States Senator from Alabama from 1997 to 2017**, resigning the position in order to serve in the Trump administration.

## Indian-American Sikh elected mayor of Anaheim city in California

- Successful **Indian American businessman Harry Singh Sidhu** has been elected as **mayor of Anaheim, one of the largest cities in the state of California.**
- **Sidhu who served as member of the Anaheim City Council for eight years from 2002 to 2012, defeated Ashleigh Aitken in the November 6 mid-term elections.** He would be the **first Sikh mayor of the city.**

## Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena dissolves Parliament

- **Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena dissolved the 225-member Parliament,** paving the way for snap elections about two years ahead of schedule.



- The decision came after **Sirisena's United People's Freedom Alliance** announced that it **did not have the necessary numbers to get its prime ministerial nominee Mahinda Rajapaksa** through the legislature.
- The UPFA is **eight legislators short of a majority in the Parliament**. Sirisena had previously suspended the **Parliament** till November 16. However, on November 1, he lifted the suspension after coming under severe criticism.

**Sri Lanka** is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from the India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the official, administrative capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka. Maithripala Sirisena is the current and 7th and current President of Sri Lanka, in office since January 2015. Sri Lankan rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka.

### World's first AI news anchor unveiled in China

- China's state news agency Xinhua unveiled the world's first artificial intelligence anchor that can read news in English and Chinese.
- The AI newsreaders made their debut at the fifth World Internet Conference in east China's Zhejiang Province.
- This AI anchor's face and voice has been designed based on the agency's news anchor, Zhang Zhao. He can read news as it is typed out in the teleprompter. The AI news anchor also assures that he will **"work tirelessly" and read out news without any interruptions**.
- The AI news anchor also collects data and learns to develop itself. **"He" learns from live broadcasting videos by himself** and can read texts as naturally as a professional news anchor.

**World Internet Conference** also known as **Wuzhen Summit** is an annual event, first held in 2014, organized by government agencies in China to discuss Internet issues and policy. In December 2017, the **4th annual conference** was held in China. Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook and Google's Sundar Pichai made their first appearances at Wuzhen Summit. A Qualcomm director gave a keynote speech about advances of 5g and AI.

### Pacific island to introduce world-first 'reef-toxic' sunscreen ban

- The tiny Pacific island nation of Palau will ban **"reef-toxic" sunscreens from 2020** in what it claims is a **world-first initiative to stop chemical pollution killing its famed corals**.
- Palau, which lies in the north-west Pacific, east of the Philippines and directly north of Australia, is regarded as one of the world's best diving destinations, but the government is concerned its popularity is coming at a cost.

**Palau** is an island country located in the western Pacific Ocean. The capital Ngerulmud is located on the nearby island of Babeldaob, in Melekeok State. Melekeok is a state of the Republic of Palau located on the central east coast of Babeldaob Island. United States dollar is the currency of Palau. Tommy Remengesau has been the ninth President of Palau since 2013.

### Aung San Suu Kyi: Amnesty strips Myanmar leader of top prize

- Amnesty International is stripping Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi of its highest honour, the Ambassador of Conscience Award.
- The politician and Nobel peace prize winner received the honour in 2009, when she was living under house arrest.
- The rights group said it was **profoundly dismayed at her failure to speak out for the Rohingya minority, some 700,000 of whom have fled a military crackdown**.

## PoK woman wins local body election in Kupwara

- A woman from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), married to a local man, has won sarpanch and panch seats uncontested in Kupwara of north Kashmir. “Arifa Begum, 35, has won the elections.
- Ms. Begum of Palandari village in the PoK capital of Muzaffarabad won the seats from Khumriyal-B in Kupwara.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir commonly known as Azad Kashmir, is a nominally self-governing polity administered by Pakistan. The territory lies west of the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir, and was previously part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Muzaffarabad is the capital of the Pakistani territory of Azad Kashmir. Masood Khan serves as the 27th President of Azad Kashmir.

## UNSC unanimously agrees to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years

- The United Nations Security Council has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years.
- An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported al-Shabab militants in Somalia. However, Eritrea has always denied the accusations.

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.

## World Tolerance Summit inaugurated in Dubai

- The two-day summit to mark the World Tolerance Day was inaugurated in Dubai.
- Held for the first time in UAE, the theme of the Summit was ‘Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration’.
- The World Tolerance Summit brings together government leaders, key figures from the public and private sectors, peacekeeping ambassadors and change-makers from across the world to discuss the importance of tolerance, peace and equality, and celebrate diversity.

## UK PM Theresa May appoints Stephen Barclay as new Brexit secretary

- UK Prime Minister Theresa May has appointed Stephen Barclay, a junior health minister, as the new Brexit Secretary.
- The development comes after Dominic Raab resigned from the post over the Brexit draft deal.

In July 2016, following a Brexit referendum in which a majority of those voting supported leaving the European Union, Davis was appointed by new Prime Minister Theresa May as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, with responsibility for negotiating the UK's prospective exit from the EU. Brexit is the impending withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). In a referendum on 23 June 2016, 51.9% of the participating UK electorate voted to leave the EU.



## Morocco Unveils Africa's First Ever High Speed Train Line

- French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.
- Known as the LGV, it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of up to 320 kph (199 mph) instead of almost 5 hours on a regular train.

Morocco is a country located in the far west of North Africa; its capital is Rabat, the largest city Casablanca. The dirham is the currency of Morocco. Saadeddine Othmani has been Prime Minister of Morocco since 2017. The \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011 by the king and Nicolas Sarkozy, then president of France.

## Fourth edition of Intex South Asia held in Colombo

- The fourth edition of Intex South Asia, the largest international textile sourcing show in South Asia, was inaugurated in Colombo by Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu.
- The show is organised by Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion Pvt. Ltd. and endorsed and supported by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and Joint Apparel Association Forum and its member bodies.
- Intex South Asia provides a one-stop, comprehensive sourcing and trading platform for global apparel manufacturers, international sourcing and buying offices, buying houses, apparel brands and retailers

## Maldives cabinet approves to rejoin Commonwealth, 2 years after withdrawing from 53-nation grouping

- The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping.
- The country left the Commonwealth during former President Abdulla Yameen's administration in October 2016, amid mounting pressure over corruption and deteriorating human rights.

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 current President of the Maldives.

The Commonwealth of Nations, normally known as the Commonwealth is an intergovernmental organisation of 53 member states that are mostly former territories of the British Empire. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community, and established the member states as "free and equal". The symbol of this free association is Queen Elizabeth II, who is the Head of the Commonwealth. It is headquartered in Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London.

## Fiji leader sworn in for 4 more years after winning election

- Fiji's leader was sworn in for four more years after winning an election with a reduced majority, after earlier lashing out at his opponents.
- Voreqe Bainimarama was affirmed prime minister in a ceremony in the capital Suva after his Fiji First Party won just over half the votes in last the election, giving them 27 seats in Fiji's 51-seat parliament.

Fiji is an island country in Melanesia, part of Oceania in the South Pacific Ocean about 1,100 nautical miles northeast of New Zealand's North Island. Suva is the capital and largest metropolitan city in Fiji. Jioji Konousi Konrote retired Major-General of the Fiji Military who has been President of Fiji since 2015. Fijian dollar has been the currency of Fiji since 1969.

## South Korean Kim Jong-yang elected as Interpol president

- **Kim Jong Yang of South Korea** has been **elected Interpol President** for a two-year term. The decision was taken at the **87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai**.
- **Being held for the first time in the UAE**, the Interpol General Assembly brought together officials of public security departments and global experts to discuss vital safety and security issues.

**International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL)**, more commonly known as **Interpol**, is the international organization that **facilitates international police cooperation**. It was established as the **International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC)** in 1923; it chose **INTERPOL** as its telegraphic address in 1946, and made it its common name in 1956. Interpol's current President is **Kim Jong Yang of South Korea**, replacing **Meng Hongwei, Deputy Minister of Public Security of China**. It is headquartered in **Lyon, France**.

## U.S., South Korea scale back military exercise

- The **U.S. and South Korea** have **scaled down a joint military exercise** scheduled for spring 2019 to facilitate nuclear talks with North Korea, US Defense Secretary **Jim Mattis** said.
- **“Foal Eagle is being reorganized to keep it at a level that will not be harmful to diplomacy”**.

**Foal Eagle** is the biggest of the regular joint exercises held by the allies, and has always infuriated **Pyongyang**, which condemned it as preparations for invasion. But the drill -- one of the world's largest field exercises involving **200,000 South Korean and some 30,000 US soldiers** -- was delayed and scaled down last year as diplomatic detente took hold on the peninsula.

## India, Pakistan commit to Kartarpur corridor

- In a rare sign of concord between the two countries, the letters were exchanged on the same day, with **Pakistan's government informing the Indian High Commission in Islamabad** that **Prime Minister Imran Khan** will lay the foundation stone for the corridor on the Pakistani side on November 28.
- A Cabinet meeting in Delhi proposed **building a passage for the pilgrims accessible “365 days and 24 hours”**. On 22nd November 2018, The **Indian Government Approved for Building Kartarpur Corridor from Indian Side**.
- The **Kartarpur Sahib corridor** was first proposed in 1999 when Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** took a bus ride to **Lahore**, as a long-standing demand from the Sikh community for easy access to the revered shrine across the border where **Guru Nanak** spent the last 18 years of his life.

**Kartarpur Corridor** is a proposed border-corridor (border gate) between **India and Pakistan**. It will connect the Sikh Holy shrine of **Dera Baba Nanak Sahib** (located in Punjab, India) and the holy shrine of **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur** in Pakistan. The **Kartarpur Gurudwara** also known as **Darbar Sahib Kartarpur** is situated on the banks of river **Ravi** and is considered to be the first gurdwara ever built.

## China to build its first undersea tunnel for high-speed trains

- **China** will build its first undersea tunnel for high-speed trains, connecting two cities in eastern province of **Zhejiang** which will substantially cut the travel time from 90 to 30 minutes.
- The project with **70.92 km in total length**, with an undersea tunnel section of **16.2 km**, will connect the city of **Ningbo** with the island city of **Zhoushan** in east Zhejiang.

**China** is a country in **East Asia** and the world's most populous country, with a population of around **1.404 billion**. **Beijing** is the capital of the People's Republic of China, the world's third most populous city proper, and most populous capital city. **Xi Jinping** is serving as president of the People's Republic of China. **National People's Congress** is the national legislature of the People's Republic of China. With **2,980 members** in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world. China's currency **yuan** joins the **International Monetary Fund's** basket of reserve currencies.

## India-UAE Strategic Conclave held in Abu Dhabi on Nov 27

- The **second edition of the India-UAE Strategic Conclave** was held in capital city of Abu Dhabi on 27th of this month.
- Key business leaders and senior government officials have **come together to lay the blueprint for greater economic cooperation between the two countries** and explore the economic gains through boosting the status of both countries as major trade hubs and key gateways to regional and international markets.
- **Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Navdeep Suri** inaugurated the conclave. It is organized by the Economic Times, India.

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.

## Beijing's Population falls for first time in 2 Decades

- The population of China's capital, Beijing, declined for the first time in two decades in 2017.
- The number of permanent residents reached 21.707 million in 2017 which is 22,000 fewer than 2016.

## Bahrain votes for new parliament but opposition is absent

- Polls opened in Bahrain to elect a new Parliament, but absent from the ballot was the **country's Shiite-dominated Opposition**, whose prominent figures are serving prison sentences.
- Up for grabs are **40 seats in the lower house of Parliament and 30 municipal council seats**.
- It's the second election in Bahrain since mass protests led by the country's Shiite majority erupted in early 2011. The government, which is ruled by a Sunni monarchy, crushed the Arab Spring-inspired protests with help from Saudi and Emirati forces, but disenfranchised Shiite youth continue to hold scattered street protests in the tiny Persian Gulf nation.

Bahrain is an Arab constitutional monarchy in the Persian Gulf. Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain. The **dinar** is the currency of Bahrain. Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa is the first King of Bahrain since 14 February 2002. Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has been the Prime Minister of Bahrain from 1970 and he is the longest-serving current prime minister in the world.

## World's first underground hotel opened in Shanghai

- The **world's first underground hotel** has opened in Shanghai, buried almost 90 metres deep in an old quarry.
- Built into the side wall of a decommissioned quarry, the **18-storey InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland** is almost entirely subterranean.
- In the **Sheshan Mountain Range on the fringes of Shanghai**, the luxury hotel has two floors above ground and **16 below ground**, including two floors that are underwater.

The property was built by British firm Atkins, also behind the Burj Al Arab in Dubai and skyscraper Landmark 81 in Ho Chi Minh City. Shanghai is the largest city in China by population, and the second most populous city proper in the world, with a population of more than 24 million as of 2017.

## EU sets goal to be 'climate neutral' by 2050

- The European Union has urged government, businesses, citizens and regions to join it in an **ambitious plan to cut emissions and make the bloc carbon neutral by 2050**.

- Member states will submit their draft national climate and energy plans to the EU by the end of 2018. While more homes will be insulated and transport will be modernised, the key plank of any successful strategy will be to **reduce fossil fuel use in energy production by 80 per cent by 2050.**

**European Union (EU)** is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship. A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. Brussels is the de facto capital of the European Union. Jean-Claude Juncker is serving as President of the European Commission since 2014. Donald Franciszek Tusk has been the President of the European Council since 2014.

### NATO state appoints first female head of armed forces

- Slovenia has become the only NATO country to appoint a woman as head of its army.
- Maj Gen Alenka Ermenc will take up the post of chief of staff. The 55-year-old former army commander began her military career in 1991, when the country won its independence from the former Yugoslavia.
- Maj Gen Ermenc is currently serving as the army's deputy-chief of staff. President Borut Pahor said he hoped she would improve the army's performance. The British-educated Ermenc replaces Maj. Gen. Alan Geder after serving as his deputy. Slovenian President Borut Pahor hopes Ermenc's appointment will help improve the performance of Slovenia's military.

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.

### Suu Kyi to be stripped of freedom of Paris award

- Paris city will strip Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary freedom of the French capital over her failure to speak out against the crackdown on the Rohingya minority in Myanmar.
- Mayor Anne Hidalgo decided to revoke the honour because of the "multiple violations of human rights recorded in Myanmar and the violence and persecution by Myanmar's security forces against the Rohingya minority.
- Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi, once feted as a democracy icon in the mould of Nelson Mandela for leading opposition to Myanmar's military junta, has fallen out of favour in the West over her inaction in the face of the crackdown on the mostly Muslim Rohingya.
- She has already been stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship and her Amnesty International's "Ambassador of Conscience Award".

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

#### India ranks 66 in Global Passport Index, Singapore tops the chart

- The **Indian passport** was ranked **66th** in the world in the latest ranking of the **Global Passport Index**. The ranking was **based on the passports' visa-free score**. The ranking of Indian passport, granting its holders visa-free access to **66 countries**, improved **nine notches** since the previous year.
- As per the annual passport index, **Singapore and Germany** have the world's "**most powerful**" passport with access to **165 countries**. This is followed by **Germany, Denmark and Sweden**.

Falling in the last place of the list is **Afghanistan**, ranked **91** with a score of **22**, followed by **Pakistan and Iraq** at **90** with a score of **26**, **Syria** at **88**, having a score of **29** and **Somalia** at **87** with a score **34**.

#### India jumps to 77th rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index

- **India** climbed another **23 points** in the **World Bank's ease of doing business index** to **77th place**, becoming the **top ranked country in South Asia** for the first time and **third among the BRICS**. In the **2017 report**, the country was **ranked 100**.
- In the **last two years** the country has climbed **53 notches**, a performance **matched in the past only by Bhutan**. The biggest gain was in **construction permit** where **India** climbed **129 ranks** to **52nd place** on the back of targeted government effort to remove hurdles.
- The **Index** ranks **190 countries** based on **10 indicators** across the life-cycle of a business, from "**starting a business**" to "**resolving insolvency**."

The **World Bank** has recognised **India** as one of the **top improvers** for the year. This year, **India** features among the report's list of **top 10 improvers** for the second year in a row. **India** is the one of only **nine countries** around the world and only one in **BRICS** to feature in this list. **India** now ranks in the **top 25** in the world on three indicators- **getting electricity, getting credit and protecting minority investors**. **New Zealand** topped the list of **190 countries** in ease of doing business, followed by **Singapore, Denmark, and Hong Kong**. The **United States** is placed **eight** and **China** has been ranked **46th**. Neighbouring **Pakistan** is placed at **136**.

#### Entrepreneurship scheme Samruddhi launched by Karnataka

- The **Social Welfare Department** formally launched **Samruddhi**, **Rs.800-crore entrepreneurship and skill development scheme**, for economically and socially underprivileged youth of small towns.
- It aims to train youth from **SC and ST communities** through private organisations in retail management and franchise opportunities.

- The government will later certify and **finance eligible trainees with seed grants of up to Rs. 10 lakh each to set up franchises or retail outlets** in a variety of service areas.

### PM Modi announces Rs 1 crore loan in 59 minutes for MSMEs

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced major steps including **59-minute loan portal for sanction of up to one crore rupees for small and medium enterprises (MSME)**.
- The Prime Minister said **mandatory procurement of 20 per cent from MSMEs by Public Sector Undertakings has now been increased to 25 per cent**.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has **approved change in the basis of classifying Micro, Small and Medium enterprises from ‘investment in plant & machinery/equipment’ to ‘annual turnover’**. A micro enterprise will be defined as a unit where the annual turnover does not exceed five crore rupees; A small enterprise will be defined as a unit where the annual turnover is more than five crore rupees but does not exceed Rs 75 crore; A medium enterprise will be defined as a unit where the annual turnover is more than seventy five crore rupees but does not exceed Rs 250 crore.

### Sharjah, India seek to improve economic ties

- The Sharjah FDI Office, Invest in Sharjah, has **organised the Sharjah-India Business Roundtable** on the sidelines of the **India-UAE Partnership Summit**, as part of India's continued interest in the emirate's economy.
- The roundtable focused on addressing investment opportunities spanning emerging sectors such as **technology, artificial intelligence and renewable energy in a bid to expand the number of businesses in Sharjah in coming years**.
- **Sharjah is one the key drivers for Indian outbound investment into the Gulf region, valued at more than \$137 billion and a primary non-oil trade partner. Both Sharjah and India have shown significant growth, with the Indian economy expected to grow by 7.5 per cent and UAE's economy at 3.9 per cent rate in 2018.**

Sharjah is the **third largest and third most populous city in the United Arab Emirates**, forming part of the Dubai-Sharjah-Ajman metropolitan area. Sharjah is the **capital of the emirate of Sharjah**. **Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, commonly known as Sheikh Sultan III is the sovereign ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah and is a member of the Federal Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates.**

### ASEAN member countries of RCEP offer India concession

- **Several Asian member countries of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have offered India a significant concession on the extent to which it needs to open up its markets, in a bid to encourage it to join the partnership quickly.**
- The ASEAN countries are keen to have India as part of the partnership and have **made India a concessional offer of opening up only about 83% of its market, as compared to the original 92% that the RCEP agreement stipulated**

The **RCEP is a proposed trade agreement between the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and their six free trade agreement partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand. The grouping would comprise 25% of global GDP, 30% of global trade, 26% of FDI flows, and 45% of the population.**

### The UK India Business Council Launches New Report - 'Beyond the Top 200'

- A new **UK India Business Council report, 'Beyond the Top 200', sets out how India's new higher education policy could accelerate India's rise to superpower status by enabling young Indians to receive the world's best higher education in India through greater availability of the top courses provided globally.**



The report, launched in the margins of the FICCI Higher Education Summit, advocates for effective international collaboration in Indian Higher Education. On the path to becoming a 21st global superpower, India will need is rightly placing excellence, equal access, and employability at the heart of expanding its Higher Education system.

### NBCC inks pact with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to buy out HSCC

- State-owned NBCC has signed an agreement with the Health Ministry to acquire Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC).
- "The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and NBCC (India) Ltd have signed the share purchase agreement for the transfer of 100 per cent shareholding of HSCC to NBCC.
- In September, NBCC had said it will buy out the government's stake in consultancy firm HSCC for Rs 285 crore.

### Ashok Kumar Gupta appointed as the chairman of Competition Commission of India

- Former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) by the Corporate Affairs Ministry. It was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act, and was duly constituted in March 2009. The CCI keeps a tab on unfair business practices across sectors.

### UAE to participate in Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit for 2nd consecutive year

- UAE will participate in the 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit', as a partner country for the second consecutive year. The Summit is scheduled from 18th to 20th January, 2019.
- The 9th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat 2019 Summit provides a forum for discussion on global, national and state-level agendas with a sharp focus on all round economic development for a 'New India'.

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.

### DIPP hosts Global Digital Content Market 2018

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is hosted a conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018, on 14th- 15th November 2018, in New Delhi.
- The conference featured sessions on music, film, broadcasting and publishing, as well as collective management, emerging models and the implications for the market and policy makers.
- India has been chosen as a host nation for the conference by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) due to the strong creative industry in the country in films, music and media. The focus for this year's conference is the Asia Pacific region.

World Intellectual Property Organization is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN). WIPO was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world" and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The current Director-General of WIPO is Francis Gurry, who took office on 1 October 2008.

## Second Startup India Investment Seminar in Beijing

- **Embassy of India in China in partnership with Startup India Association (SIA) and Venture Gurukool organized second Startup India Investment Seminar** on 12 November 2018 in Beijing for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among Indian youth.
- **The first Startup Indian Investment event was organised** in November 2017.

## World Customs Organisation's regional meet in Jaipur

- A four-day regional meeting of the **World Customs Organisation began in Jaipur** with representatives of 33 member countries of Asia attending it.
- The meeting is slated to deliberate upon **various issues including the steps required for the capacity building and reforms in customs.**
- The **participants would also discuss and deliberate upon the amended Kyoto protocol, digital customs, e-commerce** among other issues.

**World Customs Organization (WCO)** is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin. Kunio Mikuriya is the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

## India to top U.S. as 2nd-largest carbon spewer from power: IEA

- **India and Southeast Asia combined are the growth centers for coal-fired power**, with demand more than doubling over the period to 2040.
- **India will overtake the U.S. to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030** as the nation's electricity demand skyrockets, the International Energy Agency said in its latest World Energy Outlook.
- **Carbon dioxide emissions from India's power sector are expected to rise nearly 80 percent by 2040** as power use almost triples, driven in part by air conditioning, the Paris-based IEA said in the report released. China will remain the biggest emitter.

**International Energy Agency (IEA)** is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

## India Post launches e-commerce portal

- Leveraging its parcel business network, **India Post announced the soft launch of its e-commerce portal.**
- The **Department of Posts** has been focussing on e-commerce sector to increase its revenue receipts.
- The Department facilitates has collected and remitted more than Rs 2,700 crore under cash-on-delivery till January 2018 since its introduction in December 2013.

**Department of Posts (DoP)**, trading as **India Post**, is a government-operated postal system in India under the Department of Posts, which is part of the Ministry of Communications of the Government of India. Generally called "the post office" in India, it is the most widely distributed postal system in the world. **British Raj was instituted in 1858**, when the rule of the East India Company was transferred to the Crown. The first superintendent of the post office was appointed in 1870 and based in Allahabad and in 1876, British India became the first non-founding member of the General Postal Union

## India slips two places to 53rd position on global talent ranking; Switzerland on top

- India has slipped two places to rank 53rd on a global annual talent ranking released by IMD Business School Switzerland, while the top slot has been retained by the Alpine nation itself.
- Within Asia, Singapore has topped the charts with a global 13th place on the list that ranks 63 countries in developing, attracting and retaining talent.
- China is ranked lower at 39th "because of its difficulties in attracting foreign skilled workers paired with a level of public expenditure in education that is below the average of other advanced economies".
- Regarding India, the renowned business school said its position has declined from 55th in 2017 to 53rd this year.

Switzerland retained its top position for the fifth consecutive year on the list, Denmark, Norway, Austria and the Netherlands were ranked second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively, in the survey titled as 'IMD World Talent Ranking 2018'. The rankings, which were mainly dominated by European countries, are based on three key factors — investment, appeal and readiness. Venezuela is the bottom ranked country in the survey.

## Carpet city Bhadohi gets 'export excellence' tag; to benefit artisans, boost shipments

- Known for its hand-woven carpets around the world, Bhadohi received a major boost as the government has extended the 'export excellence' tag to it.
- Under the 'Towns of Export Excellence' tag, carpet makers of the city will get financial assistance from the central government to procure modern machines, improve export infrastructure, and organise fairs and exhibitions in different parts of the world to attract global buyers.
- The status was granted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the commerce ministry, an official said. Bhadohi, Small Township situated on the banks the river Ganges, will be the 37th town to get this status.

Bhadohi is a city in Bhadohi district in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is also known as the "Carpet City," as it is home to the largest hand-knotted carpet weaving industry hub in South Asia.

## Government of India and the World Bank sign \$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System

- The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed in New Delhi a \$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.
- The Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project will help build new power transmission infrastructure, as well as put in place systems to improve the technical efficiency and commercial performance of the state power sector utilities.

## Government decides to set up domestic Gold Council in India

- The Government has decided to set up a domestic Gold Council in India.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu said this while inaugurating the 2nd Edition of India Gold and Jewellery Summit in New Delhi.

## Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi

- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has said that India endorses the growth of the Blue Economy in a sustainable, inclusive and people centred manner through the framework of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

- He said the **Blue Economy** remains a critical aspect of India's economic development agenda, and more than **95% of our trade** is being carried on by sea.

Blue economy is a term in economics relating to the exploitation and preservation of the marine environment. According to the Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem."

### Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign \$200 Million Loan to improve State Highways in Bihar

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed in New Delhi a \$200 million loan to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.
- Since 2008, ADB has provided four loans to Bihar, amounting to \$1.43 billion, to upgrade about 1,453 km of State Highways and to construct a New Bridge over the Ganga River near Patna.
- This BSHP-III project, approved by the ADB Board in October this year, will involve upgrading State Highways to standard two-lane width with road safety features and paved shoulders including reconstructing, widening, and strengthening 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.

### Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Signs \$75 Million Loan to Improve Urban Services in 4 Karnataka Towns

- Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed a \$75 million loan to provide 24 x7 water supply in Karnataka's four coastal towns of Kundapura, Mangalore Puttur and Udupi and improve sanitation infrastructure for Mangalore town.

### India recorded highest Average Real Wage Growth in South Asia Between 2008-17: ILO

- According to a new report by the International Labor Organization (ILO), India recorded the highest average real wage growth in South Asia between 2008-17.
- The Global Wage Report 2018/19 said that workers in Asia and the Pacific got the highest real wage growth among all regions between 2006-17 period, with countries like China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam leading the way. This reflected more rapid economic growth than in other regions, the report added.
- In South Asia, India led the average real wage growth in 2008-17 at 5.5 against a regional median of 3.7. Following India was Nepal (4.7), Sri Lanka (4), Bangladesh (3.4), Pakistan (1.8) and Iran (0.4), PTI reported.

International Labour Organization (ILO), which will mark its centenary in 2019, is a United Nations agency that sets international labour standards and promotes social protection and work opportunities for all. ILO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Guy Ryder is the tenth and current Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

### Commerce Minister Launches Logo and Brochure of Logix India

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched the logo and brochure of Logix India 2019 in New Delhi.
- Logix India 2019 is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.
- The mega logistics event is being organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) as a major initiative to improve logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's global trade.



**Federation of Indian Export Organisations** is a trade promotion organisation in India, jointly established in 1965 by the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of India and private trade and industry. The organisation is responsible for representing and assisting Indian entrepreneurs and exporters in foreign markets.

### Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to present interim Budget for 2019-20 fiscal on 1st of February next year

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will present the interim Budget for 2019-20 fiscal on 1st of February next year.
- This will be the sixth consecutive Budget to be presented by Mr. Jaitley.

A national interim Budget refers to the budget of a government that is going through a transition period. These budgets are common in democracies where one political party or a coalition is voted out and another political party or a coalition is voted into office. National governments require interim budgets to function in the months it takes for a new government to create its own budget plan. The first Union budget of independent India was presented by R. K. Shanmukham Chetty on November 26, 1947. As of September 2017, Morarji Desai has presented 10 budgets which is the highest followed by P Chidambaram's 9 and Pranab Mukherjee's 8. Yashwant Sinha, Yashwantrao Chavan and C.D. Deshmukh have presented 7 budgets each while Manmohan Singh and T.T. Krishnamachari have presented 6 budgets

## Banks in News

### Kirloskar group gets RBI nod for NBFC; to invest Rs. 1,000 crore

- The Kirloskar group has received licence from the Reserve Bank to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC), Kirloskar Capital, which will be headed by industry veteran Vimal Bhandari.
- The group company said it will invest Rs 1,000 crore in the proposed NBFC, which will be a fully-owned subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines, and will focus on providing growth capital to industry with an initial focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

### In a first for India, HSBC facilitates blockchain-based transaction for RIL

- In a first for India, British banking major HSBC has executed a trade finance transaction involving an export by Reliance Industries to an American client using the blockchain, which massively reduced the time taken for processing the documents.
- The blockchain platform was integrated with the electronic bill of lading (eBL) platform to issue and manage an electronic bill of lading, it said, adding this allows a digital transfer of the title of goods from the seller to the buyer in the underlying trade.

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

### World Bank inks \$172 million project agreement with AP

- The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalised farmers in Andhra Pradesh.



- The project will benefit over 200,000 families of poor and marginalised farmers, agro-entrepreneurs, women and other vulnerable groups. The project seeks to ensure that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity.

### BIS Names Siddharth Tiwari as Chief Representative for Asia

- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced a new addition to its team, with Siddharth Tiwari joining as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.
- He starts his new role with more than three decades worth of experience in the finance industry, having spent 32 years at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Tiwari joined BIS at the beginning of this month, with his position as Chief Representative being effective from November 1, 2018. He succeeds Eli Remolona, who was the previous Chief Representative of the Asian Office who held this position from 2008 to 2018.

Bank for International Settlements was established in 1930, the BIS is owned by 60 central banks, representing countries from around the world that together account for about 95% of world GDP. Its head office is in Basel, Switzerland and it has two representative offices: in Hong Kong SAR and in Mexico City

### EIB, SBI expand cooperation in wind energy financing

- The European Investment Bank (EIB) will increase its support for India's wind energy projects by expanding the existing lending programmes with SBI.
- EIB and SBI have agreed to cooperate on financing renewable energy and providing new support for wind energy projects across India by expanding the ongoing financing initiative in the field of onshore wind projects.

### RBI kick-starts process to set up PCR for capturing details of borrowers

- Reserve Bank has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.
- The PCR will also include data from entities like market regulator Sebi, the corporate affairs ministry, Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to enable the banks and financial institutions to get 360 degree profile of existing and prospective borrowers on a real-time basis. The Reserve Bank has invited expression of interest (EOI) for developing the registry from companies with a turnover of over Rs 100 crore in the last three years.

A public credit registry is an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers. A credit repository helps banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers. The PCR is based on the recommendations of a committee, headed by Y.M. Deosthalee. PCR will address issues such as information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers. A PCR may also help raise India's rank in the global ease of doing business index.

### RBI allows banks to provide partial credit enhancement of NBFC bonds

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued by systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) registered with the RBI and housing finance companies (HFCs) registered with the National Housing Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) restricted the exposure of a bank through PCEs to bonds issued by each such NBFC or HFC to 1% of capital funds of the bank within the current single and group borrower exposure limits.

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.**

### Reserve Bank of India plans payments ombudsman

- The **Reserve Bank of India** will establish an **ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019** to take the load off the increasing number of complaints currently being handled by the banking ombudsman.
- The **ombudsman for digital transactions will set up their offices at selected centres.** "Although a separate Ombudsman Scheme for complaints relating to digital financial transactions is not existing in other major jurisdictions, the growing trend and increasing complexity of such complaints along **with the emergence of non-bank service providers in the digital payment space underlines the need for designing a dedicated Ombudsman Scheme for redressal of such grievances**

According to the RBI's annual report for FY17-18, there has been an **increase in the number of complaints related to digital payments and prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) issued by the banks and non-banks.** According to RBI report, a **total of 3.5 billion transactions took place with PPIs valued at Rs 1,416 billion.** In addition to that, the **share of electronic transactions in retail payments has also increased to 92.6 per cent in 2017-18 as compared to 88.9 per cent in the previous year.**

### IndusInd Bank launches India's first interactive credit card with buttons

- **IndusInd Bank** has announced the **launch of IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card**, which **empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit** at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS). The bank claims it to be the **nation's first interactive credit card with buttons.**
- According to the bank, **this card provides customers with the flexibility of 3 payment options at a POS terminal — Credit, Converting Transactions into EMIs** with 4 tenure options (6, 12, 18 & 24 months) or using accumulated Reward Points, by simply pushing a button on the card.
- The **card has been created in partnership with Dynamics Inc, which is headquartered in Pittsburgh USA,** and designs and manufactures intelligent, battery powered payment cards.

**IndusInd Bank Limited** is a **Mumbai based Indian new generation bank established in 1994.** IndusInd Bank was inaugurated in April 1994 by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. Indusind Bank is the **first among the new-generation private banks in India.**

### Government of India and Asian Development Bank collaborate for three projects

- The government of **India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signs **three separate loans in one day of worth USD 574 million in the capital of India** to support the **projects India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) in India, water and sanitation services in Tamil Nadu, and Hydropower Transmission in Himachal Pradesh.**

**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.**

### Sunil Mehta panel incorporates 'Sashakt India AMC' for large NPAs

- The **Sunil Mehta committee** comprises **representatives of all major banks, including State Bank of India (SBI).**

- **Sunil Mehta, the chairman of a bankers' panel working on faster resolution of stressed assets** in public sector banks, an asset management company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans has been formed and will be called as **Sashakt India Asset Management**.

The government in July has proposed a five-pronged strategy under Project Sashakt to tackle stress in the banking sector, and had formed a panel led by Mehta, the non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank (PNB). Under the project, the committee had to float an AMC and an AIF to resolve non-performing assets (NPAs) over Rs 500 crore.

### RBI to set up expert panel to look into issues on capital surplus

- The RBI board decided to set up a high-powered committee to examine issues related to surplus capital of Rs 9.69 lakh crore with the central bank and advised it to consider a scheme for restructuring stressed assets in the MSME sector.
- On the capital framework issue, RBI will form an expert panel to study if RBI has surplus reserves and whether the same should be transferred to the government. The Reserve Bank and the Finance Ministry will decide the committee's composition.

### Non-food bank credit grows at 15.6%

- Total credit growth from banks to the commercial sector grew at 15.6 per cent year-on-year at Rs 97.32 lakh crore, the highest growth since demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes in November 2016, according to a Reserve Bank of India data.
- Bank credit was lowest during the November 2016 to March 2017 period.

### RBI reduces mandatory hedging of overseas borrowings to 70% from 100%

- The Reserve Bank of India has reduced mandatory hedging requirement for borrowers raising overseas funds to 70 percent from 100 percent.
- The circular comes amid the liquidity crunch in the country among the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which can be helped by reducing their hedging costs during overseas fundraising amid some stability in the rupee movement.
- These eligible borrowers are those who raise foreign currency denominated ECBs or external commercial borrowings under Track I, having an average maturity between 3 and 5 years. They are mandatorily required to hedge their ECB exposure fully.

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.

## Firms in News

### Facebook Launches Digital Literacy Library in 6 Indian Languages

- In a bid to train 3 lakh Indians in digital safety, Facebook announced the launch of the Digital Literacy Library - a collection of lessons in Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.
- The launch of the Digital Literacy Library, the child safety hackathon and several offline training programmes we run in partnership with local experts, reaffirm our seriousness in combating online abuse," said Antigone Davis, Global head for Safety, Facebook.
- With more than 200 million young people online in India, the digital library will help them build the skills needed for safely enjoying digital technology, said Facebook.

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.

### India's economic growth to slow to 7.3 per cent in 2019: Moody's

- The Indian economy will expand 7.4 per cent in 2018, but the growth will slow down to 7.3 per cent in the next year as domestic demand tapers on higher borrowing cost due to rising interest rates.
- In its report titled 'Global Macro Outlook 2019-20', Moody's said the economy grew 7.9 per cent in the first half (January-June) of 2018, which reflects post demonetisation base effect.

Moody's Investors Service is a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis. The company was incorporated in 1914 and is based in New York, New York. Moody's Investors Service, Inc. operates as a subsidiary of Moody's Corporation.

### BHEL fully commissions 120 MW Pulichintala hydro power plant in Telangana

- State-owned engineering giant BHEL said that with the completion of fourth and final 30 MW units, it has completely commissioned 120 MW Pulichintala Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) in Telangana.
- The other three units of the 4x30 MW Pulichintala HEP, commissioned earlier by the BHEL has been operating successfully.
- The Greenfield project was set up for Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Ltd (TSGENCO) on river Krishna.
- Power generation from Pulichintala HEP will contribute significantly in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions towards achieving a low carbon development path for the nation.

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

### Fitch retains rating for India at 'BBB-'

- Fitch Ratings retained India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade rating, although maintaining its stable outlook. The company added that the economy would shrug off any lingering effects of demonetisation and GST during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

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.

### Adobe CEO in Fortune Business Person of the Year list

- Indian-American Shantanu Narayen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adobe, has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list.
- The list ranks 20 business executives "delivering on the bottom line and beyond".
- Narayen, ranks 12th on the list, which has been topped by CEO of insurance company Progressive Tricia Griffith and includes CEO of graphics chipmaker Nvidia, Jensen Huang, French conglomerate Kering CEO Francois-Henri Pinault, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and PayPal CEO Dan Schulman.

Adobe Inc. commonly known as Adobe is an American multinational computer software company. The company is headquartered in San Jose, California, United States. Adobe has historically focused upon the creation of multimedia and creativity software products, with a more recent foray towards rich Internet application software development.



## NSE launches online platform for retail investors to buy G-sec

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile application and web-based platform for retail investors to buy government securities.
- The new app - NSE goBID, was launched by Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi.

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.

## Jabong merges into Myntra

- Myntra has said all of Jabong's functions will be integrated with the company; days after Walmart put the two fashion business of Flipkart Group under direct control of CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy.
- Since Myntra's purchase of Jabong in mid-2016, the two brands have been steadily integrating key business functions and streamlining processes. This has resulted in revenue growth and a significant improvement in the customer experience. As the next step in this process, Myntra and Jabong will now fully integrate all the remaining functions including technology, marketing, category, revenue, finance and creative teams.

Myntra is an Indian fashion e-commerce company headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. The company was founded in 2007 to sell personalized gift items. In May 2014, Myntra.com was acquired by Flipkart. It was established by Mukesh Bansal along with Ashutosh Lawania and Vineet Saxena; Myntra sold on-demand personalized gift items.

## Lodha Group chief tops Hurun rich list

- Mangal Prabhat Lodha, who helms real estate company Lodha Group, has topped the Grohe Hurun India Real Estate Rich list 2018 with a total wealth of Rs. 27,150 crore.
- Mr. Lodha, a real estate tycoon-turned-politician, is the BJP MLA from Mumbai's Malabar Hill. His firm is building the Trump Tower in Mumbai in partnership with U.S. President Donald Trump's company Trump Organization.

Mangal Prabhat Lodha is the founder of the Lodha Group — a Mumbai-based real estate developer into housing and commercial projects. The company is currently being run by his sons, Abhishek Lodha and Abhinandan.

## Easyfone Introduces STAR, India's First Mobile Phone for Kids

- eNovus enterprises, the makers of the easyfone brand of phone have launched easyfone Star - India's first phone that has been specially designed for kids to help them be more safe & connected.
- The easyfone Star comes with a host of safety features, the likes of which have never been seen in India before.
- The phone restricts calls (incoming & outgoing) to only pre-configured numbers so that the child can only talk to known people.
- Further, it has no internet browsing capability & comes with a GPS which allows parents to track their child when required. In addition, the easyfone Star comes with a dedicated SOS key which allows children to seek help quickly in emergencies.



## Lupin launches first chatbot for patients to know about their ailments

- Pharma major Lupin launched a chatbot named 'ANYA' designed to provide medically verified information for health-related queries.
- Launched at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes, ANYA is chatbot trained to help patients with health-related concerns as part of their disease-management.
- As a start to digitize the patient journey in the overall healthcare space, Lupin is starting with ANYA to address queries related to diabetes.

Lupin Limited is a transnational pharmaceutical company based in Mumbai. It is the 12th-largest company by market capitalization and the eighth-largest generic pharmaceutical company by revenue globally. Lupin was founded in 1968 by Desh Bandhu Gupta, then an Associate Professor at BITS-Pilani, Rajasthan.

## Bharat Electronics wins CII-Exim Bank Business Award

- State-run Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) won the CII-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award and the jury's commendation for being a role-model organisation.
- "The award is the highest recognition in the CII-Exim Bank Award for Business Excellence, instituted by the CII and the Export-Import Bank of India to enhance the competitiveness of India Inc.,".
- The company's Bengaluru complex is the first state-run undertaking to be recognised as a role-model organisation by the CII.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company with about nine factories, and several regional offices in India. It is owned by the Indian Government and primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for the Indian Armed Forces. BEL is one of nine PSUs under the Ministry of Defence of India. It has been granted *Navratna* status by the Government of India. It is headquartered in Bengaluru. M V Gowtama is the current Chairman and CEO of BEL.

## NPCC is now a Miniratna: Also gets ISO 9001:2015 certification

- National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) has been conferred with the status of Miniratna : Category –I by the Government of India. The empowerment of Miniratna Status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.
- NPCC, a schedule 'B' CPSE under the administrative control of Ministry of Water Resources RD & GR, has also been awarded ISO 9001:2015 Certification. The Corporation, incorporated in 1957, is a premier construction company having mandate with creation of infrastructure to provide impetus for economic development of the country. The Corporation is making continuous profit since 2009-10, having positive networth for the last six years and has ambitious business plan with enhanced order book position of Rs. 11833 crore.

The Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) which have made profits in the last three years continuously and have positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna status. CPSEs are companies in which the direct holding of the Central Government or other CPSEs is 51% or more. They are administered by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



### Offshore patrol vessel ICGS Varaha launched

- The Indian Coast Guard has launched a new offshore patrol vessel called 'ICGS Varaha' from a corporate shipyard near Chennai. The vessel has been designed and built indigenously.
- This is the third in a series of seven similar ships to be handed over to the Coast Guard. The timeline for the delivery of all the vessels is March 2021. It will also be capable of carrying a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats for Search and Rescue and Maritime Patrol. It also carries pollution response equipment to contain the oil spill at sea.

The second in the series of offshore patrol vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard, ICGS Vijaya, was commissioned in Chennai. The 98-metre OPV was designed and built by Larsen & Toubro India at Kattupalli shipyard and is fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery. The first in the series of offshore patrol vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard, ICGS Vikram.

### China launches new high-orbit satellite

- China successfully launched a high orbit satellite to boost its home-grown BeiDou global satellite navigation system being built to rival United States Global Position System (GPS).
- The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwestern Sichuan Province. It is the first BeiDou-3 satellite in high orbit, about 36,000 km above the Earth. In a geostationary orbit, following the Earth's rotation, it will view the same point on Earth continuously.

### Nuclear submarine Arihant completes first deterrence patrol mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's first nuclear armed submarine INS Arihant had successfully completed its first deterrence patrol, heralding India's entry into an exclusive club of powers with land, air and sea-based nuclear weapons delivery platforms.
- The Arihant propels India into a club so far dominated by the US, France, Britain, China and Russia, demonstrating India's technological capability to design, build and operate nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines or SSBNs.

Arihant class is a class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines being built for the Indian Navy. The lead vessel of the class, INS Arihant was launched in 2009 and after extensive sea trials, was confirmed to be commissioned in August 2016. Arihant is the first ballistic missile submarine to have been built by a country other than one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

## Novel 'bionic mushrooms' can produce electricity

- Scientists, including those of Indian origin, have created a bionic device that generates green power by 3D-printing clusters of cyanobacteria on an ordinary white button mushroom. For the first time that a hybrid system can incorporate an artificial collaboration, or engineered symbiosis, between two different microbiological kingdoms
- The research by the Stevens Institute of Technology in the U.S. is part of a broader effort to better improve our understanding of cells biological machinery and how to use them to fabricate new technologies and useful systems for defence, healthcare and the environment.

The researchers took an ordinary white button mushroom from a grocery store and made it bionic, supercharging it with clusters of cyanobacteria that create electricity and swirls of graphene nanoribbons that can collect the current. Cyanobacteria's ability to produce electricity is well known. However, researchers have been limited in using these microbes in bioengineered systems because cyanobacteria do not survive long on artificial bio-compatible surfaces.

## China unveils space station

- China unveiled a replica of its first permanently crewed space station, which would replace the international community's orbiting laboratory and symbolises the country's major ambitions beyond the earth.
- The 17-metre core module was a star attraction at the biennial Airshow China in the southern coastal city of Zhuhai. The country had announced that the lab would be open to "all countries" to conduct science experiments.

The International Space Station — a collaboration between the U.S., Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan — has been in operation since 1998, but is due to be retired in 2024. China will then have the only space station in orbit, though it will be much smaller than the ISS which weighs 400 tonnes.

## NASA's Ralph set to visit Jupiter's Trojan asteroids in 2021

- NASA's Ralph — a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto — is set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, which are remnants from the early days of the solar system.
- Ralph was first launched aboard the New Horizons spacecraft in 2006 and obtained stunning flyby images of Jupiter and its moons. This was followed by a visit to Pluto where Ralph took the first high-definition pictures of the iconic minor planet.

New Horizons is an interplanetary space probe that was launched as a part of NASA's New Frontiers program. Engineered by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) and the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), with a team led by S. Alan Stern the spacecraft was launched in 2006 with the primary mission to perform a flyby study of the Pluto system in 2015, and a secondary mission to fly by and study one or more other Kuiper belt objects (KBOs) in the decade to follow.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. James Frederick Bridenstine is an American politician and the current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He became the first member of Congress to lead NASA.

## Kudankulam's first reactor resumes power generation

- The first reactor of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP), which was stopped on August 1 for the mandatory third annual fuel outage, resumed power generation.

**Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant** (or Koodankulam NPP or KKNPP) is the **single largest nuclear power station in India**, situated in Koodankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. KKNPP is scheduled to have six VVER-1000 reactors built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), with an installed capacity of 6,000 MW of electricity.

### ISRO launched satellite for J&K and northeast

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched a communication satellite on November 14 that will improve access to communication networks, specifically in the Jammu and Kashmir and North East.
- **GSAT-29** is a communications satellite with two separate payloads designed to improve telecommunication and internet services under the 'Digital India' program in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast.
- It is an advanced high throughput communication satellite which will have two Ku and Ka operational payloads.
- The payloads are meant to provide communication services to J&K and northeastern regions under the 'Digital India' programme.
- The satellite, developed by ISRO, was carried on the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV-III) rocket to low-Earth orbit.

The launch of the GSAT-29 satellite on the 64—tonne GSLV-III rocket adds to a series of test flights ISRO is carrying out to develop the agency's heaviest rocket for use in the manned space mission planned for 2022. India's first manned mission Gaganyaan is expected to carry a three-person team of Indian astronauts to space for a seven days trip in low-Earth orbit, planned for late 2022.

### IIT researchers devise programme to maximise LPG connections

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur have devised a computer programme that will help maximise LPG connections in BPL households in the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana'.
- An IIT Kharagpur team of researchers, led by Prof Manoj Kumar Tiwari of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, have devised the 'Decision Support System' (DSS) focusing on the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' for maximising (optimizing) the number of LPG connections, particularly in below poverty level (BPL) households.

### NASA Selects Martian Lake-Delta System for Landing of Mars 2020 Rover

- NASA has chosen Jezero Crater delta, where the sediments contain clays and carbonates, as the landing site for its upcoming Mars 2020 Rover mission.
- Jezero Crater, 45 kilometres in size, is located on the western edge of Isidis Planitia -- a giant impact basin just north of the Martian equator.
- Its ancient lake-delta system offers many promising sampling targets of at least five different kinds of rock, including clays and carbonates that have high potential to preserve signatures of past life.

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## Standard definitions of kilogram, Ampere, Kelvin and mole changed after 130 years

- The world's standard definition of the kilogram (kg), the Ampere (A), the Kelvin (K), and the mole has been changed, after representatives from 60 countries voted to redefine the International System of Units (SI) for weight, current, temperature and amount of chemical substance.
- The definition of the kilogram for more than 130 years, the International Prototype of the Kilogram (IPK), a cylinder of a platinum alloy stored at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France, will now be retired.
- It will be replaced by the Planck constant – the fundamental constant of quantum physics. While the stability of the IPK could only be confirmed by comparisons with identical copies, a difficult and potentially inaccurate process, the Planck constant is ready for use everywhere and always.
- The decision, made at the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles, France, which is organised by BIPM, means that all SI units will now be defined in terms of constants that describe the natural world.
- This will assure the future stability of the SI and open the opportunity for the use of new technologies, including quantum technologies, to implement the definitions.

**Kilogram (kg)** is the base unit of mass in the International System of Units (SI). Until 20 May 2019, it remains defined by a platinum alloy cylinder, the International Prototype Kilogram (informally **Le Grand K** or **IPK**), manufactured in 1889, and carefully stored in Saint-Cloud, a suburb of Paris. After 20 May, it will be defined in terms of fundamental physical constants.

## MIT Scientists Fly First-Ever Silent Plane with No Moving Parts

- Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA have in a breakthrough, built and flown the first-ever silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines.
- Since the Wright Brothers launched the first airplane over 100 years ago, every aircraft has flown with the help of moving parts such as propellers, turbine blades, and fans, which are powered by the combustion of fossil fuels or by battery packs that produce a persistent, whining buzz.
- But, the new light aircraft, inspired from the movie and television series "Star Trek", carries neither propellers nor turbines, nor it depends on fossil fuels to fly.
- It is powered by an "ionic wind" -- a silent but mighty flow of ions that is produced aboard the plane that generates enough thrust to propel the plane over a sustained, steady flight. And unlike propeller-driven drones, the new design is completely silent.

## NASA's InSight lands on Mars to peer into planet's deep interior

- NASA's InSight spacecraft, the first robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of a distant world, touched down safely on the surface of Mars with instruments to detect planetary seismic rumblings never measured anywhere but Earth.
- Engineers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) near Los Angeles burst into cheers, applause and hugs as they received signals confirming InSight's arrival on Martian soil - a vast, barren plain near the planet's equator.

Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) mission is a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars. It was manufactured by Lockheed Martin, is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and most payload instruments it carries were built by European agencies. InSight's objectives are to place a seismometer, called SEIS, on the surface of Mars to measure seismic activity and provide accurate 3D models of the planet's interior; and measure internal heat flow using a heat probe called HP<sup>3</sup> to study Mars' early geological evolution. The lander was launched on 5 May 2018 and arrived on Mars on 26 November 2018.



### CSIR to establish a High-End Skill Development Centre in Chandigarh

- India's premier National Research Laboratory **CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH)** announced a **new partnership with Merck**, a leading German science and Technology Company, to establish a **'High End Skill Development Centre'** in **CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh**.
- Equipped with the next generation technologies, like **gene editing & single-molecule biomarker detection**, the centre will help **accelerate healthcare research and train Indian students and researchers**.

**Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was established by the Government of India in September of 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organisation in India. **Ex-Officio President of the CSIR is Prime Minister** and **Ex-Officio Vice President of CSIR is Minister of Science & Technology, India**. CSIR is headquartered in New Delhi.

### IIT-Bombay graduates launch a India's first advanced personal robot for kids

- **Alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay — Vaswani, Prashant V Iyengar and Chintan S Raikar — launch** what they claim to be **India's first advanced personal robot for children** called **'Miko 2'**.
- The robot will help parents in early education, development of children by engaging in **'playful learning'**.
- **WiFi-operated robot, costing Rs 24,999**, will be available from **December 15, 2018**. "The robot can initiate and hold long conversations with kids. It can impart academic and general knowledge among children.
- It is powered by a **proprietary emotional intelligence engine** developed by **emotix**.
- This enables the robot to identify and remember the child's moods and adapt to it.

### ISRO launched satellite HysIS from Sriharikota

- The **ISRO** has successfully launched **HysIS** and **30 other satellites on PSLV-C43** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**. All the satellites will be placed in a **504 km orbit** by **PSLV-C43**.
- The **Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite or HysIS** is an earth observation satellite and the primary satellite of the **PSLV-C43 mission**.
- The primary goal of the **HysIS**, with a mission life of 5 years, is to **study the earth's surface in visible near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum**.

## Inventions/Discoveries

### World's longest DNA sequence decoded

- A team of UK scientists have claimed the record for decoding the world's longest DNA sequence.
- The scientists produced a DNA read that is about 10,000 times longer than normal, and twice as large as a previous record holder, from Australia.
- This research has kick-started an Ashes-style competition to sequence an entire chromosome in a single read.
- The new holder of the trophy for world's longest DNA read is a team led by Matt Loose at Nottingham University.

The advance is a technological one - this is about reading the DNA rather than the discovery of a particularly large genome. The DNA used for the long read came from a human. An Australian team from the Kinghorn Centre for Clinical Genomics was first to pass the million-base milestone. The technology that enables scientists to read runs of DNA sequences has come a long way since the millennium-era race to decode the first human genome. In the past 10 or so years, improvements in DNA sequencing technologies have meant that the original billion dollar human genome from 2001 can now be replicated for around \$1000.

### Artificial intelligence bot trained to recognize galaxies

- Researchers from Australia have taught an artificial intelligence program used to recognise faces on Facebook to identify galaxies in deep space. The result is an AI bot named ClaRAN that scans images taken by radio telescopes.
- Its job is to spot radio galaxies -- galaxies that emit powerful radio jets from supermassive black holes at their centres. ClaRAN is the brainchild of big data specialist Dr Chen Wu and astronomer Dr Ivy Wong, both from The University of Western Australia node of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR).

### NASA's Orion spacecraft receives engines from Airbus for future moon missions

- Airbus delivered the “powerhouse” for NASA’s new Orion Spaceship that will take astronauts to the Moon and beyond in coming years, hitting a key milestone that should lead to hundreds of millions of euros in future orders.
- Engineers at the Airbus plant in Bremen, Germany carefully packed the spacecraft into a special container that will fly aboard a huge Antonov cargo plane to NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, a first step on its way to deep space.

Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (Orion MPCV) is an American-European interplanetary spacecraft intended to carry a crew of four astronauts to destinations at or beyond low Earth orbit (LEO). It is built together with the ESA. It is currently under development by NASA for launch on the Space Launch System.

### OSIRIS-REx captures first clear images of asteroid Bennu

- After two years travelling through space, the NASA OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has started to obtain images of the mission target, primitive asteroid Bennu. As part of the scientific team of this mission, researchers from the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), Javier Licandro and Julia de León have already started to work in the calibration of these images in preparation for the ones that will be obtained in December 2018 using color filters.
- The launch of the NASA OSIRIS-REx mission took place on September 8, 2016. Since then, the spacecraft has been two years travelling through space to reach its target, primitive asteroid Bennu, in October, 2018. The first images of the asteroid are being obtained using one of the three cameras on-board the spacecraft (PolyCam) from a distance of 330 kilometers.

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### SpiNNaker: World's largest brain-like supercomputer

- The world's largest supercomputer designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time.
- The newly formed million-processor-core **Spiking Neural Network Architecture (SpiNNaker)** machine is capable of completing more than **200 million million actions per second**, with each of its chips having **100 million transistors**.
- The SpiNNaker machine designed and built in **The University of Manchester in the UK**, can model more **biological neurons in real time** than any other machine on the planet.

The project was initially funded by the **Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council** and is now supported by the **European Human Brain Project**. The initial build of the supercomputer starting way back in **2006**. **Biological neurons** are basic brain cells present in the nervous system that communicate primarily by emitting 'spikes' of pure electro-chemical energy.

### Human lifespan is increasing

- The **human lifespan** is increasing by approximately **three years every generation** — a trend likely to continue, a **Stanford study** has found.
- A team of researchers analysed life expectancy data from the **past 50 years** and found that people who survive to age 65 are continuing to live longer than their parents.

### Ice age crater discovered beneath Greenland glacier

- Buried beneath a kilometre of snow and ice in northern Greenland, scientists have uncovered an **asteroid impact crater, bigger than the area of Paris**.
- This is the first time that a crater of any size has been found under one of Earth's continental ice sheets, said researchers from the **University of Copenhagen in Denmark**.
- The researchers worked for the past three years to verify their discovery, initially made in the **2015**.
- The crater measures more than **31 km in diameter**, placing it among the **25 largest impact craters on Earth**, according to the study published in the journal *Science Advances*. It was formed when a kilometre-wide iron meteorite smashed into northern Greenland.

### 'Super-Earth' found orbiting Sun's nearest single star

- Astronomers from UK have discovered a frozen planet with a mass over three times that of the Earth, orbiting the closest solitary star to the Sun.
- The potentially rocky planet, known as **Barnard's star b**, is a 'super-Earth' and orbits around its host star once every **233 days**, said researchers from **Queen Mary University of London**.
- The planet lies at a distant region from the star known as the 'snow line'.
- This is well beyond the habitable zone in which liquid water, and possibly life, could exist.
- The planet's surface temperature is estimated to be around **-170°C**, they said. However, if the planet has a substantial atmosphere the temperature could be higher and conditions potentially more hospitable.

At nearly six light-years away Barnard's star is the next closest star to the Sun after the Alpha Centauri triple system. It is a type of faint, low-mass star called a red dwarf. Red dwarfs are considered to be the best places to look for exoplanet candidates, which are planets outside our solar system.

### China builds an 'artificial sun' that can hit temperatures of 180 million degrees F

- China has built an 'artificial sun' that reaches temperature six times that of the core of our closest star.
- The state-of-the-art reactor is designed to replicate the processes of the sun as part of a project to turn hydrogen into cost-effective green energy.
- It reached a key milestone this week when it hit 180 million F (100 million C) for the first time, which is believed to be the temperature at which nuclear fusion occurs.
- Scientists across the globe are locked in a race to build the world's first operational nuclear fusion reactor.
- The victor will unlock a source of near-limitless clean energy worth billions that some believe could save the planet from the climate change crisis.

### GROWTH-India telescope's first science observation

- The 0.7 m GROWTH-India telescope at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Hanle, Ladakh, has made its first science observation which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion.
- Novae are explosive events involving violent eruptions on the surface of white dwarf stars, leading to temporary increase in brightness of the star. Unlike a supernova, the star does not go on to die but returns to its earlier state after the explosion.
- The GROWTH-India telescope was commissioned six months ago soon after which it saw first light, on the night of June 12. "The telescope has been taking readings since then, and this is the first 'follow-up' work, said G C Anupama, who Professor-in-Charge of the Indian Astronomical Observatory and is based at Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAP), Bengaluru.

The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), located near Leh in Ladakh, India, has one of the world's highest sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes. It is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru. It is currently the third highest optical telescope in the world, situated at an elevation of 4,500 meters (14,764 ft).

### World's First Total-Body Scanner Produces "Astonishing" 3D Images

- The world's first medical imaging scanner that can capture a 3D picture of the entire human body at once in as little as 20-30 seconds has produced its first scans, say scientists, noting that the technology can aid in improving diagnostics to tracking disease progression to researching new drug therapies.
- Called EXPLORER, the scanner combines positron emission tomography (PET) and x-ray computed tomography (CT) and can produce image up to 40 times faster.
- The first images from scans of humans using the new device will be shown at the upcoming Radiological Society of North America meeting in Chicago.

Mr Badawi along with Simon Cherry, Professor from UC Davis, first conceptualised the total-body scanner 13 years ago. According to Cherry, EXPLORER will have a profound impact on clinical research and patient care because for the first time, an imaging scanner will be able to evaluate what is happening in all the organs and tissues of the body simultaneously.

### World's first genetically edited babies

- In research that would be illegal if carried out in most countries, Professor He Jiankui and his team said they altered the embryos of seven couples undergoing fertility treatment.



- One successful pregnancy resulting from this treatment **resulted in twin girls born earlier this month that the scientists claimed were naturally resistant to HIV.**
- **A Chinese scientist claims that he has helped create the world's first genetically edited babies.**
- **A US scientist also confirmed that he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in his home country** because the DNA changes can pass to future generations and risk harming other genes.

### Health/ Disease

#### AIIMS-led team develops sensitive tests for pulmonary, pleural TB

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- A highly sensitive diagnostic test for **pulmonary TB and pleural TB** has been **developed by a multi-institutional team led by Jaya Sivaswami Tyagi** from the Department of Biotechnology at AIIMS.
- The diagnostic test **makes use of a DNA aptamer (a small single-stranded DNA molecule that binds to a specific target molecule)** that shows **high binding affinity to a TB antigen**. Sputum samples were used for diagnosing pulmonary TB while pleural fluid was used for diagnosing pleural TB.
- The sensitivity of the **diagnostic test for pulmonary TB and pleural TB was 94% and 93%, respectively**. Specificity was **100% for pulmonary TB and 98% for pleural TB**.

#### Coconut oil is a bug repellent

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- **Compounds derived from coconut oil are better than diethyltoluamide (DEET) at preventing disease transmission and discomfort associated with insect bites**, according to a study.
- **For more than 60 years, DEET has been considered the gold standard in insect repellents — the most effective and long-lasting available commercially**, said researchers **from the U.S. Department of Agriculture**.
- **The growing public health concerns about synthetic repellents and insecticides like DEET have sparked interest in developing plant-based repellents that are more effective and longer lasting.**

#### Congo's Ebola outbreak now second-largest in history: WHO

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- The **World Health Organization, WHO**, has said that **Congo's deadly Ebola outbreak is now the second largest in history, behind the devastating West Africa outbreak** that killed thousands a few years ago.
- **WHO emergencies Chief Dr. Peter Salama** called it "a sad toll" as Congo's health ministry announced the number of cases has reached 426.

## **ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**



### **WHO's First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health**

- The **first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health** was held at **WHO Headquarters in Geneva** on 30 October - 1 November 2018.
- The **conference** was held in collaboration with **UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The conference responds to a World Health Assembly mandate to combat one of the world's most significant causes of premature death, causing some 7 million deaths annually. Air pollution in most cities exceeds recommended WHO Air Quality levels and household air pollution is a leading killer in poor rural and urban homes. Up to 1/3 of deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease are due to air pollution.

### **Delhi-NCR to observe 'Clean Air Week'**

- Amid growing concerns over the deteriorating air quality in the **national capital**, a '**Clean Air Week**' organised from November 1-5 by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** in collaboration with the **Delhi government** and the **four major NCR cities** to control the air pollution.
- For the same, **52 teams** have been formed to ensure compliance and safety and take quick action.
- The teams were jointly flagged off by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Harsh Vardhan** and the Minister from Government of Delhi.

### **A virtual climate summit to cut carbon footprint**

- **World leaders** will participate in an innovative climate change summit that will take place entirely online so it is carbon neutral.
- The **eco-friendly event** stands in stark contrast to many other international political summits, which involve thousands of delegates jetting across the world to a venue where they stay in air-conditioned comfort.
- The **Virtual Climate Summit** is the brainchild of **Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine**, whose low-lying Pacific island nation will **drown beneath rising seas** if global warming continues unabated.
- Ms. Heine said the event — with participants including **French President Emmanuel Macron**, **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** and **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** — will be the **first global political meeting** to be held online.

### **Oceans are heating much faster: study**

- The world's oceans have absorbed more heat than previously thought over the last quarter of a century, leaving the earth more sensitive still to the effects of climate change.

- Oceans cover more than two thirds of the planet's surface and play a vital role in sustaining life on the earth.
- According to their most recent assessment this month, scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) say the world's oceans have absorbed 90% of the temperature rise caused by man-made carbon emissions.

### Andaman & Nicobar Islands: home to a tenth of India's fauna species

- The islands, comprising only 0.25% of country's geographical area, has 11,009 species, according to a publication by the Zoological Survey of India
- The Narcondam hornbill, its habitat restricted to a lone island; the Nicobar megapode, a bird that builds nests on the ground; the Nicobar treeshrew, a small mole-like mammal; the Long-tailed Nicobar macaque, and the Andaman day gecko, are among the 1,067 endemic faunal species found only on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and nowhere else.
- The documentation proves that the islands, comprising only 0.25% of India's geographical area, are home to more than 10% of the country's fauna species.

### Scientists weigh up stratospheric sunlight barrier to curb warming

- Spraying sun-dimming chemicals high above the Earth to slow global warming are "remarkably inexpensive", costing about \$2.25 billion a year over a 15-year period, according to a study by U.S. scientists.
- Some researchers say the geo-engineering technique known as stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) could limit rising temperatures that are causing climate change.

### BASIC urges advanced countries to support developing nations to combat climate change

- The 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change has urged the advanced countries to enhance their support to the developing nations in effectively implementing the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.
- The BASIC countries comprise Brazil, South Africa, India and China. The two-day Meeting on Climate Change concluded in New Delhi.
- Chairing the meeting, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Harsh Vardhan elaborated on India's initiatives to address the challenges of climate change.

The conclave also reaffirmed the member countries' commitment to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. It resolved to promote low carbon transition to safeguard the future of mankind. Brazil will host the next meeting of BASIC in 2019.

### IMD develops new technology to monitor impact of rain & deal with natural disasters

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain.
- The technology, called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach', which shows pre-event scenario, can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.
- India Meteorological Department (IMD), also referred to as the Met Department, is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology. IMD is headquartered in Delhi and operates hundreds of observation stations across India and Antarctica. Regional offices are at Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur and Pune. India Meteorology Department was established in 1875. Henry Francis Blanford was appointed the first Meteorological Reporter of the IMD. In May 1889, Sir John Eliot was appointed the first Director General of Observatories in the erstwhile capital, Calcutta. The IMD headquarters were later shifted to Shimla in 1905, then to Pune in 1928 and finally to New Delhi in 1944.

## SPORTS



### Sports Personalities in News

#### Simone Biles sets record by picking up 13th world championship gold

- **Simone Biles** made **history** by **picking up her record 13th career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships** when she cruised to victory in the vault final. Yet it's the silver she captured on uneven bars that the Olympic and world champion may cherish more.
- **For years Biles** viewed bars with a **mixture of skepticism and scorn**. There was a point in time she admits she would have been OK with taking a "chainsaw" to every bars set in the country.

#### Karen Khachanov lifts Paris Masters Men's Singles title

- In Tennis, **Karen Khachanov** has **lifted the Paris Masters Men's Singles title** with a **stunning win over world number two Novak Djokovic**.
- In the title clash, the 22-year old unseeded **Russian defeated Djokovic in straight sets, 7-5, 6-4** to end the Serb's 22-match unbeaten run. With the victory, **Khachanov has become the first Russian since Nikolay Davydenko in 2009 to win a Masters 1000 title**. Djokovic, a 14-time Grand Slam champion, will still overtake Rafael Nadal at the top of the world rankings.

#### Gafur Rakhimov elected International Boxing Association president

- **Gafur Rakhimov**, a man described by the US Treasury Department as "one of Uzbekistan's leading criminals", has been **elected president of amateur boxing's global governing body**. There have been suggestions boxing could be kicked out of the **Olympic Games** if the controversial Uzbek businessman was elected.
- He takes control of the **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** after **previous president CK Wu and former executive director Ho Kim** were issued life bans.

#### Subhankar Dey wins SaarLorLux Open Badminton tournament in Germany

- In Badminton, **Subhankar Dey** has won the **SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany**.
- The unseeded **Indian defeated fifth-placed Rajiv Ouseph of Britain**, in straight games, 21-11, 21-14, in what was the **first encounter between the two shuttlers**.
- This is **Subhankar's first title of 2018**. In March, he had finished **runner-up in the Kabal International tournament at the Czech Republic**.

#### Rohit Sharma Sets Record, Becomes First Batsman to Score Four T20I Centuries

- **Rohit Sharma** became the first batsman to score four Twenty20 International (T20I) centuries.



- He achieved the milestone in 58 balls during the second T20I against the Windies at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.
- The stand-in skipper, who notched up 2,203 runs by the end of the second match in Lucknow, also became the second-highest run-scorer in the T20Is, trailing New Zealand opener Martin Guptill (2,271).

### Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian woman to score T20I century

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- Harmanpreet Kaur slammed her maiden T20I century during India's opening match of the ICC Women's World T20 2018 against New Zealand in Providence Stadium, Guyana.
- Harmanpreet, who walked in at number five, also became the first Indian woman to score a century in T20I. She is the first Indian and the third player overall to score a T20I International century. She also recorded a 134-run partnership.

### Manu-Saurabh win mixed event gold with junior world record

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- Indian pair of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have won Gold medal creating a world record in the 10 meter air pistol mixed team junior event at 11th Asian Airgun Championships in Kuwait.
- Youth Olympic Games Champions Manu and Saurabh created a junior world record score of 485.4 in the finals on the concluding day.
- Indian junior teams score was well ahead of Chinese pair of Wang Xiaoyu and Hong Shuqi who scored 477.9

### Bajrang Punia is World No. 1

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- Wrestler Bajrang Punia touched a new career high by achieving the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category. The 24-year-old Bajrang, who has won five medals this season, including CWG and Asian Games golds and a silver at the World Championships, was placed atop the ranking table with 96 points in the United World Wrestling list. He was also the only Indian grappler to be given a seeding at the Budapest World Championships.
- While Bajrang is the lone male Indian to figure in the top 10, the country has five female wrestlers in the same bracket in their respective categories. Pooja Dhanda, who last month became only the fourth Indian woman to win a World Championships medal, is now ranked sixth in the women's 57kg with 52 points.

### Former India U-19 speedster Saurabh Netravalkar named US captain

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- A former Mumbai medium pacer and India U-19 cricketer, the 27-year-old software engineer left for the US to study computer science in Cornell University after he felt that it would be difficult for him to make it as a cricketer in the big league. And now, Netravalkar has been appointed captain of the US national cricket team.
- Netravalkar who was India's highest wicket-taker in the 2010 U-19 World Cup, also played Ranji Trophy for a season before realizing that he wasn't going to break into the top level and thus looked to focus on academics.

### Kento Momota wins China Open

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- World champion Kento Momota won badminton's Fuzhou China Open to add another title to his already-spectacular season.
- Japan's world No. 1 survived a spirited challenge from Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen, defeating the fourth seed 21-13, 11-21, 21-16 in 66 minutes.

### Hamilton does it for Mercedes

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- New five-time World champion Lewis Hamilton steered his Mercedes to a nail-biting victory in Brazilian Grand Prix, a triumph that clinched the constructors' championship for a fifth consecutive season for the team.

## Czech Republic beat United States to win sixth title in eight years

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- The Czech Republic won their sixth Fed Cup title in eight years as an emotional Katerina Siniakova clinched a 3-0 win over the United States with an epic victory against Sofia Kenin.

## Asian Games gold medalist Hima Das appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador

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- Asian Games gold medalist Hima Das has been appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador.
- Hima, who won a silver medal in the 400 meters sprint and also a gold in the 4X400 meters relay at the Asian Games in Jakarta this year will work towards supporting various initiatives by UNICEF.

## Barcelona's Lionel Messi wins La Liga 2017-18 Player of the Year award

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- Lionel Messi has been named the league's best player of the 2017-18 campaign by Marca at an awards ceremony in Barcelona.
- Messi also picked up the Pichichi Trophy at the ceremony, an award reserved for the top scorer in La Liga each year. His 34 goals in 36 games earned him the prize for the fifth time in his career -- only Telmo Zarra, with six, has won it more often.
- Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak was also honoured at the awards as the best goalkeeper in La Liga last season, while there were also prizes for Celta Vigo forward Iago Aspas and Valencia manager Marcelino.

## Kashmiri youngsters win big at World Kickboxing Championship

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- Aabid Hameed, a 15-year-old Kashmiri, was the shining light at the concluded World Kickboxing Championship in Argentina when he became the lone gold medal winner (junior category, 55 kg) for India.
- Aabid was a part of the nine-member Indian contingent which went to the South-American country for the Championship.

## Viswanathan Anand beats Hikaru Nakamura to win Chess India Blitz Tournament

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- Viswanathan Anand won the inaugural Chess India Blitz Tournament by beating Hikaru Nakamura in the play-off in Kolkata.
- Five-time world champion Anand was on a roll as he secured six wins and three draws in the nine rounds to draw level with Nakamura to force a play-off.

## Pankaj Advani wins his third straight Billiards title taking his tally of World titles to 20

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- India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format, taking his overall tally of world titles to 20. Advani overcame Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar in the final.
- This win also marks a hat-trick of wins for Advani in the shorter format.

## Alexander Zverev stuns Novak Djokovic to win ATP Finals in London

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- Alexander Zverev stunned world number one Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win the season-ending ATP Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career.
- Djokovic was the heavy favourite to win a sixth finals title but was outclassed 6-4 6-3 by the German.

## Prajnesh Gunneswaran beats Saketh Myneni to win Bengaluru Open

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- Prajnesh Gunneswaran at the \$150,000 Bangalore Challenger added a second title of this level to his kitty.
- But with the 125 ranking points he earned from the comfortable 6-2, 6-2 win against Saketh Myneni in the final, Prajnesh will potentially rise to a new career high 109 in the world rank – making him the country's new No.1 singles player.

### Young Golfer Shubhankar Sharma becomes First Indian to win European Tour ‘Rookie of the Year’ Award

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- Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma capped a dream season on the European Tour by becoming the first Indian to win the tour’s ‘Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year’ award.
- Sharma achieved the feat soon after finishing tied 41st at the season-ending World Tour Championship event in Dubai.

### Wasim Jaffer becomes first to touch 11,000-run milestone in Ranji Trophy

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- Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy.
- The Vidharbha batsman achieved the milestone during the third-round match against Baroda in Nagpur at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium.

### Pravin Tambe registers record-breaking hat-trick in T10 league

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- Pravin Tambe became the first player in the history of T10 league to pick up a hat-trick against Kerala Knights on his way to five-wicket haul for the Sindhis.
- The 47-year old Tambe, who had earlier played for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) under captain Rahul Dravid, bagged the best figures of the 10-over format.
- T10 League is a professional ten-over cricket league launched and owned by T10 Sports Management. The league is approved by the Emirates Cricket Board. It is the first ever internationally approved ten-over league. The league was founded by Shaji Ul Mulk, the chairman of T10 League. The 2017 edition was played from 14-17 December and 2018 edition from 21 November to 2nd December at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

### Mary Kom claimed her sixth title in the World women’s boxing championships

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- M.C. Mary Kom’s great stature touched a new high when she claimed her sixth title in the World women’s boxing championships at Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi.
- The 35-year-old saw off Hanna Okhota of Ukraine with a 5-0 margin in the 48kg final to take her first gold medal after eight years. This was her second Worlds crown on home soil and second in light flyweight. Her first four gold medals had come in pinweight.
- With six gold medals and a silver, the diminutive Mary now stands as the tallest woman boxer in the 17-year-old history of the event and equals legendary male boxer Cuban Felix Savon’s World championships record.

### Bhavani Devi wins gold

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- India’s C.A. Bhavani Devi made history by becoming the first Indian to win the gold medal in the senior Commonwealth fencing championship. Bhavani participated in the sabre event.

### Syed Modi International C'ships: Sameer Verma retains title

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- Sameer Verma gave India a perfect end to the Syed Modi International Badminton Championships, winning men's singles final 16-21, 21-19, 21-14 against China’s Guangzu Lu, to retain the title.

### World Chess Championship: Magnus Carlsen retains title

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- World number one Norwegian Magnus Carlsen has retained his World Chess Championship title, beating US opponent Fabiano Caruana in a tie-breaker event.
- He beat Caruana in three time-limited games, ending the American's hopes of becoming the first US champion since Bobby Fischer won in 1972.

## Sport Events

### Tata Steel partner for Hockey World Cup

- **Tata Steel is the official partner for Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018**, scheduled to be held at **Kalinga Stadium** from November 28 to December 16.
- An agreement was **signed by the 10th largest steel producer in the world with the quadrennial event** as part of its commitment to promote development through sports across the country.

### Vietnam brings Formula One racing to Hanoi in 2020

- **Vietnam will host its first-ever Formula One race in April 2020**, bringing the prestigious series to a country where auto racing is a very new sport.
- The **capital city of Hanoi** will hold an event to announce details about the venue and schedule, according to invitation letters.
- Environmental issues and the rising popularity of electric-vehicle races have driven the Paris-based FIA, or Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, to seek new frontiers such as **Vietnam to revitalize the world's most popular auto racing series**.

### Russia to host 2019 women's boxing world championships

- The amateur boxing association has picked **Russia to host the 2019 Women's World Championships** – the country's first world's event since the national anti-doping agency was reinstated in September.
- The **World Anti-Doping Agency ended a three-year suspension for the agency known as RUSADA following doping scandals**. The AIBA executive committee met in Moscow before a presidential election.

### First time in Mideast, Doha to host World Corporate Games

- **Corporations around the world can now sign up for the World Corporate Games 2019**, which will be held for the first time in the Middle East in Doha, officials of Sport for Life, organisers of the World Corporate Games, Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) and Ministry of Culture and Sports announced.

### India, Pakistan declared joint winners of Asian Champions Trophy

- **In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.**
- The tournament director **declared both teams as winners after the summit clash was called off**.

### Manipur emerge overall champions in first North East Olympic Games

- **Manipur was crowned as the overall champions of the first edition of North East Olympic Games.**
- The closing ceremony was held in Imphal's **Khuman Lampak** main stadium where Manipur's deputy Chief Minister **Yumnam Joykumar Singh**, state education minister — who is also the **Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Games and president of Manipur Olympic Association** Th. Radheshyam Singh and revenue minister **Karam Shyam** distributed trophies to the winning teams.

### India opens their campaign against New Zealand in ICC Women's World T20

- The **ICC Women's World T20 begins in West Indies with India opening their campaign against New Zealand at Guyana.**
- The **Indian team is led by skipper Harmanpreet Singh.**
- The **10-team tournament** is being played as a standalone event for the first time between **Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.**



**ICC Women's World Twenty20** is the biennial international championship for women's Twenty20 International cricket. The event is organised by the sport's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), with the first edition being held in England in 2009. For the first three tournaments, there were eight participants, but this number has been raised to ten from the 2014 edition onwards. At each tournament, a set number of teams qualify automatically, with the remaining teams determined by the World Twenty20 Qualifier. **Australia are the most successful team at the World Twenty20, having won three tournaments, while the most recent tournament in 2016 was won by the West Indies.**

### ATP World Tour Awards 2018: Novak Djokovic hailed for miraculous comeback, Roger Federer remains fan favourite

- The **big three of men's tennis** – Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer – were **all among the winners at the 2018 ATP World Tour Awards**. The trios were named as award winners in the prelude to the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London.
- Not so surprisingly, **Djokovic won the 'Comeback Player of the Year Award'**, voted by the ATP players, on the back of his glorious run during the second half of the season.

### Odisha-AIFF Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Football Development

- **Hockey India's de facto home, Odisha, will host national football team camps while also officially becoming the home of I-League outfit Indian Arrows.**
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the state government at the Kalinga Stadium complex in Bhubaneswar.

### Women's World Boxing Championships begin in Delhi

- The **Women's World Boxing Championships begin in Delhi.**
- This **tenth edition of the tournament is set to be the biggest ever as more than 300 boxers from 72 countries will be taking part.**
- **MC Mary Kom will be aiming for a historic sixth gold at the event, which is being hosted by India for the first time since 2006 when the country had topped the table with four gold, one silver and three bronze medals.**

### World T20 is Now T20 World Cup

- The **ICC World T20 has been renamed to ICC T20 World Cup**, the International Cricket Council announced.
- The **ICC T20 World Cup** (earlier known as **ICC World Twenty20**) is the international championship of Twenty20 International cricket. Organised by cricket's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The event has **generally been held every two years. However, the next edition of the tournament is scheduled to take place in 2020 in Australia, four years after the conclusion of the 2016 edition.**
- The **inaugural event, the 2007 World Twenty20, was staged in South Africa, and won by India, who defeated Pakistan in the final at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.**
- **West Indies are the current World T20I holders, beating England in the 2016 final, winning their second title.**

### Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothistan wins 59th edition of Subroto Cup football tournament

- **Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan held their nerves in a tense final and overcame Amini School, Afghanistan, 1-0 to clinch the 59th edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament (Junior Boys category).**

- Habibur Rahman netted the solitary goal in the match at the 11th minute to help **Bangladesh win the Under-17 school tournament, which was held at Dr Ambedkar Stadium.**

### India Win Two Bronze Medals in Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup

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- **Indian gymnasts won two bronze medals in the men's and women's group events of the FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup in Baku.**
- "This is the **first time that Indian acrobatic gymnasts have won medals at a World Cup** and it is a matter of immense pride.

### Australia lift Women's World T-20 title for fourth time by defeating England

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- **Australia has lifted the Women's World Twenty-20 title for the fourth time.**
- In the **title clash played at Antigua, the Aussies recorded an emphatic 8-wicket win over England.**
- **Australia, first, bundled out England for just 105 and then with the bat, Australia overhauled the target in just 15.1 overs with 8 wickets in hand.**

ICC Women's T20 World Cup is the **biennial international championship** for women's Twenty20 International cricket. The event is **organised by the sport's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC)**, with the **first edition was held in England in 2009.** The **2018 ICC Women's World Twenty20 was hosted in the West Indies from 9 to 24 November 2018** during the 2018–19 international cricket season. It was the **sixth edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup**, and the second hosted by the West Indies (after the 2010 edition). **Australia are the most successful team, having won the tournament four times.**

### Inaugural ceremony of Men's Hockey World Cup held in Bhubaneswar

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- The **2018 Men's Hockey World Cup is the 14th edition of the Hockey World Cup field hockey tournament.** It is being held from 28 November to 16 December 2018, at the **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.**
- The **inauguration ceremony** which was **held** on 27 November 2018, witnessed the **biggest ever drone flying show in India.**

### Netherlands wins FIH Women's Hockey Champions Trophy

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- The **Netherlands outclassed Australia 5-1 to win its seventh Women's Hockey Champions Trophy** at the Wujin Hockey Stadium in Changzhou.
- With the win, the **reigning world champion has kept its record intact** during the tournament and **extended its winning streak to 43 matches.**

### Croatia clinch victory over France to win Davis Cup

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- **Croatia dethroned holders France to win the Davis Cup for the second time as Marin Cilic beat Lucas Pouille in straight sets to seal the victory.**
- **Cilic won to secure the title for Croatia for the first time since 2005.**

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.**

## AWARDS



### Jawahar Lal Sarin to be conferred with France's highest civilian honour

- **Jawahar Lal Sarin**, president of the governing body of **Alliance Franaise**, was **conferred with France's highest civilian honour** by **French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler** at an event.
- France's highest civilian honour '**Knight of the Legion of Honour**' will be **bestowed on Sarin** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

**Legion of Honour (National Order of the Legion of Honour)** is the **highest French order of merit for military and civil merits**, established in 1802 by **Napoleon Bonaparte** and retained by all the divergent governments and regimes later holding power in France, up to the present. **Durga Charan Rakshit (1896)**, a **Bengali from Chandannagar** was the first Indian to receive the Legion of Honour.

### Actor Jayant Sawarkar to get Maha lifetime award for theatre

- **Noted Marathi actor Jayant Sawarkar** was **honoured with the Maharashtra government's Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement award** in the field of theatre.
- The **Sangeetacharya Annasaheb Kirloskar Lifetime Achievement** was **bestowed on tabla artist Vinayak Thorat**.

### Trump's first Medal of Freedom honorees include Babe Ruth, Elvis Presley, Miriam Adelson

- **President Trump** bestowed the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the **nation's highest civilian award**, including **Elvis Presley and Babe Ruth**.
- Among those **recognized at a ceremony** are **Miriam Adelson**, the **Las Vegas physician and prominent Republican donor**; **Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah**, the **longest-serving Senate Republican**; and **Justice Antonin Scalia**, a conservative pillar of the Supreme Court who died in 2016.

**Presidential Medal of Freedom** is an award **bestowed by the President of the United States** and is—along with the **Congressional Gold Medal**—the **highest civilian award of the United States**. The award is **not limited to U.S. citizens** and, while it is a civilian award, it can also be awarded to **military personnel** and worn on the uniform. It was established in 1963 by **President John F. Kennedy** superseding the **Medal of Freedom** that was established by **President Harry S. Truman** in 1945 to honor civilian service during **World War II**.

### Swati Chaturvedi Wins RSF Press Freedom Award for Courage

- **Indian journalist Swati Chaturvedi** has won the **Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Press Freedom Award for Courage**.

- The award was announced in London and the RSF said that Chaturvedi “has been the target of vicious online harassment campaigns, like many other outspoken journalists in India”.
- Swati Chaturvedi, author of the book 'I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army', beat shortlisted journalists from Italy, Turkey and Morocco for her work in exposing the "IT cell" within the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for keeping an army of angry trolls.

### Dr Debabhuson Borah gets Munin Barkotoki Literary Award

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- The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
- The Munin Barkotoki Memorial Trust announced the annual Award instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a citation and a plaque.

### Dr. Martha Farrell receives lifetime achievement award

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- Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi.
- Dr. Farrell is being recognized for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women's empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.
- She was among 14 people killed in a terrorist attack on a guest house in Kabul, Afghanistan on May 13, 2015.

### Veteran journalist N Ram has been selected for Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award

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- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated National Press Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- Eminent journalist and Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram has been selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award.

### Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati conferred with Global Education Leaders Award 2018

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- Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati, Director, Blue Bells Group of Schools has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018 by His Highness Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, member of the Cabinet and Minister of State for Tolerance, UAE.
- An educationist par excellence, Dr. Gulati was among the nine eminent education leaders from India who were awarded for their exemplary contribution in various spheres of education and social development in the eve of the 2nd edition of India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) on 30th October 2018.

### 49th International Film Festival of India concluded in Goa

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- The 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was concluded at Panaji in Goa. The opening ceremony was held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Bambolim.
- Master writer Salim Khan was honoured with the IFFI special award for his lifetime contribution to cinema. Actor and producer Arbaaz Khan accepted the award on behalf of his father Salim Khan.
- The golden peacock award for the best film was given to Russian-Ukrainian film “Donbass”. The best director award went to Lijo Jose Pellissery for Malayalam film “Ee Maa Yove”. Chemban Vinod bagged the best actor (male) award for “Ee Maa Yove”. Anastasiia Pustovit won the best actor (female) award for her role in Ukrainian film “When The Trees Fall”.
- The special jury award was given to “Aga”, a co-production of Bulgaria, Germany and France. “Respeto” from the Philippines bagged the centenary award for the best debut feature film of a director. The ICFT Unesco Gandhi medal was given to Ladakhi film “Walking with the Wind” directed by Praveen Morchhale.



- The festival closed with the world premiere of the German film “Sealed Lips”.
- More than **220 movies from 67 countries** were screened at this year’s IFFI. 26 feature films and 21 non-feature films were screened in the Indian Panorama section. While Israel was the focus country, **Jharkhand was the focus state this year.**
- This is for the **first time that any state was made focus state at IFFI.** Veteran Israeli filmmaker **Dan Wolman was given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the opening ceremony.** Another new section at IFFI this year was the screening of six Indian sports biopics as an extension of the Khelo India initiative.

### Centre for Science and Environment wins Indira Gandhi peace prize

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- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** has won this year's **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development**, an award conferred by **Indira Gandhi Trust** each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.
- The **international jury** for the awards was headed by former President **Pranab Mukerjee**.
- The CSE was established in 1980 under leadership of the late **Anil Agarwal** and is presently headed by **Sunita Narain**.

### Film superstar Amitabh Bachchan receives Sayaji Ratna Award

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- **Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan** awarded the **third Sayaji Ratna Award**, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler **Sayajirao Gaekwad III**.
- The **Baroda Management Association** had, in 2013, instituted the award to mark the **150th birth anniversary of the ruler**, known for undertaking major social reform measures during his rule in the early twentieth century.

### Monaco to host 2019 Laureus Awards

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- The **19th edition** of the prestigious **Laureus World Sports Awards** will be held in **Monaco on February 18** next year.
- Considered the 'Oscars of sports', the **Laureus World Sports Awards** celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.

### Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented lifetime achievement award in Delhi

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- One of India's greatest sarod masters, **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan** was presented the '**Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement**' at the **Kamani Auditorium**, for his "immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music".
- The award was presented to him by former diplomat **Lalit Mansingh**.

### UASG confers Universal Acceptance Thought Leader award on R'sthan CM

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- **Global internet Body ICANN-supported UASG** conferred "**Universal Acceptance Thought Leader award**" on **Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje** for enabling email service for citizens of the state in local script.
- "**Universal Acceptance Steering Group** has recognised work of **Hon'ble CM of Rajasthan** and **IT Department** for **Rajmail** project that enables access to email address to people in the state in Indic script.

### India gets UN Environment award for combating transboundary environmental crime

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- **United Nation Environment** has awarded **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**, **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India** with **Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018** for excellent work done by the Bureau in combating transboundary environmental crime.
- The awards are given to **outstanding individuals and/or government organizations/teams that demonstrate excellence and leadership in enforcement of national laws to combat transboundary environmental crime** in one of the following eligibility criteria areas: collaboration; impact; innovation; integrity and gender leadership.

## Azim Premji conferred highest French civilian honour

- Tech magnate and philanthropist Azim Premji was bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- Mr. Premji, who is the chairman of Bengaluru-headquartered IT major Wipro, received the distinction from the Ambassador of France to India.
- The programme has been framed around the objectives of the global strategy of Survive, Thrive and Transform.

Legion of Honour (National Order of the Legion of Honour) is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and retained by all the divergent governments and regimes later holding power in France, up to the present.

## Indian Navy commander, captain win Asian of The Year award

- Indian Navy commander Vijay Varma and Captain P. Rajkumar were among those honoured at the 'Asian of The Year' awards acknowledging their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during the Kerala floods.

## Indian Social Entrepreneur Wins the First UN Geospatial Ambassador Award

- Sanjay Kumar, Founder and CEO of Geospatial Media & Communications, was conferred the 'Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador' Award by UN-GGIM (United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management) at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress held at Deqing city in China.

## Donbass wins the Golden Peacock at IFFI 2018

- Donbass' directed by Sergei Loznitsa has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa on November 28, 2018. The Golden Peacock Award carries a cash prize of Rs 4 million (Rs 40 lakhs) to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director, Trophy and the citation.
- Donbass tells the story of a hybrid war taking place in a region of Eastern Ukraine, involving an open armed conflict alongside killings and robberies perpetrated on a mass scale by separatist gangs.
- In Donbass, war is called peace and propaganda is uttered as truth. A journey through Donbass unfolds as a series of curious adventures. This is not just a tale of one region or a political system; it is about a world lost in post-truth and fake identities.

## 'Shoplifters' triumphs at Asia Pacific Screen Awards

- The jury of the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards has awarded the best film prize to Hirokazu Kore-eda's Shoplifters (Manbiki Kazoku), continuing the Palme d'Or winner's dream run.
- The film, which depicts a makeshift family living on the fringes of Japanese society, won the highest honour at the region's film awards, which took place in Brisbane, Australia.

## Renowned flautist Keshav Ginde to get Pt. Bhimsen Joshi award

- Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde shall be conferred this year's prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Classical Music.
- The annual award, instituted by Maharashtra, honours maestros in classical music and singing, and carries a cash award of Rs 500,000, a memento and a citation.

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## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Indian Amputee, Who Conquered Everest, Gets Honorary Doctorate in the UK

- Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.
- Ms Sinha was conferred with the honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde at a graduation ceremony in Glasgow.

### Super 30 founder Anand Kumar honoured with education award in Dubai

- Mathematician and Super 30 founder Anand Kumar was awarded for his "pioneering" contributions to the field of education and illuminating the lives of many talented students.
- Kumar was honoured with 'Global Education Award' on November 8 by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate.

### Robyn Denholm named as new chair to replace Elon Musk

- Tesla has appointed Robyn Denholm as chair of its board, replacing the electric carmaker's billionaire founder Elon Musk.
- The move, which was forced on the company by US financial regulators to settle fraud claims against Musk, ends speculation that James Murdoch, the 21st Century Fox boss and a Tesla director since July 2017, was set to take over.

### Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta Scales Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea

- Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe - the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea. Satyarup reached the summit of the mountain which is at an elevation of 4,367 metres. Satya now has scaled 5 of the 7 volcanic summits.

### Binny Bansal resigns as Flipkart CEO

- Binny Bansal, chief executive and cofounder of Walmart-owned Flipkart Group, resigned following a probe into an allegation of "serious personal misconduct," the company said in a statement. The resignation came on the heels of an independent investigation into the allegation which Bansal strongly denies.
- The development is bound to be a setback to Walmart, which earlier this year paid a whopping \$16 billion in cash for a 77% stake in Flipkart, valuing India's pioneering e-commerce retailer at more than \$20 billion, as part of the retailer's effort to compete with Amazon and strengthen its presence in India.

### Indian American named for key Appeals Court post

- Indian American Neomi Rao has been appointed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by Brett Kavanaugh's elevation to the U.S. Supreme Court.

### Gautam Singhania steps down as Raymond Apparel chairman

- Gautam Hari Singhania has stepped down from as chairman of Raymond Apparel Limited.
- The company has appointed Nirvik Singh as non-executive chairman and inducted Anshu Sarin and Gautam Trivedi as board members. However, Mr. Singhania will continue to be on the board.

### Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla resigns

- Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla has resigned with immediate effect.

- The former Finance Secretary, who was the bank's non-executive chairman for over two years, resigned as he was unable to devote more time.

### Alia Bhatt Named Indian Brand Ambassador of Uber Eats

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- Food delivery platform Uber Eats announced the appointment of actress Alia Bhatt as its brand ambassador.
- India will be the first country for the brand globally to have appointed a brand ambassador.

### Aadhaar Body Head AB Pandey to Replace Hasmukh Adhia As Revenue Secretary

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- AB Pandey, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), was appointed as Secretary, Department of Revenue on superannuation of Hasmukh Adhia on November 30.
- He will continue to hold the additional charge of CEO, UIDAI and Chairman, Goods and Services Tax network until further orders.

### Asia's first woman neurosurgeon

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- Asia's first woman neurosurgeon, T.S. Kanaka, died in Chennai after a brief illness.
- Dr. Kanaka, who retired as professor of Neurosurgery, Institute of Neurology, Madras Medical College (MMC), in 1990, was known to have inspired many women to take to the field of neurosurgery in the country.

### UNICEF appoints singer Nahid Afrin as first 'Youth Advocate' of northeastern region

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- Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.
- The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as agents of change in society.
- UNICEF's India representative Yasmin Ali Haque said 17-year-old Nahid was appointed as 'Youth Advocate' in the North East at an event in Guwahati.

### Dr Dixit appointed ambassador of Maha's anti-obesity campaign

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- The Maharashtra government has appointed Dr Jagannath Dixit as the brand ambassador of its anti-obesity campaign.

### 'Stranger Things' star Millie Bobby Brown named UNICEF's youngest-ever goodwill ambassador

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- The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) welcomed Brown, as the latest Goodwill Ambassador for the non-profit, making her the youngest person ever to step into the position.
- "Given UNICEF's global role as the world's leading voice for children and young people, to be the youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF is more than an honor.

### Shilpa Shetty Kundra leads India to set new Guinness World Record with plankathon

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- India has achieved a new spot on the Guinness World Records as 2,353 people, led by Bollywood actor and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty Kundra, held the abdominal plank position for 60 seconds simultaneously.
- India set the new record breaking the earlier record created by China where 1,779 people held a plank for 60 seconds at the Central Park in Lu'an, Anhui, China on March 18 in 2017.

### Shri Arvind Saxena appointed as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

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- The President has appointed Shri Arvind Saxena as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The tenure of Shri Arvind Saxena as Chairman, UPSC will commence from the date he enters upon the office of Chairman, UPSC. The term of his appointment will be till 07. 08.2020 when he attains the age of 65 years or till further orders whichever is earlier.



### A.M. Naik appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation

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- **Shri A.M. Naik** has been appointed as **Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Currently **Shri Naik** is the **Group Chairman of India's biggest engineering and construction conglomerate – Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)**.

## Obituary

### Ananth Kumar passes away

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- **Ananth Kumar**, **Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister**, died in **Bengaluru**.
- The senior **BJP leader** was serving as **Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers** since **May 2014** and **Minister of Parliamentary Affairs** since **July 2016** in the **Narendra Modi government**. He represented **Bengaluru South Constituency** in **Lok Sabha**.

### Ad guru Alyque Padamsee dies at 90

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- **Veteran adman** and **theatre personality Alyque Padamsee**, the **brain behind several iconic advertisement campaigns**, died following an illness.
- In a career spanning over 60 years, he directed more than 70 plays and was known for his **theatre productions** like **Evita**, **Jesus Christ Superstar** and **Tuglaq**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece Pather Panchali included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list.**

- Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece 'Pather Panchali' has been included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list.
- The list was culled out from a poll where over 200 critics from 43 countries picked their best foreign language film.
- It all narrowed down to 100 films from 67 different directors, from 24 countries, and in 19 languages.
- Ray's film, released in 1955 and the first in his Apu trilogy, was placed at number 15 in the list, which has been topped by Akira Kurosawa's 'Seven Samurai'.
- According to BBC, 27 of the highest-rated films were in French, followed by 12 in Mandarin, and 11 each in Italian and Japanese.

**Railways to launch 3 more Ramayana Express trains from Jaipur, Rajkot and Madurai**

- The 'Ramayana circuit', covering locations associated with the Hindu epic, is turning into a new mode for revenue of Indian Railways, which is launching three more Ramayana Express trains from different parts of the country after getting a good response for the first one starting on November 14 from Delhi to Chennai, according to officials familiar with the development.
- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is now launching similar trains from Rajkot, Jaipur and Madurai. All four trains will cover Ayodhya, which, according to the epic, is the birthplace of the Hindu god Ram. They will also go to other locations named in the epic, such as Hanuman Garhi, Ramkot and the Kanak Bhawan temple.

**CSIR develops Less Polluting Firecrackers named – SWAS, SAFAL and STAR**

- "CSIR scientists have developed Less Polluting Firecrackers which are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones".
- These crackers have been named as safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR).

**Shri J P Nadda inaugurates 5th National Summit on "Good & Replicable Practices & Innovations in Public HealthCare Systems in India"**

- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, inaugurated the 5th National Summit on "Good & Replicable Practices & Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India" at Kaziranga, Assam.
- Shri J P Nadda and the Chief Minister of Assam also released a Coffee Table Book on Good Practices, Evidence to Action: Towards Universal Health Coverage.

**Valedictory Session of India-Italy Technology Summit in New Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte held bilateral talks in New Delhi and discussed a range of issues of mutual interest.
- On climate change, the two leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to the full and swift implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- They reiterated their commitment to strengthen mutual understanding and expand the **range of bilateral engagement to promote peace, stability, economic progress and prosperity of the two countries.**

### Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan launches Asthma Manual for Schools in New Delhi on October 31

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- **Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Asthma Manual for Schools in New Delhi.**
- The **Manual** has been compiled by Lung Care Foundation, a not-for-profit organization. The Manual will be implemented in over one lakh schools across the country.
- **Translated in 11 Different Languages**, the manual is a compilation of simple, easy to understand information to know about childhood asthma and best practices that schools can implement

### Smt Harsimrat Badal confers prizes to cleanest Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain Units

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- **Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal distributed prizes for cleanliness among Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain Units** for maintaining, promoting and encouraging Swachhta Culture.
- The Minister congratulated all the winners & appreciated their efforts **to overcome challenges & achieve high levels of Swachhata standards.**
- The **first prize** was awarded to M/s. Patanjali Food and Herbal Park (P) Ltd. in Haridwar, the **second prize** by Satara Mega Food Park (P) Ltd., Satara District, Maharashtra and third by Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt.(P) Ltd. (Cold Chain Project) in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab.

### Uttar Pradesh Government in Partnership with Japan to Develop 'Food Value Chain'

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- The Uttar Pradesh government in assistance from Japanese government will develop 'Food Value Chain' in the state.
- The UP Cabinet presided over by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath cleared a proposal in this regard.

### MHA approves Rs.194.44 crore Safe City Project for Lucknow

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- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved a Safe City project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs.194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.
- The project would be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State sharing the funding in 60:40 ratio.
- This approval is a part of MHA's plans to implement Safe City projects in 8 selected cities, namely, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow under Nirbhaya Fund with the purpose of strengthening safety and security of women in public places.

### NMCG & UN Habitat organize a policy dialogue - Urban Cafe: 'River for Habitat' on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018

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- The National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with UN Habitat to organize a policy dialogue- 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' in New Delhi on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018.
- Experts in the sector got together to discuss the deep association that rivers have with various aspects of human civilization – **our cities, our economy and various facets of our daily lives, the challenges to maintaining healthy river ecosystems and ways to deal with the same.**

### Shri K J Alphons presides over the Program and Budget Committee meeting of UNWTO

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- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Shri. K. J. Alphons along with a delegation of senior officials is **attended the 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama, Bahrain.**

- As the chair of the Committee, the Minister informed the session that **for the first time, UNWTO had a surplus budget and most of the arrears due have been paid. India will be the chair of Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021.**

### Cabinet approves renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as “Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda”

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- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has **approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as “Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda”.**
- **Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha. Renaming of the Jharsuguda airport in his name will fulfill long-pending demand of the Odisha Government,** which reflects the sentiments of the local public of the respective area.

### Botswana decides to join the International Solar Alliance

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- The **Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has said that **Botswana announced their decision to join the International Solar Alliance.**
- He was meeting and holding delegation level talks with his **Botswana counterpart, the Vice President and the Acting President of Botswana, Mr. Slumber Tsogwane,** at the Office of the President of Botswana, in Gaborone, Botswana.

### First Annual Senior Care Conclave - Igniting Industry for India's Ageing Sector

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- **Smt Anupriya Patel** stated that the **rapidly changing global demographics have resulted in a sharp rise in the demand for senior care services.** Anupriya Patel also released a CII Report “**Igniting Potential in Senior Care Services**” and inaugurated an exhibition at the event in New Delhi.
- This coupled with an **increased life expectancy of the population,** and an **increased tendency globally to have nuclear families,** has further accelerated the growth in the senior care sector.

### India Pavilion inaugurated at Videocittà 2018 in Rome Film Festival

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- **India was partner country at Videocittà 2018,** an event focussing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc. was organized along with Rome Film Festival and Mercato Internazionale dell'Audiovisivo (MIA) (the International Audio Visual Market). India's participation at Videocittà 2018, Rome was organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and coordinated on Ministry's behalf by FICCI.

### SMiLE to give a fillip to Malabar tourism

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- **Kerala Tourism** has rolled out a high-tech digital facility that provides visitors all details about the experiential and service packages in the Malabar region to attract tourists to north Kerala.
- A ‘**SMiLE (Small and Medium Industries Leveraging Experiential Tourism) Virtual Tour Guide**’ conceived by the Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC) links tourists with their places of attraction and providers of experiential services.
- The **SMiLE guide renders information on 40 tourist destinations, ways to reach them, plan tours and fix reminder alarm notification,** besides means to share portal material, find accommodation and book rooms.

### NGT forms committee to examine waste dumping near Polavaram project

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- The **National Green Tribunal** has **ordered a four-member committee to conduct an inspection near the Polavaram dam in Andhra Pradesh** and submit a report after a plea alleged that muck was being dumped illegally at the site.
- A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel constituted a committee comprising representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board, additional principal chief conservator of forests, the State Pollution Control Board and the district magistrate **to give a report on the factual aspects.**



## Cabinet decides to open central tribal university in Andhra Pradesh

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- Union Cabinet has given in principle approval for leasing out six airports through Public Private Partnership.
- They are Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru.
- Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, the Cabinet has also approved amendment to the Central Universities Act- 2009 for setting up of a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.

## Indian Railways eliminates Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge in a Mission Mode

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- Indian Railway has taken a mission area to eliminate all Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge and accordingly special efforts have been made so that elimination can be completed at the earliest.
- As on 01.04.2018, there were 3479 Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge routes. Total 3402 UMLCs have been eliminated in last seven months. Balance 77 UMLCs have also been planned to be eliminated by December 2018.

## Centre releases over 113 crore rupees to six Border States under Border Area Development Programme

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- The Centre has released over 113 crore rupees to six Border States as part of its plan to ameliorate the problems of people living in these isolated locations.
- Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP). With this, the Home Ministry has released around 638 crore rupees so far during this fiscal to the States having International Border.

## Meghalaya announces RS 378-cr investment in Aqua Mission 2.0

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- The Meghalaya Government announced `378 crore investment in the second phase of the State's flagship aquaculture mission aimed at cutting down fish imports into the hill State.
- The mission — Meghalaya State Aqua Mission 2.0 — was announced by Fisheries Minister Comingone Ymbon at the 5th state aqua festival held in Shillong at the U Soso Tham auditorium premises which was also attended by hundreds of fish farmers from across the state.

## Yogi Adityanath's Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018 enters Guinness Book of World Records

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- Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records. The record is for lighting 3, 01,152 earthen lamps on the bank of River Sarayu.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Faizabad district will now be known as Ayodhya.
- Ayodhya is a symbol of our pride. Ayodhya's identity is with Lord Ram. From today, Faizabad district's name will be Ayodhya.

## Global Cooling Innovation Summit inaugurated in New Delhi

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- Two-day Global Cooling Innovation Summit was inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on 12th November 2018.
- The Summit is a first-of-its-kind solutions-focused event that brought together leaders from around the world to explore concrete means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners.

- The event is jointly organized by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, along with Rocky Mountain Institute, Alliance for An Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), Conservation X Labs and CEPT University.

### 'Mo bus' service rolled out in Odisha

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- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the technology-driven and citizen-friendly Mo bus service featuring free wi-fi, CCTV surveillance, public information display system and on board announcements in the city.
- The state government-owned Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) sources said the 'Mo bus' service will cover nine routes in the state capital in the first phase.

### PM Modi to dedicate two important national highways in Varanasi

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated two important national highways in Varanasi. The total length of the highways is 34 kilometres and is constructed at a cost of over 1500 crore rupees.
- The projects will reduce travel time, fuel usage and pollution in the area. The Ring Road will provide easier and more convenient access to Sarnath, an important site for Buddhist pilgrimage.
- The Prime Minister dedicated an inland waterways terminal on river Ganga in Varanasi to the nation.
- This is the first of the four multimodal terminals being constructed on River Ganga as part of the World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.

### The Fourth NITI Aayog- DRC Dialogue Held in Mumbai

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- The Fourth Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, People's Republic of China was held in Mumbai. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Li Wei, President of DRC and the Indian delegation was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- This is the third ministerial dialogue between China and India since the meeting of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Johannesburg during the BRICS summit in July 2018.

### Foundation stone for All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy laid in Goa

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- Union minister of state for Ayush Shripad Naik laid the foundation stone for the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy at Dhargal, North Goa.
- The institute will house a 100-bed hospital, outpatient department and a research centre; and offer postgraduate and PhD courses. Goa health minister Vishwajit Rane, tourism minister Manohar Azgaonkar, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar were also present on the occasion.

### Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities 2018 Begins

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- The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018 was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar.
- The three day event is being organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in association with Rehabilitation International Korea and their associated partner LG Electronics from 9th to 11th November, 2018.
- The objective of the event is to leverage IT skills among youth with disabilities and also to spread awareness about the application of Information and Computer Technology (ICT) in enhancing the quality of life of persons with disabilities especially in Asia-Pacific region.

## Indonesia opens 'Little India Gate'

- Nearly 7,000 people gathered in Northern Indonesia to witness the inauguration of 'Little India Gate', the first-of-its-kind structure in the country which recognises the contribution of the Indian community in the development of Medan city.
- **Kampung Madras area** is one of the city's significant ethnic enclaves comprising a large population of people of Indian descent whose ancestors had settled down in Medan in the mid-19th century.

## President Kovind inaugurates Gyan Kumbh in Haridwar

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has stressed the need to impart quality education to the students.
- After inaugurating a two-day **Gyan Kumbh** at **Patanjali Yogpeeth in Haridwar, Uttarakhand**, He said that besides educating children, it is imperative on the part of teachers to inculcate good manners and character building in the students.
- The president appreciated the role of **Uttarakhand Government** in forging co-ordination with Centre in a matter of providing education which falls under the concurrent subject.

## Nitish cabinet gives nod to redevelop PMCH into world's largest 5462 bed hospital

- The **Bihar cabinet** gave its nod for redevelopment of **Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH)** into a world's largest 5462 bed hospital at an estimated cost of Rs 5540.07 crore.
- The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar**. Altogether 34 decisions were taken at the meeting. The PMCH was established in 1925.
- It would be world's largest hospital having 5462 bed with 36 super speciality departments against the present eight super speciality department, Kumar said adding that the world's largest hospital currently is in Belgrade with 3500 bed.

## Ladakh Restoration Work Wins UNESCO Award, 2 Mumbai Projects Get Honourable Mention

- **Restoration of an aristocratic house** from a state of partial ruin in **Ladakh** has won a **UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation**.
- While the **Ladakh project** won in the category of **Award of Distinction** under the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**, rejuvenation of a university clock tower and a fountain in **Mumbai** have jointly received **Honourable Mention**, along with a project in **China**.
- **Noted conservation architect Vikas Dilawari**, whose earlier restoration projects in the city have also **UNESCO heritage conservation awards**, was ecstatic after the announcement.

The **LAMO Center** in **Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region** was chosen for its systematic restoration project that used salvaged and local building materials, and indigenous construction techniques while adroitly introducing modern amenities to assure its ongoing use. From **Mumbai**, the restoration projects of the iconic **Rajabai Clock Tower of Mumbai University** and **Ruttonjee Muljee Jetha Fountain**, both belonging to the colonial-era have received **Honourable Mention**.

## 24th Kolkata International Film Festival begins at Netaji Indoor Stadium

- The **24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** began at the **Netaji Indoor Stadium**.
- It was jointly inaugurated by **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**, **Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Soumitra Chatterjee** and veteran actor **Amitabh Bachchan**.
- 171 full-time movies and 150 small-time movies of 70 countries will be shown at 16 locations. The highlight of this year's festival is that it celebrates 100 years of Bengali Cinema.

**Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** is an annual film festival held in Kolkata, India. Founded in 1995, it is the second oldest international film festival in India. The festival is organized by the West Bengal Film Centre under the West Bengal Government.

### National body set up to study rare form of diabetes

- A National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed to identify cases of monogenic diabetes across the country.
- Supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC) will be the national coordinating centre for the study group.

### Two North East Circuits under Swadesh Darshan inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh

- Two important projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India were inaugurated at PTSO Lake in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- These projects are "Development of North East Circuits: Bhalukpong- Bomdila - Tawang Project & Nafra- Seppa-Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project".

### Railways to launch Shri Ramayana Express from November 14

- Named as Shri Ramayana Yatra-Sri Lanka, the pilgrimage circuit will have two travel components --one each in India and other one in Sri Lanka.
- Ministry of Railways runs a special tourist train -- Shri Ramayana Express -- from November 14, covering four important destinations associated with the life of Lord Ram in a 16-days tour package spread over India and Sri Lanka.
- After leaving Delhi, the train will make its first stop in Ayodhya followed by Hanuman Garhi Ramkot and Kanak Bhawan temple.
- The train will then cover the important destinations of Ramayana circuit such as Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Janakpur, Varanasi, Prayag, Shringverpur, Chitrakoot, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram.

### Shri Radha Mohan Singh felicitates Professor M. S. Swaminathan in Chennai

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh hailed the efforts of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, the architect of India's Green Revolution and felicitated Professor M. S. Swaminathan, the recipient of the World Agriculture Prize at an event in Chennai.
- The Union Agriculture Minister said that under the 'Green Revolution' programme led by Prof. Swaminathan in 1960s and 80s, wheat and rice seeds with better yields were planted in the farmers' fields.

### MNRE proposes wind turbine certification guidelines

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has prepared a draft of the Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS).
- This scheme had been prepared in consultation with the National Institute of Wind Energy Chennai. "The IWTCS is a consolidation of relevant National and International Standards (IS/IEC/IEEE), Technical Regulations and requirements issued by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), guidelines issued by MNRE and other international guidelines."

### HRD Ministry launches Leadership for Academicians Programme

- Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satya Pal Singh launched the Leadership for Academicians Programme, LEAP and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching, ARPIT in New Delhi.



- Developing good teachers is an arduous task and if teachers show enough commitment, ARPIT will go a long way in empowering the teaching faculty.

### Govt delegates powers to local bodies for giving environmental clearance for construction of buildings, Educational Institutions & Hospitals

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- The Government has delegated powers to local bodies to ensure compliance of environmental conditions for buildings, construction and area development projects measuring between 20,000 and 50,000 square metres.
- According to a notification of the Union Environment Ministry, local bodies have also been given the powers to ensure environmental conditions are followed at industrial sheds, educational institutions, hospitals and hostels.

### Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 4th International Congress on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine

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- Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 4th International Congress on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, which is organized along with the Asia Pacific Geriatric Medicine Network Conference at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
- This field has unique speciality where the parameter is based on age. He said that more than 70% of the population is below the age of 40 years, due to which India is facing bi-polar challenge.
- On the one hand we have increasing number of old population and on the other hand there is a large percentage of population in young age.

### The NITI Aayog constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council

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- NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region.
- A NITI Aayog statement said that the Council has been constituted to review and implement the identified action points based on the Reports of five Working Groups, which were established along thematic areas to prepare a roadmap for action.

### Delhi Police launches E-Learning portal NIPUN for personnel training

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- Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik launched the force's e-learning portal NIPUN and training division website.
- Through the website, Delhi Police will be using advanced technology in imparting in-service training to its personnel.
- The e-learning portal aims to give online training and information through specialised courses designed by experts in the field.

### Andhra government reveals Amaravati art-inspired state emblem

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- The Andhra Pradesh government has finalised its new emblem for official use, five years after the state's bifurcation in 2014.
- The state emblem, inspired by the Amaravati School of Art, consists of "Dhamma Chakka" - "the Wheel of Law" embellished with a ring of Triratnas alternating with pinnate leaves and precious stones.
- The three circles of decorative beads are in ascending order of numbers - 48 in the inner, 118 in the middle and 148 in the outer circle.
- "Puna Ghataka" or "The vase of Plenty" is at the hub of the Dhamma Chakka. It is decorated with a four-banded garland on the main body with medallions and tassels. There is a braid around the thin neck and a flaring mouth.

- The **National Emblem** is placed at the bottom of the emblem, which should never be reduced to a size of less than 24 mm in height.

### Kerala Govt launches Gau Samridhi scheme for dairy farmers

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- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state.
- The government subsidized scheme, as proposed, will give insurance coverage to dairy farmers at low premium rates.
- Moreover, farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.

### Centre to refund employers for seven weeks of maternity leave given to employees

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- Central government will give employers the salaries for seven of the 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 a month, the Women and Child Development ministry announced.
- The announcement, which covers the government as well as the private sector, comes in the wake of complaints that many companies were reluctant hire pregnant women after maternity leave was extended from 12 to 26 weeks and some were even firing women employees.

### Meghalaya: India International Cherry Blossom Festival begins

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- The third edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 got underway at Polo 5th Ground, Shillong.
- The four-day long festival is organised by the Forest and Environment Department, Govt of Meghalaya, Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- It celebrates the unique autumn flowering of the Himalayan Cherry Blossoms with several cultural events.

### 'Toxic' declared Oxford Word of the Year

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- Oxford Dictionary has declared the adjective 'toxic' as the Word of the Year for what it says reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations in 2018.
- The word was selected from a shortlist that included 'gaslighting,' 'incel' and 'techlash.' The data showed that, after 'chemical', 'masculinity' is the most-used word in conjunction with toxic this year.

### AYUSH Ministry celebrated first Naturopathy Day

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- The AYUSH Ministry celebrated its first Naturopathy Day across the country on 18th November.
- The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy is organising health camps, workshops and exhibitions in association with local naturopathy centres and hospitals.
- Inaugurating the first Naturopathy Day Programme in New Delhi.
- Work on building natural clinics is already in progress in Pune, Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

### Dr Jitendra Singh releases book 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War'

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- The Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh released a book titled 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War' written by Dr Rajesh Bhat.

## 8th National Conference of Women in Police in Ranchi

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- The two-day conference which is being organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development in collaboration with Jharkhand Police is the only national level platform to address the issues of Women in uniform and create an enabling atmosphere for them to maximize and optimize their professional potential.

## Suresh Prabhu launches Air Sewa 2.0

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- The Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- The AirSewa 1.0 was received well, with around 30,000 app downloads and around 75,000 web portal hits since its launch. It has helped significant number of air passengers to get their concerns resolved with 92 % closure rate for grievance solutions. In addition to grievance redressal, AirSewa also provides real-time flight status and flight schedules. Chennai Airport is awarded for hundred percent grievance redressal.

## Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurates the All India Heads of Police Communication Conference

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- The Minister of State for Communications (I/C) and Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the All India Heads of Police Communication Conference on 'Modernization of Police Communication and Challenges thereof in New Delhi.

## 7th International Tourism Mart held in Agartala, Tripura

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- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the Department of Tourism, Government of Tripura and the North Eastern States is organized the "International Tourism Mart" in Agartala, Tripura from the 22nd to 24th November 2018.
- This is the 7th edition of the International Tourism Mart, an annual event organised in the North Eastern region with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
- It brings together the tourism business fraternity and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States.

## Indian embassy in Nepal and CII organised exhibition ConMac 2018 in Nepal

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- The Embassy of India in Nepal and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) are organised an exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018 in Bhaktapur near Kathmandu.
- With more than 200,000 sq ft of display area, the exhibition is considered to be Nepal's largest exhibition of construction equipment.

## Prime Minister lays Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution Projects under the 9th CGD bidding Round

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- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Projects in 65 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 129 Districts under the 9th CGD Bidding Round, remotely from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- During the event, Hon'ble PM also launched 10th CGD Bidding Round in 50 GAs spread over 124 districts in 14 states.

## AAI cancels Air Odisha's UDAN license for poor performance

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- The Airport Authority of India has served a termination clause to Air Odisha for failing to operate 70 per cent of its scheduled flights over the last three months.
- "AAI has sent them (Air Odisha) a letter which includes Clause 17 (termination clause) because they have failed to operate 70 per cent of their scheduled flights over the last three months".

## India to host 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in 2019

- The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad next year.
- The conference 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' which will be held from October 30 to November 2 next year.

## IMD develops new technology to monitor impact of rain & deal with natural disasters

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain.
- The technology, called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach', which shows pre-event scenario, can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.

## Commerce Minister Releases Report on Industrial Park Rating System

- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu**, released the report prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on Industrial Park Rating System.
- In order to ensure that India moves into the top 50 countries in Ease of Doing Business the Ministry has undertaken this exercise in studying infrastructure across states and in 3354 industrial clusters in order to assess quality of infrastructure in industrial parks.

## Govt to set up Animation, Gaming & Visual effects Institute in Mumbai

- Union government will set up Animation, Gaming and Visual effects Institute in Mumbai to encourage youth participation in the field of film and cinematography.

## Jangalmahal Festival begins in West Bengal

- Showcasing the culture and tradition of the people of 'Jangalmahal', the adjoining forested area of West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts, a three-day-long cultural extravaganza began in the Kolkata city.

## Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated NDMA's 14th Formation Day

- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, **Shri Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated the 14th Formation Day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- The theme of this year's Formation Day is Early Warning for Disasters.

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

## Bihar CM unveils 70 ft tall Lord Buddha's statue in Rajgir

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** unveiled a 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
- It is the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country.
- The statue has been installed above a 16-metre radius pedestal in the middle of Lake Ghora Katora. It is made of pink sandstone.

## J-K Governor inaugurates 'Jhiri Mela'

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor **Satya Pal Malik** inaugurated a week long 'Jhiri Mela' at village Jhiri in Jammu district.



- The annual fair is commemorated in the memory of the martyrdom of 'Baba Jitto', a farmer who gave up his life about 500 years ago in protest against the oppressive demands of a land lord.

### **“PaISA – Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access”, Launched Under Day-NULM**

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- A centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) named “PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access”, was launched.
- The web platform has been designed and developed by Allahabad Bank which is the Nodal bank.
- All 35 states / UTs & all scheduled commercial banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks are expected to be on board the PAiSA portal the year end.

### **Manipur’s Sangai Festival 2018 concludes**

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- The ten-day, Manipur Sangai Festival concluded with colorful cultural dances and fireworks displayed at its main venue in Imphal’s Hatta Kangeibung.
- The closing ceremony held at Bheigyachandra Open Air Theatre (BOAT), the main venue, was attended by state Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla and chief minister N Biren Singh and other dignitaries.

### **“Fables of Fractured Times” book launched**

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- Book “Fables of Fractured Times” is authored by former union minister Manish Tewari was released by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

### **Uttarakhand cabinet approves proposal to rename Dehradun airport after Vajpayee**

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- The Uttarakhand Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Dehradun’s Jolly Grant Airport after BJP patriarch and former prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

### **Health Ministry launches a new state-of-the art Information Platform to monitor public health surveillance**

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- The soft-launch of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states was done.
- The path-breaking initiative will provide near-real-time data to policy makers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.
- The first one-of-its-kind initiative by the Government of India, IHIP uses the latest technologies and digital health initiatives.

### **‘HAUSLA-2018’ inaugurated in the Capital**

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- The National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- “Hausla 2018” of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- The inter-Child Care Institution festival is witnessing participation of more than 600 Children drawn from CCIs from 18 states in the various events like painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing as part of the Festival.

### **Raksha Mantri Launches ‘Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti’**

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- Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched ‘Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti’ in New Delhi.

- The event showcased salient **inventions and innovations** achieved by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs) which have resulted in successful filing of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) applications.
- Smt Sitharaman also felicitated some of the scientists, who invented and innovated useful products for the nation.

### UGC to set up a consortium for approved journals

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- **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has **decided to set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)** which will **prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines**.
- The commission said the percentage of research articles published in **poor quality journals is reported to be high in India which has adversely affected its image**.
- **CARE will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman**.

### NITI Aayog holds Dialogue on Health System for New India

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- The **NITI Aayog** organized a **day-long dialogue on “Health System for A New India: Building Blocks”**, with national and international academia, practitioners, Indian policymakers and other stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem.
- The **dialogue was the first in the series of NITI Aayog’s “Development Dialogues”** that aims to facilitate multisectoral conversations on India’s developmental issues, which constitute a part of the country’s 15 Year Vision document.

### President of India inaugurates the second International Ambedkar Conclave

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- The **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **2nd International Ambedkar Conclave** in **New Delhi** as part of the commemoration of Constitution Day.
- The **Conclave is being organised by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians and the Dr Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce**.
- The **President said that the Constitution, of which Dr Ambedkar is considered the Chief Architect**, has given our democracy a strong framework.

### President of India inaugurated the 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India – 2018

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- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** visited Chandigarh to **inaugurate the 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018**.
- He expressed confidence that **Agro Tech India-2018 will promote specific partnerships that will benefit India’s farmers**.

### DGAFMS Military Medicine Conclave 2018

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- The **first Directorate General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) Military Medicine Conclave** was held in New Delhi.
- The aim of the **conclave was to deliberate on issues and challenges being faced by the AFMS and to utilize the collective wisdom and experience of veteran leaders of the Corps** who have led the Corps to its glorious present status.

### Union Home Minister inaugurates Hornbill Festival in Kohima

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- The **Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **hugely popular Hornbill Festival 2018 in Kohima**, coinciding with the Formation Day of Nagaland.
- The **Hornbill Festival is a celebration held every year from 1 - 10 December, in Nagaland, Northeast India**. It is also called the '**Festival of Festivals**'.

### Odisha's Baliyatra festival inaugurated

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- **Odisha Finance and Excise minister Sashi Bhusan Behera**, in the presence of three of his **cabinet colleagues**, inaugurated the Baliyatra festival in Cuttack.
- The festival, associated with the maritime glory of ancient **Kalinga**, is basically a trade and cultural fare that attracts revellers not only from state but from outside also.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates second edition of Khasdar Mahotsav in Nagpur

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- Union Minister for Shipping, Surface Transport and Ganga Rejuvenation **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **second edition of Khasdar Mahotsav** in presence of **Bollywood actors Anil Kapoor and Jackie Shroff**, at the **Ishwar Deshmukh College of Physical Education in Nagpur**.

### India's first indigenous film festival in Feb.

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- **India's first international indigenous film festival** will take place in **February next year in Odisha**.
- An initiative of activist film collective **Video Republic**, that has been campaigning for indigenous communities in the State, the **three-stop event will kick off in Bhubaneswar on February 19**, move on to **Puri from February 21** before culminating in an interaction with the adivasi communities at **Niyamgiri**.
- It will showcase **films made by indigenous people or by non-indigenous filmmakers in collaboration with the indigenous communities**.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Ayurveda Day celebrated throughout the Country on 5th November

- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). This year Ayurveda Day is observed on 5th November 2018.
- On this occasion, Ministry is organising a “National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda” in association with NITI Aayog on 4th & 5th November 2018 at Dr. Ambedkar International centre, Janapath, New Delhi, with the intention to encourage entrepreneurs and Ayurveda stakeholders towards businesses opportunities in the sector.

### National Cancer Awareness Day

- National Cancer Awareness Day is observed across the country on November 7 every year, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan announced.
- Vardhan, who declared the Regional Cancer Centre in Kerala as upgraded into the State Cancer Institute, said there were 2.9 million cases of cancer in the country with 1.1 million new cases being reported annually.

### West Bengal observed ‘Rosogolla Day’ on November 14

- The West Bengal government has decided to observe ‘Rosogolla Day’ on November 14 to commemorate the first anniversary of the State’s famous sweet getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag as ‘Bengal’s Rosogolla’.
- On November 14 last year, West Bengal had received the GI tag for Bengal's Rosogolla. The GI tag is a sign that identifies a product as originating from a particular place.

### International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

- The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed annually on November 6.
- The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was established on November 5, 2001 by the United Nations General Assembly, during Kofi Atta Annan's tenure as Secretary-General.

### International Day of Radiology

- The International Day of Radiology is an annual event promoting the role of medical imaging in modern healthcare. It is celebrated on November 8 each year, and coincides with the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays.
- It was first introduced in 2012, as a joint initiative, by the European Society of Radiology (ESR), the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), and the American College of Radiology (ACR).
- The International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists have celebrated 8 November as World Radiography Day.

### World Science Day for Peace and Development

- World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It is celebrated every on 10 November,
- World Science Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001 and celebrated for the first time in 2002.

### Public Service Broadcasting Day being celebrated

- Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated on November 12. The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.



- The Father of the Nation addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.

### World Pneumonia Day

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- World Pneumonia Day is marked every year on November 12th.
- World Pneumonia Day provides an annual forum for the world to stand together and demand action in the fight against pneumonia. More than 100 organizations representing the interests of children joined forces as the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia to hold the first World Pneumonia Day on 2 November 2009.

### World Diabetes Day being observed

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- World Diabetes Day is observed every year on November 14.
- The day is observed by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization on November 14 in response to the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day this year, as well as next year, is The Family and Diabetes.

### World Philosophy Day

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- In 2005 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that World Philosophy Day would be celebrated every third Thursday of November. It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002.
- By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.

### National Press Day

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- National Press Day – The 16th of November – is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India. This was the day on which the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that not only did the press maintain the high standards expected from this powerful medium but also that it was not fettered by the influence or threats of any extraneous factors.
- To this end the Press Council of India was established and the body that was evolved since November 16, 1966 has not belied the objective.

### International Students' Day

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- International Students' Day is an international observance of the student community, held annually on November 17. Originally commemorating the Nazi storming of Czech universities in 1939 and the subsequent killing and sending of students to concentration camps, it is now marked by a number of universities, sometimes on a day other than November 17, as a nonpolitical celebration of the multiculturalism of their international students.

### World Toilet Day

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- World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030.

### Qaumi Ekta Week begins to promote communal harmony (19th November-25th November)

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- Qaumi Ekta Week is being observed across the country from 19<sup>th</sup> November to 25<sup>th</sup> November to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony and national integration.
- The observation of the week will help to highlight the inherent strength and resilience of the nation to withstand actual and potential threats to the eclectic and secular fabric of the country.

### Universal Children's Day: 20 November

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- United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

### World Television Day

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- The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed in many places around the world on November 21.

- The day recognizes that television plays a major role in presenting different issue that affect people.

### **Jharkhand Day being celebrated**

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- **Jharkhand Day** is celebrated at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.
- **Jharkhand** is the focus state at this year's IFFI. This is for the first time that any state has been made focus state at the festival.

### **Communal Harmony Campaign Week & Flag Day being observed by National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) from 19th to 25th November**

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- National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) is observing the Communal Harmony Campaign and Fund Raising Week from 19th to 25th November 2018 and the Flag Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and fervour.
- Publicity material like Flag stickers, wrappers, posters, brochures, pamphlets etc. were dispatched to about 1.23 lakh units for appropriately marking of this significant occasion all over the country during year 2018 including all States / UTs including all Ministries / Departments, Central Public Sector Undertakings, paramilitary organizations, Universities, educational institutions, Nationalized Banks, etc. Out of these one Lakh units were educational institutions.

### **Indian Mission in Nepal observes Maulana Azad and ITEC Day on 22nd November**

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- The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu celebrated Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Day and Maulana Azad Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **Constitution Day of India- 26th November**

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- On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November**

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- On 7 February 2000, the UN General Assembly adopts resolution designating 25 November as the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and in doing so, inviting governments, international organizations as well as NGOs to join together and organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the issue every year on that date.

### **National Milk Day – 26 November**

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- In 2014, all the dairy majors of the country, along with the Indian Dairy Association, resolved to observe Kurien's birthday, November 26, as National Milk Day.

### **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare: 30 November**

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- The Conference of the States Parties at its 20th Session decided that a Memorial Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare would be observed on 30 November each year or, when appropriate, on the first day of the regular session of the Conference.

## QUESTIONS

1. The Uttar Pradesh government in assistance from \_\_\_\_\_ government will develop 'Food Value Chain' in the state.  
(a) China (b) Malaysia (c) Japan (d) Indonesia
2. Recently, Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Asthma Manual for Schools in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Lucknow
3. Recently, Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal distributed prizes for cleanliness among Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain Units for maintaining, promoting and encouraging Swachhta Culture. Which of the following food parks was awarded the first prize?  
(a) Patanjali Food and Herbal Park (P) Ltd. in Haridwar  
(b) Satara Mega Food Park (P) Ltd., Satara District, Maharashtra  
(c) Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt.(P) Ltd. (Cold Chain Project) in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab  
(d) Both (a) and (c)
4. Name the Indian actor, who resigned from the post as the chairperson of Film & Television Institute of India, Pune?  
(a) Mukesh Khanna (b) Anupam Kher (c) Rishi Kapoor (d) Anil Kapoor
5. Recently, the Saura Jalandidhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land was launched in which of the following Indian states?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Maharashtra
6. Recently, which of the following states launched "Samruddhi" an entrepreneurship and skill development scheme, for economically and socially underprivileged youth of small towns of the state?  
(a) Karnataka (b) Punjab (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Uttar Pradesh
7. What is the current rank of India in the latest ranking of the Global Passport Index?  
(a) 17th (b) 23rd (c) 35th (d) 66th
8. In the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2018, the rank of India is:  
(a) 46th (b) 77th (c) 89th (d) 94th
9. Who among the following has been named the brand ambassador of the marquee event being hosted by India for only the second time?  
(a) Vinesh Phogat (b) Mary Kom (c) Anirban Lahiri (d) Deepika Kumari
10. Which of the following companies is the official partner for Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2018, scheduled to be held at Kalinga Stadium from November 28 to December 16?  
(a) Tata Consultancy Services (b) Tata Steel  
(c) Reliance Industries Limited (d) Oil India Limited
11. Which of the following Indian states launched the much-awaited Early Warning Dissemination System, the first-of-its-kind technology in India, to simultaneously warn the coastal region?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Odisha

12. Recently, The Union Cabinet has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda" located in:  
(a) Odisha (b) Assam (c) Nagaland (d) Chhattisgarh
13. Recently on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018, the National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with UN Habitat to organize a policy dialogue- 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' was organized in:  
(a) Haridwar (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Rishikesh
14. Which of the following countries will host the 2019 Women's World Boxing Championship?  
(a) Russia (b) France (c) Germany (d) Uganda
15. The World Corporate Games 2019 will be held for the first time in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Doha (c) Moscow (d) Paris
16. Which of the following countries announced the decision to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) recently?  
(a) Fiji (b) Haiti (c) Zaire (d) Botswana
17. Which of the following Indian films has been included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list recently?  
(a) Pather Panchali (b) Do Beegha Jameen  
(c) Do Aankhen Barah Haath (d) Mother India
18. 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' is observed every year on:  
(a) 29th October (b) 31st October (c) 2nd November (d) 5th November
19. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced major steps including 59-minute loan portal for sanction of up to \_\_\_\_\_ rupees for small and medium enterprises (MSME).  
(a) 25 Lakhs (b) 50 Lakhs (c) 75 Lakhs (d) 1 Crore
20. Recently, The first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health was held in:  
(a) Washington D.C. (b) New York (c) Geneva (d) Paris
21. Which of the following pioneering Indian institutes have designed and boot up India's first microprocessor, Shakti, which could be used in mobile computing and other devices?  
(a) IISc Bengaluru (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Kharagpur
22. According to the research by U.S. Department of Agriculture, the compounds derived from which of the following are better than diethyltoluamide (DEET) at preventing disease transmission and discomfort associated with insect bites?  
(a) Coconut Oil (b) Kerosene Oil (c) Mustard Oil (d) Neem Oil
23. 'Exercise Dharma Guardian-2018' is a joint military exercise between the armies of:  
(a) India and Maldives (b) India and China (c) India and Japan (d) India and Nepal
24. Recently, Scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have claimed the record for decoding the world's longest DNA sequence.  
(a) Russia (b) UK (c) USA (d) China
25. Which of the following countries successfully launched a high orbit satellite to boost its home-grown BeiDou global satellite navigation system recently?  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Vietnam (d) Maldives



26. Which of the following Indian business groups has received licence from the Reserve Bank to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC) recently?  
(a) Piramal Group (b) Hiranandani Group (c) Jindal Group (d) Kirloskar Group
27. Recently, Videocitta 2018, an event focussing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc. was organized in:  
(a) Paris (b) London (c) Rome (d) Milan
28. India and Japan signs a Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1817 crore for the 'Project for the Construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I)'contributing to the Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in the State of:  
(a) West Bengal (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Punjab
29. Which among the following countries has become the first country in the world to ban "reef-toxic" sunscreens?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Mexico (d) Palau
30. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), including India, has established an internship programme in honour of former South African president\_\_\_\_\_, who is widely recognised as the initiator of IORA.  
(a) Nelson Mandela (b) Thabo Mbeki  
(c) Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe (d) Jacob Zuma
31. Which among the following countries was officially opened the biggest airport in the world?  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) USA (d) Turkey
32. How many Indian films are listed in the BBC 100 best foreign-language films of the 21st century?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 5 (d) 7
33. Researchers from \_\_\_\_\_have used an artificial intelligence program named 'ClARAN' to recognise faces on Facebook to identify galaxies in deep space.  
(a) Australia (b) USA (c) India (d) Israel
34. Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (Orion MPCV) spacecraft launched by:  
(a) ISRO (b) JAXA (c) NASA (d) CERN
35. Which among the following countries will host its first-ever Formula One race in April 2020?  
(a) Mexico (b) Norway (c) Denmark (d) Vietnam
36. The National Green Tribunal has ordered a four-member committee to conduct an inspection near the Polavaram dam in:  
(a) West Bengal (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Punjab
37. M Mukundan has been selected for 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram'. This is the highest literary award of:  
(a) West Bengal (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Punjab
38. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan was sworn in as the Chief Justice of\_\_\_\_\_ High Court.  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Punjab
39. The Fourth Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, People's Republic of China was held in:  
(a) Shanghai (b) Mumbai (c) Beijing (d) New Delhi

40. Gen.(Dr.) VK Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, attended the 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting held in:  
(a) Durban (b) New York (c) Tokyo (d) New Delhi
41. The Changsha Declaration is associated with which among the following:  
(a) BRICS (b) South-South cooperation  
(c) ASEAN (d) SCO
42. Which among the following has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies?  
(a) RBI (b) SEBI (c) Ministry of Finance (d) Both a and c
43. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) restricted the exposure of a bank through partial credit enhancements (PCEs) to bonds issued by each such NBFC or HFC to \_\_\_\_\_ of capital funds of the bank within the current single and group borrower exposure limits.  
(a) 1% (b) 5% (c) 10% (d) 15%
44. OSIRIS-REx spacecraft is associated with which among the following space agencies?  
(a) ISRO (b) JAXA (c) NASA (d) CERN
45. The Indian Coast Guard has launched a new offshore patrol vessel called 'ICGS Varaha' from a corporate shipyard near:  
(a) Chennai (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Vishakhapatnam
46. Simone Biles made history by picking up her record \_\_\_\_\_ career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships when she cruised to victory in the vault final.  
(a) 10th (b) 11th (c) 12th (d) 13th
47. 'Little India Gate', the first-of-its-kind structure was inaugurated in:  
(a) Indonesia (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) Japan
48. Which among the following state government has declared a war on drugs affecting a significant number of people in the state in November 2018?  
(a) Nagaland (b) Manipur (c) Goa (d) Punjab
49. The Union Cabinet chaired has given ex-post facto approval for moving a Resolution in the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of:  
(a) African Union (b) European Union (c) United Nations (d) Both a and b
50. South Korea and the \_\_\_\_\_ resumed their combined marine drills for the first time since they were suspended in June to support diplomacy with North Korea over its denuclearization.  
(a) United States (b) India (c) Japan (d) China
51. In a first for India, British banking major HSBC has executed a trade finance transaction involving an export by \_\_\_\_\_ to an American client using the blockchain.  
(a) Mahindra Group (b) Reliance Industries (c) Tata Group (d) Mittal Group

52. The Sharjah FDI Office, Invest in Sharjah, has organised the Sharjah-India Business Roundtable. Sharjah is most famous city in:  
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Qatar (c) UAE (d) Bahrain
53. India's first nuclear armed submarine is:  
(a) INS Virat (b) INS Arihant (c) INS Vikram (d) INS Tarini
54. Masters Men's Singles title is associated with which among the following?  
(a) Tennis\* (b) Badminton (c) Table Tennis (d) Football
55. Who has been elected as the president of International Boxing Association (AIBA)?  
(a) Robert Brown (b) Ho Kim  
(c) CK Wu (d) Gafur Rakhimov
56. The Bihar cabinet gave its nod for redevelopment of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) into a world's largest \_\_\_\_\_ bed hospital at an estimated cost of Rs 5540.07 crore.  
(a) 4462 (b) 5462 (c) 6462 (d) 7462
57. Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on:  
(a) 4th November (b) 5th November (c) 6th November (d) 7th November
58. Which of the following states launched the technology-driven and citizen-friendly Mo bus service featuring free wi-fi, CCTV surveillance, public information display system and on board announcements?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Odisha (d) Telangana
59. Which of the following Indian ministries set up an online marketing portal for unique organic products of the women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country, besides serving as an e-platform to bring them together and promote and celebrate their achievements?  
(a) Home Ministry (b) Defence Ministry  
(c) Women and Child Development Ministry (d) Commerce Ministry
60. Recently, India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for another:  
(a) One year (b) Two year (c) Three year (d) Four year
61. Recently, the Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalised farmers in:  
(a) Odisha (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Maharashtra
62. The RCEP is a proposed trade agreement between the \_\_\_\_\_ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and their six free trade agreement partners.  
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 10
63. Which among the following has launched the report, 'Beyond the Top 200', sets out how India's new higher education policy could accelerate India's rise to superpower status by enabling young Indians to receive the world's best higher education in India?  
(a) UNDP (b) ASEAN  
(c) UNSC (d) UK India Business Council

64. The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed annually on:  
(a) 1st November (b) 2nd November (c) 4th November (d) 6th November
65. Who has been honored with the Maharashtra government's Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement award in the field of theatre recently?  
(a) Deepant Kulkarni (b) Prashant Kulhari (c) Achyut Patwardhan (d) Jayant Sawarkar
66. Which event organised to mark Diwali celebration that has entered Guinness Book of World Records?  
(a) Prayagraj Deepostav 2018, (b) Ayodhya Deepostav 2018  
(c) Lucknow Deepostav 2018, (d) Rameshwaram Deepostav 2018,
67. Who has been sworn in as the chairperson of Meghalaya's first Lokayukta?  
(a) Justice (Retd) Deepak Kulsheshta (b) Justice (Retd) Anang Gogoi  
(c) Justice (Retd) Pranoy Kumar Musahary (d) Justice (Retd) Janardan Rane
68. Which Indian state government has decided to observe 'Rosogolla Day' on November 14 to commemorate the first anniversary of the State's famous sweet getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag?  
(a) Odisha (b) West Bengal (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Bihar
69. Which among the following International organizations has issued stamps with Diyas lamps to mark the celebration of Deepawali?  
(a) UN (b) ASEAN (c) SAARC (d) Both (a) and (b)
70. Which of the following will establish an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019 to take the load off the increasing number of complaints currently being handled by the banking ombudsman?  
(a) Corporate Affairs Ministry (b) SIDBI  
(c) RBI (d) Finance Ministry
71. Which of the following countries unveiled a replica of its first permanently crewed space station?  
(a) India (b) China (c) New Zealand (d) Australia
72. Who became the first batsman to score four Twenty20 International (T20I) centuries recently?  
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Shikhar Dhawan (d) Suresh Raina
73. The International Day of Radiology is an annual event celebrated every year on:  
(a) 4th November (b) 6th November (c) 7th November (d) 8th November
74. Which US political party won in midterm congressional election as they took control of the U.S. House of Representatives?  
(a) Democratic Party (b) Republic Party (c) Green Party (d) Officex Party
75. Who has been honoured with 'Global Education Award' by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', Flagship Company of Malabar Group in Dubai?  
(a) A.R. Rehman (b) Bappi Lahiri (c) Anand Kumar (d) Deepak Rana
76. The ICC Women's World T20 is being held in:  
(a) United Kingdom (b) West Indies (c) New Zealand (d) USA



77. Recently, In its report titled 'Global Macro Outlook 2019-20', Moody's said the Indian economy will grow at \_\_\_\_\_ in 2019.  
(a) 5.6% (b) 6.1% (c) 6.7% (d) 7.3%
78. Recently, US Attorney General \_\_\_\_\_ has resigned from the post at the request of President Donald Trump.  
(a) Johnson Wiggs (b) Jeff Sessions (c) Jefferson Monte (d) Dimper Wiggs
79. Recently, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and \_\_\_\_\_ have entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 a world with zero hunger.  
(a) Flipkart (b) Amazon (c) Alibaba (d) Paytm
80. Who has been named as new chairperson to replace Elon Musk in Tesla?  
(a) Meryl Streps (b) Robyn Denholm (c) Johnthone Deprs (d) Vestrel Moops
81. Recently, Union Cabinet has given in principle approval for leasing out how many airports through Public Private Partnership?  
(a) Two Airports (b) Three Airports (c) Four Airports (d) Six Airports
82. Which of the following states celebrated its 18th Foundation Day on 9th November 2018?  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Jharkhand (d) Madhya Pradesh
83. Recently, which Indian state government has approved a proposal to pay Rs 25,000 to every girl graduating in 2018 and onwards?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Bihar (d) Chhattisgarh
84. Name the Indian mountaineer, who has been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.  
(a) Devika Arora (b) Santosh Kumari (c) Arunima Sinha (d) Deepti Kalra
85. Name the woman cricketer, who became the first Indian woman to score a century in T20 International match?  
(a) Smriti Mandhana (b) Jemima Rodriguez (c) Mithali Raj (d) Harmanpreet Kaur
86. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a Multi-Modal Terminal on River Ganga in:  
(a) Kanpur (b) Fatehpur (c) Prayagraj (d) Varanasi
87. SIMBEX is a Maritime Bilateral Exercise between which of the following two countries?  
(a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Indonesia (c) India and Singapore (d) India and Malaysia
88. Recently, The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities 2018 was inaugurated by:  
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Santosh Gangwar  
(c) Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot (d) Shri Krishan Pal Gujjar
89. Recently, Scientists have created bionic device that generates green power by 3D-printing clusters of cyanobacteria on an ordinary white button\_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Silicon (b) Mushroom (c) Fern (d) Mango Bark
90. The East Asia Summit-2018, an influential bloc which delves into political, security and trade-related issues in the Asia-Pacific region is scheduled to be organized in:  
(a) Vietnam (b) Cambodia (c) Singapore (d) Laos

91. Recently, President Maithripala Sirisena dissolved the 225-member Parliament, paving the way for snap elections about two years ahead of schedule. Maithripala Sirisena is the incumbent President of:  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Haiti (c) Cuba (d) Fiji
92. Name the players, who have won Gold medal creating a world record in the 10 meter air pistol mixed team junior event at 11th Asian Airgun Championships in Kuwait?  
(a) Manu Bhakar and Deepak Joshi (b) Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary  
(c) Deepika Rai and Ankush Jain (d) Shristhi Jindal and Prakash Rane
93. Recently, which of the following Indian states launched GPS mapping of government schools and Personnel Location System?  
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Sikkim
94. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated two important national highways in:  
(a) Basti (b) Varanasi (c) Bhuj (d) Laddakh
95. According to a recent research published under the US-based organisation, National bureau of economic research (NBER), which of the following cities tops the index for most congested city in India?  
(a) Pune (b) Bengaluru (c) Lucknow (d) New Delhi
96. Which of the following states will have a separate High Court from January 2019 as the Supreme Court has given the green signal for issuing the notification to this effect?  
(a) Nagaland (b) Sikkim (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana
97. Recently, The Election Commission has set up 'Sangwari' polling booths in various constituencies of \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections.  
(a) Telangana (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
98. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and NBCC (India) Ltd have signed the share purchase agreement for the transfer of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent shareholding of HSCC to NBCC.  
(a) 55 (b) 64 (c) 86 (d) 100
99. Who has been newly appointed as the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?  
(a) Suresh Chandra (b) Alok Verma (c) Deepak Rajaura (d) Ashok Kumar Gupta
100. Who won the 'Comeback Player of the Year Award' at the ATP World Tour Awards 2018?  
(a) Roger Federer (b) Andy Murray (c) Rafael Nadal (d) Novak Djokovic
101. Recently the restoration work at which of the following places has won a UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation?  
(a) Gangtok (b) Ladakh (c) Patan (d) Hyderabad
102. Who among the following has been conferred with France's highest civilian honour 'Knight of the Legion of Honour' recently?  
(a) Sachin Pilot (b) Jawahar Lal Sarin (c) Bhaskar Nagar (d) Deepak Rajawat
103. Who has been newly appointed as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court?  
(a) Justice Mayank Markandey (b) Justice Govind Mathur  
(c) Justice Puspesh Ahuja (d) Justice Shakti Raheja

104. Recently, study group has been formed to identify cases of which of the following diseases across the country?  
(a) Cancer (b) Diabetes (c) Dermatitis (d) Fungal Infections
105. Recently, which of the following countries unveiled World's first AI news anchor?  
(a) USA (b) Canada (c) China (d) Japan
106. Name the country, which has banned "reef-toxic" sunscreens from 2020 in what it claims is a world-first initiative to stop chemical pollution killing its famed corals.  
(a) Panama (b) Palau (c) Monaco (d) Vietnam
107. Name NASA's space instrument, which is set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, which are remnants from the early days of the solar system.  
(a) Deeti (b) Ralph (c) Fettes (d) Muksert
108. Name the Indian origin cricketer, who has been appointed captain of the US national cricket team.  
(a) Sukhbir Malla (b) Rajesh Nitamer (c) Deepak Mukherjee (d) Saurabh Netravalkar
109. Name the Indian wrestler, who is now the top-ranked wrestler in men's freestyle 65kg category according to the latest United World Wrestling (UWW) rankings?  
(a) Sushil Kumar (b) Mukul Dutta (c) Dibanker Rana (d) Bajranj Punia
110. The 24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) was inaugurated by:  
(a) Amitabh Bacchhan (b) Anil Kapoor (c) Saurav Ganguly (d) Sachin Tendulkar
111. Name the Indian journalist, who has won the Reporters without Borders (RSF) Press Freedom Award for Courage recently.  
(a) Anjana Om Kashyap (b) Amit Panchal  
(c) Swati Chaturvedi (d) Ravish Kumar
112. Recently, World Science Day for Peace and Development was celebrated on:  
(a) 5th November (b) 7th November (c) 8th November (d) 10th November
113. Name the world's largest supercomputer, which has been designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time.  
(a) Dipstry (b) Geritre (c) SpiNNaker (d) Spiyteres
114. Recently, BHEL fully commissioned 120 MW Pulichintala hydro power plant in which of the following states of India?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Telangana (d) Assam
115. Shri Ramayana Yatra, the pilgrimage circuit will have two travel components one in India and other one in:  
(a) Nepal (b) Sri Lanka (c) Afghanistan (d) Myanmar
116. 'Samudra Shakti' is a Navy Bilateral Exercise being held between:  
(a) India and Malaysia (b) India and Indonesia (c) India and Singapore (d) India and Vietnam
117. Recently, North East's first 'floating water handloom huts' were inaugurated in:  
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Tripura
118. Who won the China Open Men's singles badminton championship recently?  
(a) Chou Tien-chen (b) Parrupalli Kashyap (c) Kento Momota (d) Chai In Tzing

119. Recently, Union Minister Ananth Kumar passed away in Bengaluru. He was the Union Cabinet Minister of:  
(a) Chemicals and Fertilizers (b) Power  
(c) Labour and Employment (d) Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
120. In India, Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 10th November (b) 7th October (c) 31st October (d) 12th November
121. Who won the Brazilian Grand Prix Formula One Championship recently?  
(a) Daniel Ricciardo (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Max Verstappen (d) Kimi Räikkönen
122. Name the Indian mountaineer, who became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe - the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.  
(a) Dibaker Bannerjee (b) Satyarup Siddhanta (c) Vishwanayak Rana (d) Abhishek Bhattacharya
123. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is hosted a conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018 in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Chennai
124. The joint military exercise "EXERCISE INDRA 2018" on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) is being conducted between:  
(a) Indian and Russia (b) India and Germany (c) India and France (d) India and Japan
125. The Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the "Hunar Haat-2018" in:  
(a) Lucknow (b) Bengaluru (c) New Delhi (d) Gurugram
126. Recently, Amnesty International stripped its highest honour, the Ambassador of Conscience Award from:  
(a) Dalai Lama (b) Nawaz Sharif (c) Donald Trump (d) Aung San Suu Kyi
127. Recently, who has been appointed by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific?  
(a) Amarjeet Rana (b) Siddharth Tiwari (c) Atul Nagar (d) Deepak Singh Lajat
128. Who won their sixth Fed Cup title in eight years?  
(a) France (b) United Kingdom (c) Germany (d) Czech Republic
129. Recently, Binny Bansal has announced his resignation as the CEO of:  
(a) Flipkart (b) Paytm (c) Amazon India (d) Ebay
130. World Pneumonia Day is marked every year on:  
(a) 3rd November (b) 6th November (c) 9th November (d) 12th November
131. Recently, who has been honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi?  
(a) Late Dr. Alex Jonathan (b) Late Dr. Martha Farrell  
(c) Late Dr. Lexocon Merey (d) Late Anantha Janre
132. Who among the following launched the Leadership for Academicians Programme, LEAP and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching, ARPIT in New Delhi recently?  
(a) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (b) Satya Pal Singh  
(c) Piyush Goyal (d) Narendra Modi



133. Recently, NITI Aayog and UNICEF launched UNICEF- Atal Tinkering Lab Hackthon to encourage \_\_\_\_\_ towards making new innovations.  
(a) Children (b) Older and Adults (c) Physically Abled (d) Both (b) and (c)
134. According to the International Energy Agency's latest World Energy Outlook, which of the following country will overtake the U.S. to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030?  
(a) China (b) India (c) Brazil (d) Indonesia
135. Recently, ISRO's heavy-lift rocket GSLV-Mark-Three has proven its reliability by successfully launching the communication satellite:  
(a) GSAT-19 (b) GSAT-23 (c) GSAT-29 (d) GSAT-32
136. Which of the following countries will participate in the 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit', as a partner country for the second consecutive year?  
(a) UAE (b) Portugal (c) Netherlands (d) Saudi Arabia
137. Which Indian American has been appointed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by Brett Kavanaugh's elevation to the U.S. Supreme Court?  
(a) Deepika Ram (b) Shritika Rai (c) Neomi Rao (d) Bhumika Raheja
138. Who has appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador recently?  
(a) Manika Batra (b) Deepika Pallikal (c) Hima Das (d) Swapna Burman
139. Which of the following famous footballer has won La Liga 2017-18 Player of the Year award recently?  
(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Neymar Jr. (c) Mohammad Saleh (d) Lionel Messi
140. World Diabetes Day is observed every year on:  
(a) 11th November (b) 12th November (c) 14th November (d) 16th November
141. NITI Aayog partnered with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to host a South Asian regional conference in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Bhopal
142. Which of the following has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region?  
(a) Home Ministry (b) NITI Aayog (c) Parliament (d) PMO
143. "Aadi Mahotsav" a National Tribal Festival is organized in:  
(a) Raipur (b) New Delhi (c) Ranchi (d) Secunderabad
144. Name the eminent journalist, who has been selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award.  
(a) Deepak Mathur (b) N Ram (c) Atul Nawalkar (d) Mithun Bhushan
145. Recently, Scientists have uncovered an asteroid impact crater, bigger than the area of Paris which is the first time that a crater of any size has been found under one of Earth's continental ice sheets in:  
(a) Antarctica (b) Greenland (c) Canada (d) Iceland

146. Recently, Astronomers have discovered a frozen planet with a mass over three times that of the Earth, orbiting the closest solitary star to the:  
(a) Jupiter (b) Mars (c) Saturn (d) Sun
147. Recently, Aabid Hameed became the lone gold medal winner (junior category, 55 kg) for India at the concluded World Kickboxing Championship in Argentina. He belongs to:  
(a) Assam (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Bihar (d) Maharashtra
148. In 2005 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that World Philosophy Day would be celebrated:  
(a) Every third Tuesday of November (b) Every third Thursday of November  
(c) Every Fourth Friday of November (d) Every Fourth Sunday of November
149. Recently, which of the following Indian states withdrew the "general consent" granted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effectively curtailing the agency's powers in the State without prior permission?  
(a) Telangana (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
150. Which states has recently finalised its new emblem for official use which consists of "Dhamma Chakka" - "the Wheel of Law" embellished with a ring of Triratnas alternating with pinnate leaves and precious stones?  
(a) Odisha (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Haryana
151. Which of the following Indian states launched the 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state?  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana
152. Recently, The two-day summit to mark the World Tolerance Day was inaugurated in:  
(a) Abu Dhabi (b) Dubai (c) New Delhi (d) New York
153. Recently, United Nations Security Council has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against which of the following countries after nine years?  
(a) Senegal (b) The Gambia (c) Eritrea (d) Chad
154. Who won the inaugural Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Tournament in Kolkata?  
(a) Hikaru Nakamura (b) Viswanathan Anand (c) R Praggnanandhaa (d) Konneru Hampi
155. Recently, which of the following banks launched the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons?  
(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC bank (c) IndusInd Bank (d) ICICI Bank
156. Recently, which of the following Indian billiards players won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format, taking his overall tally of world titles to 20?  
(a) Geet Sethi (b) Michael Ferreira (c) Pankaj Advani (d) Subhash Agarwal
157. Recently, the Women's World Boxing Championships began in:  
(a) Istanbul (b) Dhaka (c) New Delhi (d) Karachi
158. India's first specialized hospital for elephants was formally opened in:  
(a) Mathura (b) Mumbai (c) Chennai (d) Pune
159. Central government will give employers the salaries for \_\_\_\_\_ of the 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 a month.  
(a) Five (b) Six (c) Seven (d) Ten

160. A four-day regional meeting of the World Customs Organisation began in:  
(a) Jaipur (b) Tokyo (c) New York (d) Geneva
161. Who has been appointed as the new Brexit Secretary?  
(a) Philip Hammond (b) David Lidington (c) Stephen Barclay (d) David Gauke
162. India and China held the ninth Annual Defence and Security Dialogue in \_\_\_\_\_ after a one-year gap due to the Doklam standoff as both countries agreed to enhance military exchanges and interactions.  
(a) New Delhi (b) Beijing (c) Shanghai (d) Mumbai
163. The government of India and the \_\_\_\_\_ signs three separate loans in one day of worth USD 574 million in the capital of India to support the projects India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) in India, water and sanitation services in Tamil Nadu, and Hydropower Transmission in Himachal Pradesh.  
(a) WTO (b) Asian Development Bank  
(c) World Bank (d) IMF
164. Which among the following countries has built an 'artificial sun' that reaches temperature six times that of the core of our closest star in November 2018?  
(a) India (b) USA (c) China (d) France
165. The first reactor of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP), which was stopped on August 1 for the mandatory third annual fuel outage, resumed power generation. This reactor is located in:  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Andhra Pradesh
166. International Students' Day is an international observance of the student community, held annually on:  
(a) November 14 (b) November 15 (c) November 16 (d) November 17
167. Who has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018 by His Highness Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, member of the Cabinet and Minister of State for Tolerance, UAE?  
(a) Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati (b) Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
(c) Dr . Vinod Kumar (d) Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan
168. Which of the following states has rolled out 'KOOL', its Online Open Learning training platform used to train teachers, students and the general public?  
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Telangana
169. The joint military exercise between India and Russia, 'INDRA 2018' aimed at combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) began in:  
(a) Bhopal (b) Jhansi (c) Indore (d) Dehradun
170. Who has been appointed as the Lokayukta of West Bengal recently?  
(a) Justice Jeevan Mohapatra (b) Justice Anand Malhotra  
(c) Justice Asim Kumar Roy (d) Justice Bipin Kumar Roy
171. Recently, which of the following African countries inaugurated First Ever High Speed Train Line in African Continent?  
(a) The Gambia (b) Chad (c) Senegal (d) Morocco
172. Who has been appointed as the new Secretary of Department of Revenue on superannuation of Hasmukh Adhia on November 30?  
(a) Deepak Bharadwaj (b) Gautam Narlikar (c) AB Pandey (d) Amitabh Bhattacharya

173. Which of the following panels incorporates 'Sashakt India AMC' for large NPAs?  
(a) Sumit Gadgil Panel (b) Sunil Mehta Panel (c) Amit Panchal Panel (d) Arjun Dandi Panel
174. Who won the Bengaluru Open, professional tennis tournament recently?  
(a) Saketh Myneni (b) Prajnesh Gunneswaran  
(c) Rohan Bopanna (d) Sriresh Rawat
175. Recently, T.S. Kanaka, died in Chennai after a brief illness. T.S.Kanaka was India's first woman:  
(a) Heart Surgeon (b) Neurosurgeon  
(c) Chief Justice of a State (d) Pediatrician
176. Recently, the AYUSH Ministry celebrated its first Naturopathy Day across the country on:  
(a) 15th November (b) 10th November (c) 16th November (d) 18th November
177. Who among the following has been presented with the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' recently?  
(a) Asha Bhosle (b) Sonu Nigam (c) Ustad Zakir Hussain (d) Ustad Amjad Ali Khan
178. Recently, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar Section of the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Western Peripheral Expressway in:  
(a) Gurugram (b) Faridabad (c) New Delhi (d) Kolkata
179. Who among the following has launched the upgraded version of Air Sewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi?  
(a) Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi  
(b) Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu  
(c) Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh  
(d) President, Ramnath Kovind
180. Which among the following Indian states launched Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan or Women Empowerment campaign?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Karnataka
181. Which of the following country's cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping recently?  
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Sri Lanka (d) New Zealand
182. Recently, Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the All India Heads of Police Communication Conference on 'Modernization of Police Communication and Challenges in:  
(a) Jaipur (b) Bhopal (c) Raipur (d) New Delhi
183. Recently, which has launched a mobile application and web-based platform goBID for retail investors to buy government securities?  
(a) BSE (b) NSE (c) RBI (d) SEBI
184. The government will set up Animation, Gaming and Visual effects Institute in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) New Delhi



185. Who stunned world number one Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win the season-ending ATP Tennis Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career?  
(a) Peter Tsonga (b) Andy Murray (c) Alexander Zverev (d) Alexandere Makharev
186. Global internet Body ICANN-supported UASG conferred "Universal Acceptance Thought Leader award" to \_\_\_\_\_ for enabling email service for citizens of the state in local script.  
(a) Yogi Adityanath (b) Raghubar Das (c) Sarbananda Sonowal (d) Vasundhara Raje
187. World Toilet Day is observed across the globe every year on:  
(a) 15th November (b) 16th November (c) 19th November (d) 20th November
188. Recently, the foundation of the country's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University was laid in:  
(a) Palwal (b) Gonda (c) Bastar (d) Tirupati
189. Recently, The 12-day long joint military exercise known as 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur. It is a joint military exercise between:  
(a) India and Russia (b) India and Germany  
(c) India and United States (d) India and the United Kingdom
190. Recently, Indian-American Shantanu Narayen has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list. Shantanu Narayan is the present CEO of:  
(a) Google (b) Facebook (c) Paytm (d) Adobe
191. Recently, the fourth edition of Intex South Asia, the largest international textile sourcing show in South Asia was organized in:  
(a) Seychelles (b) Sri Lanka (c) Maldives (d) Mauritius
192. According to global annual talent ranking released by IMD Business School Switzerland, the present rank of India is:  
(a) 23rd (b) 32nd (c) 43rd (d) 53rd
193. Recently, Researchers from which of the following IIT's have devised a computer programme 'Decision Support System' (DSS) that will help maximise LPG connections in BPL households in the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana'?  
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Kharagpur
194. Recently, the 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in:  
(a) Patna (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Lucknow
195. Name the first Indian golfer, who has won the 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year' award recently.  
(a) Anirban Lahiri (b) Jeev Milkha Singh (c) Shubhankar Sharma (d) Shiv Kapur
196. "Universal Children's Day" is observed every year on:  
(a) 11th November (b) 14th November (c) 17th November (d) 20th November
197. Recently, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Institution's Innovation Council through video conferencing in:  
(a) Kolkata (b) New Delhi (c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad
198. Which of the following Indian states accorded its approval to implement Sashakt Mahila Yojna with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organisation and socio-economic development?  
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Assam (d) Andhra Pradesh

199. Which of the following Indian states launched a web portal "Bhudaar" which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers just like Aadhar number?  
(a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Kerala
200. Recently, Voreqe Bainimarama was affirmed as the Prime Minister of:  
(a) Panama (b) Finland (c) Fiji (d) Suriname
201. Recently, who has been elected as Interpol President for a two-year term?  
(a) Kim Jong Yang (b) Dibakar Bannerjee (c) Alexander Zuevarev (d) Kirshokersh Mosdger
202. Which of the following countries along with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organised an exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018?  
(a) Bhutan (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka (d) Mauritius
203. The first ever Virtual Climate Summit of world leaders is held entirely online to ensure it is carbon neutral. The conclusions of the summit will be presented at a major international United Nations meeting on climate change that will be held in:  
(a) France (b) Poland (c) Finland (d) Sweden
204. Recently, who has topped the Grohe Hurun India Real Estate Rich list 2018 with a total wealth of Rs. 27,150 crore?  
(a) Jitendra Virwani (b) Rajiv Singh  
(c) Mangal Prabhat Lodha (d) Renuka Talwar
205. Who has won Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development- 2018, an award conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary?  
(a) UNHCR (b) Indian Space Research Organisation  
(c) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) (d) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
206. Recently, who has been named UNICEF's youngest-ever goodwill ambassador?  
(a) Emma Watson (b) Millie Bobby Brown (c) Kylie Jener (d) Natalie Portman
207. "Foal Eagle" is a joint military exercise organized between which of the following two countries?  
(a) Russia and China (b) North Korea and USA  
(c) South Korea and USA (d) North Korea and South Korea
208. "Kartarpur Corridor" is a proposed border-corridor between which of the following two countries?  
(a) India and Afghanistan (b) India and Pakistan (c) India and Nepal (d) India and China
209. Jezero Crater delta, where the sediments contain clays and carbonates is located at:  
(a) Antarctica (b) Mars (c) Jupiter (d) Greenland
210. Name world's first medical imaging scanner, which can capture a 3D picture of the entire human body at once.  
(a) EXPLORER (b) RESEARCHER (c) SCANNER (d) DEVISOR
211. Recently, which country clinched the 59th edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament (Junior Boys category)?  
(a) Afghanistan (b) Bangladesh (c) Nepal (d) India
212. The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed in many places around the world on:  
(a) 15th November (b) 17th November (c) 18th November (d) 21st November

213. Name the Bollywood actor, who has been awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.  
(a) Dharmendra (b) Jeetendra (c) Manoj Kumar (d) Amitabh Bachchan
214. Recently, who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Maharashtra's anti-obesity campaign?  
(a) Dr Deepak Vishwas (b) Dr Deshdeepak Rane (c) Dr Jagannath Dixit (d) Dr Jugal Kishore Sharma
215. Who became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy?  
(a) Jalaj Saxena (b) Gautam Gambhir (c) Wasim Jaffer (d) Ayushman Rath
216. Who has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights?  
(a) Hima Das (b) Mary Com (c) Nahid Afrin (d) Devika Das
217. Which of the following states has topped the list of states with the highest employability as per the India Skills Report 2019?  
(a) Assam (b) Odisha (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
218. Recently, the population of which of the following Chinese city declined for the first time in two decades in 2017?  
(a) Shanghai (b) Beijing (c) Chengdu (d) Shenzhen
219. The European Investment Bank (EIB) will increase its support for India's wind energy projects by expanding the existing lending programmes with which of the following Indian banks?  
(a) State Bank of India (b) Union Bank of India (c) Punjab National Bank (d) Dena Bank
220. Recently, the 2nd Edition of India Gold and Jewellery Summit was inaugurated in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) New Delhi (d) Chennai
221. Recently, the scientists from which of the following institutes have built and flown the first-ever silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines?  
(a) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
(b) Sarajevo School of Science and Technology  
(c) ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)  
(d) California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
222. Which of the following states is the focus state at this year's International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Jharkhand
223. Which among the following state governments passed the bill to amend the anti-adulteration law to make it more stringent, prescribing life imprisonment and heavy penalty to curb food and milk adulteration in November 2018?  
(a) Kerala (b) Maharashtra (c) Karnataka (d) Andhra Pradesh
224. Bhadohi received a major boost as the government has extended the 'export excellence' tag to it. Bhadohi is a city located in:  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Haryana
225. Manama is the capital and largest city of:  
(a) Bahrain (b) Mexico (c) Yemen (d) Qatar

226. Which among the following Pharma companies has launched a chatbot named 'ANYA' designed to provide medically verified information for health-related queries?  
(a) Sun Pharma (b) Dr. Reddy's Pharma (c) Lupin Pharma (d) Shukla Pharma
227. Who has been appointed as the first brand ambassador of the Uber Eats?  
(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Alia Bhatt (c) Katrina Kaif (d) Aishwarya Rai
228. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain. The technology, called:  
(a) Water Future Forecasting Approach (b) Impact Based Forecasting Approach  
(c) Water Impact Forecasting Method (d) Water Accessing Forecasting Method
229. Who has become the first player in the history of T10 league to pick up a hat-trick against Kerala Knights?  
(a) Shahid Afridi (b) Pravin Tambe (c) Rashid Khan (d) Sandeep Lamichhane
230. 'Jangalmahal' is a three-day-long cultural festival associated with which among the following states of India?  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) West Bengal
231. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu celebrated Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Day and Maulana Azad Day on:  
(a) 22nd November (b) 23rd November (c) 24th November (d) 25th November
232. The 19th edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in:  
(a) France (b) Monaco (c) Serbia (d) Sweden
233. Name the Indian woman boxing champion, who claimed her sixth title in the World women's boxing championships in New Delhi recently.  
(a) Pinki Devi (b) Sarjubala Devi (c) M.C. Mary Kom (d) Laishram Sarita Devi
234. Recently, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was observed on:  
(a) 21st November (b) 23rd November (c) 19th November (d) 25th November
235. Who won the Women's World Twenty-20 title for the fourth time recently?  
(a) England (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) West Indies
236. According to a publication by the Zoological Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar islands comprise of only \_\_\_\_\_ of India's geographical area and are home to more than \_\_\_\_\_ of the country's fauna species.  
(a) 0.5% and 5% (b) 0.25% and 10% (c) 0.75% and 15% (d) 1.5% and 25%
237. Recently, the United Nations has selected Uttar Pradesh's \_\_\_\_\_ and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative.  
(a) Noida (b) Lucknow (c) Kanpur (d) Meerut
238. Recently, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled a 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha in:  
(a) Patna (b) Bhagalpur (c) Nalanda (d) Katihar
239. Recently, The Uttarakhand Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport after:  
(a) Deen Dayal Upadhyay (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
(c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (d) GMC Balyogi



240. The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue is held at:  
(a) Moscow (b) St. Petersburg (c) New Delhi (d) Kolkata
241. A week long 'Jhiri Mela' was inaugurated in which of the following states of India?  
(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Uttarakhand (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
242. Recently, the Baliyatra festival was inaugurated in:  
(a) West Bengal (b) Punjab (c) Odisha (d) Tamil Nadu
243. Who is the new Chief Election Commissioner of India?  
(a) Sachin Ganguly (b) Ashok Lavasa (c) Sunil Arora (d) Deepak Rajawat
244. Which is the centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)?  
(a) MoNEY (b) DhAN (c) PAiSA (d) RUpAYA
245. Recently, the National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- "Hausla 2018" was launched by which of the following Indian ministries?  
(a) Ministry of Labour and Employment (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development (d) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
246. Two months after the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which Indian state has emerged as the top performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme?  
(a) Assam (b) Gujarat (c) Rajasthan (d) Haryana
247. Recently, the world's first underground hotel has been opened in:  
(a) Ottawa (b) Berlin (c) Shanghai (d) Milan
248. Recently, Easyfone has introduced STAR, India's First Mobile Phone for:  
(a) Specially Abled (b) Sportsperson (c) Kids (d) Women Entrepreneurs
249. Name the Indian navratna company, which won the CII-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award and the jury's commendation for being a role-model organization.  
(a) Oil India Limited (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited  
(c) Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) (d) National Aluminium Company Limited
250. Recently, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$200 million loan to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in \_\_\_\_\_ to all-weather standards with road safety features.  
(a) Assam (b) Bihar (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Karnataka
251. Who won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Formula One recently?  
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Daniel Ricciardo (c) Sebastian Vettel (d) Max Verstappen
252. Recently, India has achieved a new spot on the Guinness World Records as 2,353 people, led by which of the following Bollywood actress had held the abdominal plank position for 60 seconds simultaneously?  
(a) Shilpa Shetty Kundra (b) Madhuri Dixit Nene  
(c) Vidya Balan Kapoor (d) Kareena Kapoor Khan

253. According to a new report by the International Labor Organization (ILO), which of the following countries recorded the highest average real wage growth in South Asia between 2008-17?  
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Sri Lanka (d) Maldives
254. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has reduced mandatory hedging requirement for borrowers raising overseas funds to:  
(a) 90 percent (b) 80 percent (c) 70 percent (d) 50 percent
255. Recently, who launched the logo and brochure of Logix India 2019 in New Delhi?  
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Suresh Prabhu (c) Ramnath Kovind (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
256. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), functioning under Ministry of Culture, Government of India was organised a 3 day 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' in partnership with UNESCO- MGIEP in:  
(a) Kolkata (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad
257. Recently, National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) has been conferred with the status of \_\_\_\_\_ by the Government of India.  
(a) Maharatna (b) Navratna  
(c) Miniratna : Category-I (d) Miniratna : Category-II
258. Name NASA's spacecraft, which is the first robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of a distant world, touched down safely on the surface of Mars.  
(a) InSight (b) OutSight (c) Rover (d) Maxlander
259. Recently, Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' in:  
(a) Panaji (b) Vellore (c) New Delhi (d) Nagpur
260. Who won the FIH Women's Hockey Champions Trophy held in China recently?  
(a) Australia (b) United Kingdom (c) The Netherlands (d) Germany
261. Who won the Davis Cup-2018 tournament recently?  
(a) United Kingdom (b) France (c) Croatia (d) Russia
262. Name the Indian Social Entrepreneur, who won the First UN Geospatial Ambassador Award recently.  
(a) Duleep Arora (b) Sanjay Kumar (c) Ankit Rajpoot (d) Sachin Rane
263. Which Indian state has emerged as the first state in the country to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) recently?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Gujarat (d) Himachal Pradesh
264. Recently, University Grants Commission has decided to set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science discipline. CARE will be headed by:  
(a) Union Home Minister (b) Union HRD Minister  
(c) UGC Chairman (d) UGC Vice Chairman
265. Who among the following Indian businessman was bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) recently?  
(a) Sunil Bharti Mittal (b) Shashi Ruia (c) Azim Premji (d) Shiv Nadar

266. Recently, the European Union has urged government, businesses, citizens and regions to join it in an ambitious plan to cut emissions and make the bloc carbon neutral by year:  
(a) 2025 (b) 2030 (c) 2040 (d) 2050
267. The 13th meeting of Group of Twenty (G20) is organized in:  
(a) Ottawa (b) Berlin (c) Buenos Aires (d) Tokyo
268. Which of the following IIT's launched India's first advanced personal robot for children called 'Miko 2' recently?  
(a) IIT Kanpur (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Delhi
269. ISRO launched the satellite HysIS from its spaceport at Sriharikota. 1 micro and 29 nano satellites of how many nations will also ride piggyback on it?  
(a) Four (b) Six (c) Eight (d) Twelve
270. Which of the following films won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?  
(a) Donbass (b) Maine (c) The Guilty (d) Redemption
271. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by the President of India?  
(a) (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar Joshi (b) Shri Bhim Sain Bassi  
(c) Shri Arvind Saxena (d) Ms. Smita Nagaraj
272. Who is the author of the book "Fables of Fractured Times" launched by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh recently?  
(a) Meenakshi Natrajan (b) Manish Tewari (c) Shashi Tharoor (d) Verappa Moily
273. Which has become the only NATO country to appoint a woman as head of its army recently?  
(a) Montenegro (b) Ukraine (c) Slovenia (d) Georgia
274. Recently, which Indian state was adjudged the best state at the 38th India International Trade Fair, New Delhi?  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Haryana (c) Tripura (d) Nagaland
275. Recently, the government has launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to \_\_\_\_\_ Indian languages.  
(a) 8 (b) 13 (c) 17 (d) 22
276. The Bilateral KONKAN exercise is a naval cooperation exercise between:  
(a) India and France (b) India and Germany  
(c) India and the United Kingdom (d) India and Russia
277. Recently, the Maharashtra assembly unanimously passed a bill proposing \_\_\_\_\_ reservation for Marathas under socially, educationally and economically backward category.  
(a) 6 per cent (b) 12 per cent (c) 16 per cent (d) 20 percent
278. According to the World Health Organization, which is the largest in history?  
(a) West Africa Outbreak (b) Chinese Civil War  
(c) Congo Ebola Outbreak (d) Indo- Pak war 1971
279. Recently, World's first genetically edited babies were created in:  
(a) United Kingdom (b) France (c) China (d) Japan

280. Who has retained the World Chess Championship title recently?  
(a) Vishwanathan Anand (b) Vladimir Kramnik  
(c) Magnus Carlsen (d) Fabiano Caruana
281. Who has been conferred this year's prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Classical Music?  
(a) Prabha Atre (b) Pandit Keshav Ginde  
(c) Pandit Jasraj (d) Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma
282. Recently, the jury of the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards has awarded the best film prize to:  
(a) Grass (b) Transit (c) Shoplifters (d) Unsane





## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c The Uttar Pradesh government in assistance from Japanese government will develop 'Food Value Chain' in the state.
2. a Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Asthma Manual for Schools in New Delhi.
3. a The first prize was awarded to M/s. Patanjali Food and Herbal Park (P) Ltd. in Haridwar, the second prize by Satara Mega Food Park (P) Ltd., Satara District, Maharashtra and third by Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt.(P) Ltd. (Cold Chain Project) in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab.
4. b The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has received letter from Shri Anupam Kher, Chairperson, Film & Television Institute of India, Pune in which Shri Kher has intimated his upcoming international shooting commitments.
5. c Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Soura Jananidhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
6. a The Social Welfare Department formally launched Samruddhi, Rs.800-crore entrepreneurship and skill development scheme, for economically and socially underprivileged youth of small towns.
7. d The Indian passport was ranked 66th in the world in the latest ranking of the Global Passport Index.
8. b India jumped 23 ranks in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2018 to 77. In the 2017 report, the country was ranked 100.
9. b Mary Kom, the five-time world champion, will not only be one of the 10 Indians in fray for a medal at the marquee event being hosted by India for only the second time ever, the previous being in 2006 but has also been named the brand ambassador for the event by the Boxing Federation of India.
10. b Tata Steel is the official partner for Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, scheduled to be held at Kalinga Stadium from November 28 to December 16.
11. d The Odisha government launched the much-awaited Early Warning Dissemination System, the first-of-its-kind technology in India, to simultaneously warn coastal communities and fisherfolk about impending cyclone and tsunami through siren towers.
12. a The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda".
13. b The National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with UN Habitat to organize a policy dialogue- 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' in New Delhi on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018.
14. a The amateur boxing association has picked Russia to host the 2019 Women's World Championships the country's first world's event since the national anti-doping agency was reinstated in September.
15. b Corporations around the world can now sign up for the World Corporate Games 2019, which will be held for the first time in the Middle East in Doha.

16. d The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that Botswana announced their decision to join the International Solar Alliance.
17. a Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece 'Pather Panchali' has been included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list.
18. c The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' in General Assembly Resolution.
19. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced major steps including 59-minute loan portal for sanction of up to one crore rupees for small and medium enterprises (MSME).
20. c The first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health was held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 30 October - 1 November 2018.
21. b Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) have designed and booted up India's first microprocessor, Shakti, which could be used in mobile computing and other devices.
22. a Compounds derived from coconut oil are better than diethyltoluamide (DEET) at preventing disease transmission and discomfort associated with insect bites, according to a study.
23. c India-Japan military exercise Dharma Guardian-2018 begins in Mizoram.
24. b A team of UK scientists have claimed the record for decoding the world's longest DNA sequence.
25. b China successfully launched a high orbit satellite to boost its home-grown BeiDou global satellite navigation system being built to rival United States Global Position System (GPS).
26. d The Kirloskar group has received licence from the Reserve Bank to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC), Kirloskar Capital, which will be headed by industry veteran Vimal Bhandari.
27. c India's participation at Videocittà 2018, Rome was organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and coordinated on Ministry's behalf by FICCI.
28. a India and Japan signs a Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1817 crore for the 'Project for the Construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I)'contributing to the Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in the State of West Bengal.
29. d Palau is the first country to ban "reef-toxic" sunscreens. It passed a law this week banning sunscreens that contain any one of ten chemicals, including oxybenzone and octinoxate, which are the same chemicals targeted in Hawaii's chemical sunscreen ban earlier this year.
30. a The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), including India, has established an internship programme in honour of former South African president Nelson Mandela, who is widely recognised as the initiator of IORA.
31. d Istanbul's new airport, designed to become the biggest airport in the world, was officially opened by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan this week.
32. a The BBC has unveiled their list of the 100 best foreign-language films of the 21st century. Over 200 critics from 43 countries took part in the poll, which judged Akira Kurosawa's Seven Samurai as the number one film not in the English language. However, only one Indian film has made it to the list, Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali, which was released in 1955 and placed at number 15 on the list.

33. a Researchers from Australia have taught an artificial intelligence program used to recognise faces on Facebook to identify galaxies in deep space. The result is an AI bot named ClaRAN that scans images taken by radio telescopes.
34. c Airbus delivered the "powerhouse" for NASA's new Orion Spaceship that will take astronauts to the Moon and beyond in coming years, hitting a key milestone that should lead to hundreds of millions of euros in future orders.
35. d Vietnam will host its first-ever Formula One race in April 2020, bringing the prestigious series to a country where auto racing is a very new sport.
36. b The National Green Tribunal has ordered a four-member committee to conduct an inspection near the Polavaram dam in Andhra Pradesh and submit a report after a plea alleged that muck was being dumped illegally at the site.
37. c Noted Malayalam novelist and short story writer M Mukundan has been selected for the Kerala government's highest literary award 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram' for this year.
38. a Justice Ramesh Ranganathan was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. He was administered the oath of office by Governor Baby Rani Maurya at the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun.
39. b The Fourth Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, People's Republic of China was held in Mumbai.
40. a Gen.(Dr.) VK Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, attended the 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting in Durban, South Africa on 2 November 2018. This meeting is taking place during the on-going celebrations of the 150th year of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
41. b Government representatives attending the Ministerial Forum on South-South Cooperation in Agriculture have committed to greater South-South cooperation on agriculture and rural development to increase momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty and hunger. The Changsha Declaration, formalized at the end of forum, sets out plans to include South-South cooperation principles into national policies and programmes, and was agreed to by 26 countries and 11 international organizations.
42. a Reserve Bank has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.
43. a The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued by systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) registered with the RBI and housing finance companies (HFCs) registered with the National Housing Bank. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) restricted the exposure of a bank through PCEs to bonds issued by each such NBFC or HFC to 1% of capital funds of the bank within the current single and group borrower exposure limits.
44. c After two years travelling through space, the NASA OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has started to obtain images of the mission target, primitive asteroid Benu.
45. a The Indian Coast Guard has launched a new offshore patrol vessel called ICGS Varaha from a corporate shipyard near Chennai. A release from the Defence Ministry in the city has said, the vessel has been designed and built indigenously.
46. d Simone Biles made history by picking up her record 13th career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships when she cruised to victory in the vault final.

47. a Nearly 7,000 people gathered in Northern Indonesia to witness the inauguration of 'Little India Gate', the first-of-its-kind structure in the country which recognises the contribution of the Indian community in the development of Medan city.
48. b Manipur government has declared a war on drugs affecting a significant number of people in the state.
49. c The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval for moving a Resolution in the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of the United Nations.
50. a South Korea and the United States resumed their combined marine drills for the first time since they were suspended in June to support diplomacy with North Korea over its denuclearization. The allies began the two-week Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP), which involves some 500 troops, including U.S. marines from Okinawa, Japan, and military equipment, such as assault amphibious vehicles.
51. b In a first for India, British banking major HSBC has executed a trade finance transaction involving an export by Reliance Industries to an American client using the blockchain, which massively reduced the time taken for processing the documents.
52. c The Sharjah FDI Office, Invest in Sharjah, has organised the Sharjah-India Business Roundtable on the sidelines of the India-UAE Partnership Summit, as part of India's continued interest in the emirate's economy.
53. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's first nuclear armed submarine INS Arihant had successfully completed its first deterrence patrol, heralding India's entry into an exclusive club of powers with land, air and sea-based nuclear weapons delivery platforms.
54. a In Tennis, Karen Khachanov has lifted the Paris Masters Men's Singles title with a stunning win over world number two Novak Djokovic.
55. d Gafur Rakhimov, a man described by the US Treasury Department as "one of Uzbekistan's leading criminals", has been elected president of amateur boxing's global governing body.
56. b The Bihar cabinet gave its nod for redevelopment of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) into a world's largest 5462 bed hospital at an estimated cost of Rs 5540.07 crore.
57. b Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). This year Ayurveda Day is observed on 5th November 2018.
58. c Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the technology-driven and citizen-friendly Mo bus service featuring free wi-fi, CCTV surveillance, public information display system and on board announcements in the city.
59. c The Women and Child Development Ministry has set up an online marketing portal for unique organic products of the women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country, besides serving as an e-platform to bring them together and promote and celebrate their achievements.
60. d India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for another 4-year term - from 2019 to 2022.

61. b The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalised farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
62. d The RCEP is a proposed trade agreement between the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and their six free trade agreement partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.
63. d A new UK India Business Council report, 'Beyond the Top 200', sets out how India's new higher education policy could accelerate India's rise to superpower status by enabling young Indians to receive the world's best higher education in India through greater availability of the top courses provided globally.
64. d The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed annually on November 6.
65. d Noted Marathi actor Jayant Sawarkar has been honoured with the Maharashtra government's Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement award in the field of theatre.
66. b Ayodhya Deepostav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebration in Ayodhya town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records.
67. c Justice (Retd) of Gauhati High Court, Pranoy Kumar Musahary, was sworn in as the chairperson of Meghalaya's first Lokayukta.
68. b The West Bengal government has decided to observe 'Rosogolla Day' on November 14 to commemorate the first anniversary of the State's famous sweet getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag as 'Bengal's Rosogolla'.
69. a United Nations Postal System has issued stamps with Diyas lamps to mark the celebration of Deepawali.
70. c The Reserve Bank of India is likely to establish an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019 to take the load off the increasing number of complaints currently being handled by the banking ombudsman.
71. b China unveiled a replica of its first permanently crewed space station, which would replace the international community's orbiting laboratory and symbolises the country's major ambitions beyond the earth.
72. b Rohit Sharma became the first batsman to score four Twenty20 International (T20I) centuries
73. d The International Day of Radiology is an annual event promoting the role of medical imaging in modern healthcare. It is celebrated on November 8 each year, and coincides with the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays.
74. a The Democrats made a significant comeback on Capitol Hill in midterm congressional election as they took control of the U.S. House of Representatives, winning at least 220 of its 435 seats. They had 193 seats in the House.
75. c Super 30 founder Anand Kumar has been honoured with 'Global Education Award' by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', Flagship Company of Malabar Group in Dubai.
76. b The ICC Women's World T20 will begin in West Indies with India opening their campaign against New Zealand at Guyana.



77. d The Indian economy will expand 7.4 per cent in 2018, but the growth will slow down to 7.3 per cent in the next year as domestic demand tapers on higher borrowing cost due to rising interest rates.
78. b US Attorney General Jeff Sessions has resigned from the post at the request of President Donald Trump.
79. c The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Alibaba Group (Alibaba), the world's largest e-commerce company by transaction value, have entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 a world with zero hunger.
80. b Tesla has appointed Robyn Denholm as chair of its board, replacing the electric carmaker's billionaire founder Elon Musk.
81. d Union Cabinet has given in principle approval for leasing out six airports through Public Private Partnership.
82. a Uttarakhand has celebrated its 18th Foundation Day.
83. c Bihar government has approved a proposal to pay Rs 25,000 to every girl graduating in 2018 and onwards.
84. c Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.
85. d Harmanpreet became the first Indian woman to score a century in T20I. She is the first Indian and the third player overall to score a T20I International century. She also recorded a 134-run partnership.
86. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a Multi-Modal Terminal on River Ganga in Varanasi.
87. c The 25th edition of SIMBEX, an acronym for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise" is scheduled from 10th to 21st November 2018 off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Bilateral cooperation between Singapore and India was first formalised when RSN ships began training with the Indian Navy in 1994.
88. d The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018 was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjjar.
89. b Scientists, including those of Indian origin, have created a bionic device that generates green power by 3D-printing clusters of cyanobacteria on an ordinary white button mushroom.
90. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to Singapore beginning November 14 to attend the East Asia Summit, an influential bloc which delves into political, security and trade-related issues in the Asia-Pacific region.
91. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena dissolved the 225-member Parliament, paving the way for snap elections about two years ahead of schedule.
92. b Indian pair of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have won Gold medal creating a world record in the 10 meter air pistol mixed team junior event at 11th Asian Airgun Championships in Kuwait.
93. c Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has launched GPS Mapping of Government Schools and Personnel Location System.
94. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated two important national highways in Varanasi.

95. b Bengaluru tops the index for most congested city, and Mumbai in the second position, while Pune follows in the seventh place.
96. c Andhra Pradesh will have a separate High Court as the Supreme Court has given the green signal for issuing the notification to this effect.
97. b The Election Commission has set up 'Sangwari' polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh to encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections.
98. d The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and NBCC (India) Ltd have signed the share purchase agreement for the transfer of 100 per cent shareholding of HSCC to NBCC.
99. d Former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
100. d Novak Djokovic won the 'Comeback Player of the Year Award' voted by the ATP players, on the back of his glorious run during the second half of the season.
101. b Restoration of an aristocratic house from a state of partial ruin in Ladakh has won a UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation.
102. b Jawahar Lal Sarin, president of the governing body of Alliance Franais, was conferred with France's highest civilian honour by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler at an event.
103. b Justice Govind Mathur, the most senior judge of the Rajasthan High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.
104. b A National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed to identify cases of monogenic diabetes across the country.
105. c World's first AI news anchor debuts in China. China's state-run news agency just unveiled the AI-powered anchor at China's World Internet Conference. The news anchor is modeled on a real presenter named Zhang Zhou. The anchor learns from live broadcast videos and is able to man the news desk 24-hours a day.
106. b The tiny Pacific island nation of Palau will ban "reef-toxic" sunscreens from 2020 in what it claims is a world-first initiative to stop chemical pollution killing its famed corals.
107. b NASA's Ralph - a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto - is set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, which are remnants from the early days of the solar system.
108. d Former India U-19 speedster Saurabh Netravalkar named USA national cricket team captain.
109. d According to the latest United World Wrestling (UWW) rankings, Bajrang Punia is now the top-ranked wrestler in men's freestyle 65kg category.
110. a The 24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) began at the Netaji Indoor Stadium. It was jointly inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Soumitra Chatterjee and veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan.
111. c Indian journalist Swati Chaturvedi has won the Reporters without Borders (RSF) Press Freedom Award for Courage.

112. d Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
113. c The newly formed million-processor-core Spiking Neural Network Architecture (SpiNNaker) machine is capable of completing more than 200 million million actions per second, with each of its chips having 100 million transistors.
114. c State-owned engineering giant BHEL said that with the completion of fourth and final 30 MW units, it has completely commissioned 120 MW Pulichintala Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) in Telangana.
115. b Named as Shri Ramayana Yatra-Sri Lanka, the pilgrimage circuit will have two travel components --one each in India and Sri Lanka.
116. b INS Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command is on deployment to the South East Asia and arrived at the port of Surabaya to participate in the inaugural edition of Indian Navy - Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' scheduled from 12 to 18 Nov 18.
117. b North East's first 'floating water handloom huts' were inaugurated at Loktak Lake in Bishnupur district of Manipur.
118. c World champion Kento Momota won badminton's Fuzhou China Open to add another title to his already-spectacular season.
119. a Ananth Kumar, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister, died in Bengaluru. The senior BJP leader was serving as Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers since May 2014 and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs since July 2016 in the Narendra Modi government.
120. d Public Service Broadcasting Day is being celebrated on November 12.
121. b New five-time World champion Lewis Hamilton steered his Mercedes to a nail-biting victory in Brazilian Grand Prix, a triumph that clinched the constructors' championship for a fifth consecutive season for the team.
122. b Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe - the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
123. c The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is hosted a conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM)2018, on 14th- 15th November 2018, in New Delhi.
124. a The joint military exercise between Indian and Russia EXERCISE INDRA 2018 on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) is being conducted at Babina Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station from 18 November 2018.
125. c Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the "Hunar Haat" on 15th November, 2018 at India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
126. d Amnesty International is stripping Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi of its highest honour, the Ambassador of Conscience Award.

127. b The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced a new addition to its team, with Siddharth Tiwari joining as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.
128. d The Czech Republic won their sixth Fed Cup title in eight years as an emotional Katerina Siniakova clinched a 3-0 win over the United States with an epic victory against Sofia Kenin.
129. a Binny Bansal has announced his resignation as CEO of Flipkart Group, effective immediately, following an independent investigation into an allegation of "serious personal misconduct," said Walmart Inc.
130. d Established in 2009, World Pneumonia Day is marked every year on November 12th.
131. b Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi.
132. b Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satya Pal Singh launched the Leadership for Academicians Programme, LEAP and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching, ARPIT in New Delhi.
133. a NITI Aayog and UNICEF launched UNICEF- Atal Tinkering Lab Hackthon to encourage children towards making new innovations.
134. b India will overtake the U.S. to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030 as the nation's electricity demand skyrockets, the International Energy Agency said in its latest World Energy Outlook.
135. c ISRO's heavy-lift rocket GSLV-Mark-Three has proven its reliability by successfully launching the communication satellite GSAT-29.
136. a UAE will participate in the 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit', as a partner country for the second consecutive year. The Summit is scheduled from 18th to 20th January, 2019.
137. c Indian American Neomi Rao has been appointed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by Brett Kavanaugh's elevation to the U.S. Supreme Court.
138. c Asian Games gold medalist Hima Das has been appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador.
139. d Lionel Messi has been named the league's best player of the 2017-18 campaign by Marca at an awards ceremony in Barcelona.
140. c World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes mellitus and is held on 14 November each year.
141. b NITI Aayog, the premier think tank of the Government of India, partnered with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to host a South Asian regional conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in the capital to discuss the key issues, perspectives and the way forward in the Urban Infrastructure.
142. b NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region.
143. b "Aadi Mahotsav" a National Tribal Festival is being organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED to celebrate, cherish and promote the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine and commerce.

144. b Eminent journalist and Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram has been selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award.
145. b Buried beneath a kilometre of snow and ice in northern Greenland, scientists have uncovered an asteroid impact crater, bigger than the area of Paris.
146. d Astronomers have discovered a frozen planet with a mass over three times that of the Earth, orbiting the closest solitary star to the Sun.
147. b Aabid Hameed, a 15-year-old Kashmiri, was the shining light at the concluded World Kickboxing Championship in Argentina when he became the lone gold medal winner (junior category, 55 kg) for India.
148. b In 2005 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that World Philosophy Day would be celebrated every third Thursday of November.
149. c Andhra Pradesh withdrew the "general consent" granted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effectively curtailing the agency's powers in the State without prior permission.
150. b The Andhra Pradesh government has finalised its new emblem for official use, five years after the state's bifurcation in 2014.
151. b Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state.
152. b The two-day summit to mark the World Tolerance Day was inaugurated in Dubai.
153. c The United Nations Security Council has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years.
154. b Viswanathan Anand won the inaugural Chess India Blitz Tournament by beating Hikaru Nakamura in the play-off in Kolkata.
155. c IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card, which empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS). The bank claims it to be the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons.
156. c India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format, taking his overall tally of world titles to 20.
157. c The Women's World Boxing Championships begin in Delhi.
158. a India's first specialized hospital for elephants was formally opened at Farah block's Churmura village, Mathura.
159. c Central government will give employers the salaries for seven of the 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 a month, the Women and Child Development ministry announced.
160. a A four-day regional meeting of the World Customs Organisation began in Jaipur with representatives of 33 member countries of Asia attending it.
161. c UK Prime Minister Theresa May has appointed Stephen Barclay, a junior health minister, as the new Brexit Secretary.



162. b India and China held the ninth Annual Defence and Security Dialogue in Beijing after a one-year gap due to the Doklam standoff, as both countries agreed to enhance military exchanges and interactions.
163. b The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signs three separate loans in one day of worth USD 574 million in the capital of India to support the projects India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) in India, water and sanitation services in Tamil Nadu, and Hydropower Transmission in Himachal Pradesh.
164. c China has built an 'artificial sun' that reaches temperature six times that of the core of our closest star.
165. b The first reactor of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP), which was stopped on August 1 for the mandatory third annual fuel outage, resumed power generation.
166. d International Students' Day is an international observance of the student community, held annually on November 17.
167. a Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati, Director, Blue Bells Group of Schools has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018 by His Highness Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, member of the Cabinet and Minister of State for Tolerance, UAE.
168. b The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out-- KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform.
169. b India, Russia hosts joint military exercise 'INDRA 2018' aimed at combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) began in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
170. c Retired Calcutta High Court judge Asim Kumar Roy was appointed the Lokayukta of West Bengal.
171. d French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.
172. c AB Pandey, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), was appointed as Secretary, Department of Revenue on superannuation of Hasmukh Adhia on November 30.
173. b Sunil Mehta panel incorporates 'Sashakt India AMC' for large NPAs.
174. b Prajnesh Gunneswaran at the \$150,000 Bangalore Challenger added a second title of this level to his kitty.
175. b Asia's first woman neurosurgeon, T.S. Kanaka, died in Chennai after a brief illness.
176. d The AYUSH Ministry celebrated its first Naturopathy Day across the country on 18th November.
177. d One of India's greatest sarod masters, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' at the Kamani Auditorium, for his "immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music".
178. a The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar Section of the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Western Peripheral Expressway, at Sultanpur, Gurugram, Haryana.

179. b The Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
180. c In Uttar Pradesh, Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan or Women Empowerment campaign will be launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow.
181. b The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping.
182. d The Minister of State for Communications (I/C) and Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the All India Heads of Police Communication Conference on 'Modernization of Police Communication and Challenges thereof in New Delhi.
183. b National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile application and web-based platform for retail investors to buy government securities.
184. a The government will set up Animation, Gaming and Visual effects Institute in Mumbai to encourage youth participation in the field of film and cinematography.
185. c Alexander Zverev stunned world number one Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win the season-ending ATP Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career.
186. d Global internet Body ICANN-supported UASG conferred "Universal Acceptance Thought Leader award" on Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje for enabling email service for citizens of the state in local script.
187. c World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
188. a The foundation of the country's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University in Palwal district was done through remote control by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
189. c The 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur.
190. d Indian-American Shantanu Narayen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adobe, has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list.
191. b The fourth edition of Intex South Asia, the largest international textile sourcing show in South Asia, was inaugurated in Colombo.
192. d India has slipped two places to rank 53rd on a global annual talent ranking released by IMD Business School Switzerland, while the top slot has been retained by the Alpine nation itself.
193. d An IIT Kharagpur team of researchers, led by Prof Manoj Kumar Tiwari of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, have devised the 'Decision Support System' (DSS) focusing on the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' for maximising (optimizing) the number of LPG connections, particularly in below poverty level (BPL) households.
194. c The BASIC countries comprise Brazil, South Africa, India and China. The two-day Meeting on Climate Change concluded in New Delhi.

195. c Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma capped a dream season on the European Tour by becoming the first Indian to win the tour's 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year' award.
196. d United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
197. b HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Institution's Innovation Council through video conferencing in New Delhi.
198. b The Himachal Pradesh government in the cabinet meeting accorded its approval to implement Sashakt Mahila Yojna in the state with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organisation and socio-economic development.
199. b Andhra Pradesh launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers just like Aadhar number.
200. c Voreqe Bainimarama was affirmed prime minister in a ceremony in the capital Suva after his Fiji First Party won just over half the votes in last week's election, giving them 27 seats in Fiji's 51-seat parliament.
201. a Kim Jong Yang of South Korea has been elected Interpol President for a two-year term. The decision was taken at the 87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai.
202. b The Embassy of India in Nepal and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) are organised an exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018 in Bhaktapur near Kathmandu.
203. b The conclusions of the summit will be presented at a major international United Nations meeting on climate change that will be held in Katowice, southern Poland.
204. c Mangal Prabhat Lodha, who helms real estate company Lodha Group, has topped the Grohe Hurun India Real Estate Rich list 2018 with a total wealth of Rs. 27,150 crore.
205. c Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has won this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, an award conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.
206. b 'Stranger Things' star Millie Bobby Brown named UNICEF's youngest-ever goodwill ambassador
207. c Foal Eagle is a combined field training exercise (FTX) conducted annually by the Republic of Korea Armed Forces and the United States Armed Forces under the auspices of the Combined Forces Command. It is one of the largest military exercises conducted annually in the world.
208. b In a rare sign of concord between India and Pakistan, Pakistan's government informed the Indian High Commission in Islamabad that Prime Minister Imran Khan will lay the foundation stone for the Kartarpur Corridor on the Pakistani side on November 28.
209. b NASA has chosen Jezero Crater delta, where the sediments contain clays and carbonates, as the landing site for its upcoming Mars 2020 Rover mission.
210. Called EXPLORER, the scanner combines positron emission tomography (PET) and x-ray computed tomography (CT) and can produce image up to 40 times faster.

211. b Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothisthan held their nerves in a tense final and overcame Amini School, Afghanistan, 1-0 to clinch the 59th edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament (Junior Boys category).
212. d The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed in many places around the world on November 21.
213. d Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.
214. c The Maharashtra government has appointed Dr Jagannath Dixit as the brand ambassador of its anti-obesity campaign.
215. c Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy.
216. c Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.
217. c Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana, as per the India Skills Report 2019.
218. b The population of China's capital, Beijing, declined for the first time in two decades in 2017.
219. a The European Investment Bank (EIB) will increase its support for India's wind energy projects by expanding the existing lending programmes with SBI.
220. c Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 2nd Edition of India Gold and Jewellery Summit in New Delhi.
221. a Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have, in a breakthrough, built and flown the first-ever silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines.
222. d Jharkhand is the focus state at this year's IFFI. This is for the first time that any state has been made focus state at the festival.
223. b Maharashtra government passed the bill to amend the anti-adulteration law to make it more stringent, prescribing life imprisonment and heavy penalty to curb food and milk adulteration.
224. c Known for its hand-woven carpets around the world, Bhadohi received a major boost as the government has extended the 'export excellence' tag to it. Under the 'Towns of Export Excellence' tag, carpet makers of the city will get financial assistance from the central government to procure modern machines, improve export infrastructure, and organise fairs and exhibitions in different parts of the world to attract global buyers.
225. a Polls opened in Bahrain to elect a new Parliament, but absent from the ballot was the country's Shiite-dominated Opposition, whose prominent figures are serving prison sentences. Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain.
226. c Pharma major Lupin launched a chatbot named 'ANYA' designed to provide medically verified information for health-related queries.

227. b Food delivery platform Uber Eats announced the appointment of actress Alia Bhatt as its brand ambassador. India will be the first country for the brand globally to have appointed a brand ambassador.
228. b The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain. The technology, called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach', which shows pre-event scenario, can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.
229. b Pravin Tambe became the first player in the history of T10 league to pick up a hat-trick against Kerala Knights on his way to five-wicket haul for the Sindhis.
230. d Showcasing the culture and tradition of the people of 'Jangalmahal', the adjoining forested area of West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts, a three-day-long cultural extravaganza began in the Kolkata city.
231. a The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu celebrated Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Day and Maulana Azad Day on 22nd November.
232. b The 19th edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in Monaco on February 18 next year. Considered the 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports Awards celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.
233. c M.C. Mary Kom's great stature touched a new high when she claimed her sixth title in the World women's boxing championships at Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi.
234. d The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
235. b Australia has lifted the Women's World Twenty-20 title for the fourth time.
236. b The documentation proves that the islands, comprising only 0.25% of India's geographical area, are home to more than 10% of the country's fauna species.
237. a The United Nations has selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative.
238. c Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled a 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
239. b The Uttarakhand Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport after BJP patriarch and former prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
240. b The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue is being held at St. Petersburg in Russia.
241. a Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik inaugurated a week long 'Jhiri Mela' at village Jhiri in Jammu district.
242. c Odisha Finance and Excise minister Sashi Bhusan Behera, in the presence of three of his cabinet colleagues, inaugurated the Baliyatra festival in Cuttack.
243. c Sunil Arora is the new Chief Election Commissioner of India.



244. c A centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) named "PAiSA - Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access", was launched.
245. c The National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- "Hausla 2018" of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was inaugurated in New Delhi.
246. b Two months after the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Gujarat has emerged as the top performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme.
247. c The world's first underground hotel has opened in Shanghai, buried almost 90 metres deep in an old quarry.
248. c Easyfone Introduces STAR, India's First Mobile Phone for Kids.
249. c State-run Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) won the CII-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award and the jury's commendation for being a role-model organisation.
250. b The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed in New Delhi a \$200 million loan to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.
251. a Lewis Hamilton rounds off a stunning season with victory in Abu Dhabi.
252. a India has achieved a new spot on the Guinness World Records as 2,353 people, led by Bollywood actor and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty Kundra, held the abdominal plank position for 60 seconds simultaneously.
253. b According to a new report by the International Labor Organization (ILO), India recorded the highest average real wage growth in South Asia between 2008-17.
254. c The Reserve Bank of India has reduced mandatory hedging requirement for borrowers raising overseas funds to 70 percent from 100 percent.
255. b Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched the logo and brochure of Logix India 2019 in New Delhi.
256. c Gandhi Smriti Organised 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' in New Delhi.
257. c National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) has been conferred with the status of Miniratna : Category -I by the Government of India.
258. a NASA's InSight spacecraft, the first robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of a distant world, touched down safely on the surface of Mars with instruments to detect planetary seismic rumblings never measured anywhere but Earth.
259. c Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti', in New Delhi.
260. c The Netherlands outclassed Australia 5-1 to win its seventh Women's Hockey Champions Trophy at the Wujin Hockey Stadium in Changzhou.
261. c Croatia dethroned holders France to win the Davis Cup for the second time as Marin Cilic beat Lucas Pouille in straight sets to seal the victory.

262. b Sanjay Kumar, Founder and CEO of Geospatial Media & Communications, was conferred the 'Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador' Award by UN-GGIM (United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management) at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress held at Deqing city in China.
263. d Himachal Pradesh emerged as the first state in the country to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) when Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the system at Mandi.
264. d CARE will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman.
265. c Tech magnate and philanthropist Azim Premji was bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
266. d The European Union has urged government, businesses, citizens and regions to join it in an ambitious plan to cut emissions and make the bloc carbon neutral by 2050.
267. c The 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit was the 13th meeting of Group of Twenty. It was held in 2018 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the first G20 summit to be hosted in South America.
268. b Alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay - Vaswani, Prashant V Iyengar and Chintan S Raikar - launch what they claim to be India's first advanced personal robot for children called 'Miko 2'.
269. c 30 other micro and nano-satellites of international customers from eight nations will also ride piggyback on it.
270. a Donbass directed by Sergei Loznitsa has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa on November 28, 2018.
271. c The President has appointed Shri Arvind Saxena as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
272. b Book "Fables of Fractured Times" is authored by former union minister Manish Tewari was released by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.
273. c Slovenia has become the only NATO country to appoint a woman as head of its army.
274. a Uttarakhand was adjudged the best state at the 38th India International Trade Fair, New Delhi, which showcased reconstruction work done at Kedarnath in recent months besides steps taken by the state government to boost tourism and promote local products like organic hone.
275. d The government has launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages.
276. c Naval cooperation between India and the United Kingdom is based on the long term strategic relationship between both countries.
277. c The Maharashtra assembly unanimously passed a bill proposing 16 per cent reservation for Marathas under socially, educationally and economically backward category.
278. a The World Health Organization, WHO, has said that Congo's deadly Ebola outbreak is now the second largest in history, behind the devastating West Africa outbreak that killed thousands a few years ago.
279. c A Chinese scientist who claims to have created the world's first genetically edited babies has defended his work.

280. c World number one Norwegian Magnus Carlsen has retained his World Chess Championship title, beating US opponent Fabiano Caruana in a tie-breaker event.
281. b Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde has been conferred this year's prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Classical Music.
282. c The jury of the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards has awarded the best film prize to Hirokazu Kore-eda's Shoplifters (Manbiki Kazoku), continuing the Palme d'Or winner's dream run.

