

MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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Preface

Dear Readers,

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

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

Team CL

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



President gives assent to India's first Good Samaritan bill of Karnataka

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a bill providing legal protection to the good Samaritans in Karnataka, who help accident victims with emergency medical care within the golden hour.
- The bill - **Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016** -- received the President's assent.
- With this, Karnataka has become the first state in the country to give legal protection to good Samaritans.

Good Samaritan laws offer legal protection to people who give reasonable assistance to those who are, or who they believe to be, injured, ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated. The protection is intended to reduce bystanders' hesitation to assist, for fear of being sued or prosecuted for unintentional injury or wrongful death.

Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 'World Peace' monument

- Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the world's largest dome at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus at Loni Kalbhor on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Institute authorities have said the structure, called the 'World Peace Monument' dome, took nearly 13 years to be built. At 160 ft. in diameter and 263 ft tall, it is larger in area than the dome at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City (which is 136 ft. in diameter and 448 ft. in height).

PM inaugurates first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The same event also marked the inauguration of the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, and the second Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo).
- The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, was present on the occasion.
- ISA became the first full-fledged treaty based international intergovernmental organization headquartered in India.

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.

Madhya Pradesh to have cow ministry

- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the setting up of a Ministry for cows.
- “The Cow Ministry will replace the existing Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan Board because it has limitations”.
- Referring to the India’s first cow sanctuary established near Susner, the chief minister said one sanctuary is not enough because the state has a large number of cows.

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

IBSAMAR-VI kicks off at Simons Town, South Africa

- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa from 01 – 13 Oct 18.
- The aim of the exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies, building interoperability and mutual understanding as well as sharing of best practices.
- The Indian Navy is represented in IBSAMAR VI by Guided Missile Frigate Tarkash, Guided Missile Destroyer Kolkata, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I, Seaking and Chetak helicopters as well as a MARCOS contingent.

Initiated in 2006, ‘Exercise IBSAMAR’ is the most visible manifestation of convergence of democratic values, economic interests and maritime cooperation. For the first time, earlier this year from Feb 19-26, IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR V) was conducted off Goa as all previous exercises were held in South Africa.

Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurates first Swachhata Mela at AIIMS, Delhi

- Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated the First Swachhata Mela organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in New Delhi.
- The Minister said, it is matter of pride that AIIMS Delhi has bagged first position in Kayakalp awards with prize money of Rs. 5 crore in the last two editions of the awards.

SATAT initiative launched to promote Compressed Bio-Gas production

- The Union government launched an innovative initiative aimed at setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants and makes it available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.
- The initiative is aimed at providing Sustainable alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a development effort that would benefit vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

Exercise Aviaindra-18

- The second edition of Exercise Aviaindra, a Biennial Air Force level exercise between Indian and the Russian Federation, was conducted at Lipetsk, Russia from 17 Sep 18 to 28 Sep 18.
- The aim of the exercise was to formulate and validate use of airpower in anti-terrorist operation in a bilateral scenario.

First Aviaindra Exercise was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise. The Indian contingent for Ex Aviaindra departed for Russia on 15 Sep 18. The aircraft that would participate in the exercise include Su-30 SM, Mig-29, Su-25, Mi-8 and An-26.

Odisha government launches food security scheme

- The Naveen Patnaik government launched its own food security scheme on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, benefiting 25 lakh people who were left out of the National Food Security Act.
- The beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of Rs.1 per kg, said the Chief Minister while launching the scheme at four different districts through videoconferencing from the State Secretariat here..

As passed by the Parliament, Government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population. The eligible persons are entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month. Haryana became the first state to begin implementation of this act.

Haryana's MDU declared cleanest govt university by HRD Ministry

- Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University has been declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry, followed by Guru Nanak Dev University in Punjab's Amritsar.
- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the "Swachh Campus rankings" under different categories.
- The Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in the national capital has been ranked third among the government institutions followed by Alagappa University in Tamil Nadu's Karaikudi and Acharya Nagarjuna University in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur.

Among the residential campuses of private universities, Pune's Symbiosis International University has been ranked at the top followed by O P Jindal Global University in Sonapat, Haryana. Raipur's ITM University has been ranked at the top among non-residential campuses of private universities. Among the technical institutions, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore bagged the top rank, followed by IIT Guwahati, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University in Bhubhaneshwar

India launches 'Operation Samudra Maitri' to help tsunami-hit Indonesia

- India has launched a massive operation to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia, dispatching two aircrafts and three naval ships carrying relief material to the country.
- 'Operation Samudra Maitri' for humanitarian assistance was launched after a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo on October 1, and following Indonesia's acceptance of international aid.
- Three Indian Naval Ships -- INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul -- have also been mobilised to carry out humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- The magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck and generated a tsunami said to have been as high as 6 metres (nearly 20 feet) in places.

Indonesia is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia, between the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is the world's largest island country, with more than thirteen thousand islands. With over 261 million people, it is the world's 4th most populous country as well as the most populous Muslim-majority country. Java is the world's most populous island. Jakarta is the country's capital. The rupiah (Rp) is the official currency of Indonesia. Joko Widodo also known as Jokowi is the seventh and current President of Indonesia.

India's First Global Skills Park in State of Madhya Pradesh

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$150 million Loan Agreement** in **New Delhi** to establish a **Global Skills Park (GSP)** in **Madhya Pradesh**, the **First Multi-Skills Park in India**, to enhance the **quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) System** in the State and create a more skilled workforce.
- The **new GSP campus**, which will be established in **Bhopal** will consist of **core Advanced Training Institutes** including the **Center for Occupational Skills Acquisition** and the **Center for Advanced Agricultural Training** as well as other support services focusing on entrepreneurship, training of trainers, and skill-related research.

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**.

India's first National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation approved by Centre

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has **approved**, in the establishment of **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** in **Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway)** instead of **Bhopal** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **NIMHR** will be the **first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation**. It will serve as an **institution of excellence for capacity building in human resource and research in the area of mental health rehabilitation**, and also recommending body suggesting models/protocols for effective rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

The **main objectives of the NIMHR** are to **provide rehabilitation services to the persons with mental illness**, **capacity development in the area of mental health rehabilitation**, **policy framing** and **advanced research in mental health rehabilitation**.

India, Russia sign S-400 missile deal after summit

- **India and Russia** concluded the contract for **five S-400 'Triumf' missile systems**, one of the **biggest defence deals** in recent times, after the **annual summit** between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin**.
- The **U.S.** has warned the deal would invoke sanctions under the **Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** law, which penalises defence purchases from **Russia, Iran and North Korea**, as soon as the **first payment is made**, unless President **Donald Trump** grants a "waiver".

India International Science fest concludes in Lucknow

- The **four day long mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF)** concluded in **Lucknow**.
- **IISF-2018** witnessed a footfall of more than **10 lakh people** and more than **22 thousand registrations**, the **highest in its four year history** making it the **largest festival of its kind in Asia**.
- **IISF** which was **inaugurated by the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, saw a confluence of **Scientists, researchers, students, farmers and people from a wide spectrum** discussing, debating, and witnessing how science and technology is shaping **New India**.
- **IISF-2018** with its focal theme "**Science for Transformation**" had more than **23 special events** in its **4th edition**. The **fifth edition of the science festival** will be held in **eastern India**.

IISF 2018 also saw **two major Guinness World Records** being made one of which was a **World Record** successful attempt to "**isolate DNA**" by **550 students** from class **8th to 10th standard**.

Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets GI tag

- Alphonso mango from Maharashtra's Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts has got Geographical Indication (GI) tag, the commerce and industry ministry informed.
- Darjeeling Tea, Mahabaleshwar Strawberry, Blue Pottery of Jaipur, Banarasi Sarees and Tirupati Laddus are some of the GIs.

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

India's biggest skill competition 'India Skills 2018' concludes

- India's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 has concluded in New Delhi.
- The 164 winners were awarded by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Anant Kumar Hegde.
- India Skills 2018 was the second edition of the nationwide competition organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to identify, recognize, promote and reward the best talents in various skills.
- Some of the winners of the competition will be given additional training, before they represent India at the 45th World Skills Competition at Kazan, Russia in 2019.

Atal Innovation Mission & SIRIUS sign MoU for promotion of innovative cooperation between students of India & Russia

- To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, a Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation in the presence of the Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi and the President of Russia H.E. Vladimir Putin, in New Delhi on 5th October 2018.
- The AIM and SIRUS Education Foundation were represented by Mission Director Shri. R Ramanan and Ms. Elena Shmeleva respectively.

The Union Government of India has setup the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) is Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

India International Science Festival (IISF-2018) concludes in Lucknow

- The four day long mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF) concluded in Lucknow. IISF-2018 witnessed a footfall of more than 10 lakh people and more than 22 thousand registrations, the highest in its four year history making it the largest festival of its kind in Asia.
- IISF was inaugurated by the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind. IISF 2018 also saw two major Guinness World Records being made one of which was a World Record successful attempt to "isolate DNA" by 550 students from class 8th to 10th standard.
- IISF 2018 is organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow.
- IISF-2018 with its focal theme "Science for Transformation" had more than 23 special events in its 4th edition. The fifth edition of the science festival will be held in eastern India.

The first IISF was held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) New Delhi in December, 2015. The mega S&T expo attracted more than 3 Lakh people. VIBHA has become the Guinness Book World Record Holder for the successful conduct of the 'Largest Practical Science Lesson' by 2000 students from prestigious schools of Delhi. The second IISF was held at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi in December, 2016. The third series of IISF was held from 13-16 October 2017, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Tajikistan

- **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, landed in Tajikistan** on a three day visit to the country. He addressed members of Indian community at a reception hosted by **Mr Somnath Ghosh, Ambassador of India to Tajikistan, in Dushanbe.**
- Addressing the “**Friends of India in Tajikistan**”, the President appreciated the work of Tajikistan’s Indologists. He recalled that the **Padma Shri** had been conferred on the famous Indologist, **Prof. Habibullo Rajabov** this year for his contribution in education and literature.

Tajikistan is a mountainous, landlocked country in Central Asia. **Dushanbe** is the capital and largest city of Tajikistan. The **somoni** is the currency of Tajikistan. **Emomali Rahmon** has served as **President of Tajikistan (or its equivalent post)** since 1992. **Kokhir Rasulzoda** is the **Prime Minister of Tajikistan** from 23 November 2013.

Haryana government to set up anti-terrorist force 'kavach'

- **Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** announced that the **Haryana government will set up an anti-terrorism force (ATF)** comprising specially trained recruits from the state police, to deal with present day security challenges.
- **This force will be named 'Kavach'.** Select **Haryana police recruits** will be **trained by the National Security Guard (NSG).**

Haryana was carved out of the former state of **East Punjab** on **1 November 1966** on linguistic basis. Among the world's oldest and largest ancient civilizations, the **Indus Valley Civilization** sites located at **Rakhigarhi village** in **Hisar** district of **Haryana**. **Haryana** is a landlocked state in northern India. As per the 2011 Census, **Haryana** has the lowest child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years in the country. According to the census, against **1,000** boys born, there were only **834** girls. The state capital of **Haryana** is **Chandigarh**, a Union Territory and also the capital of the neighboring state of **Punjab**. **Kaptan Singh Solanki** is the current **Governor of Haryana**.

Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Japan and India (JIMEX 18) to Commence at Visakhapatnam

- **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer** and **Inazuma – a Guided Missile Destroyer** arrived at **Visakhapatnam** on 07 October 2018.
- The JMSDF Ships under the command of Rear Admiral Tatsuya Fukada, Commander, Escort Flotilla-4 (CCF-4), would be participating in the **third edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)** with the ships of **Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy (IN)** from 07 to 15 October 18. **JIMEX-18** is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other.

The last edition of **JIMEX** was conducted in December 2013 off **Chennai**. The conduct of **JIMEX-18** after five years is indicative of an upswing in the **Indo-Japanese defence relations** and the continued efforts of both Governments to work closely to enhance safety and security of the global commons in keeping with 'rule based order'.

First India-Israel Innovation Centre opens in Bengaluru

- India's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru. The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries.
- It will provide an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship, partnership with vendors, mentoring and non-formal community development that will assist the growth of the companies in different verticals and covers business, technology, investors and customers.

This is the **first startup incubation facility set up in India**. This facility by Israel will be **only its fourth in the world after the US, the UK and China**.

Tushar Mehta appointed as the new Solicitor General of India

- **Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** was appointed the new Solicitor General of India, months ahead of the general elections in 2019.
- He will hold office till **June 30, 2020**. Mehta, who was **Gujarat advocate general** when **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was the chief minister of the state, will **replace Ranjit Kumar**, who had stepped down sometime back.
- The post was lying vacant since then. **Tushar Mehta, a senior advocate based in Gujarat**, moved to Delhi after the **Narendra Modi government** named him the **Additional Solicitor General**.

Solicitor General of India is below the Attorney General for India, who is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. The Solicitor General of India is appointed for the period of 3 years. The Solicitor General of India is the secondary law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is himself assisted by several Additional Solicitors General of India. However, unlike the post of Attorney General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution of India, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory.

Sushma Swaraj participated in 17th CHG meeting of SCO held Tajikistan

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** participated in the **17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG**, meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan** on 11th to 12th of this month.
- This was the **second CHG meeting** since India became a full member of SCO in **June 2017**. Last year, **CHG meeting** was held in **Sochi, Russia** and was also attended by EAM.

Sushma Swaraj is former Supreme Court lawyer, she is the second woman to be India's Minister of External Affairs, after **Indira Gandhi**. At the age of **25** in **1977**, she became the youngest cabinet minister of north Indian state of **Haryana**. She is a Member of Parliament from the **Vidisha constituency** in **Madhya Pradesh**.

EAM Sushma Swaraj launches India for Humanity initiative in New Delhi

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** launched **India for Humanity** initiative in **New Delhi** as part of **150th Birth Anniversary** celebrations of **Mahatma Gandhi** being held over the next one year.
- The External Affairs Ministry is collaborating for this with charitable organization **Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, BMVSS**. Founded in **1975** and better known by its trademark limb Jaipur Foot, **BMVSS** is among the world's largest organisations for the fitment of artificial limbs and till date has served over **1.73 million** amputees.

India has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council

- India has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, with highest number of votes. India secured 188 votes out of 193.
- India was elected in the Asia-Pacific category for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019.

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

The annual India-Japan summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay an official visit to Japan on October 28-29 for the annual India-Japan summit with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe that will focus on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interests.

Sikkim becomes the world's first totally organic agriculture state

- Sikkim has won this year's UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Future Policy for Gold Award for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state.
- The policies of Sikkim had helped more than 66,000 farmers, boosted tourism and set an example to other countries.
- The small Himalayan state of Sikkim was declared fully organic state in 2016 after phasing out chemical fertilisers and pesticides and substituting them with sustainable alternatives.

Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. In 2003, Sikkim decided to convert fully to organic farming statewide, and achieved this goal in 2015, becoming India's first "organic state". A referendum in 1975 led to Sikkim joining India as its 22nd state.

India ranks 103 in Global Hunger Index

- India has been ranked 103rd out of 119 countries in the 2018 Global Hunger Index. "With a score of 31.1, India suffers from a level of hunger that is serious," the report states.
- "The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and national levels. Calculated each year by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the GHI highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction and provides insights into the drivers of hunger.

The 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report is the 13th in the annual series. It presents a multidimensional measure of national, regional, and global hunger by assigning a numerical score based on several aspects of hunger. It then ranks countries by GHI score and compares current scores with past results. The 2018 report shows that in many countries and in terms of the global average, hunger and undernutrition have declined since 2000; in some parts of the world, however, hunger and undernutrition persist or have even worsened. Since 2010, 16 countries have seen no change or an increase in their GHI levels.

India, China launch joint programme to train Afghan diplomats

- In a move that could upset Pakistan, India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.
- An understanding to launch a joint programme in Afghanistan was reached during an informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held in April at China's Wuhan city.

- **Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan (Vinay Kumar)** “hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will be travelling to India for the **first India-China joint training programme for Afghan diplomats** under the aegis of the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan”.

Afghanistan is a **landlocked country** located within south-central Asia. **Kabul** is the **capital** of Afghanistan and its largest city. **Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai** is the **current President of Afghanistan**, elected on 21 September 2014. **Abdullah Abdullah** is serving as **Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** since September 2014. The **afghani** is the **currency of Afghanistan**, issued by the central bank Da Afghanistan Bank.

The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference was held in Colombo

- **"The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference**, which aims to create a **platform for Indian Ocean littoral states and major maritime users** to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, **was held in Colombo** on 11-12 October 2018.
- This Conference is held at a time when the Indian Ocean has emerged as one of the world's busiest and most critical trade corridors, carrying two thirds of global oil shipments and a third of bulk cargo and hosting the most critical Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs), directly impacting global trade and economy.

Indian Ocean is the **third largest of the world's oceanic divisions**, covering 70,560,000 km², **approximately 20% of the water on the Earth's surface**. It is **bounded by Asia on the north, on the west by Africa, on the east by Australia, and on the south by the Southern Ocean** or, depending on definition, by Antarctica. **It is named after India.**

Sixth India International Silk Fair inaugurated

- **Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani**, inaugurated the **6th India International Silk Fair (IISF)** at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- **108 exhibitors from all over the country including 10 from North East and 9 from J&K** are participated in the 3-day fair. 147 buyers registered their presence in the fair.
- The largest contingent of buyers is from Vietnam followed by Sri Lanka, Australia, Kuwait and Egypt.

India is the **2nd largest producer of silk after China** and is **emerging as a leading exporter**. The Indian products are in demand in USA, UK, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. The **Indian Silk Export Promotion Council** is also **organizing B2B meeting of participants** with buyers and a Fashion Show of the participants.

The 12th ASEM Summit was inaugurated in in Brussels

- The **12th ASEM Summit**, with the theme “**Global Partners for Global Challenges**” was **inaugurated** on 18 October 2018 in **Brussels, Belgium**. Hon’ble Vice President of India, **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** led the **Indian Delegation for the Summit**.

Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an **Asian–European political dialogue forum** to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners. It was **officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand**. ASEM currently has **53 partners: 51 countries and 2 regional organisations**.

Sixth Meeting of the UAE – India high level joint task force on investments held in India

- The sixth meeting of the **UAE – India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments** (‘the Joint Task Force’) was **held in Mumbai** to review the progress being made in addressing the **agreed actions of the previous meeting held in Abu Dhabi in January 2018** and to elaborate a number of new key issues of mutual importance.
- “To facilitate investments and resolve issues relating to **UAE Investments in India**, a special UAE desk ‘**UAE PLUS**’ shall be established in Invest India, the National Investment Promotion Agency of India.”
- **H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince’s Court**, said: “Since its creation in 2012, the Joint Task Force has been an effective

platform for promoting, facilitating and expanding investments between India and the UAE, and for addressing key constraints that our respective companies are facing in each country.

Abu Dhab 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.

Indian SME delegation participates in 8th European SMEs Congress

- A delegation of 32 Indian SMEs led by Ms. Alka Arora, Joint Secretary of Ministry of MSME is participated in the 8th European Congress on SMEs at Kotawice, Poland. Inaugurating the event, Ms. Alka Arora said **India is home to more than 60 million MSMEs**, which have the ability and capability to access international markets and work as ancillaries to larger international firms.
- These MSMEs provide livelihood to more than 100 million people and create value for the entire global community. The main theme of the event is “Business-Self-Government Together for Economy”.

Prime Minister chairs 6th meeting of NDMA

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi chaired the sixth meeting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at New Delhi.
- Prime Minister reviewed the activities of NDMA to effectively manage and respond to disasters affecting the country. He also reviewed ongoing projects undertaken by NDMA. Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley and Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh were present in the meeting, along with members and officials of NDMA.

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.

Kerala becomes the first smoke-free State in the country

- Kerala becomes the first smoke-free State in the country with 100% LPG penetration.
- The target has almost been achieved in most villages, mofussil towns and cities in the State. “Kerala is one of the States with the highest penetration of LPG, which is transforming lifestyles.
- LPG is being supplied beyond commercial considerations with the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana initiated by the Ministry of Petroleum aimed at providing 50 million free LPG connections to women in poor households.

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, in office since 25 May 2016.

Punjab Cabinet extends 50% reservation for women to chairpersons for panchayat samiti, zila parishad

- The Punjab Cabinet decided to extend the enhanced 50 per cent reservation for women in the matter of rotation for the office of the panchayat sarpanch to the office of the chairperson of panchayat samitis and zila parishads.
- The ordinance shall be submitted to Governor of Punjab V P Singh Badnore within seven days of the Cabinet's grant of approval. The state government, led by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, had enhanced reservation for women in these bodies from 33 to 50 per cent last year.
- The cabinet has now approved amendments to the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and the Punjab Reservation for Office of Sarpanches and Gram Panchayats and Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Rules, 1994.

The state capital of Punjab is Chandigarh, a Union Territory and also the capital of the neighboring state of Haryana. The Sanskrit name for the region, as mentioned in the Ramayana and Mahabharata for example, was Panchanada which means "Land of the Five Rivers", and was translated to Persian as Punjab after the Muslim conquests. The five rivers from which the region took its name were Sutlej, Ravi, Beas, Chenab and Jhelum; Sutlej, Ravi and Beas are part of the Indian Punjab. Captain Amarinder Singh is current the 26th Chief Minister.

India's first railway station inside tunnel to come up in Himachal Pradesh

- For the first time in India, a railway station will be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres, on the strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border.
- While many metro stations in Delhi and other cities are inside tunnels, once completed, the Keylong station in Himachal Pradesh will be the first on the railway network to be inside a tunnel. Keylong is the administrative centre of Lahaul and Spiti district, 26 km north of Manali and 120 km from the Indo-Tibetan border.

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.

MJ Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, has resigned from his post

- MJ Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, has resigned from his post due to a number of sexual misconduct allegations against him from numerous women who had worked with him over the years.
- He is a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand in July 2015.
- He has written several non-fiction books, including a biography of Jawaharlal Nehru titled Nehru: The Making of India, a book on Kashmir titled Kashmir Behind the Vale, Riot After Riot and India: The Siege Within. He also authored The Shade of Swords, a history of jihad.

Commemoration of '75th Year of Establishment of Azad Hind Government' at Red Fort

- The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi hoisted the National flag and unveiled the plaque to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government on 21st October, 2018, at the Red Fort, Delhi.
- The Provisional Government of Free India consisted of a Cabinet headed by Subhas Chandra Bose as the Head of the State, The Prime Minister and the Minister for War and Foreign Affairs. Captain Doctor Lakshmi Swaminadhan (later married as Lakshmi Sahgal) was the Minister in Charge of Women's Organization.

The Azad Hind Government, founded on 21st October, 1943 was inspired by Neta ji Subhash Chandra Bose who was the leader of Azad Hind Government and also the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile. It was a part of the freedom movement, originating in 1940s outside India with a purpose of allying with Axis powers to free India from British rule. The existence of the Azad Hind Government gave a greater legitimacy to the independence struggle against the British. Pertinently, the role of Azad Hind Fauj or the Indian National Army (INA) had been crucial in bequeathing a much needed impetus to India's struggle for Independence.

India's longest bridge to be built across Brahmaputra

- India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra, connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya, and will cut road travel by 203 km as also travel time. The 19.3 km, four-lane Bridge will be built by 2026-27.
- Currently, the longest river bridge in India, at 9.15 km, is the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge which was opened last year. It will hardly take 15-20 minutes to cross the river after the bridge becomes operational. It will push economic activities and development on both sides of the river".

The Brahmaputra, one of the largest rivers of the world, has its origin in the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar Lake. In the southern Tibet it is known as the Tsangpo, which means 'the purifier.' It is also called 'Yarlung Tsangpo'. It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh. It flows southwest through the Assam Valley as Brahmaputra and south through Bangladesh as the Jamuna. In the vast Ganges Delta, it merges with the Padma, the popular name of the river Ganges in Bangladesh, and finally the Meghna and from here it is known as Meghna before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. Its major left bank tributaries are the Burhi Dihing and Dhansari (South) whereas the important right bank tributaries are the Subansiri, Kameng, Manas and Sankosh.

In a first, Uttar Pradesh government makes man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster'

- In the first-of-its-kind move, the Uttar Pradesh government has made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster' bringing such incidents under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief during such mishaps in the state.
- Taking the historical decision to this effect, the state government has issued orders which will enable faster monetary relief to the victims of attack of wild animals. As per the provisions of the order, in cases of human death due to man-animal conflict, relief of Rs 5 lakh would be given to the family of deceased while the disbursement of compensation for injury would be in accordance to SDRF guidelines.
- The order also makes it clear that the amount of Rs 1 lakh per death would be arranged by the state forest department from its own budget to the Revenue Department.

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.

Four Himalayan peaks named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The peaks are located at 6,557m, 6,566m, 6,160m and 6,100m on the right flank of Gangotri glacier, said Colonel Amit Bisht, principal of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and leader of the mountain climbing team which recently scaled the newly named peaks.

- The team, which returned after the climb, had hoisted the national tricolour on each of the peaks. Located near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.

The Himalayas, or Himalaya form a mountain range in Asia, separating the plains of the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau. The Himalayan range has many of the Earth's highest peaks, including the highest, Mount Everest (8,848 m). The Himalayas include over fifty mountains exceeding 7,200 metres in elevation, including ten of the fourteen 8,000-metre peaks. By contrast, the highest peak outside Asia (Aconcagua, in the Andes) is 6,961 metres tall. The Himalayas are spread across five countries: Nepal, India, Bhutan, China and Pakistan. Some of the world's major rivers — the Indus, the Ganges and the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra — rise in the Himalayas.

India's first cruise service starts from Mumbai to Goa; ticket price starts from Rs 7,000

- India's first ever passenger cruise ship service was launched in Mumbai. The cruise ship named Angriya, which departed on trial from the Mumbai ports newly constructed domestic terminal, reached Goa. The premium cruise service is a joint venture between Mumbai Port Trust and Angriya Sea Eagle Pvt Ltd. The cruise ship Angriya has been named after first Maratha Navy Admiral (Sarkhel) Kanhoji Angre and the great Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg, Maharashtra.
- For those looking forward to go on a cruise journey from Mumbai to Goa on Angriya, the price for this premium sailing service starts at Rs 7,000, which in comparison to other modes of transportation, including air travel and train, is expensive. The ship has been built in Japan and is 131 meter long and 120 metre-wide.

First India-China High Level Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation held in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh co-chaired the first India-China High Level Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation with Mr. Zhao Kezhi, State Councilor and Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China in New Delhi. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, and welcomed increased cooperation between India and China in the area of security cooperation.
- An Agreement on Security Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of India and the Ministry of Public Security of China was also signed by the two Ministers.

Rajnath Ram Badan Singh previously served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and as a Cabinet Minister in the Vajpayee Government. He has also served as the President of the BJP twice, 2005 to 2009 and 2013 to 2014. He has been representing the 16th Lok Sabha from Lucknow constituency.

India to host fourth Edition of Global Partners' Forum 2018 in December

- This year, India will play host to the largest-ever Global Partners' Forum on 12th and 13th December 2018 in New Delhi. PMNCH (The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health) will bring together 1,200 partners from over 100 countries dedicated to the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement and to the achievement of the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (Global Strategy).
- This unique forum aims to unite PMNCH's 1,000+ partners around common strategies so that every woman, child and adolescent – no matter where they live – can survive, thrive and transform our world.

The forum will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and PMNCH. The global community has entrusted Govt of India to host this year's prestigious global Partners' Forum and lead the dialogue on enhancing country-level action on Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Government approves scheme for setting up Indian Institute of Skills

- **Union government approved a scheme for setting up of Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) at different locations across the country in public private partnership (PPP).**
- **This was informed by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology and Law & Justice, after the Union Cabinet gave its approval for the same. The PPP model will be explored for promotion of IIS at select locations based on demand and available infrastructure.**

The setting up of IISs shall augment the global competitiveness of key sectors of Indian economy by providing high quality skill training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with industry. It will provide opportunity to aspiring youth across the country to have access to highly skilled training, and enhance the scope of accountability through its linkage with industry and global competitiveness across sectors.

Vice President inaugurates International Conference ‘AFITA/WCCA2018’

- **The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that value addition for agricultural production is one of the solutions for improving farmers’ income.**
- **He was addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference ‘AFITA/WCCA2018’ on Research Frontiers in Precision Agriculture, jointly organized by Asia-Pacific Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture, International Network for Information Technology in Agriculture and Indian Society for Agricultural Information Technology, in Mumbai .**

Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of the Scheme “Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)”

- **The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of the Scheme “Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)” in New Delhi. Briefing the media about the scheme, the Minister said that that under the Scheme, 1500 research projects will be awarded for 2 years to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making. He also said research in social science is essential for progress of the society and the research carried out under IMPRESS scheme will be used to understand and solve problems facing the society.**
- **He further informed that the Government, in August 2018, had sanctioned the scheme “Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)” at a total cost of Rs.414 Cr for implementation up to 31.3.2021 and Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency.**

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.

Indian Railways is building world's highest railway line

- **Indian railways plan to connect New Delhi with Ladakh region through the world's highest railway line that will run along the India-China border. The national transporter plans to build a strategically-important Bilaspur-Manali- Leh line along the Indo-China border.**

The rail line will have a highest road point of 5,360 metres above mean sea level that is comparable only to the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Line in China, which is at a height of around 2,000 metres. The estimated cost to build this 465 km-line will be Rs 83,360 crore. Keylong station on the route will be build inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres, a first in India

No Bharat Stage IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020 by Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court said that no Bharat Stage IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. The Bharat stage emission standards are standards instituted by the government to regulate output of air pollutants from motor vehicles.
- The Bharat Stage VI (or BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country. A three judge bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur made it clear that **only BS VI compliant vehicle shall be sold in the country from April 1st, 2020**. The BS IV norms have been enforced across the country since April 2017.

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

Maneka Gandhi inaugurates 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018

- Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** inaugurated the 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018 at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Janpath Road, New Delhi. The fest is being continued from 26th October to 4th November, 2018.
- **For the first time vegan food and food court** have been introduced in this edition of the festival. She said nearly 400 groups and companies are participating in the fest to sell their organic produce.
- **This is aimed to boost organic culture and promote Women Organic Farmers and Entrepreneurs.** Being the country's largest organic festival, it bears witness to the fact that women are the torchbearers of the nation's organic movement.

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

PM Modi reaches Tokyo to attend Annual India-Japan Bilateral Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Tokyo on a three-day tour to attend the 13th Annual India-Japan Bilateral Summit.

Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. Tokyo will host the 2020 Summer Olympics and the 2020 Summer Paralympics. Shinzo Abe is serving as the 57th Prime Minister of Japan and Akihito is the current Emperor of Japan. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Damodardas Modi is representing in the Lok Sabha from the Varanasi Constituency.

Supreme Court Collegium clears four names for elevation as Supreme Court judges

- The Supreme Court collegium cleared four names of justice R Subhash Reddy, Justice Hemant Gupta, Justice M R Shah, and Justice Ajay Rastogi for elevation as Supreme Court judges.
- According to two people familiar with the collegium proceedings, Gujarat high court chief justice Reddy, Madhya Pradesh high court chief Justice Gupta, Patna high court chief justice M R Shah, and Tripura high court chief justice Ajay Rastogi's elevation was recommended unanimously.
- Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi heads collegium and also includes justice MB Lokur, Justice Kurien Joseph, justice A K Sikri and justice S A Bobde.

- The top court currently has 24 judges against a sanctioned strength of 31. Justice Joseph will retire on November 29, and Justice Lokur will demit office on December 30, the number of judges in the top court is set to go down to 22 by year end.

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

Train 18, India's first engine-less train hits tracks for trials

- A 16-coach prototype of Train 18, Indian Railways' first engine-less train, made its inaugural trial run. Capable of running at a speed of up to 160 kmph, Train 18 is being referred to as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express.
- The fully air-conditioned semi-high speed train, which will cut travel time by 15 per cent as compared to the Shatabdi, has been manufactured under 'Make in India' initiative by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai at the cost of Rs 100 crore and completed in a record 18 months.

Justice Naresh Harishchandra Patil sworn-in as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

- Justice Naresh Harishchandra Patil was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court by Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao who administered the oath of office at a brief ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.
- Maharashtra chief secretary D K Jain read out the Notification of Appointment of the Chief Justice.

Justice Naresh Patil had been serving as Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court from August 12 this year. Justice Patil was enrolled as an advocate on July 1, 1980 and practiced in the Civil and Sessions Court, Latur.

Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Badal inaugurates Gujarat's first Mega Food Park

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat.
- Promoted by M/s Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd the Park is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.
- A second Mega Food Park has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Mehsana District of Gujarat. Harsimrat Kaur Badal is the Member of Parliament from Bathinda.

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

Nitin Gadkari to lay foundation for India's largest Dry Dock

- The Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari and Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala.
- The Dry Dock will give an impetus to "Make in India" initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to 2 percent. India currently occupies 0.66 % share in global shipbuilding market.

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

Delhi tops national charts in bad air quality

- **Fourteen out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India** as per figures compiled and released earlier this year by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Climate Trends**, an Indian group working on environmental issues **picked up the same 14 cities to analyse the CPCB data in summer and winter months** for a comparative analysis — just to put it in context with the WHO children's health report released which notes that **93% of the world's children under 15 years breathe polluted air**.
- **It says Delhi tops the charts of bad air quality nationally.**
- The report says **India faces the highest air pollution-related mortality and disease burden in the world with more than 2 million deaths occurring prematurely every year, accounting for 25% of the global deaths due to poor air quality.**

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 Jalandhi' scheme launched in Odisha

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Soura Jalandhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.**
- **'Soura Jalandhi', 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.**

International



Macedonia holds referendum to change its name to Republic of North Macedonia

- Macedonia is holding a referendum on whether to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. The new name would end a decades-long dispute with neighbouring Greece which had blocked Macedonia's membership bids for the European Union and NATO.
- Greece, which has a province called Macedonia, maintains that its northern neighbour's name represents a claim on its territory and has vetoed its entrance into NATO and the EU.

Macedonia is a country in the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in 1991. It is a landlocked country. Skopje is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Macedonia. The denar is the currency of the Republic of Macedonia. Gjorge Ivanov is serving as the President of the Republic of Macedonia. Zoran Zaev is serving as the Prime Minister of Macedonia.

Bangladesh appoints Susane Giti as first female major general

- Bangladesh has appointed a female officer as a major general for the first time in the country's 47 year history.
- Army chief Aziz Ahmed and Quartermaster General Lt Gen Md Shamsul Haque presented the badge to Dr Susane Giti. The Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate said that she is the first woman to be appointed as major general.

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

China to hold 5th World Internet Conference in November

- China will hold the fifth World Internet Conference (WIC) in its river town of Wuzhen in November.
- This year's WIC will be held in China's Zhejiang province under the theme of "creating a digital world for mutual trust and collective governance -- towards a community with a shared future in cyberspace".

Iraq: Parliament elects Barham Salih as new president

- Iraq's Parliament has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician Barham Salih as the country's new President. He has named Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi as Prime Minister of the country. Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Salih won 220 votes out of the 273 lawmakers.

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

21 IORA countries adopt Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy

- As many as **21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** adopted the **Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region**.
- These nations adopted the Delhi Declaration post the **second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Greater Noida, near Delhi**.

The **Indian Ocean Rim Association** was set up with the objective of strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Region with **21 Member States and 7 Dialogue Partners**. The last **Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting** was held on 21st January, 2014 in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.

Putin arrives in New Delhi to attend 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral summit

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has reached **New Delhi** on a two-day visit to India.
- After wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, **Indian and Russia signed the USD 5 billion S-400 air defence system deal in New Delhi**.
- **Modi and Putin also signed eight pacts, including on cooperation on India's ambitious human space mission project Gaganyaan, at the 19th India-Russia annual bilateral summit**. The signing of defence deal between the two countries comes amid the US warning.

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

India signs 17 pacts with Uzbekistan

- **India and Central Asia's biggest military power Uzbekistan signed a slew of 17 pacts across all possible sectors including defence training** besides agreeing for joint partnership in defence industry as Delhi looks to fully realise its strategic partnerships in the region where China has made inroads taking advantage of its geographical contiguity.

Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia. Tashkent is the capital and largest city of Uzbekistan. The so'm is the currency of Uzbekistan in Central Asia. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been President of Uzbekistan since 2016. Abdulla Aripov is the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, in office since 14 December 2016.

South Korea's ex-President Lee Myung-bak jailed for 15 years

- **Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak was jailed for 15 years for corruption**. The 76-year-old CEO-turned-president, who served from 2008 to 2013, was found guilty on charges including bribery and embezzlement and ordered to pay a fine of 11.5 million dollar by the Seoul Central District Court.

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

in East Asia. She served as the 18th President of South Korea from 2013 to 2017.

Far-right Jair Bolsonaro wins first round of Brazil's presidential election

- A far-right candidate, **Jair Bolsonaro**, has won the first round of Brazil's presidential election. He will face the left-wing Workers' Party candidate, **Fernando Haddad**, in the second round on 28 October after he failed to win the 50% of valid votes needed to win outright. With almost all the votes counted, **Mr Bolsonaro** had 46% and **Mr Haddad** 29%.

Brazil is the largest country in both South America and Latin America. **Brazil** is the world's fifth-largest country by area and the sixth most populous. **Brasília** is the federal capital of Brazil and seat of government of the Federal District. **Brazilian real** is the official currency of Brazil. **Michel Temer** is serving as the 37th and current President of Brazil since 2016.

Romania referendum: Constitutional ban on same sex-marriage fails due to low turnout

- A referendum to change Romania's constitution to stop same-sex couples from securing the right to marry has failed after it did not attract enough voters to validate the result. The two-day vote aimed to change the constitution to define marriage strictly as between a man and a woman.
- Religiously conservative Romania, which decriminalised homosexuality in 2001 decades after neighbouring countries, bars marriage and civil partnerships for same-sex couples. Data from the national election bureau showed voter turnout stood at 20.4 per cent when the polls closed, below the 30 per cent required for it to be valid.

Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. **Bucharest** is the capital and largest city of Romania. **Romanian leu** is the currency of Romania. **Klaus Werner Iohannis** is the current President of Romania. **Viorica Dancila** is the current Prime Minister of Romania since 29 January 2018.

India's success in 2030 UN SDGs can change face of the world: UNGA President

- India's success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can change the face of the world, **UN General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa** has said, describing the country as a "very important player" of the multilateral system. **Espinosa** said she is very much looking forward to engaging and working together with India under her presidency of the 193-member **UN General Assembly**.
- **Espinosa**, Ecuador's former Minister of Foreign Affairs was in June elected president of the 73rd session of the **UN General Assembly**, becoming only the fourth female president of the organisation in its 73-year history. **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**, veteran Indian diplomat and sister of former Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru**, was the first woman to be elected president of the General Assembly in as early as 1953. Later, **Angie Elisabeth Brooks** of Liberia was elected president in 1969 and **Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa** of Bahrain in 2006.

Permanent members of the **United Nations Security Council** also known as the **Permanent Five**, **Big Five**, or **P5** are the five states which the **UN Charter of 1945** grants a permanent seat on the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, **China**, **France**, **Russia**, 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's first full-scale hyperloop passenger capsule unveiled

- US-based **Hyperloop Transportation Technologies** or **HyperloopTT** has unveiled its first full-scale transportation capsule at **Puerto de Santa Maria, Spain**, which will be ready for passengers in 2019.

- The 32-metre "Quintero One" passenger capsule will be delivered to HyperloopTT's research and development centre in Toulouse, France, for additional assembly and integration into the system before it is used on one of the first commercial tracks.
- "In 2019, this capsule will be fully optimised and ready for passengers," said Bibop Gresta, chairman and co-founder of HyperloopTT.

Ukraine launches large-scale air exercises with NATO countries

- Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries, the defence ministry said.
- The "Clear Sky 2018" war games, which will run until October 19, are being held in western Ukraine.
- Some 700 troops are taking part, half of them from NATO member countries including the United States, Britain, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania.

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

Japanese passport ranked world's most powerful, India remains unchanged

- Japan has overtaken Singapore to claim the world's most powerful passport spot on the 2018 Henley Passport Index, having gained visa-free access to Myanmar earlier this month.
- The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- France moved up from 4th to 3rd place when it gained visa-free access to Uzbekistan, while South Korea moved from 4th to 3rd place on October 1 when it gained visa-free access to Myanmar. Iraq and Afghanistan continue to hold the bottom (106th) spot of the Henley Passport Index, with only 30 destinations accessible..

India ranks 147th in Oxfam world inequality index

- India has been ranked among the bottom 10 countries in a new worldwide index released. On the commitment of different nations to reduce inequalities in their populations.
- UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' ranks India 147th among 157 countries analysed, describing the country's commitment to reducing inequality as a "a very worrying situation" given that it is home to 1.3 billion people, many of whom live in extreme poverty.
- The index is topped by Denmark, based on its high and progressive taxation, high social spending and good protection of workers.

The index is based on a new database of indicators, now covering 157 countries, which measures government action on social spending, tax and labour rights — three areas found to be critical to reducing the gap. Japan, the top-ranking Asian country, came in at 11th on the index.

India ranks 115th in World Bank's Human Capital index

- The World Bank ranked India 115th among 157 countries in its first-ever Human Capital Index (HCI), drawing sharp criticism from the government. India's neighbours Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka were better placed at 106th, 102nd and 74th position, respectively. The index took into account parameters like child mortality, health and education.

- The World Bank gave India a score of 0.44 of the total 1.0, lower than the average for its income-level countries. In simple terms, it shows that the children born in India will be 44 per cent as productive when they grow up as they could be if they enjoyed complete education and full health. Girls fared slightly better at 0.45 than boys, who scored 0.43.
- The index basically measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health.

Singapore topped the index after it was highly rated for its universal healthcare system, education exams results and life expectancy figures, as per the HCI released by the World Bank. It is followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland.

Indian Naval Ship & Aircraft reach Belawan Indonesia for 32nd India - Indonesia coordinated patrol (CORPAT)

- Indian Naval Ship Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette, commanded by Commander Deepak Bali and an Indian Dornier (naval maritime time patrol aircraft) from Andaman and Nicobar command entered Belawan harbour, Indonesia for the opening ceremony of the 32nd edition of India – Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT), to be held from 11 – 27 Oct 2018. The delegation is led by Commodore Ashutosh Ridhorkar, Naval Component Commander, Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- The ships and aircraft from both the countries would undertake patrolling on the respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary Line. The patrolling would be conducted in three phases from 14 – 24 Oct 2018 followed by a closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island, scheduled from 25 – 26 Oct 2018.

Malaysia PM-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim wins parliamentary by-election

- Malaysian politician Anwar Ibrahim won a by-election for a parliamentary seat with a landslide victory in a grand political comeback to help him prepare for his eventual takeover from Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.
- Anwar was designated as Mahathir's successor after the two men set aside a bitter feud and joined hands to capture a stunning victory in May's general election.

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

Malaysian government decides to abolish capital punishment

- In Malaysia, the government decided to scrap capital punishment or death penalty following strong domestic opposition to the practice.
- Capital punishment in Malaysia is currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.

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

First Indo-US tri-services exercise likely to include Special Forces of both countries

- The **first Indo-US tri-services exercise will take place in 2019** and talks are on to include the Special Forces of two countries in the drill.
- The **three forces of India and the US already take part in bilateral exercises separately** -- their armies participate in an **annual drill called Yudh Abyaas**, whose latest edition took place last month, the **air forces take part in a bilateral drill called Cope India** and the **navies participate in an exercise in Malabar**, involving Japan.
- **But this will be the first time the three services of the India and the US will participate in a drill together.** "The first one will be in India, and it will take place in 2019."

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 1st Battalion 23 Infantry Regiment of US Army** concluded at **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand** on 29 September 2018.

China launches two more satellites to beef up GPS-style system

- **China successfully launched twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites into space to strengthen its satellite navigation network** being built to rival the US' Global Positioning System (GPS).
- The satellites are the **39th and 40th of the BeiDou navigation system**, and the **15th and 16th of the BeiDou-3 family**, Named after the Chinese term for the Big Dipper, the BeiDou system started serving China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012. The satellites were launched from a Long March-3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan province.

China, officially the **People's Republic of China (PRC)**, 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 **renminbi** is the **official currency** of the People's Republic of China. The **yuan** is the **basic unit of the renminbi**, but is also used to refer to the Chinese currency generally, especially in international contexts where "Chinese yuan" is widely used to refer to the renminbi. **Xi Jinping** is currently serving as President of the People's Republic of China. **Li Keqiang** is the current Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

Maeen Abdulmalik sworn in as the Yemen's new Prime Minister

- **Yemen's newly appointed Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik was sworn in to lead the internationally-backed government** in the war-torn Arab country.
- **Maeen was appointed as Prime Minister by Yemen's President Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi**, replacing his sacked predecessor **Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr**.

Yemen is a country at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. **Yemen** is the **second-largest Arab sovereign state in the peninsula**. **Sana'a** also spelled **Sanaa** or **Sana**, is the **capital and largest city** in Yemen and the centre of Sana'a Governorate. The **rial** or **riyal** is the currency of Yemen.

Armies of India and Japan to hold first ever joint exercise from November 1

- **Armies of India and Japan will hold their first ever joint exercise from November 1** 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'** will be to **increase interoperability between the two forces and enhance coordination** in dealing with various security challenges.

- The **Indian contingent** will be represented by **6/1 Gorkha Rifles** while the **Japanese contingent** will be represented by **32 Infantry Regiment** of the **Japanese Ground Self Defence Force**.

Indian-American awarded at White House for combating human trafficking

- An **Indian-American woman** has been honoured with a **Presidential award** by **U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo** for her extraordinary contribution towards **combating human trafficking in Houston**.
- **Minal Patel Davis**, **Special Advisor on Human Trafficking** to **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner**, received the '**Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking**' in the **White House** at a ceremony also attended by **President Donald Trump**.

Canada becomes second country to legalise recreational cannabis

- **Canada** has become the **second country** after **Uruguay** to **legalise possession and use of recreational cannabis**. **Medical marijuana** has been **legal in the country since 2001**.
- But concerns remain, including about the readiness for police forces to tackle drug impaired driving. Information has been sent to 15m households about the new laws and there are public awareness campaigns.

Canada is a country located in the northern part of **North America**. **Canada** is the **world's second-largest country** by total area. **Elizabeth II** is the **Head of the Commonwealth** and **queen regnant** of **seven independent Commonwealth countries**: the **United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon**. Its **capital is Ottawa**, and its three largest metropolitan areas are **Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver**. **Canadian dollar** is the **currency of Canada**. **Justin Pierre James Trudeau** is serving as the **23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada** since 2015.

World's longest sea bridge between China-Hong Kong opened on October 24

- The **world's longest sea bridge Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge** was **opened for traffic** on **October 24**. The **55-kilometer-long bridge**, situated in the **Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary**, will be the **world's longest sea bridge**.
- The **construction of the multibillion-dollar bridge** had **begun in December 2009**. It will slash the **travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai** from **three hours to just 30 minutes**, further **integrating the cities in the Pearl River Delta**. The bridge spans **55km (34 miles)** and connects **Hong Kong to Macau and the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai**.

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

Astana hosts seventh meeting of education ministers of SCO member states

- The **seventh meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was **held in Astana, the Republic of Kazakhstan**.
- The **meeting** was **organised with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, the **Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan** and the **Rector's Office of the University of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, (USCO)** and the main (basic) universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, affiliated with USCO.
- **SCO Deputy Secretary-General Aziz Nosirov** also took part in the meeting. **Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yerlan Sagadiyev** chaired the event.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017.

Africa's oldest president easily wins 7th term as Cameroon's leader

- Africa's oldest president, Cameroon's Paul Biya, has easily won a seventh term after a Constitutional Council that he appointed rejected all legal challenges to the election. Biya won with more than 71% of the vote, far ahead of Maurice Kamto's 14%.

Cameroon is a country wedged in West and Central Africa. Yaounde is the capital of Cameroon. Philemon Yunji Yang has been Prime Minister of Cameroon since 30 June 2009. Central African CFA franc is the currency of six independent states in Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

India, Myanmar sign MoU on operationalisation of Sittwe Port

- India and Myanmar inked a crucial MoU for the appointment of a private operator of the Sittwe Port that will boost connectivity and help in creating local job opportunities as the two sides discussed bilateral issues as well as topics of common interest, including developments in the strife-torn Rakhine state.
- The MoU was signed by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale after his meetings with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Minister of Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sittwe Port is a deepwater port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar, on the Bay of Bengal. Situated at the mouth of the Kaladan River, the USD 120 Million port is being financed by India as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, collaboration between India and Myanmar. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a project that will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea.

India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format

- India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format. The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- The U.S. had proposed a trilateral air exercise between India, Japan and the U.S. For this, the Cope India exercise will be elevated to a trilateral level in phases, two official sources independently confirmed on condition of anonymity.

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. It has grown in scope with the involvement of fighter aircraft and force multipliers such as Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS), but has been held only intermittently.

India – Czech Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation held in Prague

- The eleventh session of India – Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held on 22nd – 23rd October 2018 at Prague.

- The **Indian delegation** was led by **Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary**. **Miss Marta Nováková**, Minister of Industry & Trade of Czech Republic led the Czech side. The deliberations were marked with the mutual desire to further expand and strengthen relations between the two countries in the economic field.

World's oldest intact shipwreck found in Black Sea

- An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been found virtually intact at the bottom of the Black Sea, the world's oldest known shipwreck, researchers said.
- The vessel is one of more than 60 shipwrecks identified by the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project including Roman ships and a 17th-century Cossack raiding fleet. The ship was dated back to 400 BC -- a time when the Black Sea was a trading hub filled with Greek colonies.

Black Sea is a body of water and marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean between Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Western Asia. The Black Sea drains into the Mediterranean Sea, via the Aegean Sea and various straits, and is navigable to the Atlantic Ocean. The Black Sea is one of four seas named in English after common colour terms—the others being the Red Sea, the White Sea and the Yellow Sea.

India, Iran, Afghanistan hold first trilateral on Chabahar port project

- **India, Afghanistan and Iran held their first trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project** during which they reviewed its implementation. The meeting assumes significance as the strategically-located port on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast was coming under the ambit of US sanctions on Tehran.
- In May 2016, India, Iran and Afghanistan had signed a pact which entailed establishment of a transit and transport corridor among the three countries using Chabahar Port as one of the regional hubs.

Adel Abdul Mahdi sworn in as Iraq's PM

- **Adel Abdul Mahdi** was sworn in as new prime minister of Iraq after the parliament passed 14 out of his 22 cabinet members.
- **Mahdi and his 14 cabinet members were sworn in** after a long parliament session that continued until after midnight, as the parliament passed the government program submitted by Mahdi as well as his 14 cabinet members after heated debate.
- Among the new ministers, **Mohammed Ali al-Hakim** was approved as **Foreign Minister**, **Fuad Hussein** as **Finance Minister** and **Thamir al-Ghadhban** as **Oil Minister**.

Iraq is a country in Western Asia. The capital, and largest city, is Baghdad. **Barham Ahmed Salih** serves as **President of Iraq**. The **Dinar** is the currency of Iraq.

NATO begins biggest military exercises since end of Cold War

- **Norway hosts NATO's biggest exercises since the end of the Cold War** to remind Russia the Alliance stands united despite seeds of doubt planted by US President Donald Trump.
- Some **50,000 soldiers, 10,000 vehicles, 65 ships and 250 aircraft** from **31 countries** are taking part in **Trident Juncture 18**, which is aimed at training the Atlantic Alliance to defend a member state after an aggression.
- In addition to NATO's 29 member countries, Norway's neighbours Sweden and Finland will join the exercises, which run through November 7.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the **North Atlantic Alliance**, is an **intergovernmental military alliance** between **29 North American and European countries**. The organization implements the **North Atlantic Treaty** that was signed on **4 April 1949**. NATO's **Headquarters** are located in **Haren, Brussels, Belgium**, while the headquarters of **Allied Command Operations** is near **Mons, Belgium**. **Jens Stoltenberg** is serving as the **13th Secretary General of NATO** since 2014.

Ethiopia appoints Sahle-Work Zewde as first female president

- Ethiopia's parliament took another step towards gender parity by appointing the country's first female president.
- Sahle-Work Zewde is a seasoned diplomat who has held positions in the United Nations and worked in peacekeeping operations in Africa, accepted the position after the unprecedented appointments of women to lead the Defence Ministry and the secret intelligence agency, a long-feared state organ that recently got a face-lift.

Ethiopia is a country in the Horn of Africa and its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa. The birr is the unit of currency in Ethiopia. Abiy Ahmed Ali is serving as the 15th and current Prime Minister of Ethiopia since 2 April 2018.

Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro wins Presidential elections

- In Brazil, far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Presidential elections.
- With almost all votes counted, Mr Bolsonaro bagged 55 percent votes against 45 percent for Fernando Haddad from the left-wing Workers Party. Mr Bolsonaro is scheduled to take office on 1st January next year.

Brazil is the largest country in both South America and Latin America. Brazil is the world's fifth-largest country by area and the sixth most populous. The capital is Brasilia, and the most populated city is Sao Paulo. Brazilian real is the official currency of Brazil. Michel Temer has been serving as the 37th and current President of Brazil since 2016.

Michael D Higgins re-elected as Irish president for second term

- Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as the President of Ireland after receiving 56 per cent of the country's votes in the elections. Mr Higgins, who has served as the country's head of state since 2011, will now keep the top job for another seven years.
- Businessman Peter Casey came second with 23.1 per cent votes, while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10 per cent.
- Voters also supported the proposal to remove blasphemy as an offence from the Constitution, with 65 per cent voting yes.

Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic. It is separated from Great Britain to its east by the North Channel, the Irish Sea, and St George's Channel. Ireland is the second-largest island of the British Isles, the third-largest in Europe, and the twentieth-largest on Earth. The capital and largest city is Dublin. Leo Varadkar has been serving as Taoiseach, Minister for Defence and Leader of Fine Gael since June 2017. Ireland currency is euro.

Angela Merkel to step down as German chancellor in 2021

- Germany's Angela Merkel has said she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks.
- She would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU). She has held the post since 2000. Taking a decisive step towards the end of her political career, the veteran leader who has led Germany for 13 years said she hoped her planned departure would end bitter fighting in her coalition and finally focus it on its task of governing Europe's biggest economy.
- German Bundesrats a legislative body that represents the sixteen Lander (federated states) of Germany at the national level.

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

Sirisena swears in 14 Ministers

- Deposed **Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe** ruled out **legal action** against **President Maithripala Sirisena's** recent move sacking him and appointing former President **Mahinda Rajapaksa** in his place.
- Mr. Sirisena's snap move has put the country in an extraordinary situation, **with two Prime Ministers and two Cabinets.**

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**.

Pakistan accepts India invite to SCO meet

- **India** will host **Pakistan** and representatives of seven member countries that are part of the **China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** on handling urban disaster this week.
- The **National Disaster Response Force** is hosting the preparatory meeting for the **“Joint mock exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue”** to be held next year in **India**. The meeting assumes significance as **India** called off dialogue with **Pakistan** last month. The first phase of the meeting will be held from **November 1 to 2 in Delhi's Le Meridien hotel.**

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** is a **Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation**, the creation of which was announced on **15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China** by the leaders of **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan**; the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter** was signed in **June 2002** and entered into force on **19 September 2003**. **India and Pakistan** have become latest full members in **SCO** in **2017**.

Japan agrees to 316 Billion Yen loan for seven major infrastructure projects in India

- **Japan** has agreed to provide loans of about **316 Billion Yen** for seven major infrastructure projects in **India**. These include **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train**, projects in **Delhi, North East and Chennai**.
- This was announced after the **13th India Japan Annual Bilateral Summit** led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his Japanese counterpart **Shinzo Abe** in **Tokyo**.

In a major fillip to the **International Solar Alliance**, **Japan** announced that it has ratified the framework agreement for the **International Solar Alliance**. **Japan** is the **71st** country to sign the agreement to join the global alliance and the **48th** to ratify it.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian for 11th consecutive year with \$47.3 billion: Forbes

- **Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of \$47.3 billion**, according to Forbes magazine. **Ambani is also the year's biggest gainer, adding \$9.3 billion** to his wealth amid the continuing success of his Reliance Jio broadband telco service.
- As per the '**Forbes India Rich List 2018**', **Wipro Chairman Azim Premji has retained the second spot**, adding \$2 billion to his wealth at \$21 billion; **while ArcelorMittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal moved a place ahead to the third slot with a net worth of \$18.3 billion**, increasing his wealth by \$1.8 billion.

Mittal is followed by the **Hinduja brothers** at with a **net worth of \$18 billion** and **Pallonji Mistry with \$15.7 billion**. Other business magnates making the top 10 list are **Shiv Nadar (\$14.6 billion)**, **Godrej family (\$14 billion)**, **Dilip Shanghvi (\$12.6 billion)**, **Kumar Birla (\$12.5 billion)** and **Gautam Adani (\$11.9 billion)**. **Biotechnology pioneer Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has emerged as the biggest percentage gainer of the year**. One of only four women on the list, her net worth rose 66.7 per cent to \$3.6 billion. In terms of net worth, she stood at 39th spot.

India-born Gita Gopinath appointed IMF chief economist

- **Harvard economist Gita Gopinath has been appointed as the chief economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).**
- **She will be assuming the post of economic counsellor and director of the IMF's Research Department.**
- **Gopinath will be succeeding Maurice Obstfeld**, who had announced earlier this year that he will be **retiring at the end of 2018**. She is the second Indian after former RBI governor **Raghuram Rajan** to hold the position.

SIDBI launches national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign--Udyam Abhilasha in 115 aspirational districts

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign--Udyam Abhilasha**, in **115 aspirational districts** identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States reaching to around 15,000 youth.
- **SIDBI will join to contribute to the transformation mission unleashed for the districts**. It would create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to the aspiring youths, encouraging them to enter the admired segment of entrepreneurs.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is a development financial institution in India headquartered at Lucknow. Set up on April 2, 1990 through an Act of Parliament, SIDBI acts as the Principal Financial Institution for the Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

India moves up to 28th rank in govt e-payment adoption

- India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018, from 36th in 2011, but it needs to do more on digital infrastructure access and socio-economic factors.
- India is one of the top-performing countries in terms of citizen-to-government (C2G), business-to-government (B2G) and government-to-business (G2B) transactions, the survey by The Economist Intelligence Unit commissioned by payments company Visa. The country holds the top ranking on B2G and G2B, and comes third on C2G jointly with Argentina.
- India is at the 58th place for digital infrastructure and lags significantly in the development of digital infrastructure and socio-economic conditions, according to the survey.
- India is placed 60th among the 73 countries surveyed on socio-economic development.

Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark. The 73-country survey, which was last conducted in 2011, looks at availability of government electronic transaction services and the underlying environment of mechanisms that support digitisation for all transactions in a market, such as policy and infrastructure.

IMF cuts world economic growth forecasts as import tariffs

- The International Monetary Fund cut its global economic growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019, saying that trade policy tensions and the imposition of import tariffs were taking a toll on commerce while emerging markets struggle with tighter financial conditions and capital outflows.
- The IMF said in an update to its World Economic Outlook it was now predicting 3.7 percent global growth in both 2018 and 2019, down from its July forecast of 3.9 percent growth for both years.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast a growth rate of 7.3 percent for India in the current year of 2018 and that of 7.4 percent in 2019. In 2017, India had clocked a 6.7 percent growth rate.

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

Nigeria, Singapore and India fuel wealth gap: Oxfam

- Nigeria, Singapore and India are among countries fuelling the gap between the super-rich and poor, aid agency Oxfam said as it launched an index spotlighting those nations doing least to bridge the divide.
- South Korea, Georgia and Indonesia were among countries praised for trying to reduce inequality, through policies on social spending, tax and labour rights. Oxfam said inequality had reached crisis levels, with the richest 1 percent of the global population nabbing four-fifths of wealth created between mid-2016 and mid-2017, while the poorest half saw no increase in wealth.
- The index of 157 countries is being released as finance ministers and central bank chiefs gather in Bali for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings. Nigeria, where 10 percent of children die before

their fifth birthday, came bottom due to “shamefully low” social spending, poor tax collection and rising labour rights violations, Oxfam said.

UNICEF, NASSCOM sign MoU to strengthen child rights

- UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions". With this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the two organisations will work collaboratively on two key areas including national sensitisation on 'child online protection' and 'encouraging innovations for child rights' in the country, a statement by UNICEF said.
- As partners, both The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) India, a trade association of Indian information technology companies will co-create sensitisation workshops across India, it said further.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) agency headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. It was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II.

Google appeals record 4.3 billion euro EU fine over Android

- Google on appealed the biggest ever anti-trust fine by the EU, which imposed a 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) penalty on the US tech giant for illegally abusing the dominance of its operating system for mobile devices.

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

Union Government launches Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme FY19

- As part of efforts to cut down gold imports and lower the current account deficit, the government launched the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme FY19. The scheme retains the incentives offered in the earlier tranche—of 2.5% interest rate and capital gains tax exemption on redemption.
- Sovereign Gold Bonds scheme 2015 was launched by PM Narendra Modi. SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.

Cabinet approves merger of National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space - National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) into the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
- NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is a Ministry of Government of India set up on 9 November 2014 to coordinate all skill development efforts across the country. Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan is currently the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in the NDA Government. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in March 2018 from Madhya Pradesh.

Cabinet approves closure of National Manufactures Corporation Ltd

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has **approved the closure of National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) and its subsidiary Birds Jute & Exports Ltd. (BJEL).**
- **NJMC has been incurring losses for several years and was under reference to BIFR since 1993. The company's primary product was hessian jute bags used for packaging of food grain used by the various State Governments.**

National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) is a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** of the Government of India and is **headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.** The company formed through the **nationalization of six jute mills** namely, Kinnison, Khardah, National, Alexandra, union, **all in the state of West Bengal and RBHM Katihar in Bihar in 1980.**

Union Government hikes import duty on certain communication items up to 20%

- **Union government has hiked the import duty on certain communication items, including base stations, to up to 20 per cent as part of efforts to check a widening current account deficit by curbing imports.**
- **The import duty has also been hiked on certain inputs used in the communication industry like Printer Circuit Board Assembly.**
- **Duty has also been raised to 20 per cent from 10 per cent for base stations and for machines for the reception, conversion and transmission or regeneration of voice, images or other data, including switching and routing apparatus other than modems, voice frequency telegraphy, digital loop carrier systems and multiplexers.**

World Economic Forum Opens Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution India

- **The World Economic Forum announced to establish its new Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in India, which would aim to bring together the government and business leaders to pilot emerging technology policies.**
- **The new centre will work in collaboration with the government on a national level to co-design new policy frameworks and protocols for emerging technology alongside leaders from business, academia, start-ups and international organizations.**
- **NITI Aayog will coordinate the partnership on behalf of the government and the work of the centre among multiple ministries. The WEF has also entered into partnerships with the Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh governments for the new initiative and more states would be roped in going forward.**

The World Economic Forum (WEF), based in Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland, was founded in 1971 as a not-for-profit organization. It gained formal status in January 2015 under the Swiss Host-State Act, confirming the role of the Forum as an International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation.

NITI Aayog Organises Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration

- **The NITI Aayog and ICC International Court of Arbitration organised the inaugural Training-cum-Brainstorming Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration in New Delhi.**
- **Moving towards a New India in 2022, ensuring legal reform is a key and critical priority. Complementing 'Make in India' vision with 'Resolve in India', strong alternate dispute resolution mechanisms are important levers in encouraging the Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in India.**
- **The workshop was inaugurated by the chief guest, Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and was presided over by P.P. Chaudhary, MoS, Ministry of Law and Justice. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog was also present during the workshop.**

Prema Gopalan Honoured as India Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2018

- The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, announced Prema Gopalan of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) as India Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) 2018. The award honours her exceptional contribution in revitalizing rural economies by empowering women to succeed in remote and ailing markets.
- The SSP model comprises four ventures: a federated network of 5,000 self-help groups; a resilience fund for women-led businesses; a rural school of entrepreneurship and leadership for women; and a market aggregator that provides warehousing, branding, marketing and distribution services to last-mile business women. In addition, it has catalysed the government, investors, financial institutions and Indian and global corporations to partner directly with grassroots women business leaders.

India ranked 58th most competitive economy in WEF index

- India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018.
- According to the report, the top performers in the "upper and lower middle-income brackets", India is catching up with or even outperforming the average among high-income economies.
- As per the report, India leads the region in all other areas of competitiveness except for health, education and skills. India was ranked 58th with a score of 62.0 in the latest Global Competitiveness Report. "This is the largest gain among all G20 economies," WEF said.

On the list of 140 economies, the US is followed by Singapore and Germany at the second and the third positions respectively. Meanwhile, neighbouring China was ranked at the 28th position in the overall list. Among the BRICS economies, China topped the list at 28th place with a score of 72.6, ahead of the Russian Federation (65.6, 43rd), India (62.0, 58th), South Africa (60.8, 67th), and Brazil (59.5, 72nd). The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 is a composite indicator that assesses the set of factors that determine an economy's level of productivity - widely considered as the most important determinant of long-term growth.

PM Modi's panel wants mandatory R&D funding by companies

- The Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) wants to make it mandatory for medium and large enterprises in key sectors to set aside funds for research and development after the Economic Survey pointed out the abysmal levels of investment in this area.
- It had said that R&D investment in India has been stagnant for 20 years at 0.6-0.7% of gross domestic product with that by the private sector at 0.35%. The high-level panel wants the private sector to step up in this regard and take that share to at least 1% of GDP by 2022.
- The global average is 1.5% of GDP, which is the overall level that the council wants to see in India over the next five years. The council has further asked that line ministries be mandated to allocate at least 2% of their budgets as research and innovation grants for developing and deploying technologies related to priority concerns.

Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Council (PM-STIAC) includes noted mathematician and Princeton University professor Manjul Bhargava; and Major General Madhuri Kanitkar, the first woman dean of Army Forces Medical College, Pune; said K Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific adviser to the Government of India. Headed by Mr Raghvan, the committee also comprises former ISRO chief AS Kiran Kumar; Ajay Sood, professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru; Subhash Kak, professor at the Oklahoma State University, United States; and industrialist Baba Kalyani.

India imposes anti-dumping duty on certain steel products from China

- India has imposed anti-dumping duties of up to 185.51 US dollars per tonne for five years on certain varieties of Chinese steel to protect the interest of the domestic players. An official notification said the revenue

department has imposed the duty based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

- In its anti-dumping investigation, the DGTR stated that dumped imports of 'straight length bars and rods of alloy steel' from China have increased in absolute terms during the period of the probe (2016-17).

If a company exports a product at a price that is lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market, or sells at a price that does not meet its full cost of production, it is said to be "dumping" the product. It is a sub part of the various forms of price discrimination and is classified as third-degree price discrimination. Its focus is on how governments can or cannot react to dumping—it disciplines anti-dumping actions, and it is often called the "anti-dumping agreement".

India 9th most valuable nation brand in the world; US, China lead the list

- Even though India slipped by one spot, it was still ranked one of the 10 most valuable nation brands in the world. Brand Finance's annual Nation Brands report measures nations' brands based on the country's image and the economy as a whole. India was ranked 8th in last year's report but slipped by a spot to the 9th rank. Despite its brand value rising 5% from last year, India has slipped one rank for the second consecutive year.
- India's brand value was \$2,046 billion in 2017 and has increased to \$2,159 billion in 2018, the report mentioned. India is one of the only two countries in the top 10 to have lost a spot. The other country to slip by a rank is Japan.

Topping the list and maintaining its lead is US with a brand value of \$25,899 billion which rose by 23% from last year. Following US is China in the second spot with a brand value of \$12,779 billion, followed by Germany with \$5,147 billion, UK with \$3,750 billion, Japan with \$3,598 billion and France with \$3,224 billion. Brand Finance measures the strength and value of the brands using a method based on the royalty relief mechanism employed to value the world's largest companies. It looks into nation brand strength, royalty rate, revenues, weighted average cost of capital (WACC) or discount rate and brand valuation.

Centre approves Appellate Court for cases related to Benami Transactions

- Union government approved setting up of Appellate Tribunal and Adjudicating Authority for speedy disposal of cases related to benami transactions. The decision was taken at the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at a press conference.
- As per an official release, the Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal will be based in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD). Benches of Adjudicating Authority may sit in Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, and the necessary notification in this regard will be issued after consultation with the Chairperson of the proposed Adjudicating Authority.

India ranked 58th most competitive economy in World Economic Forum's index 2018

- India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018, which was topped by the US. India's rank rose by five places from 2017, the largest gain among G20 economies, the WEF said.
- On the list of 140 economies, the US is followed by Singapore and Germany at the second and the third positions respectively. India was ranked 58th with a score of 62.0 in the latest Global Competitiveness Report. India ranks behind other emerging economies such as Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.
- India fares poorly on human capital, ranking 108th and 96th on health and skills, respectively.

The global competitiveness rankings are based on a country's performance on four sub-indices, namely enabling environment, human capital, markets and the innovation ecosystem it offers.

The three Indian-Americans included in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people list

- **Three Indian-Americans** have been named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in the US. The **three Indian-Americans** included in the list are **Divya Nag, Dr Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande**.
- To put together the list, Time's team of health editors and reporters nominated **people who made significant contributions to the state of healthcare in America this year**. The publication then evaluated their work on originality, impact and quality. The **list was broken up into four separate categories, including public health, treatments, cost and technology**. The list included physicians, scientists, business and political leaders, whose work is transforming healthcare.

Time is an American weekly news magazine and news website published in New York City. It was founded in 1923 and originally run by Henry Luce. Nancy Gibbs was the managing editor from September 2013 until September 2017. She was succeeded by Edward Felsenthal, who has been Time's digital editor.

Invest India wins UN award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development

- **Invest India**, the country's investment promotion body, has won the **UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development**. The award was presented by **Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to Deepak Bagla, the CEO of Invest India** at the **World Investment Forum, Geneva**.
- The event is being attended by more than **6,000 participants, including more than 10 heads of state, and ministers from 50 countries**. Agencies from Bahrain, Lesotho and South Africa have also won top honours during the function.
- The awards, organised by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, honour investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and their governments for their achievements, but also **showcase best practices in attracting investment into Sustainable Development Goals-related projects** that can inspire investment promotion practitioners in developing and developed countries.

Invest India is set up as a non-profit venture under the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India**. As the **national investment promotion and facilitation agency**, **Invest India** focuses on **sector-specific investor targeting** and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.

Seychelles launches World's First Sovereign Blue Bond

- The **Republic of Seychelles** has launched the **world's first sovereign blue bond**—a pioneering financial instrument **designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects**.
- The **bond, which raised US\$15 million from international investors**, demonstrates the **potential for countries to harness capital markets** for financing the sustainable use of marine resources.
- The **World Bank** assisted in developing the blue bond and reaching out to the three investors: **Calvert Impact Capital, Nuveen, and U.S. Headquartered Prudential Financial, Inc.**

Seychelles is an **archipelago country in the Indian Ocean**. The capital of the **115-island country, Victoria**, lies **1,500 kilometres east of mainland East Africa**. As **one of the world's biodiversity hotspots**, Seychelles is balancing the need to both develop economically and protect its natural endowment. The **rupee** is the **currency of the Seychelles**. **Danny Faure** has been **President of Seychelles** since **16 October 2016**.

Union Government eyes recovery of over Rs. 1.8 lakh cr. NPAs

- Enthused by the **impact of new insolvency and bankruptcy law**, the government expects **bad loan recoveries to exceed the Rs. 1.80 lakh crore-target** for the current financial year.
- Last year in June, **RBI's internal advisory committee (IAC) identified 12 accounts**, each **having more than Rs 5,000 crore of outstanding loans and accounting for 25 per cent of total NPAs of banks**.
- Following the RBI's advisory, banks referred Bhushan Steel Ltd, Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd, Essar Steel Ltd, Jaypee Infratech Ltd, Lanco Infratech Ltd, Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd, Jyoti Structures Ltd, Electrosteel Steels Ltd, Amtek Auto Ltd, Era Infra Engineering Ltd, Alok Industries Ltd and ABG Shipyard Ltd to NCLT. **These accounts together have a total outstanding loan of Rs 1.75 lakh crore.**

A **Non-performing asset (NPA)** is defined as a **credit facility in respect of which the interest and/or installment of Bond finance principal has remained 'past due' for a specified period of time**. NPA is used by financial institutions that refer to loans that are in jeopardy of default the so called NPL. Once the borrower has failed to make interest or principal payments for 90 days the loan is considered to be a non-performing asset.

WTO sets up dispute panel on India-US case on export subsidies

- The **World Trade Organisation's (WTO) dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the U.S.' complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India** as both the sides failed to resolve the issue at consultation level.

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

Andhra Pradesh achieves first rank with 10.5% growth

- **Andhra Pradesh has achieved number one rank in the country with an average growth of 10.5% during the last four years, surpassing many developed States such as Maharashtra and Gujarat following "focused approach"**.
- According to the State Planning Department, the **average growth in the country stood at 7.3% during the last four years**. The **growth in Andhra Pradesh was 9.2% in 2014-15, the year of bifurcation**. Later, it was **ranked second**. In the subsequent year, it achieved a double-digit growth of 10.6% though its rank had slipped to the 4th place.

Andhra Pradesh is the only State to clock the double-digit growth rate. While Telangana has slipped to the second place, Maharashtra is ranked sixth. Punjab is placed 14th and Karnataka third.

India, Japan sign \$75 billion currency swap agreement

- **India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement worth \$75 billion** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan.
- **"The Prime Ministers of India and Japan, building on great friendship between the two countries and to further strengthen and widen the depth and diversity of economic cooperation, agreed during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan, to conclude a Bilateral Currency Swap Agreement for an amount of \$75 billion,"**.

A **currency swap typically involves the exchange of interest and sometimes of principal in one currency for the same in another currency**. Interest payments are exchanged at fixed dates through the life of the contract. It is an **interest rate derivative (IRD)**. In particular it is a **linear IRD and one of the most liquid, benchmark products** spanning multiple currencies simultaneously.

Banks in News

IMF, World Bank and WTO Seek Removal of Barriers to Global Service Trade

- The joint report between the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO identifies areas where trade has the potential of contributing particularly strongly to productivity growth and economic growth overall.
- The report "Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth" brought out collectively by the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO, comes at a time when the Trump administration has taken a tough stand on the H-1B visa issue, a move which has badly hit not only the technology professionals and highly skilled individuals from India, but also pioneering Indian IT companies.

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

RBI to inject Rs. 36,000 cr into system through purchase of govt bonds

- The Reserve Bank announced that it will inject 36,000 crore rupees into the system through purchase of government bonds in October to meet the festival season demand for funds.
- The auctions to purchase government bonds as part of the Open Market Operations will be conducted in the second, third and fourth week of October.

Open market operations are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions. The central bank sells g-secs to suck out liquidity from the system and buys back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system. These operations are often conducted on a day-to-day basis

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India sign \$150 Million Loan to Improve Regional Connectivity

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$150 Million Loan to finance continued improvements to road connectivity and efficiency of the International Trade Corridor in West Bengal and North-Eastern Region of India.
- Approved in 2014, the Program aims to expand about 500 kilometers of roads in India's North Bengal and North-Eastern Region that will enable efficient and safe transport within India and regionally with other SASEC member countries.

Government appoints ex-Canara Bank MD Rakesh Sharma as IDBI chief

- The Centre appointed former Canara Bank MD Rakesh Sharma as head of IDBI Bank.
- He has been appointed as MD for a period of six months. The tenure of B. Sriram, who was appointed as chief executive of IDBI Bank for three months, ended in September 2018.

Centre and ADB sign 110 million dollar loan agreement for upgradation of 2,800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh

- The Center and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 110 million dollar loan agreement for the upgradation of 2,800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh.

- The loan is a part of 500 million dollar Second Rural Connectivity Investment Program, Tranche 2, approved by the ADB Board, under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program.

SBI signs MoU with Nepal's National Banking Institute for human resource development

- State Bank of India has signed a MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for development of NBI's human resources by imparting education, training and research.
- SBI signed the three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NBI to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance.

National Banking Institute Limited (NBI) is national level apex banking and finance academy. It was established under the aegis of Nepal Bankers' Association with support from Asian Development Bank. Apart from Nepal Banker's Association member banks, its promoters include Nepal Rastra Bank and Rural Microfinance Development Center (RMDC). The institute is registered under the Nepal's Company Act, 2063.

RBI issues guidelines to facilitate payments among PPI

- In a move aimed at promoting digital transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets.
- According to the notification issued by the RBI, inter-operability among mobile wallets and between bank account and e-wallet would be enabled through the UPI system. The inter-operability shall be facilitated to all KYC-compliant PPI accounts and entire acceptance infrastructure.

CVC shares report on top 100 bank frauds with RBI, ED and CBI

- Probity watchdog Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has completed a first-of-its-kind analysis of the top 100 banking frauds, including those in the jewellery and aviation sectors, and shared its findings with the RBI, ED and CBI among others, Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin said.
- The frauds were classified and analysed for 13 sectors including gem and jewellery, manufacturing and industry, agriculture, media, aviation, service and project, discounting of cheques, trading, information technology, export business, fixed deposits, demand loan and letter of comfort.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption. In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC. It has the status of an autonomous body, free of control from any executive authority, charged with monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government of India, advising various authorities in central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work. K V Chowdary is the first non-IAS and current head the Central Vigilance Commission.

RBI eases liquidity norms for banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased lenders' single borrower exposure limit for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which do not finance infrastructure, to 15 per cent of capital funds.
- The single borrower exposure limit has been increased from 10 per cent of capital funds and is effective up to December 31, 2018.

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.

India's first cryptocurrency ATM opens in Bengaluru despite RBI's interdiction

- The **validity of cryptocurrencies remains uncertain** after the Central government gave directions to prevent banks from trading in them. However, in all the commotion and suspense, **Unocoin Technologies Private Ltd has set up India's first ATM kiosk to trade in cryptocurrencies in Bengaluru.**
- The **automated teller machine**, which has been **installed at Kemp Fort Mall on Old Airport of Bengaluru, is the first-of-its-kind in the country.** It will have both a trading and exchange platform, which will allow verified customers to use the device. It is expected to start operations soon. **As per information provided by Unocoin, customers will be able to buy or sell up to 10 Bitcoins a day.**

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency, a form of electronic cash. It is a decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator that can be sent from user-to-user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network without the need for intermediaries. Bitcoin was invented by an unknown person or group of people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto and released as open-source software in 2009.

SBI launches its first "Wealth Hub" in Mangaluru

- The **nation's largest bank, State Bank of India** launched its **wealth business services by opening "SBI Wealth Hub" at the Lalbagh branch, Mangaluru.** The wealth hub was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.
- **SBI is the first PSU bank in the country to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.** The bank has **re-branded its wealth business as "SBI Wealth" offering best-in-class personalised banking and investment services to its elite High Net worth Individual (HNI) clients** through a dedicated team of relationship managers.

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

India has most outward migrants in 2017, says ADB report

- **Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report said.** The report further said as many as one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.
- **"India had the most outward migrants in 2017 (17 million), followed by China (10 million) and Bangladesh (7.5 million)," said ADB's report titled 'Asian Economic Integration Report 2018'.**
- **"About one in three international migrants are from Asia led by India and the PRC (People's Republic of China)," it added.**
- **According to the report, Asia continued as the largest source of international migrants globally although the number of Asian migrants headed to regional destinations declined slightly.**
- **"The global stock of international migrants from Asia rose 3.9 per cent from 83.6 million in 2015 to 86.9 million in 2017," it said.**
- **The report also said intraregional migrants to India largely come from neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh (3.1 million), Pakistan (1.1 million) and Nepal (0.5 million).**

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.

Satish Kumar Gupta is the CEO of Paytm Payments Bank

- **Paytm Payments Bank** has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as managing director and CEO. Gupta comes in after Renu Satti stepped down as CEO in July and moved on to head the company's new retail business.
- **Gupta was former deputy general manager at State Bank of India** where he worked for over three decades. He then became chief project officer at National Payments Corporation of India, which manages payment products like Unified Payments Interface.

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

Corporation Bank has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank - Winner 2018' award

- **Corporation Bank** has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank - Winner 2018' award instituted by the Assocham. Shivanand Hebbar, DGM, received the award from Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma at the '6th Assocham SMEs Excellence Award – 2018' in Delhi.
- It said that the award was conferred based on the bank's performance in SME (small and medium enterprise) segment. The bank has designated 177 branches across the country as 'specialised MSME branches', and enabled online loan application facility for MSME borrowers. The release said that the bank offers interest concessions to women entrepreneurs and rated units.

Corporation Bank is a public-sector banking company headquartered in Mangalore, India. Jai Kumar Garg is the current ai Kumar Garg CEO and MD of the bank.

Firms in News

Apple world's top brand, Facebook slips to 9th spot

- **Apple** displaced **Google** to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while **Facebook**, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally.
- According to global brand consultancy Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report, **Amazon** achieved a 56 per cent growth to become the third top brand globally.
- According to the ranking, **Apple's** brand value grew 16 per cent (year-on-year) to \$214.5 billion. It went on to become the first company in the US to hit the \$1 trillion market cap.

Apple Inc. is an American multinational technology company headquartered in California, that designs, develops, and sells consumer electronics, computer software, and online services. It was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne in April 1976 to develop and sell Wozniak's Apple I personal computer. It was incorporated as **Apple Computer, Inc.** in January 1977. Tim Cook is the Chief Executive Officer.

BSE became the first equity exchange to unveil its commodity segment

- **BSE** became the first equity exchange to unveil its commodity segment with contracts in popular commodities like gold and silver.
- **BSE**, which is trying to create a niche in a segment dominated by Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), started offering delivery-based futures contract in gold (1kg) and silver (30kg).
- The **BSE** is trying to garner market share by offering a cheaper venue to trade by waiving transaction charges for one year.

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

Government launches Rail heritage digitisation project in collaboration with Google

- The **railway ministry** in collaboration with **Google** has **launched rail heritage digitisation project**.
- The **project is a first of its kind** to showcase country's rail heritage to **national and international audience** in an online story-telling platform.
- **India Railways** has a **history of more than 165 years** and has a rich heritage that includes the **Imperial and the princely railways**.

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

Paytm tops UPI payments with over 33% market share

- **Alibaba and SoftBank-backed Paytm** has **registered over 137 million UPI transactions** in **September**, becoming the **leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments** with over **33 per cent** of the overall market share.
- **One97 Communications Limited**, that owns the brand **Paytm**, said the company is enabling **BHIM UPI** for offline payments and over five million offline merchants, out of its **9.5 million merchant-bases**, now accept **Paytm UPI**.

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

Infosys and TCS among 12 Indian Firms in Forbes' List of World's Best Companies

- **Infosys, TCS and Tata Motors** are among the **12 Indian companies** which feature in a list of the world's best regarded firms compiled by **Forbes**.
- **Entertainment giant Walt Disney**, with a market cap of **USD 165 billion** topped the list, followed by hospitality major **Hilton** and Italian carmaker **Ferrari** at the **second and third spots** respectively.

Infosys Limited (formerly **Infosys Technologies Limited**) is an **Indian multinational corporation** that **provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services**. It has its **headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India**. **Nagavara Ramarao Narayana Murthy** co-founder of **Infosys**.

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

Ramon Laguarta succeeds Pepsico's Indian-origin CEO Indra Nooyi

- **Ramon Laguarta** assumed the role of **Chief Executive Officer** of global beverage giant **PepsiCo** succeeding India-born **Indra Nooyi** who had helmed the **American company** for **12 years**, breaking the corporate glass ceiling and leading **Pepsi** through changing consumer preference for healthier snacks and drinks.

- **Indra Nooyi stepped down after 24 years with PepsiCo, the last 12 as CEO. She will remain chairman until early 2019 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.**
- **Laguarta will become the sixth CEO in PepsiCo's 53-year history. Previously, Laguarta served as Chief Executive Officer, Europe Sub-Saharan Africa, one of PepsiCo's most complex businesses**

PepsiCo, Inc. is an American multinational food, snack, and beverage corporation headquartered in Purchase, New York. PepsiCo was formed in 1965 with the merger of the Pepsi-Cola Company and Frito-Lay, Inc. Indra Nooyi was appointed as CEO in 2006, becoming PepsiCo's fifth chief executive and the first woman in its history.

NITI Aayog's AIM & IBM India design First-of-its Kind Industry-tailored Student Internship Programme

- **NITI Aayog and IBM announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).**
- **The internship will see 38 students receive a two-week paid internship, and 14 teachers from Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) across the length and breadth of the country including from states such as Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar and others, to come together and ideate, collaborate and innovate.**

International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) is an American multinational information technology company headquartered in Armonk, New York, United States, with operations in over 170 countries. The company began in 1911 as the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company (CTR) and was renamed "International Business Machines" in 1924. Charles Ranlett Flint was the founder of the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company which later became IBM. IBM India Private Limited is the Indian subsidiary of IBM.

The Union Government of India has setup the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) is Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen passed away

- **Paul G. Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates before becoming a billionaire philanthropist who invested in conservation, space travel and professional sports passed away.**
- **After Gates and Allen found some success selling their programming language, MS-Basic, the Seattle natives moved their business in 1979 to Bellevue, Washington, not far from its eventual home in Redmond. Microsoft's big break came in 1980, when IBM Corp. decided to move into personal computers and asked Microsoft to provide the operating system.**

The first versions of two classic Microsoft products, Microsoft Word and the Windows operating system, were released in 1983. By 1991, Microsoft's operating systems were used by 93 percent of the world's personal computers. The Windows operating system is now used on most of the world's desktop computers, and Word is the cornerstone of the company's prevalent Office products. Microsoft was thrust onto the throne of technology and soon Gates and Allen became billionaires. With his sister Jody Allen in 1986, he founded Vulcan, the investment firm that oversees his business and philanthropic efforts.

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Microsoft was founded by Paul Allen and Bill Gates on April 4, 1975, to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800.

Microsoft and Niti Aayog partner to deploy AI solution

- India's premier think tank Niti Aayog and Microsoft India have signed a partnership to deploy artificial intelligence based solutions across various sectors such as agriculture and healthcare. According to the agreement, Microsoft India will support Niti Aayog by combining the cloud, AI, research and its vertical expertise for new initiatives and solutions across several core areas including agriculture and healthcare and the environment.
- Microsoft will also accelerate the use of AI for the development and adoption of local language computing, in addition to building capacity for AI among the workforce through education, the company said in a statement.

TCS displaces Accenture as largest IT firm servicing banks

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd's quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc, which is nearly double its size, making the Mumbai-based company the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing mega banks and insurers.
- Financial services sector is the largest buyer of services and solutions from IT and consulting firms, and in the last decade, Accenture has managed to retain its sectoral dominance.

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International Finance Corporation launches \$1-billion masala bonds

- International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, has launched a \$1-billion masala bond programme to fund its investment activities in India.
- The announcement comes in the backdrop of the Indian government looking to boost capital flows into the country. The government has taken a series of steps to support masala bonds — rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas — including exempting these from withholding tax.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also permitted banks to issue masala bonds overseas for their capital requirements and to finance infrastructure and affordable housing. The first tranche of \$100 million of IFC's masala bond programme opened at the London Stock Exchange.

The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.. It was established in 1956, as the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group, to advance economic development by investing in for-profit and commercial projects for poverty reduction and promoting development.

TCS among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for H-1B visas

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018 by receiving over 20,000 such certifications, according to official data in which Ernst and Young was ranked No 1.
- The H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals. The visa programme allows employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in the US on a non-immigrant basis in specialty occupations or as fashion models of distinguished merit and ability.
- London-headquartered Ernst and Young, a multinational professional services firm, has emerged as the top employer to have received the certification, the date from the US labour department said.

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Forty-five Indian companies participate in SIAL Paris exhibition

- **Forty-five Indian companies participated in the SIAL Paris exhibition – the largest international market place for food service professionals.**
- **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) has inaugurated a special Indian pavilion in the ongoing mega exhibition for the participating companies. SIAL Paris is the leading exhibition of food service products with more than 7020 French and international exhibitors from 109 countries displaying their foodstuffs, ranging from ingredients to processed products, including fresh produce.**

IFFCO biggest cooperative in the world

- **Fertiliser major IFFCO has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by ‘World Cooperative Monitor’ report 2018.**
- **The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) publish the world cooperative monitor report.**
- **“The 7th edition of the report titled ‘World Cooperative Monitor 2018’ has named IFFCO as the number one co-operative in the world based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita,”.**

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, also known as IFFCO is a Multi-state cooperative society engaged in the business of manufacturing and marketing of fertilisers headquartered in New Delhi, India. Started in 1967 with 57 member cooperatives it is today the biggest co-op in the world by turnover on GDP per capita with around 35,000 member cooperatives reaching over 50 million Indian farmers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Central University of Jammu signs MoU with ISRO to set up Space Applications Center

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University in the presence of the Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh**. Secretary, Department of Space and **ISRO Chairman, Dr. K. Sivan**, Prof. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, CUJ and **former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Radhakrishnan** were also present on the occasion.

The establishment of Materials Sciences Lab for space applications as a part of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science at CUJ will be another outstanding feature of the Center where special focus will be to synthesize and design new sensors and materials for space applications. **This is the first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir** and the building is proposed in an area of about 1,150 sq. m.

Shri J P Nadda inaugurates 'second World Conference on Access to Medical Products

- India is deeply committed nationally and globally to achieving all public health goals. Together we are working towards providing highest possible standards of health care for our citizens. **Universal health coverage is key to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda** and to which India is firmly committed." This was stated by **Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** during his address at the inauguration of '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030 in New Delhi.
- The main objective of the 2nd World Conference 2018 is to take forward the recommendations from the 1st World Conference 2017 and build on the work done for access to medical products in the context of SDGs (including trade agreements) in line with GPW 13 of WHO, foster new approaches in innovation landscape for medical products and health technologies for accelerating research and innovation and identify knowledge, information and policy options on the interface of international trade and health to achieve SDG 2030 goals.

Data breach: India worst hit after US in first half of 2018, says Gemalto

- **Data breach incidences in India** were the second highest globally on account of compromise in Aadhaar database which was exposed by a daily newspaper, according to a report by digital security firm Gemalto.
- "The United States is still by far and away the most popular target for attacks, representing more than 57 per cent of global breaches and accounting for 72 per cent of all records stolen, though overall incidents are down 17 per cent over the prior half. **India accounts for 37 per cent of the global breaches in terms of records compromised or stolen or revealed**".

'European spacecraft set to unravel mysteries of Mercury'

- A UK-built spacecraft set off for Mercury in a first mission of its kind to determine if the nearest planet to the Sun contains water.

- The **European Space Agency's (ESA) BepiColombo mission** sent two orbiters to explore the fiery world where the **surface temperatures reach about 450 degrees Celsius**.
- The **spacecraft was launched from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, on October 20** and will take **seven years to reach Mercury arriving in 2025**.

Till now, only two spacecraft have been to Mercury, NASA's Mariner 10 which flew past the planet in 1974 and 1975 and the US space agency's Messenger which orbited the planet between 2011 and 2015.

China successfully tests world's largest unmanned transport drone

- **China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.**
- **A large commercial drone Feihong-98 (FH-98) developed and modified by the China Academy of Aerospace Electronics Technology made a successful test flight at Baotou test site in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, state-run China Daily reported.**
- **It was adapted from the prototype of the Shifei Y5B, a China-developed transport plane. As China's first fully domestically-built transport aircraft, the Shifei Y5B has a history of over 60 years since its first flight in 1957 and has been widely used.**

According to **Liu Meixuan, president of the China Academy of Aerospace Electronics Technology**, the FH-98 features simple take-off and landing, simple operation, advanced technology, at an affordable cost. The **FH-98 has a maximum takeoff weight of 5.25 tonnes, a maximum capacity of 1.5 tonnes and 15 cubic metres, a flight height of 4,500 metres, a cruising speed of 180 kilometers per hour, and a maximum range of 1,200 kms.**

China-built world's largest amphibious plane, completes maiden flight test

- **China's indigenously designed and built amphibious aircraft AG600, touted as the world's largest, successfully carried out its first take-off and landing tests.**
- **The aircraft, developed and built by the state-owned aircraft firm Aviation Industry Corporation of China, took off and later landed on the water in Hubei province's Jingmen.**

The **aircraft code-named Kunlong was piloted by four crew members. It will be mainly used for maritime rescue, fighting forest fires and marine monitoring. Designed to be the world's largest amphibious aircraft, AG600 is powered by four domestically-built turboprop engines and has a range of 12 hours.**

India becomes second largest solar market; installs 4.9 GW in H1

- **India installed 4.9 GW of solar power, consolidating its position as the second largest solar market in the world, during the first half of calendar year 2018. The country was ranked second, following China during the January-June period, according to a report by Mercom Communications India.**
- **India was the fifth-largest solar market in the world for total installations, the study, 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 1H 2018', said. "New leaders are emerging in the highly-competitive Indian solar market, while some of the more established companies maintained their leadership position in the first half of 2018," said Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group.**

Adani remained the largest project developer in terms of total cumulative installations and top installer in terms of capacity installed through the end of the first half. There are around 70 large-scale project developers with a pipeline of 5 MW or more in India. ReNew Power had the largest project pipeline.

PM Modi launches 'Main Nahin, Hum' portal and App

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals across India via video-conference, as he launches the 'Main Nahin Hum' portal and mobile application.**

- Modi met with key industry leaders and **address a gathering consisting of IT professionals, and employees of IT and electronic manufacturing organisations from about 100 locations.** The portal, which works on the theme 'Self4Society', will enable IT professionals and organisations to bring together their efforts towards social causes on one platform.

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi

- The **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh** said that India has vindicated the vision of the **founding father of country's Nuclear Energy Programme, Dr Homi J. Bhabha**, when he had said that India's nuclear programme will be used for peaceful purposes.
- Delivering the **inaugural address at the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave**, he said that the Government under the leadership of **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, the Government has focussed on **non-power applications of nuclear energy**. The same principle has been promoted in other departments also such as Department of Space where use of space technology is being encouraged for the benefit of common man.

Young Indian scientist wins World Health Summit Startup award in Berlin

- **Roopam Sharma**, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the **World Health Summit Startup award, 2018** for his invention, **Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired**. Sharma was awarded at an annual event of the **health summit in Berlin recently**.
- **Manovue eliminates the need for Braille language to decipher a printed text and instead combines vision intelligence to help the visually impaired people read.** Manovue was also awarded the **Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015 and Yahoo Accenture Innovation Jockeys season 4**.
- Besides plentiful awards and recognition, **Roopam is also listed in the UNESCO Youth forum and Innovators under 35**. He is known for his socially viable innovations that combine artificial intelligence.

Roopam Sharma is an **Indian Scientist and innovator creating Social impact through disruptive technological inventions** and solves perennial problems. His research interests include **Wearable Computing, Mobile Application Development, Human Centered Design, Computer Vision, AI and Cognitive Science**.

Scientists develop web-based tool to monitor fake news on Facebook, Twitter

- **Scientists from USA have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.**
- **Developed by researchers at the University of Michigan in the US**, the tool uses a **Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient**, which draws data from two external entities: **News Whip and Media Bias/Fact Checker**.

Prithvi-II missile night trial successful

- India's Strategic Forces Command **successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile** as part of a user trial **by the Army from a test range in Odisha**.
- The **surface-to-surface missile**, which has a **strike range of 350 km**, was **launched from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3** of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.

The **missile is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kilogrammes of warheads and is thrustured by liquid propulsion twin engines**. The state-of-the-art missile uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target. **Inducted into the Armed forces of the country in 2003**, the **nine-metre-tall, single-stage liquid-fuelled Prithvi-II** is the first missile to have been developed by the **DRDO** under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme

First manned SpaceX mission set for June 2019, Boeing mission in August: NASA

- The first human spaceflight aboard a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) is expected to take place in June 2019, while a flight on a Boeing spacecraft is set to follow in August 2019, NASA said. It is the first crewed mission by the US since the retirement of the space shuttle in 2011.
- NASA astronauts currently use Russian Soyuz spacecraft, and its contract is set to expire in November 2019. While both SpaceX and Boeing launches have already been postponed several times, NASA said that it would now be providing monthly updates on deadlines.
- In 2014, Boeing and SpaceX were awarded a combined \$6.8 billion in contracts from NASA to develop spacecraft capable of flying crews to the space station. Earlier in August, NASA had also named nine astronauts including Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams for its first human spaceflight programme since the retirement of the space shuttle in 2011.

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.

NASA's Voyager 2 probe nearing interstellar space

- NASA's Voyager 2 probe is approaching interstellar space and has detected an increase in cosmic rays that originate outside our solar system, the US space agency said. Launched in 1977, Voyager 2 is a little less than 17.7 billion kilometres from Earth, or more than 118 times the distance from Earth to the Sun.
- Since 2007 the probe has been travelling through the outermost layer of the heliosphere – the vast bubble around the Sun and the planets dominated by solar material and magnetic fields. Voyager scientists have been watching for the spacecraft to reach the outer boundary of the heliosphere, known as the heliopause. Once Voyager 2 exits the heliosphere, it will become the second human-made object, after Voyager 1, to enter interstellar space.

Elon Musk's SpaceX successfully lands rocket back at California base

- Elon Musk's rocket company launched a commercial satellite for Argentina, marking SpaceX's 17th mission of 2018 in the type of steady success that so far has eluded his electric-car maker Tesla Inc.
- The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base on California's central coast. The rocket's first stage returned and landed at Vandenberg in a first for a California-based SpaceX launch. The second stage deployed SAOCOM 1A, an Argentine Earth-imaging satellite, roughly 12 minutes after the launch.

Elon Reeve Musk is a business magnate and investor. He holds South African, Canadian, and U.S. citizenship and is the founder, CEO, and lead designer of SpaceX; co-founder, CEO, and product architect of Tesla, Inc.; co-founder and CEO of Neuralink; and co-founder of PayPal. As of October 2018, he has a net worth of \$19.8 billion and is listed by Forbes as the 46th-richest person in the world.

Navy gets submarine rescue vehicle

- The Navy has inducted its first deep submergence rescue vehicle to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines on the high seas.
- India has now joined a select group of countries that have the capability to locate "distressed submarines". At present, the U.S., China, Russia and a few others have the capability.

INS Rana at South Korea to Participate in IFR

- **INS Rana** which is currently on Operational Deployment to the North West Pacific region in the pursuance of India's Act East Policy arrived Jeju, Republic of Korea to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) being held at from 08 – 15 Oct 18.
- During the 7-day visit, **INS Rana**, commanded by Capt Atul Deswal has a series of confidence-building engagements with Republic of Korea Navy and other foreign Navies participating in the IFR.

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. **INS Rana** serves in the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy. Her home port is Visakhapatnam.

Navy inducts first deep sea vessel to rescue sunk, disaster-hit submarines

- Enhancing its operational capabilities, the Navy has inducted its first deep submergence rescue vehicle which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea.
- Navy Spokesperson Capt D K Sharma said that with induction of the deep submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV), India has joined a select group of countries that have the capability to locate and rescue "distressed submarines".

At present, the US, China, Russia and a few other countries have the capabilities to deploy DSRVs. The second DSRV is expected to be inducted at Visakhapatnam in 2019.

The Kingdom of Netherlands to be the Partner Country 25th DST – CII Technology Summit 2019

- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019, announced Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The Minister highlighted the successful bilateral research cooperation between India and Netherlands in sectors such as affordable medical devices, urban water systems, big data and Internet of Things (IoT).

Chandra X-ray Observatory joins Hubble in protective safe mode

- NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory entered protective "safe mode" on 10 October due to a malfunction of some soft. The Hubble Space Telescope went into safe mode 5 October due to problems with one of its four operational gyroscopes. It is not yet known what sidelined Chandra.

Chandra X-ray Observatory (CXO), previously known as the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF), is a Flagship-class space observatory launched on STS-93 by NASA on July 23, 1999. Chandra is sensitive to X-ray sources 100 times fainter than any previous X-ray telescope, enabled by the high angular resolution of its mirrors. Since the Earth's atmosphere absorbs the vast majority of X-rays, they are not detectable from Earth-based telescopes; therefore space-based telescopes are required to make these observations. Chandra is an Earth satellite in a 64-hour orbit, and its mission is ongoing as of 2018.

Inventions/Discoveries

'World's first lab-grown oesophagus implanted in mice'

- In a first, scientists at the Francis Crick Institute in the UK have grown functional sections of oesophagus in the lab using stem cells and successfully transplanted them into mice.
- The study by researchers at the Francis Crick Institute in the UK and colleagues is the first of its kind for a complex multi-layered organ, overcoming a major challenge of regenerative medicine: different early-stage cells need different conditions to develop into the right cell type.

World's smallest optical gyroscope developed

- Scientists from USA have developed the world's smallest optical gyroscope - a device that helps vehicles, drones and handheld electronic devices know their orientation in 3D space.
- The new gyroscope, described in Nature Photonics, is 500 times smaller than the current best device.
- Originally, gyroscopes were sets of nested wheels, each spinning on a different axis, said researchers from the California Institute of Technology in the U.S. However cellphones have microelectromechanical sensor, the modern-day equivalent, which measures changes in the forces acting on two identical masses that are oscillating and moving in opposite directions.

These MEMS gyroscopes are limited in their sensitivity, so optical gyroscopes have been developed to perform the same function but with no moving parts and a greater degree of accuracy using a phenomenon called the Sagnac effect, named after French physicist Georges Sagnac. The device developed by Caltech engineers led by Ali Hajimiri can detect phase shifts that are 30 times smaller than the best systems currently available.

Scientists discover largest known structure of early universe

- A team of scientists at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) have sited the most massive structure in the early universe known to date.
- The astronomers, led by Olga Cucciati of Bologna's National Astrophysics Institute, found this galaxy proto-supercluster — Hyperion — using new measurements made by the visible multi-object spectrograph of ESO's Very Large Telescope and pouring over vast arrays of archive data, Efe reported. This is the first time that such a large structure has been identified at such a high redshift, just over two billion years after the Big Bang," Cucciati explained in the discovery paper.

Japan drops new robot on asteroid

- A Japanese probe launched a new observation robot towards an asteroid as it pursues a mission to shed light on the origins of the solar system. The German-French observation device is part of a mission to find clues to the solar system's origins
- The Hayabusa2 probe launched the French-German Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout, or MASCOT, towards the Ryugu asteroid's surface.

'First known exomoon may have been discovered'

- USA Astronomers using Hubble and Kepler space telescopes have found compelling evidence for the existence of the first known moon outside our solar system, orbiting a gas-giant planet 8,000 light-years away.
- According to the finding published in the journal Science Advances, the candidate exomoon -- moons orbiting planets in other star systems -- is unusual because of its large size, comparable to the diameter of Neptune.

India's first methanol cooking fuel debuts

- Ritu Bordoloi of Namrup became India's first owner and user of a cooking stove fuelled by methanol.

- **Namrup, in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district**, is not far from where the commercial journey of the team began, **the first oil well was struck, and the first refinery was set up.**

Ms. Bordoloi was one of 500 people who were handed over a stove with two 1.2-litre canisters of methanol, as part of a pilot project by the Namrup-based Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL), India's first public sector producer of methanol and formalin from natural gas as feedstock. The project has been promoted by NITI Aayog.

India's first ethanol plant to come up in Odisha's Bargarh district

- **Odisha is going to have a Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery, first in the country to produce ethanol from rice straw**, in Bargarh district. The facility, which is expecting its mechanical commissioning in the next two years, is **one among 12 refineries planned in 11 States in the country.**
- **To be set up at Baulsingha village under Bhatli tehsil by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** at an estimated **cost of Rs1000 crore**, the bio-refinery will produce three crore litre of fuel-grade ethanol annually using rice straw as feedstock.
- **"Apart from Odisha, BPCL is setting up bio-refineries in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. But the Bargarh plant will be the first in the country to start construction work.**

British scientists create 3D-printed meals

- **British scientists have created 3D-printed meals for a school in east London** to inspire an interest in science subjects among young pupils.
- Scientists from the annual Big Bang Fair, which **promotes science, technology and maths (STEM) subjects, worked with St Helen's Primary School in Canning Town** to create dishes such as geometric fish and chips, cauliflower cogs and a **pie in the shape of the mathematical constant of 'Pi' as part of the project.**

'First bio-electronic medicine developed'

- **Scientists from USA have developed the first bioelectronic medicine -- an implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves the healing of a damaged nerve.**
- **Researchers at the Washington University in the US developed a device that delivers regular pulses of electricity to damaged peripheral nerves in rats after a surgical repair process, accelerating the regrowth of nerves in their legs and enhancing the ultimate recovery of muscle strength and control.**

Major mission to sequence genes of Indians planned

- **India is planning a major mission to sequence the genes of a "large" group of Indians — akin to projects in the United Kingdom, China, Japan and Australia — and use this to improve health as well as buck a global trend of designing 'personalised medicine.'**
- This was among the **key decisions taken at the first Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (STIAC) in its first meeting. A group of Indian scientists and companies are involved with a 100k GenomeAsia project, led out of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, to sequence the whole genomes of 100k Asians, including 50,000 Indians.**

Ever since the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in 2009 announced that it had sequenced the genome of an Indian, then making India one of six countries to achieve such a feat, several research labs have analysed genes from Indians for disease susceptibility. However, no compendium of genes that differentiate Indian populations from, say Caucasian or African genomes exist.

IIT Guwahati fabricates superior scaffold for cartilage repair

- A team led by Biman B. Mandal from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering has fabricated the biphasic scaffold where the top portion is highly porous and spongy thus mimicking the cartilage, while the bottom portion is reinforced with silk fibre thus imparting more stiffness and less porous to mimic the bone.
- Since the entire scaffold is made of silk, the interface merges with one another and is seamless despite having different porosities and stiffness.

Ancient rocks in India give clues to early life

- Researchers have found the oldest clue yet to the mystery of animal life in ancient rocks and oils, including those from India, dating back at least 100 million years before the famous Cambrian explosion of animal fossils.
- Researchers at the University of California, Riverside in the U.S. tracked molecular signs of animal life, called biomarkers, as far back as 660-635 million years ago during the Neoproterozoic era.

The work builds from a 2009 study led by Gordon Love, a professor at UCR, which reported the first compelling biomarker evidence for Neoproterozoic animals from a different steroid biomarker, called 24-isopropylcholestane (24-ipc), from rocks in South Oman. However, the 24-ipc biomarker evidence proved controversial since 24-ipc steroids are not exclusively made by demosponges and can be found in a few modern algae.

New material harvests Sun's heat for cheaper electricity

- Scientists from USA have developed a material that can be used to harvest electricity from the Sun's heat, paving the way for generating cheaper solar power on cloudy days and at nighttime.
- The innovation is an important step for putting solar heat-to-electricity generation in direct cost competition with fossil fuels, researchers said.
- "Storing solar energy as heat can already be cheaper than storing energy via batteries, so the next step is reducing the cost of generating electricity from the Sun's heat with the added benefit of zero greenhouse gas emissions," said Kenneth Sandhage, a professor at Purdue University in the US.

World's first bio-brick grown from human urine

- Researchers at the University Of Cape Town, South Africa have developed the world's first bio-brick from human urine, an advance with significant consequences for waste recycling and upcycling. The bio-brick was made using the "microbial carbonate precipitation" method.
- The bio-bricks are created through a natural process called microbial carbonate precipitation. It's not unlike the way seashells are formed, said Lambert's supervisor Dr Dyllon Randall, a senior lecturer in water quality engineering.

In this case, loose sand is colonised with bacteria that produce urease. An enzyme, the urease breaks down the urea in urine while producing calcium carbonate through a complex chemical reaction. This cements the sand into any shape, whether it's a solid column, or now, for the first time, a rectangular building brick.

Health/ Disease

IISc team finds new approaches to kill TB bacteria

- For the first time a protein that condenses the DNA of TB-causing bacteria in response to oxidative stress has been found. Oxidative stress can directly damage the DNA, proteins and lipids of most of the bacteria and eventually kill them. The role of several nucleoid-associated proteins produced by bacteria in condensing the DNA is also well known.
- But for the first time a protein (WhiB4) that condenses the DNA of TB-causing bacteria in response to oxidative stress has been found by a multi-institutional team led by Prof. Amit Singh from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Nobel Prize for medicine won by cancer researchers

- Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan won the 2018 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovery of a revolutionary approach to cancer treatment.
- The Nobel Assembly said that both the scientists were honoured for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.
- They will receive their prize at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10th December. They will share the Nobel Prize sum of about 1.01 million dollar. Allison, a professor at the University of Texas, and Honjo, a professor at Kyoto University, also have won the Tang Prize in 2014 for their research

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine administered by the Nobel Foundation is awarded yearly for outstanding discoveries in the fields of life sciences and medicine. It is one of five Nobel Prizes established in his will in 1895 by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. The first one was awarded in 1901 to the German physiologist Emil von Behring, for his work on serum therapy and the development of a vaccine against diphtheria. The first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Gerty Cori, received it in 1947 for her role in elucidating the metabolism of glucose. The first Indian to receive award in Medicine was Har Gobind Khorana. He shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley for research that showed the order of nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell and control the cell's synthesis of proteins.

Trio win Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- Two American scientists and a British researcher have won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for evolution research. Frances Arnold and George Smith are of the United States and Gregory Winter is British.
- The scientists have been awarded for harnessing the principles of evolution to develop proteins used to make everything from biofuels to pharmaceuticals.
- Ms. Arnold, only the fifth woman to win a chemistry Nobel, was awarded half of the \$1 million prize while Mr. Smith and Mr. Winter shared the other half.
- Ms. Arnold is the second woman to win a Nobel Prize this year after Canada's Donna Strickland. Her research on enzymes led to the development of better industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Mr. Smith developed a method using a virus that infects bacteria to produce new proteins while Ms. Winter used the same technique for the directed evolution of antibodies.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to scientists in the various fields of chemistry. It is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel in 1895. The first Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded in 1901 to Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff, of the Netherlands, "for his discovery of the laws of chemical dynamics and osmotic pressure in solutions".

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Coca-Cola and Nestle among worst plastic polluters based on global clean-ups

- **Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Nestle are among the companies that contribute most to ocean pollution with single-use plastics**, according to a study presented by the "Break Free from Plastic" initiative.
- **The environmental movement, launched in 2016, has helped clear the coasts of 42 countries around the world of discarded plastics. Eighty per cent of the 8.3 billion metric tonnes of plastic produced since 1950 was still present in the environment, mainly in the oceans, according to studies cited in the "Break Free from Plastic" report.**

Coca-Cola or Coke is a carbonated soft drink manufactured by The Coca-Cola Company. Originally intended as a patent medicine, it was invented in the late 19th century by John Pemberton and was bought out by businessman Asa Griggs Candler, whose marketing tactics led Coca-Cola to its dominance of the world soft-drink market throughout the 20th century. **Pepsi is a carbonated soft drink manufactured by PepsiCo. Originally created and developed in 1893 by Caleb Bradham and introduced as Brad's Drink, it was renamed as Pepsi-Cola on August 28, 1898 and then as Pepsi in 1961.**

In a first, South African lion cubs conceived artificially

- **"Two lion cubs are the first ever lion cubs to be born by means of artificial insemination — the first such pair anywhere in the world,"** announced the University of Pretoria, whose scientists are researching the reproductive system of female African lions.
- **The two cubs, a male and female, born on August 25 are healthy and normal,** said Andre Ganswindt, the director of the University of Pretoria's mammal research institute.

New species of hummingbird found

- **A team of ornithologists in Ecuador has identified a new species of hummingbird:** a lovely blue-green creature that lives in a cold, barren highland area and **is in danger of extinction.**
- **The bird is about 11 cm long** and has a stunning, deep blue neck, a white breast with a black stripe and greenish-blue head and body feathers. It has been **given the name Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus, or blue-throated star.**

Hummingbirds are birds native to the Americas that constitute the family Trochilidae. They are among the smallest of birds. They are known as hummingbirds because of the humming sound created by their beating wings which flap at high frequencies audible to humans.

For first time, India gets soil moisture map

- The joint exercise by IIT Gandhinagar and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), for the first time, provides a country-wide soil moisture forecast at seven and 30-day lead times.
- The analysis also indicates that soil moisture conditions in western Uttar Pradesh, Bundelkhand, and Chhattisgarh are likely to be normal or surplus at the start of the rabi sowing season.
- Soil moisture is crucial for agriculture since it directly affects crop growth and how much irrigation is required for the area.

Eastern Ghats face loss of forest cover, endemic plants

- The Eastern Ghats spread across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, has lost almost 16% of its forest area over a span of 100 years.
- Researchers from the University of Hyderabad studied historical maps and satellite images from 1920 to 2015 to understand the changes in land use and land cover.
- The forest cover, which was 43.4% of the total geographical area in 1920, has reduced drastically to 27.5% in 2015. Over the years, about 8% of forest area was converted into agricultural fields, while about 4% converted into scrub or grassland.

Eastern Ghats are discontinuous range of mountain set along Eastern coast. Starting at West Bengal, Eastern Ghats pass through states like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These Ghats are ripped through by rivers like Godawari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Kaveri, the four major rivers of South India.

Jurassic-era piranha is world's earliest flesh-eating fish

- Scientists from Bellwood of James Cook University, Australia have unearthed the fossilised remains of a piranha-like species that they say is the earliest known example of a flesh-eating fish.
- This bony creature, found in South Germany, lived about 150 million years ago and had the distinctive sharp teeth of modern-day piranhas. These Jurassic marauders used their razor teeth to tear chunks of flesh and fins off other fish. Other fish were found nearby which had been attacked by the ancient piranhas.

Japan launches satellite to monitor CO2 output

- Japan has launched a rocket carrying a satellite that will monitor greenhouse gases, as well as the first satellite built by the United Arab Emirates.
- GOSAT-2 would provide data that will help create and publish “emission inventories” of the CO2 output of various countries, as outlined in the Paris climate accord.

60 percent of animal population wiped out in 44 years by human activity: WWF

- From 1970 to 2014, 60 per cent of all animals with a backbone -- fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals -- were wiped out by human activity, according to WWF's “Living Planet” report, based on an ongoing survey of more than 4,000 species spread over 16,700 populations scattered across the globe.
- For freshwater fauna, the decline in population over the 44 years monitored was a staggering 80 per cent. Regionally, Latin America was hit hardest, seeing a nearly 90 per cent loss of wildlife over the same period.
- Another dataset confirmed the depth of an unfolding mass extinction event, only the sixth in the last half-billion years.

Kapurthala gets India's first robotic dinosaur's gallery

- India's first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public at the Pushpa Gujral Science City.
- The science city is the biggest project of its kind in northern India and has been set up in 72 acres of land in the heart of Punjab, on Jalandhar-Kapurthala road.

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Manu Bhaker named India's flag-bearer

- Teenage shooting star **Manu Bhaker** was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires from October 6-18.
- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President **Narinder Batra** announced during the send-off ceremony that the 16-year-old Bhaker will lead the Indian team in the opening ceremony.

Yuvraj Wadhvani lifts Asian Junior Squash title

- **Yuvraj Wadhvani** has won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title. In Chennai, he defeated **Anas Ali Shah** of Pakistan by 13-11, 11-5, 6-11, 12-10 in the final.
- **Yuvraj** has become the second Indian to win the Under-13 title after **Veer Chotrani**, who had won the title in 2014 in Iran.

Bronze for Deepika

- India's **Deepika Kumari** defeated **Lisa Unruh** in the play-off to clinch the bronze in the Archery World Cup Finals at Samsun (Turkey).
- Both the players were tied 5-5 at the end of five sets, which necessitated a shoot-off. **Deepika** and **Unruh** both shot nine but the Indian won the bronze as her arrow was closer to the target. This was **Deepika's** fifth World Cup Finals podium.

Virender Sehwag & Shahid Afridi to be icons for T10 league

- Former India opener **Virender Sehwag** has been named as one of the icons for the T10 League, world's first Ten-Over league which is set to get underway on November 23.
- Apart from **Sehwag**, Pakistan's **Shahid Afridi** and former New Zealand captain **Brendon McCullum** have also been named as the League icons of the second edition of the tournament, which has been sanctioned by the ICC and licensed by ECB.

Caroline Wozniacki wins second China Open title

- **Caroline Wozniacki** defeated **Anastasija Sevastova** 6-3, 6-3 to win the China Open and her third WTA title of the year.

India's Keerthana Pandian wins girls' title in IBSF World U-16 Snooker Championships

- India's Keerthana Pandian has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships. In the final in St Petersburg, Russia, Keerthana outclassed her Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk 3-1. It is the Indian girl's maiden international crown. In the boy's category, Ben Martens of Belgium won the title.

Youth Olympic Games: Tababi Devi Thangjam doubles India's medal tally

- On the opening day of the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, India ended with two medals – both silver. The first went to Tushar Mane in shooting and later Tababi Devi Thangjam stood on the second step on the podium in judo to further India's medal count. She became the first judoka to win a medal for a country at the Olympics – junior or senior.
- After Mane's silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle, Devi had assured herself of at least a silver medal by progressing to the final of the women's 44kg category. She was beaten by Maria Gimenez of Venezuela for the gold medal and it continued the country's rise in the sport – at least at the junior level.

Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India's maiden gold medal at Youth Olympic Games

- India had already eclipsed its best-ever tally at a Youth Olympic Games on Day 2 of the extravaganza and by the end of it, had further return to rejoice.
- Having won three silver medals, India won their first gold medal at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina with Jeremy Lalrinnunga lifting 150kg on his last attempt for a combined 274kg. This is India's first-ever gold medal at the Youth Olympics.
- In the two editions prior to this, India's best performance was two medals in the 2014 Youth Olympics at Nanjing, China.
- In Men's 62kg Group A weightlifting, Jeremy posted successful attempts of 120kg and 124kg in snatch and 142kg and 150kg in clean & jerk.
- With his best successful attempts of 124kg in snatch and 150kg in clean & jerk for a combined 274kg, the 15-year-old won the gold medal. Toptas Caner of Turkey won the silver medal for a combined lift of 263kg and Estiven Jose Manjarres of Colombia won the bronze medal with 260kg.

Para Asian Games 2018: India scoop 11 medals with three gold, Sandeep Chaudhary smashes world record

- Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary produced a stunning world record effort as India bagged 11 medals, including three gold, on a productive day at the Asian Para Games.
- Chaudhary clinched India's first gold of the Games in the men's F42-44/61-64 category, before middle distance runner Raju Rakshitha (women's T11 1500m) and swimmer Jadhav Suyash Narayan (men's S7 50m butterfly) added the yellow metals later on the second day of competitions.
- Chaudhary claimed the top spot with a best throw of 60.01m, which he managed in his third attempt. He, in the process, shattered the F44 world record, bettering the earlier mark of 59.82, which Chinese Mingjie Gao made in 1980.

Manu claimed the 10m pistol gold at the Youth Olympics

- Manu Bhaker claimed the 10m pistol gold at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, shooting 236.5 in the final to claim India's first ever shooting gold in the multi-sport.
- Manu Bhaker is an Indian sport shooter. She represented India at the 2018 ISSF World Cup and won two gold medals. She is the youngest Indian to win a gold medal at the ISSF World Cup. She won the gold medal in women's 10 m air pistol event at 2018 Commonwealth Games just at the age of 16 in her maiden Commonwealth Games appearance.

Youth Olympics 2018: Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold in 10m air pistol

- India shooter Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event at the Youth Olympic Games. This is India's third gold medal in Buenos Aires and the fourth medal overall for the shooting contingent.
- Chaudhary shot 244.2 to ensure a finish on top of the podium eclipsing South Korea's Sung Yunho by 7.5 points (236.7). Switzerland's Solari Jason stood third with 215.6. Chaudhary also bagged the yellow metal in the recently concluded Asian Games and Junior ISSF World Championship.

Gold for archer Harvinder Singh at Asian Para Games

- Archer Harvinder Singh notched up the men's individual recurve gold at the Asian Para-Games in Jakarta. Harvinder defeated China's Zhao Lixue 6-0 in the W2/ST category final to claim the top honours and take India's gold tally to seven.

Bajrang Punia seeded third at World Championship

- CWG and Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia is the only Indian wrestler from a strong 30-member squad to get a seeding at the upcoming World Championships as he has been seeded third in the 65kg category in men's freestyle competition, scheduled to be held in Budapest, Hungary, from October 20 to 28.
- The United World Wrestling (UWW) has introduced the ranking-points based seeding system for the first time for the World Championships. Bajrang has 45 points in the ranking list released by the world body.

Sharad Kumar smashes continental record for gold in men's high jump

- India took over the podium in men's high jump T42/63 category, claiming all the medals up for grabs with defending champion Sharad Kumar smashing two records to snare a second successive gold in the Asian Para Games.
- The 26-year-old world championships silver-medallist bettered the Asian as well as the Games record with a jump of 1.90m to claim the top honours. The T42/63 covers lower limb deficiency, *leg length difference*, impaired muscle power and impaired range of movement.

Justin Gallegos becomes first athlete with cerebral palsy to sign contract with Nike

- Justin Gallegos, a junior at the University of Oregon, became the first professional athlete with cerebral palsy to sign a contract with Nike. Gallegos was handed the contract by John Douglass, Nike's insight's director, and the moment was captured by a film crew from Elevation Om. The video was released on October 6, which is also the World Cerebral Palsy Day.

Jeremy Lalrinnunga to be India's flag bearer at closing ceremony

- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga will be India's flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Summer Youth Olympics.
- Lalrinnunga claimed the top honours in the men's 62 kg category and the 15-year-old etched his name in the history books as he became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Youth Olympics.

Novak Djokovic beats Borna Coric to win fourth Shanghai Masters title

- Novak Djokovic continued his scintillating run of form as he breezed past Croatian Borna Coric 6-3 6-4 to win the Shanghai Masters title for the fourth time.
- The 14-time Grand Slam champion, Serb Djokovic has won 18 consecutive matches since losing at the Rogers Cup on 10 August, and will replace Federer as world number two.
- Djokovic's winning run includes victory at the Cincinnati Masters in August, when he became the first player to win all nine Masters 1000 tournaments.

Leander Paes lifts Santo Domingo Open trophy

- Indian tennis legend Leander Paes won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.

Suraj Panwar clinches silver in men's 5000m race walk event in Argentina

- Suraj Panwar clinched a silver in men's 5000m race walk event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games to open India's medal account in athletics at Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Suheil Tandon wins International Olympic committee award

- Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development. Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.
- The International Olympic Committee, which is committed to building a better world through sport, redistributes more than 90 per cent of its income to the wider sporting movement, to help athletes and sports organisations at all levels around the world. Worth USD 25,000 each, these grants are awarded to grassroots organisations running effective sport for all programmes in different regions across the world. The award ceremony was held during the Olympism in Action forum at Buenos Aires.

Canelo Álvarez signs richest contract in sport history, worth \$365m

- Canelo Alvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sport, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365m with streaming service DAZN.
- The move comes after DAZN, which only launched in the US in September, looks to exploit a gap in the market after HBO announced it will end its 45-year history of broadcasting boxing at the end of 2018. Álvarez has a huge following in Mexico and the United States and his fights have pulled in hundreds of millions of dollars on pay-per-view.
- The Mexican fighter can also earn money on top of his deal if he helps bring in a certain number of subscriptions during his contract. Álvarez earned around \$50m from his last fight, a defeat of Gennady Golovkin in September. The previous richest contract in sport was the 13-year, \$325m deal Giancarlo Stanton signed with the Miami Marlins in 2014.

Bajrang Punia reaches World Championship 65 kg final

- The star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia put himself in contention for a historic World Championship gold medal after quelling a spirited challenge from Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier in a tense 65kg semifinal in Budapest.
- The Commonwealth Games and Asian Games gold medallist ensured himself a second medal at the Worlds, having won a bronze at the 2013 edition. The in-form 24-year-old had come into the event as one of the strong medal contenders and has continued with his red-hot form this season.
- Celebrated Sushil Kumar is the lone Indian to have won a gold medal at the Worlds, achieving the feat in 2010 in Moscow in the 66kg category. If Bajrang manages to win gold, it will be a rare achievement to win titles at all major championships in a single season.

Rohit Sharma overtakes Sachin Tendulkar to become first cricketer to score six 150-plus knocks

- Rohit Sharma remained unbeaten on 152 as India crossed the finish line and he now has the most number of 150-plus scores in the 50-over format. Tendulkar and David Warner each have five while Chris Gayle, Sanath Jayasuriya and Hashim Amla have four each.

- The 30-year-old also went past Ganguly's tally of sixes in ODIs. Ganguly has hit 189 sixes while Rohit now has slammed 194 maximums which puts him third in the list amongst Indians. Only Tendulkar (195) and MS Dhoni (210) are ahead of him.

Virat Kohli breaks Sachin Tendulkar's record, fastest to 60 international hundreds

- Virat Kohli reached the landmark of 60th international hundred (36 in ODIs and 24 in Tests) over West Indies in the first ODI of the five-match series at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati and became the fastest to do so. He reached the landmark in 386 innings, taking 40 innings fewer than Sachin Tendulkar.
- Kohli also equalled a record set by batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, scoring more than 2,000 international runs in a calendar year for India for a record fifth time.

Denmark Open: Saina loses in final to Tai Tzu Ying

- Saina Nehwal gave her all before losing steam as the ace Indian shuttler yet again succumbed to nemesis and world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying to settle for a runner-up finish at the Denmark Open.
- In an exciting but energy-sapping 52-minute final, Saina lost 13-21 21-13 6-21 to the superior Chinese Taipei rival. Tzu Ying claimed the Denmark Open title after a gap of two years. She had last won the tournament in 2016.

Bajrang Punia settles for silver in 65 kg category in World Wrestling Championship

- Asian Games and Commonwealth Gold medalist Bajrang Punia had to settle for silver in the 65 kg category of the World Wrestling Championship after losing to youngster Japanese Takuto Otoguro in the final at Budapest.
- Nineteen-year-old Otoguro consistently attacked the left leg of Punia and emerged a comfortable 16-9 winner. In the process, Otoguro became Japan's youngest World Champion at the age of 19.
- Sushil Kumar is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the World Championships, achieving the feat in 2010 in Moscow in the 66kg category.

Cristiano Ronaldo becomes first player to score 400 goals in Europe's top-five leagues

- Juventus club-record signing Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score 400 goals in Europe's top five leagues after helping the Serie A champions maintain their unbeaten start to the 2018/19 season.
- Ronaldo's fifth Serie A goal for Juve was added to his 84 Premier League strikes for Manchester United and 311 in La Liga for Real Madrid. Ronaldo's landmark puts him 10 goals above the second top scorer in Europe's main leagues, Lionel Messi - who scored his 390th La Liga goal for Barcelona in their 4-2 win against Sevilla.

Virat Kohli fastest to 10,000 ODI runs, breaks Sachin Tendulkar's record

- Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 10000 ODI runs. The Indian captain achieved the milestone in 205 innings surpassing the previous best by Sachin Tendulkar who did it in 259 innings. He also has the highest average (50+) among batsmen with 10,000 runs (beating MS Dhoni). With a sparkling 157 against the West Indies in Vizag, Kohli now has the second highest number of ODI centuries to his name – once again only behind Tendulkar.
- Virat Kohli's 10,000 runs are also the fastest in terms of balls by any player, fastest in terms of innings by any player. With the feat, Kohli also became the fifth Indian batsman and 13th overall to join the club. Apart from Virat Kohli, the other four Indians in the 10,000 ODI runs are Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, MS Dhoni, and Rahul Dravid. Virat Kohli is the fastest to reach 4000 runs in India. He also has the best average among batsmen who have reached this landmark. Virat Kohli has also become the fastest captain to reach 8000 international runs.

Pooja Dhanda first woman wrestler in 6 years to win World Championship medal

- Pooja Dhanda became the first woman wrestler in 6 years to win a medal at the World Championship as she won a **bronze medal** with a remarkable 10-7 win over the 2017 European champion Grace Jacob Bullen in Budapest.
- Pooja is **only the fourth Indian woman to win a World Championship medal** and this is her second big medal this season, having won a **silver medal** at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.
- **Prior to Pooja, only Alka Tomar (2006) and Geeta and Babita Phogat (2012)** have won bronze medals for India at the World Championship.

Sourav Kothari wins World Billiards title

- India's **Sourav Kothari** defeated **Peter Gilchrist** of Singapore 1134-944 to clinch the **2018 WBL World Billiards Championship** title.
- The **former national and Asian Billiards champion** was **pipped at the post** for the coveted **World Billiards crown** on two occasions in the last two years, including a loss to Gilchrist in the 2016 final in Bengaluru.

Lewis Hamilton secures fifth world title as Max Verstappen takes Mexican GP victory

- **Lewis Hamilton** claimed his **fifth drivers' world championship** to draw level with **Juan Manuel Fangio** in the **Formula One record books** when he **finished fourth** behind a victorious **Max Verstappen** in the Mexican Grand Prix.
- Hamilton's success - the **third time he has taken the title without finishing on the race podium** - elevated him to a **supreme club alongside Fangio** with only seven-time champion **Michael Schumacher** ahead of him.

Joshi pockets maiden Asian Tour title

- **Pips Siddikur** with a **final-hole birdie** to become the **seventh Indian to win in eight editions**
- It was **coronation time for Khalin Joshi** as a **first-time winner on the Asian Tour**. Playing aggressively, like never before, the 26-year-old scripted a dramatic rally to win the \$400,000 Panasonic Open golf.

Kenyan distance runner Abraham Kiptum wins Valencia race

- **Kenyan distance runner Abraham Kiptum** won the **Valencia race**, setting a **new world best time of 58mins 18sec** for the half-marathon.
- The **previous best time** was **set eight years ago** by **Ethiopia's Zersenay Tadesse** who ran the **Lisbon half-marathon in 58 minutes and 23 seconds** in March 2010.

Sport Events

Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI, brought under RTI Act

- **Central Information Commission (CIC)** has ruled that the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is covered under the **RTI Act** and answerable to the people of the country.
- After going through the orders of the Supreme Court, the **Law Commission of India report**, submissions of the Central Public Information Officer in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the **Commission has concluded that the status, nature and functional characteristics of the BCCI fulfil required conditions to come under the ambit of RTI Act.**

The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is the **national governing body for cricket** in India. The board was **formed in December 1928** as a society, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act. It is headquartered in Mumbai. **Amitabh Choudhary** is the acting secretary of BCCI.

India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch U19 Asia Cup 2018 title

- **India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title in Dhaka.**
- **India outplayed Sri Lanka** in all departments by first scoring an imposing 304 for six after skipper **Prabhsimran Singh** won the toss and elected to bat.

36th National Games in March-April next year in Goa

- The much-delayed **36th National Games** will be **held in Goa** from March 30 to April 14 next year.
- **Opening and Closing ceremonies** will be **held at PJN Stadium, Fatorda.**

The **National Games** comprises **various disciplines** in which sportsmen from the **different states of India** participate against each other. The country's first few **Olympic Games**, now renamed as **National Games**, were held in **North India (Delhi, Lahore, Allahabad, and Patiala), Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay.**

IOC picks Senegal as first African host for Youth Olympics

- The **IOC** has picked its **first African host of any Olympics**, formally awarding the **2022 Youth Games to Senegal.** **Senegal President Macky Sall** was present to see International Olympic Committee members confirm the executive board's preference from four candidates.
- **Senegal will host the youth games in three places: Dakar; a new city of Diamniadio, close to the capital; and the coastal resort of Saly.**

Para Asian Games 2018: India wins five medals on opening day

- **India opened its Para Asian Games campaign in style by bagging two silver and three bronze medals on the opening day in Jakarta, Indonesia.**
- The **men's badminton team** opened the country's medal account after narrowly losing to Malaysia 1- 2 in the semifinals to settle for a bronze.
- In the **49 kg men's powerlifting event**, **Farman Basha** claimed the silver and **Paramjeet Kumar** won the bronze. The gold went to **Pia Laophalkdee** of Laos for his effort of 133 kg. The medals continued to come India's way as swimmers **Devanshi Satijawon** picked up silver in women's 100 metre butterfly in S-10 category and **Suyash Jadhav** clinched the bronze in the men's 200 metre individual medley in SM-7 category.

On concluding day of Asian Para Games, India's medal tally mounts to 72 with 2 more golds

- **India recorded its best-ever showing in the Asian Para Games by bagging 72 medals**, including 15 gold, with the shuttlers adding two gold and three bronze medals on the concluding day of the competitions in Jakarta.
- All of India's five medals came from badminton.

Great Britain beat India 3-2 in Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey final in Malaysia

- In **Hockey**, **Great Britain lifted the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup**. In Johor Bahru, Malaysia, Great Britain defeated India 3-2 in the final.
- The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

Youth Olympics: India men, women hockey teams win silver medal

- **India men's and women's team won silver medals each in the Hockey 5s competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina** to take country's tally to 10. The two medals on Day 8 push India's medal count to 10 – 3 golds and 7 silver medals. **India is 10th in the medals tally with Russia leading the way (43) ahead of Hungary (21) and China (25).**

Japan all set to host 2019 World Relays

- **Japan is all set to host the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays**, beginning May 11, 2019.
- The development came after **IAAF council voted this week to award the prestigious event to Yokohama city of the country**. Reflecting on the same, **IAAF President Sebastian Coe** said that he is confident that **Japan would do a great job despite the short preparation period**.

2018 Asian Para Games

- **2018 Asian Para Games officially known as the 3rd Asian Para Games** was a **pan-Asian multi-sport event** that held from 6 to 13 October 2018 in **Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta**.
- The event paralleled the 2018 Asian Games and was held for Asian athletes with disability. **China finished top of the tally with 172 gold, 88 silver and 59 bronze followed by South Korea (53 gold, 25 silver, 47 bronze) and Iran (51 gold, 42 silver, 43 bronze).**
- **India recorded its best-ever showing by adding two more gold, a few silver and some bronze medals on the final day for a total of 72 podium finishes** as the 2018 Asian Para Games drew to a close. **With 15 gold, 24 silver and 33 bronze medals, India was placed ninth in the overall tally.**

India finishes with 16th in Youth Olympic Games

- **India's campaign at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires ended with 13 medals (three gold medals, nine silvers and one bronze).**
- This is **India's best medal haul at the Summer Youth Olympic Games**. India had won 8 medals in 2010 and 2 in 2014. Overall, **India finishes the campaign on 16th spot. Russia and china grabbed the top two spots respectively.**

Athletics Federation of India wins FICCI India Sports Awards

- The **Athletics Federation of India** has been chosen winner of the **FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018** for the category of **Best National Sports Federation (NSF)**. The eminent Jury was chaired by Justice (retd) Mukul Mudgal.

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.



AWARDS



Nobel for Congolese doctor, Yazidi activist

- The **2018 Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to Congolese doctor **Denis Mukwege** and Yazidi activist **Nadia Murad** for their work to end sexual violence against women as a weapon of war.
- **Murad**, a member of Iraq's minority Yazidi community, was herself a victim of sexual violence after Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants stormed through her hometown and took her captive.
- At 25, she is the second youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace prize, after Pakistan's **Malala Yousafzai**.
- She is also the U.N.'s first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.
- **Mukwege** has been a critic of the Congolese government and has treated victims of sexual violence in that country for decades.

The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1901 to **Frederic Passy** and **Henry Dunant**; the prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in 2017.

Nobel Prize is a set of annual international awards bestowed in several categories by Swedish and Norwegian institutions in recognition of academic, cultural, or scientific advances. The will of the Swedish scientist **Alfred Nobel** established the five Nobel prizes in 1895. The prizes in Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine were first awarded in 1901. In 1968, Sweden's central bank **Sveriges Riksbank** established the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**, which, although not being a Nobel Prize has become informally known as the "Nobel Prize in Economics." **Rabindranath Tagore** was the first Indian citizen to be awarded and **Mother Teresa** is the only woman in the list.

Laser pioneers win Physics Nobel

- Three scientists won the Nobel Physics Prize, including the first woman to receive the prestigious award in 55 years, for inventing optical lasers that have paved the way for advanced precision instruments used in corrective eye surgery.
- **Arthur Ashkin** of the U.S. won one half of the nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million) prize, while **Gerard Mourou** of France and **Donna Strickland** of Canada shared the other half.
- **Mr. Ashkin, 96**, was honoured for his invention of "optical tweezers" that grab particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser beam fingers.

- She is the oldest winner of a Nobel Prize, beating out American Leonid Hurwicz who was 90 when he won the 2007 Economics Prize.

The first Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to physicist Wilhelm Rontgen in recognition of the extraordinary services he rendered by the discovery of the remarkable rays (or x-rays). Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman carried out ground-breaking work in the field of light scattering, which earned him the 1930 Nobel Prize for Physics. He was the first Asian and first non-white to receive any Nobel Prize in the sciences. Before him Rabindranath Tagore (also Indian) had received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

PM Modi to receive UNEP Champions of the Earth award in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented the United Nation's Champions of the Earth Award by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New Delhi
- PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron were jointly awarded the UN's highest environmental honour, the UNEP Champions of the Earth award, for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of cooperation on environmental action.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- The awards by Prime Minister were given at the concluding session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at Rahtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre.
- Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.
- Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation.

Denzel Washington to get AFI Life Achievement Award

- Actor-filmmaker Denzel Washington has been chosen to receive the 47th AFI Life Achievement Award.
- The award will be presented to Mr. Washington at a tribute on June 6, 2019 in Los Angeles.

The AFI Life Achievement Award was established by the Board of Directors of the American Film Institute on February 26, 1973, to honor a single individual for his or her lifetime contribution to enriching American culture through motion pictures and television. Director John Ford was the unanimous choice of the Board of Trustees for the first award as he "clearly stands preeminent in the history of motion pictures."

Nobel Economics 2018 awarded to Americans William Nordhaus and Paul Romer

- This year's Nobel Prize for economics has been awarded to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer of the United States for their work on sustainable growth. The research of the two US economists focuses on how climate change and technology have affected the economy.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said they had addressed some of our time's most pressing questions on how to achieve sustainable growth. The academy said, Prof Nordhaus, of Yale University, was the first person to create a model that described the interplay between the economy and the climate. The duo will receive nine million Swedish krona (equivalent to 7 crore and 32 lakh rupees).

Nobel Prize in Economics is an award for outstanding contributions to the field of economics, and generally regarded as the most prestigious award for that field. The award's official English name is The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The prize was established in 1968 by a donation from Sweden's central bank the Riksbank to the Nobel Foundation to commemorate the bank's 300th anniversary. As it is not one of the prizes that Alfred Nobel established in his will in 1895, it is not a Nobel Prize. However, it is

administered and referred to along with the Nobel Prizes by the Nobel Foundation. It was first awarded in 1969 to the Dutch and Norwegian economists Jan Tinbergen and Ragnar Frisch, "for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes".

Jailed Chechen activist wins European rights award

- A human rights campaigner who has been jailed since January in the Russian province of Chechnya has been awarded a prestigious human rights prize by the Council of Europe.
- The Council's Parliamentary Assembly awarded the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize to Oyub Titiev, who heads the Chechnya branch of Russian human rights center Memorial.
- The chairman of Memorial's board accepted the award on Titiev's behalf. Amnesty International called Titiev "one of Russia's most courageous human rights defenders" for his work leading Memorial's office in Chechnya's capital for more than nine years. His predecessor, Natalia Estemirova, was kidnapped and killed in 2009.
- Titiev is the prize's sixth recipient. In 2016, it went to Yazidi women's advocate Nadia Murad, a co-winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

ESIC wins 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & the Pacific 2018'

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia recently.
- The award recognizes the measures taken by ESIC for extension of coverage-SPREE (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees), reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas and raising the wage limit for coverage under the ESI Act, etc.

Guadeloupe author wins alternative Nobel Literature Prize

- Maryse Conde, one of the Caribbean's most renowned authors, has won an award created to replace this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. The prestigious literature prize was suspended this year after a scandal at the Swedish Academy, which awards it.
- The Guadeloupian author said that she was "very happy and proud" to win the alternative version. She was nominated alongside Japan's Haruki Murakami, the UK's Neil Gaiman and Vietnamese-born Canadian Kim Thuy.

Anna Burns wins Booker Prize with Troubles tale 'Milkman'

- Anna Burns won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction for "Milkman," a vibrant, violent story about men, women, conflict and power set during Northern Ireland's years of Catholic-Protestant violence.
- Burns is the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the 50,000-pound (\$66,000) prize, which is open to English-language authors from around the world. She received her trophy from Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, during a black-tie ceremony at London's medieval Guildhall.

Khayyam named for Hridaynath Award for lifetime achievement

- National Award winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famous as 'Khayyam', has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- Instituted by the Hridayesh Arts, the award carries a cash prize of Rs 100,000 and a memento and shall be conferred by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a function here on October 26 with Culture Minister Vinod Tawde and other dignitaries in attendance.
- The other past recipients of the awards are Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Amitabh Bachchan, Sulochana Latkar, A.R. Rahman, Pandit Jasraj, and Javed Akhtar, besides chess champ Vishwanathan Anand.

Piyush Goyal received US university award for rural electrification effort

- Union Minister for Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs Piyush Goyal received the prestigious Carnot prize for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions.
- The former power minister was awarded by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Design, a statement from the rail ministry said.
- The Carnot Prize is the Kleinman Center's annual recognition of distinguished contributions to energy policy through scholarship or practice. The award in the energy sector is named after French physicist Nicolas Sadi Carnot who recognised that the power of the steam engine would "produce a great revolution" in human development. The 2018 Carnot Prize is recognition of India's efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the nation charts the path towards eliminating energy poverty with sustainable energy solutions, the statement said.

Marsel Van Oosten has been awarded the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year award

- Marsel Van Oosten has been awarded the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year award for his portrait, "The Golden Couple," which caught the primates in their only habitat on earth.
- Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten's stunning portrait of two endangered golden snub-nosed monkeys in China's Qinling Mountains has won this year's prestigious prize. The winners were announced at London's Natural History Museum.

10-year-old Indian Arshdeep Singh wins 2018 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award

- Arshdeep Singh, 10, is among the winners of the 2018 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in the 10-years-and-under category for his photograph 'Pipe Owls', which is of two spotted owlets nested inside a pipe. Now in its 53rd installment, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is organised by the Britain's Natural History Museum.
- Among the junior winners, there were three categories 10 years and under, 11-14 years and 15-17 years.
- While driving through Punjab's Kapurthala with his father, Arshdeep saw a spotted owlet popping its head out from an old waste-pipe. He asked his father to stop the car and rested his father's camera on the half-open window of the car at eye level. It wasn't long before a second owlet put its head out. Although the spotted owlets are common in Punjab, these birds are rarely seen in the day as they are nocturnal.

9 scientists win 2019 Breakthrough Prize

- The Breakthrough Prize Foundation announced nine recipients of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in recognition of their important achievements in the fields of fundamental physics, life sciences and mathematics.
- The Foundation will award a total of \$21 million to the nine winners. It is considered the most generous science prize in the world
- Five scientists won the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for their contributions to finding significant solutions to curing human diseases.
- Frank Bennett from Ionis Pharmaceuticals and Adrian Krainer from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory were recognised for developing an effective antisense oligonucleotide therapy for children with the neurodegenerative disease of spinal muscular atrophy.
- British astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell from University of Dundee and University of Oxford claimed the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for her role in the surprise discovery of pulsars -- an exotic new type of star -- first announced in February 1968, and for her inspiring scientific leadership over the last five decades.

Stephen Hawking's final book offers brief answers to big questions, reveals his last fear

- Stephen Hawking's final work, which tackles issues from the existence of God to the potential for time travel, was launched by his children, who helped complete the book after the British astrophysics giant's death. Hawking was forever being asked the same things and started work on "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" last year -- but did not finish it before he died in March, aged 76. It has been completed by the theoretical physicist's family and academic colleagues, with material drawn from his vast personal archive.
- The cosmologist was propelled to stardom by his 1988 book "A Brief History of Time", an unlikely worldwide bestseller. It won over fans from far beyond the rarefied world of astrophysics and prompted people into asking the mastermind his thoughts on broader topics, answered in his final work.

PM Modi awarded 2018 Seoul Peace Prize for 'Modinomics'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Seoul Peace Prize 2018 for his contribution to high economic growth in India and world through 'Modinomics', the award citation stated. His contribution to world peace, improving human development and furthering democracy in India, too, were the reasons for him getting the award, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. PM Modi is the fourteenth recipient of this award.

The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea – an event in which 160 nations from across the world took part, creating harmony and friendship and a worldwide atmosphere of peace and reconciliation. The Seoul Peace Prize was established to crystallise the Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world.

Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 announced

- The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 is being conferred on the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) and on one of India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar, respectively.
- The Jury under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and comprising of the Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Shri N. Gopalaswami & Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde after detailed discussions on 24th October, 2018 unanimously decided to select Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh, Chhayanaut and Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar to be the recipients of the Tagore Award for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to cultural harmony.

The first Tagore Award was conferred on Pt. Ravi Shankar; the Indian Sitar Maestro in 2012 and second was conferred on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/ handloom item. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

Jasmine Days by Malayalam writer Benjamin wins JCB Prize for Literature

- The much-awaited JCB Prize for Literature, which has garnered much attention in its inaugural year, was finally announced. Malayalam writer Benjamin won the Rs 25 lakh award for Jasmine Days.
- The award has a special focus on translation and aims to introduce readers to gems in regional languages. An additional Rs 5 lakh will be awarded to the translator, Shahnaz Habib in this case.

India wins Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award, 2018

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is an institutional member of Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM).

- CAPAM, which is a non-profit association representing an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth.
- The association is guided by international leaders who believe in the value of networking, knowledge exchange and the promotion of good governance for the betterment of citizens in the Commonwealth countries. CAPAM has been announcing its International Innovations Awards (IIA) Programme bi-annually, since 1998.

Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award for Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

- Grammy-winning Hindustani classical music instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt was honoured with the annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award, Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana has announced.
- The two-day Indian classical music festival held on October 22-23, this year, was dedicated to saint-musician-composer Pandit Kunwar Shyam, and celebrate the rich 'Guru-Shishya' tradition.
- Best known for his Grammy award winning album "A Meeting by the River" with Ry Cooder, Bhatt, born in Jaipur, plays the Mohan Veena (slide guitar).

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award to Fali S Nariman

- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award to eminent jurist and senior advocate at Supreme Court Fali S Nariman.
- The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award is an annual prestigious award instituted from Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi. This consists of a cash award of 5, 00,000 rupees plus a citation and a plaque. The award was started in 1999 and is provided to a business leader, management practitioner, public administrator, educator or institution builder for his/her sustained individual contributions for achievements of high professional order and excellence.

Sujatha Gidla's Ants Among Elephants declared winner of Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2018

- Sujatha Gidla's debut, *Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family And The Making Of Modern India*, published by HarperCollins India has been chosen the winner for this year's Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize.
- The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize honours debutant writers — for their outstanding writing of fiction or non-fiction — with a cash award of Rs 2 lakh along with a trophy. The jury panel for this year's Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize included writers of the likes of Sampurna Chattarji, Raghu Karnad and Githa Hariharan.

Pak lawyer Asma Jahangir wins UN Human Rights Prize posthumously

- Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners. Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize.
- The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights. The award ceremony will take place on December 10 on World Human Rights Day.

M.S. Swaminathan awarded World Agriculture Prize 2018

- Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan receives the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi. The prize was presented by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan at a special session, named Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security organised by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture.

- **Prof. Swaminathan** has been **hailed by the United Nations Environment Programme** as ‘**The Father of Economic Ecology**’ owing to his commitment towards the **ever-green revolution movement in agriculture**.
- The **prize has been instituted by the ICFA with an aim to recognise individuals who have served humanity through agriculture**. It will carry a cash component of \$1, 00,000. It will be an **annual prize** and would be **presented to any individual or institution, importantly from Asian, African or Latin American countries** who have played a seminal role in transforming agriculture globally and saving humanity from the curse of hunger.

Malayalam writer Mukundan selected for Ezhuthachan award

- **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.
- The 76-year old writer has been **chosen for his overall contributions to the Malayalam literature**
- The **award, named after Ezhuthachan -- the father of Malayalam literature, carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation.**
- **Considered as one of the pioneers of modern Malayalam literature, Mukundan is known as "Mayyazhiyude Kathakaran"** (storyteller of Mayyazhi - Mahe).



PERSONS IN NEWS

Donald Trump nominates Indian American woman to head nuclear energy division

- Days after signing a new legislation to speed up the development of advanced reactors, **President Donald Trump** has roped in a top Indian American nuclear expert for a key administrative position in the department of energy.
- Trump has announced his intent to **nominate Rita Baranwal** to be an assistant secretary of energy (nuclear energy) at the **Department of Energy**.

Ravi Venkatesan appointed UNICEF'S special representative of young people

- The **UNICEF** has appointed **Ravi Venkatesan** as its special representative of young people.
- The UN body said **Venkatesan** in his new role will provide strategic guidance and support **UNICEF** globally with high-level outreach, partnerships and scaling innovations.

Rangachari Sridharan appointed chief of National Financial Reporting Authority

- Former IAS officer **Rangachari Sridharan** was appointed as first chief of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
- **Sridharan**, a 1983 batch (retired) IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, will hold the post of chairperson, NFRA, for three years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.
- Besides him, **Prasenjit Mukherjee** has been appointed as full-time member of the authority for the same

Pankaj Sharma appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament

- **Pankaj Sharma** has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
- Mr Sharma will replace **Amandeep Gill**.
- He is currently the joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Pravin Srivastava appointed as India's third Chief Statistician

- The government has appointed **Pravin Srivastava**, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), chief statistician of India (CSI).
- **Srivastava's** tenure will be a little less than two years, till August 31, 2020.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi to be sworn-in as Chief Justice of India

- **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** was sworn-in as Chief Justice of India.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** administered him the oath of office at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- He succeeded **Justice Dipak Misra** who retired as Chief Justice of India.
- **Justice Gogoi** is the 46th Chief Justice of India. He will have tenure of a little over 13 months and will retire on November 17, 2019.

Justice Madan Lokur nominated as NALSA Executive Chairman

- Senior judge of the Supreme Court, **Madan Bhimarao Lokur**, is now the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA). **President Ramnath Kovind** nominated **Justice Lokur** to the post.

- **Justice Ranjan Gogoi**, who becomes the head of the apex court, is the outgoing chairman of the NALSA. The NALSA, the chairman of which is the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, ensures speedy disposal of cases.

Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal get new chiefs

- **Rajni Kant Misra**, a 1984-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer and the SSB Director General (DG) since October last year, took over as the new DG of the BSF. His batchmate S S Deswal became the DG of the SSB.
- **Deswal**, who was serving as the Special DG of the BSF, is from the Haryana cadre of the Indian Police Service.

ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar quits

- **Chanda Kochhar**, the managing director and chief executive officer of private sector lender ICICI Bank, has called it quits.
- The development comes even as the Srikrishna committee, which is probing charges of conflict of interest against her, is yet to officially submit its findings to the bank's board.
- The lender has named **Sandeep Bakhshi** as the new MD & CEO and handed him a five-year term till **October 3, 2023**. The appointment is subject to regulatory approvals.

WFE names NSE's Vikram Limaye as chairman of working committee

- **World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)**, which represents nearly 45,000 listed companies, has appointed NSE's Managing Director and CEO **Vikram Limaye** as the chairman of its working group committee.
- WFE, which is the global industry association for exchanges and clearing houses, also admitted six new members taking the total number of full members to 70.
- The new members are -- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)**, **London Stock Exchange Group**, **Boursa Kuwait**, **Tunis Stock Exchange**, **China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation** and **Nairobi Securities Exchange**.

Missing Interpol President Meng Hongwei resigns, new chief to be elected in November

- Two days after he was reported to have gone missing on his China visit, **Interpol president Meng Hongwei** has submitted his resignation to France, Interpol has said. Meng is also a vice minister of public security in China, was reported missing by his wife after travelling last month from France, where Interpol is based, to China.
- **Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon, France** received the resignation of Mr Meng Hongwei as President of Interpol with immediate effect". Senior Vice-President **Kim Jong Yang** of South Korea will be the acting president of the international criminal police organization until the new president is elected at a meeting in Dubai on 18-21 November, Interpol said.

Nikki Haley resigns as US ambassador to the United Nations

- **Nikki Haley**, US President **Donald Trump's** ambassador to the United Nations, resigned. Her resignation has been accepted by President Trump. The US President's envoy to the UN, Haley favoured free markets and global trade. The daughter of Indian immigrants from Punjab, she was the first woman to be chosen for a top-level administration post in Trump's cabinet.

Chhattisgarh's Veena Sendre is India's first Trans Queen

- **Veena Sendre** from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'. Veena defeated **Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu** to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organised in Mumbai. Sendre, a former Miss Chhattisgarh, belongs to **Mandir Hasaud village in Raipur**.

Shashi Tharoor's new book on PM Modi is not just 'floccinaucinihilipilification'

- Congress leader Shashi Tharoor talked about his new book- **THE PARADOXICAL PRIME MINISTER** in a tweet, using the rarely used 29-letter word **floccinaucinihilipilification**". According to the Oxford dictionary, the word is a noun and means "the action or habit of estimating something as worthless".

HDFC Bank appoints Vinay Razdan as Chief Human Resources Officer

- HDFC Bank has appointed Vinay Razdan as its chief human resources officer (CHRO), responsible for the entire human resource function in the Bank. Razdan joins the bank from Idea Cellular where he was the CHRO. He had joined Idea in 2006 and spearheaded several transformational initiatives there

ChrysCapital appoints former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya as adviser

- Arundhati Bhattacharya, the former chairperson of public sector lender State Bank of India, has joined homegrown private equity firm ChrysCapital as an adviser.
- Bhattacharya will work alongside the PE firm's managing partner Kunal Shroff and others to advise the company on strategy, a person in the know told VCCircle.

Shekhar Mande is CSIR Director-General

- Union government has appointed Shekhar Mande as Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Dr. Mande, a biologist, is the director of the National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune. He has worked at the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad.

Renowned Hindustani classical musician Annapurna Devi passes away

- Renowned Hindustani musician Annapurna Devi passed away at the Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai.
- Annapurna Devi was an Indian Surbahar player of Hindustani classical music and she was the daughter and disciple of Allauddin Khan. She was married to sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar.

Priyank Kanoongo appointed as new chief of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has got a new chief with the appointments committee of the cabinet appointing Priyank Kanoongo to the post for a period of three years.
- Kanoongo has been member of the commission from November 2015 and his tenure as member ends in this month.

RBI approves 3-year term for Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank chief

- ICICI Bank said the RBI has approved Sandeep Bakshi's appointment as Managing Director and CEO of the bank for three years.
- After resignation of Chanda Kochhar, who was facing inquiry, earlier this month, the bank's board had elevated Chief Operating Officer (COO) Bakshi as the new managing director and CEO for five years until October 3, 2023, subject to regulatory and other approvals.

Arundhati Bhattacharya joins Reliance Industries board as additional director

- Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya has joined the board of Reliance Industries (RIL) as independent additional director, the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate said in a regulatory filing. The former SBI Chairman has been appointed to the RIL board for a period of five years starting from October 17, 2018, subject to shareholder approval, the statement further said.
- "The Board of Directors at its meeting on October 17, 2018 has appointed Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya as an Additional Director of the Company, designated as an Independent Director," the RIL statement to stock exchanges said.

- **Bhattacharya is credited with supervising the merger of six associate banks with SBI, creating an entity three times larger than its nearest competitor**, after the exercise went for six weeks and without any disruption to customer service. Under her tenure as the chairperson of SBI, she took several technology initiatives such as **launching fully digital branches and wallet 'Buddy'**.

Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja wins Miss Deaf Asia 2018 crown

- **Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja has proved that disability cannot come in the way of success. She has won the Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title at an international pageant held in Prague recently.**
- **Nishtha, who is the first Indian to have won any title at the Miss Deaf World Pageant** that she faced tough competition from contestants from China, Thailand, Taiwan, Israel, Czech Republic, Belarus, Mexico, South Africa and other countries **at the 18th edition of Miss and Mister Deaf World -Europe -Asia Beauty Pageant 2018 held recently at Prague, Czech Republic.** Another Haryana girl Manushi Chhillar was crowned Miss World in November last year.

Wipro appoints former SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as independent director

- **Wipro had appointed former State Bank of India chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director beginning January 1, 2019.** Bhattacharya's appointment is **for a period of five years** and is subject to shareholder approval, the company said.

M Nageswar Rao appointed CBI interim director

- The **1986 batch Odisha cadre IPS officer M Nageswar Rao**, who has been **made interim director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, is known for his acumen in handling disasters in the state as well as neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.
- **He is the second Odisha cadre officer to head the CBI.** Earlier, Uma Shankar Mishra of the Odisha cadre had worked as the director of the CBI. Rao's team in 2014 bagged the first Chief Ministers award for Excellence in Governance and Innovation in Public Service for outstanding work during cyclone Phailin and Hudhud. The IPS officer was also awarded Rs 5 lakh prize.

Vijayan Bala has come up with his new book "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections"

- **Veteran commentator and cricket statistician Vijayan Bala** has come up with his **new book "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections"**, a compilation of interviews of eminent sportspersons he has conducted since 1971.
- **Bala has also been a member of BCCI's Statistical Committee** apart from being an **English teacher**, has interviewed Olympians like Balbir Singh Senior, Abhinav Bindra, Sushil Kumar, Sakshi Malik, Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore to name a few.
- Bala has earlier published a book on Statistics called '**Indian Test Cricket back in 1974**'. In 2016, he authored a second book "**The Complete Indian Sports Quiz**" inaugurated by sports minister Rathore.

Malala Yousafzai to be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education

- **Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai** will be **honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.**
- **Yousafzai will be conferred with the 2018 Gleitsman Award** at a ceremony on 6th December.
- **Yousafzai is a student at Oxford University in England.**
- The **Gleitsman Award provides 125,000 US dollars for activism** that has **improved quality of life** around the world.

Atul Goel takes over as MD, CEO of UCO Bank

- Atul Kumar Goel assumed charge as Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank. Prior to this assignment, he was executive director of Union Bank of India.
- Goel takes over from R.K. Takkar, who completed his three-year tenure on November 1, 2018. Goel, who holds a Bachelor degree in Commerce, is considered one of the youngest and dynamic executives in the banking industry, UCO Bank.

Obituary

Veteran politician N D Tiwari dies

- Congress veteran Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who served in various positions at the Centre and in states, died on his birthday at a private hospital after prolonged illness.
- Tiwari had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of two states, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where his native place is located.
- He formed Congress (T), the breakaway faction of the Congress, along with veteran Congress leader Arjun Singh in 1995 during the tenure of the then prime minister P V Narasimha Rao.
- The Congress old-timer had served as a Union minister in several party-led governments. He was a three-time chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. He was also the Uttarakhand chief minister from 2002-2007. From 2007 until 2009, he served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, but was forced to resign following a sex scandal.

Japanese Nobel chemistry laureate Shimomura dies at 90

- Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died. His alma mater Nagasaki University said that Shimomura died of natural causes.
- Shimomura and two American scientists shared the 2008 Nobel Prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies.

MISCELLANEOUS

Union Government sets up panel to review Competition Act

- **Union government** has constituted a panel to review the competition law.
- The committee would review "the Competition Act/ Rules/ Regulations, in view of changing business environment and bring necessary changes, if required.
- The **nine-member committee** chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas includes **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson M S Sahoo** and Competition Commission of India (CCI) Chairperson.

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**. **Shri Devender Kumar Sikri** is the current Chairperson of Competition Commission of India.

More women getting into farming, show agriculture census

- **More women** are getting into farming in India, with the latest Agriculture Census showing a rise in the percentage of female farmers. The number of small and medium land holding and that of farmers and tillers too have increased in the country.
- **Uttar Pradesh** is home to the largest number of people tilling land, followed by Bihar and Maharashtra, according to the 2015-16 Agriculture Census.
- As much as **86.21%** of India's cultivated farmland is held by small and marginal farmers with less than two hectares of land, while those with 10 hectares and more account for just 0.57%.
- The average size of agriculture landholding declined to 1.08 hectare in 2015-16 from 1.15 hectare in 2010-11.

Vice President inaugurates NHRC's International Human Rights Conclave

- The Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has said that **India has been unequivocal in its commitment to the preservation and protection of human rights** globally as well as within the country.
- He was addressing the gathering after **inaugurating the National Human Rights Conclave** organized as a part of the **Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the National Human Rights Commission**.

International Sanitation Convention being organised in New Delhi to mark the start of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Gandhi Ji

- The **four days long Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention** concluded in New Delhi.
- The **Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention** is organised by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, also coinciding with the **fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- **Fifty-three Ministers of Sanitation from around the world** and more than 160 international representatives from 68 countries are participated in the convention.
- The international conference brings together **Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene)** from around the world.

Naveen launches 'Nirman Kusuma' programme

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** launched the 'Nirman Kusuma' programme to help the children of construction workers get trained in Industrial Training Institutes and polytechnics.

- Under the scheme, an ITI student will get assistance of Rs. 23,600 a year and a diploma student will get Rs. 26,300.

Odisha, Andhra Pradesh Police to conduct joint operations against Maoists

- Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Police have decided to conduct joint operations and share information to effectively combat the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the border areas of the two states.

First Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in Shimla

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs is organised the First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh on October 4-5, 2018.
- The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Acharya Devvrat, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

IIT-Kharagpur named national coordinator for research scheme

- IIT-Kharagpur has been named the national coordinating institute of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The programme seeks to “improve the research ecosystem of India’s higher educational institutions by promoting academic and research collaboration between Indian institutions and best-in-class faculty and renowned research groups in foreign institutions”.
- As the national coordinator, IIT Kharagpur will be routing SPARC funds, managing the online portal, coordinating with the other nodal institutes of India, organising two annual SPARC conferences, liaising with MHRD and managing the intellectual output of SPARC.
- As many as 28 foreign countries are being targeted in the first phase of the scheme. The partner foreign institutes will be those that hold top QS World University Rankings.

Coast Guards of India, Vietnam hold joint exercise off Chennai

- A Vietnam Coast Guard ship, on its maiden visit to Chennai, undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard off the city coast aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between them.
- Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and inceptor boat C-431 along with a Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise - 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018',

India ranked 5th in pictorial warning on tobacco products

- India has been ranked fifth in the listing of countries that have pictorial health warning on tobacco products, with experts here quick to add that the country is making tremendous progress towards creating public awareness on the health hazards of tobacco abuse.
- East Timor is ranked first with 85% of the front and 100% of the back of the packaging being used for pictorial warnings. Nepal follows with 90% coverage on both sides. Indian packaging has the warning on 85% of both sides. The report found that 118 countries and territories have now made picture health warnings on cigarette packages mandatory, up from 100 in 2016. Canada was the first to insist on picture health warnings in 2001.
- India, meanwhile, is the only SAARC country to have a Quit-Line number on tobacco products and the fourth in Asia after Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Kashmir’s first fish hospital aims to reduce farm losses

- Fisheries experts from Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences (SKUAST) near Srinagar heard a common complaint from farmers during a survey of fish farms in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The dwindling number of fish, as a result, prompted SKUAST to open a fish hospital under the Aquatic Animal Health Management Division (AAHMD) at Rangil in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district in May. It is second such fish hospital in the country setup on the lines of a similar facility established in Kolkata in 2015.

Jharkhand to become partner state at Goa International Film Festival

- This year Goa International Film Festival from 20th to 28th of November will have Jharkhand as a partner state. The decision was taken in meeting between Secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Amit Khare and Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, Sudhir Tripathy at Ranchi.
- It was also decided to organize Jharkhand Film Festival, under Indian Panorama, in two towns of Jharkhand in the first month of next year.

Centre reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority or EPCA

- The Centre has reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority or the EPCA, which is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. The tenure of the last EPCA expired on October 3.
- Former secretary Bhure Lal continues to be the chairman, while the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) DG Sunita Narain is one of the members.
- The other members of the 20-member re-constituted authority include Ajay Mathur, who is the Director General of The Energy Research Institute (TERI), Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Energy Environment and Water, Navroz K. Dubash, the Senior Fellow for the Centre for Policy Research.

PM Narendra Modi unveils statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Haryana's Rohtak district.
- Sir Chhotu Ram, who was born on November 24, 1881, was regarded as a messiah of peasants and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre-Independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted. He had fought for farmers' rights during the British rule. Renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar sculpted the 64-foot-tall statue.

‘Titli’ cyclone

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning of severe cyclonic storm ‘Titli’ for north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha districts. The Met department has predicted that cyclonic storm and heavy to heavy rainfall will hit the two states. In Odisha, the government has issued a red alert and asked districts authorities to remain in the offices until the situation improves.
- Cyclone Titli got its name from Pakistan. "Titli" is a Hindi word, which means "butterfly".
- Eight countries in the North Indian Ocean region — Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand — have contributed a set of names which are assigned sequentially for whenever a cyclonic storm develops. They came up with a list of 64 names — eight names from each country — for upcoming cyclones.
- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), a Geneva-based agency of the United Nations (UN), maintains the lists of given names.

India's first ever National Environment Survey to commence in 24 states Jan, 2019

- India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will commence from 55 districts across 24 states and three Union Territories in January 2019.

- The survey will be conducted by Environmental Information System (ENVIS). The result of the survey will be available in 2020. The first set of data will be compiled in one year to cover seasonal cycles in terms of air pollution and flora & fauna.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in Guwahati

- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in Guwahati.

Cabinet approves permanent campuses of Tirupati, Berhampur IISERs

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the establishment and operationalisation of permanent campuses of the two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Berhampur (Odisha). The construction of permanent campuses of these institutes shall be completed by December 2021.

National Health Resource Repository is India's first ever national healthcare facility

- Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey has stressed on the need of evidence-based planning of National Health Resource Repository.
- The NHRR is country's first ever national healthcare facility registry of data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
- The Union ministry of health and family welfare launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR), the first ever registry in the country registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner for providing data security.

India lost USD 79.5 billion from climate-related disasters in 20 years: UN report

- India suffered a whopping USD 79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in the last 20 years, according to a UN report which highlights the impact of extreme weather events on the global economy.
- The report titled 'Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017' was compiled by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It states that the years between 1998 to 2017 have seen a dramatic rise of 151 per cent in direct economic losses from climate-related disasters.
- The greatest economic losses have been experienced by the US at USD 944.8 billion, followed by China at USD 492.2 billion, Japan at USD 376.3 billion, India at USD 79.5 billion and Puerto Rico at USD 71.7 billion.

Delhi signs twin-city agreement with Moscow

- The Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields, including environment, culture and education, for the next three years.

"The agreement was signed by Minister of the Moscow City government and head of its international relations Sergey Cheremin and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia".

Reuters Top 100: The World's Most Innovative Universities - 2018

- For the fourth year running, Stanford University tops Reuters' ranking of the World's Most Innovative Universities, a list that identifies and ranks the educational institutions doing the most to advance science, invent new technologies and power new markets and industries.
- In this top 100 list, 48 universities are from North America find mention on the list, 23 Asian universities, 27 from Europe and 2 from the Middle East. The list has no mention of universities from South America, Africa and Oceania countries that include Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.
- US dominated the list with 46 universities among the top 100. This year Chinese varsities have increased their presence in this with total five universities. The key factor was this year's ranking was Geopolitical

trends. Stanford University from US has topped this list for four consecutive years. The second and third spots have been held by US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University respectively.

Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act 1951 mandates ECI to fill casual vacancies

- It is understood that some newspapers have reported that the Commission on the one hand announced the bye elections to fill the three **casual vacancies in Lok Sabha from Karnataka** while the bye elections to fill five vacancies in Lok Sabha from Andhra Pradesh have not been announced.
- **Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy**, provided that the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more.

Mobile Health App 'MedWatch' launched by the Indian Air Force

- On the occasion of its **85th anniversary**, the Indian Air Force has **launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch'** in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India'. The concept and content of the App is by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Air) and it has been developed in-house with zero financial outlay by the Directorate of Information Technology (DIT).
- 'MedWatch', available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will **provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel**. A Reminder Tool to enable timely immunization for the children of all Air Warriors is an important component of the App. This will directly enable 'Mission Indradhanush' of the Govt of India.
- 'MedWatch', the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services, was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa PVSM AVSM YSM VM ADC, Chief of the Air Staff, during the Air Force Commanders' Conference at New Delhi on 11 Oct 17.

Festival of Fulpati celebrated in various parts of Nepal

- The festival of Fulpati was celebrated with traditional gaiety and religious fervour in various parts of Nepal.
- Fulpati is observed on the seventh day of Dashain festival. In Nepali, "Phool" means flower and "Pati" means leaves and plants. There is a tradition in Nepal to bring nine types of Fulpati into the home on the seventh day of Navaratri. It is believed that Fulpati represents nine Goddess and they brings health, wealth and prosperity to the homes.

Foundation stone laid to construct Museum on Prime Ministers of India

- The foundation stone for the Museum on Prime Ministers of India was laid down at the Teen Murti Estate in New Delhi by Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The museum will depict modern India through collections relating to the Prime Ministers, their lives, works and significant contributions made towards nation building.

Shripad Naik lays foundation Stone of National Institute of Homeopathy at Narela

- Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Homeopathy at Narela.
- This will be a National level Institute and would be established as an extension of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata.
- The institute will offer Post-graduate courses in seven disciplines. The intake of PG students will be 7 students per Department per Academic Year. The intake of PhD students will be 10 students per year.

- The OPD part of the hospital will **consists of general and speciality clinic**.

Govt announces Rs 100 crore award for states completing household electrification early under Saubhagya scheme

- Government has announced **100 crore rupee award for states that would complete the household electrification early under the Saubhagaya scheme**.
- **Apart from discoms, employees would also collectively get 50 lakh rupees award** for completing the task of electrifying households under the scheme which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September last year.

Goan homes to host theatre festival

- The **Serendipity Arts Festival 2018 is poised to present 'Theatre at Home' in Goa** from October 18 to 23.
- Comprising five performances of two plays in the intimate, private spaces of Goan homes, this is a **unique project that pushes the theatre discipline beyond defined boundaries**.

UP cabinet decides to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj

- **Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to change the name of Allahabad city to Prayagraj**. Opposition parties have criticised the decision, which comes ahead of the Kumbh Mela in January next year.
- The decision was taken at a **cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**.

Goa Maritime Symposium – 2018

- The **Goa Maritime Symposium – 2018, the second edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GSM) – a forum towards fostering friendly relations with the maritime neighbours - was inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba at Goa** on 16th October 2018.
- The “**Naval War College Journal**”, an academic compendium **with ideas and papers from writers and thinkers on maritime strategy and security**, was also released on the occasion by the CNS.

Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi launched

- **Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi was launched in Delhi by the Union Minister for Earth Sciences and Environment, Dr. Harsh Vardhan**.
- The System is designed to **predict extreme air pollution events and give alerts to take necessary steps as per Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Government of India**. The air pollution system has been developed jointly by the scientists at **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, India Meteorological Department and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**.

IITs dominate first-ever Indian university rankings

- The **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) dominate the first-ever standalone ranking of India's higher education institutions released by a UK-headquartered think tank**.
- **IIT Bombay tops the 'QS India University Rankings'**, with IITs Madras (3), Delhi (4), Kharagpur (5), Kanpur (6), Roorkee (9) and Guwahati (10) grabbing seven of the top 10 slots.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore comes in at second, with University of Hyderabad and University of Delhi among the others making a top-10 mark at seventh and eighth respectively in the list released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds**.

Bihar's Shahi litchi gets GI tag

- After **Katrani rice**, **Jardalu mango** and **Magahi paan** (betel vine), **Bihars Shahi litchi** has got the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** and has become an exclusive brand in the national and international market.
- The famous **Shahi litchi**, which is famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma, is mostly grown in **Muzaffarpur** and neighbouring districts including **East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur** and **Begusarai**.
- The GI registration was done in the name of **Litchi Growers Association of Bihar**, which had applied for the tag. It has officially become an exclusive brand with the GI tag. **Bihar produces 40 per cent of the litchi grown in the country on 38 per cent of the area.**

India is world's most depressed country

- Most of us still don't like to talk about mental health in public. It is imperative that we do because according to a World Health Organization report, **India is the world's most depressed country, closely followed by China and the US.** According to the **2015-16 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS)**, every sixth person in India needs mental health help of some sort. Of all the age groups, it is the adolescents who need it the most.
- **At least 6.5 per cent of the Indian population suffer from some form of the serious mental disorder**, with no discernible rural-urban differences. Though there are effective measures and treatments, there is an extreme shortage of mental health workers and experts.

Mukhtar Naqvi unfurls India's highest tricolour in Mumbai

- **Union Minister of Minorities Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour** on the rooftop of **Haj House in Mumbai.**
- The **national flag**, which was installed on the terrace of **Haj house**, is believed to be the **highest flag to be installed on any building in India.** The size of the flag is **20 feet by 30 feet** which is erected at a height of **20 meter.**

4th International film festival of Shimla concludes

- Organised by **Himalayan Velocity** in association with the **Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting at Gaiety theatre**, the **4th International Film Festival of Shimla** concluded. **Eighty International as well as national films by various film makers from 23 countries** were screened during the three days festival. **Renowned writer and member of Sahitya Academy, S N Joshi** as chief guest of the closing ceremony awarded prizes to the winners under various categories.
- **"The Fog"** by **Ali Shoorvarzi, Hoseyn Mahroughi** was adjudged as the best short film. **Special Jury Short Film award** went to **"It's Also Love"** by **Masao Konno/ Japan** and **"Opaque"** by **Anish Kunnath/ Singapore.** **Best Documentary award** was won by **"BURKINABÈ RISING -The art of resistance in Burkina Faso"** by **Lara Lee from Burkina Faso.** In the National category **"Anahut"** (Marathi) by **Umesh Bagade from Mumbai Maharashtra** bagged the best short film award.

Assam celebrates Kati Bihu festival

- **Assam's third Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu,** was being celebrated across the state.
- **Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi** and **Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** extended their prayers and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of **Kati Bihu** hoping that the festival will bring in peace and prosperity in the state.
- **On the occasion of Kati Bihu,** women, both in urban and rural areas, **try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by lighting earthen lamps,** officials said.
- The festival derives its name from the Assamese month of **Kati** officials said, adding, this is a much sombre festival when compared to the other two Bihu festivals of the state - the **Rongali** and **Bohagi Bihu.**

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates ‘Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan’

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan at Mangi Tung, Nasik, and Maharashtra. The event is organised by the Bhagwan Shri Rishabhdev 108 Feet Vishalkai Digambar Jain Murti Nirman Committee.

Gwalior hosts 4-day international dance festival

- Uzbekistan Ambassador to India Farhod Arziev inaugurates a four-day international dance festival titled "Udbhav Utsav" in Gwalior.
- Dance troupes from Bulgaria, Turkey and Sri Lanka, apart from 25 teams from India participated while a team from South Korea dropped out at the last minute, organising committee president is Keshav Pandey.

Third Decadal International year of Reefs-2018

- The International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) with the theme “Reef for Life” was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 22nd October at Bangaram coral Island of Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- About 150 delegates both International and National are participated in this mega event at Bangaram Island from 22nd to 24th October, 2018. The delegates and keynote speakers for technical deliberations have come from United State of America, United Kingdom, Kuwait, Italy, France, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The conference concluded on the 24th October, 2018.

Environment Ministry launches Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign

- Environment Ministry has launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign. This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein large number of school children participated and took pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.
- The Ministry has initiated the campaign on the similar lines but extended to a pan-India. The Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign is now merged with “Green Good Deed” movement that has been initiated as a social mobilization for conservation and protection of environment. The Ministry is encouraging all schools and colleges to be part of this campaign.

Government sets up GoM headed by Rajnath Singh to look into sexual harassment at work place

- A Group of Ministers, headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, has been constituted by the government to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at workplace. The members of the GoM are Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi, a home ministry official said.
- The GoM will examine the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at workplace. It will recommend action required for effective implementation of the existing provisions, as well as for strengthening the existing legal and institutional frameworks for addressing issues related to sexual harassment at workplace.

PM Modi inaugurates Krishi Kumbha 2018

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Krishi Kumbha 2018- a mega farmers' conclave- in Lucknow via video conferencing. Israel and Japan are official partners of Krishi Kumbh 2018 that will continue for three days. While Japan is being represented by a deputy minister, Israel's ambassador to India Daniel Carmon is representing his country at this extravaganza.

India's coastal communities to get USD 43 million to boost climate resilience

- A UN-backed fund has approved USD 43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India's coastal communities in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change.
- The grant is a part of more than USD 1 billion approved by the Green Climate Fund for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.
- The new project will be supported through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and is an essential step for India in reaching its goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

METRO INOX is India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema and South Mumbai's Largest Multiplex

- Mumbai's iconic heritage cinema METRO INOX is now South Mumbai's largest cinema and continues the celebration of legacy and luxury with the launch of their signature indulgence, INSIGNIA screens which is 100% solar powered. The fastest growing cinema chain INOX is proud to bring India's first multiplex to join the Solar revolution.
- The iconic Metro Cinema has celebrated the glorious cinematic history of our country since 1938. It was recently completely refurbished rekindling its heritage features by INOX Leisure Ltd, India's leading multiplex chain. Guests are treated to bespoke interiors, plush seats with ample leg room, cutting-edge sound and projection technology, razor-sharp 4K visuals and surround sound of Dolby Atmos and now the newly added INSIGNIA screens as well which also makes it South Mumbai's largest multiplex.

President of India inaugurates International Arya Mahasammelan-2018

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan – 2018 in Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that in the 19th century when we were considering our culture and beliefs inferior than the western culture, Swami Dayanand Saraswati showed us the path of renaissance and self-pride. The President said that we will be celebrating 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 2024. We will also celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Arya Samaj in 2025. Swami Dayanand Saraswati had worked for eradication of discrimination in society on the basis of caste, creed and sect and motivated everyone to become Arya – that is - the best. It is our duty to take the work of Swami Dayanand Saraswati further.

QS World University Rankings 2019: IIT Bombay Best in India, MIT tops for the Seventh Consecutive Year

- IIT Bombay has moved significantly up from 179th rank last year to 162nd rank this year in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings.
- Overall, the Institution improved on its 2018 performance by 17 places. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay ranks first in India, with an overall score of 48.2 out of 100.
- The QS rankings were released by QS, a British company.
- In overall level, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), according to QS World University Rankings, has made history by topping the for the seventh consecutive year and no other university has managed such a long run at the top.

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.

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

- 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
-

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Older Persons

- **International Day of Older Persons** is observed on 1st October every year to reaffirm the commitment to promoting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons.
- The theme this year is, 'Celebrating Older Human Rights champions'.

International Coffee Day

- **International Coffee Day** is an occasion that is used to promote and celebrate coffee as a beverage, with events now occurring in places across the world.
- The first official date was 1 October 2015, as agreed by the International Coffee Organization and was launched in Milan.

International Day of Non-Violence

- The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. This day is referred to in India as Gandhi Jayanti. On 15 June 2007 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence.

World Animal Day 2018

- **World Animal Day** is a day of action recognised worldwide for animal rights as well as welfare. It is celebrated on 4 October.

World Post Day

- **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
- It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.
- Since then, countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations. The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.

Air Force Day Parade 2018

- The **Indian Air Force** is celebrated its 86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018. In the last eight decades, IAF has technologically evolved and grown in strength to thwart any threat to the nation. It is committed to safeguard the Indian skies and has played a key role in providing assistance to the people of the country during any natural calamity.
- To mark the occasion and in keeping up with the tradition, IAF has planned a grand Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at Air Force Station Hindan (Ghaziabad). Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff reviewed the parade.

World Mental Health Day

- **World Mental Health Day (10 October)** is a day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.
- It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization with members and contacts in more than 150 countries.

International Day of Girls

- **International Day of Girls** is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of Girls. October 11, 2012, was the first Day of Girls.
- Under the theme, With Her: A Skilled GirlForce, International Day of the Girl 2018 marks the beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to advocate for, and draw attention and investments to, the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

National Postal Week celebrated from October 9

- The **Department of Posts is being celebrated the National Postal Week between October 9 and 15** to highlight its role and contribution in the lives of people, a senior official said. The **department also celebrated the World Post Day on October 9 to commemorate the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss capital Berne**, the official added.
- As part of the week-long exercise, the department would celebrate **World Post Day on October 9, Savings Bank Day on October 10, Mail Day and Philately Day on October 13, Postal Life Insurance Day on October 14 and on the final day Business Development Day.**

World Arthritis Day 2018

- **World Arthritis Day (WAD) is a global awareness-raising day observed every year on 12th October.** EULAR participates by promoting international activities for and on this day: **It hosts the WAD website and each year designs activities that create understanding around life with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in Europe.**

International Day for Disaster Reduction-13 October

- The **International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.**
- **Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.**

World Students' Day

- **World Students' Day is an Indian holiday marking the birthday of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. It is observed on Kalam's birthday, 15 October.**
- **In 2015 the United Nations declared 15 October "World Students' Day".**

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year on October 17 throughout the world.**
- **This year marks the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2018 theme is 'Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity'.**

Mahila Kisan Diwas celebrated to increase active participation of women in agriculture & allied sectors

- **Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated to increase the active participation of women in agriculture.** Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh addressed the function in New Delhi.
- **Women farmers, entrepreneurs, farming organizations, agricultural scientists and researchers from different states participated in the event.**
- **In 2016, the Ministry had decided to observe 15th of October as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas.** Women are contributing in various aspects of agriculture including sowing, planting, fertilizing, plant protection, harvesting, weeding, and storage.

World Osteoporosis Day

- **World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on October 20th, and launches a year-long campaign dedicated to raising global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.**
- **World Osteoporosis Day was launched on October 20th 1996 by the United Kingdom's National Osteoporosis Society and supported by the European Commission. Since 1997, the awareness day has been organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation.**

United Nations Day

- **UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.** With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, **including the five permanent members of the Security Council**, the United Nations officially came into being.
- **24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.** In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the **day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.**

National Solidarity day

- **October 20 has come to acquire a special significance for us all.** It was on this date **two years ago that our northern neighbour, whom we had treated as a friend, launched an attack on our borders.** During the weeks that followed this fateful day, the world witnessed a most heart-warming demonstration of the basic unity and solidarity of the Indian people.
- The **observance of National Solidarity Day is an annual reminder of this fundamental unity.** On this day, the thoughts of the **whole nation turn to our Armed Forces** who gallantly guard our extensive borders and who have, throughout history, been famous for their courage and stamina.

World Polio Day

- **World Polio Day is celebrated every year on October 24** with the objective of making the world ‘**polio-free**’.
- **World Polio Day was established by Rotary International** over a decade ago **to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis.** Use of this inactivated poliovirus vaccine and subsequent widespread use of the oral poliovirus, **developed by Albert Sabin, led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988.** As of 2013, GPEI had reduced polio worldwide by 99%.

World Cities Day: 31 October

- The **United Nations General Assembly** has **designated the 31st of October as World Cities Day.**
- The **Day is expected to greatly promote the international community’s interest in global urbanization,** push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.
- **2018 Theme is: Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities.**

QUESTIONS

1. Which is the first Indian state in the country to give legal protection to good Samaritans?
(a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
2. Which of the following states announced the setting up of a Ministry for Cows in the state?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
3. Recently, Union Government has constituted a panel to review the competition law. Who is the chairman of this panel?
(a) Shashank Doshi (b) Injeti Srinivas (c) Mrugank Paranjape (d) M S Sahoo
4. Which among the following countries has appointed a female officer Dr Susane Giti as a major general for the first time in the country's history?
(a) Pakistan (b) Sudan (c) Bangladesh (d) Afghanistan
5. Recently, The railway ministry in collaboration with _____ has launched rail heritage digitisation project. The project is a first of its kind to showcase country's rail heritage to national and international audience in an online story-telling platform.
(a) Amazon (b) Flipkart (c) Google (d) Microsoft
6. In which of the following countries two lion cubs are born by means of artificial insemination, the first such pair anywhere in the world recently?
(a) Russia (b) South Africa (c) United Kingdom (d) Japan
7. Recently, For the first time a protein that condenses the DNA of TB-causing bacteria in response to oxidative stress has been found by the team of scientists from which of the following Indian Universities?
(a) Delhi University (b) Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow
(c) IISc, Bengaluru (d) Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar
8. Who won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title in Chennai?
(a) Deepak Bharadwaj (b) Yuvraj Wadhvani (c) Atul Khandekar (d) Samrat Dahal
9. International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on:
(a) 25th September (b) 27th September (c) 29th September (d) 1st October
10. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Kolkata
11. The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi - National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held in:
(a) India (b) Brazil (c) South Africa (d) None of the above
12. The second edition of Exercise Aviaindra, a biennial Air Force level exercise between Indian and the _____ was conducted at Lipetsk.
(a) USA (b) UK (c) Russian Federation (d) Japan

13. Which among the following has become the first equity exchange to unveil its commodity segment with contracts in popular commodities like gold and silver?
(a) NSE (b) BSE (c) HSE (d) KSE
14. The report titled "Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth" brought out collectively by the:
(a) IMF (b) World Bank (c) WTO (d) All of the above
15. Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan won the 2018 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovery of a revolutionary approach to _____ treatment.
(a) Cancer (b) AIDS (c) Leprosy (d) All of the above
16. Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games being held in:
(a) Beijing (b) Tokyo (c) New Delhi (d) Buenos Aires
17. Who has been appointed as the UNICEF special representative of young people?
(a) Ravi Venkatesan (b) Robert John (c) Surendar Narayanan (d) Vikram Seth
18. International Coffee Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 30 September (b) 1 October (c) 2 October (d) 3 October
19. Who among the following inaugurated the first Swachhata Mela organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in New Delhi?
(a) Shri J P Nadda (b) Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu
(c) Shri Ram Nath Kovind (d) Shri Rajnath Singh
20. Justice Ranjan, Gogoi is to be the _____ Chief Justice of India.
(a) 44th (b) 45th (c) 46th (d) 47th
21. Which of the following Indian airports has been honoured this year with the award for Entrepreneurial Vision, for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy by UNEP?
(a) Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Airport (b) Madurai International Airport
(c) Cochin International Airport (d) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
22. According to "Swachh Campus rankings" released by the HRD ministry, which of the following University has been declared the cleanest government varsity?
(a) Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) (b) Maharshi Dayanand University
(c) Guru Nanak Dev University (d) Algappa University
23. Recently, Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention was concluded in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Bengaluru
24. Which of the following countries is to host the fifth World Internet Conference (WIC) in November 2018?
(a) Germany (b) France (c) China (d) Japan
25. Who has been elected as the new President of Iraq by Iraq's Parliament in October 2018?
(a) Barham Salih (b) Adel Abdul Mahdi (c) Jalal Talabani (d) Fuad Masum
26. Recently, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a _____ Million Loan to finance continued improvements to road connectivity and efficiency of the International Trade Corridor in West Bengal and North-Eastern Region of India.

- (a) \$100 (b) \$150 (c) \$300 (d) \$500
27. Which of the following companies with a market cap of USD 165 billion topped the list of companies which feature a list of the world's best regarded firms compiled by Forbes?
(a) Walt Disney (b) Amazon (c) Exxon Mobil (d) Hilton
28. Who has been appointed as the chief economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently?
(a) H.R. Gandhi (b) Usha Ananthasubramaniam
(c) Arundhati Bhattacharya (d) Gita Gopinath
29. According to the 2015-16 Agriculture Census, which of the following Indian states is home to the largest number of people tilling land in India?
(a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
30. According to Forbes magazine, who has emerged as the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of \$47.3 billion?
(a) Shiv Nadar (b) Aziz Premji (c) Mukesh Ambani (d) Anil Ambani
31. Who is the woman to win a chemistry Nobel this year for her research on enzymes which led to the development of better industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals?
(a) Donna Strickland (b) Monica Sutherland (c) Frances H Arnold (d) Cambriella Belluncagi
32. Recently, India has launched a massive operation 'Operation Samudra Maitri' to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in:
(a) Philippines (b) Malaysia (c) Indonesia (d) Myanmar
33. Recently, The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Madhya Pradesh at:
(a) Gwalior (b) Sehore (c) Guna (d) Indore
34. A joint exercise by _____ and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), for the first time, provides a country-wide soil moisture forecast at seven and 30-day lead times.
(a) IIT Gandhinagar (b) IIT Bhopal (c) IIT Jammu (d) IIT Hyderabad
35. According to the recent released Agriculture census data 2015-16 of India, In terms of operated area, the share of women increased from 10.36 per cent to _____ per cent.
(a) 11.57 (b) 12.36 (c) 12.74 (d) 13.09
36. Name the Indian cricketer, who has been named as one of the icons for the T10 League, world's first Ten-Over league.
(a) Gautam Gambhir (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Virendra Sehwag
37. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the First ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' at:
(a) Gurugram (b) Jammu (c) Shimla (d) Ambala
38. Which of the following IIT's has been named the national coordinating institute of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development?
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Kharagpur (c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Kanpur

39. The 36th National Games will be held from March 30 to April 14, 2019 in:
(a) Sikkim (b) Goa (c) Nagaland (d) Tripura
40. World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 1st October (b) 3rd October (c) 5th October (d) 9th October
41. Which of the following countries is ranked first with 85% of the front and 100% of the back of the packaging being used for pictorial warnings on tobacco products?
(a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Cuba (d) East Timor
42. Recently, Astronomers using Hubble and Kepler space telescopes have found compelling evidence for the existence of the first known moon outside our solar system, orbiting a gas-giant planet _____light-years away.
(a) 4,000 (b) 4,800 (c) 6,700 (d) 8,000
43. In 2018, India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments is:
(a) 12th (b) 17th (c) 28th (d) 34th
44. According to global brand consultancy Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report, which of the following is the top brand in the world in 2018?
(a) Apple (b) Microsoft (c) Amazon (d) Google
45. Who assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of global beverage giant PepsiCo succeeding Indra Nooyi?
(a) Haroon Langort (b) Sudepta Chhatterjee (c) Ramon Laguarta (d) David Jonathan Travis
46. How many countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) have adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region recently?
(a) 7 (b) 14 (c) 21 (d) 28
47. Who has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) by Indian President Ramnath Kovind?
(a) Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur (b) Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri
(c) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde (d) Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman
48. The India International Science Festival (IISF) is organized in:
(a) Jaipur (b) Hyderabad (c) Lucknow (d) Guwahati
49. Who has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva recently?
(a) Jagmohan Shahni (b) Deepak Parashar (c) Alok Ranjan Jha (d) Pankaj Sharma
50. Which of the following districts was ranked the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018?
(a) Hisar (b) Sehore (c) Guntur (d) Satara
51. Who has been appointed as the chairman of working group committee of World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)?
(a) Mrugank Paranjape (b) Vikram Limaye (c) Deepti Reddy (d) Sudeep Bannerjee
52. Recently, India concluded the contract for five S-400 'Triumf' missile systems, one of the biggest defence deals in recent times with which of the following countries?
(a) Germany (b) France (c) Russia (d) USA

53. According to commerce and industry ministry, Alphonso mango from which Indian state has got Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently?
(a) West Bengal (b) Maharashtra (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka
54. Who have been announced as the winner of Nobel Peace Prize 2018?
(a) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
(b) Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad
(c) Liu Xiaobo and Donald Trump
(d) Juan Manuel Santos and Barack Obama
55. Who has been appointed as the head of IDBI Bank recently?
(a) Samar Rana (b) Sanjay Chahar (c) Shashank Rathi (d) Rakesh Sharma
56. Which of the following Indian states launched the 'Nirman Kusuma' programme to help the children of construction workers get trained in Industrial Training Institutes and polytechnics?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Odisha (d) Jharkhand
57. The 45th World Skills Competition is to be held in 2019 at:
(a) Helsinki, Finland (b) Budapest, Hungary (c) Kazan, Russia (d) Calgary, Canada
58. Recently, Lee Myung-bak was jailed for 15 years for corruption. Lee Myung-bak was the former president of:
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Taiwan (d) Thailand
59. India's Strategic Forces Command successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile during night time. The surface-to-surface missile has a strike range of:
(a) 200 Kms (b) 350 km (c) 420 Kms (d) 450 Kms
60. According to Researchers from the University of Hyderabad, the Eastern Ghats spread across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, has lost almost _____ of its forest area over a span of 100 years.
(a) 6% (b) 9% (c) 16% (d) 19%
61. Who has been appointed as India's third Chief Statistician recently?
(a) Mahesh Garg (b) Deepak Rathore (c) Samar Singh (d) Pravin Srivastava
62. Who won the women China Open and her third WTA title of the year recently?
(a) Anastasija Sevastova (b) Caroline Wozniacki (c) Q. Wang (d) N.Osaka
63. Who has been chosen for the 47th AFI Life Achievement Award?
(a) Denzel Washington (b) Leonardo Di Caprio (c) Brad Pitt (d) Bill Smith
64. World Post Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 9th October (b) 12th October (c) 15th October (d) 19th October
65. Which among the following countries won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title held in Dhaka?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) India (d) Sri Lanka
66. President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, landed in Tajikistan on a three day visit to the country. The capital city of Tajikistan is:
(a) Astana (b) Ashgabat (c) Dushanbe (d) Tashkent

67. Jair Bolsonaro has won the first round of presidential election of:
(a) Brazil (b) Cuba (c) Spain (d) Australia
68. A referendum to change _____ constitution to stop same-sex couples from securing the right to marry has failed after it did not attract enough voters to validate the result.
(a) Mexico (b) UK (c) Romania (d) Serbia
69. Maria Fernanda Espinosa is the current President of:
(a) WTO (b) UN General Assembly
(c) UNICEF (d) UNCTAD
70. The first human spaceflight aboard a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) is expected to take place in:
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2022 (d) 2025
71. NASA's Voyager 2 probe is approaching interstellar space and has detected an increase in cosmic rays that originate outside our solar system. It was launched in:
(a) 1967 (b) 1977 (c) 1987 (d) 1999
72. Tababi Devi Thangjam became India's first judoka to win an Olympic medal at any level. She hails from:
(a) Assam (b) Haryana (c) Manipur (d) Sikkim
73. India opened its Para Asian Games campaign in style by bagging two silver and three bronze medals on the opening day held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Jakarta (c) Tokyo (d) Beijing
74. Interpol president Meng Hongwei has submitted his resignation. Interpol is headquartered in:
(a) Germany (b) France (c) USA (d) UK
75. JIMEX-18 is a maritime exercise between India and _____.
(a) Jordan (b) Japan (c) Jamaica (d) None of the above
76. The four day long mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF) concluded in Lucknow. What is the theme for the IISF-2018?
(a) Science for Future (b) Science for Transformation
(c) Science for Innovation (d) Science for Wonders
77. Recently, which among the following state governments has decided to set up an anti-terrorism force (ATF) named 'Kavach'?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Goa (d) Uttar Pradesh
78. US-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies or HyperloopTT has unveiled its first full-scale transportation capsule in:
(a) Germany (b) Spain (c) Canada (d) UK
79. This year's Nobel Prize for economics has been awarded to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer of the _____ for their work on sustainable growth.
(a) France (b) United States (c) Japan (d) Israel

80. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast a growth rate of _____percent for India in the current year of 2018.
(a) 7.0 (b) 7.1 (c) 7.3 (d) 7.6
81. Elon Musk's rocket company launched a commercial satellite for Argentina, marking SpaceX's _____ mission of 2018.
(a) 10th (b) 12th (c) 15th (d) 17th
82. Who among the following has won the India's first-ever gold medal at the Youth Olympics?
(a) Tushar Mane (b) Sneha Soren (c) Jeremy Lalrinnunga (d) Archana Kamath
83. Who among the following has won India's first gold of the Games in the men's F42-44/61-64 category at the Asian Para Games?
(a) Niraj Chopra (b) Sandeep Chaudhary (c) Devendra Jhajharia (d) Ravinder Singh Khaira
84. The Indian Air Force is celebrated its 86th Anniversary on:
(a) 05 October 2018 (b) 06 October 2018 (c) 07 October 2018 (d) 08 October 2018
85. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched 'India for Humanity initiative' in _____as part of 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.
(a) Mumbai (b) Gandhinagar (c) New Delhi (d) Surat
86. Which among the following countries has begun a series of large-scale air force exercises "Clear Sky 2018" with the United States and other NATO countries?
(a) India (b) Japan (c) South Korea (d) Ukraine
87. Oxfam launched an index spotlighting those nations doing least to bridge the divide, which among the following countries has placed at the bottom of this index?
(a) India (b) Sudan (c) North Korea (d) Nigeria
88. UNICEF and _____Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions".
(a) NASSCOM (b) ASSCHOM (c) FICCI (d) None of the above
89. The first state in the country to produce ethanol from rice straw will be:
(a) Odisha (b) Punjab (c) Kerala (d) Madhya Pradesh
90. Scientists from _____have created 3D-printed meals for a school to inspire an interest in science subjects among young pupils.
(a) Japan (b) British (c) India (d) China
91. The International Olympic Committee has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to which among the following countries?
(a) Nigeria (b) Argentina (c) South Africa (d) Senegal
92. Who among the following has claimed India's first ever shooting gold in the multi-sport at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires?
(a) Manu Bhaker (b) Abhinav Bindra (c) Jitu Rai (d) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

93. Nikki Haley has resigned as ambassador to the United Nations. She hails from which among the following countries?
(a) France (b) UK (c) USA (d) Italy
94. World Mental Health Day is a day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma celebrated on:
(a) 07 October (b) 08 October (c) 09 October (d) 10 October
95. The Union Cabinet approved the establishment and operationalisation of permanent campuses of the two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at _____ and Berhampur (Odisha).
(a) Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) (b) Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
(c) Agra (Uttar Pradesh) (d) Kolkata (West Bengal)
96. UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' ranks India _____ among 157 countries.
(a) 127th (b) 137th (c) 140th (d) 147th
97. Google appealed the biggest ever anti-trust fine imposed by:
(a) AU (b) EU (c) UN (d) WTO
98. Sovereign Gold Bonds scheme for the first time launched in:
(a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
99. Scientists from _____ have developed the first bioelectronic medicine -- an implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves the healing of a damaged nerve.
(a) USA (b) Japan (c) China (d) India
100. According to a study presented by the "Break Free from Plastic" initiative, which among the following companies is the most contributing to ocean pollution with single-use plastics?
(a) Coca-Cola (b) Pepsi (c) Nestle (d) Sprite
101. Who among the following India shooters has clinched the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event at the Youth Olympic Games, Argentina?
(a) Vijay Kumar (b) Saurabh Chaudhary (c) Abhinav Bindra (d) Gagan Narang
102. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in:
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Odisha (d) Kerala
103. Cyclone Titli has been in the news; Cyclone Titli got its name from:
(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Nepal (d) Sri Lanka
104. Veena Sendre from _____ has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.
(a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Punjab (d) Kerala
105. India's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad
106. Who has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India?
(a) Vijayendra Nath Kaul (b) Tushar Mehta
(c) V. Narahari Rao (d) Shashi Kant Sharma

107. The world's most powerful passport spot on the 2018 Henley Passport Index is:
(a) USA (b) Singapore (c) Japan (d) UK
108. The World Bank ranked India _____ among 157 countries in its first-ever Human Capital Index (HCI).
(a) 115th (b) 120th (c) 125th (d) 130th
109. Vinay Razdan has been appointed as the new chief human resources officer (CHRO) in:
(a) RBI (b) SBI (c) HDFC Bank (d) ICICI Bank
110. Bajrang Punia is associated with which among the following sports?
(a) Cricket (b) Wrestling (c) Badminton (d) Tennis
111. Who among the following has won the gold in men's high jump T42/63 category at the Asian Para Games in 2018?
(a) Anandan Gunasekaran (b) Sharad Kumar
(c) Sundar Singh Gurjar (d) Thangavelu Mariyappan
112. International Day of Girls is observed every year on:
(a) October 10 (b) October 11 (c) October 12 (d) October 13
113. India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will commence from 55 districts across _____ states and three Union Territories in January 2019.
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 24 (d) 29
114. According to a UN report, due to climate-related disasters in the last 20 years, the greatest economic losses has been experienced by:
(a) India (b) USA (c) China (d) Japan
115. The opening ceremony of the 32nd edition of India - Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT), to be held in:
(a) India (b) Indonesia (c) Iran (d) Iraq
116. NITI Aayog and _____ announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
(a) Google (b) Microsoft (c) Facebook (d) IBM
117. Arundhati Bhattacharya, the former chairperson of _____ has joined homegrown private equity firm ChrysCapital as an adviser.
(a) State Bank of India (b) ICICI Bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) Bharatiya Mahila Bank
118. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a MoU with the _____ in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University.
(a) University of Jammu & Kashmir
(b) Central University of Jammu
(c) Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu
(d) None of the above
119. Justin Gallegos, a junior at the University of Oregon, became the first professional athlete with cerebral palsy to sign a contract with _____.
(a) Nike (b) Puma (c) Adidas (d) Rebook

120. A human rights campaigner who has been jailed since January in the _____ province of Chechnya has been awarded a prestigious human rights prize by the Council of Europe.
(a) Russian (b) Pakistan (c) China (d) Syria
121. The Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of _____ for cooperation in various fields, including environment, culture and education, for the next three years.
(a) London (b) Tokyo (c) Beijing (d) Moscow
122. The new book titled 'THE PARADOXICAL PRIME MINISTER' is authored by:
(a) Shashi Tharoor (b) Dr. Manmohan Singh (c) Kapil Sibal (d) Sonia Gandhi
123. World Arthritis Day (WAD) is a global awareness-raising day observed every year on:
(a) 11th October (b) 12th October (c) 13th October (d) 14th October
124. Which of the following Indian states has won this year's UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Future Policy for Gold Award?
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Manipur
125. Which of the following countries has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, with highest number of votes in the Asia-Pacific category for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019?
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) Myanmar
126. India's first ever national healthcare facility registry of data of all public and private healthcare establishments is:
(a) IHRR (b) NHRR (c) BHRR (d) CHRR
127. Recently, The Indian Navy has inducted its _____ to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines on the high seas.
(a) First deep indigenous rescue helicopter (b) First deep submergence rescue vehicle
(c) First deep submerged rescue vehicle (d) First deep submergence rescue drone
128. Recently, Annapurna Devi passed away in Mumbai. She was a renowned:
(a) Athlete (b) Woman Cricketer
(c) First Woman Para glider (d) Hindustani Musician
129. International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on:
(a) 10th October (b) 12th October (c) 13th October (d) 14th October
130. Who among the following is India's flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Summer Youth Olympics?
(a) Manu Bhakar (b) Jeremy Lalrinnunga (c) Lalita Kumari (d) Deepika Kumari
131. India has been ranked _____ out of 119 countries in the 2018 Global Hunger Index.
(a) 73rd (b) 83rd (c) 93rd (d) 103rd
132. India and _____ have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.
(a) China (b) Pakistan (c) Nepal (d) Sri Lanka
133. Which among the following countries has decided to abolish the death penalty in October 2018?
(a) Myanmar (b) China (c) Malaysia (d) Iran

134. The World Economic Forum announced to establish its new Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in:
(a) India (b) USA (c) France (d) Japan
135. Who among the following has won an award created to replace this year's Nobel Prize for Literature in October 2018?
(a) Hunter Stockton Thompson (b) Maryse Conde
(c) Kurt Vonnegut (d) Dr. Seuss
136. The NITI Aayog and ICC International Court of Arbitration organised the inaugural Training-cum-Brainstorming Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Geneva (c) New Delhi (d) Tokyo
137. A group of _____ scientists and companies are involved with a 100k GenomeAsia project to sequence the whole genomes of 100k Asians.
(a) India (b) Japan (c) Israel (d) China
138. Which among the following countries men's and women's team won silver medals each in the Hockey 5s competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina?
(a) Netherland (b) India (c) USA (d) Russia
139. For the fourth year running, which among the following universities tops Reuters' ranking of the World's Most Innovative Universities?
(a) Stanford University (b) Oxford University (c) Cambridge University (d) Nalanda University
140. Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through bye elections within _____ months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy.
(a) Three (b) Six (c) Nine (d) Ten
141. "The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference was held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Colombo (c) Chennai (d) Kolkata
142. The first Indo-US tri-services exercise that involves three services (navy, army and air force) of the India and the US will take place in:
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
143. Paul G. Allen has been passed away, he was the co-founder of:
(a) Google (b) Apple (c) Microsoft (d) Alibaba
144. Who has been announced as the winner of the India Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) 2018?
(a) Dilip Shanghvi (b) Prema Gopalan (c) Azim Hashim Premji (d) Gautam Shantilal Adani
145. With which among the following countries India has joined by inducting its first deep submergence rescue vehicle which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea?
(a) US (b) China (c) Russia (d) All of the above
146. Shanghai Masters title is associated with which among the following sports?
(a) Cricket (b) Badminton (c) Tennis (d) Football

147. Which among the following countries is all set to host the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays?
(a) India (b) Japan (c) Spain (d) Brazil
148. Who has been appointed as the new chief of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights?
(a) Priyank Kanoongo (b) Aruna Roy
(c) Lakshmi Subramanyam (d) Pramila Joseph
149. World Students' Day is an Indian holiday marking the birthday of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. It is observed on:
(a) 12th of October (b) 13th of October (c) 14th of October (d) 15th of October
150. Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated on _____ to increase the active participation of women in agriculture.
(a) 12th of October (b) 13th of October (c) 14th of October (d) 15th of October
151. Recently, The foundation stone for the Museum on Prime Ministers of India was laid down at the Teen Murti Estate in:
(a) Nagpur (b) New Delhi (c) Indore (d) Mumbai
152. The 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit is being organized at which of the following places?
(a) Brussels (b) Beijing (c) London (d) Lisbon
153. Which of the following countries celebrates the festival of "Fulpati" with traditional gaiety and religious fervor recently?
(a) Mauritius (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka (d) Singapore
154. Recently, In a move aimed at promoting digital transactions, who has released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets?
(a) Reserve Bank of India (b) Finance Ministry
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) NITI Aayog
155. What is the present rank of India in list of most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018?
(a) 23rd (b) 37th (c) 58th (d) 62nd
156. Recently, Researchers at the University of California, Riverside in the U.S. tracked molecular signs of animal life, called biomarkers, as far back asmillion years ago during the Neoproterozoic era.
(a) 300 (b) 450 (c) 520 (d) 660
157. Name the Indian tennis player who won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy?
(a) Mahesh Bhupati (b) Rohan Bopanna (c) Leander Paes (d) Sumit Nagal
158. Recently, Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to change the name of which of the following city to Prayagraj?
(a) Gorakhpur (b) Varanasi (c) Allahabad (d) Kanpur
159. Name the athlete who clinched a silver medal in men's 5000m race walk event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games to open India's medal account in athletics at Buenos Aires in Argentina?
(a) Akhilesh Rajawat (b) Bhupendra Singh Rana
(c) Deepak Rajwansi (d) Suraj Panwar

160. The Serendipity Arts Festival 2018 is poised to present 'Theatre at Home' in:
(a) Bihar (b) Goa (c) Sikkim (d) Nagaland
161. Which among the following countries has successfully launched twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites into space to strengthen its satellite navigation network in October 2018?
(a) Myanmar (b) China (c) Malaysia (d) India
162. Who has won the prestigious Man Booker Prize 2018 for fiction for "Milkman"?
(a) Arundhati Roy (b) Zadie Smith (c) J.K. Rowling (d) Anna Burns
163. According to latest a report by digital security firm, which among the following countries has topped the number of data breach incidences in the world?
(a) USA (b) India (c) China (d) France
164. Who has been approved as Managing Director and CEO of the ICICI Bank by the RBI?
(a) Rana Kapoor (b) Shyam Srinivasan (c) Sandeep Bakshi (d) Aditya Puri
165. In a first in the world, Scientists from _____ have grown functional sections of oesophagus in the lab using stem cells and successfully transplanted them into mice.
(a) USA (b) India (c) UK (d) Israel
166. Who has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development?
(a) P. J. Thomas (b) Suheil F. Tandon (c) Jeroo Billimoria (d) Anshu Gupta
167. How many medals did India win at the Asian Para Games 2018?
(a) 60 (b) 65 (c) 72 (d) 80
168. Who has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement?
(a) Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi (b) Asha Bhosle
(c) Amitabh Bachchan (d) Sulochana Latkar
169. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year on:
(a) October 14 (b) October 15 (c) October 16 (d) October 17
170. According to latest 'QS India University Rankings', which among the following Universities has topped the rankings?
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IITs Madras (c) IITs Roorkee (d) IITs Kharagpur
171. Union Minister of Minorities Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the rooftop of Haj House in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Bhopal (d) Mumbai
172. Who is the ex-officio chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)?
(a) Prime Minister (b) Union Finance Minister
(c) Union Home Minister (d) Union Defence Minister
173. Armies of India and _____ will hold their first ever joint exercise from November 1 at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation.
(a) Myanmar (b) China (c) Malaysia (d) Japan

174. Which among the following companies earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc in October 2018?
(a) TCS (b) RIL (c) WIPRO (d) Infosys
175. Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya has joined as the independent additional director of:
(a) TCS (b) RIL (c) WIPRO (d) Infosys
176. A UK-built spacecraft will set off for _____ this week in a first mission of its kind to determine if the nearest planet to the Sun contains water.
(a) Mercury (b) Mars (c) Venus (d) Saturn
177. How many medals did India win at the Summer Youth Olympic Games 2018?
(a) 6 (b) 9 (c) 13 (d) 20
178. Shahi litchi has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This fruit has its origin in:
(a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Andhra Pradesh
179. Congress veteran Narayan Dutt Tiwari has passed away; Tiwari had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of:
(a) Uttar Pradesh and Haryana (b) Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
(c) Punjab and Uttarakhand (d) Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
180. The 4th International Film Festival of Shimla concluded, which among the film adjudged as the best short film?
(a) The Fog (b) Opaque (c) Anahut (d) Burkinabe Rising
181. Which among the following has decided to extend the enhanced 50 per cent reservation for women in the matter of rotation for the office of the panchayat sarpanch to the office of the chairperson of panchayat samitis and zila parishads in October 2018?
(a) Punjab (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Andhra Pradesh
182. Which among the following has become the first smoke-free State in the country with 100% LPG penetration?
(a) Kerala (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Sikkim (d) Andhra Pradesh
183. Which among the following countries has become the second country after Uruguay to legalise possession and use of recreational cannabis?
(a) France (b) Russia (c) Japan (d) Canada
184. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased lenders' single borrower exposure limit for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which do not finance infrastructure, to _____ per cent of capital funds.
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25
185. India's first cryptocurrency ATM opened in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru
186. A team of scientists at the _____ have sited the most massive structure in the early universe known to date i.e. 'Hyperion'.
(a) European Southern Observatory (ESO) (b) ISRO
(c) NASA (d) JAXA

187. Canelo Álvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sport, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365m with streaming service DAZN. He hails from:
(a) USA (b) Mexico (c) Argentina (d) Portugal
188. How many persons are the recipients of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize?
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 9 (d) 12
189. The book titled "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" is associated with life of:
(a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (b) Stephen Hawking (c) APJ Kalam (d) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
190. Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, was being celebrated across which among the following states of India?
(a) Assam (b) Punjab (c) Haryana (d) Goa
191. For the first time in India, a railway station will be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres, on the strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border in:
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab
192. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi hoisted the National flag and unveiled the plaque to celebrate the anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government. The Azad Hind Government founded in:
(a) 1940 (b) 1942 (c) 1943 (d) 1945
193. The 12th ASEM Summit, with the theme "Global Partners for Global Challenges" was inaugurated in:
(a) India (b) Malaysia (c) Belgium (d) Vietnam
194. Maeen Abdulmalik has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of:
(a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) Syria (d) Yemen
195. Name the Indian-American, who has been honoured with a Presidential award by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards combating human trafficking in Houston.
(a) Minal Patel Davis (b) Pramila Joseph (c) Nicky Joshna (d) Kamala Harris
196. India has imposed anti-dumping duties of up to 185.51 US dollars per tonne for five years on certain varieties of _____ steel to protect the interest of the domestic players.
(a) USA (b) France (c) China (d) Japan
197. Which among the following countries has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes?
(a) China (b) USA (c) France (d) Japan
198. Who among the following has received the prestigious Carnot prize 2018 for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions?
(a) Piyush Goyal (b) Arun Jaitley (c) Rajnath Singh (d) Nirmala Sitaraman
199. Who among the following has reached the final of World Championship 2018 for gold medal by defeating Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier in a tense 65kg semifinal in Budapest?
(a) Saurav Gurjar (b) Bajrang Punia (c) Sushil Kumar (d) Yogeshwar Dutt
200. Who is the winner of the 2018 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award from India in the 10-years-and-under category for his photograph 'Pipe Owls'?
(a) Arshdeep Singh (b) Aruna Kumari (c) Rajesh Jain (d) Punkaj Advani
201. India's first ever passenger cruise ship service was launched in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru

202. India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra, connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in:
(a) Manipur (b) Tripura (c) Nagaland (d) Meghalaya
203. Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister of:
(a) Morarji Ranchhodji Desai (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
(c) P.V. Narasimharao (d) Indira Gandhi
204. The world's longest sea bridge was opened in:
(a) USA (b) France (c) China (d) Japan
205. The seventh meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in:
(a) Kazakhstan (b) India (c) China (d) Russia
206. According to the Brand Finance's annual Nation Brands report 2018, what is the India rank in the world?
(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 9 (d) 10
207. World's largest indigenously designed and built amphibious aircraft AG600 was successfully carried out its first take-off and landing tests in:
(a) USA (b) France (c) China (d) Japan
208. Scientists from _____ have unearthed the fossilised remains of a piranha-like species that is the world's earliest known example of a flesh-eating fish.
(a) Australia (b) UK (c) Israel (d) Japan
209. Who among the following cricketers has become the first person the cricket history to score six 150-plus scores in the 50-over format?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Chris Gayle (d) David Warner
210. Who among the following was honoured with the annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award 2018?
(a) Hariprasad Chaurasia (b) Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
(c) Zakir Hussain (d) Pandit Shivkumar Sharma
211. Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh co-chaired the first India-China High Level Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation with Mr. Zhao Kezhi, State Councilor and Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China held in:
(a) Beijing (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Xiamen
212. In a first of its kind, which among the following state governments has made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster'?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab
213. India, Japan and _____ are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format.
(a) USA (b) France (c) China (d) Russia
214. International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, has launched a _____ masala bond programme to fund its investment activities in India.
(a) \$1-billion (b) \$2-billion (c) \$3-billion (d) \$5-billion

215. Scientists from _____ have developed a material that can be used to harvest electricity from the Sun's heat, paving the way for generating cheaper solar power on cloudy days and at nighttime.
(a) USA (b) France (c) China (d) Russia
216. Who among the following has won the Denmark Open 2018?
(a) Saina Nehwal (b) Tai Tzu Ying (c) P. V. Sindhu (d) Carolina Marin
217. Asian Games and Commonwealth Gold medalist Bajrang Punia had to settle for silver in the _____ kg category of the World Wrestling Championship 2018 final.
(a) 45 (b) 55 (c) 65 (d) 95
218. Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died. He won the Nobel Prize in:
(a) 2000 (b) 2004 (c) 2008 (d) 2012
219. Who among the following has won this year's Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize?
(a) Sujatha Gidla (b) Susmitha Kumari (c) Sailaja Aman (d) Aradhya Gupta
220. The new book titled "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections" is authored by:
(a) Sourav Ganguly (b) Vijayan Bala (c) Harsha Bhogle (d) Ravi Sashtri
221. Who has been awarded the Seoul Peace Prize 2018?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Donald Trump (c) Vladimir Putin (d) Theresa May
222. Paul Biya has won the seventh term as the President of:
(a) Brazil (b) Mexico (c) Cameroon (d) Chile
223. India ranked _____ most competitive economy in World Economic Forum's index 2018.
(a) 38th (b) 58th (c) 68th (d) 78th
224. This year, India will play host to the largest-ever Global Partners' Forum in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad
225. World Polio Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) October 21 (b) October 22 (c) October 23 (d) October 24
226. Nishtha Dudeja has won the Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title at an international pageant held in Prague. She hails from:
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab
227. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award 2018 to whom among the following?
(a) Fali S Nariman (b) Ram Jethmalani (c) KK Venugopal (d) Gopal Subramaniam
228. Who became the first player to score 400 goals in Europe's top five leagues?
(a) Neymar Jr (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Lionel Messi (d) Mohamed Salah
229. India and _____ inked a crucial MoU for the appointment of a private operator of the Sittwe Port that will boost connectivity and help in creating local job opportunities.
(a) Myanmar (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) China

230. According to the latest World Health Organization report, which is the world's most depressed country in the world?
(a) Pakistan (b) Nigeria (c) India (d) China
231. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing the 5th edition of the Women of India Organic Festival in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
232. The eleventh session of India - Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held on 22nd - 23rd October 2018 in:
(a) Prague (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Brno
233. Which is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018?
(a) RIL (b) TCS (c) Wipro (d) Infosys
234. How many Indian companies are participated in the SIAL Paris exhibition - the largest international market place for food service professionals?
(a) 25 (b) 35 (c) 45 (d) 50
235. Who among the following Indian Cricketers has become the fastest batsman to reach 10000 ODI runs?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Virat Kohli (c) M. S. Dhoni (d) Sachin Tendulkar
236. Who has been chosen winner of the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018 for the category of Best National Sports Federation (NSF)?
(a) Athletics Federation of India (b) BCCI
(c) BFI (d) FBFI
237. Which among the following country's investment promotion body has won the UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development in 2018?
(a) China (b) India (c) USA (d) France
238. The International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR - 2018) with the theme "Reef for Life" was inaugurated by:
(a) Dr. Harsh Vardhan (b) Shri Narendra Modi (c) Rajnath Singh (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
239. Who has been appointed as the interim director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?
(a) M Nageswar Rao (b) Punkaj Advani (c) Rakesh Asthana (d) Praveen Kumar
240. United Nations Day has been celebrated every year on:
(a) October 21 (b) October 22 (c) October 23 (d) October 24
241. The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the International Conference 'AFITA/WCCA2018' on Research Frontiers in Precision Agriculture in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
242. According to the latest report by Asian Development Bank (ADB), which among the following countries has topped the international migrants in 2017?
(a) USA (b) India (c) China (d) UK

243. The world's oldest known shipwreck has been found in:
(a) Red Sea (b) Arabian Sea (c) Black Sea (d) Caspian Sea
244. India, Iran and _____ held their first trilateral meeting in Tehran on 'Chabahar port project' during which they reviewed its implementation.
(a) Afghanistan (b) Pakistan (c) China (d) Nepal
245. How many Indian-Americans have been named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in the US?
(a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 7 (d) 10
246. Union government approved setting up of Appellate Tribunal and Adjudicating Authority for speedy disposal of cases related to benami transactions. Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal will be based in:
(a) National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) (b) Mumbai
(c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad
247. Which among the following banks has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as managing director and CEO?
(a) Airtel Payments Bank (b) Dena Bank (c) Andhra Bank (d) Paytm Payments Bank
248. Who receives the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi?
(a) Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (b) Narinder Singh Kapany
(c) M.S. Swaminathan (d) Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao
249. According to a report by Mercom Communications India, which among the following countries is second largest solar market in the world, during the first half of calendar year 2018?
(a) China (b) India (c) USA (d) Japan
250. Who has become the first woman wrestler in the last 6 years to win a medal at the World Championship held in Budapest?
(a) Anita Roy (b) Babita Kumari (c) Shakshi Malik (d) Pooja Dhanda
251. The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of the Scheme "Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)" in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
252. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan - 2018 in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
253. The Supreme Court said that no Bharat Stage IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from:
(a) April 1, 2020 (b) April 1, 2021 (c) April 1, 2022 (d) April 1, 2023
254. In 2018, NATO's biggest exercises since the end of the Cold War hosted by:
(a) USA (b) Finland (c) Canada (d) Norway
255. Adel Abdul Mahdi was sworn in as new prime minister of:
(a) Iran (b) Syria (c) Iraq (d) Libya
256. METRO INOX is India's first multiplex to join the Solar revolution, it is located in:
(a) Hyderabad (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai

257. Name the Indian scientist, who won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue - the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
(a) Roopam Sharma (b) Ankur Rana (c) Prathap Sindh (d) K.R.Laxmanan
258. Which among the following banks has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank - Winner 2018' award instituted by the Assocham?
(a) Axis Bank (b) Dena Bank (c) Andhra Bank (d) Corporation Bank
259. Former State Bank of India chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya has been appointed as an independent director of:
(a) SEBI (b) Wipro (c) Infosys (d) TATA
260. Who among the following has won the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title?
(a) Sourav Kothari (b) Peter Gilchrist (c) David Causier (d) John Robert
261. Indian railways plan to connect _____ with Ladakh region through the world's highest railway line that will run along the India-China border.
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Pune (d) Hyderabad
262. Who among the following has/have been awarded with the UN Prize 2018?
(a) Asma Jahangir (b) Rebeca Gyumi (c) Joenia Wapichana (d) All of the above
263. Who has been appointed as the first female president of Ethiopia?
(a) Gelila Bekele (b) Sahle-Work Zewde (c) Zewdy Awalom (d) Yityish Aynaw
264. Which among the following has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'Word Cooperative Monitor' report 2018?
(a) IFFCO (b) FCI (c) TCS (d) RIL
265. JCB Prize for Literature 2018 won by Benyamin for Jasmine Days. He is a famous writer in:
(a) Malayalam (b) Telugu (c) Sanskrit (d) Hindi
266. The QS rankings were released by QS, a British company, which among the following universities has moved significantly up from 179th rank last year to 162nd rank this year?
(a) IIT Chennai (b) IIT New Delhi (c) IIT Kolkata (d) IIT Bombay
267. Which among the following countries has won the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) award 2018?
(a) China (b) USA (c) India (d) UK
268. Who among the following inaugurated the 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018 in New Delhi?
(a) Smriti Irani (b) Maneka Gandhi (c) Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Narendra Modi
269. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day long Krishi Kumbh 2018 in:
(a) Varanasi (b) Bhopal (c) Agra (d) Lucknow
270. Who has become the first Indian cricketer to score three consecutive centuries in ODI cricket?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Sachi Tendulkar (d) Rahul Dravid

271. Name the country's first engine-less train which is being regarded as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express?
(a) Tez Express (b) Vidhyut Express (c) Train 18 (d) Train 2020
272. Recently, Indian railways decided to launch 3 more Ramayana Express trains. These trains will not run from which of the following places at present?
(a) Jaipur (b) Rajkot (c) Madurai (d) Guwahati
273. Recently, far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Presidential elections of which of the following countries?
(a) Brazil (b) Ecuador (c) Peru (d) Italy
274. Recently, who has been re-elected as the President of Ireland after receiving 56 per cent of the country's votes in the elections?
(a) Abriel Macuador (b) Gerisingh Nara (c) Michael D Higgins (d) Amrien Derecer
275. As per the impact of new insolvency and bankruptcy law, the government expects bad loan recoveries to exceed the Rs. 1.80 lakh crore-target for the current financial year.
(a) Rs 1.20 lakh crore (b) Rs 1.38 lakh crore (c) Rs 1.49 lakh crore (d) Rs. 1.80 lakh crore
276. Recently, the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the complaint by which of the following countries against certain export-subsidy measures by India.
(a) France (b) Great Britain (c) USA (d) Finland
277. Which of the following Indian states has achieved number one rank in the country with an average growth of 10.5% during the last four years?
(a) Odisha (b) Bihar (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) West Bengal
278. Name the device that helps vehicles, drones and handheld electronic devices know their orientation in 3D space?
(a) Allimeter (b) Menter (c) Gyroscope (d) Frellimeter
279. Recently, Scientists have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. Name the tool?
(a) Deby Coefficient (b) Iffy Quotient (c) Zenith Quotient (d) Derith Coefficient
280. Which of the following are widely considered as pests, but a recent study by scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has revealed that these groups of insects are pollinators to a number of flowering plants in the Himalayan ecosystem?
(a) Moths (b) Dragonflies (c) Cockroaches (d) Booklice
281. Who has been sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court recently?
(a) Justice M R Shah (b) Justice Naresh Harishchandra Patil
(c) Justice R Subhash Reddy (d) Justice Hemant Gupta
282. Recently, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat at:
(a) Gandhinagar (b) Ahmedabad (c) Jamnagar (d) Surat
283. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at:
(a) Mazagon Dock Limited (b) Cochin Shipyard
(c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (d) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust

284. Which of the following states/ Union territories tops the charts of bad air quality nationally as per figures compiled and released earlier this year by the World Health Organization (WHO)?
(a) Delhi (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat
285. CSIR scientists have developed SWAS, SAFAL and STAR. These are:
(a) Rose Plant (b) Chicken (c) Firecrackers (d) Intense Sticks
286. Recently Germany's Angela Merkel decided to step down as Chancellor in year:
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2024
287. Recently, India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement worthduring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan.
(a) \$45 billion (b) \$60 billion (c) \$75 billion (d) \$90 billion
288. Recently, which of the following countries have developed the world's first bio-brick from human urine?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Africa (d) Germany
289. Recently, Abraham Kiptum won the Valencia race, setting a new world best time of 58mins 18sec for the half-marathon. Abraham Kiptum belongs to:
(a) Kenya (b) South Africa (c) Uganda (d) Nigeria
290. Which of the following two countries were declared joint winners of the men Asian Champions Trophy held at Muscat in Oman recently?
(a) Japan and China (b) Nepal and Bangladesh (c) India and Pakistan (d) Thailand and India
291. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity in which of the following districts of Gujarat?
(a) Surat (b) Narmada (c) Mehsana (d) Dwarka
292. Which of the following countries is to be the Partner Country in 25th DST - CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019?
(a) Denmark (b) France (c) Netherlands (d) Italy
293. Recently, Japan has agreed to provide loans of aboutfor seven major infrastructure projects in India.
(a) 164 Billion Yen (b) 237 Billion Yen (c) 316 Billion Yen (d) 456 Billion Yen
294. Who among the following has been awarded with the 2018 Gleitsman Award?
(a) Kailash Satyarthi (b) Nadira Safdar (c) Malala Yousafzai (d) Antonio Griezman
295. Which of the following countries has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects?
(a) Republic of Seychelles (b) Mauritius
(c) Maldives (d) Sri Lanka
296. According to WWF's "Living Planet" report, what percentage of of all animals with a backbone -- fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals -- were wiped out by human activity from year 1970 to 2014?
(a) 35% (b) 40% (c) 52% (d) 60%
297. Recently, India's first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public in:
(a) Ludhiana (b) Jalandhar (c) Indore (d) Kapurthala

298. Who won the Mexican Grand Prix Formula One race 2018?
(a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Kimi Räikkönen (d) Sebastian Vettel
299. Which of the following Indian states was crowned as the overall champions of the first edition of North East Olympic Games?
(a) Mizoram (b) Assam (c) Manipur (d) Tripura
300. World Cities Day 2018 is being celebrated on:
(a) 21st October (b) 22nd October (c) 29th October (d) 31st October



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. b Karnataka has become the first state in the country to give legal protection to good samaritans.
2. d Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the setting up of a Ministry for cows. "The Cow Ministry will replace the existing Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan Board because it has limitations".
3. b The nine-member committee chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas includes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson M S Sahoo and Competition Commission of India (CCI) Chairperson.
4. c Bangladesh has appointed a female officer as a major general for the first time in the country's 47 year history.
5. c The railway ministry in collaboration with Google has launched rail heritage digitisation project. The project is a first of its kind to showcase country's rail heritage to national and international audience in an online story-telling platform.
6. b "Two lion cubs are the first ever lion cubs to be born by means of artificial insemination - the first such pair anywhere in the world," announced the University of Pretoria, whose scientists are researching the reproductive system of female African lions.
7. c For the first time a protein (WhiB4) that condenses the DNA of TB-causing bacteria in response to oxidative stress has been found by a multi-institutional team led by Prof. Amit Singh from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
8. b Yuvraj Wadhwani has won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title. In Chennai, he defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan by 13-11, 11-5, 6-11, 12-10 in the final.
9. d International Day of Older Persons is observed on 1st October every year to reaffirm the commitment to promoting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons.
10. c The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. c The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi - National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa from 01 - 13 Oct 18.
12. c The second edition of Exercise Aviaindra, a Biennial Air Force level exercise between Indian and the Russian Federation, was conducted from 17 Sep 18 to 28 Sep 18 conducted at Lipetsk.
13. b BSE became the first equity exchange to unveil its commodity segment with contracts in popular commodities like gold and silver.
14. d The report "Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth" brought out collectively by the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO, comes at a time when the Trump administration has taken a tough stand on the H-1B visa issue, a move which has badly hit not only the technology professionals and highly skilled individuals from India, but also pioneering Indian IT companies.

15. a Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan won the 2018 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovery of a revolutionary approach to cancer treatment.
16. d Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires from October 6-18.
17. a The UNICEF has appointed Ravi Venkatesan as its special representative of young people.
18. b International Coffee Day is an occasion that is used to promote and celebrate coffee as a beverage, with events now occurring in places across the world. The first official date was 1 October 2015, as agreed by the International Coffee Organization and was launched in Milan.
19. a Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated the first Swachhata Mela organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in New Delhi.
20. c Justice Gogoi is the 46th Chief Justice of India. He will have tenure of a little over 13 months and will retire on November 17, 2019.
21. c Cochin International Airport has also been honoured this year with the award for Entrepreneurial Vision, for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy. "Cochin is showing the world that our ever-expanding network of global movement doesn't have to harm the environment. As the pace of society continues to increase, the world's first fully solar-powered airport is proof positive that green business is good business,".
22. b Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University has been declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry, followed by Guru Nanak Dev University in Punjab's Amritsar.
23. c The four days long Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention concluded in New Delhi.
24. c China will hold the fifth World Internet Conference (WIC) in its river town of Wuzhen in November.
25. a Iraq's Parliament has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician Barham Salih as the country's new President.
26. b The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$150 Million Loan to finance continued improvements to road connectivity and efficiency of the International Trade Corridor in West Bengal and North-Eastern Region of India.
27. a Entertainment giant Walt Disney, with a market cap of USD 165 billion topped the list, followed by hospitality major Hilton and Italian carmaker Ferrari at the second and third spots respectively.
28. d Harvard economist Gita Gopinath has been appointed as the chief economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
29. b Uttar Pradesh is home to the largest number of people tilling land, followed by Bihar and Maharashtra, according to the 2015-16 Agriculture Census.
30. c Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of \$47.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine. Ambani is also the year's biggest gainer, adding \$9.3 billion to his wealth amid the continuing success of his Reliance Jio broadband telco service.
31. c Two American scientists and a British researcher have won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for evolution research. Frances Arnold and George Smith are of the United States and Gregory Winter is British. Ms. Arnold is the second

woman to win a Nobel prize this year after Canada's Donna Strickland. Her research on enzymes led to the development of better industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

- 32. c 'Operation Samudra Maitri' for humanitarian assistance was launched after a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo on October 1, and following Indonesia's acceptance of international aid.
- 33. b The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved, in the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway) instead of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
- 34. a This forecast, following a joint exercise by IIT Gandhinagar and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), for the first time, provides a country-wide soil moisture forecast at seven and 30-day lead times.
- 35. a In terms of operated area, the share of women increased from 10.36 per cent to 11.57 per cent.
- 36. d Former India opener Virender Sehwag has been named as one of the icons for the T10 League, world's first Ten-Over league which is set to get underway on November 23.
- 37. c The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh on October 4-5, 2018.
- 38. b IIT-Kharagpur has been named the national coordinating institute of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 39. b The much-delayed 36th National Games in Goa will be held from March 30 to April 14 next year.
- 40. c Held annually on 5 October since 1994, World Teachers' Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.
- 41. d East Timor is ranked first with 85% of the front and 100% of the back of the packaging being used for pictorial warnings. Nepal follows with 90% coverage on both sides. Indian packaging has the warning on 85% of both sides.
- 42. d Astronomers using Hubble and Kepler space telescopes have found compelling evidence for the existence of the first known moon outside our solar system, orbiting a gas-giant planet 8,000 light-years away.
- 43. c India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018, from 36th in 2011, but it needs to do more on digital infrastructure access and socio-economic factors.
- 44. a Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally.
- 45. c Ramon Laguarta assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of global beverage giant PepsiCo succeeding India-born Indra Nooyi who had helmed the American company for 12 years
- 46. c As many as 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA, adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region.
- 47. a Senior judge of the Supreme Court, Madan Bhimarao Lokur, is now the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA). President Ramnath Kovind nominated Justice Lokur to the post.

48. c More than 6,000 delegates from all over the country participated in the fourth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) beginning in Lucknow.
49. d Pankaj Sharma has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Mr Sharma will replace Amandeep Gill.
50. d Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.
51. b World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), which represents nearly 45,000 listed companies, has appointed NSE's Managing Director and CEO Vikram Limaye as the chairman of its working group committee.
52. c India and Russia concluded the contract for five S-400 'Triumf' missile systems, one of the biggest defence deals in recent times, after the annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
53. b Alphonso mango from Maharashtra's Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts has got Geographical Indication (GI) tag, the commerce and industry ministry informed.
54. b Nobel Peace Prize 2018 winners announced as Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad.
55. d The Centre appointed former Canara Bank MD Rakesh Sharma as head of IDBI Bank.
56. c Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Nirman Kusuma' programme to help the children of construction workers get trained in Industrial Training Institutes and polytechnics.
57. c Some of the winners of the competition will be given additional training, before they represent India at the 45th World Skills Competition at Kazan, Russia in 2019.
58. b Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak was jailed for 15 years for corruption.
59. b The surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was launched from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.
60. c The Eastern Ghats spread across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, has lost almost 16% of its forest area over a span of 100 years.
61. d The government has appointed 58-year-old Pravin Srivastava, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), chief statistician of India (CSI).
62. b Caroline Wozniacki defeated Anastasiya Sevastova 6-3, 6-3 to win the China Open and her third WTA title of the year.
63. a Actor-filmmaker Denzel Washington has been chosen to receive the 47th AFI Life Achievement Award.
64. a World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
65. c India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title in Dhaka.

66. c President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, landed in Tajikistan on a three day visit to the country. He addressed members of Indian community at a reception hosted by Mr Somnath Ghosh, Ambassador of India to Tajikistan, in Dushanbe.
67. a A far-right candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, has won the first round of Brazil's presidential election. He will face the left-wing Workers' Party candidate, Fernando Haddad, in the second round on 28 October after he failed to win the 50% of valid votes needed to win outright.
68. c A referendum to change Romania's constitution to stop same-sex couples from securing the right to marry has failed after it did not attract enough voters to validate the result. The two-day vote aimed to change the constitution to define marriage strictly as between a man and a woman.
69. b India's success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can change the face of the world, UN General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa has said, describing the country as a "very important player" of the multilateral system. Espinosa, Ecuador's former Minister of Foreign Affairs was in June elected president of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, becoming only the fourth female president of the organisation in its 73-year history.
70. a The first human spaceflight aboard a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) is expected to take place in June 2019, while a flight on a Boeing spacecraft is set to follow in August 2019, NASA said. It is the first crewed mission by the US since the retirement of the space shuttle in 2011.
71. b NASA's Voyager 2 probe is approaching interstellar space and has detected an increase in cosmic rays that originate outside our solar system, the US space agency said. Launched in 1977, Voyager 2 is a little less than 17.7 billion kilometres from Earth, or more than 118 times the distance from Earth to the Sun.
72. c On the opening day of the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, India ended with two medals - both silver. The first went to Tushar Mane in shooting and later Tababi Devi Thangjam stood on the second step on the podium in judo to further India's medal count. Tababi Devi Thangjam from Manipur became India's first judoka to win an Olympic medal at any level.
73. b India opened its Para Asian Games campaign in style by bagging two silver and three bronze medals on the opening day in Jakarta, Indonesia.
74. b Two days after he was reported to have gone missing on his China visit, Interpol president Meng Hongwei has submitted his resignation to France, Interpol has said. Meng, 64, who is also a vice minister of public security in China, was reported missing by his wife after travelling last month from France, where Interpol is based, to China.
75. b Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer and Inazuma - a Guided Missile Destroyer arrived at Visakhapatnam on 07 October 2018. JIMEX-18 is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai.
76. b The four day long mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF) concluded in Lucknow. IISF-2018 with its focal theme "Science for Transformation" had more than 23 special events in its 4th edition.
77. b Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that the Haryana government will set up an anti-terrorism force (ATF) comprising specially trained recruits from the state police, to deal with present day security challenges. This force will be named 'Kavach'.

78. b US-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies or HyperloopTT has unveiled its first full-scale transportation capsule at Puerto de Santa Maria, Spain, which will be ready for passengers in 2019.
79. b This year's Nobel Prize for economics has been awarded to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer of the United States for their work on sustainable growth.
80. c The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast a growth rate of 7.3 percent for India in the current year of 2018 and that of 7.4 percent in 2019. In 2017, India had clocked a 6.7 percent growth rate.
81. d Elon Musk's rocket company launched a commercial satellite for Argentina, marking SpaceX's 17th mission of 2018 in the type of steady success that so far has eluded his electric-car maker Tesla Inc.
82. c India had already eclipsed its best-ever tally at a Youth Olympic Games on Day 2 of the extravaganza and by the end of it, had further return to rejoice. Having won three silver medals, India won their first gold medal at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina with Jeremy Lalrinnunga lifting 150kg on his last attempt for a combined 274kg. This is India's first-ever gold medal at the Youth Olympics.
83. b Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary produced a stunning world record effort as India bagged 11 medals, including three gold, on a productive day at the Asian Para Games. Chaudhary clinched India's first gold of the Games in the men's F42-44/61-64 category.
84. d The Indian Air Force is celebrated its 86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018. In the last eight decades, IAF has technologically evolved and grown in strength to thwart any threat to the nation.
85. c External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched India for Humanity initiative in New Delhi as part of 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi being held over the next one year.
86. d Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries, the defence ministry said. The "Clear Sky 2018" war games, which will run until October 19, are being held in western Ukraine.
87. d Nigeria, Singapore and India are among countries fuelling the gap between the super-rich and poor, aid agency Oxfam said as it launched an index spotlighting those nations doing least to bridge the divide. Nigeria, where 10 percent of children die before their fifth birthday, came bottom due to "shamefully low" social spending, poor tax collection and rising labour rights violations, Oxfam said.
88. a UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions".
89. a Odisha is going to have a Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery, first in the country to produce ethanol from rice straw, in Bargarh district.
90. b British scientists have created 3D-printed meals for a school in east London to inspire an interest in science subjects among young pupils.
91. d The International Olympic Committee has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal.
92. a Manu Bhaker claimed the 10m pistol gold at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, shooting 236.5 in the final to claim India's first ever shooting gold in the multi-sport.

93. c Nikki Haley, US President Donald Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, resigned. Her resignation has been accepted by President Trump.
94. d World Mental Health Day is a day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma celebrated on 10 October.
95. a The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the establishment and operationalisation of permanent campuses of the two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Berhampur (Odisha).
96. d UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' ranks India 147th among 157 countries analysed, describing the country's commitment to reducing inequality as a "a very worrying situation" given that it is home to 1.3 billion people, many of whom live in extreme poverty.
97. b Google appealed the biggest ever anti-trust fine by the EU, which imposed a 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) penalty on the US tech giant for illegally abusing the dominance of its operating system for mobile devices.
98. c As part of efforts to cut down gold imports and lower the current account deficit, the government launched the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme FY19. Sovereign Gold Bonds scheme 2015 was launched by PM Narendra Modi.
99. a Scientists from USA have developed the first bioelectronic medicine -- an implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves the healing of a damaged nerve.
100. a Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Nestle are among the companies that contribute most to ocean pollution with single-use plastics, according to a study presented by the "Break Free from Plastic" initiative.
101. b India shooter Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event at the Youth Olympic Games, Argentina.
102. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Haryana's Rohtak district.
103. b The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning of severe cyclonic storm 'Titli' for north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha districts. Cyclone Titli got its name from Pakistan. "Titli" is a Hindi word, which means "butterfly".
104. b Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'. Veena defeated Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organised in Mumbai.
105. c India's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
106. b Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was appointed the new Solicitor General of India, months ahead of the general elections in 2019.
107. c Japan has overtaken Singapore to claim the world's most powerful passport spot on the 2018 Henley Passport Index, having gained visa-free access to Myanmar earlier this month. The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
108. a The World Bank ranked India 115th among 157 countries in its first-ever Human Capital Index (HCI), drawing sharp criticism from the government. India's neighbours Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka were better placed at

- 106th, 102nd and 74th position, respectively. The index took into account parameters like child mortality, health and education.
109. c HDFC Bank has appointed Vinay Razdan as its chief human resources officer (CHRO), responsible for the entire human resource function in the Bank.
110. b CWG and Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia is the only Indian wrestler from a strong 30-member squad to get a seeding at the upcoming World Championships as he has been seeded third in the 65kg category in men's freestyle competition.
111. b India took over the podium in men's high jump T42/63 category, claiming all the medals up for grabs with defending champion Sharad Kumar smashing two records to snare a second successive gold in the Asian Para Games.
112. b International Day of Girls is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of Girls. October 11, 2012, was the first Day of Girls.
113. c India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will commence from 55 districts across 24 states and three Union Territories in January 2019.
114. b India suffered a whopping USD 79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in the last 20 years, according to a UN report which highlights the impact of extreme weather events on the global economy. The greatest economic losses have been experienced by the US at USD 944.8 billion.
115. b Indian Naval Ship Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette, commanded by Commander Deepak Bali and an Indian Dornier (naval maritime time patrol aircraft) from Andaman and Nicobar command entered Belawan harbour, Indonesia for the opening ceremony of the 32nd edition of India - Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT), to be held from 11 - 27 Oct 2018.
116. d NITI Aayog and IBM announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
117. a Arundhati Bhattacharya, the former chairperson of public sector lender State Bank of India, has joined homegrown private equity firm ChrysCapital as an adviser. ChrysCapital confirmed the appointment to VCCircle.
118. b The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University.
119. a Justin Gallegos, a junior at the University of Oregon, became the first professional athlete with cerebral palsy to sign a contract with Nike.
120. a A human rights campaigner who has been jailed since January in the Russian province of Chechnya has been awarded a prestigious human rights prize by the Council of Europe.
121. d The Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields, including environment, culture and education, for the next three years.
122. a Congress leader Shashi Tharoor talked about his new book- THE PARADOXICAL PRIME MINISTER in a tweet, using the rarely used 29-letter word floccinaucinihilipilification".
123. b World Arthritis Day (WAD) is a global awareness-raising day observed every year on 12th October.

124. a Sikkim has won this year's UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Future Policy for Gold Award for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state.
125. b India has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, with highest number of votes. India secured 188 votes out of 193.
126. b The NHRR is country's first ever national healthcare facility registry of data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
127. b The Navy has inducted its first deep submergence rescue vehicle to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines on the high seas.
128. d Renowned Hindustani musician Annapurna Devi passed away at the Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai.
129. c The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989 on 13th October, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
130. b Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga will be India's flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Summer Youth Olympics.
131. d India has been ranked 103rd out of 119 countries in the 2018 Global Hunger Index. "With a score of 31.1, India suffers from a level of hunger that is serious," the report states.
132. a In a move that could upset Pakistan, India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.
133. c In Malaysia, the cabinet decided to abolish the death penalty. Communications and multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo said, the government decided to scrap capital punishment following strong domestic opposition to the practice.
134. a The World Economic Forum announced its new Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in India, which would aim to bring together the government and business leaders to pilot emerging technology policies.
135. b Maryse Conde, one of the Caribbean's most renowned authors, has won an award created to replace this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. The prestigious literature prize was suspended this year after a scandal at the Swedish Academy, which awards it.
136. c The NITI Aayog and ICC International Court of Arbitration organised the inaugural Training-cum-Brainstorming Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration in New Delhi.
137. a A group of Indian scientists and companies are involved with a 100k GenomeAsia project, led out of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, to sequence the whole genomes of 100k Asians, including 50,000 Indians.
138. b India men's and women's team won silver medals each in the Hockey 5s competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina to take country's tally to 10.
139. a For the fourth year running, Stanford University tops Reuters' ranking of the World's Most Innovative Universities, a list that identifies and ranks the educational institutions doing the most to advance science, invent new technologies and power new markets and industries.

140. b Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy, provided that the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more.
141. b "The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference, which aims to create a platform for Indian Ocean littoral states and major maritime users to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, was held in Colombo on 11-12 October 2018.
142. a The first Indo-US tri-services exercise will take place in 2019 and talks are on to include the Special Forces of two countries in the drill. This will be the first time the three services of the India and the US will participate in a drill together.
143. c Paul G. Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates before becoming a billionaire philanthropist who invested in conservation, space travel and professional sports, died. He was 65. His death was announced by his company, Vulcan Inc.
144. b The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, announced Prema Gopalan of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) as India Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEYO) 2018. The award honours her exceptional contribution in revitalizing rural economies by empowering women to succeed in remote and ailing markets.
145. d Enhancing its operational capabilities, the Navy has inducted its first deep submergence rescue vehicle which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea. At present, the US, China, Russia and a few other countries have the capabilities to deploy DSRVs.
146. c Novak Djokovic continued his scintillating run of form as he breezed past Croatian Borna Coric 6-3 6-4 to win the Shanghai Masters title for the fourth time.
147. b Japan is all set to host the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays, beginning May 11.
148. a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has got a new chief with the appointments committee of the cabinet appointing Priyank Kanoongo to the post for a period of three years.
149. d World Students' Day is an Indian holiday marking the birthday of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. It is observed on Kalam's birthday, 15 October.
150. d Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated to increase the active participation of women in agriculture. In 2016, the Ministry had decided to observe 15th of October as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas. Women are contributing in various aspects of agriculture including sowing, planting, fertilizing, plant protection, harvesting, weeding, and storage.
151. b The foundation stone for the Museum on Prime Ministers of India was laid down at the Teen Murti Estate in New Delhi by Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
152. a Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will leave for Brussels in Belgium to attend the 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit.
153. b The festival of Fulpati was celebrated with traditional gaiety and religious fervour in various parts of Nepal.

154. a In a move aimed at promoting digital transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets
155. c India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018.
156. d Researchers at the University of California, Riverside in the U.S. tracked molecular signs of animal life, called biomarkers, as far back as 660-635 million years ago during the Neoproterozoic era.
157. c Indian tennis legend Leander Paes won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.
158. c Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to change the name of Allahabad city to Prayagraj.
159. d Suraj Panwar clinched a silver in men's 5000m race walk event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games to open India's medal account in athletics at Buenos Aires in Argentina.
160. b The Serendipity Arts Festival 2018 is poised to present 'Theatre at Home' in Goa from October 18 to 23.
161. b China successfully launched twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites into space to strengthen its satellite navigation network being built to rival the US' Global Positioning System (GPS).
162. d Anna Burns won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction for "Milkman," a vibrant, violent story about men, women, conflict and power set during Northern Ireland's years of Catholic-Protestant violence.
163. a Data breach incidences in India were the second highest globally after USA on account of compromise in Aadhaar database which was exposed by a daily newspaper, according to a report by digital security firm Gemalto.
164. c ICICI Bank said the RBI has approved Sandeep Bakshi's appointment as Managing Director and CEO of the bank for three years.
165. c In a first, scientists at the Francis Crick Institute in the UK have grown functional sections of oesophagus in the lab using stem cells and successfully transplanted them into mice.
166. b Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development. Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.
167. c India recorded its best-ever showing by adding two more gold, a few silver and some bronze medals on the final day for a total of 72 podium finishes as the 2018 Asian Para Games drew to a close . With 15 gold, 24 silver and 33 bronze medals, India was placed ninth in the overall tally.
168. a National Award winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famous as 'Khayyam', has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement, an official said.
169. d The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year on October 17 throughout the world.

170. a The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) dominate the first-ever standalone ranking of India's higher education institutions released by a UK-headquartered think tank. IIT Bombay tops the 'QS India University Rankings', with IITs Madras (3), Delhi (4), Kharagpur (5), Kanpur (6), Roorkee (9) and Guwahati (10) grabbing seven of the top 10 slots.
171. d Union Minister of Minorities Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the rooftop of Haj House in Mumbai.
172. a The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi chaired the sixth meeting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at New Delhi.
173. d Armies of India and Japan will hold their first ever joint exercise from November 1 at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation.
174. a Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd's quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc, which is nearly double its size, making the Mumbai-based company the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing mega banks and insurers.
175. b Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya has joined the board of Reliance Industries (RIL) as independent additional director, the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate said in a regulatory filing.
176. a A UK-built spacecraft will set off for Mercury this week in a first mission of its kind to determine if the nearest planet to the Sun contains water.
177. c India's campaign at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires ended with 13 medals (three gold medals, nine silvers and one bronze).
178. a After Katrani rice, Jardalu mango and Magahi paan (betel vine), Bihars Shahi litchi has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag and has become an exclusive brand in the national and international market.
179. d Congress veteran Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who served in various positions at the Centre and in states, died on his birthday at a private hospital after prolonged illness. Tiwari had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of two states, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where his native place is located.
180. a Organised by Himalayan Velocity in association with the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting at Gaiety theatre, the 4th International Film Festival of Shimla concluded. "The Fog" by Ali Shoorvarzi, Hoseyn Mahroughi was adjudged as the best short film.
181. a The Punjab Cabinet decided to extend the enhanced 50 per cent reservation for women in the matter of rotation for the office of the panchayat sarpanch to the office of the chairperson of panchayat samitis and zila parishads.
182. a Kerala becomes the first smoke-free State in the country with 100% LPG penetration.
183. d Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalise possession and use of recreational cannabis. Medical marijuana has been legal in the country since 2001.
184. b The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased lenders' single borrower exposure limit for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which do not finance infrastructure, to 15 per cent of capital funds.
185. d India's first cryptocurrency ATM opens in Bengaluru despite RBI's interdiction.

186. a A team of scientists at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) have sited the most massive structure in the early universe known to date. The astronomers, led by Olga Cucciati of Bologna's National Astrophysics Institute, found this galaxy proto-supercluster - Hyperion - using new measurements made by the visible multi-object spectrograph of ESO's Very Large Telescope and pouring over vast arrays of archive data, Efe reported.
187. b Canelo Álvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sport, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365m with streaming service DAZN. The Mexican fighter can also earn money on top of his deal if he helps bring in a certain number of subscriptions during his contract. Álvarez earned around \$50m from his last fight, a defeat of Gennady Golovkin in September. The previous richest contract in sport was the 13-year, \$325m deal Giancarlo Stanton signed with the Miami Marlins in 2014.
188. c The Breakthrough Prize Foundation announced nine recipients of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in recognition of their important achievements in the fields of fundamental physics, life sciences and mathematics.
189. b Stephen Hawking's final work, which tackles issues from the existence of God to the potential for time travel, was launched by his children, who helped complete the book after the British astrophysics giant's death. Hawking was forever being asked the same things and started work on "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" last year -- but did not finish it before he died in March, aged 76.
190. a Assam's third Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, was being celebrated across the state.
191. a For the first time in India, a railway station will be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres, on the strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border. While many metro stations in Delhi and other cities are inside tunnels, once completed, the Keylong station in Himachal Pradesh will be the first on the railway network to be inside a tunnel.
192. c The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi hoisted the National flag and unveiled the plaque to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government on 21st October, 2018, at the Red Fort, Delhi. The Azad Hind Government, founded on 21st October, 1943 was inspired by Neta ji Subhash Chandra Bose who was the leader of Azad Hind Government and also the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile.
193. c The 12th ASEM Summit, with the theme "Global Partners for Global Challenges" was inaugurated on 18 October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian Delegation for the Summit.
194. d Yemen's newly appointed Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik was sworn in to lead the internationally-backed government in the war-torn Arab country.
195. a Minal Patel Davis, An Indian-American woman has been honoured with a Presidential award by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards combating human trafficking in Houston.
196. c India has imposed anti-dumping duties of up to 185.51 US dollars per tonne for five years on certain varieties of Chinese steel to protect the interest of the domestic players.
197. a China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.
198. a Union Minister for Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs Piyush Goyal received the prestigious Carnot prize for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions.

199. b The star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia put himself in contention for a historic World Championship gold medal after quelling a spirited challenge from Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier in a tense 65kg semifinal in Budapest.
200. a Arshdeep Singh, 10, is among the winners of the 2018 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in the 10-years-and-under category for his photograph 'Pipe Owls', which is of two spotted owlets nested inside a pipe.
201. a India's first ever passenger cruise ship service was launched in Mumbai. The cruise ship named Angriya, which departed on trial from the Mumbai ports newly constructed domestic terminal, reached Goa.
202. d India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra, connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya, and will cut road travel by 203 km as also travel time.
203. b Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
204. c The world's longest sea bridge Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was opened for traffic on October 24. The 55-kilometer-long bridge, situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary, will be the world's longest sea bridge.
206. a The seventh meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, the Republic of Kazakhstan.
206. c Even though India slipped by one spot, it was still ranked one of the 10 most valuable nation brands in the world. Brand Finance's annual Nation Brands report measures nations' brands based on the country's image and the economy as a whole. India was ranked 8th in last year's report but slipped by a spot to the 9th rank. Despite its brand value rising 5% from last year, India has slipped one rank for the second consecutive year.
207. c China's indigenously designed and built amphibious aircraft AG600, touted as the world's largest, successfully carried out its first take-off and landing tests.
208. a Scientists from Bellwood of James Cook University, Australia have unearthed the fossilised remains of a piranha-like species that they say is the earliest known example of a flesh-eating fish.
209. b Rohit Sharma remained unbeaten on 152 as India crossed the finish line and he now has the most number of 150-plus scores in the 50-over format. Tendulkar and David Warner each have five while Chris Gayle, Sanath Jayasuriya and Hashim Amla have four each.
210. b Grammy-winning Hindustani classical music instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt will be honoured with the annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award, Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana has announced.
211. b Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh co-chaired the first India-China High Level Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation with Mr. Zhao Kezhi, State Councilor and Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China in New Delhi.
212. b In possibly the first-of-its-kind move, the Uttar Pradesh government has made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster' bringing such incidents under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief during such mishaps in the state.
213. a India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format.
214. a International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, has launched a \$1-billion masala bond programme to fund its investment activities in India.

215. a Scientists from USA have developed a material that can be used to harvest electricity from the Sun's heat, paving the way for generating cheaper solar power on cloudy days and at nighttime.
216. b Saina Nehwal gave her all before losing steam as the ace Indian shuttler yet again succumbed to nemesis and world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying to settle for a runner-up finish at the Denmark Open.
217. c Asian Games and Commonwealth Gold medalist Bajrang Punia had to settle for silver in the 65 kg category of the World Wrestling Championship after losing to youngster Japanese Takuto Otoguro in the final at Budapest
218. c Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died. Shimomura and two American scientists shared the 2008 Nobel Prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies.
219. a Sujatha Gidla's debut, *Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family And The Making Of Modern India*, published by HarperCollins India has been chosen the winner for this year's Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize.
220. b Veteran commentator and cricket statistician Vijayan Bala has come up with his new book "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections", a compilation of interviews of eminent sportspersons he has conducted since 1971.
221. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Seoul Peace Prize 2018 for his contribution to high economic growth in India and world through 'Modinomics', the award citation stated. His contribution to world peace, improving human development and furthering democracy in India, too, were the reasons for him getting the award, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. PM Modi is the fourteenth recipient of this award.
222. c Africa's oldest president, Cameroon's Paul Biya, has easily won a seventh term after a Constitutional Council that he appointed rejected all legal challenges to the election.
223. b India ranked 58th most competitive economy in World Economic Forum's index jumps 5 places from 2017. India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018, which was topped by the US.
224. b This year, India will play host to the largest-ever Global Partners' Forum on 12th and 13th December 2018 in New Delhi. PMNCH (The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health) will bring together 1,200 partners from over 100 countries dedicated to the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement and to the achievement of the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (Global Strategy).
225. d World Polio Day is celebrated every year on October 24 with the objective of making the world 'polio-free'.
226. c Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja has proved that disability cannot come in the way of success. She has won the Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title at an international pageant held in Prague recently. Nishtha is the first Indian to have won any title at the Miss Deaf World Pageant.
227. a Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award to eminent jurist and senior advocate at Supreme Court Fali S Nariman.
228. b Juventus club-record signing Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score 400 goals in Europe's top five leagues after helping the Serie A champions maintain their unbeaten start to the 2018/19 season.

229. a India and Myanmar inked a crucial MoU for the appointment of a private operator of the Sittwe Port that will boost connectivity and help in creating local job opportunities as the two sides discussed bilateral issues as well as topics of common interest, including developments in the strife-torn Rakhine state.
230. c Most of us still don't like to talk about mental health in public. It is imperative that we do because according to a World Health Organization report, India is the world's most depressed country, closely followed by China and the US.
231. b The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing the 5th edition of the Women of India Organic Festival from 26th October to 4th November, 2018 at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Janpath Road, New Delhi.
232. a The eleventh session of India - Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held on 22nd - 23rd October 2018 at Prague.
233. b Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018 by receiving over 20,000 such certifications, according to official data in which Ernst and Young was ranked No 1.
234. c Forty-five Indian companies are participated in the SIAL Paris exhibition - the largest international market place for food service professionals.
235. b Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 10000 ODI runs. The Indian captain achieved the milestone in 205 innings surpassing the previous best by Sachin Tendulkar who did it in 259 innings.
236. a The Athletics Federation of India has been chosen winner of the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018 for the category of Best National Sports Federation (NSF). The eminent Jury was chaired by Justice (ret'd) Mukul Mudgal.
237. b Invest India, the country's investment promotion body, has won the UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development. The award was presented by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to Deepak Bagla, the CEO of Invest India at the World Investment Forum, Geneva.
238. a The International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR - 2018) with the theme "Reef for Life" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 22nd October at Bangaram coral Island of Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
239. a The 1986 batch Odisha cadre IPS officer M Nageswar Rao, who has been made interim director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), is known for his acumen in handling disasters in the state as well as neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.
240. d 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.
241. c The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that value addition for agricultural production is one of the solutions for improving farmers' income. He was addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference 'AFITA/WCCA2018' on Research Frontiers in Precision Agriculture, jointly organized by Asia-Pacific Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture, International Network for Information Technology in Agriculture and Indian Society for Agricultural Information Technology, in Mumbai .

242. b Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report said. The report further said as many as one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.
243. c An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been found virtually intact at the bottom of the Black Sea, the world's oldest known shipwreck, researchers said.
244. a India, Afghanistan and Iran held their first trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project during which they reviewed its implementation. The meeting assumes significance as the strategically-located port on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast was coming under the ambit of US sanctions on Tehran.
245. a Three Indian-Americans have been named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in the US. The three Indian-Americans included in the list are Divya Nag, Dr Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande.
246. a Union government approved setting up of Appellate Tribunal and Adjudicating Authority for speedy disposal of cases related to benami transactions. The decision was taken at the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at a press conference. As per an official release, the Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal will be based in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD).
247. d Paytm Payments Bank has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as managing director and CEO. Gupta comes in after Renu Satti stepped down as CEO in July and moved on to head the company's new retail business.
248. c Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan receives the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi.
249. b India installed 4.9 GW of solar power, consolidating its position as the second largest solar market in the world, during the first half of calendar year 2018. The country was ranked second, following China during the January-June period, according to a report by Mercom Communications India.
250. d Pooja Dhanda became the first woman wrestler in the last 6 years to win a medal at the World Championship as she won a bronze medal with a remarkable 10-7 win over the 2017 European champion Grace Jacob Bullen in Budapest.
251. b The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of the Scheme "Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)" in New Delhi.
252. b The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan - 2018 in Delhi.
253. a The Supreme Court said that no Bharat Stage IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020.
254. d Norway hosts NATO's biggest exercises since the end of the Cold War to remind Russia the Alliance stands united despite seeds of doubt planted by US President Donald Trump.
255. c Adel Abdul Mahdi was sworn in as new prime minister of Iraq after the parliament passed 14 out of his 22 cabinet members.
256. c Mumbai's iconic heritage cinema METRO INOX is now India's first multiplex to join the Solar revolution.

257. a Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue - the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
258. d Corporation Bank has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank - Winner 2018' award instituted by the Assocham.
259. b Wipro said it had appointed former State Bank of India chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director beginning January 1, 2019.
260. a India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 of to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.
261. b Indian railways plan to connect New Delhi with Ladakh region through the world's highest railway line that will run along the India-China border. The national transporter plans to build a strategically-important Bilaspur-Manali- Leh line along the Indo-China border.
262. d Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners. Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize.
263. b Ethiopia's parliament took another step towards gender parity by appointing the country's first female president. Sahle-Work Zewde, 68, a seasoned diplomat who has held positions in the United Nations and worked in peacekeeping operations in Africa
264. a Fertiliser major IFFCO has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'Word Cooperative Monitor' report 2018. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) publish the world cooperative monitor report.
265. a The much-awaited JCB Prize for Literature, which has garnered much attention in its inaugural year, was finally announced. Malayalam writer Benyamin won the Rs 25 lakh award for Jasmine Days.
266. d IIT Bombay has moved significantly up from 179th rank last year to 162nd rank this year in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings. Overall, the Institution improved on its 2018 performance by 17 places. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay ranks first in India, with an overall score of 48.2 out of 100. The QS rankings were released by QS, a British company.
267. c The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is an institutional member of Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) which is a non-profit association representing an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth.
268. b Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018 in New Delhi. The fest will continue till 4th of next month.
269. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi was speaking after inaugurating three-day long Krishi Kumbh 2018 in Lucknow.
270. a India skipper Virat Kohli added another feather to his illustrious cap as he became the first Indian cricketer to score three consecutive centuries in ODI cricket. Kohli achieved the feat as he strolled to his 38th century during the third ODI encounter between India and West Indies in Pune.

271. c Train 18, the country's first engine-less train which is being regarded as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express, is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29.
272. d Railways to launch 3 more Ramayana Express trains from Jaipur, Rajkot and Madurai.
273. a In Brazil, far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Presidential elections.
274. c Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as the President of Ireland after receiving 56 per cent of the country's votes in the elections.
275. d Enthused by the impact of new insolvency and bankruptcy law, the government expects bad loan recoveries to exceed the Rs. 1.80 lakh crore-target for the current financial year.
276. c The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the U.S.' complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India as both the sides.
277. c Andhra Pradesh has achieved number one rank in the country with an average growth of 10.5% during the last four years, surpassing many developed States such as Maharashtra and Gujarat following "focused approach".
278. c Scientists have developed the world's smallest optical gyroscope - a device that helps vehicles, drones and handheld electronic devices know their orientation in 3D space.
279. b Scientists have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.
280. a Moths are widely considered as pests, but a recent study by scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has revealed that these groups of insects are pollinators to a number of flowering plants in the Himalayan ecosystem.
281. b Justice Naresh Harishchandra Patil was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
282. d Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Badal inaugurates Gujarat's first Mega Food Park in Surat.
283. b Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala.
284. a Fourteen out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India as per figures compiled and released earlier this year by the World Health Organization (WHO).
285. c "CSIR scientists have developed Less Polluting Firecrackers which are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones".
286. c Germany's Angela Merkel has said she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks.
287. c India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement worth \$75 billion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan
288. c Researchers at the University of Cape Town have developed the world's first bio-brick from human urine, an advance with significant consequences for waste recycling and upcycling. The bio-brick was made using the "microbial carbonate precipitation" method.

289. a Kenyan distance runner Abraham Kiptum won the Valencia race, setting a new world best time of 58 mins 18sec for the half-marathon.
290. c In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.
291. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity, at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat.
292. c The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST - CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019, announced Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
293. c Japan has agreed to provide loans of about 316 Billion Yen for seven major infrastructure projects in India. These include Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train, projects in Delhi, North East and Chennai.
294. c Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education. Yousafzai will be conferred with the 2018 Gleitsman Award at a ceremony on 6th December.
295. a The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond-a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.
296. d From 1970 to 2014, 60 per cent of all animals with a backbone -- fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals -- were wiped out by human activity, according to WWF's "Living Planet" report, based on an ongoing survey of more than 4,000 species spread over 16,700 populations scattered across the globe.
297. d The country's first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public at the Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala.
298. a Lewis Hamilton secures fifth world title as Max Verstappen takes Mexican GP victory
299. c Manipur was crowned as the overall champions of the first edition of North East Olympic Games.
300. d The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st of October as World Cities Day.