# LinkingSky

## Go Beyond The Sky

**Current Affairs - April to September 2018**

**Month** [September 2018 ▼]    **Type** [All ▼]

- **2922** *Current Affairs were found in **Last Six Months** for Type - **All***

## Appointments

1. Aashish Kapoor replaced Venkatesh Prasad in three-member All-India Junior Cricket Selection Committee.
2. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been appointed as Egyptian President for second 4 year term.
3. Actor Rituparna Sen gupta is appointed as Chairperson of Shilpi Sansad, an organization that provides financial security to artistes of Bengali film industry.
4. Adarsh Kumar Goel has been appointed as new Chairperson of National Green Tribunal. Also, L. Narasimha Reddy is appointed as Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).
5. Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) appointed D Shivakumar as its chairman for 3 years.
6. Airline GoAir appointed Cornelis Vrieswijk as its new CEO.
7. Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
8. Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as acting chief justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
9. Alicia Pucheta has been been appointed as South American Nation Paraguay's first woman President (Interim).
10. Amar Devulapalli and Sabina Indrajit have been appointed as President and the Secretary –General of the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) respectively.
11. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been elected as New President of North American nation Mexico.
12. Anil Khosla will be appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
13. Anil Kumar Chawla appointed as chief of Southern Naval Command (SNC).
14. Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India.
15. Anoop Kumar Pandey will be appointed as Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh.
16. Appointments approved by ACC (Appointments Committee of Cabinet) -
    - Juthika Patankar - as Director General in National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD).
    - M. Srinivas Rao - Chief Executive Officer in National e-Governance Division (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).
    - Rakesh Kumar Gupta - Secretary in Union Public Service Commission.
    - Sameer Sharma - Director General in Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.
    - Rakesh Kumar Vats - Chairperson in National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
17. Armenia's parliament voted to appoint country's former President Serzh Sargsyanas as New prime minister of Armenia.
18. Arun Jaitley resumed charge of ministries of finance and corporate affairs, after over 100 days of leaves.
19. Arup Kumar Goswami has been appointed acting chief justice of the Gauhati High Court.
20. Arvind Saxena has been appointed as acting chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
21. Axis Bank appointed Amitabh Chaudhry as its managing director & CEO from January 1, 2019, for 3 years. Mr. Chaudhry is MD & CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company at present. He will replace Shikha Sharma for Top post att Axis Bank.
    - On leaving of Amitabh Chaudhary, Vibha Padalkar has been appointed HDFC Life MD & CEO.
22. B V R Subrahmanyam has been appointed as chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir. Also K Vijay Kumar has been appointed as an Advisor to Governor of Jammu & Kashmir governor (N N Vohra Currently).
23. B.Sriram is appointed as MD & CEO of IDBI bank for temporary term of 03 months, replacing Mahesh Kumar Jain who was made Deputy Governor of RBI recently.
24. BCCI appointed Ajit Singh as head of its Anti-Corruption Unit

25. ▶ Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as vice-president of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).

26. ▶ Bandhan Bank appointed former RBI deputy governor Harun Rashid Khan as non- executive part time chairman, for 3 years.

27. ▶ Bangladesh appointed Aziz Ahmed as country's new army chief for 3 years.

28. ▶ Bharti Airtel appointed Ajay Chitkara as Director and CEO of Airtel Business to spearhead domestic and global enterprise business as one unit.

29. ▶ Binoy Kumar took over as Secretary in Ministry of Steel.

30. ▶ Bipin Puri appointed as Senior Col Commandant of Army Medical Corps.

31. ▶ Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan has been named as Green Ambassador of Sikkim by State government.

32. ▶ Brand Ambassadors (April 2018) -
   🖌 Manu Bhaker (Shooter) - Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.
   🖌 Argentine Footballer Lionel Messi - UN World Tourism Organization's ambassador to promote responsible tourism.
   🖌 Shooter Gauri Sheoran - Haryana government's brand ambassador for its health-related programmes Including measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.

33. ▶ Brand Ambassadors (July 2018) -
   🖌 Vidya Balan (Actress) - Muthoot Pappachan Group.

34. ▶ Cab Aggregator Uber promoted its India head Amit Jain as regional general manager for Asia Pacific region (APAC).

35. ▶ Cabinet Reshuffle -
   🖌 Coal and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has been given Additional charge of Finance Ministry, until Arun Jaitley is on rest due to health issues.
   🖌 Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore has been given additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Independent Charge).

36. ▶ Caribbean island Nation Barbados elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from UK in 1966.

37. ▶ Carlos Alvarado has been elected as New president of Costa Rica (Central America).

38. ▶ Central government apprved Senior Advocate Indu Malhotra as a Supreme Court judge. She is first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of Supreme Court, instead of being elevated from a high court.

39. ▶ Chandra Shekhar Ghosh is re-appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank for 3 years. Also, Former RBI deputy governor Harun Rasid Khan joined Bandhan Bank board.

40. ▶ Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan took oath as 22nd prime minister of Pakistan. While, Asad Qaiser is chosen as Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan.

41. ▶ D C Raina is appointed as Advocate general of Jammu and Kashmir.

42. ▶ Debjani Ghosh has been appointed as new president of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies). Also, Rishad Premji is appointed as NASSCOM chairman for 2018-19.

43. ▶ Deepak Raj Joshee has been appointed as new Chief Justice of Nepal.

44. ▶ Democratic National Committee (DNC) of USA appointed Indian American Seema Nanda as its new CEO, making her first Indian American to be appointed as operational head of a major American political party.

45. ▶ Devraj Anbu has been appointed as new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).

46. ▶ Dilip Chenoy is appointed as New Secretary-General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

47. ▶ Dilip Tirkey has been appointed as chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation.

48. ▶ Emmerson Mnangagwa has been re-elected Zimbabwe's President after winning presidential elections held for first time since ouster of Robert Mugabe. Mnangagwa took over as President last year after Mugabe was ousted by the Army, ending Mugabe's rule of over Zimbabwe 37 years.

49. ▶ Ethnic Indian lawyer Tommy Thomas is appointed as Malaysia's new attorney general (Top Lawyer of Nation).

50. ▶ Facebook appointed Chris Daniels as CEO of Whatsapp after Co-founder Jan Koum resigned amid Recent Data-leak Controversies.

51. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is re-appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha (RS) following his re-election to House.
   🖌 Leader of the House is a Rajya Sabha member who is either a cabinet minister or another nominated minister.

52. ▶ Finance Ministry appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as chairman of reconstituted Banks Board Bureau (BBB). It will have a 3 year term.

53. ▶ Financial Services Firm Paytm appointed former RBI Deputy Governor Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as an advisor.

54. ▶ Football Club FC Pune City appointed Brazilian Marcos Paqueta as head coach.

55. ▶ Former Attoney General Mukul Rohatgi has been appointed as an eminent jurist in selection committee for appointment of Lokpal.

56. ▶ Former Indian Cricketer Lalchand Rajput has been appointed as head coach of Zimbabwe's national team.

57. ▶ Former Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar has been appointed as the president of Tata Sons' global corporate affairs.

58. ▶ Former Supreme Court Judge C K Prasad is appointed as chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term.

59. ▶ Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is elected chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia, currently underway in China's Hainan province.

60. ▶ Giuseppe Conte has been appointed as New Prime Minister of European Nation Italy.

61. ▶ Government Appointed Anil Kumar Chaudhary as Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), for 2 years.

62. ▶ Government appointed Anant Barua as whole-time member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). SEBI Chairman is currently Ajay Tyagi.

63. ▶ Government appointed Arijit Basu as Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), replacing Rajnish Kumar who was elevated as chairman recently.

64. ▶ Government appointed Ashish Kumar Bhutani as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), till May 2020.
    - 🖋 PMFBY was launched in 2016, replacing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
    - 🖋 It aims to reduce premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.
    - 🖋 Under this, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%. Balance premium will be paid by Government, without a limit on subsidy.
    - 🖋 It covers yield losses due to non-preventable risks including natural hazards.

65. ▶ Government appointed Balram Bhargava as Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of Department of Health Research.

66. ▶ Government appointed Chief executive officers and managing directors (CEOs and MDs) at 10 public sector banks, as part of 15 names recommended by Bank Boards Bureau for elevation. First 5 People are currently deputy MDs at SBI.
    - 🖋 Padmaja Chundru - Indian Bank
    - 🖋 Mrutyunjay Mahapatra - Syndicate Bank
    - 🖋 Pallav Mohapatra - Central Bank of India
    - 🖋 Packirisamy - Andhra Bank
    - 🖋 Karnam Sekar - Dena Bank
    - 🖋 SS Mallikarjuna Rao - Allahabad Bank
    - 🖋 AS Rajeev - Bank of Maharashtra
    - 🖋 Atul Kumar Goel - UCO Bank
    - 🖋 S Harisankar - Punjab & Sind Bank.
    - 🖋 Ashok Kumar Pradhan - United Bank of India.

67. ▶ Government appointed Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra to hold additional charge as Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), replacing S. Christopher who completed his term.

68. ▶ Government appointed G. Satheesh Reddy as Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Secretary in Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D).

69. ▶ Government appointed IDBI Bank's MD & CEO Mahesh Kumar Jain as a Deputy Governor of RBI. The post was vacant after SS Mundra retired in July 2017. Other RBI Deputy Governors are BP Kanungo, N S Vishwanathan and Viral Acharya. Urijit Patel is current RBI Governor.
    - 🖋 Also, former RBI deputy governor R Gandhi joined board of Electronic Payment Services (EPS) as independent director.

70. ▶ Government appointed Inder Jit Singh as Secretary in Ministry of Coal.

71. ▶ Government appointed Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas (Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre) as secretary in Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairperson in Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
    - 🖋 Also, Anindo Majumdar is Appointed as Secretary in Central Vigilance Commission.
    - 🖋 A. Gitesh Sarma appointed as Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs.

72. ▶ Government appointed Rajesh Ranjan as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

73. ▶ Government appointed Rajni Mishra as the director general of Border Security Force (BSF).

74. ▶ Government appointed S S Deswal as Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

75. ▶ Government appointed former SC Judge R K Agrawal as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).

76. ▶ Government appointed four members to local boards of RBI -

- Rakesh Jain - Southern local board
- Sachin Chaturvedi - Eastern local board.
- Revathy Iyer and Raghvendra Narayan Dubey - Northern local board.
- Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi - Central local board.

77. ▶ Government appointed non-executive chairpersons in 3 public sector banks, as first appointment of bank executives recommended by Banks Board Bureau headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
- Dena Bank - Anjali Bansal
- Punjab & Sind Bank - Charan Singh
- Central Bank of India - Tapan Ray

78. ▶ Government appointed noted artist and sculptor Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. He replaced M.L. Srivastava, who was appointed Protem (Temporary) Chairman recently.

79. ▶ Government extende tenure of Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha by 1 year, till June 2019.

80. ▶ Government reappointed Anil D Sahasrabudhe as chairman All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

81. ▶ Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli has been given additional charge of Madhya Pradesh, while Gujarat Governor Anandiben Patel is on leave.

82. ▶ Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy (Janata Dal (Secular)) has been appointed as New Chief Minister of Karnataka. G Parameshwara was selected as Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, and First Dalit for this post. Ramesh Kumar is selected as Assembly Speaker.
- H D Kumaraswamy Replaced B. S. Yeddyurappa of BJP, who had to step down after staying as CM for Just 6 Days as BJP did not achieve Majority in recent assembly elections.
- BJP - 104 Seats (112 Required for Majority), Congress - 78 Seats, JDS - 37 Seats.
- INC and JD (S) partnered to form government,with appointment of H D Kumaraswamy as CM.

83. ▶ Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki has been given additional charge of Himachal Pradesh, during absence of Himachal Governor Acharya Devvrat.

84. ▶ Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for 4 years.

85. ▶ Hockey India appointed Harendra Singh as chief coach of Indian men's hockey team, replacing Sjoerd Marijne who take back his role as coach of Women's Hockey Team.

86. ▶ Hun sen reelected as Prime Miniser of South East Asian Nation Cambodia, after landslide victory in General Elections 2018. He has been rulling cambodia for 33 years.

87. ▶ ICICI Bank appointed Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its non-executive part-time chairman.

88. ▶ IPL Team Royal Challengers Bangalore appointed India's 2011 World Cup-winning coach Gary Kirsten as their new head coach.

89. ▶ Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected as President of Mali (West Africa) for 5 year term.

90. ▶ Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has been appointed as new prime minister of Guinea (West Africa).

91. ▶ Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party emerged as largest party in General Elections 2018 in Pakistan. Imran Khan (Ex-Cricketer) will be Pakistan's new Prime Minister.

92. ▶ India Origin person Dedar Singh Gill has been appointed judicial commissioner of Singapore's Supreme Court.

93. ▶ India's Abhay V. Udeshi has been selected by International Castor Oil Association (ICOA) as its President. ICOA members are involved in growing, processing, trading, marketing and consuming Castor Oil.

94. ▶ India's Subrata Dutta is elected as vice president of newly formed South West Asian Football Federation (SWAFF).

95. ▶ Indian Ambassadors (July 2018) -
- Democratic Republic of Congo - Nina Tshering La.

96. ▶ Indian Ambassadors Appointed in May 2018 -
- Munu Mahawar - Sultanate of Oman.
- S.D.Moorthy - South Sudan.
- Pradeep Kumar Gupta - Mauritania.
- Mahender Singh Kanyal - Suriname.

97. ▶ Indian Ambassadors and Misc. Appointments (August 2018) -
- HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh was appointed as non-executive director on board of HDFC.
- Vijay Thakur Singh - Secretary (East) in External Affairs Ministry.
- Supreme Court will have 3 serving women judges for first time, after Govt. cleared elevation of Madras HC Chief Justice Indira Banerjee as SC Judge. Other judges are R Banumathi and Indu Malhotra.

- Anurag Sachan - Managing Director of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL).
- Russia appointed Hollywood actor Steven Seagal as its special representative for Russian-US humanitarian ties.
- Nikhil Nanda - CMD of Farm and construction equipment maker Escorts.
- S Gopakumar - Director & GM in United India Insurance Company.
- Rashida Tlaib - First Muslim woman elected to US Congress after winning Democratic primary election from US state of Michigan.
- Raghvendra Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Textiles
- Arun Goel - Secretary in Ministry of Culture
- Aditya Vikram and Pramod Chandra Mody - members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- R. G Anand - Member of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- KS Srinivas - Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- Actor Akshay Kumar become the brand ambassador of Government's Road Safety Campaign.
- Former RBI Deputy Governor Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHFL) appointed Former RBI Deputy Governor S.S.Mundra as an independent director.
- Goldman Sachs appointed Prachi Mishra as managing director and chief India economist.
- Partha Satpathy - New Indian Ambassador to Ukraine.
- Srikumar Menon - Indian Ambassador to Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.
- Oscar Kerketta - Appointed as India's ambassador to Rwanda.
- D Bala Venkatesh Varma - Appointed as India's ambassador to Russia.
- Man Mohan Bhanot - Indian Ambassador to Republic of Equitorial Guinea. He is the first resident Ambassador of India to Republic of Equitorial Guinea.
- Prashant Agrawal - New Indian High Commissioner to Namibia.
- Sandeep Kumar - New Indian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Ruchi Ghanashyam - India's New Ambassador to United Kingdom.

98. Indian Analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of National University of Singapore.

99. Indian Banks Association (IBA) elected PNB MD and CEO Sunil Mehta as chairman for 2018-19. Madhav Nair has been elected as Honorary Secretary of association for 2018-19.

100. Indian Origin Person Nikesh Arora (former SoftBank Group Corp president) is appointed as CEO and Chairman of Cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks.

101. Indian Person Dhivya Suryadevara is appointed as CFO of General Motors,USA's largest automaker.

102. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chosen veteran scientist VR Lalithambika to head its Gaganyaan mission to put an Indian in space by 2022.

103. Indian ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran has been appointed as deputy National Security Advisor. Note that Ajit Doval is current National Security Advisor.

104. Indian development economist and lawyer Satya Tripathi has been appointed the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

105. Indian scientist N Raghuram became first Indian and Asian to get elected as Chair of International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative, to take up role from January 1, 2019. He will steer 6 regional centres.

106. Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as interim judge to civil court of New York City in USA.

107. Indian-American Susheela Jayapal has been elected as a member of Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon (Western USA State). She is first South Asian to be elected in This western US State.

108. Indian-American Uttam Dhillon took charge as Acting Director of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) of USA.

109. Indian-American surgeon Atul Gawande named as the CEO of a new US employee health care company started by Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JPMorgan Chief Executives. Also, French beauty giant L'Oréal appointed Amit Jain as its new India MD, first Indian to lead its operations in India.

110. India's former shooter Pawan Singh appointed as Chairman of Result Timing Score Jury by International Shooting Sports Federation for ISSF World Cup in Munich.

111. Industry chamber Assocham appointed Uday Kumar Varma as its new Secretary General.

112. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) selected Ajay Data as new council member of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO), making him first Indian to get selected as a member of ccNSO, which is policy development body of ICANN for ccTLD (country code top-level domains) issues and represents all country code top level domain operators from around world.

- ✎ He is founder & CEO of Data XGen Plus and global leader in email linguistic services. He is creator of world's first email address mobile app and email solution for IDN (Internationalized Domain Names) Domains. He was awarded Graham Bell Award for this innovation.
- ✎ He is also credited for giving access to World for Internationalized Email Address in 19 languages which is available through DataMail app.

113. ▶ Ivan Duque has been appointed as New president of South Amerian Nation Colombia.

114. ▶ Ivan Duque has been appointed as new President of Colombia (South America).

115. ▶ Jack Ma, co-founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, will step down as head of the company in 2019. He named company CEO Daniel Zhang as his successor.

116. ▶ Jagdish Mukhi has been appointed as acting governor of Manipur, in absence of Governor Najma Heptullah.

117. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Assembly appointed Kavinder Gupta as Deputy- CM of state.

118. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Government appointed Dilbagh Singh as Director General of Police (DGP) of the state.

119. ▶ Janardan Singh Gehlot has been appointed as International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) chief for 4 years.

120. ▶ Jayant Mammen Mathew elected as president of the Indian Newspaper Society, apex body of India's print media industry.

121. ▶ Jim Bridenstine has been chosen as new (13th) administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) by US Senate.

122. ▶ Jordan's King Abdullah II appointed Omar Razzaz as new prime minister of Middle east Nation.

123. ▶ José Eladio Alcain of Uruguay has been appointed as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
   - ✎ UNMOGIP was established by UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution and started its operations in 1949.
   - ✎ India has maintained that UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after Shimla (Accord) Agreement and consequent establishment of Line of Control (LoC) in 1971. In Shimla Agreement, India and Pakistan agreed to change ceasefire line to LoC and held that they will resolve their disputes bilaterally without third party interference.
   - ✎ In 2014, India asked UNMOGIP to wind up its work in Kashmir and in 2017, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reiterated that UNMOGIP does not have mandate to monitor situation in Kashmir.

124. ▶ Julius Maada Bio has been elected as new president of Sierra Leone (West Africa).

125. ▶ Justice Manjula Chellur appointed as Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (Ministry of Power).

126. ▶ K Alagesan has been appointed as Chairman and MD of PSU ITI Limited and M Venkatesh took charge as MD & CEO of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL).

127. ▶ KR Nautiyal is appointed as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern) and Vijay Chafekar took charge as Coast Guard (West)'s Flag Officer.

128. ▶ Kalraj Mishra appointed as chairman of parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

129. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank redesignated Uday Kotak as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, from designation of executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, that he had earlier.

130. ▶ Kyrgyzstan (Middle Asia) Parliament named Mukhammedkaliy Abylgaziyev as new Prime Minister.

131. ▶ Law Ministry appointed Krishna Murari as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

132. ▶ Lebanon's Saad Hariri has won his 3rd term as Prime Minister.

133. ▶ M L Srivastava is appointed as Protem (Temporary) chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.

134. ▶ M. Sathiyavathy has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

135. ▶ M.K.Stalin is appointed as working president of DMK party in Tamil Nadu.

136. ▶ Maharashtra Government appointed Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon as brand ambassador of Mumbai city-based Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP).

137. ▶ Mahathir Mohamad has been elected as new Prime Minister of Malaysia (South east Asia). Its his 2nd term as PM of Malaysia, after 1st in 1981 – 2003. Aged 92, he is currently oldest PM of any nation in world.

138. ▶ Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez has been appointed as New President of Caribbean Nation Cuba. He is first leader outside Castro dynasty to lead Cuba, since 1959 revolution.

139. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has set up National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) as a single window source of updated data on water resources.

140. ▶ Misc. Appointments (July 2018) -
   - ✎ Dhanlaxmi Bank appointed T Latha as Managing Director & CEO.
   - ✎ Manoj Kumar Pingua has been appointed as the acting MD of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
   - ✎ Saraswati Prasad appointed as chairman and managing director of steel PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

- Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC) appointed Amitabh Malhotra as head of investment banking for HSBC India.
- Payments Council of India (PCI) appointed Vishwas Patel as its new Chairman.
- Reliance Foundation proposed Noted scientist Raghunath A Mashelkar as Chancellor of yet-to-be established Jio Institute. Dipak C Jain will serve as Vice-Chancellor of Institute.
- Rajat Sharma - President of Delhi & District Cricket Association.
- Girish Pillai - Member (Traffic) in Railway Board.
- S.N. Agrawal - Member (Staff) in Railway Board.
- Uday Kumar Varma - Member of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).
- L Narasimha Reddy - Chancellor of University of Hyderabad (UoH).
- Raj Kumar - Vice Chancellor of Panjab University.
- T.V Narendran - chairman of Bhushan Steel (acquired by Tata Steel).
- Arman Ali - Executive Director of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP).
- Tahira Safdar - First Chief Justice of a High Court in Pakistan (Balochistan High Court).
- Rishi Srivastava - MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life.
- Surendra Rosha - CEO for Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)'s India Operations.

141. Misc. Appointments (September 2018) -
- WPP Plc, world's largest communication services group, appointed Mark Read as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director (ED).
- Tahira Safdar sworn in as first woman chief justice in Pakistan's Balochistan High Court.
- Om Prakash Mishra - Chief Justice of Nepal.
- Lal Krishan Advani renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha.
- Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign.
- SBI appointed Prashant Kumar as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- Former foreign secretary S Jaishankar joined board of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- Keith Enright - Chief Privacy Officer of Google.
- Facebook appointed Ajit Mohan as Facebook India's Managing Director and Vice President.
- B. S. Mubarak appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Guatemala (Central America).

142. Misc. Govt. Appointments and Extensions -
- New Secretaries -
  - Heera Lal Samariya - Ministry of Labour & Employment.
  - Deepak Khandekar - Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
  - Amit Khare - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Extension -
  - Pawan Kumar Agarwal - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
  - N. Baijendra Kumar - CMD of National Mineral Development Corporation.
  - Usha Sharma - Director General in Archaeological Survey of India.
  - Yogendra Tripathi - CMD of Food Corporation of India.
  - Sushil Chandra - Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.
- Pravin Agarwal - BHEL Part Time Director.

143. Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become new Prime Minister of African Nation Sudan.

144. Muhammetkaliy Abulgaziyev has been apointed as new Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia).

145. N.Ravi (Publisher of *The Hindu* Group) is appointed as chairman of Press Trust of India. While, Vijay Kumar Chopra (Chief Editor of Punjab Kesari Group) is appointed as Vice Chairman.

146. N.S. Kannan is appointed as Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company. While, previous ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company CEO Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as COO (chief operating officer ) of ICICI Bank.

147. Nasirul Mulk is appointed as interim Prime Minister of Pakistan, ahead of dissolution of current government.

148. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has involved Survey of India (Established in 1767, oldest scientific department in India) to strengthen Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It involves use of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) technology for accurate data collection.

149. New Ambassadors (September 2018) -

- BSNL - Noted Indian Female Boxer Mary Kom.
- Alok Amitabh Dimri - New Indian Ambassador to Kyrgyz Republic.
- B. Vanlalvawna - New Indian Ambassabor to Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Actor Akshay Kumar - Honrary Ambassdor to Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.

150. ▶ New Governors Appointed (As per Article 156 of Constitution, State Governors are appointed by President for five years) -
- Lalji Tandon - Bihar
- Baby Rani Maurya - Uttarakhand
- Satyadev Narayan - Haryana
- Kaptan Singh Solanki - Tripura
- Tathagata Roy - Meghalaya
- Ganga Prasad - Sikkim
- Satya Pal Malik - Jammu and Kashmir

151. ▶ New Governors Appointed -
- Odisha - Ganeshi Lal, replacing Satya Pal Malik.
- Mizoram - Kummanam Rajasekharan, replacing Nirbhay Sharma.

152. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors (April 2018) -
- Subrata Bhattacharjee - Serbia.
- Sripriya Ranganathan - South Korea (Republic of Korea).
- Ravi Thapar - Nicaragua.
- Sanjay Bhattacharya - Turkey.
- Rahul Kulshreshth - Egypt.
- Narinder Chauhan - Czech Republic
- Krishan Kumar - Norway
- Rajiv Kumar Nagpal - Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

153. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors (June 2018) -
- Rudrendra Tandon - 10 Member ASEAN (Associationb of Southeast Nations).
- Madhu Sethi - Cuba
- Tsewang Namgyal - Lithuania
- Ravindra Prasad Jaiswal - Eritrea
- Vijai Kumar - Papua New Guinea.
- Armstrong Changsan - Republic of Iceland
- Ravi Thapar - Costa Rica

154. ▶ Nikol Pashinyan has been appointed as prime minister of Armenia.

155. ▶ Noted German Financial Firm Deutsche Bank AG named Christian Sewing as Chief Executive officer.

156. ▶ Noted Music composer A R Rahman named Brand Ambassador of Sikkim government.

157. ▶ P K Srivastava is appointed as Director General and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board.

158. ▶ PP Malhotra is appointed as Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC), largest uniformed youth organization in world.

159. ▶ Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi elected as 13th President of Pakistan.

160. ▶ Pakistani origin women Mehreen Faruqi became first muslim senator to be sworn in to Australia's Parliament.

161. ▶ Pedro Sanchez has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Spain.It also ended 7 month direct rule by Spanish government in Spain's Catalonia region. Pedro was appointed as Spanish PM after former PM Mariano Rajoy was toppled by a corruption scandal, becoming first leader in Spain's modern democracy to lose a vote of no confidence in Parliament.

162. ▶ Pippa Harris has been selected as the Chairman of British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA).

163. ▶ Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been re-elected as Regional Director of WHO for another five-year term beginning February 2019. She is the first woman to have been elected to the position of Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region.

164. ▶ Portugal's Antonio Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino (61) is elected as next Director General (DG) of International Organization for Migration (IOM), a UN Migration Agency.

165. ▶ R Madhavan took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

166. ▶ Radhakrishnan Nair has been appointed as an Additional (Independent) Director in ICICI Bank's board.

167. ▶ Raghav Iyengar has been appointed as CEO of Indiabulls AMC (Asset Management Company).

168. ▶ Rajinder Singh is named the new President of Hockey India (HI), after Mariamma Koshy's resignation.

169. ▸ Rakesh Bharti Mittal is appointed as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2018-19, while Kotak Mahindra Bank Chief Uday Kotak is appointed as President-Designate of CII for 2018-19.

170. ▸ Rakesh Kumar Vats has been appointed as chairman of NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority).

171. ▸ Ram Sewak Sharma has been reappointed as chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for upto September 2020.

172. ▸ Ramalingam Sudhakar is appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court (Imphal).

173. ▸ Ramesh Chand Meena has been elected as new Chairperson of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) , while Pratibha Brahma was elected as Vice Chairperson.

174. ▸ Ramesh Powar has been named as head coach of Indian women's cricket team till 2018 ICC Women's World Twenty20 to be hosted by West Indies in November 2018.

175. ▸ Ramon Laguarta will be new CEO of Leading Beverages Firm PepsiCo, replacing Indra Nooyi, who will step down in October 2018 after serving for 12 years. She will remain chairman till 2019.

176. ▸ Ranbir Singh has been appointed as commander of Northern wing of Indian Army.

177. ▸ Ranjan Gogoi will be appointed as new Chief Justice of India (46th), on October 3, 2018. He will replace current CJI Dipak Misra.

178. ▸ Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is re-elected as President of Turkey, for his 2nd term as President.

179. ▸ Rekha Sharma has been appointed as chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW).

180. ▸ S Gurumurthy & Satish Marathe are appointed as part-time directors of Reserve Bank of India, for 4 year terms.

181. ▸ S Ramesh has been appointed as New Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), succeeding Vanaja N. Sarna.

182. ▸ SBI Life Insurance appointed Sanjeev Nautiyal as its new Managing Director and CEO.

183. ▸ Sandeep Sancheti is appointed as President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

184. ▸ Sanjay Kumar (National Disaster Response Force chief) has been given additional charge of post of Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards.

185. ▸ Sarah Mullally became first female Bishop of London, holding 3rd most senior position in the Church of England.

186. ▸ Sharad Kumar has been appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in Central Vigilance Commission.

187. ▸ Shashank Manohar has been re-elected as the independent Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC).

188. ▸ Shri Harivansh has been elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Note that Vice president of India (Currently Venkaiah Naidu) is Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

189. ▸ Sitanshu Ranjan Kar, took over as 27th Principal Spokesperson of Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau.

190. ▸ Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) elected Rajan Wadhera as its new President.

191. ▸ South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement agency, held its first-ever meeting in India (in Kolkata). Its member countries are India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, Pakistan & Maldives.

192. ▸ South Korean firm LG appointed Koo Kwang-mo as new chairman. He is fourth-generation leader of family-controlled conglomerate.

193. ▸ Stacey Cunningham has beeen appointed as First woman President of New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

194. ▸ State Bank of India (SBI) appointed Anshula Kant as its Managing Director. Also, SBI Mutual Fund appointed Ashwani Bhatia as its managing director and chief executive officer.

195. ▸ Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

196. ▸ Sudha Balakrishnan has been named first Chief Financial Officer of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

197. ▸ Sukhdeep Sangwan has been appointed as Director General of Indian Army Unit Assam Rifles.

198. ▸ Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder & Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, stepped down as Chairman of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). He will be succeeded by Paul Polman (CEO of Unilever). While, MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga appointed as First Vice-Chair of ICC.

199. ▸ Supreme Court (SC) collegium recommended names of chief justices for 7 high courts -

    ✎ Rajendra Menon - Delhi

    ✎ Gita Mittal - Jammu and Kashmir (First Woman Judge in J & K HC)

    ✎ V K Tahilramani - Madras

    ✎ Hrishikesh Roy - Kerala

    ✎ K S Jhaveri - Orissa

    ✎ Aniruddha Bose - Jharkhand

    ✎ M R Shah - Patna

200. ▸ Suranjan Gupta appointed as Executive Director and Secretary of PSU EEPC India.

201. ▸ Suresh Kumar took charge as chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited.

202. ▸ T K Rajalakshmi elected as president of Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC).

203. ▸ T P Sharma has been appointed as new chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh.

204. ▸ T.C.A. Raghavan is appointed as new Director General of ICWA (Indian Council of World Affairs).

205. ▸ Tajinder Mukherjee has been appointed as new Chairman and Managing Director of National Insurance Company Limited (NIC).

206. ▸ Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan will be appointed as Chief Justice of Hyderabad High Court.

207. ▸ Treasurer Scott Morrison has been elected new Prime Minister of Australia, replacing Malcolm Turnbull.

208. ▸ U.S. based ride hailing firm Uber appointed Pradeep Parameswaran as new President of India and South Asia.

209. ▸ UK Government appointed Jeremy Hunt as new Foreign Secretary, to replace Boris Johnson who resigned in protest against government's plans for a *semi-Brexit*.

210. ▸ US India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India.

211. ▸ US Senate approved former CIA director Mike Pompeo as secretary of state, Replacing Rex Tillersen.

212. ▸ US Senate confirmed Gina Haspel as first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

213. ▸ USA Researchers discovered world's first known natural manta ray nursery that allows them to observe juvenile manta ray in their habitat. Oceanic manta rays (Mobula birostris) are known as the gentle giants of the sea. They are large, plankton-eating rays. They can reach sizes of up to 7 metres in wingspan as adults.

214. ▸ United India Insurance Company appointed K B Vijay Srinivas as its Director and General Manager.

215. ▸ United Nations General Assembly elected Ecuador's Foreign Minister *Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces* as its next president for 73rd Session. Maria is 4th woman (and 1st Latin American) to be appointed UNGA President in its 73-year history.

216. ▸ United Nations appointed Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as UN's new special envoy on Myanmar.

217. ▸ United Nations appointed former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet ad UN's new human rights chief.

218. ▸ Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro won another six years term, after being re-elected.

219. ▸ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu is appointed as Chancellor of Pondicherry Central University.

220. ▸ Vijay Mahajan is selected as Secretary and CEO of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation(RGF) and Director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS).

221. ▸ Vikram Misri has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to China.

222. ▸ Viktor Orban has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Hungary (Central Europe).

223. ▸ Vladimir Putin sworn-in as President of Russia for 4th time, for six-year term. While, Dmitry Medvedev is appointed as Prime Minister for his 2nd term.

224. ▸ West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi has been given additional charge of Tripura Governor, during absence of Tathagata Roy due to leave.

225. ▸ World Economic Forum (WEF) appointed India's Sarita Nayyar as a member to its Managing board.

226. ▸ YES Bank re-appointed Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO for 3 years.

227. ▸ Yudhvir Singh Malik (Secretary in Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways) has been given additional charge as chairman of NHAI.

**Top**

### Awards

1. ▸ 11 National Geoscience Awards for 2017 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind on 22 geoscientists for their outstanding contributions in 9 fields of geosciences. Noted Winners are -
   - ✎ Shib Sankar Ganguli (IIT Kanpur) - Young Scientist Award 2017. Other Categories and Awards -
   - ✎ Mining Technology - Samir Kumar Pal
   - ✎ Basic Geosciences - Suryendu Dutta, Md Erfan Ali Monda
   - ✎ Applied Geology - Girish Chandra Kothyari
   - ✎ Geophysics / Applied Geophysics - Ambrish Kumar Mahajan
   - ✎ Natural Hazard Investigations - Davuluri Srinagesh

2. ▸ 2017 Sports Illustrated India magazine Awards -
   - ✎ Sportsperson of the Year - Kidambi Srikanth (Badminton)
   - ✎ Team of the Year - Women's cricket team
   - ✎ Coach of the year - Stephen Constantine (football team coach)
   - ✎ Outstanding contribution to Sport - Leander Paes (Tennis)
   - ✎ Young Sportsperson of the Year - Paddler Manav Thakkar
   - ✎ Lifetime Achievement Award - Dhanraj Pillay (Hockey)

3. ▸ 2018 Billboard Music Awards (Las Vegas (USA)) -

- British singer - songwriter Ed Sheeran won 6 honours - Top Artist, Top Male Artist, Top Radio Songs Artist, Top Radio Song and Top Hot 100 Artist, Top Song Sales Artist.
- Janet Jackson won BBMA Icon Award and became first African American female artist to receive this award.
- Other Awards -
  - Top New Artist - Khalid
  - Top Female Artist - Taylor Swift
  - Top Billboard 200 Artist - Drake
  - Top Billboard 200 Album - DAMN. – Kendrick Lamar
  - Top Selling Album - Reputation – Taylor Swift
  - Top Selling Song - "Despacito" – Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber

4. 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Awards -
   - Winners -
     - **Bharat Vatwani (India) -** For *Tremendous courage and healing compassion in embracing India's mentally-afflicted destitute*. Based in Mumbai he started an informal operation of bringing mentally-ill street persons to their private clinic for treatment and established Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation in 1988.
     - **Sonam Wangchuk (India)** - For *uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India*.
     - Youk Chhang (Cambodia)
     - Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz (East Timor)
     - Howard Dee (Philippines)
     - Vo Thi Hoang Yen (Vietnam)
   - About Magsaysay Award -
     - Ramon Magsaysay Awards' is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society
     - It is a reputed honour and termed as Nobel Prize of Asia.

5. 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction, previously known as Orange prize and Bailey's prize, has been won by British-Pakistani author Kamila Shamsie for her novel *Home Fire*.

6. 3 jailed Saudi human rights activists awarded Right Livelihood Award, widely referred to as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani and Waleed Abu al-Khair jointly got a one million kronor cash award for their efforts to reform the totalitarian political system in Saudi Arabia.

7. 65th National Film Awards -
   - Feature Film panel was headed by filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and Non- Feature Film panel was headed by Nakul Kamte.
   - Awards -
     - Dada Saheb Phalke Award - Vinod Khanna
     - Best Films -
       - Feature Film - Village Rockstars (Assamese)
       - Children's Film - 'Mhorkya'
       - Film on Environmental Conservation - 'Irada'Best Direction: Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam'
       - Feature Film on National Integration: Dhappa (Marathi)
       - Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
     - Best Director (Feature Film) - Jayaraj for Bhayanakam (Malayalam)
     - Best Director (Non-Feature Film) - Nagraj Manjule for Pavsacha Nibandh
     - Best Actress - Sridevi for 'Mom'
     - Best Actor - Riddhi Sen for 'Nagar Kirtan'
     - Special Jury Award (Feature) 'Nagarkirtan' (Bengali) directed.
     - Special Jury Award (Non-Feature) - A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings And Monday.
     - Best Lyrics - Muthurathinam
     - Best Music Direction - AR Rahman for 'Katru Veliyidayi'
     - Best Female Playback Singer - Sashaa Tirupati for 'Kaatru Veliyidayi'
     - Best Male Playback Singer - K.J Yesudas for song 'Poy Maranja Kalam' from 'Viswasapoorvam Mansoor'
     - Best Child Artist - Anita Das for 'Village Rockstar'

- Best Regional Films -
  - Hindi - Newton
  - Ladakh - Walking With The Wind
  - Lakshadwee - Sinjar
  - Tulu - Paddayi
  - Marathi - Kachcha Limboo
  - Malayalam - Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
  - Kannada - Hebbettu Ramakka
  - Bengali - Mayurakshi
  - Assamese - Ishu
  - Telugu - Ghazi
  - Gujarati - Dhh
  - Odiya: Hello Arsi
- Other Awards -
  - Best Editing - Rima Das for 'Village Rockstar'
  - Best Action Direction - 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
  - Best Choreography - Ganesh Acharya for 'Toilet Ek Prem Katha'
  - Best Special Effects - 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
  - Best Screenplay Original - Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
  - Best Screenplay Adapted - Bhayanakam
  - Best Cinematography - Bhayanakam
  - Indira Gandhi Award For Best Debut Film Of A Director in Feature Film Category - Jasari language movie 'Sinjar' directed by Pampally.
  - Best Debut Film of a Director in the Non Feature Film category - 'Water Baby' directed by Pia Shah
  - Best Film Critic award - Giridhar Jha
  - Special Mention Award - Sunil Mishra
  - Best Book on Cinema - *Matmagi Manipur - The first Manipuri Feature Film* authored by Bobby Wahengbam.

8. ▶ 70th Primetime Emmy Awards (USA) -

| Award | Winner |
|---|---|
| Drama Series | Game of Thrones |
| Comedy Series | The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel |
| Television Movie | Black Mirror: USS Callister |
| Lead Actress in a Drama Series | Claire Foy, The Crown |
| Lead Actor in a Drama Series | Matthew Rhys, The Americans |
| Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie | Darren Criss, The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story |
| Lead Actress in a Limited Series or Movie | Regina King, Seven Seconds |
| Lead Actor in a Comedy Series | Bill Hader, Barry |
| Lead Actress in a Comedy Series | Rachel Brosnahan, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel |

9. ▶ 71st Cannes Film Festival 2018 -
- Australian actress Cate Blanchett was President of the Jury for Main competition.
- Winners -
  - Palme d'Or (Best Film) - Japanese film Shoplifters, directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda.
  - Grand Prix - *BlacKkKlansman* by Spike Lee
  - Best Director - Paweł Pawlikowski (Poland) for *Cold War*
  - Best Screenplay -
    - Alice Rohrwacher for *Happy as Lazzaro*
    - Jafar Panahi and Nader Saeivar for *3 Faces*
  - Best Actress - Samal Yeslyamova (Kazakhstan) for *Ayka*
  - Best Actor - Marcello Fonte (Italy) for *Dogman*
  - Jury Prize - Capernaum by *Nadine Labaki*
  - Special Palme d'Or - *The Image Book* by Jean-Luc Godard
- Golden Camera (Caméra d'Or) - *Girl* by Lukas Dhont

- ✎ Noted Bollywood actress Late Sridevi honoured with TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award.
- ✎ Chopard Trophy - Elizabeth Debicki and Joe Alwyn
- ✎ L'Eil d'or - Samouni Road by Stefano Savona
- ✎ Palm Dog -
    - ✎ Palm Dog Award - Canine cast of Dogman
    - ✎ Grand Jury Prize: Diamantino

10. ▸ Actor Kalki Koechlin has been conferred with French distinction of *Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres)* for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.

11. ▸ Actor-director Pankaj Kapur is honoured with 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at closing ceremony of 9th Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai.

12. ▸ Actors Shabana Azmi, Nandita Das and 13 others were awarded the Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Puraskar, by private media company Daily Indian Media. It also included Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh.

13. ▸ Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan will be bestowed with inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award.

14. ▸ Actress Anushka Sharma received Smita Patil Memorial Award at Priyadarshni Academy 34th Anniversary Global Awards in Mumbai.

15. ▸ Actress Anushka Sharma will be awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award by Mumbai-based *Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation* organisation. Note that it is different from Government of India instituted Dadasaheb Phalke Award, given during National Awards ceremony held annually.

16. ▸ Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be awarded annual Mark Twain award for American Humor from John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts.

17. ▸ All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2018 -
    - ✎ Player of the Year -Sunil Chettr*i*
    - ✎ Woman Player of the Year - Kamala Devi
    - ✎ Best Grassroots Development Programme - Kerala
    - ✎ Emerging Player of the Year - Anirudh Thapa
    - ✎ Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year - E Panthoi

18. ▸ All-women crew of INSV Tarini won Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award, for beating odds in water and sailing across the world for eight long months. It is highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
    - ✎ Other winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure awards are -
        - ✎ Udit Thapar - Skydiver
        - ✎ SonamWangyal - Mountaineer (Life time)
        - ✎ Anshu Jamsenpa - Mountaineer
        - ✎ Ravi Kumar - Mountaineer

19. ▸ American Actor Tim Robbins, 2003 Supporting actor Oscar winning star of *Mystic River* will receive Crystal Globe for Outstanding Contribution to World Cinema at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (KVIFF) in Czech Republic.

20. ▸ American activist Jane Fonda will be awarded Lumiere Award 2018 in Lyon (France). Lumiere Festival is largest international festival of classic cinema.

21. ▸ American actress Anne Hathaway will be honoured with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) National Equality Award.

22. ▸ Annie Zaidi won Hindu Playwright Award 2018 for her play *Untitled-1*, during 14th *The Hindu Theatre Fest* in Chennai.

23. ▸ Annual Directors Guild of America (DGA) honours Winners - Ang Lee (Noted Chinese Director), Nancy Utley, Amy Klobuchar, John McGuire and Ann Roth.

24. ▸ Appa Rao Podile, Vice Chancellor OF University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been selected for the J C Bose Fellowship of Department of Science and Technology by Government. He will receive a fellowship amount of Rs 25,000 pm and a research grant of Rs. 15 lakhs per annum for 5 years.

25. ▸ Arul Chinnaiyan (Indian-American scientist at University of Michigan) researcher has been awarded an "Outstanding Investigator Award" along with a grant of $6.5 million by the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

26. ▸ Assamese film *Xhoihobote Dhemalite* (Rainbow Fields) won 3 top awards at 3rd Love International Film Festival in USA. It won awards for - *best film, best actress (Dipannita Sharma) and best music (Anurag Saikia)*. It was directed by Bidyut Kotoky.

27. ▸ BCCI Awards 2018 -
    - ✎ Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award – Pankaj Roy

- BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award For Women – Diana Edulji (she declined the award as she is part of the Committee of Administrators which is currently overseeing the work of the board)
- BCCI Special Award – Abbas Ali Baig and Naren Tamhane
- Polly Umrigar Award – Virat Kohli (4th Polly Umrigar Title for Kohli, stands for International cricketer of the year)
- Best International Cricketer - Women – Harmanpreet Kaur
- Best Performance In BCCI Domestic Tournaments – Cricket Association of Bengal
- Other Awards
  - Lala Amarnath Award For The Best All-rounder In Ranji Trophy – Parvez Rasool
  - Lala Amarnath Award For The Best All-rounder In Domestic Limited-overs Competitions – Krunal Pandya
  - Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Scorer In The Ranji Trophy – Priyank K Panchal
  - Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Wicket-taker In The Ranji Trophy – Shahbaz Nadeem
  - Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy – Best Woman Cricketer (Sr Domestic) – Punam Raut
  - Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy – Best Woman Cricketer (Jr Domestic) – Jemimah Rodrigues
  - Best Umpire In Domestic Cricket – Anil Dandekar

28. ▶ BCCI panel recommended former India women's team captain Diana Edulji for CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award. Former India opener late Pankaj Roy will also be awarded posthumously.

29. ▶ Balzan Foundation announced winners for 2018 Balzan Prizes -
  - Peace and Fraternity among Peoples - Terre des Hommes, an international children rights charity based in Switzerland.
  - Chemical Ecology - Eva Kondorosi (Hungary/France)
  - Fluid Dynamics - Detlef Lohse (Deutschland)
  - Global History - Jürgen Osterhammel (Germany)
  - Social Anthropology - Marilyn Strathern (UK)

30. ▶ Bibek Debroy, Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, has been conferred 'Honoris Causa' by University of Engineering & Management (UEM) in Kolkata.

31. ▶ Bindeshwar Pathak (Founder of Sulabh International), has been honoured with Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development. He was among three who were conferred with this award. Nikkei Asia Prize is conferred by Nikkei Inc, a media corporation in Japan.

32. ▶ Bradley Cooper will receive 32nd annual American Cinematheque Award by The Hollywood organisation.

33. ▶ Brazilian footballer Neymar is named France's player of Year, as part of 27th UNFP (French National Professional Football Players Union) trophy Ceremony.

34. ▶ CSIR announced Winners of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2018 -
  - Every year, scientists below 45 years age are awarded for their outstanding scientific work in last 5 years. 2018 Winners -

| Category | Winner | Affiliation |
|---|---|---|
| Biological Sciences | Ganesh Nagaraju | IISc Bengaluru |
| | Thomas Pucadyil | IISER Pune |
| Chemical Sciences | Rahul Banerjee | IISER Kolkata |
| | Swadhin Kumar Mandal | IISER Kolkata |
| Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences | Madineni Venkat Ratnam | National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Tirupati |
| | Parthasarathi Chakraborty | CSIR-NIO, Goa |
| Engineering Sciences | Amit Agrawal | IIT Bombay |
| | Ashwin Anil Gumaste | IIT Bombay |
| Mathematical Sciences | Amit Kumar | IIT Delhi |
| | Nitin Saxena | IIT Kanpur |
| Medical Sciences | Ganesan Venkatasubramanian | NIMHANS, Bengaluru |
| Physical Sciences | Aditi Sen De | Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad |
| | Ambarish Ghosh | IISc Bengaluru |

35. ▶ Chennaiyin FC's head coach John Gregory has been presented a Special Achievement Award by England's League Managers Association (LMA) London. He beccame first Englishman to win Indian Super League (ISL).

36. ▶ Chhattisgarh bagged *State of the Year* Award for its progress in business and services activities in various sectors, at India Business Leader Awards (IBLA).

37. ▶ China awarded its first highest state honour Friendship Medal to Russian President Vladimir Putin, since the medal was established in 2015. Friendship Medal is conferred by China on foreigner who made outstanding contributions in promoting cooperation between China

and world, and in maintaining world peace.

38. ▶ Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018 (Note that it is different from Government of India instituted Dadasaheb Phalke Award, given during National Awards ceremony held annually) -
   - ✎ Best actor (male) - Shahid Kapoor
   - ✎ Best actor people's choice award - Ranveer Singh
   - ✎ Entertainer of the year - Kartik Aryan
   - ✎ Best actress (critics) - Aditi Rao Hydari
   - ✎ Lifetime achievement award - Simi GRewal
   - ✎ Pride of Indian cinema - Sanjay Dutt
   - ✎ Best director - Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
   - ✎ Outstanding performance - male - Raj Kumar Rao, Rana Daggubati
   - ✎ Outstanding performance - female - Tamannahh Bhatia, Kriti Sanon
   - ✎ Best actor (male) Marathi - Vaibhav Tatwawaadi
   - ✎ Best actor (female) Marathi - Pooja Sawant
   - ✎ Best comic role: Tusshar Kapoor
   - ✎ Best lyricist - Manoj Muntashir
   - ✎ Iconic contribution towards music: Hans Raj Hans
   - ✎ Versatile singer: Rani Hazarika
   - ✎ Best performance in a short film - Divya Khosla Kumar
   - ✎ Path breaking producer of the year - Anushka Sharma and Karnesh Sharma

39. ▶ Director Vasan Bala action thriller 'Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota' won top award (Grolsch People's Choice Midnight Madness Award) at 43rd Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Canada. Its first Indian film to be screened in Toronto festivals Midnight Madness programme.

40. ▶ Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid popularly known as Shawkan, will be awarded United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Press Freedom Prize for 2018. He was arrested in August 2013 for covering deadly demonstration at Rabaa Al-Adawiya Square in Cairo (Egypt's capital) between security forces and supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi.

41. ▶ Electronic dance music artiste Anish Sood became first Indian artiste to win Best Electronica/Dance Single at 16th Annual Independent Music Awards (IMA) in London.

42. ▶ Environment Ministry re-introduced 'Medini Puraskar Yojna'– a scheme that awards Indian authors for their original work in Hindi on environment, pollution and climate change subjects. It aims to encourage Hindi authors to write on environmental topics.

43. ▶ Femina Miss India Beauty Pageant 2018 -
   - ✎ Anukreethy Vas frem Tamil Nadu has been crowned Miss India World 2018 (1st Place).
   - ✎ Meenakshi Chaudhary (Haryana) has been crowned Miss India Grand International 2018 (1st runner-up).
   - ✎ Shreya Rao Kamavarapu (Andhra Pradesh) has been crowned Miss India United Continents 2018 (2nd runner-up).

44. ▶ Fiji's Indian-origin former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry has been selected for V K Krishna Menon Award for his contribution to Indian diaspora.

45. ▶ Global cultural organization Asia Society announced that PepsiCo's CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with Game Changer of the Year title of the 2018.

46. ▶ Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2018
   - ✎ About Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards -
      - ✎ Started by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2017 to propel global action and track progress on the United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goals, Also known as Oscar for Social Progress
   - ✎ 2018 Awardees -
      - ✎ Amika George (Campaign Award). Indian Origin Girl. Her #FreePeriods campaign that brought her granddad and 2,000 other protestors on Downing Street in UK in December 2017 to demand free sanitary products for poor.
      - ✎ Nadia Murad (Pagemaker Award). She is a Yazidi survivor of Islamic State (IS) genocide in Iraq.
      - ✎ Dysmus Kisilu (Progress Award). His renewable energy solutions increased yields of small farmers in Kenya by 150%.

47. ▶ Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill. He is a former governor of West Bengal. Award contains a citation and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, presented on birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi (Aug 20, observed as Sadbhavna Diwas).

48. ▶ Gujarati poet and playwright Sitanshu Yashaschandra has been chosen for 2017 Saraswati Samman (27th) for his collection of verses (poetry) titled *Vakhar,* published in 2009.

49. ▶ Health Minister J P Nadda conferred way Kayakal Awards 2017-18 to winning public health facilities for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi got the first prize of Rs. 2.5 crore under Central Government Hospitals A category. NEIGRIHMS (Shillong) adjudged winner in Group B category and got 1.5 crores.

50. ▶ Hindi Academy Delhi gave its highest Shalaka Samman for 2017-18 to bollywood lyricist and poet Javed Akhtar.

51. ▶ Hyderabad International Airport (Rajiv Gandhi International Airport) has been awarded Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award in 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category, for 2nd consecutive year.

   🖊 Also, 6 Indian Airports winning airports are (Lucknow, Indore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune) were awarded at Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2017 presented by Airports Council International (ACI). Delhi and Mumbai aerodromes shared top slot in the best airport category in Asia-Pacific region with regard to handling of over two million passengers per year.

52. ▶ India's Raghupati Singhania (JK Tyres CMD) has been awarded *Mexican order of the Aztec Eagle*, highest honour given to non-nationals by Government of Mexico.

53. ▶ Indian Army contingent comprising of 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group was awarded United Nations Medal for "selfless service", as part of United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

54. ▶ Indian International Film Awards (IIFA) 2018 -
   🖊 Best Film - Tumhari Sulu
   🖊 Best Actor in a leading role (Female) - Sridevi (MOM)
   🖊 Best Actor in a leading role (Male) - Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
   🖊 Best Actor In Supporting Role (Female) - Meher Vij (Secret Superstar)
   🖊 Best Actor In Supporting Role (Male) - Nawazzuddin Siddiqui (MOM)
   🖊 Best Director - Saket Chaudhary (Hindi Medium)
   🖊 Best Debut Director - Konkona Sensharma (A Death in the Gunj)
   🖊 Outstanding Achievement by an Actor in Indian Cinema - Anupam Kher
   🖊 Best Story - Amit V Masurkar (Newton)
   🖊 Best Music Direction - Amaal Mallik, Tanishk Bagchi, Akhil Sachdeva (Badrinath Ki Dulhania)
   🖊 Best Playback Singer Female - Meghna Mishra (Main Kaun Hoon - Secret Superstar)
   🖊 Best Playback Singer Male - Arijit Singh (Hawayein - Jab Harry Met Sejal)

55. ▶ Indian botanist Kamaljit Bawa received Linnean Medal in Botany from Linnean Society of London, becoming 1st Indian to receive this Honour. He was recognised for his pioneering research on evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation & non-timber forest products.

56. ▶ Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his contribution in field of social welfare.

57. ▶ Indu Jain, chairman of Bennett, Coleman & Co, India's largest media house, received All India Management Association's (AIMA's) annual award for lifetime contribution to media.

58. ▶ Industrial Awards (April 2018)-
   🖊 Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is awarded National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in category *Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents and Commercialization*.
   🖊 Agrochemical Firm Parijat Industries has been conferred *Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar* gold award 2017.

59. ▶ Industrial Awards (August 2018)-
   🖊 Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) received top honours at Swachhta Pakhwada Awards by oil ministry, with Indian Oil Corp (IOC) as runner-up.
   🖊 Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (marketers of popular milk brand Amul) has been awarded *Marketer of the Year* award by the International Advertising Association of India (IAAI).
   🖊 Indian-American Aruna Vishwanathan was one of 3 women honoured with 'Women in Business: Making a Difference Award' at 19th annual Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) gala in Houston (USA).
   🖊 Reliance Power subsidiary Reliance Power Netherlands BV has won an international arbitration award of USD 56 million (Rs 390 crore) against Prestige Capital Holdings (a Seychelles-based company) and Kokos Jiang.

60. ▶ Industrial Awards (July 2018) -
   🖊 Ravi Mehrotra (Chairman of Foresight Group International) received lifetime achievement award at Seatrade 30th Anniversary Award Ceremony in Landmark (London).

- India's Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project was among 8 projects that won World Bank's internal award for exceptional performance.
- India Heritage Walk Festival, a collaboration of Sahapedia and YES Arts & Culture, has been awarded PATA Gold Award 2018.
- A team comprising experts from Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur and University of Oxford based linguist Aditi Lahiri, has been selected for an awardfor exceptional research-led innovation to mitigate arsenic poisoning in Ganga-Brahmaputra delta in north and northeast India.
- Ajay Singh (SpiceJet CMD) received USISPF Leadership Award at the first Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) in Washington DC (USA).
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been awarded INFRA Icon Award in 'Global Energy' category at mid-day INFRA Icons Awards 2018 in Mumbai.
- HDFC named as best performing primary lending institution in Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for EWS (Economically Weaker Section) and LIG (Low Income Group) category.
- NBFC Repco Micro Finance received Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for 2017-18.

61. ▶ Industrial Awards (June 2018) -
- HDFC Bank recognized with Champion Security Award at 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit in Singapore, in South Asia category.
- Corporation Bank won under category *Best Expectation Management (Mid Cap)* for 2017-18, in awards instituted by Investor Relations Society India.
- Chennai-based startup Calzy 3 won Apple Design award 2018, along with 9 other startups from different countries. Calzy 3 is a customisable calculator that uses iOS technologies such as Drag & Drop to share results in other apps to help users perform day to day mathematical calculations.
- SVC Co-operative Bank received National Payments Excellence Award 2017 by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as highest recognition in banking industry for exceptional performance in payments system.
- Oriental Bank of Commerce has been awarded as best public sector bank for Atal Pension Yojana for year 2017-18.
- SKOCH conferred *Best performing Social Sector Ministry* award on Ministry of Women and Child Development. Also, Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance. Awards were conferred during 52nd SKOCH summit in New Delhi. Ministry of Shipping's flagship programme for port-led-prosperity 'Sagarmala' received the 'Gold Award' in infrastructure sector. Sagarmala Programme also received 'Order of Merit' at the Summit.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) received an award during X International IT Forum event in Russia, for its support and active participation at the forum, consecutively for 2 years.
- TechnipFMC has been honored with special recognition award for their community development initiative in India called 'Seed of Hope', at 13th National Convention 2018 at Shangri-La (Bengaluru).
- India won prestigious GRR Award for Most Improved Jurisdiction, in London (UK). It recognises jurisdiction that improved its restructuring and insolvency regime the most over last year.

62. ▶ Industrial Awards (May 2018) -
- Adarsh Credit won *Best Co-operative Society on digital platform* award in BFSI leadership Awards 2018. Adarsh Credit is first credit co-operative society in India to perform financial services digitally.
- Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech received National Technology Award for 2018 from government's Technology Development Board for its Rotavac vaccine.
- India's NMDC Limited won S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category, in London (UK). This is first time this award has been won by an Indian Company.
- Jagriti Yatra, An Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London, at Asian Voice Charity Awards by due diligence platform Charity Clarity.
- 2 case studies of IIM Calcutta received awards in 2017 European Foundation of Management Development case competition. It Includes awards for *SIMsePAY at YES BANK: Creating Value Through an UnSmart Innovation* and *Switch On Energy: Social innovation challenges at the bottom of the pyramid*.
- NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul (founder of Caparo Group of industries) has been presented a lifetime achievement award for his contributions in promoting brand India in UK. Business Leader of Decade honour was presented to Lord Karan Bilimoria (founder of Cobra Beer).

- 🖊 Guru N Reddy has been given UK & Asia Inspirational Business Leaders Award in London (UK). He will be featured in WCRC Leaders Magazinein June 2018 issue.
- 🖊 Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category, recognizing CSIR as top innovator. Clarivate Analytics – formerly IP & Science division of Thomson Reuters - recognizes most innovative companies in India according to patent-related metrics.
- 🖊 HDFC bank recognized with Champion Security Award (2nd time) at 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit,in India & South Asia category.

63. ▶ Industrial Awards (September 2018) -
- 🖊 Panchpatmali bauxite mine of National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) won 5 awards at 20th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) week, held under guidance of Indian Bureau of Mines.
- 🖊 Kerala Tourism won 2 gold awards of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns, in *Travel Advertisement Print* and *Travel Poster* categories.
- 🖊 Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) became first ever metro rail corporation from India to win International 'Royal Society For The Prevention Of Accidents' (RoSPA) Award (Silver).
- 🖊 Manatec, Pondicherry-based garage equipment manufacturer, won Innovation Award at Automechanika, a leading trade fair in Germany. It won for its innovation of JUMBO 3D – World's 1st 3D Wheel Aligner for Multi-Axle Trucks, Buses & Trailers.

64. ▶ Irish author Mike McCormack won the $100000 International Dublin Literary Award 2018 for his novel Solar Bones. The novel is written in a single sentence which comes across as really accomplished storytelling.  With €100000 cash, it is world's largest prize for a single novel published in English. *Solar Bones* Novel is told by a ghost on All Souls' Day and was turned away by major publishers as too uncommercial.

65. ▶ Jaipur-based poet and writer Sawai Singh Shekhawat will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.

66. ▶ Jnanpith Awardee M T Vasudevan Nair won 2018's ONV Literary Prize, instituted in memory of iconic poet late O N V Kurup, for his contributions to Malayalam literature.

67. ▶ K.Anvar Sadath became first Indian to receive the International Contributions Award given by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), USA. He is vice chairman and executive director of the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) also known as IT@school Project.

68. ▶ Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony won an international award, in best caricature category. He is among 9 winners at 13th World Press Cartoon awards in Lisbon (Portugal).

69. ▶ Kerala's Cochin International Airport has been selected for the Champion of Earth Prize-2018.
- 🖊 Cochin Airport a first in world to be fully powered by solar energy, with solar capacity to be increased to 40 MWp.
- 🖊 CIAL stands 4th in country in terms of international traffic and seventh in total traffic has handled 10 million passengers in 2017-18.

70. ▶ Kutch (Gujarat) based Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank won Banco Award for best performing cooperative bank. It also stood third in category at National level. Banco Award is given anually to top performing banks in cooperative banking sector.

71. ▶ Lalit Kala Akademi conferred awards of 1st Print Biennale India 2018 (PBI) in New Delhi. Arup Kumar Kuity (Andhra Pradesh), Satya Narayana Gavara (Andhra Pradesh), Preya Bhagat (Uttar Pradesh), Purvi Parmar (Gujrat) and Sonal Varshneya (Uttar Pradesh) were awardees.

72. ▶ Madhya Pradesh has been awarded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan-PMSMA), from 221 in 2011-13 to just 173.

73. ▶ Madhya Pradesh is named as *Most Film Friendly State* for its efforts Including creating a well-structured web site, film friendly infrastructure, offering incentives etc. Jury was headed by Ramesh Sippy. Uttarakhand is given a Special Mention Certificate to recognize efforts made by State towards creating a film friendly environment. Awards will be conferred along with National Film Awards on May 3, 2018.

74. ▶ Maharashtra government's 'Lata Mangeshkar Award' for 2018 will be conferred on Vijay Patil, of music director duo Raam-Laxman. The annual award is declared on the birthday of the legendary singer, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, On her birthday (Sep 28).

75. ▶ Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM) has been conferred with UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals..
- 🖊 UNIATF on Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates activities of relevant UN organizations and other inter-governmental organizations to support Governments to meet high-level commitments to respond to NCD epidemics worldwide.

76. ▶ Milan Shankar Tare, a fisherman of Palghar district, Maharashtra, is selected for 2018 National Maritime Search and Rescue Award. He saved lives of 12 people from a sinking fishing boat named Shivneri in May 2018.

77. ▶ Minister of IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of Andhra Pradesh Nara Lokesh received *Digital Leader of the Year* award, at Businessworld Digital India Summit Award 2018 in New Delhi.

78. ▶ Minister of Railways & Coal, Piyush Goyal distributed awards to winning stations of Station Beautification competition in Rail Bhawan. Balharshah & Chandrapur Railway Stations of Central Railway have been awarded first prize.

79. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences observed its foundation day. Several Scientists were awarded on this occasion -
   - ✎ Life Time Excellence award - K. S. Valdiya (JNCASR, Bengaluru)
   - ✎ National award for women scientist - Kusala Rajendran (IISc, Bengaluru)

80. ▶ Mohammed Ayazuddin Patel won Senior Fellowship Award for 2016-17 instituted by Centre for Cultural Resources and Training Centre (Ministry of Culture). It carries a cash of INR 4.8 lakh.

81. ▶ Mohun Bagan Awards 2018 -
   - ✎ Mohun Bagan Ratna - Pradip Chowdhury
   - ✎ Best Footballer for 2017-18 - Shilton Paul (Goalkeeper)
   - ✎ Best Cricketer - Sudip Chatterjee
   - ✎ Best Youth Footballer - Sourav Das
   - ✎ Special award - Rahim Ali (for his performance in U-17 World Cup)

82. ▶ Nadiya Shafi, video reporter from Srinagar received 2018's 'Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment', for her contribution to gender equality. It has been instituted in memory of Dr. Martha Farrell, an eminent activist for gender equality and women's empowerment.

83. ▶ National Sports Awards 2018 -
   - ✎ Selection Committees Headed by -
      - ✎ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards - Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar
      - ✎ Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards - Justice Mukul Mudgal
      - ✎ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar - Rahul Bhatnagar (Secretary (Sports)).
      - ✎ MAKA Trophy - Ashok Kumar (former Olympian).
   - ✎ Winners -
      - ✎ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna - (Given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year)

| S. No. | Name | Discipline |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Ms. S. Mirabai Chanu | Weightlifting |
| 2. | Virat Kohli | Cricket |

   - ✎ Dronacharya Awards (for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events)

| S. No. | Name of the Coach | Discipline |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ✎ | Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa | Boxing |
| ✎ | Vijay Sharma | Weightlifting |
| ✎ | A. Srinivasa Rao | Table Tennis |
| ✎ | Sukhdev Singh Pannu | Athletics |
| ✎ | Clarence Lobo | Hockey (Life Time) |
| ✎ | Tarak Sinha | Cricket (Life Time) |
| ✎ | Jiwan Kumar Sharma | Judo (Life Time) |
| ✎ | V.R. Beedu | Athletics (Life Time) |

   - ✎ Arjuna Awards 2018 (For consistency outstanding performance for four years)

| S. No. | Name of the Sportsperson | Discipline |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ✎ | Neeraj Chopra | Athletics |
| ✎ | Naib Subedar Jinson Johnson | Athletics |
| ✎ | Hima Das | Athletics |
| ✎ | Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy | Badminton |

| | Subedar Satish Kumar | Boxing |
|---|---|---|
| | Smriti Mandhana | Cricket |
| | Shubhankar Sharma | Golf |
| | Manpreet Singh | Hockey |
| | Ms. Savita | Hockey |
| | Col. Ravi Rathore | Polo |
| | Rahi Sarnobat | Shooting |
| | Ankur Mittal | Shooting |
| | Shreyasi Singh | Shooting |
| | Manika Batra | Table Tennis |
| | G. Sathiyan | Table Tennis |
| | Rohan Bopanna | Tennis |
| | Sumit | Wrestling |
| | Pooja Kadian | Wushu |
| | Ankur Dhama | Para-Athletics |
| | Manoj Sarkar | Para-Badminton |

✎ Dhyan Chand Award 2018 (For life time contribution to sports development )

| S. No. | Name of the Sportsperson | Discipline |
|---|---|---|
| | Satyadev Prasad | Archery |
| | Bharat Kumar Chetri | Hockey |
| | Bobby Aloysius | Athletics |
| | Chougale Dadu Dattatray | Wrestling |

✎ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development)

| S. No. | Category | Name of the entity |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Identification and Nurturing of Budding & Young Talent | Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited |
| 2. | Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility | JSW Sports |
| 3. | Sports for Development | Isha Outreach |

✎ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2017-18 (Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments ) - Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

84. ▶ New York based Indian Writer Mimi Mondal become first Indian to be nominated for this year's Hugo awards, for best literary works of science fiction or fantasy in best related works category.

85. ▶ Nisha Bhalla has been presented *Excellent Woman of Excellence* award at WEF (Women Economic Forum) at Annual WEF Awards.

86. ▶ Nobel Laureate Child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi and ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar have been honored by *Santokbaa Humanitarian Award.*

87. ▶ Noted Actor Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured by European Union for strengthening Europe-India cultural ties.

88. ▶ Noted American director Martin Scorsese will be conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award at the Rome Film Festival 2018.

89. ▶ Noted Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be conferred with Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with Raj Kapoor Special Contribution award. These awards are instituted by Maharashtra state government, given away at 55th Maharashtra state Marathi Film Festival.

90. ▶ Noted Bollywood actor Prem Chopra honoured with living legend prize at 25th annual Bharat Nirman awards.

91. ▶ Noted Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam selected for 2018 Sangita Kalanidhi award of Music Academy. She will preside over 92nd annual conference to be held in December 2018 to January 2019. Other awards -

✎ Sangita Kala Acharya award: - Mridangist Thanjavur R. Ramadoss and vocalist K. Oman Kutty.

- T.K. Awards - Veena player Kalyani Ganesan and nadaswaram player S.R.G. Rajanna.
- Musicologist award - Premeela Gurumurthy( Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu University).
- Nritiya Kalanidhi award - Shanta Dhananjayan.

92. Noted Chemistry Scientist C N R Rao has been awarded DSc by Presidency University (Kolkata).

93. Noted Indian actress Late Sridevi has been posthumously conferred with BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.

94. Noted Indian-Australian mathematician Akshay Venkatesh is among 4 winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for maths. Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize. Other three winners are: Caucher Birkar (Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin), Germany's Peter Scholze and Italian mathematician Alessio Figalli.

95. Noted Odia Poet Ramakanta Rath is conferred with Odisha's highest literary award Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman for 2018. It carries a citation and cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. He was given the award for his life time contribution to Odia literature. iv. Apart from Mr.Rath, the Akademi also felicitated 15 other litterateurs of the state.

96. Noted Odia poet Satrughna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad', to be awarded by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT).

97. Noted Singer Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.

98. Noted actor Anupam Kher will be honored with Lifetime Achievement honour at upcoming International Indian Film Academy awards ceremony in Bangkok (Thailand).

99. Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon received National Kalidas Samman for visual arts from Madhya Pradesh government.

100. Noted children's writer Ramendra Kumar honoured at 36th International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Congress in Athens (Greece).

101. Noted lyricist Javed Akhtar received *Shanti Doot* award by Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir Trust in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).

102. Noted neurosurgeon B.K. Misra has been named for this year's prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award as an Eminent Medical Person of Year, given by Medical Council of India (since 1962). It will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1 next year (National Doctors Day).

103. Noted singer Asha Bhosle honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for contribution in the field of Indian music.

104. Noted social activist Pushpa Bhave received *Rajarshi Shahu Puraskar* in Kolhapur (Maharashtra). Rajarshi Shahu Puraskar award is given in memory of Rajarshi Shahu, a well-known social reformer. It consists of a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

105. Olga Tokarczuk became First Author from Poland to win Man Booker International Prize, after she won 2018 title for her novel *Flights*, which charts multiple journeys in time, space and human anatomy. It was published in Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.
- Man Booker International Prize is counterpart to Man Booker Prize for English-language novels presented by Man Group. It is open to books in any language that have been translated into English. It carries monetary award of £50,000 award which is split evenly between writer and translator.

106. PM Narendra Modi has been awarded the United Nations highest environmental honour 'Champions of the Earth' for his leadership of the band pledge to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022. Awards will be presented during Champions of the Earth Gala in New York, on sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly. Other Awardees are -
- French President Emmanuel Macron.
- India's Cochin International Airport - Awarded in Entrepreneurial Vision category. It is world's first fully solar-powered airport.
- Joan Carling - Awarded lifetime achievement award as a prominent defender of environmental and indigenous rights.
- Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods - Jointly recognised in Science and Innovation category.
- China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme - Awarded in inspiration and action category.

107. PM Narendra Modi honoured Manipur's Karang as first cashless island of country. Due to efforts of administration, various processes have been digitazed and automated, with more transparency. Other honours/awards -
- Banka district administration in Bihar – Reinventing education using technology.
- Assam's Dhemaji and Telangana's Karimnagar – best implementation of 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana'.
- Himachal Pradesh's Kangra and Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch – Best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin).

108. Prajnesh Gunneswaran won T.K. Ramanathan award 2017-18 at by Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).

109. President Ram Nath Kovind conferred Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards -
- 3 Kirti Chakras -
  - Pramod kumar (posthumous)
  - Giris gurung (posthumous)

- Preetam Singh Kunwar
- 13 Shaurya Chakras -
  - Gosavi Kunal Munnagir (posthumous)
  - Raghubeer Singh (posthumous)
  - Kashmir singh
  - Shabir ahmed
  - Vikash jakhar
  - Riyazalam ansari
  - Deepak ale
  - Pradeep shoury arya
  - Manchu
  - Rabindra thapa
  - Narender singh
  - Akhil raj rv
  - Devendra Mehta Param
- 13 Param Vishisht Seva Medals
- 2 UttamYudhSeva Medals
- 2 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals
- 26 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals

110. President Ram Nath Kovind presented Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for 2013-2017 -
- 2013 - Najma Heptulla
- 2014 - Hukmdev Narayan Yadav
- 2015 - Ghulam Nabi Azad
- 2016 - Dinesh Trivedi
- 2017 - Bhartruhari Mahtab

111. President Ram Nath Kovind presented Visitor's Awards 2018, for Research in Basic and Applied Science, Humanities, Arts and Social Science.
- Sanjay K. Jain's - Development of a drug delivery system having the potential to make cancer treatment more effective and affordable.
- Ashis Kumar Mukherjee – Research on molecular complexity of snake venom.
- Ashwani Pareek – Development of a rice variety with potential to increase farm productivity and income of farmers.
- Pramod K. Nayar – Work in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

112. Pulitzer Prizes 2018 (annual award for achievements in journalism, literature, and musical composition in USA) -
- Letters, Drama & Music -
  - Fiction - Less, by Andrew Sean Greer.
  - Drama - Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok.
  - History - The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis (Liveright/W.W. Norton).
  - Biography or Autobiography - Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser
  - Poetry - Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart.
  - General Nonfiction - Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America by James Forman Jr
  - Music - Kendrick Lamar. He is first rapper in history to receive Pulitzer Prize in music for his album Damn.
- Journalism -
  - Public Service - New York Times.
  - Breaking News Reporting - Staff of The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, Calif.
  - Investigative Reporting - The Washington Post
  - Explanatory Reporting - The Arizona Republic and USA Today Network
  - Local Reporting - The Cincinnati Enquirer Staff
  - National Reporting - New York Times and Washington Post
  - International Reporting - Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall and Manuel Mogato of Reuters
  - Feature Writing - Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, freelance reporter, GQ
  - Commentary - John Archibald of Alabama Media Group, Birmingham, Ala.

- Criticism - Jerry Saltz of New York magazine
- Editorial Writing - Andie Dominick of The Des Moines Register.
- Editorial Cartooning - Jake Halpern, freelance writer and Michael Sloan, freelance cartoonist, New York Times.
- Breaking News Photography - Ryan Kelly of The Daily Progress
- Feature Photography - Photography Staff of Reuters

113. Railways annnounces awards for beautification for Railway Stations -
   - Balharshah and Chandrapur stations (Nagpur Division) of Central Railway awarded first prize.
   - Madhubani Railway station under East Central Railway in Bihar is 2nd.
   - Kota Station (West Central), Gandhidham Station (Western Railway) & Secunderabad Station (South Central) are at 3rd place.

114. Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman conferred DRDO Awards 2016 & 2017 to various DRDO scientists, Including -
   - V KSaraswat - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award 2017
   - Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award 2016
   - G Satheesh Reddy - Technology Leadership Award 2016
   - P Sivakumar (*Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) (Chennai) director*) -
   - YST Raju - Scientist of the Year 2016
   - S Pazhanikumar - Scientist of the Year 2017
   - *Navrachna* implementation programme was also launched during the event.

115. Rana Kapoor, MD and CEO of Yes Bank, has been given *India Talent Management Award 2018* by TV news channel CNBC-TV18 for fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and best practices at the bank.

116. RedInk awards for excellence in journalism, by Mumbai Press Club -
   - Lifetime achievement in journalism - British journalist William Mark Tully.
   - Journalist of the year - Faye D'Souze (Mirror Now channel).
   - Apart from these two awards, Redink awards for excellence in journalism are awarded in 13 categories to 32 journalists.

117. Retired English professional footballer David Beckham will be presented 2018 UEFA President's Award by European football's governing body.

118. SK Arora (Delhi) has been awarded World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.

119. Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor of *The Wire* won Shorenstein Journalism Award, given annually by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.

120. Singer Asha Bhosle, Writer Samaresh Majumdar, Bengali Actor Prosenjit Chatterjee , Justice (Retd.) Shyamal Kumar Sen and Footballer Subrata Bhattacharya are awardees of Banga Bhushan Award this Year, the highest civilian award of West Bengal.

121. Singer Zubeen Garg honoured with *Hero to Animals Award* from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India for his recent appeal to end animal sacrifice at Kamakhya Temple in Assam.

122. Smart Cities Awards 2018 -
   - 9 awards in three categories - Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award announced.
   - City award  - Surat (Gujarat).
   - Innovative Idea award  - Bhopal (Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)) and Ahmedabad (Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project).
   - Project awards  - Given to innovative and successful projects in seven categories
     - Governance - PMC Care from Pune.
     - Built Environment - Smart Place Making from Pune under
     - Social Aspects - Smart Class rooms from NDMC and Jabalpur, Smart Campus from Visakhapatnam, Lighthouse from Pune
     - Culture and Economy - B Nest Incubation Centre from Bhopal and Conservation of Rajasthan School of Arts from Jaipur
     - Urban environment - Public Bike Sharing from Bhopal, Pune, Coimbatore and Waste to Energy Plant in Jabalpur
     - Transport and Mobility - Integrated Transit Management System (TMS) from Ahmedabad and Surat
     - Water and Sanitation - Smart Water Management through SCADA from Ahmedabad

123. Social Activist Ulka Mahajan has been conferred with Praful Bidwai memorial award 2018.
   - Award was instituted in memory of journalist and social activist "Praful Bidwai" who died in Amsterdam in 2015.

124. Social network Firm Facebook selected 3 Indian women (among 115 selected globally) for $1 million award as part of its Community Leadership Programme. They are Adhunika Prakash, Chetana Misra and Tamanna Dhamija, awarded $50,000 in fellowship each.
   - Adhunika Prakash - founded non-profit Breastfeeding Support for Indian Moms in Pune.

- Chetana Misra - founded Mompreneurs India, community of like-minded women, allowing them to network, share knowledge and contacts and benefit from partnerships to start business and take it online.
- Tamanna Dhamija - Created Baby Destination, that helps mothers exchange information and support one another.

125. ▶ Sri Lanka-born Canadian Author Michael Ondaatje's bestselling novel 'The English Patient' is announced as he winner of Golden Man Booker Prize in London. The prize was instituted as part of celebrations to mark Booker's having completed 50 years.
- He aso made it to Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel *Warlight*. Organizers announced 13 books in long list for prestigious award, chosen from 171 submissions.

126. ▶ Three Indian alumni of UK universities (Saumya Saxena, Ruchi Shah and Sushant Desai), have been awarded by British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to country.
- Saumya Saxena - *Professional Achievement Award*.
- Ruchi Shah - *Social Impact Award*
- Sushant Desai - *Entrepreneurial Award*

127. ▶ Three US scientists James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg are declared winners of 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.

128. ▶ UEFA Awards 2018 -
- Croatia captain Luka Modric voted best player in Europe.
- Best women's player award was won by Pernille Harder of Denmark and Wolfsburg.
- 2018 UEFA President's Award was given to David Beckham, Johan Cruyff, Franz Beckenbauer, Eusebio and Sir Bobby Charlton.

129. ▶ US-based Kathak dancer *Anindita Anaam* has been presented *Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018* at *Jayadev International Dance Festival* in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

130. ▶ USA awarded Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to Former Indian Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag, for exceptional service as chief of Indian Army. With this, he became 2nd Indian to get this award, first being General Rajendrasinghji Jadeja in 1946.

131. ▶ West Bengal's Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) won Central Govt's award for best Gram Panchayat in country, as per a survey conducted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district has been shortlisted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's excellence award for promoting digital payments and cashless economy.

132. ▶ World Food Prize 2018 has been awarded to British Economist Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro (UK) for their contribution in elevating maternal and child undernutrition within food security. They will share $250,000 prize equally.

133. ▶ Xhoixobote Dhemalite (*Rainbow fields*), an Assamese film directed by Bidyut Kotoky has won an award for screenplay at Treasure Coast International Film Festival in Florida (USA).

**Top**

**Books**

1. ▶ 3 New Books released -
- Jewellery - Gulab Kothari
- Ghats of Banaras - Sachidanand Joshi
- Untold Story of Broadcasting - Gautam Chatterjee

2. ▶ *Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple*, final book of Vineet Bajpai's Harappa trilogy has been released. First 2 books of series are *Harappa: Curse of the Blood River* and *Pralay: The Great Deluge*.

3. ▶ A coffee-table book titled *Narendra Modi: A Charismatic & Visionary Statesman* written by BJP president Amit Shah has been released.0

4. ▶ Actor Priyanka Chopra will come out with her memoir in 2019, with name *Unfinished*.

5. ▶ Australian Cricketer Shane Warne written his autobiography titled *No Spin,* to be released in October 2018.

6. ▶ Author Preeti Shenoy's new book named *The Rule Breakers* has been released.

7. ▶ Author Sundeep Misra will write a book on life of Indian Female Sprinter Dutee Chand, who rose from abject poverty to become one of India's biggest sprinting stars. Title of book will be titled *Story so Far*.

8. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917 -
- Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' by Arvind Mohan
- Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar
- Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi' collected and edited by Srikant.

9. ▶ Book *Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System* written by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan has been released.

10. ▶ Book *Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker*, written by *Pavan Varma*.

11. ▶ Book *Bebak Baat*, authored by Vijay Goel (*Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation*) has been released.

12. ▶ Book *Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project*, authored by Bidyut Chakrabarty has been released.

13. ▶ Book *Gandhi The years that changed the world (1914-1948)*, has been written by Ramachandra Guha. It will be released in September 2018.

14. ▶ Book *Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos,* collection of essays and lectures by Dr. R.P. Dhokalia has been launched.

15. ▶ Book *My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism* by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao has been released.

16. ▶ Book *Straight Talk* authored by Member of Rajya Sabha, Abhishek Manu Singh has been released.

17. ▶ Book *Two Classical Plays from India,* English translation of Hindi plays written by DP Sinha has been released.

18. ▶ Book *Vedvigyan Alok*, written by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik has been released.

19. ▶ Book *Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System,* developed by POSOCO in collaboration with IMD has been released. It aims to facilitate enhanced utilization of Weather Portal in all spheres of Power Sector.

20. ▶ Book *When Coal Turned Gold: The Making of a Maharatna Company,* written by Coal India Ltd (CIL)'s former chairman Partha Sarathi Bhattacharyya has been released.

21. ▶ Book *Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly*, written by Abhirup Bhattacharya has been released.

22. ▶ Book *Winning like Sachin: Think & Succeed like Tendulkar* authored by Devendra Prabhudesai has bee released.

23. ▶ Book on Life of Former PM who passed away recently, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, titled *Atal Ji Ne Kaha* has been released. It is Authored by Brijendra Rai.

24. ▶ Books *A Treatise on Cleanliness* and *Waste Management, an Introduction*, written by Rajat Bhargava have been released.

25. ▶ Cricket journalist Boria Majumdar's new book *Eleven Gods and A Billion Indians* has been released.

26. ▶ Famed Harry Potter Series British Author J K Rowling will launch her new novel, with name *Lethal White,* as 4th in series about exploits of private investigator Cormoran Strike under her pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

27. ▶ Hindi, Kannada, Telugu and Gujarati versions of Book *Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour*, written by Prasar Bharti Chairman Surya Prakash Have been released.

28. ▶ Indian cricketer VVS Laxman written his autobiography named *281 and Beyond*. It will be released in November 2018.

29. ▶ NABARD released book on Indian Crops named *Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops*', based on a study of 10 important crops.

30. ▶ New Book *Shades of Truth: A Journey Derailed*, written by Former Congress MP Kapil Sibal has been released.

31. ▶ Noted wildlife photographer Latika Nath unveiled her New book *Hidden India*.

32. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Odia edition of book 'Exam Warriors' written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

33. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released book *Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office,* written by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu to mark his 1 year in office.

34. ▶ Sea Prayer, new book of writer Khaled Hosseini has been released.

35. ▶ Special booklet *80-years of Odisha Budget – A Commemorative Volume* was released by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik. Odisha annual budget increased from 1.77 crore in 1936-37 to Rs 1.2 lakh crores in 2018-19. Odisha is first state to bring out such a compilation. State government came up with a separate agricultural budget in 2016.

36. ▶ WWF-India launched its first-ever comic book named *The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Billy*, written by Rohan Chakravarty and Bijal Vachharajani.

**Committees**

1. ▶ 15th Fifteenth Finance Commission constituted a high level group consisting of eminent experts from across country in Health Sector. Randeep Guleria (Director of AIIMS Delhi) will be its Convenor (Chairman). It will evaluate existing regulatory framework in Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for enabling a balanced yet faster expansion of health sector. It will also examine best international practices for health sector and seek to benchmark our frameworks to these practices for optimizing benefits.

2. ▶ 5G steering committee chaired by Stanford University's Professor AJ Paulraj submitted its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT). It was set up by Government in September 2017 to suggest a road map for adoption of 5G. Recommendations Include -

   🖊 It expects commercial rollout of 5G in India by 2020 and advance to full range of services by 2024.

- Deployment of 5G in India should be classified into three phases based on technologies and use cases.
- Early adoption will likely make equipment needed for 5G roll out more expensive and it will also be glitchy as needed for cost maturing. However, early adoption will fast track India's embrace of 5G's benefits and increase opportunities.
- After entry of 5G into Indian telecom sector, earlier generation mobile technologies – 2G, 3G and 4G, will take over 10 years to phase out.

3. A 30 member parliamentary panel headed by Murali Manohar Joshi will study recovery of black money & performance of public sector banks.

4. A Committee headed by Justice Rajesh Bindal (Judge in Chandigarh High Court), submitted its report today on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children. Stressing upon need for mediation as the first step, Committee recommended establishing an 'Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority'.

5. A High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility – 2018 (HLC-2018) constituted under Chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas (Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)) to review existing framework and guide and formulate the roadmap for a coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

6. A Task Force headed by Preeti Saran on *Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)* submitted its report to Home Minister Rajnath Singh. It includes Business case for coalition, Analysis of best practices of international partnerships in disaster risk and other thematic areas lead by India, Preliminary design of coalition AND Roll – out plan.

7. A Uttar Pradesh Government committee suggested recommendations aimed at providing a solution to completion of homes in stalled projects of Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway. Committee was chaired by Durga Shankar Mishra (Secretary in Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)).

8. BN Srikrishna Committee submitted its report on data protection law, applicable for processing of personal data within India. Provisions -
- Critical personal data of Indian citizens shall be processed in centres located within country. It leaves it to Central Government to notify categories of personal data that will be considered as critical.
- Some personal data can be transferred outside India with some riders,with 1 copy stored in India.
- Recommends setting up of a Data Protection Authority (DPA) to prevent misuse of personal information and also provides for setting up an Appellate Tribunal.
- It suggests a penalty of Rs 15 crore or 4 % of total worldwide turnover of any data collection entity for violating provisions.
- Failure to take prompt action on a data security breach can attract up to Rs 5 crore or 2 percent of turnover as a penalty.

9. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) constituted 5-member working group (committee) to examine taxation aspects related to High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) who are migrating abroad to other jurisdictions. It will be headed by Pragya Sahay Saksena.

10. Central government constituted a coordination committee to work on discharge of floodwaters between Kerala-Tamilnadu, amid heavy rainfall and floods in Kerala. Committee is headed by Central Water Commission Chairman Narendra Kumar.

11. Committee on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 submitted its reort to Finance Ministry. It was constituted in July 2018 to review framework for dealing with offences under Companies Act 2013 and make recommendations to promote better corporate compliance. It was headed by Injeti Srinivas (Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs). Main recommendations Include -
- Restructuring of Corporate Offences to relieve Special Courts from adjudicating routine offences - Re-categorization of 16 out of the 81 compoundable offences by shifting them from the jurisdiction of special courts to an in-house E-adjudication framework
- De-clogging NCLT by -
  - Enlarging jurisdiction of Regional Director with enhanced pecuniary limits for compounding of offences.
  - Vesting in Central Government the power to approve alteration in financial year of a company.
- Recommendations related to corporate compliance and corporate governance
  - Re-introduction of declaration of commencement of business provision to better tackle the menace of 'shell companies'.
  - Greater disclosures with respect to public deposits, particularly in respect of transactions exempted from the definition of public deposits.

12. Culture Ministry formed three high-powered panels that will work to set up a unique museum on Theme *Prime Ministers of India*' in New Delhi. It will tell the story of all prime ministers of country. Formed Committes and their tasks are -
- Content Committee and Project implementation committes headed by Shakti Sinha.
- Swapan Dasgupta Committee - Will vet content for curation for museum

13. During 30th Meeting of GST Council, 7-Member Group of Ministers (GoM) was tasked to examine proposal of Kerala Goverment for imposition of Cess on SGST for rehabilitation and flood affected works this issue in depth. Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar is Convenor of the GoM.

14. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) constituted 3 member committee to look into draft food labelling and display regulations-Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2018, headed by B Sesikeran.

15. ▶ GST Council constituted 2 Group of Ministers (GoM) -
    ✏️ First GoM - Will consider issues relating to incentivizing digital payments in GST regime, with Sushil Kumar Modi (Deputy CM of Bihar) as convenor.
    ✏️ Second GoM - Will consider issues relating to imposition of Cess on Sugar under GST. Himanta Biswa Sarma (Finance Minister of Assam) is its convenor.

16. ▶ GST panel under Sushil Kumar Modi (*Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister*) recommended that there shall be no additional tax incentives for digital transactions for a year, claiming that it is not an appropriate moment to incentivise digital payments as it will have revenue implications.

17. ▶ Government constituted Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu, to advise Prime Minister on whether to continue or withdraw from 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.

18. ▶ Government constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review Competition Act, which was passed in 2002 and Competition Commission of India was set up. Commission started functioning from 2009. The commitee is headed by Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Currently Injeti Srinivas).

19. ▶ Government constituted a Task Force under chairmanship of Jayant Sinha (Minister of State for Civil Aviation) for fast-tracking roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.

20. ▶ Government constituted a committee headed by Home Secretary (Currently Rajiv Gauba), to check incidents of Mob lynching in counrtry after some recent violent incidents.

21. ▶ Government constituted a group to study Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India (implemented from 01st April, 2000), to be headed by Bharat Forge Chairman Baba Kalyani. Group will evaluate SEZ policy, suggest measures to cater to needs of exporters in present economic scenario and make SEZ policy WTO compatible, suggest course correction in SEZ policy.

22. ▶ Government constituted a high-level task force under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha to identify measures to reduce dependence on imports. It will suggest ways to cut import of those items which can be manufactured or explored in country. India is heavily dependent on imports, as India's imports stand at around US $450 billion per year.

23. ▶ Government constituted new 21-member advisory panel on science, technology and innovation called Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). It will be headed by Principal Scientific Advisor to government K Vijay Raghavan.

24. ▶ Government has set up a 13-member committee for Sub-National Accounts to be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia. Its aim is to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation.

25. ▶ Government has set up a Chief Ministers Subgroup to Coordinate Policy Approaches for Agriculture and MGNREGS with CM of Madhya Pradesh (Currently Shivraj Singh Chouhan) as Convener. Sub-Group will submit its report within 3 months.

26. ▶ Government has set up a committee headed by former Chief Statistician of India TCA Anant to bring in transparency in jobs data calculation. It look into the limitations of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES).

27. ▶ Government has set up a committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in country, to be headed by E Sreedharan (known as metro man of India), who is credited with creation of Konkan Railway and Delhi Metro.

28. ▶ Government has set up a committee under Chairmanship of Anil Swarup, to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS). It will deal with on issues like expansion, strengthening training infrastructure, rationalizing resources, reducing manpower deficiency affecting NCC and NSS.

29. ▶ Government has set up a group of secretaries to look into concerns being raised on some proposals of draft e-commerce policy. It will be headed by secretary in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

30. ▶ Government has set up an executive committee under PM Narendra Modi *to spread M K Gandhi's legacy* among people at national & international level.

31. ▶ Govt. constituted an eight-member search committee, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.

32. ▶ Haryana government constituted an inter-district council, under chairmanship of CM Manohar Lal Khattar, to identify developmental priorities of Haryana. Also, State's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment announced a special campaign to control the menace of drugs.

33. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up 10-member committee headed by Suresh Mathur (ED-IMF, IRDA), to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in country.

34. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a working group to update norms for insurance surveyors, to be headed by Yegna Priya Bharat. It will address areas pertaining to licensing, renewal and IIISLA membership in context of existing regulatory framework for surveyors and loss assessors.

35. ▶ Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. P.J. Joseph is appointed as Chairman of committee.

36. ▶ Justice Mukul Mudgal is named as Chairman of 11-member selection committee to pick this year's Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awardees, given as part of National Sports Awards ceremony to be held on September 25.

37. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a committee to study issues related to development of a 1,000-MW floating solar power plant at Ujani dam in Solapur district, headed by Satish Chavan.

38. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry constituted a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to address challenges in order to find a way forward in the contemporary global trade scenario, under chairmanship of Surjit S. Bhalla.

39. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) constituted 12-member committee to review enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under Companies Act 2013. It will be headed by Manmohan Juneja.

40. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) constituted a 10 Member Committee headed by Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Injeti Srinivas), for review of penal provisions in Companies Act, 2013.

41. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has set up a committee to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced),after inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year. It committee will be headed by IIT-Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthy.

42. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a committee under Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama to Suggest Way to Make Mathematics study easier for students.

43. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a Committee to examine entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by CBSE with a view to prevent leakages, to be headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi.

44. ▶ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted 10-member committee to regulate online portals, including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators.

45. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed S J Vazifdar as head of a committee to decide mining company Vedanta plea challenging closure of its Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin.

46. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a committee to oversee the rejuvenation work of river Ganga, to be headed by a former Allahabad high court judge, who will be nominated by current chief justice of Allahabad high court (Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale currently). NGT also formed a committee to look into whether sub regional plans for protection of Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs).

47. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a monitoring committee headed by Justice S P Garg to prepare a time-bound action plan on groundwater recharge in Delhi.

48. ▶ National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee on cleaning of Yamuna River, to be headed by NGT Chairman Adarsh Kumar Goel. NGT asked state governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to assist committee on Yamuna rejuvenation.

49. ▶ Odisha government has set up ministerial committee headed by Finance Minister Sashi Bhusan Behera to draft policies for development of Odia film industry, known as Ollywood.

50. ▶ RBI constituted an inter-departmental group to provide guidance on feasibility to introduce fiat digital currency backed by it.
   ✎ Fiat Digital Currency (Central bank digital currency) is digital form of fiat money which is currency established as money by government regulation. As opposed to private digital tokens, fiat digital currency will be issued by central bank. Fiat Digital Currency will constitute liability of central bank, and will be in circulation in addition to widely used paper and metallic currency.

51. ▶ SEBI panel headed by Former RBI Deputy Governor HR Khan proposed relaxing of rules for investment in FPIs by NRIs. NRIs will be allowed to invest as FPIs if the single holding is under 25% and group holding under 50% in a fund.

52. ▶ Scientists discovered largest dinosaur foot ever, with a width of around 1 metre, supposedly belonging to a Brachiosaurus, that inhabited North America 150 million years ago. This is largest dinosaur foot discovered till now. The footmarks were spotted in a Wyoming (USA) in 1998, identified 20 years Later.

53. ▶ Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC) headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh completed its deliberations on all 273 recommendations of Punchhi Commission, completing work on Punchhi Commission Report, which is pending for eight years.
   ✎ Government constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under Chairmanship of former Chief Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission made 273 recommendations in its seven volume report that was presented to Government on March 30, 2010.

54. ▶ Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into the aspect of jail reforms across country.

55. ▶ To resolve issued of Stressed Thermal Power Assets, Government has set up a High Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary (Pradeep Kumar Sinha). It would look into the various issues with a view to resolve them and maximise efficiency of investment in sector.

56. ▶ Union Government has appointed former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan as the head of panel that has been tasked with selecting India's next chief economic advisor (CEA).

57. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) formed constituted a committee under M.M. Salunkhe, to look into matters related to examination reforms.

58. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government constituted a committee to listen to the demands of 'shiksha mitras' and suggest a suitable action plan, headed by Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma.

59. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu (also Chairman of Rajya Sabha) constituted a 2-member committee to review rules of procedure and conduct of business in Rajya Sabha, headed by V.K. Agnihotri and S.R. Dhaleta as other member.

## Days

1. ▶ 2019 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) in January 6-9, 2019, with theme *Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India*.

2. ▶ 20th of May 2018 is first World Bee day, declared by United Nations General Assembly. First World Bee Day celebrations held in Slovenia.

3. ▶ 28 September: World Rabies Day. 2018 theme is *Rabies: Share the message. Save a life*. It seeks to raise awareness about impact of rabies on animals and human beings. It is also observed as UNESCO International Day for Universal Access to Information.

4. ▶ 2nd Anniversary of Surgical Strike celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 - 30, 2018 by Indian Army to showcase gallant action of brave Army in conduct of Surgical Strikes on September 29, 2016. It also marked to remember sacrifice of soldiers during 'Uri Attacks'. PM Modi inaugurated an Exhibition in Jodhpur (Rajasthan), on this occasion.
   - ✎ UGC also directed all universities / higher educational institutions to observe September 29 as Surgical Strike Day.

5. ▶ 4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.. June 4, 2018 aso marks 29th anniversary of Tiananmen Square protests of China. In 1989, Chinese troops violently retook Tiananmen Square in Beijing from pro-democracy protesters. It killed over 200 citizens, being biggest Massacre in Modern Chinse History.

6. ▶ 5 April - National Maritime Day in India. It commemorates maiden voyage of first Indian owned ship *SS Loyalty* (first ship of Scindia Steam Navigation Company) sailed from Bombay to London on 5th April 1919. 2018 theme is *Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity*.

7. ▶ Apr 07 - WHO World Health Day. 2018 theme is *Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere*.

8. ▶ Apr 1 - Establishment Day of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It was formed in 1935.

9. ▶ Apr 11 - National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD). 2018 theme is *Respectful Maternity Care*.

10. ▶ Apr 12 - International Day of Human Space Flight & World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day. On 12th April 1961, Yuri Gagarin of Soviet Union, performed first manned flight to space on a *Vostok-1* spaceship.

11. ▶ Apr 13, 2018 Marks 99th Anniversary of Jallianwallah Bagh Massacre. Troops of British Indian Army under command of Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Baishakhi pilgrims gathered There.

12. ▶ Apr 14 - Birth Anniversary of B R Ambedkar. He was Independent India's first law minister and principal architect of Constitution of India. Beginning 2018, it will be observed as Social Justice Day in India.
    - ✎ On this Occasion, Book *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp* has been released.
    - ✎ PM Narendra Modi Launched several development initiatives at this occasion -
        - ✎ Inaugurated Dr Ambedkar National Memorial in New Delhi.
        - ✎ Inaugurated a Health and Wellness Centre in Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) to mark launch of Government's ambitious Health Assurance Programme – Ayushman Bharat. Under It -
            - ✎ Sub centres and primary health centres at 1.5 lakh places will be developed as Health and Wellness Centres by 2022.
            - ✎ Will provide health cover of INR 5 lakh to 10 crore households (50 Crore People). It is world's largest government-funded health care programme.
            - ✎ Per family premium will be INR 1000 - 12000 will be borne by central and state governments.
            - ✎ NHPS will replace RSBY (Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana). In RSBY, Government provided medical expenses help of up to INR 30000 to BPL Families.
        - ✎ Launched Van Dhan Yojana that aims at empowering tribal communities. It envisages a mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of value chain for MFP.

- 🔧 Launched Gram Swaraj Abhiyan that would ensure that all development initiatives launched by Government in the last four years, reach the poor and disadvantaged sections of society.

13. ▶ Apr 15 - Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh. It was formed on Apr 15, 1948.

14. ▶ Apr 18 - World Heritage Day. 2018 theme is *Heritage for Generations*. World Heritage Day was announced by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982.

15. ▶ Apr 19 - World Liver Day (WLD). 2018 theme is *Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment*.

16. ▶ Apr 21 - National Civil Services Day. On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (independent India's first home minister) addressed India's first batch of civil servants. This year observance of the day focussed on 'Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts'. It is also observed as National Secretaries day and World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID).

17. ▶ Apr 22 - World Earth Day. 2018 Theme is *End Plastic Pollution*.

18. ▶ Apr 23 - Khongjom Day observed in Manipur. It remembers martyrs of Manipur who sacrificed their lives in last battle of independence known as 'Khongjom War' against Britishers on 23rd April 1891.

19. ▶ Apr 23 - World Book and Copyright Day and World English Language Day. World Book Capital for 2018 is Athens, Greece.

20. ▶ Apr 24 - National Panchayati Raj Day. He launched Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at this occasion. This day marks passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992 that came into force on 24 April 1993. It permitted states to provide Village panchayats with necessary powers to make them function as units of self-government. First National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Apr 24 is also observed as World Lab Animals Day.

21. ▶ Apr 28 - World Day for Safety and Health at Work. 2018 theme is *Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers*.

22. ▶ Apr 29 - International Dance Day. It marks birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, creator of modern ballet.

23. ▶ Apr 30 - International Jazz Day, declared by UNESCO In 2011. Saint Petersburg (Russia) is Global Host City for International Jazz Day 2018.

24. ▶ Apr 4 - International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. 2018 Theme is *Advancing protection, Peace and Development*.

25. ▶ Apr 5 - Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian politician Babu Jagjivan Ram, observed as Samta Diwas.

26. ▶ Apr 6 - International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

27. ▶ April 10 - World Homoeopathy Day. A two-day scientific convention is being organised in New Delhi by Ministry of AYUSH on This occasion. It pays tribute to Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, founder of Homeopathy system of medicine.

28. ▶ April 17 - World Haemophilia Day. 2018 theme is *Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger*.

29. ▶ April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *Empowering Women and Girls with Autism*.

30. ▶ April 2 is Foundation day of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India). On this occasion, *Samridhi - The Virtual Assistant* and Bankability Kit (in partnership with Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank).

31. ▶ April 26 - World Intellectual Property Day. It is Celebrated to learn about role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity. Theme for 2018 is 'Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity'.

32. ▶ April 8 - International Romani Day. It marks Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people.

33. ▶ Assam government decided to observe September 22 as "Rhino Day".

34. ▶ Aug 1 - Earth Overshoot Day. It is the day each year when humans have consumed a year's worth of planet's natural resources. It was earlier called Ecological Debt Day. It is calculated illustrative calendar date on which humanity's resource consumption for year exceeds Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year. In 2018, it falls on Aug 1.

35. ▶ Aug 10 - World Biofuel Day. On this day in 1893, Sir Rudalph Diesel (inventor of diesel engine) successfully ran mechanical engine with Peanut Oil. His research experiment predicted that vegetable oil may replace fossil fuels in next century to fuel different mechanical engines.

- 🔧 On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi launched PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub), as a Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System.

36. ▶ Aug 12 - International Youth Day. 2018 theme is *Safe Spaces for Youth*. It is also observed as World Elephant Day.

37. ▶ Aug 15, 2018 - 72nd Independence Day of India.

- 🔧 President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 131 Gallantry Awards to Defence Personnel, including 1 Kirti Chakras, 20 Shaurya Chakras (Army - 14, Navy - 1, MHA - 4), 3 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 3 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
  - 🔧 Kirti Charka - Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh of Rajput Regiment. He laid down his life in a fierce counter-insurgency operation in which 3 terrorists were killed at Pulwama in J&K in November 2018.

- Shaurya Chakras Include Rifleman Aurangzeb and Major Aditya Kumar of Indian Army.
- Vayu Sena Medals -  P Prasad, Vernon Desmond Keane, Abhishek Sharma.
- Medals for Coast Guard Personnel -
  - 1 President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) (Distinguished Service) - Rakesh Pal
  - 5 Tatrakshak Medal (TM) (Gallantry)
  - 2 Tatrakshak Medal (TM) (Meritorious Service)
- On this occasion, Railways made 'digital screens' operational at 22 stations, to spread awareness among public about heritage of Indian Railways.
- PM Narendra Modi as part of his Independence Day speech announced to put India in space by 2022 under manned space mission on board 'Gajanan'. India will become fourth nation in the world to send astronaut into space after US, Russia and China. Former Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space, as part of Soviet Union's Soyuz T-11 expedition in April 1984.
- Government announced launch of Ayushman Bharat (now Jan Aarogya Abhiyan) on September 25, aiming to provide country's poor access to quality and affordable healthcare. Nearly 10 crore families will get health cover worth Rs 5 lakh each year under this.
- On this occasion, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BY) which provides annual cashless health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per beneficiary family per annum. Patnaik also handed over 'Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak' and 'Jeevan Rakshya Padak' to two children – Pankaj Kumar Mahanta and Mamata Dalai, respectively, for their act of bravery.
- On this occasion, Telangana Govt launched 2 Schemes -
  - Rythu Bandhu - Its first-of-its-kind life insurance programme worth Rs 5 lakh for farmers in state, with cost approx 650 Crores. Insurance amount will be given to farmer's family within 10 days, in case of death of Farmer. It will bear the annual premium of **Rs** 2,271 per farmer. Some Limitations are -
    - It is limited to farmers aged 18 - 60 years.
    - Limited to landowners who received monetary assistance of Rs 4000 from the state government to bear farming costs under the 'Rythu Bandhu' programme earlier this year.
    - Tenant farmers have been left out of it.
  - Kanti Velugu - free eye screening for all citizens.
- A special film festival on theme *Freedom Struggle and Freedom Fighters* held to mark India's 72nd Independence Day, in Mumbai.

38. Aug 19 - World Humanitarian Day (WHD). 2018 Campaign theme for 2018 World Humanitarian Day is *#NotATarget*. Aug 19 is also observed as World Photography Day.

39. Aug 2, 2018 - 141st birth anniversary of designer (architect) of Indian National Flag Pingali Venkayya.

40. Aug 20 - National Sadvbhavna Diwas in India. It commemorates Birth Anniversary of Former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi was conferred with 2018 Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award.

41. Aug 20 - World Mosquito Day. It honors British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

42. Aug 21 - UN International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

43. Aug 21 - World Senior Citizens Day. Note that Similar Sounding *UN International Day of Older Persons* is held annually on October 1.

44. Aug 26 - World Sanskrit Day 2018. It is celebrated on Poornima day of Shraavana month in Hindu calendar.

45. Aug 29 - National Sports Day. It marks birthday of Major Dhyan Chand Singh, hockey player who won gold medals in Olympics for India in 1928, 1932 and 1936. He scored over 400 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948. It is also observed as International Day against Nuclear Tests.

46. Aug 7, 2018 - 4th National Handloom Day in India.

47. Aug 8 - Anniversary of Quit India movement. On this day in 1942, M K Gandhi gave clarion call of Do or Die to all Indians to drive away Britishers from country.

48. Aug 9 - International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples. 2018 theme is *Indigenous peoples' migration and movement*. Also, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through its Resolution on 'Rights of Indigenous Peoples' proclaimed 2019 as *International Year of Indigenous Languages*.

49. August 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition. It marks anniversary of 1791 insurrection of enslaved men and women in western part of island of Santo Domingo, which is now known as Haiti.

50. August 6 - Hiroshima Day. On this day in 1945, US dropped first atomic bomb nicknamed 'Little Boy' ever used in military combat on Hiroshima (Japan).

51. ▸ Government observes anti-Emergency day on 25-26 June every year, to remind people how Emergency was clamped by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.

52. ▸ July 06 - World Zoonoses Day. Zoonoses are diseases transmitted to Humans from Animals.

53. ▸ July 1 - Doctors Day in India.

   ✎ It honours legendary physician and 2nd Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years. He was honoured with highest civilian award *Bharat Ratna* in February 1961.

54. ▸ July 1 - GST (Goods and Services Tax) Day. Govt. Launched GST regime on July 1, 2017. It replaced all indirect taxes in India with a single GST, with 4 Components - CGST, IGST, SGST and UTGST. GST has 5 Tax Slabs - 0%, 5 %, 12%, 18 % and 28 %.

55. ▸ July 11 - World Population Day. 2018 theme is *Family Planning is a Human Right.* On this occasion, A workshop with title *Population stabilization: A right and Responsibility*, was organized in New Delhi.

56. ▸ July 12- Observed as UN International Malala Day. According to World Bank, not educating girls or creating barriers in their school education globally costs between $15-30 trillion.

   ✎ July 12 is also Foundation day of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), founded in 1982. On this occasion, A national seminar on 'Collectivisation and Market linkages: Farmers Producers Organizations' organized in Mumbai.

57. ▸ July 15 - World Youth Skills Day. It aims to raise awareness on importance of investing in youth skills development.

58. ▸ July 17 - International Justice Day, marks 1998 Rome Statute that created International Criminal Court (ICC).

59. ▸ July 18 - UN Nelson Mandela International Day 2018. This year marks 100th birth anniversary of Great South African Social Reformer Nelson Mandela.

60. ▸ July 2 - World Sports Journalists Day.

61. ▸ July 2 is observed as World UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) day and World Sports Journalists Day.

62. ▸ July 26 - Kargil Vijay Diwas. It marks success of Operation Vijay. On this day in 1999, India successfully took command of high outposts intruded by Pakistanis.

63. ▸ July 28 - World Hepatitis Day. 2018 theme is *Test. Treat. Hepatitis.*

   ✎ On this occasion, Government launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, aiming to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. India is also working to end TB by 2025, five years ahead of global target of 2030. It aims to reduce morbidity and mortality due to viral hepatitis.

64. ▸ July 29 - International Tiger Day. The annual day is celebrated with slogan *Their survival is in our hands*.

65. ▸ July 30 - World Day against Trafficking in Persons. 2018 Theme is *responding to the trafficking of children and young people*. On This occasion, Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a contest, '#Childline1098'. It invites people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations and send it with a tagline.

66. ▸ July 31 - World Ranger Day.

67. ▸ July 4 - American Independence Day. USA Attained independence from UK in 1776.

68. ▸ June 01 - World Milk Day. India is leading Milk Producer in world with 23.69% increase during 2014-2018 and Annual increase of 6.3%.India's Milk production was 165.5 Million Tonnes in FY 2016-17. Also On June 1 2018, India's first superfast train, Deccan Queen express from Mumbai to Pune marked 88 years of service.

69. ▸ June 1 - Global Day of Parents. It was Announced by UNICEF in 2012.

70. ▸ June 11 - Green Mizoram Day, organised every year since 1999.

71. ▸ June 12 - World Day against Child Labour. 2018 theme is 'Generation Safe & Healthy'. Campaign aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets of ending all forms of child labour by 2025 and achieving safe working environments for all workers by 2030.

72. ▸ June 13 - International Albinism Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *shining our light to the world*.

73. ▸ June 14 - World Blood Donor Day. 2018 theme is *Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life*. The 2018 host is Greece.

74. ▸ June 15 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *Moving from Awareness to Action through a Human Rights based approach.*

75. ▸ June 16 - International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR). It is also observed as International Integration Day.

76. ▸ June 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD). 2018 Theme is *Land has true value – invest in it*. Global observance of WDCD 2018 was hosted by Ecuador.

77. ▸ June 17, 2018 - Father's Day 2018. It is observed on 3rd Sunday of June.

78. ▸ June 18 - World Sustainable Gastronomy Day, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2016.

79. ▸ June 19 - International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

80. ▸ June 2 - Telangana Statehood Day. It was formed in 2014, after Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

81. ▶ June 20 - World Refugee Day. 2018 theme is *Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees*.

82. ▶ June 21 - World Music Day. 2018 theme is *Live the music together*.

83. ▶ June 21 is longest day of the year. It marks beginning of summer in Earth's Northern Hemisphere, referred to as 'summer solstice'. A solstice is an astronomical event when tilt of Earth's axis with respect to the Sun is maximum. After summer solstice, days start getting shorter till winter solstice on December 21, Northern Hemisphere's shortest day.

84. ▶ June 21, 2018 - 4th UN International Yoga Day. 2018 theme is *Yoga for Peace*.
   - Main Yoga Day 2018 events held in Dehradun (Uttarakhand).
   - Guinness world record was created by conducting largest yoga session on International Yoga Day at Kota (Rajasthan), where 1 lakh people together performed yogic exercises.
   - 3 day National Yoga Olympiad concluded at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in New Delhi. Prizes were distributed by Eric Falt (Director and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka), who was Chief Guest.
       - Yoga is inscribed since 2016 on UNESCO's Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
       - Winners -
           - Upper Primary (Girls) – Gold won by the Sikkim team, Silver by Gujrat team and Bronze by Delhi
           - Upper Primary (Boys) – Gold won by Gujrat team, Silver by Delhi team and Bronze by Tamil Nadu.
           - Secondary (Girls) – Gold by Sikkim team, Silver by Manipur team and Bronze by Delhi team.
           - Secondary (Boys) – Gold by Delhi, Silver by Haryana and Bronze by Karnataka.
   - Shri Vishwas Mandalik, Nasik and The Yoga Institute, Mumbai are recipients of Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga for the year 2018, selected from among 186 nominations.
   - HRD Ministry approves setting up an inter-university yoga centre at Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana in Bengaluru.
   - Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announced to set up a 'Yog Aayog' in state.
   - West Bengal University Visva-Bharati received INR 5 crores central grant for setting up a 'Yoga Gram' in university campus.
   - PM Modi inaugurated a nature center in New York City, through video conferencing called *YO1 Nature Cure Center*.

85. ▶ June 23 -is observed as United Nations Public Service Day. It is also observed as International Olympics Day and UN International Widows' Day.

86. ▶ June 25 - Day of the Seafarer. 2018 theme is *Seafarers wellbeing*.

87. ▶ June 26 - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. 2018 theme is *Listen First – Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe*.

88. ▶ June 27 - UN Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Day (MSME) Day. It was declared by UN General Assembly in 2017.
   - On this occasion, Udyam Sangam 2018 was held in New Delhi, where President Ram Nath Kovind launched Solar Charkha Mission. It will cover 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans. MSME Ministry will disburse subsidy of 550 crores to artisans.
   - Also, under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) budgetary allocation for FY 2018-19 has been increased by 75% to 1800 crores.
   - A Portal of Ministry of MSME called *Sampark* was also launched by President.

89. ▶ June 29 - International Day of Tropics.

90. ▶ June 29 - National Statistics Day. It maks Birth anniversary of Regarded statisician Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, who founded Indian Statistical Institute. 2018 theme is *Quality Assurance in Official Statistics*.
   - 2018 marks 125th Birth Anniversary of Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis and 12th Indian Statistics Day. On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released commemorative coin of Rs 125 and circulation coin of Rs 5 denomination, at Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata.

91. ▶ June 3 - First UN World Bicycle Day. It aims to encourage a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.

92. ▶ June 30 - International Day of Parliamentarism. It is also oberved as International Asteroid Day.

93. ▶ June 5 - World Environment Day. 2018 Theme is *Beat Plastic Pollution*. On this Occasion -
   - Ministry of Environment , Forest and Climate Change and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed MOU to set up a resource efficiency cell, aimin to focus on waste management and resource efficiency by enabling coordinated thinking among various ministries. It would focus on system based use of materials, products and processes in India. Effective collection , recycling and use of bio-degradable plastic can reduce emission of Green House Gases (GHG).
   - A thematic knowledge conference on "Plastic Pollution and Management" was organized at "Vigyan Bhawan" in New Delhi.

- Environment Minister (IC) Mahesh Sharma Issued a Pledge Titled *Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution,* aiming to make 500-meter area around Taj Mahal litter free and phase out single use plastic.
- Uttarakhand Government announced to completely prohibit use of polythene or plastic from July 31, 2018.
- Tamil Nadu Govt also announced that state would ban use of plastic from 2019.
- Telangana government also directed all urban local bodies and civic municipal bodies to ban usage of single-use plastic in offices.
- June 5 is also observed as *International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*.

94. ▶ June 8 - World Oceans Day. 2018 theme is *Peventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean*. June 8 is also opserved as World Brain Tumor Day.

95. ▶ May 01 - Statehood Day of Maharashtra and Gujarat. It commemorates formation of Maharashtra and Gujarat from division of the Bombay State on 1 May 1960.

96. ▶ May 02 - World Tuna Day. 2018 theme is *Smart Tuna – Smart Ocean.*

97. ▶ May 03 - World Press Freedom Day. was observed across the world on May 3, 2018 with an aim to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, defend the media from attacks and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while being on duty. The Theme for 2018 is 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'.

98. ▶ May 1 - World Asthma Day. 2018 theme is *Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease.*

99. ▶ May 1 - International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day AND May Day. 2018 Theme is *Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement.*

100. ▶ May 11 - National Technology Day. 2018 theme is *Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future.*
- On 11th May 1998, India carried out series of nuclear tests at Pokhran. Also first indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown on this day and India also performed successful test firing of Trishul missile on same day.
- Considering these technological advancements, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared 11th May as National Technology Day.
- On this occasion, Atal Tinkering Marathon's Top 30 Innovations to be supported through industry partnerships were showcased. Atal Tinkering Labs of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog organized an Atal Tinkering Marathon in an effort to identify India's best student innovators. It was six month long nationwide challenge across 6 thematic areas - *clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agriculture-tech.*

101. ▶ May 12 - International Nurses Day (IND). It marks birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing. 2018 theme is *Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human Right*. On this occasion, President conferred National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel from across country.

102. ▶ May 12 - World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). 2018 theme is *Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation.*

103. ▶ May 15 - International Day of Families. 2018 theme is *Families and inclusive societies.*

104. ▶ May 16 - UNESCO International Day of Light AND International Day of Living Together in Peace.

105. ▶ May 17 - World Hypertension Day. 2018 thee is *Know Your Numbers.*

106. ▶ May 17 - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. 2018 Theme is *Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All.*

107. ▶ May 18 - International Museum Day. 2018 theme is *Museums and Hyper Communication – New Approaches and New Public*. It is also observed as AIDS Vaccination day.

108. ▶ May 20 - World Metrology Day. 2018 Theme is *Constant evolution of the International System of Units*.

109. ▶ May 21 - Anti Terrorism Day. It marks assassination of Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. It is also observed as *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development*.

110. ▶ May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity. 2018 theme is *Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity*.
- On this occasion, National Mission for Clean Ganga and World Wildlife Federation (WWF) - India jointly organised workshop *Ganga and its Bio-diversity: Developing a Road Map for Habitat and Species Conservation* in New Delhi. Also, national-level celebrations were held at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) in Hyderabad.
- On this occasion, India Biodiversity Awards 2018 were announced in 4 categories -
  - Conservation of Wild and Domesticated Species -
    - Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve Management Committee (Arunachal Pradesh) - For Conservation of Bugun Liocichla, a critically endangered bird.
    - Lemsachenlok Organization (Nagaland)
    - Kutch Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (Gujarat) - Conservation of Kharai camel. which is unique for its ability to adapt well to both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

- Kalden Singhi Bhutia (Sikkim) - For conservation of Tibetan sheep.
- Sustainable Use of Biological Resources -
  - Sangham Women Farmers Group (Medak district of Telangana) - Working towards conservation of agro-biodiversity for 15 years.
  - Parvathi Nagarajan - (Tamil Nadu) - Works for environment protection, wellness and women's empowerment.
  - Raipassa Biodiversity Management Committee (Tripura) - Community depends on cultivation, collection and sale of broom grass for its livelihood. Villagers collect about 50 tonnes of broom grass per season, and sell it at Rs. 22/Kg.
- Replicable Mechanisms for Access and Benefit Sharing
- Best Biodiversity Management Committees -
  - Eraviperoor Grama Panchayat (Kerala) - is an excellent model of a multi-stakeholder partnership in local biodiversity conservation. BMC has rejuvenated a tributary of river Pampa, successfully recovered 13.5 acres of river bank and shown exemplary work in plastic waste management.
  - Pithorabad Grama Panchayat (Madhya Pradesh) - Sustained efforts towards the conservation and sustainable utilization of bio-resources. It conserves around 115 traditional types of paddies, 32 varieties of vegetables, and medicinal plants.

111. ▶ May 23 - World Turtle Day.
112. ▶ May 24 - Commonwealth Day.
113. ▶ May 25 - World Thyroid Day.
114. ▶ May 28 - International Day of Action for Women's Health.
115. ▶ May 29 - International Day of UN Peacekeepers. 2018 Theme is *UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice*.
116. ▶ May 30 - Goa Statehood Day. It attained full statehood on 30th May 1987 becoming India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a UT.
117. ▶ May 31 - World No Tobacco Day. 2018 thme is *Tobacco and heart disease*.
118. ▶ May 4 - International Firefighters' Day.
119. ▶ May 5 - World Cartoonist's Day.
120. ▶ May 6, 2018 - World Laughter Day 2018. It is celebrated on First Sunday of May of every year.
121. ▶ May 7, 2018 - 58th Raising day of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is also observed as World Athletics Day.
122. ▶ May 8 - World Red Cross Day. Theme of 2018 is *Memorable smiles from around the world*.
123. ▶ National Nutrition Week observed from 1st to 7th September, to spread awareness regarding importance of nutrition.
124. ▶ Sep 05 - International Day of Charity.
125. ▶ Sep 05 - International Day of Charity.
126. ▶ Sep 05 - National Teachers' Day in India.
    - On this occasion, Vice President Venkaih Naidu presented National Awards for Teachers 2017 to 45 teachers from across country.
    - It marks birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, first Vice-President, and second President of independent India. Celebration of National Teacher's Day started in 1962.
    - As a gift on occasion of Teachers' Day, Uttar Pradesh government has decided to give 7th pay commission pay scale to teachers and professors of state colleges and universities.
    - On this occasion, A book named 'Experiential Learning – Gandhi's Nai Talim' (basic education) was released.
127. ▶ Sep 08 - International Literacy Day. 2018 theme is *Literacy and skills development*.
128. ▶ Sep 10 - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD).
129. ▶ Sep 12 - International Day for South-South Cooperation.
130. ▶ Sep 14 - National Hindi Divas. marking adaptation of Hindi language as official language of India by Constituent Assembly of India on 14 September 1949. Under Article 343 of Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagri script was adopted as official language.
    - On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind presented Rajbhasha awards for Year 2016-17 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. PNB bagged *Rajbhasha Kirti* award for outstanding performance in implementing Official Language Policy during 2017-18.
131. ▶ Sep 15 - Engineers' Day in India. IOt marks birth anniversary of Sh. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a world-renowned civil engineer who was a master of irrigation design.
    - He was awarded India's highest honour, Bharat Ratna, in 1955 for his work in engineering and education. He was also awarded British knighthood King also awarded to by George V, giving him the honorific "sir".
132. ▶ Sep 15 - International Coastal Cleanup Day.

133. ▶ Sep 15 - International Day of Democracy. 2018 theme is *Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World.* Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to promotion and consolidation of democracy.

134. ▶ Sep 16 - UN International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
   - 🔧 This designation was made on December 19 2000, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
   - 🔧 On this occasion, Ministry of Power launched Chiller Star Labelling Program to encourage deployment of energy efficient chiller systems in India. Based on test certificate from designated agencies and after verification from Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), star label on the scale of 1 (less efficient) to 5 (most efficient) will be assigned.
      - 🔧 It will help in saving over 500 million units of electricity in 2019 along with Green House Gases reduction of 0.5 million-ton equivalent of $CO_2$. It will also save more than 4 billion units of electricity by 2030 with $CO_2$ emission reduction of 3.5 million ton.
   - 🔧 On this occasion, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), making India first country in world to develop such document. It aims to provide sustainable cooling, while protecting ozone layer.
      - 🔧 It provides a 20-year perspective, with projections for cooling needs in 2037-38.
      - 🔧 Goals suggested in ICAP are -
         - 🔧 Reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by year 2037-38.
         - 🔧 Reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25 % by 2037-38.
         - 🔧 Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38.
         - 🔧 Train and certify 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, in synergy with Skill India Mission.

135. ▶ Sep 21 - International Day of Peace. 2018 Theme is *The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70*. Sep 21 is also observed as World Alzheimer's Day.

136. ▶ Sep 23 - International Day of Sign Languages. 2018 theme is *With Sign Language, Everyone is Included*. Sep 23, 2018 Also marks Centenary of the Battle of Haifa, when on 23 Sep 1918, Indian soldiers from Jodhpur, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers liberated city of Haifa (Israel).

137. ▶ Sep 26 - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 68/32 in December 2013.

138. ▶ Sep 27 - World Tourism Day. 2018 theme is *Tourism and the Digital Transformation*. Hungary is the host country for 2018's WTD, While India will be official Host country for WTD 2019. This year, 77 awardees were honored under National Tourism Awards 2016-17. Notable Awardees are -
   - 🔧 Best State/ UT (Comprehensive Development of Tourism) - Andhra Pradesh (1), Kerala (2), Goa & Rajasthan (Joint 3rd). Sikkim in category of Jammu & Kashmir & North East of India including Sikkim.
   - 🔧 Madhya Pradesh won Hall of Fame National Award, given to a state for being best for tourism three years consecutively. MP also won 10 other awards.
   - 🔧 Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station - Secunderabad Railway Station
   - 🔧 Best Tourist Friendly Airport - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport Ahmedabad (Class X cities), Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport Indore (Rest of India)
   - 🔧 Best Film Promotion Friendly State/ UT - Rajasthan
   - 🔧 Best Tourism Film - Department of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala for 'Live Inspired'.
   - 🔧 Best Heritage City - Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Mandu (Madhya Pradesh) as Joint Winners.
   - 🔧 Tourism Minister also launched 'Incredible India Mobile App' and the 'Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification' programme.

139. ▶ Sep 27, 2018 - World Maritime Day (WMD) 2018. It is observed every year on last Thursday of September. 2018 theme is *IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future*. The day was first observed in 1978.

140. ▶ Sep 29 - World Heart Day.

141. ▶ Sep 30 - International Translation Day. 2018 Theme is *Translation: promoting cultural heritage in changing times*.

142. ▶ Sep 9 is observed as Himalaya Day in Uttarakhand , since 2014 onwards.

143. ▶ September 2 - World coconut day.

144. ▶ Utkal Diwas - April 1. It is Formation of state of Odisha as a separate province on this day in 1936. On this occasion, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated World-Class tourist amenities at Konark Sun Temple in Odisha.

**Top**


**Defence**

1. ▶ India and Indonesia Navies Participated in their 31st Joint Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT).

2. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) announced its plans for Andhra Pradesh to make it a 'strategic base' and strengthen its presence in the region. It Includes -
   🖊 Set up a major helicopter training facility at Donakonda in Prakasam district.
   🖊 Establishing a drone manufacturing facility in Anantapur district.
   🖊 A cyber security centre in Amaravati and making Rajahmundry and Vijayawada airports asset positioning bases.

3. ▶ 13th Joint Military Exercise of India and Nepal, named SURYA KIRAN-XIII conducted at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

4. ▶ 1st session of India and Russia joint air exercise Aviaindra 2018 held in Lipetsk (Russia). 2nd session of Aviaindra 2018 will be conducted in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in December 2018. Since 2014, it is conducted bi-annually (twice a year) in both countries.

5. ▶ 2nd Nepal-China joint military exercise named Mt Everest Friendship Exercise-2018 (Sagarmatha Friendship-2018) commenced in China's southwestern Sichuan province. The 12 day long joint exercise will focus on combating terror and disaster management training.

6. ▶ 3rd Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' 2018 conducted in Otar region (Kazakhstan).

7. ▶ 3rd ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project, named as INLCU L53 has been inducted into Indian Navy.

8. ▶ 4th of 8 Mark IV LCU vessels – L54, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata has been Commissioned Into Indian Navy.

9. ▶ 5th Indo-Kyrgyzstan joint training exercise 'Khanjar V' concluded in Mizoram.

10. ▶ 6 global aircraft manufacturers have responded Indian Air Force's (IAF) Request for Information (RFI) to supply 110 fighter aircrafts to replace its ageing fleet of MiG-21s and MiG-27s. Out of bids received, *Lockheed Martin F-16 and SAAB Gripen are single-engine fighters*, while *Dassault Rafale, Boeing F-18, Eurofighter Typhoon and United Aircraft Corporation MiG-35 are twin-engine fighters*.

11. ▶ 6th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and Conclave of Chiefs held in Tehran (Iran). Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited Iran on this occasion.  IONS was conceived by Indian Navy in 2008.

12. ▶ Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) invited private players in Coimbatore (Tamilnadu) for building Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the next generation defence aircraft. Project will be implemented in Sulur in Coimbatore district, which may house permanent base of Tejas squadron.

13. ▶ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) bagged order worth INR 9200 crores for supply of seven Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) systems to Indian Navy.

14. ▶ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed MoU with Swedish aerospace and defence firm *Saab,* for marketing L-Band 3D air surveillance radar (RAWL-03). Its system is based on state-of-the-art GaN TR module technology and incorporates the latest signal processing techniques.

15. ▶ Bilateral joint training exercise *Harimau Shakti 2018* between India and Malaysia Armies will be conducted in Hulu Langat (Malaysia) in April - May 2018.

16. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commissioned special unit called Bastariya Battalion (numbered 241) to combat Naxals activities in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. This is first such time that CRPF has raised a special battalion that includes local representation to enhance combat capabilities.
   🖊 241 Bastariya Battalion comprises 739 local tribal youths including 198 women combatants selected through special recruitment drive from four highly Naxal infested district in Chhattisgarh - Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.

17. ▶ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Rajasthan.

18. ▶ Coastal security exercise *Sagar Kavach* held by Indian Coast Guard along Kerala coast to strengthen and assess loopholes in coastal security mechanism.

19. ▶ Cyient Solutions & Systems (*JV of IT firm Cyient and BlueBird Aero Systems of Israel*) bagged order from Indian Army to supply SpyLite mini UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance. SpyLite mini UAV unmanned aerial system has endurance of 4-5 hours and maximum flight ceiling of 30,000 feet, making it ideal for Indian Army operations along border with China and Siachen glacier.

20. ▶ DRDO conducted test of Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) at Abdul Kalam Island (Odisha). It is capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms.

21. ▶ DRDO successfully tested indigenously developed light weight glide bomb Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW).
   🖊 SAAW is India's first fully indigenous anti-airfield weapon project sanctioned by Government in September 2013.
   🖊 SAAW is long-range lightweight high precision-guided anti-airfield weapon. It is 120 kg smart weapon capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to range of 100 km.

22. ▶ Dakota DC-3 aircraft of 1940's vintage named as 'Parshuram' has been again Inducted into Indian Air Force, after over 40 years of phasing out.

23. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved acquisition of 8 Fast Patrol Vessels (OPVs) for Indian Coast Guard at an approximate cost of Rs 800 crores. These will be procured under 'Buy (lndian-lDDM)' category, indigenously designed and manufactured.
    - 🔧 DAC also approved Implementation Guidelines for 'Strategic Partnership Model' to ensure timely delivery of equipment to Armed Forces. It lays emphasis on incentivisation of transfer of technology and Global Majors, that will encourage self-reliance and align defence sector with 'Make in India ' initiative.

24. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved induction of upgraded Akash short-range surface-to-air missile (SRSAM) system in Indian Army, under 'Buy (Indian)' category from Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
    - 🔧 Indian Army already has inducted two Akash regiments, which will now increase to 4 regiments.
    - 🔧 It has range of 25 km and can engage multiple targets at time in all-weather conditions.
    - 🔧 Upgraded Akash Missile System will include seeker technology, possess 360 degree coverage and will be of compact configuration with reduced signature.

25. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army at an approximate cost of over 2,300 crore rupees.

26. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces valued at INR 6900 crores. It Includes -
    - 🔧 Thermal Imaging (TI) Night Sights for Rocket Launcher (RL) used by Army and the Force under 'BUY(Indian) IDDM' category, to be used by troops to facilitate accurate engagement of enemy targets complete darkness.
    - 🔧 Development of Long Range Dual Band Infrared Imaging Search and Track System (IRST) for SU-30 MKI aircraft under 'Make II' sub category, for procurement of at least 100 IRSTs under 'Buy (Indian–IDDM) category.

27. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement worth approx INR 46000 crores.
    - 🔧 Procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for Indian Navy was approved at cost of over INR 21000 crores, as first project under MoD's Strategic Partnership (SP) Model that aims at providing significant fillip to Government's 'Make in India' programme.
    - 🔧 Procurement of 150 Indigenously Designed and Developed 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems for Indian Army.
    - 🔧 Procurement of 14 Vertically Launched Short Range Missile Systems. Of these, 10 systems will be indigenously developed and remaining four will be imported. These missile systems will help boost self-defence capability of ships against anti-ship missiles.
    - 🔧 To enhance capability of Navy at sea, approval granted for procurement of Anti-Submarine capable, 24 Multi Role Helicopters.

28. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved Acquisitions Worth 3687 crores. It Involves procuring DRDO's NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at cost of INR 524 crores. DAC also approved procurement of thirteen 127 mm calibre guns for Navy, with range of 24 kilometres. These guns guns be procured from BAE Systems of USA, for over 3000 crores.

29. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procurement of 6 indigenously manufactured Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for Indian Navy, to be built in India at approx 4941 crores.

30. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces worth inr 5500 crores. It includes -
    - 🔧 12 High Power Radars for Indian Air Force, to provide long range medium and high altitude cover with capability to detect and track high speed targets following parabolic trajectories.
    - 🔧 Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) will be procured for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Indian Army from Indian Shipyard. These vessels offer great advantage over conventional boats and crafts as they have ability to travel at very high speeds over shallow water, sand banks, mud flats and swamps which are non-navigable by boats.

31. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India will buy Russian S-400 Triumf air defence missile despite US sanctions on military transactions with Russia.

32. ▶ Defence Ministry approved construction of 17 new baffle firing ranges at various Military establishments across country, to faciitate firing from 300 to 500 meters. These will be in addition to 60 similar firing ranges existing all over the country.

33. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out maiden test OF new surface-to-air missile (yet to get formal name) powered by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion Technology. It also successfully demonstrated technology of nozzle less booster for first time in country.
    - 🔧 SFDR technology is jointly developed by India and Russia. It will help both India's surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles to perform better and enhance their strike range, making them more lethal.
    - 🔧 SFDR and Conventional Missiles are different as conventional missiles have limitations against maneuvering targets, as terminal stage of conventional missiles cannot provide enough energy to maintain their speed in order to hit targets. SDFR removes this drawback by exceptionally enhancing endgame maneuverability of missile at terminal stage when its seeker is locked onto target.

34. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a low-weight indigenously developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM).

35. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', with operational range under 350 KM.

36. ▶ Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, started at Chebarkul (Russia). It is notable due to India and Pakistan for the first time are participating in any Joint Army Exercise.

37. ▶ First-ever joint air force exercise Betwen India and Malaysia commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.

38. ▶ Fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IVclass, LCU L54 has been inducted into Indian Navy. Remaining 4 ships of same class are in advanced stages of construction at GRSE, Kolkata.

39. ▶ Government approved INR 8606 croreS for 60 projects being implemented under umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM). projects are being implemented in 111 border districts in 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

   🖋 India shares borders with Pakistan (3,323 km), China (3,488 km), Nepal (1,751 km), Bhutan (699 km), Myanmar (1,643 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km).

40. ▶ Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform process of higher defence planning. It is expected to drive military and national security strategy, draft capability development plans and guide and accelerate defence equipment acquisitions. It will be under chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

41. ▶ Government will raise 5 Indian Reserve Police (IRP) battalions in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), to provide jobs to local youths and enhance security. These battalions will have over 5000 personnel, with 60% posts reserved for people from border areas of J&K. Besides, two female battalions comprising 1,000 women personnel will also be created.

   🖋 At present, there are 144 IRBs in various states. 4 IRBs each are being raised in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and 12 in Maoist-hit states.

42. ▶ Govt. launched Defence India Startup Challenge in Bengaluru. Recognised Defence Incubators at IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Mumbai, Forge IIT Madras, and T hub will provide solutions for requirements in Armed Forces. Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman also launched SPARK (support for prototype and research Kickstart) in defence, framework for IDEX partners, and promotion of start ups under Make II procedure.

43. ▶ High Power Tank Engines V-46-6 and V92S2 handed over to Indian Army, manufactured by Engine Factory Avadi (EFA) under Make in India Initittive. Indian Army also gave 100 crores contract for 81 high mobility 10×10 vehicles to vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland. This is for first time Indian vehicle manufacturer will deliver heavy duty, high mobility vehicles for Army launchers.

   🖋 India is also looking to procure National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II) from USA, an advanced air defence system at $1 billion to defend National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks. It features new 3D mobile surveillance radars and 12 missile launchers for quicker reaction.

44. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced family of a paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of 1 crore rupees.

45. ▶ INS Sahyadri will participate in Exercise KAKADU 2018, hosted by Australian Navy and will finish on Sep 15, 2018. It will be 14th edition of biennial KAKADU exercise, with particpation by over 25 different countries.

46. ▶ Inaugural Military Field Training Exercise for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation nations named MILEX-18 held at Aundh Military Station (Maharashtra).

   🖋 Nepal refused to participate in inaugural BIMSTEC military exercise, after stringent criticism from ruling and opposition parties in Nepal.

   🖋 Also, Nepal will take part in a 12-day-long military exercise with China later in September, called 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2'.

47. ▶ India along with 23 other nations participated in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as IOWave18, organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Purpose is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout region.

   🖋 In India, It is being coordinated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

48. ▶ India and Thailand Armies conducted Joint Military Exercise called *Maitree,* in Thailand.

49. ▶ India and USA conducted their annual army exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2018* at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand, as 14th edition of this exercise.

50. ▶ India concluded price negotiations with Russia for deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for Indian Air Force (IAF), with finalised financial component nearly Rs 40,000 crores.

   🖋 Now, both countries are trying to find way out to evade provisions of CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), a US law that seeks to punish countries and entities engaged in transactions with defence establishment of Russia. USA announced sanctions against Russia under CAATSA for its alleged meddling in presidential election in 2016.

- S-400 Triumf Air Defence SystemIt is long-range air defence missile system is one of most advanced long-range defence systems in world, manufactured by Almaz-Antey. It It has capability to destroy incoming all airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.

51. ▶ India successfully test fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, to validate it as first Indian missile whose life has been increased from 10 to 15 years.
    - BrahMos cruise missile developed by joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyenia and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), named after Brahmaputra river in India and Moskva river in Russia.
    - It is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (conventional / nuclear) with top speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (thrice the speed of sound).
    - Its range was initially capped at 290 km, now incresead to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.

52. ▶ India successfully test fired long range ballistic missile Agni 5, with operational range over 5000 KMs. Upgraded version of Pinaka rocket was also test fired, with rage 40 - 70 KMs. Earlier Pinaka version was an unguided one.

53. ▶ India successfully tested Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'.

54. ▶ India tested Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) with an interceptor missile test off Odisha coast, as a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.

55. ▶ India will host first military exercise of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September 2018.
    - BIMSTEC has 7 member nations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Its secretariat is in Dhaka (Bangladesh), with Nepal as current Chair from 2014 onwards.

56. ▶ India, along with 23 otherIndian Ocean Nations, participated in as IOWave18. Its a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill), organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. In India, IOWave18 is being coordinated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

57. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out first ever midair refuelling of indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. It involved dry linkup (no fuel actually transferred) between IAF Il-78 tanker and Tejas fighter jet through its air-to-air refuelling probe.
    - Its a be major leap for indigenous fighter which will help in enhancing its mission capability by increasing its range and payload.
    - LCA Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) as part of LCA programme, started in 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters.

58. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Gaganshakti 2018 as an air combat exercise along Pakistan, China borders.

59. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) for first time will participate in multinational air exercise Pitch Black – 18 (PB-18) in Australia, to be held for 20 days beginning July 27. It will have 12 participant countries.

60. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) launched Trans-Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Expedition (THE MTB), from Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) in Ladakh for Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh (2 forward most outposts of India in North and in East). Aim is to promote spirit of adventure among Air Warriors to undertake daunting challenges and 'Go Green' initiative.

61. ▶ Indian Airforce formally launched The Stores, Proactive, Efficient and Expeditious Despatch of Extra Size/ Wt Consignment (SPEEDEX) contract, concluded in June 2018 between with Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd and Ashok Travel and Tours for air and surface component respectively.
    - It aims to overcome delay in piecemeal dispatch of consignment and to move operationally urgent stores by air and normal consignments by surface mode.

62. ▶ Indian Army announced to observing year 2018 as *Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty*. Indian Army aso drawn detailed plan to develop Jaisalmer Military Station in Rajasthan as smart facility patterned on Central Government's Smart Cities Mission.

63. ▶ Indian Army finalised INR 15000 crores indigenous ammunition project under which range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be produced indigenously. It aims to cut dependence on imports and create inventory to enable forces to fight 30-day war. 11 private firms will be involved and implementation will be monitored by Defence Ministry.

64. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with HDFC Bank and Axis Bank for Defence Salary Package, as renewed version of first MoU signed 2011 and renewed in March 2015. It is tailor made to suit requirements of defence personnel.

65. ▶ Indian Army will consider reducing 13-lakh strong Army force by at least 150000 over next few years and revamping cadre to optimise functioning at various levels.  This change will now be placed at the Army's Commanders Conference in October 2018 and the modalities will be finalised and rolled out by November-December 2018.

66. ▶ Indian Army will resume trials of US-made M777 ultralight howitzer in Pokhran firing range of Rajasthan. Trials were suspended in September 2017 following a barrel burst caused by faulty ammunition during firing.

- M777 Howitzer artillery gun is 155-mm, 39-calibre towed artillery gun, manufactured by US based BAE Systems. It has effective firing range of 24 km.
- Induction of M777 Howitzer artillery guns will add much needed operational advantage to Indian Army as they will be deployed in high-altitude areas in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, bordering China.

67. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).

68. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned fast patrol vessel (FPV) ICGS Rani Rashmoni, in Visakhapatnam, (Andhra Pradesh). It is fifth and last ship to be commissioned in series of fast patrol vessel (FPV) project of ICG.

69. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned interceptor ship ICGS C 439 at Mumbai.

70. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned indigenously built patrol vessel ICGS Vijaya in Chennai, as second in the series of 98 m offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned by ICG.

71. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.

72. ▶ Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) entered Goa harbour, after completing a historic global circumnavigation voyage by an all-women crew. Crew Members of this expedition were presented Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 by Govt.
  - Titled *Navika Sagar Parikrama*, The 254 days long expedition was flagged off in Goa on September 10, 2017. 6 members are - Vartika Joshi (Skipper), Payal Gupta, Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, Aishwarya Boddapati and Shourgrakpam Vijaya Devi.
  - INSV Tarini covered over 22000 Nautical miles (Approx 40000 KMs), visiting five countries – Australia, New Zealand, Falkland Islands (UK), South Africa and Mauritius.
  - During the voyage, It met all criteria of circumnavigation -
    - Crossing the Equator twice, crossing all Longitudes, Three great capes (Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape of Good Hope). The expedition was covered in six legs.

73. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri participated in 14th edition of Multi Nation Exercise KAKADU 2018, hosted by Australian Navy. INS Sahyadri also won multi activity competition KAKADU 18 Cup.

74. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Sunayna has been directed to evacuate 38 Indians stranded on Yemeni island of Socotra in aftermath of cyclone Mekenu, under Operation Nistaar. Evacuated Indians were embarked onboard and immediately provided with appropriate care.

75. ▶ Indian Navy conducted *Prasthan*, a security exercise, off the coast of Mumbai.

76. ▶ Indian Navy conducted multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Chakravat (cyclone) with coordination of Kerala Government off Kochi Coast.

77. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) located in Visakhapatnam for construction of two Diving Support Vessels (DSV), each of 118 m in length and 7,650 tonnes displacement capacity. These will be equipped with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), which significantly enhances its Submarine Rescue Capabilities.

78. ▶ Indian Navy's Marine Commando (MARCO) cadre conducted 2nd Asymmetric Warfare Training Exercise 'Ekatha 2018' at Maldives. Additionally, Indian Navy ship Sumedha is conducting a joint exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance of Maldives.

79. ▶ Indian and Bangladesh Coast Guards conducted a 2 day bilateral table-top exercise on maritime pollution in Kolkata.

80. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).

81. ▶ India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya for first time will be fitted with marine hydraulic system to boost its air operations, named *GS-1MF* and *GS-3*. It will be used for refuelling, cleaning and pressurisation of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters on board INS Vikramaditya.

82. ▶ India's first Defence incubators will come up at T-Hub in Hyderabad (Telangana), India's missile development centre and fast emerging hub for aerospace industries. It will be funded through Ministry's Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme.

83. ▶ India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun Dhanush passed its final test and is ready for induction into Army.
  - Indian Army has so far not inducted any new artillery guns since Bofors guns. It has placed an initial order for 114 Dhanush guns and is expected to order another 400 more.
  - Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) Kolkata. It is upgraded version of Swedish 155-mm Bofors howitzers, which India procured in mid-1980s. It has strike range of 40 kilometres (11 km more than imported Bofors).

84. ▶ India's first 'smart fence' pilot project inaugurated along two 5-km each patches of India-Pakistan International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - This initiative has been taken up by BSF as part of comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS). It uses number of devices for surveillance, communication, data storage and automated surveillance technology and alarm detection systems.
  - It will make virtually impossible for terrorists to infiltrate into Indian side of border.

85. ▶ Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron (The Flying Daggers) of Indian Air Force (IAF) formally commenced operations from Sulur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu. Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL). It is pegged as world's lightest supersonic fighter.

86. ▶ Indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft.

87. ▶ Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile, demonstrating its overall capability as an effective combat jet.

88. ▶ Indigenously developed Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be delivered to armed forces by 2020. Rustom-II is part of Rustom line of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) indigenously designed and developed by DRDO that includes Rustom-I, Rustom-H and Rustom-C.
    ✎ It is a long-endurance UAV that has an 20 hours approximate flight time. Its medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 feet. It can fly at around 280 km/h.

89. ▶ Indo-Korean Joint Coast Guards Exercise *Sahyog- Hyeoblyeog 2018* conducted off Chennai coast (Tamil Nadu).

90. ▶ Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 held in Ullanbaatar (Mongolia).

91. ▶ Israeli Navy will procure multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by India and Israel.
    ✎ Barak-8 (Lightning 8 in Hebrew), also known as also known as LR-SAM / MR-SAM. Its Features include maximum speed of Mach 2 with maximum operational range of 70 km (increased to 100 km now).
    ✎ It has dual pulse rocket motor and Thrust vector control and possesses high degrees of maneuverability at target interception range.

92. ▶ Joint Indo-Bangladesh Army Trekking Expedition to Nanda Devi started from New Delhi. Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand) east base camp is located 4300m from sea level and has a very challenging trekking route. Summit is at 7816 Metres.

93. ▶ Joint Military Exercises of India over past 3 years -
    ✎ **Army** -

| S. No. | Country | Exercise |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australia | AUSTRA HIND |
| 2 | Bangladesh | SAMPRITI |
| 3 | China | HAND IN HAND |
| 4 | France | SHAKTI |
| 5 | Indonesia | GARUDA SHAKTI |
| 6 | Kazakhstan | PRABAL DOSTYK |
| 7. | Kyrgyzstan | KHANJAR |
| 8 | Maldives | EKUVERIN |
| 9 | Mongolia | NOMADIC ELEPHANT |
| 10 | Myanmar | IMBEX |
| 11 | Nepal | SURYA KIRAN |
| 12 | Oman | AL NAGAH |
| 13 | Russia | INDRA |
| 14 | Seychelles | LAMITIYE |
| 15 | Sri Lanka | MITRA SHAKTI |
| 16 | Thailand | MAITREE |
| 17 | UK | AJEYA WARRIOR |
| 18 | USA | YUDHABHAYAS |
| | | VAJRA PRAHAR |
| 19 | Vietnam | VINBAX |

    ✎ **Navy:**

| S. No. | Country | Exercise |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australia | AUSINDEX |
| 2 | Bangladesh | IN-BN CORPAT |
| 3. | Brazil & South Africa | IBSAMAR |
| 4 | France | VARUNA |
| 5 | Indonesia | IND-INDO CORPAT |
| | | IND-INDO BILAT |
| 6 | Myanmar | IMCOR |
| | | IN-MN BILAT |
| 7 | Oman | Naseem-al-Bahr |
| 8 | Russia | INDRA NAVY |
| 9 | Sri Lanka | SLINEX |
| 10 | Singapore | SIMBEX |
| 11 | Thailand | INDO-THAI CORPAT |
| 12 | UK | KONKAN |

| S. No. | Country | Exercise |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | USA | MALABAR |
| | | RIMPAC (Multilateral) |
| 14 | Multilateral Exercise by Brunei | ADMM+ Exercise |
| 15 | Multilateral Exercise by Indonesia | KOMODO |
| 16 | Multilateral Exercise by India | MILAN |

✏️ **Air Force -**

| S. No. | Country | Exercise |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Israel | Blue Flag-17 |
| 2 | Oman | EASTERN BRIDGE-IV |
| 3 | Russia | INDRA-17 |
| 4 | Thailand | SIAM BHARAT |
| 5 | UAE | DESERT EAGLE-II |
| 6 | UK | INDRADHANUSH-IV |
| 7 | USA | RED FLAG 16-1 |
| 8 | Multinational Air Exercise Hosted by Australia | Pitch Black – 18 |
| 9 | Multinational Air Exercise | Samvedna with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE |

94. ▶ L&T Defence inaugurated 2nd production line for BRAHMOS Transport Launch Canister (TLC) at Ranoli (Gujarat), To cater to serial production requirements of BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile System.

95. ▶ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU to cater to needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems, to help make India self-reliant in defence sector.

96. ▶ Malabar 2018, the Trilateral Naval Exercise between India, Japan and United States held off coast of Guam in Philippine Sea. It is 22nd edition of the naval exercise.

97. ▶ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will raise 4 more battalions (adding to existing 12), to be stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and NCR Delhi.

98. ▶ Navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2018.

99. ▶ Next edition of Aero India will be held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) in February 2019, as a five-day event with major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.

100. ▶ Project Roshni by Indian Army is illuminating homes in remote villages of Jammu and Kashmir, distributing over 17000 solar lamps in remote areas.

101. ▶ SLINEX 2018, the joint Naval Exercise of India Sri Lanka navies held in Trincomalee.

102. ▶ Southern Naval Command Operation *Madad* for assisting the state administration and undertaking disaster relief operations in Kerala, after unprecedented flooding in many parts of state. Indian Army also launched Operation Sahyog for helping dstressed people in Kerala.

103. ▶ Tri service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will be held in India in second half 2018.

104. ▶ USA approved sale of six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India, for approx $930 million. Proposed sale also includes 180 Hellfire Longbow air-to-surface anti-armor missiles, 90 R-3 Hellfire II air-to-surface missiles, 200 Stinger air-to-air missiles etc. Apache attack helicopters will strengthen India's ability to defend its homeland and deter regional threats.

105. ▶ USA based Aerospace firm Lockheed Martin announced that wings of its F-16 fighter jets will be produced in India, under an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).

**Top**

**Economy**

1. ▶ Banks Board Bureau (BBB) recommended 15 executive directors to be elevated as managing directors (MD) at various public sector banks (PSBs). BBB is headed by B P Sharma.

2. ▶ Commerce ministry approved 16 projects under TIES (Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme), to develop infrastructure for promoting exports. TIES was launched in 2016, with outlay of INR 600 crores. TIES has been launched for three years to 2020.

3. ▶ RBI released new guidelines for all notes which were introduced post note ban imposed in November 2016, ending lack of clarity over exchange of the New 2000 / 200 currency notes, introduced post demonetisation.
   - ✏️ Rs 2000 and Rs 200 (issued in November 2016 and September 2017 respectively) could not be governed by old rules due to their difference in size.
   - ✏️ As per new Rules, the undivided area of the single largest piece of the note for a damaged Rs 2000 note must be 88 square cm for a full refund, and 44 square cm for half refund. Rs 2000 note is 109.56 square cm in dimension.
   - ✏️ For a damaged Rs 200 note, the criteria is 78 square cm for a full refund, and 39 square cm for half refund.

4. ▶ SBI increased its benchmark lending rates or MCLR by 0.2 percent across all tenors upto 3 years.

5. ▶ 15th Finance Commission (FCC) headed by NK Singh constituted Advisory Council to advise Commission on issue or subject related to Terms of Reference (ToR) to quell (*control*) strong opposition from some states over 2011 census. It will also help commission in broadening its ambit and understanding to seek best national and international practices on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution.

6. ▶ 1st Advance Estimates of production of major Kharif crops for 2018-19 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. As per 1st Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during Kharif 2018-19 is -
   - ✎ Foodgrains – 141.59 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Rice – 99.24 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Nutri / Coarse Cereals – 33.13 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Maize – 21.47 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Pulses – 9.22 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Tur – 4.08 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Urad – 2.65 million tonnes.
   - ✎ Oilseeds – 22.19 million tonnes.
     - ✎ Soyabean – 13.46 million tonnes
     - ✎ Groundnut – 6.33 million tonnes
     - ✎ Castorseed – 1.52 million tonnes
   - ✎ Cotton – 32.48 million bales (of 170 kg each)
   - ✎ Jute & Mesta -10.17 million bales (of 180 kg each)
   - ✎ Sugarcane – 383.89 million tonnes

7. ▶ 2 Loan Agreements signed between India and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) for -
   - ✎ Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (I) of Yen 89.457 billion (Rs.5591 crore approx).
   - ✎ Kolkata East-West Metro Project (III) of Yen 25.903 billion (Rs.1619 crore approx).

8. ▶ 21 public and 3 major private sector banks lenders collected INR 4989 crores from customers for non-maintenance of minimum balance in their accounts in 2017-18.
   - ✎ SBI collected maximum 2433 crores, over half the amount raised by 24 banks together.
   - ✎ In private sector, HDFC bank collected max 590.84 crores.

9. ▶ 28th GST Council Meeting Held in New Delhi -
   - ✎ Rates on several commodities slashed. GST Council has left just 35 items in highest tax bracket of 28 %, including automobiles, digital cameras, tyres, yachts, aircraft, aerated drinks and cigarettes. Rate reductions in 28th GST Council Meet will cost government approx 7000 crores.
   - ✎ Notable amendments -
     - ✎ Composition dealers to be allowed to supply services (other than restaurant services), for upto a value not exceeding 10% of turnover in preceding financial year, or Rs. 5 lakhs, whichever is higher. Council members have unanimously voted for bringing into effect theincreased threshold limit of Rs. 1.5 crore from existing Rs 1 crore as soon as possible.
     - ✎ Threshold exemption limit for registration in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya,Sikkim and Uttarakhand to be increased to Rs. 20 Lakhs from Rs. 10 Lakhs.
     - ✎ Reverse charge mechanism deferred for a year till 30th Sept 2019.
     - ✎ Creation of GST Appelate Tribunal with National Bench at New Delhi and Regional Benches at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. Amount of pre-deposit payable for filing of appeal before Appellate Authority and Appellate Tribunal to be capped at 25 Crores and 50 Crores respectively.
     - ✎ Regular taxpayers with turnover up to Rs 5 crores can opt to file GST return on a quarterly basis against earlier limit of Rs. 1.5 crores. Return can be either 'Sahaj' or 'Sugam', wherein the first one, report only B2C supplies and the other report both B2B & B2C supplies.
     - ✎ Regular taxpayers with turnover over 5 crores have to file monthly returns, THRIUGH NEW SYSTEM NAMED *UPLOAD – LOCK – PAY TAX*.
   - ✎ Notable Slashed Rates -
     - ✎ 28% to 18% -
       - ✎ Refrigerators, freezers and other refrigerating or freezing equipment including water cooler, milk coolers, refrigerating equipment for leather industry, ice cream freezer etc.
       - ✎ Washing machines, Vacuum cleaners, Domestic electrical appliances
       - ✎ Televisions upto the size of 68 cm

- Lithium-ion batteries
- 28% to 12%
  - Fuel Cell Vehicle. Further, Compensation cess shall also be exempted on fuel cell vehicle.
- 8%12%/5% to Nil -
  - Supply of Multimodal Transportation (Service)
  - Stone/Marble/Wood Deities
  - Sanitary Napkins,
  - Circulation and commemorative coins, sold by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd [SPMCIL] to Ministry of Finance.
- 18% to 5% -
  - Ethanol for sale to Oil Marketing Companies for blending with fuel
  - Solid bio fuel pellets
- 5% GST is being extended to footwear having a retail sale price up to Rs. 1000 per pair. Footwear having a retail sale price exceeding Rs. 1000 per pair will continue to attract 18%.
- IGST @5% on Pool Issue Price (PIP) of Urea imported on Govt. account for direct agriculture use, instead of assessable value plus custom duty.

10. ▶ 29th meeting of GST council Held in New Delhi -
- A sub-committee was Created, headed by Shiv Pratap Shukla for suggesting measures to address issues faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector
- It has also decided to run a pilot to provide cashback for digital transactions. Capped at Rs 100, RuPay Debit and UPI-based transaction will get cashback of 20% for GST paid.

11. ▶ 2nd tranche of Bharat-22 ETF (exchange traded fund) opened for fresh subscription, with government aiming to raise INR 6000 crores. There is also a green shoe option of Rs 2,400 crore, subject to government approval.
- Bharat 22 index was launched in November 2017, managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund. It's a part of the government's disinvestment programme.
- Bharat 22 comprises 22 stocks including those of chosen Government enterprises, spanning six sectors - basic materials (4.4%), energy (17.5%), finance (20.3%), industrials (22.6%), FMCG (15.2%) and utilities (20%).
- ETFs are essentially index funds that are listed and traded on stocks exchanges just like regular shares.

12. ▶ 2nd tranche of Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), comprising shares of 22 companies, received bids worth Rs. 15,436 crore, much higher than government's fund raising target. The second tranche was targeted to achieve fund mop up of Rs 6,000 crore with green-shoe option for another 2,400 crore.

13. ▶ 4th Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare -
- Foodgrains – 284.83 million tonnes (record) (higher by 9.72 million tonnes than the previous record production of foodgrain of 275.11 million tonnes achieved during 2016-17). Consissts of Rice , Wheat, Nutri/Coarse Cereals, Pulses, Gram, Tur amd Urad.
- Oilseeds – 31.31 million tonnes. It consits of Soyabean, Groundnut, Rapeseed & Mustard AND Castorseed.
- Cotton – 34.89 million bales (of 170 kg each)
- Sugarcane – 376.91 million tonnes (record)

14. ▶ *Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)* and *TransUnion CIBIL* launched 2nd edition of MSME Pulse, a Quarterly Report on MSME Sector, providing precise data-driven insights to support policy as well as business decisions.
- Total commercial lending exposure in India is 54.2 lakh crores, with MSME segment constituting 12.6 lakh crores, with with Y-o-Y growth of 22% and 13% respectively in Micro and SME sectors.
- In Large corporate segment, NPA rates increased from 15.3% (in Mar'17) to 18% (in Mar'18). However, MSME NPA rates remained stable. In Micro segment, NPA rate moved from 8.9 % (in Mar'17) to 8.8 % (in Mar'18). In SME segment, NPA hovered between 11.4% (in Mar'17) to 11.2 % (in Mar'18). Recognized NPA exposure for MSME is 81000 Crores as on Mar'18.
- Private Banks and NBFCs have further increased their market share in Micro and SME lending from 27.5% and 9.1% in March 2017 to 30.3% and 10.9% in March 2018. Share of PSBs fallen from 57% to 50.4% in same period.

15. ▶ A Finance Minsitry report ranked Punjab National Bank (PNB) as the best PSU bank in the overall digital transactions category in India. As per Department of Financial Services' findings, PNB's average percentage of technical declines is only 0.83 % of total transactions.

16. ▶ A World Bank report named *A Glass Half Full: The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia*, India's trade in goods with South Asia could be at $62 billion and that with Pakistan could be at $37 billion without trade barriers, up from $19 billion with South Asia and $2

billion with Pakistan currently.

17. ▸ AU Small Finance Bank launched mobile app named 'Kamao' (earn), looking to improve its business through crowd-sourcing, involving employees, customers and non-customers. Bank will encourage stakeholders to refer prospective customers, who want to open deposit accounts or get loans, on app and win rewards.

18. ▸ AU Small Finance Bank raised INR 1000 crores from Singapore-based investment firm Temasek.

19. ▸ According to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Foreign Direct Investment in India rose 23% to 12.8 billion dollars during April to June quarter of FY 2018-19.

20. ▸ According to N-SIPI (State Investment Potential Index) series report by NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research), Delhi topped the list, replacing Gujarat. It was done based on 6 parameters: land, labour, infrastructure, economic climate, governance and political stability and business perceptions. Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar are ranked among least favourable states for investment.

21. ▸ According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Mauritius was top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore. Total FDI in FY18 stood at $37.36 billion in financial year which was marginal rise over $36.31 billion recorded in the previous fiscal 2016-17.

22. ▸ According to SBI report named Ecowrap, current account deficit of India will rise to 2.8% of the GDP in current financial year, due to rise in oil prices and moderate growth in exports. This is expected to turn country's overall balance of payment into deficit mode after six years, leading to forex reserves depletion of USD 16 billion (0.6 per cent of GDP) in FY19.

23. ▸ According to a new report by UN, Foreign Direct Investment to India decreased to 40 billion dollars last year from 44 billion dollars in 2016. Also, outflows from India have more than doubled in 2017-18.

   🔧 However, According to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)'s Recent Report - FDI in India increased to US $61.96 billion in 2017-18, from $60 billion Last year.

24. ▸ Accounting software solution firm Marg ERP partnered with ICICI Bank to offer an integrated payments platform to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers. This will enable ICICI Bank's current account holders to connect their bank accounts with MARG ERP software and undertake several digital transactions via RTGS, NEFT or IMPS directly from this platform, automate reconciliation of banking and accounting entries etc.

25. ▸ Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) acquire 97% stake Marine Infrastructure Developer Private Limited (MIDOL) for Rs 1950 crores.

26. ▸ Aditya Birla Retail Limited (ABRL) sold its supermarket chain *More* to Witzig Advisory Services, owned by Samara Alternative Investment Fund, for approx 4200 Crores. Amazon, in a deal with Samara, will be eventually picking up a 49% stake.

27. ▸ After recent launch of world's largest mobile phone-manufacturing factory in Noida, Samsung has now opened its biggest experience centre in Bengaluru (Karnataka).

28. ▸ After success of India's largest Merger of SBI Associate Banks with SBI, government is planning another mega merger of Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, Oriental Bank and Central Bank of India. These banks has combined loss of INR 21646 crores last year. It will create India's second largest bank after SBI with a combined asset of INR 16.58 trillion.

29. ▸ Agreement signed between Heavy Water Board (HWB) and Greenstar Fertilizers Limited for routing of phosphoric acid through Solvent Extraction Plant at Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu). It enable recovery and extraction of rare material from phosphoric acid using solvent extraction process developed by HWB based on the in-house solvents produced by HWB.

30. ▸ Airline SpiceJet will start a dedicated air cargo service under the SpiceXpress brand from September 18.

31. ▸ Airtel Payment Bank launched card-less cash withdrawals at over 100,000 ATMs across India. The technology can be used for self-withdrawal or for sending money to an intended recipient for ATM cash withdrawal.

32. ▸ All contributions to home ministry's 'Bharat Ke Veer' fund have been exempted from income tax under 80(G), formalising it nto a registered trust. Bharat Ke Veer initiative is a trust fund where people can aids families of paramilitary personnel who died fighting extremists. It has been formed with seven trustees headed by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba.

33. ▸ Amazon Pay, payments arm of Amazon, will acquire Sequoia-backed Tapzo, for approx $35-40 million.

34. ▸ Andhra Pradesh Govt. released State Credit Plan (banking) 2018-19, aiming to improve banking services in Andhra Pradesh.

   🔧 Under it, 194220 INR Crores are allocated for development purpose, with Priority Sector (agriculture and allied activities, SME, poor people for housing, students for education) allocated 144220 crores. Non-priority sector has been allocated 50000 crores.

35. ▸ Andhra Pradesh government launched a mobile platform, e-Rythu (e-farmer in Telugu) which will enable small-scale farmers to market their produce at reasonable prices. It has been developed by Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi, Kenya, and has been customized for India use.

36. ▸ Apollo Global Management acquired JP Morgan's real estate fund management platform in India.

37. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh became first State in North East India to introduce Smart e-Public Distribution System (e-PDS), developed by Madras Security Printers. It provides centralized online real-time electronic PDS to improve efficiency in supplying commodities to the beneficiaries.

38. ▶ As major relief to budding entrepreneurs, government allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed INR Rs 10 crores. Also, An angel investor picking up stakes in a startup should have minimum net worth of 2 crore or should have an average returned income of over Rs 25 lakh in preceding 3 financial years.

39. ▶ As per Commerce Ministry, India's global trade in 2017-18 stood at $767.9 billion, 16.32 % up as compared to $660.2 billion in 2016-17. Trade with Latin American Countries (LAC) recorded healthy growth of 19.63 % in 2017-18, most with Bolivia ($253 million in 2016-17 to $772.44 million in 2017-18).

40. ▶ As per Financial Data of Public Sector Banks in FY 2017-18 -
   ✎ Gross NPA ratio for PSBs is 14.6% in 2017-18. In the last 25 financial years, the gross NPA ratio for PSBs was highest in FY 1993-94 at 24.8%. PNB is followed y IDBI Bank with loss of 8,238 Crores.
   ✎ All PSBs Except Indian Bank and Vijaya Bank reported net losses in FY 2017-18, with PNB posting biggest ever loss of 12,283 Crores. It is mainly due to PNB was hit by recent huge scams.
   ✎ Vijaya Bank reported net profit of 727 Crores and Indian Bank posted Profit of 1,259 Crores.
   ✎ IDBI Bank has most Percentage of NPAs (28 %), followed by Indian Overseas Bank (25.3 %).
   ✎ Finance Ministry will infuse approx 11336 crores in 5 PSBs by September 2018 - PNB (2,816), Corporation Bank (2555), Indian Overseas Bank (2157), Andhra Bank (2019) and Allahabad Bank (1790).

41. ▶ As per London-based wireless coverage mapping Company OpenSignal, Bharti Airtel has highest 4G download speed among Indian telecom operators with speed of 9.31 MBPS, followed by Idea Cellular (7.27 mbps), Vodafone (6.98 mbps) and Reliance Jio (5.13mbps). Jio topped in terms of 4G network coverage.

42. ▶ As per Ministry of Finance, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in month of April 2018 was INR 1.034 Lakh crores, consisting Integrated GST (IGST) of 50548 crores as Biggest Component (Others are Central GST, State GST and cess). April 2018 is first ever month in which GST collection surpassed 1 lakh crore mark.

43. ▶ As per Mobile Banking Volume and Value share List compiled by SBI for 2017-18 -
   ✎ Value -
      ✎ Axis Bank (17.2%), ICICI Bank (17.1%), SBI (16.8%, down from 44.4% a year ago).
      ✎ Paytm, the topper in Volume category, holds only .25% of total Value of Mobile Banking Transactions.
   ✎ Volume -
      ✎ Paytm (21.87 %), SBI (19.5%), Axis Bank (12.76%), ICICI Bank (9.7%).
      ✎ Mobile-banking usage seen a steep jump, rising to 1871 million in FY18, from 977 million in FY17.

44. ▶ As per National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development's (NABARD)'s First All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17 -
   ✎ Agricultural household account for 48% of rural households. Agriculture (farming) generates only 23% of rural income. Only 43% of average income of agricultural households comes from cultivation of crops and rearing of animals.
   ✎ Number of rural households in India at 21.17 crores, of which 10.07 crores are agricultural.
   ✎ Average net monthly income of Indian rural households in 2016-17 was INR 8059.
   ✎ Among agricultural households, share of average income from cultivation and livestock rearing was just over 43%.

45. ▶ As per Prime Database Investment Bankers League table for FY 2017-18, IIFL is India's top investment bank for equity issuances by private sector companies. IIFL Holdings Ltd was formerly known as India Infoline Limited.

46. ▶ As per RBI, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu together received nearly 60% of total remittances in 2016-17. UAE emerged as top source of remittances with a share of 26.9%, followed by US (22.9%), Saudi Arabia (11.6%), Qatar (6.5%) and Kuwait (5.5%).

47. ▶ As per TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, State Bank of India is most-trusted bank (both public and private sector) and ICICI topped among private ones.

48. ▶ As per World Bank Global Findex Report 2017 -
   ✎ 55 % of new bank accounts opened globally between 2014-17 are from India. India witnessed a great jump in account ownership during 2014-2017 as 80 % Indians owned a bank account in 2017, compared to only 35 % bank account holders in 2011.

49. ▶ As per World Bank report *South Asia's Hotspots: The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards* -
   ✎ Climate change might cost India 2.8 % of GDP, as Average annual temperatures will increase by 1-2 % by 2050.
   ✎ 60 crore Indians live in areas that could become moderate or severe hotspots of climate change by 2050.

50. ▶ As per a RBI Report, India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to a four-quarter-high at 2.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) in April-June period, from 1.9% of GDP in the January-March quarter of 2017-18.

51. ▶ As per accounts of Government of India (Provisional/Unaudited) for FY 2017-18 -
    - 🖊 Government received inr 15,51,004 crores, comprising 1242662 crores Tax Revenue, 192523 crores Non Tax Revenue and 115819 crores of Non Debt Capital Receipts (Recovery of Loans and Disinvestment of PSUs)
    - 🖊 Expenditure incurred by Government is INR 2142667 crores, out of which 1878963 crores on Revenue Account and 263704 crores on Capital Account. 529243 crores is spent on Interest Payments (approx 25% of total spends).

52. ▶ As per official data of Q4 of 2017-18, Government debt increased by 1.7 % to INR 76,94,940 crores (from 75,66,215 crore in previous quarter), which is 45.9 % of GDP.

53. ▶ As per recent report, FDI in telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-18. Draft National Digital Communications Policy 2018 aims to attract investment of USD 100 billion in Digital Communications Sector.

54. ▶ Asia Index Pvt Ltd launched S&P BSE Private Banks Index to measure performance of private banks, drawn from constituents of S&P BSE Finance Index, Asia's oldest exchange. It would measures performance of private banks listed in India.

55. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.

56. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing of up to $500 million for a multi tranche financing facility (MFF) infrastructure project in various cities of Tamil Nadu.

57. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing package of $245 million to implement project for providing safe, sustainable drinking water service to million people in three districts of West Bengal (North 24 Parganas, Bankura and Purba Medinipur) affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.

58. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US $150 million loan for establishing first multi-skills park of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal. It will create more skilled workforce that meets labour market needs of the state.

59. ▶ Asian Development Bank approved lining project of Son canal in Shahabad – Bhojpur region of Bihar, to help agri-sector in this region. Cost of this project is USD 503 million (Rs 3272.49 crore) out of which USD 352 million is being provided by ADB.

60. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved investment of $200 million in India's National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to give greater impetus to mega infrastructure projects.
    - 🖊 AIIB is China led multilateral development bank set up in 2016. It has 83 member nations. India is second largest shareholder in AIIB (7.5 %), after China (26.06). It is headquartered in Beijing (China).
    - 🖊 NIFF was set up in December 2015 to catalyse funding into country's infrastructure sector. It has been set up as a fund of funds structure with aim to generate risk adjusted returns for its investors alongside promoting infrastructure development. It has targeted corpus of Rs 40,000 crore to be raised over the years. 49% will be funded by government.

61. ▶ Asian Inrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved $140 Million Loan to improve Rural Connectivity in Madhya pradesh, aimed at benefitting 1.5 Million Rural residents of 5640 Villages in Madhya Pradesh.

62. ▶ Asian News International (ANI0 and Emirates News Agency (WAM) signed MoU for bilateral cooperation in area of free news exchange in Abu Dhabi.

63. ▶ Astrosat, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory, captured images of a special galaxy cluster that is more than 800 million light years away from Earth. Named Abell 2256, it is made of 3 separate clusters of galaxies that are all merging with one another to eventually form a single massive cluster in future.

64. ▶ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme's subscriber crossed 1 Crore on completion of 3 years of Its launch (May 9, 2015), With current number of subscribers standing at 1.10 Crores.
    - 🖊 APY is a guaranteed Pension Scheme that focuses on unorganised sector workers which constitute more than 85% of workforce. Under It APY, guaranteed pension of 1000 - 5000 will be given at the age of 60 years depending on contribution by subscribers.
    - 🖊 The Scheme has generated around 9.10 % CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) since its inception till March 2018.

65. ▶ Axis Securities launched commodity broking services with MCX and became the first bank subsidiary to enter commodity broking business. Now, Axis Direct customers can now trade in 29 commodity futures and contracts through a one-time online registration process.

66. ▶ Axis bank become first bank in India to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar -based transactions through its micro ATM tablets. This is being run as a pilot project in 8 branches of rural Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

67. ▶ BRICS' Bank (New Development Bank) approved a $525-million loan for infrastructure projects in Madhya Pradesh, for rehabilitating major district roads with a total length of about 2,000 km.
    - 🖊 NDB Headquarters is in Shanghai (China), with K.V. Kamath as President.

68. ▶ BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) became first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by US Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC). It will allow sale of securities to US investors through trading

venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US SEC. It will ease trades by US investors in India and also enhance attractiveness of Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs) amongst US investors.

69. ▸ BSE, PTC India Ltd and ICICI Bank will jointly form India's third electricity exchange, after 2 operating power exchanges - Power Exchange of India (PXIL) and India Energy Exchange (IEX).

70. ▸ BSNL signed pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India. As per BSNL, 5G will be launched in India in 2020 as soon standards are freezed by ITU.

71. ▸ Bandhan Bank surpassed YES Bank and became 6th most valuable private sector bank and seventh most valued listed lender in India. Bandhan Bank with a market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 840 billion surpassed YES Bank with m-cap of Rs 838 billion.

72. ▸ Bank Of Baroda signed agreement with CDSL Commodity Repository (CCRL), for pledge finance under repository ecosystem for accredited warehouses. It will boost confidence among bankers and other stakeholders like depositors and warehouse service providers. BOB becomes first public sector bank to become the repository participant.

73. ▸ Bank deposits growth fell to a five-decade low in FY 2017-18, with other savings methods such as mutual funds and insurance reduced banking competitiveness. A total deposit of 114 lakh crore was reported in the last fiscal, with growth rate of 6.7% (lowest since 1963).

74. ▸ Banks Board Bureau (BBB) appointed two firms *Egon Zehnder International* and *Hay Consultants* to assist in developing strategies for top bank management.
    - ✎ Egon Zehnder will design a flagship leadership development strategy for state-run banks in India.
    - ✎ Hay Consultants will assess leadership competencies and potential capabilities of people appearing for post of whole time directors in state-run banks.

75. ▸ Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended 22 general managers to be elevated as executive directors at various public sector banks (PSBs). This is the first major exercise undertaken by reconstituted BBB, headed by newly appointed Chairman BP Sharma.

76. ▸ Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) signed Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) aimed at faster resolution of stressed assets of 50 crore or more which are under consortium lending. It has been signed by 22 govt banks, 19 private banks and 32 foreign banks as part of project 'Sashakt'.
    - ✎ Under it, lead lender (having highest exposure) will be authorised to formulate resolution plan for operation turnaround of assets which will be presented to lenders for their approval.
    - ✎ Decision making under ICA framework will be by way of approval of majority lenders i.e. lenders with 66% share in exposure.

77. ▸ Bharat Earth Movers (BEML) and Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) signed pact for making mining equipment. It will reduce working capital and create capability for high capacity equipment.

78. ▸ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) launched BSNL WINGS VOIP based service, requiring no SIM or cable wiring. WINGS offers unlimited free audio/video calling for one year. It can be activated with a one-time fee of Rs. 1,099.

79. ▸ Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* (PMJJBY), a government-backed life insurance scheme. It offers Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover for a nominal premium of Rs 330 per annum and can be purchased by all existing or new Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between ages 18-50.

80. ▸ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launched platform to make stock market listing attractive for startups in SME (small and medium enterprise) segment. For listing, A company needs to have a pre-issue paid up equity share capital of a minimum of Rs 1 crore and must be in existence for a minimum period of 3 years on the date of filing draft prospectus with BSE.

81. ▸ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) signed agreement with Bombay Metal Exchange (BME) for growth of commodity derivatives markets in non-ferrous metals complex. BSE and BME will work jointly on initiatives to deepen understanding of commodity market among stakeholders.

82. ▸ CBDT notified A Protocol to amend existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait, for avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

83. ▸ CSC SPV, a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & IT signed agreement with HDFC Bank to enable its three lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) managing Common Services Centers operate as Banking Correspondents of HDFC Bank. HDFC Bank will also support CSC SPV in converting 1000 identified villages into Digi Gaon (Digital Villages) this year.

84. ▸ Cab Aggregator Ola acquired Mumbai-based end transport ticketing and commuting app *Ridlr*, to complement Ola's efforts to integrate its mobility platform with public transportation infrastructure.

85. ▸ Cab Aggregator Ola introduced in-trip insurance programme for all its customers, starting at just Re 1 and covering up to 500000. This will cover for loss of belongings, missed flights, and medical expenses. Ola partnered with Acko General Insurance and ICICI Lombard General Insurance for this in-trip insurance programme.

86. ▸ Cabinet Approvals on Apr 21, 2018 -
    - ✎ CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) Approvals -

- Approved Restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for period 01-04-2018 to 31-03-2022 at cost of INR 7255.50 crores with Central Share of 4500 crore and States' Share of INR 2755.50 crores.
  - National Level activities will include National Plan of Technical Assistance, Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat, Incentivization of Panchayats and State component will be Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
  - State funding pattern for State Component will be 60:40 for all States, except North East and Hill States where Centre:State funding pattern will be 90:10 and For UTs, Central share will be 100%.
  - Sunset date for RGSA will be 31-03-2030.
  - RGSA will help over 2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources.
  - RGSA will strengthen Gram Sabhas to function as effective institutions with social inclusion of citizens particularly the vulnerable groups. It will establish institutional structure for capacity building of PRIs with adequate human resources and infrastructure.
  - PM Narendra Modi will Launch RGSA from Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), on 24th April (National Panchayati Raj Day).

87. Cabinet extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018.
- To further incentivize people's participation, age criterion for participation has been revised. Earlier, people of age 18 to 60 years were entitled to enroll in this scheme. But now it has been relaxed further to 65 years.
- All accounts opened after August 2018 will have accident insurance limit of Rs 2 lakh, double than earlier Rs 1 lakh limit.
- The overdraft facility of the scheme was also increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is a social security scheme that aims to provide affordable universal access to essential social security protection to unorganized work force of country, which constitute more than 85% of workforce.
  - It had replaced earlier government-backed pension Swavalamban scheme targeted at the unorganised sector. It was launched in June 2015. It is available to all citizens of India in age group of 18-40 years.

88. Canara bank opened a portal to claim education loan interest subsidy for FY 2017-18, under Central sector interest subsidy (CSIS) scheme of HRD Ministry.
- According to this, Full interest subsidy is provided to eligible students for course period plus one year for loans up to Rs.7.5 lakh. Tamil Nadu is the top state availing this loan.

89. Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange, to launch commodity derivatives trading from 1 October, 2018. It is done as part of SEBI's December 2017 announcement of having unified exchange regime wherein stock exchanges will be allowed to offer trading in commodities derivatives.
- Universal exchanges will help in achieving integration of trading in commodity derivatives market with other segments of securities market at exchange level. It will help in providing efficient price discovery, reduction in timelines, cost effective, user-friendly, robust risk management system and wider market penetration.
- In long term, Indian exchanges will find it easier to compete with their global counterparts and they are present in multiple segments.
- SEBI also approved several proposals, including a revised framework for settlement of cases and new KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors. It allowed foreign investors to trade in commodity derivatives market, except for sensitive commodities, as well as common application form for registration of FPIs in domestic market.

90. Central Board of Direct Taxation extended deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linking from June 30 2018, to March 31, 2019, as 5th time extension in deadline for individuals to link their PAN with their Aadhaar. Over 16.65 crore PANs out of 33 crore were linked with Aadhaar till March 2019.

91. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released all 7 e-filling forms for taxpayers, For e-filling of the taxpayers for assessment year 2018-19. New ITR forms require the salaried taxpayers to break down their salary and for businessmen to provide their GST number and turnover.
- ITR-1 is called 'Sahaj' and is for the salaried person earning upto Rs. 50 lakh. 3 crore taxpayers used this file for previous year.
- ITR-2 is for the individuals and 'HUF' (Hindu Undivided Families) having income from profits and gains in business including NRIs.
- ITR-3and ITR-4 can be filled by HUFs having income under head business and profession.
- An individual of 80 years and above or any HUF or whose income is Rs. 5 lakh and less can file for returns in ITR-1 and ITR-4.

92. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released its annual report on additional tax from MNCs through 219 APAs(199 unilateral and 20 bilateral). As per report, In FY18, MNCs have acquired an extra income of Rs 10,000 crore, translating into a tax of Rs 3,000 crore.
- APAs (Advanced Pricing Agreements) are primarily aimed at avoiding transfer pricing disputes arising from cross-border transactions undertaken by MNCs. It is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority.

93. ▶ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has developed mobile app 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers. It will allow customers to verify their bill if any GST amount mentioned is of genuinely registered person or not.

94. ▶ Central Bureau of Excise and Customs (CBEC) imposed a 10% duty on imports of key smartphone components such as populated printed circuit boards (PCBs), camera modules and connectors, up from 0% import duty Currently.
   - 🖎 Import duties are generally imposed to discourage imports and promote local manufaturing units.

95. ▶ Central Government enhanced its contribution in State Disaster Response fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90%, from April 2018. Additional contribution thus rising for Central Government in SDRF will be 1690 crores for 2018-19 and 1774 crores for 2019-20.
   - 🖎 Under Disaster Management Act 2005, SDRF has been constituted in each State in which Centre, so far, had been contributing 75% for General Category States and 90% for Special Category States of hilly regions every year.
   - 🖎 On recommendations of 14th Finance Commission (Headed by Y V Reddy and opeational between 2015-20), Government significantly enhanced allocation to SDRF by 82.30% (from 33580 crores during 2010-11 to 2014-15 to 61,220 crore 2015-16 to 2019-20.

96. ▶ Central Government, Government of Maharashtra and World Bank signed today US$ 420 million project to help Small and Marginal farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra, to help increase climate resilient practices in agriculture. It will benefit over 7 million people spread over an area of 3.0 million ha and cover 5,142 villages across 15 most climate vulnerable districts of region. This loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.

97. ▶ Central Government, State Government of Rajasthan and World Bank signed $250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL) to support Rajasthan in improving the performance of its Electricity Distribution Sector under State's 24x7 Power for All program
   - 🖎 Second Programmatic Electricity Distribution Reform Development Policy Loan for Rajasthan is second in series of 2 operations planned for a comprehensive turnaro und of Rajasthan's electricity distribution sector. The First Loan was closed in March 2017.

98. ▶ Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) has been transferred from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and brought under Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). Earlier, Budget 2018 amended Central Road Fund Act 2000, and renamed Central Road Fund as Central Road and Infrastructure Fund.

99. ▶ Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 4th quarter (January-March) Q4 of 2017-18 for FY 2017-18 -
   - 🖎 GDP (at 2011-12 prices) in fourth quarter (Q4) registered growth rate of **7.7 %,** compared to 5.6, 6.3 and 7.0 % respectively in first three quarters of 2017-18. Good Growth in agriculture, manufacturing and construction sectors (11.5%) contributed to overall growth.
   - 🖎 GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for 2017-18 is estimated at 130.11 lakh crores, showing growth rate of **6.7 %** over 2016-17.
   - 🖎 At sectoral level, growth rate of GVA at constant (2011-12) prices in Q4 for agriculture & allied sectors, industry and services sectors are estimated at 4.5 %, 8.8 %, and 7.7 %.
   - 🖎 Per capita income (at 2011-12 prices) during 2017-18 is estimated to eb INR 86668, compared to INR 82229 for 2016-17 (growth of 5.4 %).
   - 🖎 GDP at current prices for 2017-18 is estimated at 167.73 lakh crores, growth rate of 10.0 % over 2016-17.

100. ▶ Child rights organisation NGO Child Rights and You (CRY) received a USD 100,000 grant from global technology major Oracle for a digitally enhanced monitoring system that would potentially improve lives of underprivileged children across 19 states.

101. ▶ China, UAE, Cyprus and significantly, Mauritius, along with 21 other countries have been tagged as "high-risk jurisdictions" by global banks acting as custodians for foreign funds which comprise the largest group of investors in Indian stock market.

102. ▶ Credit rating agency Fitch kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at 'BBB-' with stable outlook. This rating is at junk bond or lowest investment grade with stable outlook. BBB- rating balances India's medium-term growth outlook and favourable external balances with weak fiscal finances and some lagging structural factors.

103. ▶ Delhi based Sudeva Football Club accquired Spanish league's third division club C.D Olimpic Xativa, to expand its operations in Europe. Sudeva becomes First Indian football club to do so.

104. ▶ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science & Technology initiated National Biopharma Mission which is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), to strengthen emerging biotechnology sector in India.
   - 🖎 Mission has been approved at a total cost of US$250 million for five years with 50% funding through World Bank Loan. Legal agreement between BIRAC and IBRD (World Bank) has been signed.

105. ▶ Department of Financial Services (DFS) and National Informatics Centre  (NIC) jointly developed a mobile app called *Jan Dhan Darshak,* as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiatives. It will guide common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location.
   - 🖎 With over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) mapped on App, approx. 1.35 lakh Bank Mitras would be on-boarded by December 2018.

106. ▸ Department of Telecom (DoT) gave final approval to merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular, after Idea and Vodafone India jointly paid inr 7268 crores *under protest*. Both the entities will now approach Registrar of Companies (RoC) for stipulated filings for approval, completing last leg of formalities.

    🖎 Merged identity will be known as 'Vodafone Idea' that will create India's largest telecom company. Kumar Mangalam Birla will be Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea while Balesh Sharma will be CEO.

    🖎 Vodafone will hold 45.1 percent of the combined entity and Idea promoters will hold 26.1 percent of entity.

107. ▸ Department of Telecom (DoT) raised fresh demand of around INR 4700 crores ahead of merger deal between Vodafone India and Idea Cellular. As per DOT, Vodafone India merged all its arms into one company and these dues are related to one-time spectrum charges (OTSC).

    🖎 The merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular will create country's largest mobile service operator with proposed name of Vodafone Idea Ltd. It will be worth over $23 billion with a 35 % market share and a subscriber base of around 43 crores.

108. ▸ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved Bharti Airtel's acquisition of Norway based Telenor India. Bharti Airtel will buy Telenor India in a no-cash deal and will take over its outstanding spectrum payments of Rs 1650 crores.

109. ▸ Department of telecommunications gave conditional approval to merger of Vodafone India with Idea Cellular, seeking over 7,200 crore (3300 crore and 3900 crore from Vodafone India) from both companies on account of one-time spectrum charges and spectrum liberalisation fees.

110. ▸ Digital North East Vision 2022 was released in Guwahati, Assam by Ravi Shankar Prasad (Minister for Electronics & Information Technology), along with First electronics manufacturing cluster in northeastern region in Guwahati.

    🖎 It identifies eight areas namely, Digital Infrastructure, Digital services, Promotion of Electronics Manufacturing, Digital empowerment, Promotion of IT and ITes including BPOs, Digital Payments, Innovation & Startups and Cyber security.

    🖎 Under Digital North East, government will invest nearly 10,000 crore over 4 years to implement over 400 projects.

111. ▸ Digital Wallet Firm Paytm launched its offline payments solution - *Paytm Tap Card*, to provide seamless payments solutions for non-internet customers. This card uses Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to enable safe and convenient digital payments.

112. ▸ Digital payments company PayPal and Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an agreement for promotion of outbound shipments among small and medium enterprises (SMEs). PayPal will work with FIEO to educate SMEs on how to leverage global opportunities, help them receive money in a safe and timely manner with PayPal products.

113. ▸ Digital payments firm Paytm acquired Bengaluru-based savings management firm Balance Technology, for approx 12 Crores INR, to enhance its user and merchant interfaces with customised and intuitive user experiences.

114. ▸ Digital payments platform PayPal tied up with HDFC Bank to offer more efficient payment experiences for bank's cardholders.

115. ▸ Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) banned import of petcoke for use as fuel, allowing its import of only for use as feedstock in some selecte industries like cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide and gasification.

116. ▸ E-Commerce Firm Flipkart acquired AI-led speech recognition Liv.ai, to introduce easier shopping experience through Voice recongition.

117. ▸ Economic Affairs Secretary SC Garghas announced a reduction in gross borrowing estimate for current fiscal by 70,000 crore rupees, stating that government will contain fiscal deficit target at 3.3 %.

118. ▸ Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)'s approved 8.55% interest on PF for 2017-18, lowest since 2012-13. It provided 8.5%in 2016-17, 8.8% in 2015-16 and 8.75% in 2013-14 & 2014-15. This will be applied to all 120 offices of EPFO and all 5 crore subscribers.

    🖎 EPFO also decided to cut Administrative Charges by 15 Basis Points to .5% (from .65%), enabling over 5 lakh employers to save about Rs. 900 crore annually.

119. ▸ Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) rolled out Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to changing employment pattern, during 175th ESI Corporation meeting in New Delhi.

    🖎 Amid changing scenario of employment in India, from long to fixed short term engagement, there is need to provide assistance to employees in case they get unemployed for sometime and search new job.

    🖎 Its beneficiaries will be insured persons covered under ESI Act 1948 for 2 years continuously. Financial assistance will be given to insured persons even while they search for new engagement.

    🖎 Beneficiaries will be paid money, from their own contribution towards ESI scheme, in cash through bank account transfer.

    🖎 Under this scheme, workers will be able to draw 47% of their total contributions towards ESIC after remaining unemployed for at least 3v months.

120. ▸ End-to-end IoT service provider *Unlimit* partnered with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to offer comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) services to enterprise customers across India.

121. ▸ Exim Bank of India signed cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake "collaborative research" in distributed ledger/blockchain technology.

122. ▶ Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) approved revised cost (3466 Crores) and Extended Time Period (June 2020) for World Bank funded Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP). DRIP is a state sector scheme with central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams.

   🖊 Participating States / Agencies are Damodar Valley Corporation, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and Central Water Commission.

123. ▶ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide loans worth about US $4.5 billion to Bangladesh for financing of various social and infrastructure projects. In this regard, Exim Bank signed agreement with Bangladesh Government in October 2017 to extend this LoC facility.

124. ▶ FIH Mobile, subsidiary of Foxconn Technology Group (leading global contract manufacturing giant), written off an additional $40 million of its $200 million inveestment in online marketplace Snapdeal.

125. ▶ Facebook will launch Whatsapp Pay, a payment service for its whatsapp platform. It will be partnering with HDFC , AXIS, ICICI and SBI banks.

126. ▶ Fashion e-retailer Myntra acquired Witworks, a Bengaluru based technology startup, involved in developing smart wearable devices and their underlying software.

127. ▶ Federal Bank (Private Bank) received RBI approval to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore. It is awaiting local clearances before starting operations there.

128. ▶ Federal Bank signed MOU with Infopark Kakkanad for leasing space in their campus, after obtaining RBI approval for creation of a subsidiary company.

129. ▶ Finance Ministry approved Sunil Mehta Committee's suggestions of a 5-pronged strategy to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPA), in report titled *Sashakt*. 5 pronged strategy includes SME resolution approach, Bank-led resolution approach, AMC/AIF led resolution approach, NCLT/IBC approach AND Asset-trading platform.

   🖊 Highlights nine guiding principles aimed at the operational turnaround of the banking sector in a manner that will create jobs and enhance the value of public sector banks.

   🖊 Resolution of bad assets below Rs 50 crore to be done within 90 days.

   🖊 Resolution of consortium loans between Rs 50-500 crore to be done within 180 days, using a BLRA (Bank Led Resolution approach).

   🖊 Loans above Rs 500 crores will be dealt via AMC/AIF-led resolution process.

   🖊 Recommendations included creating platforms where banks can trade in bunched loan assets.

   🖊 Committee suggested setting up of an AMC with an equity contribution from banks, foreign funds and infrastructure funds such as the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF). AMC could be set up under an existing Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) like Arcil Ltd which is already promoted by banks.

130. ▶ Finance Ministry doubled pecuniary limit to INR 20 lakh from 10 lakh for filing loan recovery application in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions. It means that banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if pecuniary limit amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh. This move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs.

131. ▶ Finance Ministry extended deadline on imposing import duty hike on 29 products, imported from United States (US) by 45 days till September 18, 2018, after March 2018 decision of US President Donald Trump to impose heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items from India.

132. ▶ Finance Ministry in consultation with RBI launched first tranche of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) for current fiscal (FY 2018-19), to be sold through banks, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges. Features are-

| Sl. No. | Item | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Denomination | In multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram. Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold. |
| 2 | Tenor | 8 years with exit option in $5^{th}$, $6^{th}$ and $7^{th}$ year, to be exercised on interest payment dates. |
| 3 | Maximum limit | Maximum limit shall be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fisca. |
| 4 | Payment option | Online / Offline (upto 20000) . Issue price of Gold Bonds will be INR 50 per gram less for those who subscribe online and pay digitally. |
| 5 | Interest rate | The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value. |
| 6 | Tax treatment | The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961). Capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted |

| 7 | Commission | Commission for distribution of bond shall be paid at the rate of 1% of the total subscription and receiving offices shall share at least 50% of commission so received with agents for the business procured through them. |
|---|---|---|

133. ▶ Finance Ministry announced to keep interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for July-September quarter. **I**nterest rates are (in %)

- 🖊 5 yr Senior citizen Savings Scheme (paid quarterly) - 8.3
  - 🖊 Meant for people above 60 years of age. Only one deposit, not exceeding Rs. 15 lakh, is allowed in this scheme. It is payable from date of deposit of March 31/ September 30/ December 31 in first instance and thereafter, interest is payable on March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31.
- 🖊 Savings Deposits - 4
- 🖊 Public Provident Fund (PPF) - 7.6
  - 🖊 A long-term investment option that offers benefits of EEE on income tax. EEE means that PPF returns are exempt from income tax, maturity amount is tax-free and main investment qualifies for a deduction under section 80C of Income Tax Act. Interest on PPF accounts is compounded yearly.
- 🖊 National Savings Certificate (NSC) - 7.6
  - 🖊 NSC certificates can be purchased from post offices, with tenure of 5 to 10 years. NSCs offer benefits under Section 80C of Income Tax Act. Interest is compounded annually but paid on maturity.
- 🖊 Kisan Vikas Patra - 7.3
  - 🖊 A Long-term savings plan that can be purchased from post offices. It can be encashed after 2.5 years. Interest is compounded annually. Amount invested doubles in 118 months.
- 🖊 Sukanya Samriddhi Account - 8.1
  - 🖊 A legal guardian/ natural guardian, on behalf of a girl child, can open this account in post offices or banks. This account matures in 21 years after deposit of money for 15 years. This scheme gives a triple income tax benefit (no tax on amount invested, amount earned as interest and amount withdrawn). It is compounded and calculated on a yearly basis.
- 🖊 Term Deposit (1-5 years) - 6.6-7.4
- 🖊 5 year Recurring Deposit - 6.9

134. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm acquired Chennai-based online ticketing platform *TicketNew*, owned by Orbgen Technologies, for approx $40 million.

135. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm patrtnered with Japanese Investor SoftBank to launch a payments service in Japan, to be launched by SoftBank's joint venture company PayPal (with Yahoo Japan). It ia aimed at increasing quantity of cashless payments in Japan, which are currently only 20 % of total transactions.

136. ▶ Financial Services Firm Oxigen and Fincare Small Finance Bank partnered to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxigen's flagship Point of Sale device called Oxigen Micro ATM Super PoS.

137. ▶ Financial Services Firm Paytm acquired Orbgen Technologies, entity that operates Chennai-based online ticketing platform TicketNew, in a bid to enhance its entertainment ticketing business.

138. ▶ Financial Services Firm Paytm acquired mobile technology startup Cube26, to help it build its consumer engagement products in areas of social and content. Cube26 works with handset manufacturers and combines its software capabilities with hardware.

139. ▶ Financial firm Paytm partnered with China's Alibaba to launch AI-based cloud computing platform 'Paytm AI Cloud'. It will offer business-centric apps to developers, startups and enterprises that need cloud-computing solutions including customer engagement and easy-to-integrate payments.

140. ▶ Financial services platform MobiKwik launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its platform via its own Virtual payment address (VPA) handle @ikwik.

141. ▶ Fino Payments Bank launched sevreral digital products, in addition to mobile banking app BPay launched in 2017. New initiatives include Unified Payments Interface (UPI), net banking, easy digi savings account and FasTag for making digital payments at toll plazas.

142. ▶ First-ever Mizoram International Short Film Festival (MISFF) held at Aijal Club in Aizawl.

143. ▶ Flipkart subsidiary PhonePe acquired Zopper Retail – a hyperlocal Point of Sale (POS) platform for small and medium businesses.

144. ▶ Flipkart-owned PhonePe partnered with cab aggregator Ola that will allow riders to book rides using PhonePe's payment platform.

145. ▶ Foreign direct investment in India grew at 5 year lowest rate of 3% in 2017-18 (total FDI USD 44.85 billion). Compared to FDI Growth of 8.67% in 2016-17, 29% in 2015-16 and 27% in 2014-15.

146. ▶ Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018 came into force as President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to Cabinet's decision to promulgate the said Ordinance.
   - 🖎 It empowers authorities to attach and confiscate (ज़ब्त करना) properties of economic offenders and deter them from evading Indian law by remaining outside India.
   - 🖎 A Fugitive Economic Offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued in respect of a scheduled offence and who has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution.
   - 🖎 To ensure that Courts are not over-burdened with such cases, only those cases where total value involved in such offences is 100 crore rupees or more, is within purview of this Ordinance.
   - 🖎 President Ram Nath Kovind also promulgated an ordinance that provides for stringent punishment, including death penalty, for those convicted of raping girls aged below 12 years. Jammu and Kashmir state Govt. also approved Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 that provides death penalty to rapists of children below age of 12 years.

147. ▶ GST Council approved simplified return filing process, Including measures like -
   - 🖎 One monthly Return.
   - 🖎 Unidirectional Flow of invoices - Seller needs to upload unidirectional flow of invoices anytime during month. This would be valid document to avail input tax credit by buyer.
   - 🖎 Simple Return design and easy IT interface.
   - 🖎 No automatic reversal of credit - There will not be any automatic reversal of input tax credit from buyer's side on non-payment of tax by seller.
   - 🖎 Due process for recovery and reversal will be carried out through a due process of issuing notice and order.
   - 🖎 Transition - There will be a three stage transition in the new system.
       - 🖎 Stage I will be the present system of filing of return GSTR 3B and GSTR 1. GSTR 2 and GSTR 3 shall continue to remain suspended.
       - 🖎 In stage 2, new return will have facility to upload invoice-wise data and also for claiming input tax credit on self declaration basis.
   - 🖎 Content of return and implementation - Return will be simplified by reducing amount of information required to be filled.
   - 🖎 GST Council also approved to make GST Network (GSTN) a government body, with Govt. acquiring 51% stake, up from 49 % Currently.

148. ▶ Global Consultancy Firm in its report Titled *India Soars Higher* stated that India has highest growth rate amongst Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) economies.

149. ▶ Global Findex Report released by World Bank said that about 19 Crore Indian adults still don't have a bank account, second only to China, despite account ownership more than doubling from 35 % in 2011 to 80 % in 2017.

150. ▶ Global ratings agency Fitch revised down its outlook on ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.
   - 🖎 It downgraded ICICI Bank's 'support rating' to '3', from '2', its support rating floor to 'BB+', from 'BBB-' .
   - 🖎 Axis Bank's rating degraded to negative from stable, pointing to high proportion of NPAs.

151. ▶ Google announced *Launchpad Accelerator India*, as a new mentorship program developed for startups in India, utilising Machine Learning/AI to develop solutions for India's local needs. This is a 3 month accelerator. It will offer mentorship and access to Google's people, network and technologies, to a group of 8-10 Indian startups. Upto $100K of Google Cloud Credits will also be offered.

152. ▶ Google partnered with four Indian banks to grant Instant consumer loans online, after rebranding its UPI Payments app Tez as *Google Pay*. Banks are HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank. The Instanty lending features will be available soon in the Google Pay App.

153. ▶ Government amended Income Tax rules that will now allow transgenders to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for obtaining a Permanent Account Number (PAN).

154. ▶ Government announced several measures to check rising Current Account Deficit (CAD) and fall in Indian Rupee. CAD had widened to 2.4% of GDP in the first quarter of 2018-19, compared to 1.9 % a quarter before. Indian Rupee is touching new Lows everyday, staying over 70 / USD. Several steps to be taken by government to curb these issues -
   - 🖎 To permit manufacturing sector entities to avail of External Commercial Borrowing (ECBs) up to $50 million with minimum maturity of one year, instead of the earlier limit of three years.
   - 🖎 Removing restrictions with respect to FPI exposure limit of 20 % in corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate group or company or entity and 50 % of any issue of corporate bond.
   - 🖎 Removal of withholding tax on rupee-denominated bonds known as Masala bonds issued till March 2019.

155. ▶ Government announced that Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme will be open to all potential researchers from 2019 and not limited to candidates from IISc, IITs, NITs, IIEST and IISERs. It was decided after Government failed to find adequate number of candidates for PMRF this year (Only 135 fellowships offered against 1000 positions).

- PMRF will be implemented for period of seven years beginning 2018-19 at total cost of Rs. 1650 crores.
- B. Tech/Integrated M.Tech/M.Sc students streams will be offered direct admission in PhD programme in IITs/IISc. Selected students will be offered monthly fellowship of Rs.70,000 for first two years, Rs.75,000 for 3rd year and Rs.80,000 in 4th and 5th years.
- Each selected fellow students will be also provided research grant of Rs.2.00 lakh for period of 5 years.

156. ▶ Government approved complete electrification of Indian Railways by 2021-22, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel and saving revenue. It will cost approx 12100 crores.

- CCEA's decision covers only electrifying remaining 13,675 kilometers (16,540 track kilometers). Currently, around 48% of 61,680 km broad gauge railway network is electrified. This approval does not cover 3,479 km of metre gauge and 2,209 of broad gauge network.
- After complete electrification, India will be having second largest electrified railway networks in the world after China, which has 87,000 km electrified network (around 68% of its network) and only large railway with 100 % electrification.

157. ▶ Government approved expansion of capital base of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to 10000 crores, under Revitalising Infrastructure & Systems in Higher Education (RISE) by 2022. Financing of infrastructure of Centrally Funded Educational Institutions would henceforth be through HEFA loans. Financing windows -

- Technical Institutions more than 10 yr old would repay Principal Portion from internally generated budgetary resources. 100% of interest costs would be serviced by Government.
- Technical Institutions started between 2008 and 2014 would repay 25% of principal portion from internal resources. 75% of principal and 100% of interest costs would be serviced by Government.
- Central Universities started prior to 2014 will repay 10% of principal from internal resources. 90% of principal and 100% of interest costs would be serviced by Government.
- Newly established Institutions (started after 2014) would completely service principal and interest costs of loan through OH-31.

158. ▶ Government doubled import duties on 328 textile products to 20% from existing 10%, to promote domestic manufacturers as imported products are currently cheaper.

159. ▶ Government imposed safeguard duty of 25% on import of solar cells from China and Malaysia, to help domestic solar cell manufacturing sector.

160. ▶ Government made Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts. It was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years

- Overdraft limit for account holders has now been doubled to Rs 10000.
- Free accident insurance cover for those opening Jan Dhan accounts after August 28 too has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh
- There will be no conditions attached for over-draft of up to Rs 2,000.
- Upper age limit for availing the facility has also been hiked to 65 from the earlier 60 years.

161. ▶ Government modifies operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) -

- Provision of Penalties for States, ICs and Banks - 12% interest rate to be paid by Insurance Company to farmers for delay in settlement claims beyond 2 months of prescribed cut off date. State Govt. will pay 12% interest rate for delay in release of State share of Subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut off date/submission of requisition by Insurance Companies.
- Detailed Standard Operating Procedure for Performance evaluation of ICs and their de-empanelment.
- Inclusion of Perennial horticultural crops (on pilot basis) under PMFBY.
- Inclusion of cloud burst and natural fire in localized calamities in addition to hailstorm, landslide, and inundation. Add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals on pilot basis.
- Mandatory capturing of Adhaar number, to avoid duplication.
- Rationalization of methodology for calculation of TY - Moving average of best 5 out of 7 years for calculation of claim amount.
- More time to insured farmer to intimate individual claims – 72 hours (instead of 48 hours).
- To ensure that more non-loanee farmers are insured under scheme, insurance companies are given a target of enrolling 10% more non-loanee farmers than previous corresponding season.
- Insurance companies will mandatorily spend 0.5% of gross premium per company per season for publicity and awareness of scheme.
- Release of upfront premium subsidy will be made at beginning of the season based on 50% of 80% of total share of subsidy of corresponding season of previous year as GOI/State subsidy.

162. ▶ Government of India approved changes in interest rates for Small Savings Schemes for Third Quarter of the Current Financial Year 2018-19 (October - December 2018). Updated interest rates are -

| Name | Rate of interest in Current Quarter (July - September 2018) | Rate of interest in Current Quarter (October - December 2018) | Compounding frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| Savings Deposit | 4.0 | 4.0 | Annually |
| 1 Year Time Deposit | 6.6 | 6.9 | Quarterly |
| 2 Year Time Deposit | 6.7 | 7.0 | Quarterly |
| 3 Year Time Deposit | 6.9 | 7.2 | Quarterly |
| 5 Year Time Deposit | 7.4 | 7.8 | Quarterly |
| 5 Year Recurring Deposit | 6.9 | 7.3 | Quarterly |
| 5 Year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme | 8.3 | 8.7 | Quarterly and paid |
| 5 Year Monthly Income Account | 7.3 | 7.7 | Monthly and paid |
| 5 Year National Savings Certificate | 7.6 | 8.0 | Annually |
| Public Provident Fund Scheme | 7.6 | 8.0 | Annually |
| Kisan Vikas Patra | 7.3 (will mature in 118 months) | 7.7 (will mature in 112 months) | Annually |
| Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme | 8.1 | 8.5 | Annually |

163. ▶ Government proposed merger of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank in order to create India's third-largest bank. It aims to make banks stronger and sustainable as well as increase their lending ability.

   🖊 After this merger announcement, Fitch Ratings ranked BOB's viability ration to 'rating watch negative'. It currently stands at 'bb'. It reflects potential negative effects of the merger in the long term, as merged entity would have larger bad loans.

164. ▶ Government proposed to bring down number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to 38 from present 56, to enable them to minimize their overhead expenses, optimize the use of technology, enhance the capital base and area of operation and increase their exposure.

165. ▶ Government raised customs duty on wheat from 20 % to 30 %, to curb cheaper imports and protect domestic growers. Import duty on walnut shell has also been increased from 30 % to 100 %.

166. ▶ Government reconstituted Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to include secretaries from revenue department AND Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY) and Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Currently M S Sahoo). It will make FSDC more broad-based to incorporate changes in economic regulatory framework.

167. ▶ Government reduced minimum yearly deposit required under girl child savings scheme *Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana,* to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000 earlier.

   🖊 It was launched as a small savings scheme under Beti Bacho Beti Padho (BBBP) in January 2015. Under it, guardian of a girl child can open an account in her name until she attains age of 10 years. Deposits can be made up to 14 years from date of opening of account. Maximum investment amount on yearly basis is Rs 1.50 lakh.

   🖊 Girl child can withdraw 50% of money after reaching age of 18 for higher education. It will get interest rate of 9.1%. Account will remain operative until girl child reaches 21 age.

168. ▶ Government simplified process for permission of Additional Fiscal Deficit Limit over and above 3 % of Gross State Domestic Product for States (GSDP).  States will be eligible for flexibility of 0.25 % over and above this for any given year for which borrowing limits are to be fixed if their debt-GSDP ratio is less than or equal to 25 % in preceding year.

   🖊 States will be further eligible for an additional borrowing limit of 0.25 % of GSDP for which borrowing limits are to be fixed if interest payments are less than or equal to 10 % of revenue receipts in preceding year. Flexibility in either of the 2 options or both will be available only if there is no revenue deficit in current and immediately preceding year.

   🖊 During 4th Meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog, States pointed-out that permission accorded by Department of Expenditure to eligible States were sometimes delayed due to bunching of proposals received from different States at different intervals into one

consolidated approval. Government has henceforth decided to simplify process of approval of such additional borrowing limits requested by States.

169. ▶ Government to Government Umbrella Agreement on Financial Cooperation and Technical Cooperation 2017 under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation signed in New Delhi.
    ✎ Financial Cooperation of 610 million Reduced Interest Loan (RIL) and Euro 5.5 million Financial grant
    ✎ Technical Cooperation of Euro 38.20 million.

170. ▶ Government unlocked green funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore to increase the country's forest cover, as an accumulated amount, deposited by user agencies as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, since past 10 years.
    ✎ 80 % of this green fund will be utilised by the states for green activities listed under 13 permissible activities.
    ✎ Remaining 20 % will be used for 11 listed works to strengthen forest and wildlife protection related infrastructure.
    ✎ According to India State of Forest Report (SFR) 2017, India posted a marginal 0.21 % rise in area under forest between 2015 and 2017. India has about 7, 08,273 sq kms of forest, which is 21.53 % of its geographical area, aimed to increase it to at least 33 %.

171. ▶ Government will launch INR 500 crores Credit Enhancement Fund (CEF) in July 2018 to facilitate infrastructure investments by insurance and pension funds, as announced in Budget 2016-17. It also helps borrower to raise loans at lower interest rates. Initial corpus of INR 500 crores will be sponsored by IIFCL (India Infrastructure Finance Company).
    ✎ IIFCL will hold 22.5% stake in NBFC, while Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has been offered by Government to pick up 10% stake.
    ✎ At present, only $110 billion is being invested in infrastructure in India, against requirement of $200 billion, classifying India as a infrastructure deficit country.

172. ▶ Government, NABARD and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) signed revised Agreement funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) through Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).

173. ▶ Government's Bank Note Paper Mill India (BNPM) received environment clearance (EC) from Environment Ministry to increase production of bank note paper from 12,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) to 16,000 TPA at its Mysuru unit in Karnataka.

174. ▶ Gujarat government formed a committee to look into complaints of farmers who have not received timely compensation for crop loss.
    ✎ Gujarat government also increased insurance cover compensation for farmers in event of accidental death or disability. Compensation doubled for Accidental death from 1 lakh to 2 lakh, and Partial disability from 50000 to 1 lakh.

175. ▶ HCL surpassed Wipro to become India's third biggest software services firm in 1st Quarter of FY 2018 - 19, marking first change in pecking order of India's $167 billion information technology (IT) outsourcing industry in 6 years. HCL's revenue increased 0.8% to $2.05 billion, ahead of Wipro.

176. ▶ HDFC Bank launched IRA (Interactive Robotic Assistant) 2.0, interactive humanoid at Koramangala Branch in Bengaluru, in tech partnership with Invento Makerspaces and Senseforth Technologies. It aims to enhance user experience for customers.paytm .

177. ▶ HDFC Bank left past Russia's Sberbank to become most valuable bank in emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is $78.4 billion against Sberbank's $74.4 billion.
    ✎ Chinese banks are leading in emerging market, with Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping with market cap of $273.4 billion.
    ✎ Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is most valuable with a market cap of $353 billion, followed by Bank of America at $282 billion.
    ✎ four banks from India that rank among world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.

178. ▶ HDFC Bank retained its top spot in the Brand India Top 50 for the fifth year in a row. The total brand value of HDCF bank grew by 21 % to $21.7 billion in 2018. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) comes at the second spot, while Tata Consultancy Services ranked third on the list.

179. ▶ HDFC Bank will adopt 30 villages in flood-hit Kerala as part of its long-term relief and rehabilitation efforts. Also, scientists from U.S.-based Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association will investigate impact of the torrential rains that hit Kerala recently.

180. ▶ HDFC bank launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds, in partnership with transfer agaent CAMS. It aims to reach out to customers in tier 2 and 3 markets and bring them into the digital lending fold and reducing time for availability of loan through mutual funds. Ticket size of the loans will range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore at an interest rate of 10.5 -11%.

181. ▶ HDFC securities launched Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant *Arya*, with theme *The Pace of Innovation*.

182. ▶ Haryana Govt. launched an online portal for releasing grant-in-aid to government departments. It will make budgetary process more transparent and enhance working efficiency of finance department officials.

183. ▸ Haryana topped states in per capita revenue collection under GST and has become fourth highest generator of e-way bills in country. State also widened tax base by 82.22 %, with 19 % hike in revenue collections.

184. ▸ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) become first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform", an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers. TReDS refers to Trade Receivables Discounting System.

185. ▸ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched an Online Analytical Tool to facilitate closer monitoring of utilisation of foreign contributions, allowing to take evidence-based decisions regarding compliance of provisions of FCRA, 2010. Its dashboard will be integrated with the bank accounts of FCRA-registered entities through the Public Financial Management System for updation of transactional data on a real-time basis.

186. ▸ Home Ministry has issued new Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for cash refilling of automated teller machines (ATMs)., after rising incidents of attacks on cash vans, cash vaults, ATM frauds and other internal frauds.
   ✎ Most Notable event was a recent huge cyber attack on pune based Cosmos co-operative bank, in which hackers robbed approx 94 Crores from bank. It was first such attack on any Indian Bank.
   ✎ New Terms will be effective from 8 February 2019. There are over 8,000 cash vans in India, handling over 15000 crores daily.
   ✎ New Features -
      ✎ Sets deadline of replenishing cash in ATMs before 9pm in cities and 6pm in rural areas, 4 PM for Naxal-hit districts.
      ✎ Every cash van must have one driver, two armed security guards, two ATM officers or custodians.
      ✎ The cash van should not carry cash of more than Rs. 5 crore per trip.

187. ▸ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) launched a new digital platform 'MyDeal' to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to information such as investors' feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.

188. ▸ ICAT (International Centre for Automotive Technology) gave first BS-VI certification for a heavy duty engine model for Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.
   ✎ Pro-active approach from the Government has made India leap from conventional BS-IV to directly adopt BS-VI emission norms as next level for regulatory framework in India.
   ✎ ICAT is one of prime testing agencies recognized by Government as one of accredited 'Type Approval and Homologation' agencies.

189. ▸ ICICI Bank became first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT's Global Payment Innovation, an improved cross-border payments service. It enables real-time payments tracking across correspondent banks & has a facility to track payments instructions across correspondent banks globally.

190. ▸ ICICI Bank's mortgage loan portfolio crossed INR 1.5-trillion milestone, making it largest private player in this segment. It is targeting to grow it to Rs 2 trillion by FY20.

191. ▸ ICICI Prudential Life inked pact with Saraswat Bank to offer insurance products to its customers.

192. ▸ ICICI Venture sold its 30% stake in hospital chain Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) to General Atlantic for INR 850 crores.

193. ▸ ICICI bank launched its innovation lab for digital business, headed by Rohan Angrish. It aims to create technology from scratch and help better digital business. The innovation fund for this project with partnered concerns is INR 100 crores.

194. ▸ IDFC Bank received RBI's approval for merger of Capital First, Capital First Home Finance and Capital First Securities with Itself.

195. ▸ IFFCO signed joint venture with Spainish Firm Congelados De Navarra (pioneer in quick frozen (IQF) technology) to set up food processing plant at Ludhiana in Punjab with an investment of Rs 325 crores, to foray into food processing sector. In JV, IFFCO will have 30% stake.

196. ▸ IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) launched *Bharat Inclusion Initiative* to build knowledge and foster innovation and entrepreneurial activity across areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health. It will aim at channelizing $25 million over 3-4 years.

197. ▸ IRDA raised minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs. 15 lakh for a premium of Rs. 750 per annum, a move to provide some succour to road accident victims. Currently, capital sum insured (CSI) under this section for motorised two-wheelers and private cars/commercial vehicles is 1 lakh and 2 lakh, respectively.

198. ▸ IT Firm HCL acquired C3i Solutions for USD 60 million, to enhance HCL's growth in life sciences and consumer services. C3i Solutions is a wholly owned, independently operated subsidiary of Merck & Co, which is known as MSD outside US and Canada.

199. ▸ IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first Indian company to reach $100 billion market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone. With this, TCS joined world's 100 most valued organizations and now ranks 97th.

200. ▸ Ibrahim Mohamed Solih elected as President of Maldives.

201. ▸ Idea Cellular completed its merger with Vodafone India, after final approval from National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Merged entity has more than 41 Crore subscribers, a broadband network of 340,000 sites and market share of 32.2%. It has leadership position in 9

out of 22 circles. Balesh Sharma took over as Vodafone Idea first CEO.

202. ▶ Income Tax Department has launched an 'instant' Aadhaar-based PAN (Permanent Account Number) allotment service for individuals, who requires unique identification number for the first time.

203. ▶ Income Tax Department launched ITR-2, the third income return form for assessment year 2018-19.
   ✎ ITR-2 is for individuals, Hindu Undivided families (HUFs) and NRIs who have income from any sources except income from profits and gains of business or profession.
   ✎ Now, total 3 Income Tax Returns (ITRs) have now been activated by Income Tax Department - ITR-1 (Sahaj), ITR-4 and ITR-2.
   ✎ ITR-1 is primarily for salaried class of taxpayers with income up to Rs 50 lakh from salary while ITR-4 is for professionals and self-employed individuals who have opted for the presumptive income scheme.

204. ▶ Income Tax Department launched New Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, to get people's participation in Department's efforts to unearth black money and reduce tax evasion.
   ✎ Under this, a person can get reward up to 1 crores for giving specific information in prescribed manner to Income Tax Department about benami transactions and properties, which are actionable under Benami Property Transactions Act 1988, as amended by Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2016. Identity of persons giving information will not be disclosed.
   ✎ Giving details about undisclosed black money stashed abroad could fetch the informer up to INR 5 crores.

205. ▶ India GDP Growth Forecasts (June 2018) -
   ✎ World Bank forecasted growth rate of 7.3 % for India in 2017-18 and 7.5 % for next two years, making it fastest growing country.
   ✎ Fitch predicted India's growth forecast to 7.3% for FY'18, 7.4% for FY'19 & 7.5% for FY'20.

206. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Private Life Insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd (BALIC) partnered to provide life insurance solutions, especially at doorstep of every household in country. It will leverage IPPB last mile reach for building awareness about life insurance.

207. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will go live with 650 branches in addition to 3,250 access points co-located at post offices in August 2018.
   ✎ IPPB was incorporated in August 2016, with 100% Government of India equity.
   ✎ IPPB also has been given permission to link around 170 million postal savings bank (PSB) account with its account.
   ✎ IPPB will offer interest of 4.5% on deposits up to 25,000, 5% on deposits of 25,000-50,000 and 5.5% on 50,000-100,000

208. ▶ India became world's 6th biggest economy, pushing France into 7th place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.
   ✎ India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to $2.597 trillion at end of last year, against $2.582 trillion for France.
   ✎ Top 10 Economies are (Trillion USD) - USA (19.39), China (12.24), Japan (4.87), Germany (3.68), UK (2.62), India (2.59), France (2.58), Brazil (2.07), Italy (1.93), Canada (1.65)
   ✎ In terms of Per Capita Income, India has $1940 Annual Per Capita Income.

209. ▶ India signed $210 million loan agreement with World Bank for Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project. The Project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) program.

210. ▶ India signed $220 million Loan Agreement and a $80 million Guarantee Agreement with World Bank, for *India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program*, to be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). It will help scale-up deployment of energy saving measures in residential and public sectors, strengthen EESL's institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing.

211. ▶ India signed $346 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance improvement of over 400 kilometers of state highways that will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.

212. ▶ India signed $500 million loan agreement with World Bank to provide additional financing for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project. Govt. will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.

213. ▶ India signed Loan Agreement of US$74 million with World Bank Group's IBRD, for Uttrakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP). The Project has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 17 years. Closing date for Project is 30th June, 2023.

214. ▶ India signed a $375 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB), to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.

215. ▶ India signed a Loan Agreement of US$ 125 Million with World bank for IBRD credit for *Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project*.

216. ▶ India signed a Loan Agreement of USD 48 million with World Bank's IBRD (nternational Bank for Reconstruction and Development) for *Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)*.

217. ▶ India signed a loan agreement worth $ 200 million with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan), to help reduce stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by 2022. POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by PM Modi on 8th March 2018 at Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan).

218. ▶ India signed a loan agreement worth USD 21.7 Million with World Bank's IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) for Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan.

219. ▶ India will overtake Japan as world's third-largest economy by 2030, according to a report by UK's HSBC Holdings. India's GDP will stand at $5.9 trillion in 2030, compared to $2.59 trillion at end of 2017. Notably, India recently surpassed France to become 6th largest economy.

220. ▶ India will provide tariff concessions on 3,142 products to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) members, from July 2018, as per results of fourth round of negotiations under APTA. With this,coverage of preferences of total tariff lines for each member will come of 10,677 tariff lines (up from 4,270 items at conclusion of 3rd Round).

   🔧 APTA is an initiative under United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of Asia Pacific Region.

221. ▶ India's National Stock Exchange signed agreement with USA's Nasdaq for a suitable platform and technology backbone to effectively tap post–trade delivery capabilities.

   🔧 Earlier, NSE's current clearing and settlement system operated by National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL). Under new agreement, Nasdaq will deliver a customised real-time clearing, risk management and settlement technology to NSE.

222. ▶ India's economy grew at an impressive 8.2 % in first quarter of 2018-19 financial year (Apr - June).

   🔧 GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2018-19 is estimated at 33.74 lakh crores, as against 31.18 lakh crore in Q1 of 2017-18, showing a growth rate of 8.2 %.

   🔧 GDP Growth Rate was 7.7 % in Previous quarter (Q4 of 2017-18).

223. ▶ India's fiscal deficit remained INR 4.29 trillion ($62.57 billion) for April-June Quarter of FY 2018-19 (68.7 % of budgeted target), compared with 80.8 % a year ago. India expects to trim deficit to 3.3 % of GDP this fiscal year, after meeting an upwardly revised fiscal deficit target of 3.5 % of GDP in 2017-18.

224. ▶ IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (JV of Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and Legal and General (UK)) tied up with *Oxigen Services India Pvt. Ltd.*, to establish distribution of its insurance products at Oxigen retail outlets.

225. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with State bank of India (SBI) on Defence Salary Package, as revised version of first MoU signed in 2011 and renewed again in February 2015. Indian Army has MoUs on Defence Salary Package with 11 public and private sector banks.

226. ▶ Indian Bank introduced Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and 'Bharat QR' facility. PFMS aims to benefit government agencies for utilising payment service. *Bharat QR* is a mobile payment collection scheme to accept digital payments.

227. ▶ Indian GDP Forecasts (April 2018) -

   🔧 Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected India's GDP Growth Rate to rise to 7.3% in FY 2018 - 19 and 7.6% in 2019-20.

   🔧 As per World Bank's South Asia Economic Focus Spring 2018 report, Indian economy has recovered from impact of demonetisation and theintroduction of the Goods and Services Tax regime and is projected to grow by 7.3 % in 2018 and 7.5 percent in 2019. India's growth is expected to drive South Asia's growth rate to 6.9 % in 2018 and 7.1 % in 2019. South Asia includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

      🔧 As Per world Bank, India's GDP clocked in $2.6 trillion, becoming 6th in World, after USA, China, Japan, Germany and UK.

   🔧 Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Predicted India's GDP to grow at 7.3-7.7% during 2018-19.

   🔧 International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) projected India to grow at 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019.

   🔧 Japanese financial services Firm Nomura stated that India's GDP growth will be 7.8 % in first half of 2018-19.

   🔧 Germany's Deutsche Bank Predicted GDP growth of 7.5% for India this financial year.

228. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (August 2018) -

   🔧 RBI retained GDP growth forecast at 7.4 pc for FY'19, in Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19.

   🔧 USA's Financial Firm Morgan Stanley projected India's GDP to grow by 7.5 % in 2018 – 2019.

   🔧 As per International Monetary Fund, India's GDP will grow by 7.3 % in 2018-19 and 7.5 % in 2019-2020.

   🔧 India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) revised down its FY19 economic growth forecast to 7.2% from 7.4% earlier.

   🔧 As per Ficci's survey 'Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey', Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.4 % in current fiscal.

   🔧 Japanese Financial Firm Nomura predicted India's current account deficit (CAD) to widen to 2.8 5 of GDP in FY19, from 1.9 % of GDP in 2017-18. Note that India's CAD was 0.6 % of GDP in 2016-17.

   🔧 Indian economy is expected to grow by around 7.5% in 2018 and 2019, according to Moody's Investors Service.

   🔧 National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) expected India's growth forecast for the current fiscal (2018-19) at 7.4 %.

   🔧 RBI annual report 2017-18 expected India's growth forecast for the current fiscal (2018-19) at 7.4 %.

229. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (July 2018) -

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points to 7.3% in 2019 and by 30 basis points to 7.5% in 2020. India still remains fastest growing country among major economies in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Asian Development Bank stated that India will remain fastest growing economy, with 7.3 % growth in 2018-19 and 7.6 % in 2019-20.
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicted India's economic growth will rise to 7.4% in 2018 and 7.5% in 2019. China's GDP growth is projected to moderate to 6.7% in 2018 and to 6.4% in 2019.
- FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) predicted India's economic growth at 7.5 % in FY 2018-19.

230. Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (May 2018) -
- According to Fitch group company BMI Research, Indian GDP Growth will be 7.3% in FY 2018-19.
- As per Harvard University (USA), India will be fastest growing economy for coming decade and will grow at 7.9% annually, ahead of China & US.
- Asian Development Bank Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 &amp; 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report stated that India will be fastest-growing economy in 2018 with growth rate of 7.4%. It will rise to 7.8% in 2019. Report also said that China and India contribute 45% to global growth.
- According to UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), India's economy is projected to grow 7.6% in 2018-19.
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) expects India's economy to grow at 7.3-7.7 % in 2018-19.
- Moody's Investors Service report predicted India's GDP growth forecast for 2018-19 at 7.3% and 7.5% for 2019-20.

231. Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (September 2018) -
- Fitch Ratings upgraded India's growth forecast for current fiscal to 7.8% from 7.4% earlier.
- Asian Development Bank's (ADB)'s Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2018 stated that India's economy is in an upward trajectory and GDP forecast remains unchanged at 7.3 % for 2018, and 7.6 % for 2019.

232. Indian IT Firm HCL Technologies acquired German IT services provider H&D International Group, one of largest IT service providers in German automotive industry.

233. Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired Finnish company Fluido, a top consulting partner of Salesforce, for 65 million euros (about Rs 545 crore).

234. Indian IT Firm Infosys acqured WongDoody Holding Company, a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency, for $75 million.

235. Indian IT Firm Infosys signed a 3-year partnership with Tennis Grand Slam Tournament Australian Open as its official digital innovation partner.

236. Indian Oil Corporation emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for 2nd consecutive year, with profit of INR 21346 crores in 2017-18, followed by ONGC (19945 crore). Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is most profitable company for 3rd straight year(INR 36075 crores).

237. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched three 'Internet of Things' (IoT)-based customer service initiatives in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Including a sound pressure level meter and Missed Call Feedback system.

238. Indian Rupee (INR) has been ranked as one of the 10 best-performing currencies, taking into account its performance since May 2014, when Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government came into power. Although all emerging market currencies have lost value to dollar, rupees slide is relatively controlled compared with peers.

239. Indian ride-hailing company Ola launched its operations in New Zealand, beginning in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington. Ola earlier launched its services in Australia in February and U.K. in August.

240. Indian rupee (INR) breached 69-level against US dollar for the first time, touching a record low of 69.09 on higher crude oil prices and concerns of a US-China trade war.

241. Indians' Money in Swiss banks rose over 50% to Swiss Francs (CHF) 1.01 billion (Rs. 7,000 crore) in 2017, reversing a three-year downward trend.

242. India's IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first listed company in India to close day's trade with market capitalisation (m cap) of over INR 7 lakh crores (over $103 billion), as its board approved share buyback of 76,190,476 equity shares at INR 2100 per share for about 16000 crores. Buyback size was 1.99% of total paid-up equity share capital.

243. India's biggest power producer NTPC signed term loan agreement with HDFC Bank for availing a loan of INR 1500 crores.

244. India's fiscal deficit in FY 2017-18 stood at 3.53% of GDP (in line with revised estimates). India revised its fiscal deficit target in February 2018 to 3.5% of GDP from 3.2% projected earlier. In FY 2018-19, aim is to trim deficit to 3.3% of GDP. Shortfall for 2017-18 was 5.9 trillion (6 Lakh Crores INR).

245. ▶ India's oldest public sector financial institution IFCI (Previously *Industrial Finance Corporation of India*) will raise INR 3000 crores from debt, during current fiscal. IFCI aims to sanction 6000 crore worth of loans in 2018-19.

246. ▶ Indus Towers and Bharti Infratel Ltd announced their Merger, that will create world's second-largest mobile masts company by numbers of towers, 2nd only to China Tower. It will have presence throughout India with more than 163,000 towers, worth over 14.6 Billion USD. Bharti Airtel will have a stake of 33.8 % to 37.2 % in combined entity.

247. ▶ IndusInd Bank launched a pilot project to use WhatsApp for customer service, wherein customers can save official WhatsApp number of bank and initiate conversation. Customers can avail several services including checking balance, obtain mini statements through WhatsApp.

248. ▶ IndusInd Bank received RBI's approval to buy securities services arm of IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services), for which agreement was signed In March 2017.

249. ▶ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a dedicated portal named FOCAL (Forum of Cargo-Owners and Logistics-Operators) to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels, To know availability of vessels in the market. It would ensure direct interaction among the vessel operators, shippers and cargo owners.

250. ▶ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India signed MOU with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs to collaborate for research and publication, advancement of knowledge, capacity building, awareness and advocacy initiatives among others.

251. ▶ Insurance Firm HDFC ERGO launched 'E@Secure', a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals, to provide protection against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss.

252. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to acquire a majority stake in IDBI bank, taking LIC's stake in IDBI bank to 51%, injecting 10,000-13,000 crores.

253. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO) predicted that India's unemployment rate in 2018 will stay at 3.5 %. China's unemployment rate will rise from 4.7 to 4.8 %. However, 77 % of employment in India would remain "vulnerable", against just 33 % in China.

254. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report titled 'India Wage Report: Wage policies for decent work and inclusive growth', depicting that though India's economy in the past two decades saw an annual average GDP rate of 7 %, while low pay and inequality persists.
   - ✎ Wage inequality declined since 2004–05; however, it continues to remain high.
   - ✎ Despite a decline from 48 percent in 1993-94 to 34 percent in 2011–12, gender wage gap is still steep.
   - ✎ Women employed as casual workers in rural economy earn lowest in India, which is 22 % of what urban regular male workers earn.

255. ▶ Invest India (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) launched Integrate to Innovate Programme for startups in energy sector, as 3 month programme. It will provide opportunity for startups to collaborate around valuable energy transitions by bringing their ideas to life. Selected startups will receive cash prize grant of up to 5 lakh along with opportunity to pilot their product with corporates.

256. ▶ Iran overtook Saudi Arabia to be 2nd largest supplier of crude oil to Indian public sector firms during 1st Quarter of this fiscal (April-June 2018). Top 3 Crude Oil suppliers to India are -
   - ✎ Iraq - 7.27 million tonnes
   - ✎ Iran - 5.67 million tonnes
   - ✎ Saudi Arabia - 5.22 million tonnes

257. ▶ Iraq has replaced Saudi Arabia as India's largest oil supplier in August, according to Reuters. Despite the lower purchases amid US sanctions on Iranian oil, Iran remained third biggest oil supplier to India during August 2018.0

258. ▶ Italian motorcycle-maker Benelli signed MoU with Telangana government and Adishwar Auto Ride International (AARI) for setting a manufacturing facility.

259. ▶ Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank launched *Add on Working Capital GST* as a special financing scheme to help state industry cope with delay in reimbursement of GST under special tax relief. Under this, revolving credit facility will be extended at most competitive rate of 9 % and with minimum documentation.

260. ▶ Jana Small Finance Bank launched its commercial banking operations, being last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank (SFB), 3 years after Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its approval. It was earlier called Janalakshmi Financial Services. About Small Finance Banks -
   - ✎ Existing non-banking financial companies (NBFC), microfinance institutions (MFI) and local area banks (LAB) can apply to become small finance banks.
   - ✎ Minimum net worth Required is INR 100 Crores.
   - ✎ 75% of its net credits should be in priority sector lending and 50% of the loans in its portfolio must in 25 lakh (US$38,000) range.
   - ✎ Promoters stake will be at least 40% initially but must be brought down to 26% in 12 years.

- At net worth of INR 500 crores, listing will be mandatory within 3 years. SFBs with net worth under 500 crores could also get their shares listed voluntaril.
- It shall be required to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 15 % of its risk weighted assets (RWA) on a continuous basis.

261. ▶ Joint Plant Committee (Ministry of Steel) stated that India's exports of finished steel increased by 16.7% to 9.6 million tonnes in 2017-18. Additionally, Indian tea industry also reached its highest ever production of 1,325.05 million kg and export of 256.57 million kg during 2017-18.

262. ▶ Karnataka Bank launched DigiLocker facility for customers. Customers can access their digital documents anytime, anywhere and share it online. Digital Locker makes it easier to validate the authenticity of documents as they are issued directly by registered issuer.

263. ▶ Karnataka Bank launched KBL-Deposit Only Card' that enables hassle-free cash deposit transactions at bank's 24X7 e-lobby services, specially meant for the bank's current/overdraft customers.

264. ▶ Karnataka Bank will sell 8.26 % stake (from total 14 % stake) in Universal Sompo General Insurance.

265. ▶ Karnataka Budget 2018 - 19, Presented by new CM H. D. Kumaraswamy (Janata Dal) -
- Announced a partial farm loan waiver of over 34000 crores, which will benefit those farmers whose borrowings are less than Rs 2 lakhs. Farmers who repaid loan within time will be credited the repaid loan amount or 25000 whichever is less.
- Several Taxes have been hiked, to make up for expenses due to the loan waiver -
  - Tax on Petrol hiked from 30 to 32 %, resulting in hike of INR 1.14 per litre in Petrol Prices.
  - Tax on Diesel hiked from 19 to 21 %, resulting in hike of INR 1.12 per litre in Diesel Prices.
  - Additinal INR 1000 Crores Excise revenue targeted by hiking taxes by 4% in all 18 different slabs of Liquor.
  - Tax on electricity hiked from 6 to 9 %.

266. ▶ Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) launched a new deposit scheme called *Vikas Bonanza 456*, a scheme with tenure of 456 days an interest rate of 7.10 % for public and 7.60 % for senior citizens. Minimum of 10000 and maximum of 1 crore can be deposited under this scheme.

267. ▶ Karnataka registered biggest increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2017, as inflows from overseas jumped 300% in the 12 months ended March 2018.

268. ▶ Karur Vysya Bank signed bancassurance tie up with Aditya Birla Health and Birla Sunlife Insurance To provide insurance services to its customers.

269. ▶ Kerala Government launched microfinance programme in co-operative sector, named *Muttathe Mulla,* to help ordinary people being exploited by private financiers charging exorbitant interest rates for loans. It is a joint initiative of cooperative banks and women neighbourhood network *Kudumbashree*. Under this, Cooperative banks would give micro-finance loans to 'Kudumbashree' at an interest rate of 7 %, which members of neighbourhood network can avail at an interest rate of 12 % instead of 37-72% interest that private lenders charge.

270. ▶ Kerala government decided to cut excise duty on fuel to effect a INR 1 per litre reduction in petrol and diesel prices, starting June 1. Kerala is first state to slash taxes on fuel after recent huge rally in prices.

271. ▶ Kerala is first south Indian state to be visited by 15th Finance Commission, headed by N K Singh. It will assess finances of Kerala and progress made in socio-economic field and other developmental factors.

272. ▶ Kotak Securities Limited launched *Free Intraday Trading*, to allow traders to do intra-day trading without paying any brokerage per trade. Intraday trading refers to buying and selling a security on same day.

273. ▶ Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and BSNL have signed an MoU for extending benefits in customer services. BSNL will use the smart card services of DMRC for collection of post-paid bills.

274. ▶ Maharashtra Government announced 500 crores for OBCs in Maharashtra, to help OBC community develop employment opportunities.

275. ▶ Maharashtra government allocated inr 15 crores for implementation of a pension scheme for senior journalists, called Acharya Balshastri Jambhekar Sanman Yojana.

276. ▶ Maharashtra government will provide financial grant of 1,000 rupees per quintal to farmers whose tur and gram could not be purchased by administration before May 31 deadline. State government had set up tur procurement target of 44.6 lakh quintals.

277. ▶ Manappuram Finance accriured 85.39 % stake in Indian School Finance (ISFC), for over 212 crores. ISFC lends to educational institutions like private schools, vocational colleges and institutes, coaching centres etc. to build infrastructure.

278. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank approved $375 million loan to improve irrigation in Madhya Pradesh and help increase farmer's income. Total cost is $535.1 million and rest $160.71 million will be given by government. Estimated time of completion is September 2025, doubling irrigated to 2 million hectares land by 2025.

279. ▶ Meghalaya cabinet approved final draft of state's first Education Policy, to address issues related to education sector. In March 2017, a 24-member Task Force was constituted to finalise the Meghalaya State Education Policy.

280. ▶ Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) in New Delhi, with outlay of 10881 crores.
   - Additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT per day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day shall be created.
   - Under this scheme, milk cooperatives will be provided financial assistance of Rs 8004 crore in the form of a loan at 6.5% interest, which will be reimbursed over 10 years.
   - Other schemes for Dairy Development -
      - World Bank-funded National Dairy Plan Phase-I scheme is being done by NDDB through state government's cooperative milk organizations/milk federations.
      - Implementation of the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) is being done by state's cooperative/milk federations, for development of cooperative milk committees, incentives to increase the number of milk producers and increase processing and refrigeration capacity.
      - Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which Aims to Conserve and Develop Indigenous Breeds.
281. ▶ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched Niryat Mitra mobile App, developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). It provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade, Including policy provisions for export and import, GST rate, available export incentives, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures. All information is available at tariff line.
   - It maps ITC HS code of other countries with that of India and provides all required data without users bothering about HS code of any country. Presently app comes with data of 87 countries.
282. ▶ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched a transformative initiative in MSME credit space, with URL portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com, which will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to INR 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya and Indian Bank).
   - It sets a new benchmark in loan processing and reduces the turnaround time from 20-25 days to 59 minutes. Subsequent to this in principle approval, loan will be disbursed in 7-8 working days.
   - The loans are undertaken without human intervention till sanction / disbursement stage. A User Friendly Platform has been built where MSME borrower is not required to submit any physical document for in-principle approval.
283. ▶ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley reviewed performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) with their Chief Executives and other Whole-time Directors in New Delhi.
   - Review took note of continued improvement in banking in terms of highest ever recovery in the last quarter, pick-up in credit growth to 13.5%, growth in MSME lending to 10.5%, highest Provision Coverage Ratio in over five years, and higher operating profits.
   - Highlights of Review include -
      - Targeting recovery of 180000 crores, up from Rs. 74,562 crore in last FY.
      - Mobilising over 18500 crore through monetisation of banks' Non-core assets in current FY for strengthening capital base of PSBs.
      - Complete rationalisation of foreign operations of PSBs by March 2019, with closure/consolidation of 57 branches/office
      - PCA banks would pursue their Quarterly Performance Milestones, including improvement in their lending risk profiles through a 6% reduction in Credit RWA to Advances Ratio and 8% reduction in Cost to Income Ratio.
      - Banks would complete action by December 2018 on fraud detection and initiation of action in respect of NPAs with outstanding of above INR 50 crore.
      - End-to-end OTS platform for all online & offline OTS proposals by March 2019
      - EASE and financial inclusion efforts are to be intensified. For EASE, banks were advised to modernise more branches to enable self-service for customers in digital mode.
   - Mr. Jaitley also launched Financial Inclusion Index, to be annually released by Department of Financial Services (DFS). It will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality. It will be released in January 2019.
284. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) for increasing awareness and accelerating use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments and their agencies.
   - GeM provides online, end to end solution for procurement of commonly used goods and services for all Central Government Departments and State Governments.
285. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry created Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in Department of Commerce, by amending Allocation of Business Rules 1961.

- DGTR will be apex authority for administering trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. It will merge Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties (DGAD) AND Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS).
- It will provide trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries. Creation of DGTR will result in savings of 49 posts to Government on account of merging DGAD and DGS. Thus, its establishment will be in line with Government's goal of "Minimum Government Maximum Governance.

286. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry is developing National Logistics Portal is to ensure ease of trading in international and domestic markets, by linking stakeholders of EXIM (export and import), domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on single platform.
- It will be implemented in phases and will fulfil Central Government's commitment to enhance trade competitiveness, create jobs, boost India's performance in global rankings and pave way for India to become logistics hub.

287. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched FIEO GlobalLinker, a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join global community of growing businesses, developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). It is growing global network currently comprising over 140,000 SME firms, seeking business collaboration and growth opportunities.

288. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) made it mandatory for unlisted public companies to issue new shares or transfer of all shares in dematerialised or demat (i.e. in electronic form) form, beginning October 2, 2018. With this, major benefits of dematerialisation of securities will now be available to unlisted Public companies.
- It is seen as measure for further enhancing transparency, investor protection and governance in the corporate sector.
- It will also help in elimination of risks associated with physical certificates such as loss, theft, mutilation, fraud etc.

289. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs released draft on cross-border insolvency in order to strengthen Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). It will help banks access overseas assets of company undergoing resolution.
- Existing IBC provides for two Sections related to cross border insolvency (Section 234 and 235), which are inadequate to effectively deal with default cases of domestic corporate debtor having assets and operations outside India.
- Existing provisions only allow Central government to enter into agreement with foreign country for enforcing provisions of Code.
- Draft norms have been issued to plug these loopholes and have any effective resolution mechanism in place for cross-border insolvency.

290. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will launch credit rating model a new system to assist banks in assessing credit risk and probability of fraud using big data analysis.
- This will help banks, particularly rural and cooperative banks, tackle issue of rising non performing assets (NPAs). Currently, rural and cooperative banks depend on judgement of bank manager, resulting in high NPAs and frauds.
- It will also help in predicting different types of frauds in banking sector based on RBI guidelines. Besides, a web-enabled software is also being tested to assist banks to easily adopt models for credit rating, NPAs and fraud. Validation of these models has been done using data from several banks.

291. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a new web portal 'Budget Dashboard', with information on budget, expenditure and Bill Payment position. It will consist of Details of Budget and expenditure, Flagship schemes, Central sector expenditure, North East, SC/ST, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, etc.

292. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs approved 33 % increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Middle-Income Group (MIG) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U).
- With revision, carpet area of a house for Middle Income Group-I (MIG-I) has been increased from 120 sqm to 160 sqm and for MIG II, area has been increased from 150 sqm to 200 sqm.
- New rules will be effective from January 1, 2017, date on which scheme became operational.

293. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs approved construction of 6,26,488 more affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), with total 11 states involved. Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned most (2,34,879) houses.
- Uttar Pradesh scored first position in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), providing houses to 11 lakh poor families. In urban areas, it has benefited over 4 lakh families.

294. ▶ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved proposal by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase wages of artisans by over 36 %. Now, Wages will be increased from Rs 5.50 per hank previously to Rs 7.50 per hank. On an average, an artisan makes over 20 hanks per day.

295. ▶ Ministry of Steel recently for first time gave away Secondary Steel sector awards to 26 mini steel companies in recognition of their contribution. 12 companies were awarded Gold Certificates and 14 Silver Certificates for their performance during 2016-17.

🔧 Secondary steel sector plays important role along with integrated steel players in order to achieve steel production capacity of 300 million tonne by year 2030-31. At present India has 134 MT capacity.

296. ▶ Mobile infrastructure company Bharti Infratel got Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval for merging its operations with Indus Towers, valued at 71500 crores. It will create one of largest mobile tower entities worldwide with 1.63 lakh towers in all 22 telecom circles.

297. ▶ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries acquired Radisys Corporation, a US-based open telecom platform solutions provider for $75 million (Rs 510 crores).

298. ▶ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio overtook Vodafone India to become 2nd largest carrier by revenue in India, with adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of 6,217 crore in March quarter compared to Vodafone's 4,937 crores. Bharti Airtel is at top with AGR INR 7087 crores.

299. ▶ Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) launched India's first copper options contracts, to provide physical market participants additional instrument to hedge their price risk. It has lot size of 1 tonne in three contracts expiring in June, August and November 2018.

   🔧 Copper is third-most-consumed industrial metal, after iron and aluminium. In last few years, refined copper demand has surged in sectors like electrical, electronic products and industrial machinery.

   🔧 Copper ore production in India was 3846 thousand tonnes in 2016-17 and demand for refined copper was 820 thousand tonnes in FY16.

   🔧 *Options* give buyer right to buy or sell an underlined at present price on a future date. They are of two types: puts (right to sell) and calls (right to buy). Options are a better hedging instrument as compared to futures for hedgers.

   🔧 Copper options contracts will be optimal tool for stakeholders to mitigate price risk in copper, giving copper industry greater flexibility to take on price risk.

300. ▶ NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) will raise its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to INR 80,000 crore (from 65000 Crores) in current fiscal year, to improve rural economy. Government has also raised authorised capital of NABARD by 6 times to INR 30000 Crores, to increase its lending to the rural economy.

301. ▶ NITI Aayog and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed 3 year partnership on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeking to develop vision and action agenda for businesses and industries to contribute to SDGs. It was signed during Government and Business Partnership Conclave, jointly organised by NITI Aayog, CII and United Nations.

302. ▶ NMDC and NLC India will invest over USD 26 million for setting up an R&D facility for developing innovative technologies in iron and steel making. Australian Securities Exchange, India's Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and NMDC will sign Master Project Agreement (MPA) with ECT to establish world's first Australian-designed Coldry and Matmor plant in Tamil Nadu.

303. ▶ NTPC approved investment of INR 9785 crores for 1320 MW Stage-III expansion of its Talcher plant in Angul district of Odisha. Presently, plant has four units of 60 MW and two units of 110 MW and expansion will include 2×660 MW. It is part of NTPC's vision of being 130 GW company by 2032.

304. ▶ Naropa traditional Festival held in Ladakh (J & K). On this occasion, 299 women dressed up in traditional Ladakhi wedding attire danced together making it to the Guinness World Records and declared the dance performance as *Largest Ladakhi Dance*.

   🔧 Celebrated every 12th year of the Tibetan calendar, the Naropa festival, also known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas' .

305. ▶ National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) launched a helpline number (011-21400643) for complaints regarding GST rate cuts, To encourage consumers to file complaints against the companies that are not passing GST rate cut benefits.

306. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extended credit support of INR 14,690 crore to Rajasthan for 2017-18, under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.

307. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved Rs 65,634.93 crore loan so far to 93 prioritised irrigation projects under government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

   🔧 NABARD is mandated to provide Rs 70,000 crore loan to 99 prioritised irrigation projects under PMKSY through long term irrigation fund (LTIF), to be completed by 2019.

308. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), as first of its kind centre in South East Asia.

309. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned INR 335 crores under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal, in August 2018.

310. ▶ National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX ) Group Company National E-Repository Limited (NERL) signed up ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as repository participants for pledge finance. These banks will offer pledge finance against eNWRs created on NERL's repository platform commodities stored in warehouses registered with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

311. ▶ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) sanctioned INR 5000 crores for Rajasthan government farm loan waiver, To help waiver loans of small and marginal farmers.

312. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed unsecured loan agrement of INR 25000 crores from State Bank of India for 10 years, as Largest amount of loan been sanctioned to NHAI in one stroke by any institution.

313. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched UPI 2.0, as upgraded version of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) -
   ✎ It adds 4 new features to UPI,
        ✎ Overdraft facility - It will allow users to link their overdraft (OD) account to UPI. Earlier, only current accounts and savings accounts were able to linked with UPI.
        ✎ One Time Mandate - It allows users to schedule payments. It also allows pre-authorisation of transaction in which amount will be deducted on date for which has been scheduled.
        ✎ Invoice in Inbox - It allows users to get invoices sent by merchants in their inbox, which will help them to view and verify credentials.
        ✎ Signed Intent and QR - This will allow users to check credentials of merchants via Quick Response (QR) code. It will enable to check whether merchant is UPI verified or not.

314. ▶ National Stock Echange (NSE) approved Yes Bank to be empanelled as 'Settlement Bank' for National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC). Yes Bank is already empanelled as a 'Clearing Bank' for BSE, NCDEX, MCX. Bank now will provide different services to members, including Settlement and Clearing, electronic fund transfer and 'anywhere' banking and free of cost fund transfer across all centres of NSE's members.

315. ▶ National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched a 'Tri-party Repo Market Platform' for repurchase of corporate debt security. It is a repo contract where a tri-party agent acts as an intermediary to facilitate services like collateral selection, payment and settlement, custody and management during life of transaction.
   ✎ This would increase demand for corporate bonds and may provide a boost to much needed liquidity in corporate bond market.
   ✎ Under corporate bond repo a firm / bank pledges corporate bonds with another company or lender to garner funds. The entity, who pledges, agrees to repurchase bonds at a specified price.
   ✎ National Stock Exchange (NSE) will offer basket repo for 1 day to 7 days. NSE would act as tri-party agent and offer an online web based, anonymous, order matching and multilateral trading platform. Settlement of repo transactions shall be guaranteed by NSCCL.

316. ▶ National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched its e-Gsec platform which will allow retail investors to invest in government securities. Government Securities are offered to investors through competitive and non-competitive auctions held by RBI on weekly basis.

317. ▶ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and London Stock Exchange (LSE) signed MoU to collaborate on creating dual listing route for masala bonds and foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.
   ✎ Through approval of single listing document, issuer can obtain dual listing on LSE's International Securities Market and NSE's Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT City).
   ✎ Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency. It is debt instruments used by corporates to raise money from foreign investors in local currency. It transfers risk associated with currency fluctuations to investors and not to issuers.
   ✎ From issuer's perspective, masala bonds provides cheaper borrowings compared to raising funds in India besides helps in diversifying its sources of fund-raising.
   ✎ Its issuance in long term can help to check slide of rupee and also reduce current account deficit over time.

318. ▶ National Stock Exchange's (NSEs) India Index Services & Products Ltd (IISL) launched Nifty equity savings index that will serve as benchmark for equity saving funds offered by various mutual funds. It will capture performance of portfolio having exposure to equity, equity arbitrage and debt instruments in similar way to investment philosophy of equity savings funds.
   ✎ Its components are 30% exposure to Nifty 50 total return index, 30% exposure to equity arbitrage (long position in Nifty 50 total return index and equivalent short position in Nifty 50 futures Index), 30% exposure to Nifty short duration debt index, and 5% exposure to Nifty 1D rate index.
   ✎ The base date for index is April 1, 2005 and base value is 1,000.

319. ▶ New Bancassurance Tie Ups -
   ✎ Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance tied up Fincare Small Finance Bank. It aims is to push life insurance to rural population.
   ✎ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and HDFC Life Insurance tied up with Vijaya Bank.
   ✎ DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance and Aditya Birla Health Insurance tied up with SVC Co-operative Bank.

320. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) exited its helicopter service provider Pawan Hans by selling its entire 49% stake. Rest 51 % is held by government, which is already on offer for sale.

321. ▶ Over 27 Crore people in India moved out of poverty in since 2005-06, according to 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index released by United Nations. It stated that India's poverty rate came down to 27.5% from 54.7% during the period.

322. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Pakyong Airport, as Sikkim's first and India's 100th functional Airport, Situated at 4,500 feet above sea level. It will provide a big boost to connectivity in Sikkim and will boost its tourism.

   🖉 It is located around 60 km from Indo-China border and around 30 km away from Gangtok, capital of Sikkim. It has capacity to handle 50 in-bound and as many out-bound passengers flights.

   🖉 PM also inaugurated new airport in Jharsuguda, also known as powerhouse of Odisha. It is first airport in Odisha to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (UdeDesh Ka AamNaagrik) Scheme.

      🖉 Other than Jharsuguda, three more airports are being developed in Odisha - Jeypore (Koraput), Rourkela (Sundargarh) and Utkela (Kalahandi). Jharsuguda AirportJharsuguda is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational.

      🖉 Odisha assembly recently approved naming Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. It is 2nd airport in Odisha to be renamed, after Biju Patnaik International airport in Bhubaneswar.

323. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched flagship scheme *'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana'* (PMJAY), also known as Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). In terms of beneficiaries,it is world's largest health insurance scheme. It was launched from Ranchi (Jharkhand).

   🖉 PM also launched a toll free number 14555 for people to get more information about Ayushma Bharat scheme. A website was also launched with URl **mera.pmjay.gov.in**

   🖉 Government announced that treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

   🖉 It will provide free coverage of up to INR 5 lakh per family per year in any government or empanelled private hospitals all over India. Around 13000 hospitals in country have been coordinated for the implementation of the scheme. It will be available for 10.74 crore beneficiary families and about 50 crore Indian citizens.

   🖉 It will be funded with 60 % contribution from Centre and remaining from states.

   🖉 So far, 30 states / UTs have signed MoUs with Union Government to implement the programme. However, Telangana, Odisha, Delhi, Kerala and Punjab have still not signed MoUs, so the scheme will not be implemented in these states till they come on board.

   🖉 States will be required to form a State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme and at district level also, a structure for implementation of the scheme will be set up.

   🖉 Scheme will become operational from September 25, 2018 i.e. on birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay.

   🖉 Transactions will be cashless and paperless. It will also provide reimbursement for bed charges and drugs and diagnostics two days before, during and 15 days after hospitalisation. Beneficiary will be also paid transport allowance for hospitalisation.

   🖉 First part of Ayushman Bharat - the health and wellness centres, was launched on Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary (April 14), and second part - the health assurance scheme, is being launched two days before Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary. Aim is to have 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres in India by 2022.

   🖉 Beneficiaries will be decided on the basis of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.

   🖉 Ayushman Bharat call centre was formally inaugurated in Bengaluru by CEO of Ayushman Bharat Dr. Indu Bhushan. This national call centre is operational since August 25.

   🖉 Jharkhand government signed MoU with National Insurance Company to provide medical facilities to the people of the state under the Centre's flagship health scheme"Ayushman Bharat Yojana".

324. ▶ PayU India received RBI approval to operate its own non-banking financial company (NBFC), to help PayU promote inclusive growth by catering to the diverse financial needs of various segments of society.

325. ▶ PayU India signed partnership with Reliance Money, to offer instant app-based personal loans, via LazyPay. Loan amount will be between INR 10 - 100000.

326. ▶ Payments Firm PhonePe entered partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments through PhonePe on IRCTC Rail connect Android app.

327. ▶ Paytm Money has launched its app for mutual fund investments, in partnership with 25 asset management companies.

   🖉 Paytm Money is subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd targets to sell mutual fund to around 25 million people in 3 - 5 years.

328. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank announced to have over 10 crore KYC compliant customers.

329. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank launched a program named *AshaKiran* aimed at educating rural women about financial services.

330. ▶ Power distribution company BYPL signed MoU of 3 years with Business Finland, a Finnish government agency, for collaborative activities in different areas, including energy efficiency and electric vehicles.

331. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind approved promulgation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, bringing changes in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016, affecting mainly real estate and financial sectors. Notable changes are -
- Homebuyers will be Recognized as Financial Creditors, giving them due representation in Committee of Creditors (CoC).
- Promorters of MSMEs will be allowed to bid for their companies as long as they are not wilful defaulters. This corrects anomaly in section 29A of existing act that barred promoters of defaulting assets from bidding for their assets.
- Withdrawal of Insolvency Application will be permitted only if it is approved by 90% vote share of CoC. CoC voting threshold has been brought down to 66 % from 75 % for all major decisions.
- Other provisions -
  - Addresses some issues such as non-entertainment of late bids, no negotiation with the late bidders and a well laid down procedure for maximizing value of assets.
  - Exempts pure play financial entities from being disqualified on account of NPA and NPA acquired under Insolvency Code shall not disqualify an entity for the next three years.
  - Successful resolution applicants will get a minimum one-year grace period to fulfill various statutory obligations.
  - It also addresses much litigated issue of enforcement of guarantees.

332. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his nod to Lok Sabha passed Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018 that aims to curb practice of evading criminal prosecution by economic offenders fleeing from country to evade clutches Indian law by remaining outside jurisdiction of Indian courts. Key Features -
- It is applicable in cases where total value involved in such economic offences is Rs.100 crore or more.
- It establishes Special Court under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 to declare a person as FEO. court will appoint 'administrator' to oversee confiscated property.
- It empowers director / deputy director (appointed under Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002) to attach any property mentioned in application with permission of special court. Attachment will continue for 180 days, unless extended by court.
- Bill allows any civil court or tribunal to disallow person declared FEO, from filing or defending any civil claim.
- Director / deputy director will have powers vested of civil court.
- Appeals against orders of special court will lie before High Court.
- As per Reports, Vijay Mallya (promoter of defunct Kingfisher Airlines) is biggest offended as he frauded banks of about 7500 crores. Mehul Choksi, promoter of Gitanjali Jewels (7,080 crore) and his nephew Nirav Modi (6,498 crore) took second and third spots.

333. ▶ Prime Miniser Narendra Modi Launched India Post Payments Bank, as 6th Payments Bank in India.
- India Post Payments bank is being projected as a major steps towards Financial Inclusion, keeping in view its large reach and huge customer base (17 crore postal savings bank (PSB) accounts).
- On this occasion, 648 branches of IPPB were inaugurated (1 in each district). 2 IPPB branches were already operational, taking number of IPPB branches to 650.
- Government will link all 1.55 lakh post office branches with IPPB services, to create country's largest banking network.
- IPPB will have 3,250 access points co-located at post offices. 11,000 gramin dak sevaks (in rural area) and postmen (in urban area) will provide doorstep banking services.
- IPPB will enable general banking services including Funds transfer, mobile banking access etc.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) does away with ATM cards and debit cards for both cash and cashless transactions. IPPB will issue new QR (Quick-Response) cards which work on biometric authentication and not on passwords or PINs. QR card transactions can be done through postmen, post offices or Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS).
- Several Differences between IPPB and Post Office Savings Accounts (POSA) are -
  - Types of Account -
    - IPPB offers regular, digital and basic Accounts.
    - POSA offers standard banking and remittance services.
  - Deposits -
    - IPPB supports zero balance savings accounts and can hold max 1 Lakh. Any balance in excess of Rs 1 lakh will be transferred to related post office account, which is a regular savings bank account.
    - POSA Accounts can be opened with minimum deposit of 20 (and INR 50 as minimum to balance). The accounts with cheque facility require a minimum deposit of Rs 500.
  - Interest Rate -
    - Both, IPPB and POSA accounts attract an interest rate of 4% per annum, paid quarterly.
  - Doorstep Banking -

- IPPB aims at financial inclusion, with focus on doorstep banking services.
- POSA does not have provisions of doorstep banking services.
- Money Transfer -
  - IPPB, being a geenral Bank account, will allow funds transfer to any bank account (UPI / IMPS / NEFT).
  - In case of POSA, Money transfer allowed within post office savings bank (POSB) accounts. After POSA accounts are linked with IPPB, customers will be able to enjoy all money transfer service like other banks.
- Governing Authority -
  - Being a Bank, IPPB will be governed by Reserve Bank of India
  - POSA are under supervsion of finance ministry.
- About Payments Banks -
  - Earlier Active Payments Banks are Airtel, Paytm, Aditya Birla, Fino and jio.
  - RBI, in 2015, gave in-principle approval to 11 entities to set up Payments Banks in India.

334. Private Sector Lender ICICI Bank reported a net loss of INR 120 crores for Q1 of 2018 (Apr - June), on account of rising bad loans and treasury losses. This is the first time that ICICI bank has reported losses from its India operations. Bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 53,464 crores (8.81% of total advances).

335. Private sector's ICICI Bank introduced a 'digital form' which will help open current accounts in a few hours, to provide a faster and smoother account opening experience to customers by doing away with the hassle of arranging lengthy paper-work.

336. Public sector banks' non-performing assets declined by Rs 1,28,229 crore in FY18 due to write-offs. This is about 60 % higher than the settlement an year ago.

337. Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Carlyle Group sold over 51 % stake in mortgage lender PNB Housing Finance. PNB owns 32.79 % stake and Carlyle Group owns 32.36 % of PNB Housing Finance.

338. Punjab National Bank (PNB) approved raising INR 5431 crores capital support from central government through preferential issue of equity shares.

339. Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched several products to mark its 124th foundation day. It also partnered with expense management app WALNUT.

340. Punjab National Bank reported net loss of Rs 13412 crores for Q4 quarter ending March 2018, as Biggest ever quarterly loss for any bank in Indian Banking History. It has been mainly due to provisions towards bad loans, and being badly hit by Nirav Modi led scam that has cost PNB INR 14357 crores, through unauthorised letters of undertaking and domestic loans.
    - India's Biggest Bank State Bank of India (SBI) also reported record losses of INR 7718 crores in January-March quarter, mainly due to higher provisions for bad loans. All public sector banks have posted huge losses for concerned period due to NPA issues.

341. RBI cancelled licence of Rajasthan-based Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank, due to inadequate capital and earning prospects.

342. RBI Annual Report 2017 - 18 -
    - RBI Expects 7.4 % GDP Growth rate for Current Fiscal 2017-18, compared to 6.7% in previous year.
    - RBI Stated that 99.3 % notes of 500 and 2000 Denominations came back into system, after being demonetized in November 2016. There were 500 and 2000 Notes worth INR 15.4 Lakh crores at the time of demonetization, out of which banned notes worth INR 15.31 Lakh crores have came back into economy.
    - India's external sector will have to confront global headwinds, but expressed confidence that the Current Account Deficit would largely be financed by foreign direct investment.
    - NPA (Non Performing Assets) percentage of Banks is likely to increase further, from 12.1 % currently.
    - Headline inflation that averaged 4.8 per cent during Q1:2018-19, is likely to face upside risks over the rest of the year.
    - India remains a preferred destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). India received $37.3 billion capital inflow in 2017-18 as compared to $36.3 billion in 2016-17 and $36.06 in 2015-16.

343. RBI allowed Bank of China to operate in India, becoming 2nd Chinese bank to operate in India, after Industrial & Commercial Bank of China that began Indian Operations in Jan 2018. UK's Standard Chartered has highest, 100 branches in India as of now, among all foreign banks in India.

344. RBI allowed non-fund-based Umbrella organisations(UO) at State levels to revive India's co-operative banking sector. Gujarat is first State to have an UO for UCB sector. A conference of co-operative banking sector under name Sahakar Setu 2018, has been held in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

345. RBI approved State Bank of Mauritius to operate in country through a wholly-owned subsidiary route under name SBM Bank (India), becoming first foreign bank to obtain such RBI approval.

346. ▶ RBI barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches and also ordered freezing of bank's CEO salary over failure to stick to shareholding rules.
   - 🖋 Bandhan Bank was not able to bring down shareholding of Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) to 40% as required under licensing condition.
347. ▶ RBI barred Fino Payments Bank from adding new customers after it observed anomalies regarding deposits in the existing accounts. As per RBI, balance in customers' accounts should not exceed Rs 1 lakh. If it does, excess amount should automatically be transferred to any other bank account, provided by customer.
348. ▶ RBI bought 8.46 tonne of gold in financial year 2017-18, as first purchase in almost nine years. RBI now has 566.23 tonne of gold.
349. ▶ RBI changed eligibility conditions of priority sector lending -
   - 🖋 Previous eligibility Changed eligibility From 28 lakh (for metropolitan cities) To 35 lakh AND From 20 lakh ( for other centres) To 25 lakh. These changes are valid till overall cost does not exceed 45 lakh for metropolitan and 30 lakh for other centres.
   - 🖋 Existing limit of family income of 2 lakh per annum has been changed to to 3 lakh per annum for economically weaker group and 6 lakh for low income groups.
350. ▶ RBI conducted Financial Literacy Week from June 4 on theme 'Customer Protection'. Last year's theme of the week was, 'Know Your Customer'.
351. ▶ RBI directed all regulated entities including banks not to provide services to businesses dealing in virtual currencies like bitcoins, so as to protect consumers and check money laundering.
352. ▶ RBI dropped Axis Bank, Karur Vyasa and South Indian Bank from list of banks it has cleared to import Bullions in current financial year.
   - 🖋 Bullion is gold, silver, or other precious metals in the form of bars or ingots.
353. ▶ RBI eased bad loan classification norms for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to formalize economy further and create more jobs. loans to all MSMEs having credit facility of up to 25 crore will now be classified as non-performing assets (NPAs) as per 180-days due criterion,  rather than 90-days due criterion. This is done as a result of effect of GST on the small and medium enterprises. After January 2019, rules will fall back to normal 90 day regime for GST registered MSMEs.
354. ▶ RBI eased investment norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in debt, to attract more overseas flows and arrest recent fall in rupee on one hand and also lift recent fall in demand for corporate bonds.
   - 🖋 Corporate bond segment - FPIs are permitted to invest in corporate bonds with minimum residual maturity of above 1 year. The short-term investments in corporate bonds by an FPI shall not exceed 20% of total investment of that FPI in corporate bonds. residual maturity up to 1 year.
   - 🖋 Government securities (G-secs) - FPIs cap on investment in Government securities (G-secs) has been increased to 30% of outstanding stock of that security, from 20% earlier. FPIs were allowed to invest in government bonds with minimum residual maturity of three years.
   - 🖋 FPIs are permitted to invest in G-secs, including treasury bills (T-bills), and SDLs without any minimum residual maturity requirement. However, it will be subject to condition that short-term investments (*residual maturity up to 1 year*) by FPI under either category shall not exceed 20% of total investment of that FPI in that category. Short-term investments by an FPI may exceed 20% of total investments, only if investments are entirely made on or before April 2018, and not made after it.
355. ▶ RBI eased liquidity squeeze afflicting nation's money markets, allowing banks to carve out up to 15% of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements, compared to 13% currently.
356. ▶ RBI fined Karur Vysya Bank a total of Rs. 5 crore for non-compliance of its directives.
   - 🖋 RBI also stated that India's external debt for quarter ended June 2018 declined by 2.8 % cent to $514.4 billion. Also, external debt to GDP ratio stood at 20.4 % at June-end.
357. ▶ RBI imposed penalty of INR 5 crores on South Indian Bank (SIB) for non-compliance with its directions on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and treasury function.
358. ▶ RBI imposed penalty of inr 1 crores each on Union Bank of India (UBI), Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra, due to delay in detecting and reporting frauds.
359. ▶ RBI imposed restrictions on Mumbai-based City Co-operative Bank, limiting per account withdrawls to INR 1000. Bank will also not be able to accept fresh deposits, disburse loans or borrow funds without RBI approval.
360. ▶ RBI increased bond investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) by a percentage point in two phases, to will allow foreigners about Rs 1.4 trillion of extra play in Indian bonds by FY20.
   - 🖋 Limit for FPI investment in central government securities (G-secs) would be increased by 0.5 % to 5.5 % of outstanding stock of securities in 2018-19 and 6 % of outstanding stock of securities in 2019-20.

- Also, general and long-term investors would have equal share in government bond investment limit for 2018-19. Earlier, they had an investment ratio of 25:75.

361. ▶ RBI made PAN mandatory for remitting money abroad under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). Earlier PAN was not insisted upon for putting current account transactions of up to $25,000. Under LRS, foreign remittances of upto USD 2,50,000 annually are allowed by resident individuals.

362. ▶ RBI made changes in Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to make it more attractive -
    - RBI allowed customers to deposit the gold in a broken time period where short term period of 1-3 years can be broken to 1 year 3 months , 2 years 3 months 15 days etc. Medium Term Period (5-7 years) and Long Term Period (12-15 years) can be broken as well. Interest rate is calculated as per number of years and remaining days.
    - For pre-mature retrieval of Medium and Long term the amount would be in INR while 0.2% in INR would be deducted as administrative charges upon redemption in gold form.
    - Interest for Medium and Long term can be calculated as per amount of gold in terms of rupees during at time of deposit.
    - Interest rate vary from 2.25% to 2.5%.

363. ▶ RBI made it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on face of payment instrumens like demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments to prevent money laundering. This directive will come into effect from 15th of September 2018.

364. ▶ RBI modified norms (that were set up in 2015) for setting up International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) by banks in IFSCs, applicable to IBUs set up in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) and other IFSCs to be set up in India.
    - It has been mandated for parent bank to maintain at all times minimum capital of US $ 20 million to its IBU.
    - Parent bank will be also required to provide Letter of Comfort for extending financial assistance, in form of capital support to IBU.

365. ▶ RBI narrowed definition of relatives under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to check outflow of funds and prevent misuse of facility. Henceforth, funds under LRS can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
    - Earlier in June 2018, RBI had made PAN mandatory for anyone using LRS for remitting money outside the country. Earlier PAN was not insisted upon for putting current account transactions of up to $25,000.
    - Under LRS, foreign remittances of upto USD 2,50,000 annually are allowed by resident individuals.

366. ▶ RBI paid INR 50000 crores as dividend to Govt for last fiscal (FY 2017-18), 63% more than previous year's 30659 crores (FY 2016-17).

367. ▶ RBI released draft guidelines to make rules stricter for larger borrowers to borrow working capital from banks. It specifies a minimum level of loan component in fund based working capital finance and a mandatory Credit Conversion Factor (CCF) for undrawn portion of cash credit availed by large borrowers.
    - Cash Credit is a facility by banks in which, a company can withdraw an amount more than what it holds to its credit against security. It posses regulatory challenges such as rollovers, diffusion of liquidity management from borrowers to banks, and hindering of smooth transmission of monetary policy.
    - Minimum level of 'loan component' - Borrowers having aggregate fund based working capital limit of 150 crore and above, need to withdraw a minimum of 40 % of limit as loan component and remaining as cash credit, from October 1, 2018.
    - Ground rules for sharing of cash credit and loan components will be laid down by consortium, subject to guidelines on bifurcation.
    - Amount of Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL) will be fixed by banks, and tenure of shall not be less than seven days.
    - Banks will have discretion to demand repayment of 'loan component' in instalments or by way of a 'bullet' repayment.
    - Undrawn portion of cash credit / overdraft limits sanctioned will attract a credit conversion factor of 20 % from April 1, 2019.
    - Current 40 % loan component will be revised to 60 % from April 1, 2019.

368. ▶ RBI released final guidelines prescribing 100 % net stable funding ratio (NSFR) for banks aimed at maintaining adequate liquidity for more resilience.
    - NSFR is a long-term liquidity measurement included in Basel III liquidity standards. It is amount of available stable funding (ASF) relative to amount of required stable funding (RSF).
    - RBI's 100 % NSFR guideline requires banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.
    - RBI notified that NSFR would be applicable for Indian banks at stand-alone as well as consolidated level. For foreign banks operating as branches in India, the framework would be applicable on stand-alone basis (i.e., for Indian operations only).

369. ▶ RBI revised Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines, making linking of Aadhaar ID to bank accounts mandatory. In amended Customer Due Diligence procedure, Aadhaar number, PAN or Form No. 60 need to be obtained from an individual who is eligible for applying for biometric ID.

370. ▶ RBI shortlisted 5 IT firms for implementation of Centralised Information and Management System (CIMS) - Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini Technology Services India, IBM India and Larsen & Toubro Infotech.

- RBI has proposed CIMS comprising of DW and Data Lake (DL) to harness power of big data analytics. CMIS will include seamless data collection from regulated entities by creating system-to-system interface, system driven data validation and data review, flexible and scalable data repository and providing data dissemination platform.
- RBI in April 2018 announced to harness power of big data analytics by setting up data sciences lab that will comprise experts and budding analysts. In pursuance of this, it had issued EOI in July 2018 for implementation of CIMS.

371. RBI stated that interest subsidy scheme on short-term crop loans of up to 3 lakh rupees will be implemented through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode from current FY. Centre earmarked 15000 crore rupees for 2018-19 towards interest subvention for short-term crop loans.

372. RBI switched back to gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.
   - Government had started analysing growth estimates using GVA methodology from January 2015 and had also changed the base year to 2018 from January.
   - GVA gives a picture of economic activity from producers' side, GDP model gives picture from consumers' / demand perspective.
   - In recent first bi-monthly policy of new fiscal year 2018-19, RBI left key rates unchanged, citing rising inflation worries in first half. RBI said GDP is projected to strengthen from 6.6 % in FY18 to 7.4 % in FY19. Key Policy Rates -
      - Repo rate - 6%. It is rate at which RBI lends to its clients generally against government securities.
      - Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75%. It is rate at which banks lend funds to RBI.
      - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25%. It is rate at which scheduled banks can borrow funds overnight from RBI against government securities.
      - Bank Rate - 6.25%. It is rate charged by central bank for lending funds to commercial banks.
      - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4%. It is amount of funds that banks have to keep with RBI.
      - Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - 19.5%. It is amount that banks have to maintain a stipulated proportion of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in form of liquid assets like cash, gold and unencumbered securities etc.

373. RBI will purchase government securities (G-secs) worth Rs 10,000 crore through Open Market Operations (OMO), on September 19, to induce liquidity in system.

374. RBL Bank raised its stake in Swadhaar Finserve Pvt. Ltd to 100% from 60.48%, buying stake from US-based non-profit Accion.

375. Rajasthan Govt. announced 4% reduction in value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel and Andhra Pradesh has announced Rs 2 reduction in VAT on petrol and diesel. In Rajasthan, VAT on petrol is reduced from 30% to 26% and on diesel from 22% to 18%.

376. Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018 stated that Microsoft India is most attractive employer brand in India this year, followed by Amazon India.

377. Reliance Industries (RIL) and JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company (JMF ARC) submitted proposal to acquire bankrupt textile company Alok Industries, for INR 5000 Crores, of which lenders will receive 4000 Crores, out of total 29500 Crores that Aloi Industries owes to its creditors.

378. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani became Asia's richest person, (replacing Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Co-founder Jack Ma). Mr. Ambani's net worth stands at $44.3 billion.

379. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) MD Mukesh Ambani launched its fiber to the home (FTTH) broadband service - *JioGigaFiber* and Jio phone 2 (Priced 2999).
   - JioGigaFiber is Reliance Industries' foray into broadband market of country. It will be rolled out from Aug 15, 2018 and will offer Minimum 100 MBPS speed. It is expected to bring competition in broadband sector which does not have many big players.
   - Reliance Industries is India's Most profitable and largest Tax Payer in private sector (Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax), paying 9844 crores in FY18 as Tax.
   - Shareholders of Reliance Industries also approved Mukesh Ambani as Chairman and Managing Director for another 5 years.

380. Reliance Industries beat Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become most valued company in India, with RIL's market capitalisation being INR 7.44 trillion as compared to TCS' INR 7.39 trillion.

381. Reliance Industries became first Indian company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore ($114 billion) market capitalisation, also taking up Mukesh Ambani's wealth to over $48 billion and cementing his place further as Asia's Richest Man.
   - So far in 2018, RIL shares surged over 38 %. RIL added the latest Rs 1 trillion in market cap in just 23 trading sessions.
   - Currently, RIL's market value accounts for 5% of India's total market cap.
   - TCS was first Indian IT company to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore ($100 billion club) market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone in May 2018.

382. Reliance Industries owned Jio Payments Bank commenced operations as India's 6th payments bank. No details relaed to interest rates and other terms have been disclosed so far. Other Payments banks in India -

- Paytm Payments Bank - Interest Rate of 4 %.
- Airtel Payments Bank - Interest rate of 5.5% in its saving account. Initially, Airtel Payment Bank was giving 7.5%s.
- Fino Payments Bank - Interest Rate of 4 %.
- India Post Payments Bank - Different interest rate according to deposited amount -
  - Deposit upto 25,000 – 4.5%
  - Deposit upto 50,000 – 5 %
  - Upto 1,00,000 – 5.5%
- Idea Payments Bank

383. ▶ Reliance Industries received environment clearance for expansion of its petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of Maharashtra, at cost approx 2338 crores.

384. ▶ Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) won INR 1081 crores contract from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for work in 2 units of Kudankulam project in Tamil Nadu.

385. ▶ Reliance Jio signed agreement to raise nearly INR 3250 crores as samurai term loan from Japan-based banks, with 7 year bullet maturity. This is said to be largest samurai loan (low interest loans from Japanese investors) for an Asian corporate company.

386. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced chnages in Monetary Policy Rates. New Rates are -
- New Rates -
  - Repo Rate - 6.25 % (Increased from **6 %**)
  - Reverse Repo - 6.00 %
  - Bank Rate - 6.50 %
  - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.50 %
- Unchanged Rates -
  - CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
  - SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 %
- 6 member monetary policy committee (MPC) of RBI is headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel. In this meeting, RBI also decided to allow voluntary transition of Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCB) into Small Finance Banks (SFB). It is an outcome of recommendations made by Committee on Urban Cooperative Banks in August 2015 headed by Former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi. Panel recommended converting UCBs with business size of 20000 crores into regular banks in a bid to propel their growth.
  - RBI proposed setting up of Board of Management (BoM) in all Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) having deposits of over 100 crores within one year, to strengthen governance.

387. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to buy 10000 crores INR of government bonds via open market operation (OMO), after failing to sell all debt it had offered to bidders, yielding 7.75%. Participants should submit their offers on RBI Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.

388. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all scheduled commercial banks with more than 10 branches to appoint an internal ombudsman (IO). RBI, The however, excluded regional rural banks (RRBs) from appointing IOs.

389. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by commercial banks for year (till April 2019) due to unpreparedness of banks to migrate to the new accounting system.
- RBI requested Government to amend Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as format of financial statements as prescribed under Schedule 3 of Act is not amenable to reporting financial statements under Ind-AS.
- Ind AS is global accounting practice that lenders are mandated to adopt, on par with International Financial Reporting Standard 9.
- Financial Entities follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) standards. Corporate entities started complying with IndAS with effect from 1 April 2016. In February 2016, RBI mandated commercial banks, barring regional rural banks to implement Ind AS from April 1, 2018.
- RBI was asking banks to submit half-yearly returns based in Ind-AS format. Key change was need to provision accounts based on expected loss, instead of when account turns into a non-performing asset (NPA).
- Commercial banks may need up to INR 89000s crores while transiting to Ind-AS regime.

390. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put Govt Owned Dena Bank under prompt corrective action (PCA) framework, barring Dena Bank from extending loans, due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) and losses. Dena Bank is 12th Govt. Owned bank to face PCA action by RBI.

391. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed INR 3 crore penalty on IDBI Bank for not following RBI's rules on classification of loans.

392. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructed Pune based Rupee Co-op Bank of Pune to continue its banking services, under Restrictions that were first imposed on February 22 ,2103 to August 2013 and that was extended 8 times till May 2018.

393. ▸ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) liberalised External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy by including more sectors, to facilitate cheaper access of overseas funds to Indian companies.
   ↘ RBI has stipulated uniform, all-in cost ceiling of 450 basis points (bps) over benchmark rate, which, in most cases, is six-month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).
   ↘ RBI increased ECB Liability to Equity Ratio for ECB raised from direct foreign equity holder under automatic route to 7:1, up from 4:1 earlier. This ratio will not be applicable if total of all ECBs raised by entity is up to $5 million or equivalent.
   ↘ RBI also has allowed duly regulated housing finance companies to raise ECB under all tracks.

394. ▸ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19 -
   ↘ Increased Repo Rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.50 %.
   ↘ Reverse Repo Rate adjusted to 6.25 %
   ↘ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate now stand at 6.75 %.
   ↘ RBI retained GDP growth forecast at 7.4 pc for FY'19.
   ↘ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) and SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) stayed at 4 % and 19.5 % respectively.

395. ▸ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightened reporting norms for Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), under which individual can transfer up to US $2,50,000 abroad in a year.
   ↘ Currently, LRS transactions are permitted by banks based on declaration made by remitter, without any verification or reliable source of information. Now, daily reporting system by Authorised Dealer (AD) banks of transactions undertaken by individuals under LRS has been placed. Banks will mandatorily report daily transactions undertaken by them under LRS.
   ↘ Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) was launched in February 2004 and allows all resident individuals including minors to freely remit upto US $2,50,000 annually (revised from $25000 Limit Initially).

396. ▸ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a Public Credit Registry (PCR) as a repository of information regarding loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers, as per recommendations of Y.M. Deosthalee committee. Committee Recommendations -
   ↘ RBI should set up a Public Credit Registry and this should be backed by a legal framework. PCR will work as a repository of all loan contracts, duly verified by reporting institutions for all / any lending in India, regardless of amount of loan.
   ↘ PCR should also capture data such as external commercial borrowings, market borrowings and should provide an holistic picture about borrower's indebtedness. Borrowers should also be able to access their own history.
   ↘ PCR data will be available to all stakeholders such as banks on a need-to-know basis. The database should also be linked to defaulter databases such as those maintained by Export Credit Guarantee Corp, GST network etc.

397. ▸ Reserve Bank of India cancelled licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar (Rajasthan), due to irregularities in functioning.

398. ▸ Reserve Bank of India directed banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange (Authorised Dealer-I Banks) to share data with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). This requires a banking company to furnish information relating to foreign exchange transactions made or received by any person to receiving authority (DRI). DRI is top investigative agency for issues related to violation of Customs Act.

399. ▸ Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue INR 100 denomination banknotes with lavender as base colour in Mahatma Gandhi (New) series, wit motif of 'Rani Ki Vav' (the queen's stepwell located at Patan, Gujarat). Dimension of new note will be 66 mm×142 mm.

400. ▸ Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched *View Pension Passbook* Service for pensioners on Umang App (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), to allow them view their pension passbook on mobile phones.

401. ▸ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) signed loan agreement with German bank KfW in Frankfurt for EUR 200 million, for financing clean energy projects in India. This is REC's fourth line of credit under Indo-German development cooperation.

402. ▸ SBI Changed Names and IFSC codes of its 1295 branches, after rationalisation/merger with six associate banks and Bhartiya Mahila Bank (BMB). SBI had 22,428 branches across India by the end of the first quarter of the current fiscal.

403. ▸ SBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) partnered to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Telangana. MOU was signed for promotion and credit linkage of 2,000 JLGs during current year.

404. ▸ SBI launched its UK subsidiary, SBI (UK) Limited, with initial capital commitment of 225 million pounds. SBI became he first foreign bank in UK to ringfence (separate) its retail division from its wholesale business.

405. ▸ SEBI approved merger of Bharti Airtel and Indus Towers, to create largest mobile tower operator in world outside China. It will have over 163,000 towers across 22 telecom service areas in India.
   ↘ Bharti Airtel and Vodafone will jointly control combined company, with Vodaphone having 29.4 % Airtel will have 37.2 %. Indus Towers is valued at INR 71500 crores.

406. ▸ SEBI issued detailed framework for Know Your Customer (KYC) documentation of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). SEBI also stated that non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs, they can only obtain an FPI licence on condition that they limit their roles to investment advisors and do not invest their money.

407. ▸ Sarvatra Technologies launched 'Sevalia Urban Co-operative Bank' as 450th co-operative bank on National Financial Switch (NFS). Sarvatra brings many co-operative banks on digital payment platform by making them inter-operable with large banks.

408. ▸ Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) relaxed algorithm trading norms at commodity derivatives exchanges, raising limit of trading using algorithm trading process up to 100 orders per second by user from the existing limit of 20 orders per second. SEBI also decided to do away with requirement of empanelment of system auditors by exchanges for system audit of algorithmic trading.

409. ▸ Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) approved amendments to buyback and takeover regulations and changed time for announcing price band of initial public offering (IPO) from 5 to 2 days, based on suggestions made by regulator's Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC).

410. ▸ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted expert Group to look into existing Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) framework and suggest measures to facilitate listing of startups. Group will look into existing ITP framework and suggest measures to facilitate listing of startups.
   🖊 ITP framework is window on stock exchanges where e-commerce, data analytics, bio-technology and other startups can list and trade on their shares. It allows companies to list without necessarily doing an Initial Public Offer (IPO) of equity. SEBI introduced it in 2013 to facilitate listing of new age companies, but it failed to gain any traction.
   🖊 ITP facilitates capital raising by start-up companies which are in their early stages of growth. It provides easier entry and exit options for investors like angel investors, Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) and Private Equities (PVs) etc.
   🖊 It also provide better visibility and wider investor base.

411. ▸ Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) constituted an expert committee to recommend suitable framework to allow direct listing of Indian companies on overseas exchanges while allowing overseas companies to list directly on Indian exchanges.
   🖊 Currently, Indian companies can only use depository receipts route – Global Depository Receipts (GDR) or American Depository Receipts (ADR) – to list on overseas exchanges.
   🖊 Similarly, foreign companies can access Indian capital markets only through Indian Depository Receipts (IDRP) for listing of equities.
   🖊 Sujit Prasad is convenor of the committee.

412. ▸ Several Budget proposals Implemented from April 1, 2018 -
   🖊 Reintroduction of tax on long-term capital gains (LTCG) exceeding Rs 1 lakh from sale of shares.
   🖊 Reduced corporate tax of 25 % on businesses on a turnover of up to INR 250 crores.
   🖊 Standard deduction of Rs 40,000 in lieu of transport allowance and medical reimbursement.
   🖊 e-Way Bill system became mandatory from April 1, 2018 for all inter-state movement of goods in India, being implemented under GST regime by GST Network (GSTN) at Portal *https://ewaybillgst.gov.in*
      🖊 EWay Bill is an electronic way bill for movement of goods which can be generated on the eWay Bill Portal. Transport of goods of more than Rs. 50,000 (Single Invoice/bill/delivery challan) in value in a vehicle cannot be made by a registered person without an eway bill.
      🖊 GST Council had decided to roll-out of the e-way bill starting with inter-state from April 1 and intra-state from April 15, 2018.
      🖊 E-way bill is an electric document generated on GST Portal, which is a shared information technology (IT) infrastructure between Centre and States; and acts as evidence for movement of goods.
      🖊 e-way can be cancelled within 24 hours of creation. The recipient can also reject the e-way Bill within validity period of e-way bill or within 72 hours of creation of e-way bill by consignor, whichever is earlier.

413. ▸ Several Indian public and private banks started new AI technologies, to improve operational efficiency.
   🖊 SBI -
      🖊 SBI Intelligent Assistant (SIA) - A smart chat assistant that efficiently resolves queries of NRI customers .
      🖊 Innovation Centre - Will explore AI Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to make banking process more efficient.
      🖊 Credit card issuer SBI Card also launched ELA' (Electronic Live Assistant), a virtual assistant for customer support and services.
   🖊 Bank of Baroda -
      🖊 Baroda Brainy - artificial intelligence robot.
      🖊 Digital Lab - hi-tech digital branch equipped with advanced gadgets.
   🖊 Allahabad Bank -
      🖊 emPower app - App will have Chatbot and artificial intelligence based e-commerce payments.

414. ▸ Shipping Ministry signed new wage settlement agreement for Group C & D category of Port and Dock Workers, to benefit over 1.35 lakh port and dock workers and pensioners in 12 major ports across country. It includes -

- It will provide 10.6 % wage hike to workers and pensioners.
- The lowest grade of workers would get a pay-scale of Rs 20900-43600 and the highest grade worker would get a pay-scale of Rs 36500-88700. Financial implication expected to be around Rs 560 crore per annum.

415. ▶ Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling launched first data sharing and accessibility portal of Sikkim, called State Data Sharing and Accessibility Platform (SDSAP). State IT Department would upload data in portals twice a year – in April-May and September-October. State Direct Benefit Transfer portal was also launched.

416. ▶ Singapore-based investment firm Temasek will invest up to Rs 2,750 crore ($400 million) in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Master Fund.
- NIIF now has agreements totalling almost Rs. 10,000 crore, with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) having committed to invest up to $1 billion (about Rs 6,500 crore) and domestic financial institutions, about Rs. 500 crore.
- NIIF was set up in December 2015 to catalyse funding into the country's infrastructure sector by serving as quasi sovereign wealth fund (SWF). It aims to maximize economic growth of country mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects.
- It has targeted corpus of Rs 40,000 crore to be raised over the years — 49% of it will be funded by government and remaining 51% will be raised from domestic and global investors.

417. ▶ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Common Service Centres (CSC) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) signed MoU for providing financial support village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) in CSCs. SIDBI will extend financial support to VLEs of CSCs, with minimum one year of operation, under its Direct Financing Window.
- CSC SPV will approve list of VLEs, within 25 km distance of SIDBI Branch Offices. Maximum project outlay must be 3.50 lakh and term loan requirement not exceeding 2 lakh per project.

418. ▶ Small Industries and Development Bank of India (SIDBI) tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC) to promote micro-enterprises in 115 aspirational districts across country.

419. ▶ Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS) signed an MoU on sidelines of a major industrial mission in India in field of aerospace and defence organised by GIFAS with support of SIDM.

420. ▶ StarAgri Finance signed MoU with Karur Vysya Bank, To provide financial assistance to commodity traders and farmers. Micro-lending would be provided to traders and farmers in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

421. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) asked its customers to replace their ATM cards for Europay, MasterCard, Visa (EMV) chip based ATM-cum-debit cards with magnetic stripe before December 31, 2018.
- RBI had asked banks to issue only chip-based and Personal Identification Number (PIN) enabled debit / credit cards to stop frauds.
- EMV chip card and PIN protects against both counterfeit skimming and lost and stolen card fraud.

422. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched an alternate method of cash withdrawal for its customers, known as Cash@POS initiative. Under it, debit card holders of SBI and all other banks can withdraw cash from PoS machines installed by SBI across various merchant locations. INR 1000 can be withdrwan in Tier I and Tier II cities and INR 2000 in Tier 3 to Tier 6 cities per day per card.

423. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched its Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD), aimed at providing digital convenience to customers and ease of doing business for merchants. MOPAD also aims at providing convenience to merchants by eliminating multiple machines that they keep in order to facilitate transaction from different sources.

424. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) will issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 11 Authorised Branches between May 1 - 10, 2018.
- Electoral Bonds can be purchased by any Indian Citizen / Organization to give donations to Political Parties.
- Political arties that secured over 1 % of votes in last General Elections, are eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.

425. ▶ State Bank of India Tied up with Satluj Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) to invest INR 80 billion in Arun III hydropower project of Nepal, with 900 megawatts (MW) capacity.

426. ▶ Supreme Court barred all high courts from listening to any plea related to a recent RBI circular titled *Prohibition on dealing in virtual currencies,* that prohibited dealings in virtual currencies (Bitcoin etc).

427. ▶ Survey conducted by UK-based YouGov named SBI as most patriotic brand in India, after surveying covered 152 brands across 11 categories.

428. ▶ Swedish caller ID service Truecaller acquired Kerala-based payments startup Chillr, marking its first acquisition in India. Founded in 2014, Chillr lets users send money directly between bank accounts using mobile numbers.

429. ▶ Task Force on Shell Companies was set up in February 2017 to check the menace of companies indulging in illegal activities including facilitation of tax evasion and commonly referred to as 'Shell Companies'.
- Task Force has most notably compiled a database of shell companies by SFIO. This database comprises of 3 lists - Confirmed List (16537 entries), Derived List (16739 entries) and Suspect List (80670 entries).

- During FY 2017-18, Registrars of Companies (ROCs) removed names of 226166 companies (under Section 248 of Companies Act 2013), which had not filed their Financial Statements for continuous 2 years. Also, 309619 directors were disqualified.
- To help genuine corporates in regularizing their pending returns, Condonation of Delay Scheme 2018 was brought. It was effective from 1-01-2018 to 1-05-2018. Total 13,993 companies benefitted from the scheme.
- For 2nd drive to be launched during FY 2018-19, total 225910 companies have been identified for being struck-off, along with 7191 LLPs for action under section 75 of LLP Act 2008, due to non-filing of financial statements for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

430. ▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first Indian company to reach 7 lakh crores INR market capitalisation. It is followed by Reliance Industries (5.8 Lakh crores), HDFC Bank (5.2 Lakh crores), HUL (3.4 Lakh crores) and ITC (3.3 Lakh crores).

431. ▶ Tata Steel and German steel giant Thyssenkrupp will set up a 50:50 joint venture, to be called as *Thyssenkrup Tata Steel BV*. It will be second-largest steelmaker in European steel sector after Lakshmi Mittal's Arcelor Mittal.

432. ▶ Tata Steel's subsidiary Bamnipal Steel Ltd (BNPL) acquired 72.65 % stake in Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL) for Approx INR 36400 crores. It will help banks recover NPAs amounting to over 36,000s crore. Tata Steel acquired 79 crore share at Rs 2 each. It was finalised under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC).

433. ▶ Tax departments, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) files appeals in ITAT (Income Tax Appellate Tribunal) while Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) files appeals in CESTAT (Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal) and also in High Courts and Supreme Courts. Under new limits -
- CBDT and CBIC can file appeals in ITAT/CESTAT only if tax amount involved is Rs 20 lakh or more, up from Rs 10 lakh.
- Appeals can be filed in High Courts if tax amount involved in litigation is Rs 50 lakh (up from Rs 20 lakh at present).
- For appeals in Supreme Court, threshold is hiked to 1 crore (from Rs 25 lakh at present).

434. ▶ Telecom Operator Reliance Jio partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) to extend next generation of digital banking and payments services to customers. MyJio platform will enable SBI YONO digital banking features and solutions for a superior customer experience.

435. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) announced spectrum auction of 5G services at a pan-India reserve price of about INR 492 crore per MHz for first time in India. Previously, in 2016, recommended pan-India reserve price for 700 MHz was 11,500 crore and it has been reduced to Rs.6,538 crore per MHz in 2018.

436. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) integrated TRAI Mobile Apps namely DND 2.0 and MyCall with UMANG Platform, With a view to increase reachability and facilitate citizens.

437. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) unveiled beta version of portal (www.tariff.trai.gov.in) to enable consumers see tariffs of different telecom service providers at single place. It aims to provide more transparency and information on multiple tariff offerings by telcos and help consumers.

438. ▶ To create a payments acceptance network for unorganized retail including small merchants and Kirana stores where consumers can make payments, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) partnered with Financial Software and Systems (FSS). FSS ensures that micro-merchants are able to accept payments over any channel – online, unified payments interface (UPI), quick-response (QR) codes, Aadhaar and IPPB accounts.

439. ▶ US Based Networking Firm Cisco signed agreements with NITI Aayog and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to speed up its Country Digital Acceleration programme in India.

440. ▶ US government arm Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has given USD 5 million loan to Grameen Impact Investments to support domestic small and medium enterprises. The financing to *Grameen Impact*, a non-banking financial company, comes through IndusInd Bank in the form of a loan guarantee agreement.

441. ▶ US retail giant Walmart accquired 77% stake in India's largest online retailer Flipkart for $16 billion. It will be India's largest acquisition and world's biggest purchase of an ecommerce company.
- It will include $2 billion of fresh investment, pegging value of Flipkart at $22 billion.
- Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal exits with approx INR 7000 Crores Cash, while other cofounder Binny Bansal will remain on board.

442. ▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched an overdraft (OD) facility for micro and small enterprise (MSE) customers (turnover over 50 lakh ), as an add-on product to existing MSE term loans offered by bank.

443. ▶ Union Bank of India will close its branch in the global diamond hub of Antwerp (Belgium) within a year, after it wasn't able to generate *expected amount of business*.

444. ▶ United Bank of India today will raise up to Rs. 1,500 crore by issuing equity shares in one or more tranches, amid rise in NPAs and Losses.

445. ▶ Walmart Foundation will invest INR 180 crores in India over the next five years to improve farmers' livelihood, by supporting farmer organisations to develop knowledge of sustainable farming practices.

446. ▶ Walmart completion of $16-billion deal for acquiring 77 % stake in Indian ecommerce firm Flipkart.
   - ✎ Kalyan Krishnamurthy will continue to be Flipkart's CEO.
   - ✎ Co-founder Sachin Bansal exited with over 7000 Crores in Cash,while another Co-founder Binny Bansal will stay with his roles.
   - ✎ Walmart will appoint five members to eight-member board of Flipkart.

447. ▶ Warren Buffett-led American conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway invested in Indian Financial Firm Paytm, taking 3-4% stake for aprox INR 2500 crores. It has valued Paytm at $10 billion.

448. ▶ Western Railway (WR) has launched E-catering facility on 23 major stations, to enable passengers to pick a food item from wide range of menu from wide range of restaurants and food chains.

449. ▶ World Bank approved Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation's *Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)*, with INR 6000 crores Expenditure. It is to be implemented from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance. It aims to address criticality of ground water resources in a major part of country. Priority areas are Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these states.
   - ✎ Funds will be provided to states for strengthening ground water governance and encourage community involvement for improving ground water management.
   - ✎ Scheme will have several positive outcomes like better understanding of ground water regime, focused community based approach for addressing issues related to ground water depletion, adoption of efficient water use practices to reduce ground water use for irrigation.

450. ▶ World Bank approved ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India. CPF was preceded by systematic country diagnostic (SCD) that offered narrative about India's progress.
   - ✎ India is well-positioned to become a high middle-income country by 2030, with its fast-growing economy, global stature and unique experience of lifting highest number of poor out of poverty in past decades.
   - ✎ CPF for India will be mainly based on Government's development priorities, World Bank's Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) for India and World Bank's comparative advantage and value proposition to support India.
   - ✎ CPF also incorporates lessons learned from last five years of implementation of Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) FY13-17.
   - ✎ It recognizes that India has gone from low-income country status to low-middle income and now is entering transformation from low-middle to high-middle income country.
   - ✎ It is expected to bring financial support worth US $25-30 billion from World Bank's sister agencies such International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

451. ▶ World Bank approved assistance of INR 929 crores for Shimla water supply and sewerage project. Activities to take place -
   - ✎ Augmentation of Gummawater source from Sutlej river
   - ✎ Construction of storage dams on Giri river
   - ✎ Installation of filter units in 13"bouries" or natural water bodies.

452. ▶ World Bank group member International Finance Corporation (IFC) invested $100 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (M&M), To give financial assistance to small and medium enterprises.

453. ▶ World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) extended $300 mn loan to EESL to scale up energy efficiency program (2 loans for $220 million and $80 million).
   - ✎ India Aims to avoid lifetime greenhouse emissions of 170 million tonnes of CO2 and 10GW of additional generation capacity. This would be over 50 percent of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency target of 19.6 GW.

454. ▶ YES Bank partnered with RupeeBoss.com, to enable integration of YES mPower BOT, Bank's chat bot based platform. It would be used to support instant loan eligibilities for its several loan products.

455. ▶ YES Bank will roll out a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its 'Livelihood and Water Security' CSR initiative, aiming at sustainable agricultural practices and digital literacy.

456. ▶ Yes Bank has been fined with INR 38 crores, as fines to GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances.

457. ▶ Yes Bank launched *Agenda 25×25*, a framework aimed at creating a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.
   - ✎ Agenda 25X25 is geared towards ensuring that by 2025, at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

458. ▶ Yes Bank launched *Yes GST*, an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through this, an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on annual turnover, backed by GST returns.

459. ▶ Yes Bank launched a new deposit scheme as first of many green retail products to be launched by bank. Bank aims to fetch INR 1000 crores through the scheme, called 'Green Future : Deposit". It supports *Green Good Deeds* campaign recently launched by Government.

This would provide a peak interest of 7.5% and has a tenure of 18 months and 8 to 18 days. For senior citizens it would provide 8% interest. Bank also launched a pilot project for recycled dry waste generated at facilities.

460. ▶ Yes Bank raised $400 million through a syndicated loan facility for its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT).

461. ▶ Yes Bank received RBI approval to open 2 representative offices in London and Singapore.

462. ▶ Yes Bank received SEBI approval for acting as custodian of securities, enabling it to play a larger role in channelising domestic and foreign investments into Indian financial market and would enhance bank's current capital market offerings.

463. ▶ Yes Bank received SEBI approval to start mutual fund business, named Yes Asset Management (India) Limited (YAMIL). It will have its Headquarters in Mumbai.

464. ▶ Yes bank unveiled 7th *Transformation Series Challenge* with theme *Tech for Urban Development*. It will focus on Collaborative Innovation – Collaboration as a Service (CaaS) for harnessing innovative solution from young professionals for issues of national importance. CaaS is an extension of the bank's ART (alliances and relationships driven by technology) philosophy.

465. ▶ e-Commerce Firm Flipkart unveiled a dedicated portal '2Gud' for refurbished goods, including mobile phones, laptops and tablets. It would offer refurbished mobile phones, tablets, laptops and other electronic accessories along with a 3-12 month warranty.

466. ▶ e-Commerce retailer Flipkart partnered with video streaming service Hotstar to launch a video advertisement platform called *Shopper Audience Network*. It will allow brands to target consumers through personalized video ads on Hotstar.

467. ▶ e-commerce Firm Flipkart partnered online travel company MakeMyTrip to offer travel services on its platform. Services of MakeMyTrip's other brands, Goibibo and redBus, will be available to Flipkart consumers as part of deal.

**Top**

### International

1. ▶ JLL's annual global report 'City Momentum Index' (CMI) 2018 -
   🖋 Indian cities dominated *short term momentum ranking*, with Hyderabad and Bengaluru are at top two positions. Pune ranked fourth, Kolkata (5th) and Delhi (8th).

2. ▶ A public health emergency has been declared in Oceania Nation Papua New Guinea (PNG), amid recent polio outbreak (first in 18 years).

3. ▶ Forbes released 4th annual *America's Richest Self-Made Women* list 2018 -
   🖋 It lists 60 women with combined net worth of $71 billion, with minimum net worth needed is $320 million.
   🖋 Top 5 are -

   | Rank | Name | Company | Net Worth ($B) |
   |------|------|---------|----------------|
   | 1. | Diane Hendricks | ABC Supply | $4.9 billion |
   | 2. | Marian Ilitch | Little Caesars | $4.3 billion |
   | 3. | Judy Faulkner | Epic Systems | $3.5 billion |
   | 4. | Meg Whitman | Hewlett Packard Enterprise | $3.3 billion |
   | 5. | Johnelle Hunt | J.B. Hunt Transport Enterprise | $3.2 billion |

   🖋 Actress Kylie Jenner is notable entrant in list as at just 21 years, she has built a $900 million cosmetics fortune with virtually no employees or capital. Kylie Cosmetics launched 2 years ago has sold over $630 million worth of makeup accessories.
   🖋 2 Indian-origin Women named in List. Jayshree Ullal (CEO of Arista Networks, ranked 18th) has net worth of 1.3 billion dollars. Neerja Sethi is Vice president of Syntel and ranked 21st.

4. ▶ North Korea extended its Clocks by 30 Minutes, to synchronize its time zone with that south Korea, which was pulled back 30 minutes 3 years ago. Its a major step towards unification among 2 Koreas looking for peace.

5. ▶ World Bank mandated Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) to issue world's first blockchain-based bond. The Kangaroo bond, referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in local currency, has been named bond-i, an acronym standing for Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument. (It's also a reference to Bondi Beach, an iconic spot in Sydney).
   🖋 Bond-I is Ethereum blockchain bond denominated in Australian dollars, making it Kangaroo bond (referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in local currency).

6. ▶ 11th World Hindi Conference (विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलन) will be hosted by Mauritius in Port Lois in August 2018 with theme *Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti*.

7. ▶ 12th Global Peace Index (GPI) 2018 by Ausralian Think Tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Rankng 163 Nations -
   🖋 Top 5 - Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Austria (3), Portugal (4), Denmark (5)
   🖋 Bottom 5 - Syria (163), Afghanistan (162), South Sudan (161), Iraq (160), Somalia (159)
   🖋 Neighbours - Nepal (84), Pakistan (151), **Sri Lanka (67)**, Bangladesh (93)

- BRICS - Brazil (106), Russia (154), **India (136)**, China (112), South Africa (125)
- India improved as compared to 137th Rank in 2017 List.

8. ▶ 18th International Children's Film Festival began in Kolkata, to screen 36 films from 17 countries. It is organised by Cine Central in collaboration with UNICEF.

9. ▶ 1st Asia Power Index Australia Based Lowy Institute -
   - Termed as *giant of the future,* India is ranked 4th out of 25 nations in Asia-Pacific region. As per Report, India trails behind in indicators of defence networks and economic relationships.
   - A country's overall power is its weighted average across eight measures of power - *economic resources, military capability, resilience, future trends, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, defence networks and cultural influence*.
   - USA, China And Japan are top 3. While Russia is at 5th Place.

10. ▶ 2018 *Soft Power 30* Index, by UK-based firm Portland and University of Southern California -
   - UK topped the list, with France placed second. List does not feature India. Germany was ranked 3rd, followed by USA.
   - India does not feature in global list, but is ranked 8th 10 countries in Asia.

11. ▶ 2018 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index (25 Nations) -
   - Top 5 - USA, Canada, Germany, UK, China.
   - India is ranked at 11th, down from 8th Position in China.

12. ▶ 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -
   - Austrian capital Vienna ranked as world's most liveable city among 140 major cities.
   - Top 5 -
      - Vienna (Austria)
      - Melbourne (Australia)
      - Osaka (Japan)
      - Calgary (Canada)
      - Sydney (Australia)
   - Bottom 10 (Least Liveable) -
      - Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) (136th)
      - Karachi (Pakistan) (137th)
      - Lagos (Nigeria) (138th)
      - Dhaka (Bangladesh) (139th)
      - Damascus (Syria) (140th)
   - No Indian cities were ranked in top ten or bottom ten of this edition of index. New Delhi ranked 112th and Mumbai ranked 117th position in list.

13. ▶ 2018 Golden Globe Race, a sailing race around world which started on 1 July 2018 from Les Sables-d'Olonne (France). It dates back to fifty years, featuring yachts similar to those used at that time, with no modern technology allowed.

14. ▶ 2018 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
   - India ranked 138th (falling 2 positions from 136th in 2017).
   - Top 5 - Norway (1), Sweden (2), Netherlands (3), Finland (4), Switzerland (5)
   - North Korea is at Bottom (150th).
   - Neighbours - Bangladesh (146), Sri Lanka (131), Pakistan (139), Nepal (106)

15. ▶ 3rd BRICS Film Festival held in Durban (South Africa), along with International Durban Film Festival (DIFF). Last day of festival was celebrated as India Country Day. Indian winners of Film Festival -
   - Best Actress - Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars
   - Best Film - Newton by Amit Masurkar
   - Special Jury Award - Village Rockstars by Rima Das

16. ▶ 7 Indian companies have been listed in Fortune's 500 list 2018 of world biggest corporations, led by Indian Oil Corp (137th) and followed by Reliance (148th).
   - RIL is most profitable in India and ranked 99th globally, with with Apple at top.
   - World's 500 largest companies generated $30 trillion in profits in 2017.
   - Top 5 - Walmart, State Grid, Sinopec Group (China), China National Petroleum (China), Royal Dutch Shell

17. ▶ 9th London Indian Film Festival (LIFF) -
   - Actors Irrfan Khan and Manoj Bajpayee were honored by special Icon Awards in the event.

- Outstanding Achievement Award went to Actress Richa Chadha.
- Satyajit Ray Short Film Award worth GBP 1,000 went to Indo-German co-production "The Peanut Seller".
- The LIFF will tour will tour Bimingham and Manchester in June - July 2018.

18. ▶ 9th Mountain Echoes Literary Festival 2018 held in Thimphu (Bhutan).

19. ▶ *End of Childhood Index 2018* report by global child rights group named *Save the Children*.
- India ranked 113th in list of 175 countries.
- Top 5 - Singapore (1), Slovenia (2), Norway (3), Sweden (4), Finland (5)
- Bottom 5 - Niger (175), Mali (174), Central African Republic (173), Chad (172), South Sudan (171)

20. ▶ A massive Earthquake of 7.5 Richter Scale along with Tsunami waves hit Palu City of Indonesia, triggering over 1000 human casulaties.

21. ▶ A three-day international conference on "Accessible Tourism" has been held in Nepal,. During this, Nepal launched first accessible trekking trail for differently abled and elders in Pokhara city. Inaugurated trek is a 1.3 kilometers section of the 14 kilometer hiking path in ridge connecting Sarangkot to Naudanda areas.

22. ▶ ASSOCHAM study on *Electricals & Electronics Manufacturing in India* -
- India recycles only 5% of its e-waste and is one of biggest contributors of e-waste (2 million tonnes per annum). E-waste includes discarded computer monitors, motherboards, Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT), Printed Circuit Board (PCB), mobile phones and chargers etc.
- Other top e-waste generator countries are China, US, Japan and Germany.
- In India, Maharashtra is at top in e-waste generation (19.8% ), followed by Tamil Nadu (13%), Uttar Pradesh (10.1%).

23. ▶ According to *Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18* by UNESCO -
- India accounted for 82 out of 97 instances of Internet shutdown among South Asia between May 2017 and April 2018.
- Pakistan witnessed 12 while Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reported just 1 instance each of internet shutdown.

24. ▶ According to *Migration and Development Brief* by World Bank, India retained top position as recipient of remittances with about $69 billion in 2017. India was followed by China ($64 billion), Philippines ($33 billion), Mexico ($31 billion), Nigeria ($22 billion) and Egypt ($20 billion). Global remittance grew 7% to US $613 billion in 2017.

25. ▶ According to *The Annual World Airport Traffic Report 2018* by Airport Council International (ACI) -
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) is 16th busiest in world, by handling 63.4 million passengers in 2017.
- First place was held by Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson in US, handling 103.9 million passengers in 2017, followed by Beijing with 95.8 million passengers.

26. ▶ According to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), India tops list of skilled immigrants to Australia, with 234395 individuals (19 %), followed by England and China at 160,558 (13 %) and 146,842 (12 %) people. Further, 154012 Indians have acquired Australian citizenship.

27. ▶ According to British aviation intelligence firm OAG, Mumbai is fifth-least punctual airport in world in terms of on-time performance out of 513 airports. Japan Nagoya Komaki airport was ranked best with 94.5% on-time performance during 12-month period.

28. ▶ According to FDI Report 2018 by FDI Intelligence (division of Financial Times Ltd.), USA surpassed India as top destination to attract Greenfield FDI investment ($87.4 billion FDI).
- Number of greenfield FDI projects in India during year fell sharply by 21% to 637.

29. ▶ According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), Macau in China would overtake oil-rich Qatar with highest per-capita gross domestic product of any country or jurisdiction on earth, by 2020. Macau is only place in China where casinos are legal and its gross domestic product has more than tripled from about $34,500 per capita in 2001.

30. ▶ According to International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) '*Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017*' report -
- India with 11.4 million hectares (mh) has world's 5th largest area cultivated under genetically modified (GM) crops in 2017. India's entire GM crop area is under single crop BT Cotton incorporating genes from Bacillus thuringiensis or Bt soil bacterium coding for resistance against heliothis bollworm insect pests.
- USA has highest area under transgenic crops (75 mh), followed by Brazil (50.2 mh), Argentina (23.6 mh) and Canada (13.1 mh).
- In 2017, farmers planted 189.8 mh under transgenic crops, as against 1.7 mh in 1996, when transgenic crops were grown commercially for first time.
- Highest share in world's total 189.8 mh GM crop area in 2017 is of soyabean (94.1 mh), followed by maize (59.7 mh), cotton (24.1 mh).

31. ▶ According to Internet Security Threat Report by Symantec, India is third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats (malware / spam /ransomware) (with 5.09% global threats). USA (26.61% global threats) is most vulnerable, followed by China (10.95%) in

2017. India is 2nd most impacted by spam and bots attacks, third most impacted by network attacks, and fourth most impacted by ransomware.

32. ▶ According to Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI), India overtook Japan to become world's second largest producer of crude steel, with China at top.

33. ▶ According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -
   - ✎ Total nuclear warheads with 9 nuclear countries (*USA, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea*).
   - ✎ Out of 14465 nuclear warheads at beginning of 2018, 3750 are actually deployed.
   - ✎ Top Holders are -
     - ✎ Russia - 6850
     - ✎ USA - 6450
     - ✎ France - 300
     - ✎ China - 280
     - ✎ Pakistan 140-150
     - ✎ Britain - 215
     - ✎ India - 130-140
     - ✎ Israel - 80
     - ✎ North Korea - 10-20

34. ▶ According to United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report, number of hungry people in world has risen for first time in more than decade. There are now approximately 38 million more undernourished people in world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.

35. ▶ According to Walk Free Foundation's Global Slavery Index -
   - ✎ Approx 4 crore people worldwide were subjected to modern slavery in 2016.
   - ✎ North Korea has highest concentration of modern slavery where one in 10 people are in this condition.
   - ✎ Most action taken by Netherlands, US, UK, Sweden, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, Norway, Portugal, Montenegro.

36. ▶ According to a Mercer survey, Mumbai is most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates as compared to Washington and Melbourne. Hong Kong is ranked as world's costliest city to live in for expatriates, followed by Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, and Seoul.

37. ▶ According to a recent study, earth may enter an irreversible hothouse condition, with global temperatures rising by 4 - 5 degrees and sea levels rising 10 - 60 metres, even if targets under 2015 Paris climate deal are met.
   - ✎ Currently, global average temperatures are just over 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial and rising at 0.17 degree Celsius per decade.
   - ✎ Keeping global warming to within 1.5-2 degrees Celsius as agreed in 2015 Paris climate agreement by around 200 countries.

38. ▶ According to a report titled *Summer 2018 State of the Internet/ Security: Web Attack report*, by Cloud delivery network provider Akamai Technologies, India is ranked fourth in list of top 10 target countries for Web Application Attacks.

39. ▶ According to a study by Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation published in *The Lancet* -
   - ✎ India ranks 158th in world for its investments in education and healthcare, among 195 Surveyed countries.
   - ✎ Finland tops the list in two key sectors.
   - ✎ USA ranked 27th, while China placed at 44th and Pakistan 164th.

40. ▶ According to a study named Economic Freedom in the World by Centre for Civil Society (CCS) along with Canada's Fraser Institute -
   - ✎ India stands at 96th rank out of 162 countries in economic freedom.
   - ✎ Hong Kong (1) and Singapore (2) are at top of list. New Zealand (3), Switzerland (4), Ireland (5) are others in Top 5.
   - ✎ Among BRICS nations, Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th place and China and Brazil are behind it at 108th and 144th positions.
   - ✎ 10 lowest-ranked countries - Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Syria, Algeria, Argentina, Libya and last-place Venezuela.

41. ▶ According to global airlines events organiser Routesonline -
   - ✎ Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport Secured Second Spot and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport Secured Sixth Spot as fastest growing airport in world during January to June 2018.
   - ✎ Tokyo's Haneda Airport topped the Survey.

42. ▶ According to recent report, Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads. Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and its stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 (surpassing United Kingdom).

🖊 The current estimate of 140 to 150 nuclear weapons with Pakistan exceeds projection made by US Defense Intelligence Agency in 1999 that Pakistan would have 60 to 80 warheads by 2020.

43. ▶ According to report *Indian Industry's Inclusive Footprint in South Africa – Doing Business, Doing Good*, released by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) -

🖊 140 Indian companies invested approx $4 billion in South Africa, creating nearly 18000 direct employment opportunities.

44. ▶ According to report by organization European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), Norway observes lowest rate of traffic accidents in world (20 deaths per 10 lakh inhabitants).

45. ▶ According to review by Asia Pacific Policy Group on Money Laundering (APPG), Pakistan's recent action against terror financing, particularly on legal front were found to be "unsatisfactory". Note that Pakistan was placed on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in February 2018 for failing to curb terror funding. APPG examines cases of all countries on the grey and black lists and reports to FATF.

46. ▶ Acting New Zealand PM Winston Peters demanded Australia to change their flag, As the Flag of New Zealand looks similar to that of Australia. New Zealand flag was adopted 52 years before Australian flag and was adopted in 1902, replacing union jack. Australian flag was adopted in 1954.

47. ▶ Aditya Puri, managing director of HDFC Bank is only Indian in Barron's top 30 global CEO list 2018, Featuring for fourth consecutive year.

48. ▶ AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review -

🖊 India is named 6th wealthiest country in world, with total wealth of 8,230 billion dollars.

🖊 USA is ranked top with total wealth of 62,584 Billion dollars, followed by China with wealth of 24,803 billion dollars and Japan (19,522 billion dollars).

49. ▶ African Nations Ethiopia and Eritrea declared end to their long conflict,with marking launch of a commercial flight from Ethiopia to Eritrea in 20 years.

🖊 Eritrea was once a province of Ethiopia. In 1993, Eritrea separated after an independence struggle. Demarcation of shared border caused a brutal conflict in 1998-2000, in which 80,000 people were killed.

50. ▶ After USA withdrawing recently from UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), UN General Assembly elected Iceland to replace USA. Iceland's term will be valid until December 31, 2019.

51. ▶ After recent launch of Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror) short-range ballistic missile, Iran unveiled first domestically manufactured fighter jet nicknamed Kowsar. Its a fourth-generation fighter with advanced avionics and multi-purpose radar.

52. ▶ Agriculture and Environment ministries along with UN body Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched agriculture project that seeks to bring transformative change in farm sector through conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes.

🖊 It will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

🖊 It is being funded with US $33.5 million grant from Global Environment Facility (GEF).

🖊 Existing unsustainable agricultural practices have resulted in depletion of water tables, biodiversity and habitat loss for wild species and land and soil degradation which have contributed to the environmental crisis in India. To overcome it, there is need for alternative paradigm to current extractive methods of agricultural production systems.

53. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced its project report for development of Palaly airport in northern Sri Lanka,as first project undertaken by AAI in Sri Lanka.

54. ▶ Airports Council International (ACI) ranked New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport as 16th in world in terms of traffic volumes. Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) ranked as busiest airport in world.

55. ▶ American e-Commerce Giant Amazon crossed $900-billion market cap for first time in its history, becoming 2nd company after Apple to achieve this milestone.

56. ▶ Amid economic crisis, Argentina central bank raised its benchmark interest by 15 percentage points to 60%, highest in world. The Argentine peso is down 50% this year against the dollar and the country's inflation is running at over 30%. Many south american nations are facing economic crisis, with neighbouring nation venezuela being under more more steep financial stress.

57. ▶ Apple became first US-based company with a market value of $1 trillion.

58. ▶ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru temporarily left Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), amid differences over choosing secretary general of the group.

59. ▶ As part of its plan to connect billions of people who are still offline, Facebook will launch Athena, its own Internet satellite, early in 2019. The project is designed to *efficiently provide broadband access to unserved and underserved areas throughout the world*.

60. ▶ As per Future Development blog of World Bank's Brookings Institute titled as *The start of a new poverty narrative* -

🖊 India is no longer a nation having world's largest poor population. Nigeria has now overtaken India with largest number of extremely poor people at 87 million in early 2018.

- India is moving down in global poverty ranking. From 125 million poor people in 2016, India had just 73 million people in poorest of poor index as of May 2018.
- Approx 44 Indians are being taken out of poverty every minute, highest rate in world.

61. ▶ As per Germany's Ifo Institute for Economic Research -
   - Germany's current account surplus will remain world's largest in 2018, for 3rd year at $299 billion, in spite of increased trade tensions. It is followed by Japan in second position with $200 billion. Netherlands is 3rd with 110 billion dollars. From 2011, Germany's current account surplus has been consistently above the European Commission's indicative threshold of 6 % of gross domestic product (GDP).
      - Current account surplus measures flow of goods, services and investments. It is considered a positive for any economy.
   - On other hand, in terms of Current Account Deficit, USA will remain to have largest current account deficit with nearly 420 billion euros.

62. ▶ As per Grant Thornton's quarterly global business survey -
   - India slipped to 6th position globally in business optimism index for first quarter of 2018.
   - Top five - Austria, Finland, Indonesia, Netherlands and US.

63. ▶ As per a UN Report, Delhi will surpass Tokyo (Japan) as most populous city in world by 2028.

64. ▶ As per a UN report on 'state of food security and nutrition in the world' number of undernourished globally increased to 821 million in 2017. Africa has highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting almost 21 % of population (more than 25 crore people). Situation is also deteriorating in South America, where PoU increased from 4.7 % in 2014 to a 5 % in 2017.

65. ▶ Asian Development Bank released its 2018 Flagship Statistical Report for Asia and the Pacific. This year's report is focusing on: Technological Innovation for Agricultural Statistics. As per the report -
   - Asia and Pacific region continues to grow in GDP and labour force has been reduced and is shifting from agriculture towards employment in industry and services.
   - Around 780 million people from the region moved out of extreme poverty from 2002 to 2013,
   - The GDP has increased from 30.1%in 2000 to 42.6% in 2017 (at 2011 purchasing power parity),
   - Use of satellite imagery and remote sensing technology has improved data accuracy.

66. ▶ Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property, called *International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT)*, will be opened in Tokyo (Japan) in September 2018. It will have around 12 arbitrators from various parts of the world, who would try to resolve disputes within a time period of 1 year. IACT would also handle disputes between non-Japanese companies if both parties agree.

67. ▶ Assam Govt. inaugurated Indo-Bhutan Border Centre at Darranga in Assam's Baksa district, To strengthen bilateral trade with Bhutan.

68. ▶ At International Court of Justice, India supported Mauritius over its claim on Chagos Islands, which are under United Kingdom's control in Indian Ocean..

69. ▶ Australia resumed adoption of children from India after reportedly 8 years of suspension of the same over reports of trafficking of children.

70. ▶ Australian govt released an India Economic strategy report, recommending to lift India into its top three export markets. It prioritizes trade opportunities in India covering 10 sectors.

71. ▶ Azerbaijan inaugurated a pipeline at Sangachal Terminal, creating first direct route to transport gas from one of world's largest fields to Europe bypassing Russia. Project is worth USD 40-billion. It consists of 3 linked pipelines that will bring gas from Azerbaijani Shah Deniz 2 field across Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Adriatic Sea to southern Italy.

72. ▶ BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) will launch Americas Regional Office in Brazil, to increase operational capabilities of NDB in Brazil.

73. ▶ Bangladesh Government ended quota system in government services, that sets aside jobs for some special groups. It has been done after several porests against the same.

74. ▶ Bangladesh's first communication satellite Bangabandhu-1 will be launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A. It will provide wide range of broadcast and communication services throughout Bangladesh. It is built by Thales Alenia Space, a Franco-Italian aerospace manufacturer. It is named after Bangladesh's *Father of the Nation - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*.

75. ▶ Bilateral trade between India and China through Nathu La border (Sikkim) has resumed, located at 14,200 feet.

76. ▶ Bisket Jatra Festival celebrated in Nepal, believed to have started during Malla dynasty and marks beginning of Nepali new year.

77. ▶ Blood Moon 2018 or century's longest total lunar eclipse of 1 hour 43 minutes occurred on July 27-28, 2018. It was majorly seen in Eastern Hemisphere including Central Asia, Eastern Africa and South East Asia.
   - Moon was gradually covered by Earth's shadow and totality phase was seen on July 28 and total eclipse lasted up to 2h 43m. During this time, Moon was located at apogee (i.e. at farthest from Earth) in its orbit and moved at slower speed in its orbit, making it

longest duration of total eclipse of this century.

 - Such long duration of total lunar eclipses earlier had occurred on July 16, 2000 for totality duration of 1 hour 46 minutes and on June 15, 2011 for totality duration of 1 hour 40 minutes.

78. Bloomberg Billionaires List 2018 -

 - Mukesh Ambani ranked 19th Globally, 3rd in Asia and 1st in Asia with net worth of $38.3 billion. Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma is ranked 14th, Followed by Tencent Founder Pony Ma (Ma Huateng).
 - Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is at top ($126 Billion), Followed by Bill Gates ($91 B).

79. BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands List 2018 -

 - HDFC Bank is only Indian brand in List, ranked 60th.
 - Top 4 - Google (1), Apple (2), Amazon (3), Microsoft (4).

80. Britain's Royal Navy Received its first unmanned autonomous minesweeping system, capable of operating from a land or ship-based control station.

81. Canadian Parliament passed a historic bill legalizing recreational use of marijuana nationwide, becoming second country to do so.

82. Carribean Nation Dominican Republic and China established diplomatic relations, amid China's growing influence. With this, Dominican Republic has broken 77-year alliance with Taiwan.

83. Central African Nation Democratic Republic of Congo declared end of an Ebola outbreak which was first reported in month of May in Bikoro province. It was the ninth Ebola outbreak since discovery of virus in Congo in 1976.

84. Central Asian Nation Kazakhstan launched a 72-hour-long transit visa free regime for Indian citizens from 17th April 2018 to 31st December 2018.

85. Central Bank of Argentina raised interest rates by 300 basis points to fight inflationary pressures. Interest rates have been raised from 27.25 to 30.25 %, to prop up its ailing currency from sliding further against US dollar.

86. Chemical weapons watchdog Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has granted itself new powers to help identify those responsible for chemical attacks in Syria, as a proposal tabled by United Kingdom. Until now, OPCW was only able to say whether chemical weapons were used – but not who had used them.

87. China approved USD 1 billion grant to Pakistan, just after Pakistan has been placed in Financial Action Task Force FATF 'grey list', which may hamper Pakistan's Economy and make receiving foreign funds tougher.

88. China approved first domestically developed, long-acting injectable HIV drug named Albuvirtide. It can block fusion of virus and host cell membranes, blocking HIV life cycle in earliest stage.

89. China has built world's longest cross-sea bridge with length 55 KMs, connecting Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It took 7 years to complete, is six lanes wide and comprises of of 4 tunnels and 4 artificial islands. It has cost approx 20 Billion USD.

 - World's longest bridge is also in china, known as Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge, with 164.7 KM Length.
 - China also aims to deliver its domestically developed AG600 by 2022, world's largest amphibious aircraft.

90. China introduced China Science and Technology Cloud (CSTC) to provide scientists with accessible, accurate and secure data services to promote research.

91. China is planning bullet trains from Kolkata to Kunming City of China, expected to traverse through Myanmar and Bangladesh. The service is also expected to give a thrust to trade and commerce in the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor.

 - BCIM project is projected to run through Mandalay in Myanmar, Chittagong and Dhaka in Bangladesh, terminating in Kolkata.

92. China launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of atmosphere, including air pollution. It is first China-developed satellite that can monitor air pollution.

93. China launched a new communication satellite named *APSTAR-6C*. It will offer TV transmission, communication, Internet and multimedia services to customers in Asia-Pacific region.

94. China launched an optical remote sensing satellite which will be used to monitor its Belt and Road Initiative, named Gaofen-11.

95. China launched twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites, as 35th and 36th of the BeiDou navigation system.

96. China offered gift of $295 million to Sri Lanka, marking start of construction of a Chinese-funded kidney hospital in Polonnaruwa constituency.

97. China pledged $60 billion of financial assistance to Africa, announced at 3rd Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing. FOCAC excludes Swaziland (recently renamed to Eswatini).

 - Out of $60 billion offered, China will disburse $15 billion as aid, interest-free loans and concessional loans, $20 billion as credit line, channel $10 billion into special fund for China-Africa development and $5 billion special fund will be set up only for African imports.

98. China proposed construction of the India-Nepal-China Economic Corridor with multi-dimensional connectivity through Himalayas, during Nepalese foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali's Visit to China.

99. ▶ China successfully launched a new marine satellite called HY-1C aboard a Long March-2C rocket. It will aim at better monitor its maritime waters and study impact of climate change.

100. ▶ China successfully launched new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-6. It will focus on agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring. Also, a scientific experiment satellite named Luojia-1 was sent into space.

101. ▶ China successfully tested its first hypersonic aircraft called Xingkong-2 *Starry Sky-2*, capable of flying at speed 5 - 6 times that of Sound. It attained top speed of 4563 miles (7344 kilometers) per hour (speed of sound is 1235 km/h). It is difficult to trace this spacecraft due to its excessive speed.

102. ▶ China will build a railway connecting western region of Tibet with Nepal, one of several bilateral deals signed during Nepali PM Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli's visit to China. It will connect Tibetan city of Xigaze with Nepal's capital Kathmandu.

103. ▶ China will launch a new meteorological satellite called Fengyun-II 09, to enhance its weather forecasting capabilities.It will be last in Fengyun-II series.

104. ▶ China will launch world's longest cross-sea bridge, connecting Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It will be 55km-long and six lanes wide.

105. ▶ China-Maldives Friendship Bridge opened for traffic, as first cross-sea bridge to be built in Maldives.
   ✎ It is 2.2 km long bridge and has four vehicle lanes and two pedestrian lanes. It connects Maldives capital city Male and neighbouring Hulhule island where island country's main international airport is located.
   ✎ The bridge was built with Chinese grant of $116 million, along with $72 million as an additional loan.

106. ▶ China's first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier known only as "Type 001A" started sea trials. Its name is speculated to be *Shandong,* after province of same name. It is approx 315 metres long, with displacement capacity of about 55,000 tonnes (70,000 loaded).

107. ▶ Chinese e-Commerce giant Alibaba accquired Pakistan's Largest e-commerce firm *Daraz.pk* for $150 Million.

108. ▶ Chinese space startup *OneSpace* launched its OS-X rocket, with a 30 feet long satellite named *Chongqing Liangjiang star*. It is first private Chinese farm to launch a commercial rocket.

109. ▶ Chinese tech firm Baidu partnered with Softbank's public-transportation subsidiary SB Drive to launch a self-driving bus service in Japan next year.

110. ▶ Citi Bank is first to enroll as *Payment Initiation Service Provider* under UK'Open Banking regime, According to which the European Banks are required to share customer data with third party banks upon the customers' approval. This would enable it to receive small payments directly from UK's customer bank accounts without debit or credit cards.

111. ▶ Colombia Became first South American Nation to Join North Atlantic Treaty Organization as global partner. NATO reached partnership agreement with Colombia in May 2017, just after Colombia signed peace agreement with communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), ending longest civil conflict in Latin America.

112. ▶ Cyclonic Storm Sagar, the strongest tropical cyclone to ever make landfall in Somalia (East Africa), and first named cyclone of 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season. It traversed entire Gulf of Aden, affected Yemen and made landfall over northwestern Somalia.

113. ▶ Delhi government signed MOU with Seoul Metropolitan Government to work closely in the fields of environment, tourism, waste / solid waste management, infrastructure and public health.

114. ▶ Democratic Republic of Congo declared a new outbreak of Ebola in northwestern part, as 9th outbreak of Ebola since its discovery in 1976.

115. ▶ Denmark banned wearing of face veils (burqa and niqab) in public places, a move that will criminalise Muslim women who choose to wear niqab or burqa.

116. ▶ East African Nation Uganda's parliament passed a law to impose a controversial tax on people using social media platforms. It imposes a 200 shilling ($0.05, £0.04) daily levy on people using internet messaging platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Viber and Twitter, arguing that social media encouraged gossip.

117. ▶ East African Nations Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed to fully implement a peace deal reached in 2000, ending 20-year war between two countries. Eritrea seceded from Ethiopia in 1993, and the two countries fought a border war from 1998 to 2000.

118. ▶ Europe Space Agency launched a rocket named 'Aeolus' from French Guyana. This satellite will be put into orbit at an altitude of 320 kilometres (200 miles) above the Earth which will track global winds, allowing for improved weather forecasting.

119. ▶ European Nation Hungary will withdraw from Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration agreement, to be adopted in December 2018. Hungarian government opposed migration, arguing that UN agreement could aid flow of migrants to Europe and force countries to shelter them. USA withdrew from it last year.

120. ▶ European Parliament rejected a controversial European Union copyright law proposal that was proposed by Beatles legend Paul McCartney against creators of Wikipedia.

- It proposed to put more responsibility on websites to check for copyright infringements and forced platforms to pay for linking to news.
- Wikipedia went down on July 4 in Poland, Spain and Italy, in protest against the Draft law.
- The two highly contested parts of the law are -
  - Article 11 -
    - Required online platforms to pay publishers a fee if they link to their news content. It proposed to protect newspapers and other outlets from internet giants like Google and Facebook using their material without payment.
    - However, article failed to clearly define what constitutes a link and hence, could be manipulated by governments to curb freedom of speech on Internet.
  - Article 13 -
    - Proposed greater responsibility on websites to enforce copyright laws. It would make online platforms legally liable for copyrighted material put on the web by users.
    - It means that social media sites and other websites would check every piece of content uploaded including texts, images, sounds or code. It is too expensive for most companies.
    - Article has been most controversial and it faced most resistance from critics.

121. European Union (EU) and Japan have signed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), as biggest ever trade deal negotiated by EU and creates free trade zone covering nearly third of the world's GDP. Key Fats Include -
- Eases up Agricultural exports. It ensures protection in Japan of more than 200 high-quality European agricultural products (Geographical Indications (GIs)), and protection of several Japanese GIs in EU.
- Services markets - Opens up services markets, in particular financial services, e-commerce, telecommunications and transport.
- Procurement markets - Guarantees EU companies access to large procurement markets of 48 large Japanese cities.
- Automotive sector - Addresses sensitivities of EU in this sector and elimination of customs duties in transition periods of up to 7 years.
- Trade and sustainable development .
- Data protection.

122. European Union (EU) will stop twice-yearly changing of clocks from October 2019, implemented during the two World Wars and the 1970s oil crisis to save energy. EU countries are required to move forward by an hour on the last Sunday of March and back by an hour on the last Sunday of October.

123. European Union Film Festival (EUFF) began in New Delhi on 18th June at the Siri Fort Auditorium, With 24 latest European films from 23 EU Member States. The festival will traverse through 11 cities in India till 31st August.

124. European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) brought into full effect, clarifying individual rights to personal data collected by companies for targeted advertising and other purposes.
- GDPR sets new rules for how companies manage and share personal data. Though rules apply only to citizens of European Union, global nature of internet means that nearly every online service will be affected.
- GDPR sets a higher than ever bar for obtaining personal data on the internet, higher seen before. Rules will also force companies that suffer data breaches to disclose them within 72 hours.

125. External Affairs Ministry and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) signed agreement for implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project in Africa, seen as digital bridge of knowledge and health between India and Africa.
- It is technological upgrade and extension of Pan-African e-Network Project (Phase 1) which was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017.
- e-VBAB Network Project is completely funded by India for its entire duration, open for participation to all India's partner countries in Africa. Over its five-year duration, this project will provide free tele-education courses to 4000 students every year from African countries.

126. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Bill Gates' Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnered to accelerate breakthroughs in education. It will focus on math, writing, and skills that correspond with things like memory and self-control.

127. Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg overtook Warren Buffett as world's third-richest person, with $81 Billion Net Worth. He is now only behind Amazon founder Jeff Bezos ($141 Billion) and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates ($93 Billion).

128. Facebook launched *Digital Literacy Library* to help young people build skills they need to safely enjoy online technology. It is resource for educators looking to address digital literacy and help these young people build skills they need to use digital technology safely.

129. Facebook obtained a licence to set up a startup incubator in China despite its website being banned in country since 2009. The $30-million subsidiary will be located in Hangzhou city, to reportedly make small investments and give advice to local businesses.

130. ▶ Facebook will invest over $1 billion to build its first Asian data centre in Singapore, expected to open in 2022. Like other data centres, it will be fully powered by renewable energy.

131. ▶ Facebook-owned WhatsApp has launched a 'forward label' feature which will highlight the forwarded messages on the platform. The feature will help users in determining that the sender is not the creator of the message. It will prevent spreading of fake messages that prompted many mob lynching cases in India.

132. ▶ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) placed Pakistan in its 'grey list' for its failure to check activities of terrorists operating from and within its territory, inlcuding failure to curb Terror Financing.
   - 🖌 This may hurt Pakistan's economy as well as its international standing and make it tough for it to receive international funding.
   - 🖌 FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

133. ▶ Finnish Comunication Giant Nokia acquired California (USA) based Internet of Things (IoT) start up *SpaceTime Insight*.

134. ▶ First-ever land-based communication link between China and Pakistan has been inaugurated, named Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable project. It includes an 820-kilometre underground cable that starts from Pakistan's Rawalpindi and ends at Khunjerab bordering China.

135. ▶ For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started. With 4 buses between Bodhgaya and Kathmandu and 4 buses between Patna to Janakpur.

136. ▶ Forbes Released *Celebrity 100* list of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers. USA's Boxer Floyd Mayweather captures top spot with $285 Million Earnings, followed by American Actor George Clooney ($268 Million) and American Actress Kylie Jenner at 3rd Place. Indian Actor Akshay Kumar (40.5 million dollars) is ranked 76th while Salman Khan (37.7 million dollars) is 82nd.

137. ▶ Forbes' *World's Most Powerful People 2018* List (75 People) -
   - 🖌 Xi Jinping (China's President) is at top for first time ever.
   - 🖌 Top 5 - Chinese President XI Jinping (1), Russian President Vladimir Putin (2), US President Donald Trump (3), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (4), Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos (5).
   - 🖌 2 Indians named in list - PM Modi (9th) and Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani (32nd).

138. ▶ Forbes' list of World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018 -
   - 🖌 Top 3 -
      - 🖌 George Clooney: $239m
      - 🖌 Dwayne Johnson: $124m
      - 🖌 Robert Downey Jr: $81m.
   - 🖌 Indian Actors Akshay Kumar ($40.5 million) and Salman Khan ($38.5 million) ranked at 7th and 9th place respectively.

139. ▶ Fortune Change the World List 2018 -
   - 🖌 It ranked companies using profit motive to help tackle social problems.
   - 🖌 Reliance Industries' Telecom Unit Jio ranked as top company globally, for widening Internet access in India and benefitting the subscribers in terms of monetary savings and quality of services.
   - 🖌 Top 5 Companies are -
      - 🖌 Reliance Jio (Telecommunications) - India
      - 🖌 Merck (Pharmaceuticals) - USA
      - 🖌 Bank of America (Commercial Banking) - USA
      - 🖌 Inditex (Specialty Retailers) - Spain
      - 🖌 Alibaba Group (Internet Services & Retailing) - China

140. ▶ Four persons of India-origin are named by Fortune among 40 of most influential and inspiring young people in business under age of 40 -
   - 🖌 Dhivya Suryadevara (4th) (CFO of USA Car Major General Motors)
   - 🖌 Anjali Sud (14th), CEO of Vimeo
   - 🖌 Baiju Bhatt (24th), Cofounder & Co-CEO of Robinhood
   - 🖌 Anu Duggal (32nd), founding partner of Female Founders Fund

141. ▶ France Parliament approved a controversial asylum and immigration bill, designed to accelerate asylum procedures by cutting maximum processing time from 120 days to 90 days after entering France.

142. ▶ France announced to contribute 61.9 million dollars toward urgent humanitarian aid for Syria.

143. ▶ France will reintroduce compulsory national service for all 16-year-olds. French boys and girls would do a minimum of 1 month service in first phase which would focus on voluntary teaching and working with charities among others. 2nd phase will be voluntary and focus on areas linked to defence and security.

144. ▶ France banned smartphones, tablets and other internet-enabled devices in schools, applicable for pupils aged between 3 - 15 years.

145. ▶ German conglomerate Bayer completed its $63-billion takeover of US-based Monsanto to create world's biggest agro-chemical and seed company.

146. ▶ German insurer Allianz Group signed up as a global Olympic sponsor for a 4-Games period of 10 years between 2021 and 2028, as IOC's 14th top sponsor.

147. ▶ Germany will provide soft loan of euro 120 million (INR 990 crore approximately) to India to strengthen sewage water treatment infrastructure in Uttarakhand in an effort to clean River Ganga under Clean Ganga Mission. German development agency GIZ also has prepared 'Ganga Box' aimed to target schools-going children and inform them about the river.

148. ▶ Global Flight Pricing Report by Melbourne-based Rome2rio Low-cost carriers IndiGo & Air India among top 5 cheapest airlines in world in providing international connectivity, ranked 2nd and 5th position. Air Asia X is named as cheapest airline in world.

149. ▶ Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018, by Corn-ell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) -
    ✎ India ranked 57th, improving from its last year rank of 60.
    ✎ Top 6 - Switzerland (1), Netherlands (2), Sweden (3), United Kingdom (4), Singapore (5), USA (6)
    ✎ Neighbours - China (17), Bangladesh (116), Pakistan (109), Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (108)

150. ▶ Global Military Expenditure Report 2017 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -
    ✎ India surpassed France to become 5th largest military spender.
    ✎ Top five (Amount in Billion USD) - US (610), China (228), Saudi Arabia (69.4), Russia (66.3) and India (63.9).

151. ▶ Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2018 by realty consultant JLL -
    ✎ India is ranked 35th among 100 countries.
    ✎ Top 5 - UK (1st), Australia (2nd), United States (3rd), France (4th), Canada (5th)
    ✎ Bottom 5 - Venezuela (100), Libya (99), Senegal (98), Mozambique (97) and Ivory Coast (96).
    ✎ South Asia: Sri Lanka (66th position), Pakistan (75th).

152. ▶ Global Urban Air Pollution database released by World Health Organisation (WHO) -
    ✎ 14 Indian cities named in list of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016. These cities include Delhi, Varanasi, Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Patna, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur.

153. ▶ Global financial services major Morgan Stanley reported that India will become a leader in shared mobility by 2030, caused by increasing amount of electric and autonomous vehicles being used. In 2017, 10% of total 257 million miles have been travelled by shared mobility and this trend would increase to 35% by 2030.

154. ▶ Google Launched its *Home* and *Mini Bluetooth speakers* in India priced at INR 9999 at 4499 Respectively. Google Home and Home Mini can be activated by saying 'Ok Google' and can answer user's general questions.

155. ▶ Google launched Android Things (codenamed Brillo), a variant of Android operating system for Internet of Things (IoT) devices, aiming to enable IoT machines developers to be built faster, cheaper and more secure.
    ✎ *Android Things* is aimed to be used with low-power and memory constrained Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which are usually built from different microcontroller unit (MCU) platforms.

156. ▶ Google launched a new video-based Q&A app called 'Cameos', which allows people to answer questions about themselves, then share those answers directly on Google. It is aimed at celebrities and other public figures, who are often subject of people's Google searches.

157. ▶ Google's latest Android operating system update, Android 9 Pie has been officially released. It introduces a new gesture-based system interface that's similar to the interface of iPhone X.

158. ▶ Greece and Republic of Macedonia reached a historic agreement to end a bitter 27-year name dispute that kept Macedonia out of international institutions such as Nato and EU.
    ✎ Macedonia naming dispute is a political dispute over use of name "Macedonia" between Greece and Republic of Macedonia, formerly a region within Yugoslavia.
    ✎ Agreement says that Republic of Macedonia will be Known as *Republic of Northern Macedonia*, ending the naming dispute.
    ✎ Deal reached by two countries' prime ministers is expected to be signed by their foreign ministers soon. After that, Macedonia's parliament would vote on it, and if it approved, Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov's signature would be needed.
    ✎ However, Macedonian President Mr. Ivanov said that he will not sign the accord to change his country's name.

159. ▶ Guatemala (Central America) and Paraguay (South America) moved their Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently moved its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

160. ▶ HDFC has been ranked as 5th biggest public company globally in 'consumer financial services category' on Forbes' list. American Express topped category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is only other Indian company (at 13th place). In overall list topped by China's ICBC, HDFC took 321st place. There are a total of 58 Indian companies on the overall list of 2000 firms, with Reliance Industries (83rd) as Best in India.

161. ▸ Healthcare Access and Quality Index Data for 195 countries from Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 by Lancet -
   🔧 India ranked 145th.
   🔧 Top five - Iceland (1), Norway (2), Netherlands (3), Luxembourg (4), Finland and Australia (5th rank each)
   🔧 Countries with lowest scores are Central African Republic (195), Somalia (194), Guinea-Bissau (193), Chad (192), and Afghanistan (191).
   🔧 China (48th), Sri Lanka (71st), Bangladesh (133rd), Nepal (149th), Pakistan (154th).

162. ▸ High-level talks between USA and North Korea held during U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Visit to North Korea. Its aim was to make sure North Korea completely discontinues its Nuclear Programme, as decided during a recent high voltage meet US Prez Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong un In Singapore in June 2018.

163. ▸ Historic Esala Maha Perehera festival held in Kandy 9Sri Lanka), held in month of Esala (July or August). It commemorates first teaching of Buddha after his enlightenment.

164. ▸ Hollywood Actress Scarlett Johansson named best-paid actress in world with USD 40.5 million, by Forbes magazine.
   🔧 2nd place is held by Angelina Jolie (US) with earnings of 28 Million USD, while Jennifer Aniston (US) named 3rd with earnings of 19.5 Million USD.

165. ▸ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) and Indian Potash Ltd (IPL) acquired 37 % stake in JPMC (Jordan Phosphate Mines Company), Jordan's largest mining and chemical firm, for INR 900 crores.

166. ▸ IMD World Competitiveness Rankings (63 countries) -
   🔧 India rose one place to 44th. China is ranked 13th.
   🔧 Top 5 - US (1), Hong Kong (2), Singapore (3), Netherlands (4), Switzerland (5).

167. ▸ IT Firm IBM partnered with Indian IT companies (*including Persistent Systems, Invest India, Wipro, Capgemini and NASSCOM*) for its 'Call for Code' initiative that aims to build global solutions for disaster management For this, IBM provide access to its cloud, data, Artificial Intelligence and blockchain technologies, along with training and code to developers.

168. ▸ IT firm Cognizant acquired Hedera Consulting, a Belgium-based business advisory and data analytics services company.

169. ▸ Index of Economic Freedom 2018 by Heritage Foundation -
   🔧 India ranked 130th out of 186 economies.
   🔧 Top 5 - Hong Kong (1), Singapore (2), New Zealand (3), Switzerland (4), Australia (5)
   🔧 Bottom 5 - North Korea (180), Venezuela (179), Cuba (178), Congo (177), Eritrea (176)
   🔧 Neighbours - Bangladesh (128), Pakistan (131), Nepal (133), Sri Lanka (111)

170. ▸ India and Agence Française de Développement (France) signed an implementation agreement on "*MOBILISE YOUR CITY* (MYC). MYC is part of an international initiative which is supported by French and German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December 2015.
   🔧 European Union has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million through the AFD to contribute to specific investments and technical assistance components within the Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India.
   🔧 MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad,to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport.

171. ▸ India and Bangladesh jointly launched construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project, as first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India.
   🔧 It involves construction of 130-kilometre long pipeline that will connect Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. 6 KM stretch will be in India side and remaining 124 kilometres will in Bangladesh.
   🔧 Pipeline has capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum. Initially, it will supply Bangladesh 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel every year and gradually it will be increased to 4 lakh tonnes. It will replace existing practice of sending diesel by rail covering distance of 510 kilometers.
   🔧 Also, Bangladesh approved allowing India to use its Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargo to and from its northeastern states. Indian goods can be transported through four entry points from states Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam. India will have to follow General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) and Bangladeshi regulations, pay customs duties and buy tax equivalent bonds to transport freight.

172. ▸ India and Bangladesh signed agreement to set up a 129.5 km oil pipeline with capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum. Pipiline will be built from Siliguri Marketing Terminal of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in India to Parbaripur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). Other MoUs Included -
   🔧 Cooperation between India's Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Betar.
   🔧 Installation of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Urdu Chair in Dhaka University.

- Set up language labs in 500 schools in Bangladesh.
- Trial run of first container train between India and Bangladesh flagged off from Kolkata.

173. India and China signed an agreement for reduction of tariffs on Chinese imports of Indian medicines, particularly cancer drugs. China also agreed to increase imports of Indian medicines.
    - India and China had both slashed import tariffs for a range of products with effect from July 1, following the fourth round of negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), which also includes Bangladesh, Laos, South Korea and Sri Lanka.
    - Under APTA, China reduced tariffs on 8549 items, while India agreed to do the same for 3142 products.
    - Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named Bangkok Agreement, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It is the oldest preferential trade agreement among the developing countries in Asia-Pacific region.

174. India and Eritrea (East Africa) signed MoU on Foreign Office Consultations.

175. India and European Union (EU) partnered for Rs. 240 crore research programme to develop a Next Generation Influenza Vaccine to protect people throughout world, through "Horizon 2020" programme. It require 3 applicants from both 3 European member states and India.

176. India and Finland signed agreement on tax dispute with Nokia under Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) system. This involves payment of Rs 1,600 crore, a sum that was deposited with government by Nokia in March 2018. This paves way for the sale of Nokia's Chennai (Sriperumbudu) plant, which has been shuttered since November 2014.

177. India and Germany sigNed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on skill development, which will provide dual vocational education and training to Indian youth. Under it, students who complete specific training courses in India will get certificate that is recognised in India and also in Germany.

178. India and Morocco signed an MoU for deepening cooperation between MSME sectors of the two countries in Rabat (Morocco).

179. India and Singapore signed Second Protocol amending Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in New Delh, to come into effect on 14th September 2018.

180. India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries.

181. India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU for construction of a 5000-metric ton temperature controlled warehouse in Dambulla (Sri Lanka), with Indian grant assistance of 30 crore Sri Lankan rupees.

182. India and UAE signed MoU to create a bilateral Artificial Intelligence Bridge that envisages the generation of $20 billion in economic benefits during the next decade. It was signed During Visit of Deepak Bagla to UAE, managing director and CEO of Invest India.

183. India and World Expo 2020 signed participants contract for India's pavilion in World Expo 2020 (Dubai), held once in 5 years.

184. India become 69th shareholder of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
    - European Bank is headquartered in London (UK). President is Suma Chakrabarti (Indian Origin).

185. India contributed $1 million to United Nations (UN) Headquarters' Solar Project, under which solar panels will be installed on roof of UN headquarters at New York (US).

186. India dragged USA to World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Mechanism over imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium.
    - In March 2018, USA imposed heavy import tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items, sparking fears of global trade war. USA levied 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico.

187. India elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for 2 years, during its annual gathering in Colombo (Sri Lanka). Also, India's F. Sheheryar was re-elected as chair of executive board of AIBD and Sri Lanka elected as vice-chair.
    - AIDB is regional inter-governmental organisation serving countries of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in field of electronic media development. It was established in 1977 under auspices of UNESCO.

188. India emerged as top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within Commonwealth and is 2nd most lucrative source of investment within 53-member Commonwealth after UK.

189. India extended financial aid of INR 99 million (approx 10 Crores) to Nepal for construction of 2,700 shallow tube well (STWs) irrigation systems in 12 districts of southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity. It is final payment for Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project, which has seen India release total 227.6 million Nepali rupees to Nepal for implementing this project.

190. India for the first time agreed for most revered Buddhist relics from Sarnath to be taken to Sri Lanka for public exposition on occasion of Vesak festival. This is second time that India has taken initiative to exhibit sacred relics of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka, after first time in 2012.

191. India handed over 404 houses built for Indian-origin people in Sri Lanka's tea plantation areas at Dunsinane Estate in Nuwara Eliya city, as first lot of houses built under Indian Housing Project in Plantation Areas in Sri Lanka.

192. ▶ India has been elected new President of Asian Tug of War Federation. India's Gautam Kaul won prestigious post in Federations' Executive Committee elections held in Kathmandu (Nepal).

193. ▶ India invited USA President Donald Trump to be chief guest at 2019 Republic Day celebrations. If accepted, Trump will be 2nd serving US President after Barack Obama to be invited as chief guest of Republic Day Parade.

   🔧 Also, 1st India-USA *2+2 Talks* may be held in September 2018. On India's Behalf, Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs Minister) and Nirmala Sitharaman (Defence Minister) will be attending the talks.

194. ▶ India is Partner Country in 87th Izmir International tradeshow in Turkey. India also launched its mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies. Izmir is 3rd most populous city in Turkey, after Istanbul and Ankara.

195. ▶ India is elected as Vice Chair of Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for 2 years.

   🔧 WCO is Located in Brussels (Belgium), with 182 customs administrations as Members and Kunio Mikuriya as Secretary General.

196. ▶ India is named second fastest growing country for passenger traffic based on traffic forecasts during 2017-40 by Airports Council International (ACI), after Vietnam 8.5 % growth rate. India has 7.5 % and Iran has 7.3 % Passenger Growth Rate. Recently, ACI ranked Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi at 16th position in the twenty busiest airports in world list.

197. ▶ India is ranked 10th on a new Commonwealth Innovation Index, topped by UK, Singapore and Canada. Index was launched as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub on the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London (UK). Theme of CHOGM 2018 *Towards a Common Future*. India was represented by PM Narendra Modi.

   🔧 Alongside, Malaria Summit was also held in London (United Kingdom), organized by non-profit organisation Malaria No More in conjunction AND Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

   🔧 53 Commonwealth Nations adapted Commonwelath Cyber Declaration at summit, to take action on cybersecurity by 2020. It also aims to tackle criminal groups and hostile state actors who pose a global threat to cybersecurity.

   🔧 Commonwealth Nations also agreed for Britain's Prince Charles succeeding his mother Queen Elizabeth II as Head of Commonwealth.

   🔧 India and 3 other countries (Sri *Lanka, Mauritius and Malta*) participated creating in USD 5 million *Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility* which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve sustainable development goals. Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of Baroda, are facility managers for this fund. 31 Commonwealth nations classified as small states can avail this facility. Before it is available to all such nations, it will be rolled out on pilot basis in Bahamas, Botswana, Brunei, Dominica, Fiji, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles.

198. ▶ India is ranked 6th in global optimism index in second quarter (Q2) of 2018, by Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR), a quarterly global business survey. It was topped by Indonesia followed by Netherlands, Austria, Philippines and China.

199. ▶ India moved up 15 places to 73rd in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017, while UK remains on top. UK accounted for over 27% (403 billion francs) of total foreign money while India accounted for 0.07%. The money held by Indians rose 50% to 1.01 billion francs (INR 7000 crores).

200. ▶ India named 3rd largest solar market in world in 2017 behind China and USA, in a Mercom Communications report. India had set up record 9.6 GW of solar installations in 2017, more than double 4.3 GW installed in 2016.

201. ▶ India pledged $5 million for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) in Near East. Besides, 19 other countries also made pledges for UNRWA at Pledging Conference for UNRWA in New York (US). Sweden pledged US $250 million over 3 years, $ 51 million and UAE $50 million.

   🔧 India also increased its grant to Global Environment Facility's (GEF) new four-year investment cycle, known as GEF-7 from $12 million to $15 million. It was announced at GEF Council meet at Da Nang (Vietnam), and approved $4.1 billion replenishment of GEF-7.

202. ▶ India ranked 11 in terms of FDI attractiveness, according to AT Kearney report, down from 8 in 2017 and 9 in 2016.

   🔧 Top 5 - US (1), Canada (2), Germany (3), UK (4), China (5)

203. ▶ India ranks 109th in overall 4G mobile internet speeds with an average download speed of 9.12 Mbps which is less than Pakistan (14.03 Mbps), according to data speed tester Ookla. Out of 124 countries, Qatar ranked first with 63.22 Mbps, Norway 2nd with 62.14 Mbps download speed.

204. ▶ India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of $839 billion, according to a Credit Suisse report. India followed China (159 companies) and US (121 companies).

205. ▶ India received first shipment of its so far cheapest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russian supplier Gazprom, priced USD 7 per million British Thermal Unit (mmBtu), which is around 1.5 USD cheaper from LNG imported from Qatar (India's oldest and largest supplier of LNG).

   🔧 India is fourth largest importer of LNG, with import dependence 45% to 50 %.

206. ▶ India released additional 47 Crore Nepali Rupees for Phase I of Postal Highway Project being constructed in Southern Plains of Nepal. India has so far released Rs 2.35 billion to Nepal out of total grant assistance of Rs. 8.00 billion committed to implement 14 packages under Postal Highway Project.

207. ▶ India released grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal. India also released 33.10 Crore rupees to Nepal towards cost of two road packages of Birgunj-Thori Road being implemented under Postal Highway Projects.

208. ▶ India replaced Vietnam to become second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017. Currently, China stands at number one in mobile production around the world.

209. ▶ India sent Bangladesh its second relief consignment under Operation Insaniyat, on board INS Airavat, to help displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar into Bangladesh following military crackdown in violence-hit Rakhine state.

210. ▶ India signed 2 agreements with Myanmar's Rakhine State Government to facilitate capacity building and economic development in province.

211. ▶ India signed joint venture with Sri Lanka Government to operate loss-making Mattala international airport in southern Sri Lanka, named after former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

212. ▶ India stands 19th in 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons-usable nuclear materials, according to the Nuclear Security Index. The index was released by the US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI).
   - 🖋 Neighboring Pakistan ranks 20th in List.
   - 🖋 Australia shared top spot with Switzerland.

213. ▶ India will buy 18 Bullet Trains from Japan, Each train with 10 coaches and would be able to attain speed of 350 km per hour. The 508-km high speed train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad at an estimated cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore is expected to be operational by 2022.

214. ▶ India will make strategically important Chabahar port operational by 2019, even as US reimposed sanctions on Iran after withdrawing itself from nuclear deal.

215. ▶ India will open four new air entry points to Nepal in eastern and western parts of country. Routes are - Kathmandu-Biratnagar-Dhaka, Kathmandu-Janakpur-Kolkata, Kathmandu-Janakpur-Patna in eastern Nepal, Kathmandu-Mahendranagar-Delhi (L626) in west.

216. ▶ India won 6 elections to United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) bodies, and won places on executive boards of four UN bodies.
   - 🖋 India won elections to Executive Boards of UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UN-Women. India will serve three-year terms from January 2019 on those executive boards.
   - 🖋 India was elected on UN Commission on Population and Development, Social Development, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

217. ▶ India's Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) signed agreement to set up a framework for recognizing members easier and encourage mobility of professionals between both countries.

218. ▶ India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting joined SDG Media Compact aimed at advancing awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
   - 🖋 SDG Media Compact is initiative of United Nations, in collaboration with UN Foundation. It is alliance of news and entertainment media and it is committing to work with United Nations to foster public discourse and spur action on SGDs.
   - 🖋 It seeks to inspire media companies around world to leverage their resources to advance SDGs adopted by all world leaders at UN in 2015.
   - 🖋 SDGs are 17 global non-binding goals featuring 169 targets to be implemented from 2015 to 2030.

219. ▶ India, China and other Asian countries will Coordinate to raise voice against Asian premium charged by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
   - 🖋 Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries. They charge approx 10% extra from Asian Nations as Asian Premium and they give 10% discount to western Nations.
   - 🖋 Its a concern for India as for Oil, India is largely dependent on Imports. India sources about 86% of crude oil, 75% of natural gas and 95% of LPG from OPEC member nations.
   - 🖋 OPEC is an organization of 14 oil-exporting developing nations. Its headquarters are in Vienna (Austria) and Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia (de facto leader of OPEC), Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Algeria, Angola, Libya, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, Ecuador and Venezuela. OPEC members account 43% of global oil production and 73% of world's oil reserves.

220. ▶ India, Netherlands and Sweden launched first-of-its-kind joint research programme on HIV/AIDS, aimed at harnessing complementary research strengths and diverse expertise of 3 nations to catalyze development of better tools to address epidemic of HIV.

221. ▶ India-assisted emergency ambulance service launched in Sri Lanka, with Indian grant of $22.8 million - $7.6 million for the first phase and $15.2 million. Under the first phase, 88 ambulances were purchased for the two provinces while another 209 ambulances will be

provided to cover all districts in the country.

222. ▶ Indian Consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL and Saudi Aramco signed an MOU to jointly develop an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex called Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL) in Maharashtra.
   - 🖊 It will be capable of processing 1.2 million barrels of crude oil per day (60 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA)). Project cost is estimated at INR 3 lakh crores (USD 44 billion).

223. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and CMs of West Bengal (Mamta Baannerjee) and Tripura (Biplab Kumar Deb), jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh, via video conference. Projects are -
   - 🖊 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, through existing Bheramara (Bangladesh) - Baharampur (India) interconnection.
   - 🖊 Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link
   - 🖊 Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

224. ▶ Indian Pharma Firm *Aurobindo Pharma* received approval from United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture Azithromycin tablets, used for treatment of patients with mild to moderate infections, in US market.

225. ▶ Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams is among 9 astronauts selected by NASA to fly first missions into space on commercial spacecraft, starting in 2019. The astronauts will on board of Boeing CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX Dragon capsules to International Space Station starting in 2019.

226. ▶ India's Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) bagged order for executing largest hydro power project in Nepal, The 900 Megawatt Arun-3 hydro project placed by SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC). Order is worth INR 536 Crores.

227. ▶ India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) established 2nd Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in Guiyang (China), as India's second IT corridor in China (1st in Dalian) to provide Indian IT firms access to Chinese software market.

228. ▶ Indra Jatra festival hed in Kathmandu (Nepal), as an eight day long annual festival observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.

229. ▶ Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, named *Industrial and Commercial Bank Credit Suisse India* Market Fund with over $3.6 trillion in assets (largest in world ).
   - 🖊 It will invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and US that are based on Indian market. It will invest in future of Indian economy and track distribution of industrial structure across Indian market.
   - 🖊 This fund opens way for Chinese investors and provided good tool for low-threshold investment in India. It is also regarded as significant to boost investments in India.

230. ▶ International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) removed Nepal from its Significant Safety Concern (SSC) list. In 2013, ICAO enlisted Nepal in SSC category as Nepal's compliance to ICAO's standard at that time stood only at 55 % out of standard 60 %.

231. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a loan agreement with Economically troubled South American Nation Argentina, on a 36-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) totaling to US$57.1 billion. It is largest ever loan given by IMF.

232. ▶ International Monetory Fund (IMF) released its loan of $252 million to Srilanka, as part of a $1.5 billion deal.

233. ▶ International Whaling Commission (IWC) defeated a proposal to create a whale sanctuary in South Atlantic, first introduced by Brazil in 2001.

234. ▶ Internet Firm Google has been fined a record €4.34bn by European Commission, saying it used Android mobile operating system to illegally *cement its dominant position* in search.

235. ▶ Invest India and Business France have signed an MoU to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France, to facilitate direct foreign investment by providing investment information to enterprises and support companies pursue those opportunities.

236. ▶ Investment Firm SoftBank signed $930-million deal with China's energy conglomerate Golden Concord (GCL) to produce and sell solar equipment in India. GCL will have 40% stake in joint venture. The project will have a 4 gigawatt-capacity and will produce solar ingots, silicon wafers, batteries, and components.

237. ▶ Iran and Syria signed a deal to expand military cooperation. Iran also pledged to help reconstruct the war-torn country.

238. ▶ Iran banned use all cryptocurrencies Inlcuding bitcoin by its banks and financial institutions. Iran Govt stated that it was necessary since cryptocurrencies can be turned into a means for money-laundering and financing terrorism.

239. ▶ Iran unveiled Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror) next generation short-range ballistic missile capable of striking targets on land and sea. It is believed to have range between 300-500 kilometers.
   - 🖊 Amid this, USA created Iran Action Group (IAG) to execute Its Iran strategy and pressure it to change its behaviors. USA recently withdrawn from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (also known nuclear deal) signed between Iran and P5+1 countries (P5: China,

France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and +1: Germana) and European Union in Vienna (Austria) in July 2015.

240. ▶ Iran, Turkey and Russia held a special Meet in Ankara (Turkey), aiming to speed peace process for Syria and bolster their influence in the country.

241. ▶ Iraq Parliament ordered a full manual recount of country's recent parliamentary election where 1.1 crore votes were cast, as a response to charges of electoral fraud. Elections were held in Iraq last month for first time since defeat of Islamic State in country.

242. ▶ Ireland People voted to end *abortion ban*, hailed as *a quiet revolution* in a very socially conservative country. Government proposed that law should be changed to allow unrestricted access to abortions up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.

243. ▶ Israel government enacted a new law which will financially penalize Palestinian Authority for paying stipends to Palestinians killed or jailed by Israel. Israli PM Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly demanded to stop Palestinians from paying stipends to prisoners and their families.

244. ▶ Israel opened a Visa Application Centre in Kolkata for tourists from West Bengal and the northeastern states to encourage more Indian travelers to visit Israel. It also reduced visa fees to INR 1,100 rupees from 1,700 charged from Indians.

245. ▶ Israel passed a Controversial Bill declaring that only Jews have right of self-determination in country, defining it as an exclusively Jewish state. It also strips Arabic of its designation as an official language alongside Hebrew, downgrading it to a special status that enables its continued use within Israeli institutions.

246. ▶ Israel withdrawn its bid for a non-permanent seat at UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2019-2020 term.
  ✎ UNSC has 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members who are elected for a two-year term.

247. ▶ Japan Based Conglomerate Sony Corporation acquired London Based EMI Music Publishing, in a USD 1.9-billion deal. EMI is second-largest music publishing company by revenue. It will add over 2.1 million songs to Sony's huge list, which already owns 2.3 million copyrights.

248. ▶ Japan activated Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB), its first marine unit since World War 2. In Japan's Constitution that was formed after WW 2, it renounced the right to wage war.

249. ▶ Japan adopted an economic plan that will allow more foreign workers to work in country. This will help rapidly aging country to make up for its declining workforce. Under it, Japan will relax visa requirements in sectors facing severe labour shortages and will create new five-year visa category for non-professional foreign workers. Applicants for new visa status will need to pass certain skill tests and have some degree of Japanese language proficiency in order to receive new five-year visas.

250. ▶ Japan became world's first country to land 2 robotic rovers in asteroid Ryugu, also being first man made robot to have landed in an asteroid. Name of the rover that landed is *MINERVA-II1*, consisting of 2 rovers.

251. ▶ Jeff Bezos led e-commerce major Amazon became 2nd US company to hit $1 trillion in market capitalisation after Apple. Also, TCS became 2nd Indian Company to hit 8 Lakh crores INR (Approx $120 Billion USD), after Relienace achieved it recently.

252. ▶ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve became 11th Biosphere Reserve from India, to be included in UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), during 30th Session of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang (Indonesia).
  ✎ India has 18 Biosphere Reserves, with 11 internationally designated WNBR now with this Inclusion.
  ✎ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (Sikkim) reaching elevations of 1220 metres above sea-level.
  ✎ Khangchendzonga National Park was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under 'mixed' category.
  ✎ Over 118 species of large number of medicinal plants found in Dzongu Valley in north Sikkim are of ethno-medical utility.

253. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank overtook SBI to become India's second-most-valued Bank in terms of market capitalisation. KMB's Market cap rose to 2.23 Lakh Crores. HDFC Remains at top with 5.03 Lakh Crores Market Cap. Bandhan Bank debuted in top 50 Indian Brands with 64000 Crores Market Cap.

254. ▶ Kuwait presented draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution, proposing to set up an international protection mission for Palestinians, after recent killing of palestinians amid their anti Israel protests at Gaza Strip.

255. ▶ London administration launched *Walking Action Plan*, to make London as world's Most walkable City. It aims to reduce air pollution by making streets more pedestrian friendly.

256. ▶ Macedonia held a referendum on whether to change its name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'.
  ✎ Greece and Macedonia had signed a deal in this regard in June. Greece argued that the name 'Macedonia' implied a territorial claim on its own province of the same name and has thus vetoed Macedonia's entry into NATO and European Union.

257. ▶ Maharashtra government signed MoU with British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation. British Council will expand its existing work in state, where it has trained over 100000 teachers benefitting around five million learners.

258. ▶ Malaysia Government announced abolishing Goods and Services Tax (GST) by reducing it to 0%. New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had promised to abolish 6% GST levy before his electoral victory.

259. ▶ Maldives asked India to withdraw its military helicopters and around 50 personnel stationed there, after expiry of an agreement in June.

260. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched its first Trade Finance Scorecard, a new tool to address market and boost trade finance. It aims to prevent money-laundering and terrorism. It will use a 2 level assessing, First level will consist of score out of 10 on seven criteria on the macro level and Second level will consist of five working-level issues on the micro level.

261. ▶ McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) for Asia-Pacific region stated that India's gender inequality is extremely high on work & politics. India's score was 0.30 in gender equality at work and 0.78 in legal protection and political voice out of 1.0 scale. India behind Asia-Pacific average in all, but ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

262. ▶ Microsoft acquired video discussion platform Flipgrid which is used by 20 million teachers and students across world.

263. ▶ Microsoft launched prototype of an underwater data centre off the coast of Scotland's Orkney Islands, as part of Microsoft's Project Natick. The capsule contains 864 servers and 27.6 Petabytes of storage, and has been placed 117 feet below ocean's surface. It is designed to hold data for up to 5 years without maintenance.

264. ▶ Microsoft surpassed Google's parent company Alphabet in market capitalisation for first time in 3 years, becoming 3rd most valuable firm (at $753 billion) after Apple ($924 billion) and Amazon ($783 billion).

265. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare asked United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) to declare 2019 as 'International Year of Millets', to draw wider global attention and action to promote cultivation of millets.
   🖌 India is observing 2018 as *National Year of Millets* to promote cultivation by amending cropping pattern of areas which are especially susceptible to climate change.

266. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will tie up with US and Finland to develop new pollution-forecast system that will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at greater resolution.
   🖌 Currently, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), run out of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, serves as apex forecaster of pollution trends in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad. It generates likely air quality profile for a day in advance, for these cities.

267. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD decided to participate in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) after gap of nine years, by sending team of officers to Paris to negotiate India's terms of participation in PISA 2021.
   🖌 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is assessment test for 15-year-olds, organised every three years by Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Paris (France).
   🖌 PISA measures student performance in mathematics, reading, and science and even innovative subjects like collaborative problem-solving and money literacy.
   🖌 PISA test results give insight into education systems around the world. The results are shown as a national mean score and not shown individually. Its objective is not to rank countries, but to see how education system can be improved.

268. ▶ Myanmar and UN agencies signed an agreement that could lead to return of some of 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who fled brutal persecution by country's security forces and are now crowded into makeshift camps in Bangladesh.

269. ▶ NASA launched 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' to promote commercial use of satellite data, as part of NASA's Technology Transfer program. It aims to make it easier for users to utilise relevant satellite data for their research or conservation efforts. It aims to spark innovation among entrepreneurial community and lead to further commercialisation of NASA technology.

270. ▶ NITI Aayog and United Nations signed India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022.
   🖌 It outlines work of UN agencies in India, with 19 UN agencies signing UNSDF 2018-2022.
   🖌 7 priority areas outlined in the UNSDF are - Poverty and Urbanization; Health, Water, and Sanitation; Education and Employability; Nutrition and Food Security; Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Disaster Resilience; Skilling, Entrepreneurship, and Job Creation; Gender Equality and Youth Development.

271. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) signed an agreement with Cab Aggregator Uber to explore Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas. UAM is a safe system for air vehicles, to move passengers and cargo within a city.

272. ▶ National Assembly of France passed a controversial immigration law. While government defended the bill as balanced, it has been criticised by rightwingers for being too soft and by leftwingers for being repressive. New law aims for better-controlled immigration, as it reduces waiting time for asylum applications by almost half to six months and makes it easier to deport those turned down as "economic" migrants.

273. ▶ National Gallery of Modern Art (New Delhi) organized an exhibition titled *To the End of Land,* in collaboration with Embassy of Israel in India, on occasion of 25 years of diplomatic relations with Israel.

274. ▶ National Highways Authority of India took its First International assignment as it signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar, to be completed in 3 years.

275. ▶ Nepal become first country to double its tiger population in a decade as part of World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme, that aims to double number of tigers in all over world by 2022.
   - 🖊 There are now estimated 235 wild tigers in Nepal, compared to 121 back in 2009.
   - 🖊 Tx2 programmeIt was launched by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia. Under it, 13 tiger range countries had agreed to double the world tiger population by 2022, which is the year of tiger in Chinese calendar.

276. ▶ Netherlands Parliament bannned full-face veils such as burqa and niqab in public places. Violation will result in a fine of nearly INR 32000.

277. ▶ New Zealand Govt. banned all new offshore oil exploration permits as a part of Government's plan to transition towards a carbon-neutral future. Note that existing permits cover an area of 100000 sq km and some still have decades left on their exploration rights.

278. ▶ New Zealand banned sale of existing homes to foreign buyers, saying that citizens were being "tenants in our own land". The ban applies to all nationalities, except foreigners with residency status and buyers from Singapore and Australia.

279. ▶ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared that his nation would stop its nuclear tests and intercontinental missile launches and will shut down its atomic test site. This brings relief to global comunity as North Korea has been continuously doing Nuclear tests and aggressively enhancing its nuclear capabilities over past few years.
   - 🖊 In a historic first, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un crossed border that separates 2 Koreas at demilitarized zone (DMZ) to enter South Korea, becoming first North Korean leader to step into South Korean territory since 1953.

280. ▶ Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Electricite de France (EDF) of France signed an Industrial Way Forward Agreement for implementation of six nuclear power reactor units at Jaitapur (Maharashtra) with a total capacity of about 10000 MW. Evolutionary Pressurized Reactors (EPRs) are evolutionary reactors, whose design has evolved from "KONVOI' and "N4' reactors are operational in Germany and France respectively for over 20 years.

281. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd received the first equity oil cargo from Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum oilfield, where it recently bought 10% stake in. A shipload of Das blend crude oil reached New Mangalore port. Lower Zakum (LZ) oilfield produces 400000 barrels per day.

282. ▶ Ocean Cleanup foundation (founded by 24-year-old Dutch innovator Boyan Slat) launched world's first ocean cleanup array from San Francisco, called System 001, marking start of cleanup of Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a collection of marine debris in North Pacific Ocean. The patch is larger than area of France.
   - 🖊 System 001, named as 'Wilson', will be able to collect 50 tons of plastic in its first year. • It consists of a 2000 ft long U-shaped floating barrier with a three-meter (10 ft) skirt attached below.
   - 🖊 Great Pacific Garbage Patch -
     - 🖊 Its a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean, containing up to 16 times more waste than previously thought.
     - 🖊 The Patch occupies an area three times the size of France in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii with 79000 tons of plastic debris in the form of 1.8 trillion pieces.
     - 🖊 It was discovered in 1997 by Charles Moore, who had sailed through a mishmash of floating plastic bottles and other debris on his way home to Los Angeles.

283. ▶ Over 100 Swedish intellectuals joined formed *The New Academy,* as a new prize-giving body to award a new literature prize as 2018's Nobel Literature Prize has been postponed. Swedish Academy that selects Nobel laureates, had postponed 2018's Nobel Literature Prize due to sexual assault allegations. This was he first time in almost 70 years that Nobel literature award has been postponed.

284. ▶ PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) signed MoU to establish India-Nepal Centre. to promote Indian investment in Nepal.

285. ▶ Pacific Endeavor-2018, a communication exercise under Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) began in Kathmandu (Nepal). It aims to develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in Asia Pacific region to collectively work in wake of disaster. It is jointly organised by Nepali Army and United States Pacific Command.

286. ▶ Pacific nation of Vanuatu reimposed emergency and ordered a mandatory evacuation of residents of Ambae island as a volcano erupted and filled sky with ash. It was temporarily evacuated in September 2017 when eruption cycle began.

287. ▶ Pakistan and Russia signed contract on admission of service members of Pakistan in Russia's Military Training Institutes. This will be for first time, Pakistani soldiers will undergo training at Russian military institutes.

288. ▶ Pakistan hosted its first ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) legal experts meeting in Islamabad.

289. ▶ Pakistan invited Saudi Arabia to join $50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as 3rd strategic partner. Saudi Arabia is first country that Pakistan has invited to become partner in CPEC.
   - 🖊 Saudi Arabia has long history of financially bailing out Pakistan during economic crisis. Saudi Arabia loaned Pakistan $1.5 billion in 2014 to strengthen its rupee currency, six months after Pakistan obtained its last IMF bailout.

290. ▸ Pakistan launched 2 indigenously built satellites named PRSS1 and PAK-TES-1A, from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China. PRSS-1 is a Earth observational and optical satellite. PAK-TES-1A is a research satellite.

291. ▸ Pakistan test fired Babur Weapon System-1 (B), enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile with range of 700 KMs.

292. ▸ Pakistan's Parliament passed a bill granting fundamental rights to transgenders and outlawing discrimination against them.

293. ▸ Palestine submitted instrument of accession to Chemical Weapons Convention to European Union (EU), world's chemical weapons watchdog.

294. ▸ Passport Index 2018 by Henley and Partners -
   ✎ It analyzes 199 different passports across 227 destinations to list rankings annually.
   ✎ Japanese passport is named most powerful passport in world, granting visa-free access to 189 countries.
   ✎ Indian passport secured 76th rank in index with its holders getting visa-free access to 59 countries.

295. ▸ Portuguese parliament approved a law that will allow citizens to change their gender and name from age of 16 without a medical report showing identity disruption. Portugal become 6th European country to grant right to self-determination of transgender identity without guardianship of a third party and without a diagnosis of identity.

296. ▸ Prasar Bharati and Mizzima Media Group of Myanmar signed MoU to realize cooperation and collaboration in broadcasting and content sharing.

297. ▸ Property consultant CBRE report on Most expensive markets -
   ✎ New Delhi's Connaught Place ranked 9th most expensive office location, with annual rent of USD 153 per sq ft, Up from 10t place last year. Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) ranked 26th. Central business district (CBD) of Nariman Point ranked 37th.
   ✎ Hong Kong (Central) is at first position with an annual rent of USD 306.57 per sq ft, followed by London (West End), Beijing (Finance Street) in China, Hong Kong (Kowloon) and Beijing (CBD) in China.

298. ▸ QS World Best Universities Ranking 2019 (Top 1000 Universities Listed) -
   ✎ Top 5 -
      ✎ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
      ✎ Stanford University (USA)
      ✎ Harvard University (USA)
      ✎ California Institute of Technology (Caltech) (USA)
      ✎ Univesity of Oxford (UK)
   ✎ Indian Universities in List -
      ✎ 24 Indian Universities in 2018 List, up from 20 last year.
      ✎ IIT Bombay topped among Indian Universities in List (162nd Place), Followed by IISC Bengaluru (170), IIT Delhi (172), IIT Madras (264) and IIT Kanpur (283).

299. ▸ Qatar announced direct investments worth 15-billion US dollar in Turkey, amid Turkey's currency crisis and heightened tensions with USA.

300. ▸ Qatar approved a draft law on regulating ownership and use of properties by foreigners. It rules that non-Qataris might own and use properties under specific conditions, applicable to land space including buildings and residential units, detachment units in residential complexes.
   ✎ In Aug 2017, Qatar became first Arab Nation to offer permanent residency to foreigners.

301. ▸ Qatar banned products from United Arab Emirates (UAE) , Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt; To protect safety of consumers by stopping trafficking of goods. These 4 nations has cut all diplomatic relations with Qatar amid suspected terror financing by Qatar.

302. ▸ Qatar become first Gulf nation to offer permanent residency to expatriates, allowing maximum 100 expatriates to gain permanent residency each year.

303. ▸ Qatar introduced national service for women for first time. Women aged over 18 will now be able to volunteer for national service under law, men will have to serve for a year instead of three months.

304. ▸ Rajnilanth Starrer Kaala become first Indian film to release in Saudi Arabia. Note that Hollywood's Black Panther recently became first film to release in Saudi Arabia in 35 years. Saudi Arabia also recently gave away its first batch of driving licenses to women after decades long ban.

305. ▸ Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, Human rights lawyer Indira Jaising and Architect Balkrishna Doshi are named by Fortune magazine as World's Greatest Leaders of 2018, at 24th, 20th and 43rd places respectively.

306. ▸ Report by global startup ecosystem map Startupblink -
   ✎ India is ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017.
   ✎ Top 5 - United States (1st), United Kingdom (2nd), Canada (3rd), Israel (4th) and Germany (5th).

- In Asia - Singapore (10th), China (12th), South Korea (17th), Japan (20th).
- In Africa - South Africa (38th), Kenya (53rd), Egypt (54th), and Nigeria (57th).

307. ▶ Researchers discovered new strain of Ebola virus in bats in northern Bambuli region of African Nation Sierra Leone, named as Bambuli. It is 6th known virus strain Ebola virus. Others are Zaire, Sudan, Tai Forest, Bundibugyo and Reston. Zaire strain of Ebola virus is the most deadly strain known.

308. ▶ Researchers from Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Peking University announced that Chinese civilization was born 5800 years ago and got matured 3800 years ago., after 15 years of state-funded work. First civilisation emerged in areas around Yellow, Yangtze and Western Liao rivers.

309. ▶ Russia established a new directorate in Russian Army to promote patriotism. A similar directorate existed in the Soviet Army to ensure that soldiers remained loyal to then-ruling Communist party.

310. ▶ Russia launched Glonass-M positioning satellite on board of Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, as part of GLONASS network GLONASS (Russian acronym for Global Navigation Satellite System) which provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around globe, at accuracy reportedly at par with US Global Positioning System (GPS). With this, there are now total 26 Glonass satellites in orbit.

311. ▶ Russia launched world's First floating nuclear power unit into Baltic Sea, with 70-megawatt Capacity, named Akademik Lomonosov.

312. ▶ Russia will build 2 nuclear power units in China, to be operational by 2026 and 2027 respectively. Russia's Rosatom and China's National Energy Administration signed a deal to build the two 1,200-megawatt units at Tianwan nuclear power plant. Russia has built 35 nuclear power units around the world under intergovernmental agreements.

313. ▶ Russia will conduct Vostok-2018 (East-2018) military exercise in September 2018, as biggest war games ever conducted by Russia since Zapad-81 (West-81) exercise conducted by erstwhile Soviet Union in 1981 which saw involvement of 100,000 to 150,000 troops.
- In Vostok 2018, over 300000 troops will participate. China and Mongolia will also participate in Vostok 2018.
- Vostok-2018 exercise is being conducted in response to aggressive attitude towards Russia by NATO and West countries.

314. ▶ Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom)'s subsidiary Nikiret signed an agreement with Indian engineering services firm Core Energy Systems Pvt Ltd for promotion of its technical security equipment in India, to assist in India's Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) project.

315. ▶ SAARC Development Fund (SDF) will launch social enterprise development programme (SEDP) as part of its social window, aimed at building social enterprises by using mix of grants and concessional returnable capital. It intends to fund around 80 enterprises across 8 SAARC member states (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) annually.

316. ▶ Salesforce.com founder Marc Benioff and his wife Lynne acquired *Time magazine* from Meredith Corp. for $190 million in cash. TIME magazine publisher Time Inc was sold to Meredith for $1.8 billion in January 2018.

317. ▶ Saudi Arabia Government established Ministry of Culture, separating it from Information Ministry, amid attempts to modernise the conservative kingdom.

318. ▶ Saudi Arabia freezed all new trade and investment with Canada over its interference in its internal affairs. Saudi foreign ministry expelled Canadian ambassador and recalled its own envoy in Canada.

319. ▶ Saudi Arabia inaugurated a high-speed rail line connecting the holy islamic cities of Mecca and Medina, to take down travel time to 2 hours.

320. ▶ Saudi Arabia opened its first public movie theatre, after over 35 years of prohibition for religious reasons. A special screening of Marvel superhero film 'Black Panther' was held in Riyadh.

321. ▶ Scotland became first country to provide free sanitary products to all students in a bid to tackle "period poverty", to ensure that students do not miss out on education due to lack of access to sanitary products.

322. ▶ Scotland become first country to introduce a minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Alcoholic products in Scotland will cost a minimum of 50 pence per unit.

323. ▶ Search engine Google launched Dataset Search, a new search engine for scientific community that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online. It will work like Google Scholar, company's popular search engine for academic studies and reports.
- It will have twin benefits of creating data sharing ecosystem that will encourage data publishers to follow best practices for data storage and publication and give scientists way to show impact of their work through citation of datasets that they have produced.
- Google also launched a new app 'Blog Compass' to help Indian bloggers manage their site and find topics to write about. The India exclusive app works as an analytics and recommendation platform. .

324. ▶ Seychelles President Danny Faure said that India-Seychelles joint project to develop naval base at Assumption Island in his country can not move forward. Seychelles will develop military facilities at the island on its own.
- Agreement was signed with India in 2015 to develop a naval facility at Assumption Island which would have given India strategic advantage in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), but the project had to be halted after growing political opposition in Seychelles. It was

meant to India's first Naval Base project overseas and had acquired significance after China had acquired its first African naval base in Djibouti (near Horn of Africa) in November 2014.

- 🖊 Assumption Island is a small island situated southwest of Seychelles main and largest island of Mahe. It is situated very close to Mozambique Channel from where much Indian Ocean maritime routes pass. Its location lends it strategic importance for monitoring shipping in the Mozambique Channel.

325. ▶ Singapore and China signed MOU to promote collaboration between companies from both countries in third-party markets along China's ambitious Belt and Road routes.

- 🖊 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)BRI is China's ambitious development strategy that aims to boost its connectivity and trade that will that will connect Asia, Africa, Middle East and Europe. It was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. It comprises two components viz. the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

326. ▶ Singapore based DBS Bank named as world's best bank by Global Finance magazine, for its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers. DBS is the first Asian bank to receive this title from New York-based publication, which last year gave it to ING Bank.

327. ▶ Soft Drinks Industry Levy (also known as soft drinks sugar tax / sin tax / sugar tax) came into force in United Kingdom as part of government's plan to combat obesity and sugar related disease. Drinks containing 5 grams of sugar per 100ml taxed are taxed at 18 pence per litre, and those with more than 5 grams per 100ml taxed at 24 pence per litre.

328. ▶ South Africa entered recession for first time since 2009, after Its economy contracted by 0.7% in 2nd quarter of current Fiscal.

329. ▶ South Africa unveiled a powerful radio telescope, part of an international project that scientists say will provide new details on the Milky Way and other galaxies, called MeerKAT.

- 🖊 MeerKAT, originally Karoo Array Telescope, is a radio telescope consisting of 64 mirrors.
- 🖊 It is largest and most sensitive radio telescope in southern hemisphere until Square Kilometer Array is completed in 2024 (tentative).
- 🖊 Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is a large multi radio telescope project aimed to be built in Australia and South Africa. If built, it would have a total collecting area of approximately one square kilometer.

330. ▶ South Korean pop group BTS won online reader's poll for TIME 'Person of the Year 2018'. South Korean President Moon Jae-in finished 2nd with 5% votes, followed by former US President Barack Obama with 3% votes.

331. ▶ Southeastern Australian state New South Wales (NSW) announced USD 1.58 million partnership with India to enhance Indian startup ecosystem, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

332. ▶ Super Typhoon Mangkhut, world's strongest storm in 2018, hit northern coast of Philippines with winds up to 200 kmph and heavy rains.

333. ▶ Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch officially changed name of his country to *Kingdom of eSwatini*. Its a Swazi language name that stands for 'place of the Swazi'.

334. ▶ Sweden released a handbook of its "feminist foreign policy" for rights groups and foreign governments, showcasing lessons from nation's flagship approach to promote women's rights globally.

- 🖊 Sweden began its feminist foreign policy in response to discrimination and systematic subordination that still marks daily lives of countless women and girls around the world.
- 🖊 Policy's main aim is to include promotion of economic emancipation, fighting sexual violence and improving women's political participation.

335. ▶ Swedish Academy, That organizes Nobel Prize in Literature announced that, Nobel Prize in literature will not be awarded this year due to sex-abuse allegations and other issues. Swedish Academy has been in stress due to #MeToo campaign since November 2017. Academy has been alleged of sexual misconduct by husband of one of its members.

336. ▶ Swedish PM Stefan Löfven became country's first leader to be ousted in a no-confidence vote.

337. ▶ Syria returned to France Légion d'honneur (France's Highest Civilian Honour) presented to its President Bashar al-Assad. Syria stated that it has been done as France is a PRO-USA Nation.

338. ▶ Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will become 1st international head of State to travel to North Korea to meet North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un, since he took over in 2011.

339. ▶ Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC) launched its office at New Delhi, to promote trade between India and Taiwan. It will serve as a single venue that combines consulting service on trade-related issues, trading partners, suppliers, and markets for international business.

340. ▶ Times Higher Education's (THE) world university rankings 2019 -

- 🖊 No Indian institution figures in the top 250 Universities. Althuogh number of Indian institutions in rankings increased from 42 last year to 49, making India 5th best-represented nation.
- 🖊 Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru retained its position as best In India (ranked 251 - 300 globally), followed by IIT Indore (351-400).

- Top 5 Globally -
  - University of Oxford (UK)
  - University of Cambridge (UK)
  - Stanford University (USA)
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
  - California Institute of Technology (USA)

341. To highlight Kashmir issue, Pakistan released 20 "commemorative" postage stamps, one of which portrays slain terrorist Burhan Wani as a 'freedom icon'.

342. Turkey launched construction of its first-ever nuclear power plant in Mersin region, with support from Russia. Cost of power plant would be around 20 billion dollars and will meet 10 % power requirements of Turkey.

343. UAE began 3 month visa amnesty program which allows illegal foreign workers to legalise their status in country or return home.

344. UK launched new UKRI Science, Research and Academia scheme for overseas scientists and researchers, including Indians, to enhance growth of UK's research sector. It invites researchers and academics to come to UK for up to 2 years. It is being added to the already existing Tier 5 (Temporary Worker Government Authorised Exchange) visa route.

345. UK-based data analytics company Cambridge Analytica announced to shut down its operations, after being caught in a massive data-harvesting scandal took away all of its customers. Approx 2 months ago, it was revealed that CA had illegally harvested data of over 87 million Facebook users and used it to manipulate voter behavior in 2016 US Presidential elections.

346. UK's Prince William became first member of the royal family to visit Israel on an official visit. He also met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas which will mark first UK royal visit to West Bank.

347. UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched UN Road Safety Trust Fund to improve road safety worldwide. The fund has potential to galvanise global efforts to address road safety situation, building on progress made and experience gained over Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. It will serve as catalyst for progress towards road safety targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

348. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) partnered with Google to monitor impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools, to develop platform to enable governments, NGO's and public to track specific environment-related development targets with user-friendly front-end.
    - In long term, it will strive to establish platform for open-source data and analysis of UN Sustainable Development Goals. It will enable UNEP to get access to most sophisticated online tools to track progress, identify priority areas for action, and needs for making world sustainable.

349. UN Member states approved a 6.69 billion US Dollar budget for 13 peacekeeping operations for 2018-19. It is 2nd year in a row, that UN has made significant cuts to overall peacekeeping budget.
    - Missions include -
      - MINUJUSTH (UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti)
      - MINUSCA (Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Central African Republic)
      - MINURSO (Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara)
      - MONUSCO (Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo)
      - UNIFIL (Interim Force in Lebanon).
    - United States is biggest contributor to UB, paying 22% of $5.4 billion core budget and 28.5% of US $7.9 billion peacekeeping budget. China is other top contributor with 10.3% followed by Japan with 9.7 %.

350. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in New York to review commitments of 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Considering effects of climate spreading all over the world. Earlier, Guterres appointed Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action.

351. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared 2019-2028 as *Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace*, during Nelson Mandela peace summit honouring South African leader at UN.

352. UN Security Council (UNSC) held its first-ever meeting on corruption and its linkages to global conflicts. Citing the World Economic Forum's estimates, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that corruption costs at least $2.6 trillion or 5% of global GDP.

353. US Defence Department will create a Space Force as 6th branch of military by 2020.

354. US Department of Treasury included India in monitoring list of its major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies. This list identifies countries that are trying to artificially manage value of their currency to gain trade advantage, by keeping exchange rate low to promote cheaper exports. India is 6th addition to this watch list after China, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Switzerland.

355. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the first time approved the use of Epidiolex, an oral solution made from marijuana, for treatment of seizures related to 2 rare and severe forms of epilepsy. Epidiolex is a plant-derived oral solution of cannabidiol (CBD), the main ingredient of marijuana that does not cause intoxication or a euphoric high.

356. ▶ US Imposed Preliminary Anti-Dumping Duties of 50.55% on Metal Pipes Made in India, to help US Domestic Industry.

357. ▶ US President Donald Trump signed a new executive order imposing sanctions on any country or foreign individual found trying to interfere in US elections. It calls for sanctions against any entity that authorises, directs or sponsors meddling operations in the American elections.

358. ▶ US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to create a *faith-based* initiative, which would recognize vital role of faith in American life. It would ensure that faith-based organizations have equal access to government funding and equal right to exercise their beliefs.

359. ▶ US State Department's *2018 Trafficking in Persons Report* categorised North Korea as *worst human trafficking nation* for 16th consecutive year, citing use of forced labour. N Korea is included in Tier 3 category, along with China, Russia and Iran.

360. ▶ US and Mexico signed deal to replace North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the 'United States-Mexico Trade Agreement'.

361. ▶ US state California's economy surpassed UK to become world's fifth largest, With GDP of $2.7 trillion, with UK and India as Next. California is only behind USA, China, Japan and Germany.

362. ▶ US-based *Internet Society and Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)* signed MoU to make Internet safe and secure in India by securing routers which is vital for healthy internet infrastructure. It will also promote Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS) which is global initiative to implement crucial fixes needed to reduce most common threats to internet's routing system.

363. ▶ US-based aircraft maker Boeing will set up an electronics manufacturing and avionics assembly facility in Bengaluru at an investment of INR 1,152 crores, as company's second-largest such facility after one in Seattle (Washington).

364. ▶ USA Congress passed National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19) which capped its security-related aid to Pakistan to $150 million, significantly below over $ 1 billion to $750 million per year. US Senate also passed a bill waiving sanctions against India for buying Russian arms, called National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2019.

365. ▶ USA Govt. cancelled NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) programme, amid budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget. NASA's CMS Programme costing $10 million per year was meant to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

366. ▶ USA Prez Donald Trump declared dead the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)* program, as it protected immigrants brought to nation illegally as children.

367. ▶ USA Space exploration firm SpaceX launched Telstar 19 Vantage satellite, world's heaviest commercial communications satellite weighing over 7000 kg, through its Falcon 9 rocket.

368. ▶ USA Supreme Court restricted deportation of immigrant felons (अपराधी) by ruling that US Immigration and Nationality Act requiring deportation of immigrants convicted of certain crimes of violence is unconstitutionally vague.

369. ▶ USA Trade Representative (USTR) again placed India on 'Priority Watch List' in its annual Special 301 Report on state of intellectual property protection, along with 11 Other Nations.
   - ✎ This Report identifies US trading partners that do not effectively protect IP rights or deny market access to its innovators that rely on protection of their IP rights.
   - ✎ India remains one of world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property, as India's enforcement action and policies are insufficient to curb problem.
   - ✎ Report slammed Health Ministry of India for creating uncertainty in pharmaceutical market by demanding that pharmaceutical companies provide details of how they were using granted patents.

370. ▶ USA and Cuba will permanently restore postal services after running a pilot program for 2 years, which was suspended in 1963.

371. ▶ USA and Morocco launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), to emnable sharing expertise on implementing effective counterterrorism watchlisting and screening tools. It will strengthen UNSC Resolution 2396 aiming to stop terrorist travel altogether.

372. ▶ USA and Philippine Armies held their Joint annual military exercise *Balikatan*.

373. ▶ USA and South Korea began their joint military training exercise named 'Foal Eagle'.

374. ▶ USA announced $39 million grant to Sri Lanka as part its foreign military financing to boost maritime security, as first US grant to Sri Lanka since 2009, after US stopped arms sales to Sri Lanka during its Tamil separatist war that ended in 2009.

375. ▶ USA announced closure of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in Washington DC, after PLO leaders failed to engage with US efforts to bring about peace with Israel and attempted to prompt an investigation of Israel by International Criminal Court.

376. ▶ USA announced its withdrawl from United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), accusing it of "chronic bias" against Israel. Recently, UNHRC blamed Israel for Gaza violence, and rejected USA demand to condemn Hamas (The palestinian Extremist Group).

377. ▶ USA based software Firm Adobe acquired Magento for USD 1.68 billion. Magento works in B2B and B2C context and will help Adobe to compete with salesforce and provide functionality in e-commerce space.

378. ▶ USA designated India as Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country that will allow it to buy highly advanced and cutting-edge sensitive technologies from USA, bringing India in par with US's closest allies such as NATO.

    ✒ Currently there are 36 countries on STA-1 list, wit India being only South Asian on list.

    ✒ STA-1 treatment will expand scope of technology exports subject to Export Administration Regulations (EAR) that can be made to India without individual licenses.

379. ▶ USA imposed stiff 25% tariff on US $50 billion worth of Chinese goods, accusing China of intellectual property (IP) theft and unfair trade practices. Tariffs will be applied in two waves, first to 818 Chinese goods worth $34 billion and in second wave it will apply to 284 goods worth another $16 billion. As a backfire action, China also imposed additional tariffs and duties on $50-billion worth of American products.

    ✒ Also, India also imposed higher import tariffs (ranging from 20 to 50%) on 30 goods from USA, ranging from automobile components to agro products such as almonds, shrimps and chocolates. It is expected to rake in additional $240 million to India.

380. ▶ USA proposed establishing an *Arab NATO* force to counter Iran's military expansion in region. Proposed Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA) will consist of the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan.

381. ▶ USA pulled out of an international nuclear deal with Iran signed in 2015 by USA and 5 other Powers (UK, Russia, France, China, Germany and European Union).

    ✒ This could raise risk of conflict in Middle East, upset America's European allies and bring uncertainty to global oil supplies.

    ✒ The deal eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for the country limiting its nuclear programme, seen by many as a way to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb.

    ✒ USA Prez Trump complained that the agreement, does not address Iran's ballistic missile programme, its nuclear activities and nor its role in conflicts in Yemen and Syria. It did not prevent Iran from cheating and continuing to pursue nuclear weapons, so it needs to be vanished and Tough Economic Sanctions are being put back on Iran.

382. ▶ USA renamed its oldest and largest stragically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). It is responsible for all US military activity in greater Pacific region. It has about 375,000 civilian and military personnel assigned, which also includes India. Renamed INDOPACOM will now extend its reach from Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean Region.

383. ▶ USA unveiled world's most powerful supercomputer called 'Summit', beating previous record-holder China's Sunway TaihuLight. With a peak performance of 200,000 trillion calculations per second (200 petaflops), it is over twice as fast as Sunway TaihuLight, which is capable of 93,000 trillion calculations per second. Summit has 4,608 servers.

384. ▶ USA withdrawn invitation to Chinese navy to participate in 2018 Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise, amid China's continued illegal militarisation of islands in disputed South China Sea. RIMPAC 2019 is 26th edition of this exercise. RIMPAC is world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (USA).

385. ▶ USA's Central Bank Federal Reserve raised interest rates for a third time this year (by 25 basis points to 2.25 %), also reaffirming outlook for further hikes well into 2019. It reflects an upbeat assessment of economy.

386. ▶ USA's Stanford University will assist Uttar Pradesh Government to combat chronic disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

387. ▶ USA, France and Britain launched military operation against Syria, in response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's chemical attack that killed over 60 people last week.

388. ▶ Udaipur (Rajasthan) has been ranked among World's Best Cities by *Travel + Leisure,* ranked 3rd among 15 of world's best cities to travel to.

389. ▶ Ukraine launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries, to be held in western Ukrainian village of Starychi till September 15, 2018.

390. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted a new system of entry visas, under which it will issue long-term residency visas for up to 10 years to international investors and 'exceptional talents' including professionals and students. It will attract investors and increase economic competitiveness globally. UAE also allowed foreign investors to own 100% of UAE-based businesses by end of 2018, up from 49% cap currently.

391. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded joint military exercise *Desert Tiger 5*, in Dubai (UAE).

392. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) approved law on Equal Wages and Salaries for men and women, to provide women with equal opportunities as partners in UAE's development.

393. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) flagship carrier Emirates Airline launched a joint project with US Crop One Holdings to build world's largest vertical farming facility near Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport, with investment of $40 million.
   - ✎ Vertical farm facility will cover an area of 12,077 square metres with an output equivalent to 3.64 million square metres of farmland.
   - ✎ It will harvest 2,700 kg of high-quality, herbicide and pesticide-free leafy greens daily, using 99 percent less water than outdoor fields.

394. ▶ United Kingdom announced changed law for organ and tissue donation to address urgent need for organs within Indian-origin communities in country. The amendment in existing law will propose new system of consent for organ and tissue donation, to be known as Max's Law after Max Johnson, a 10-year-old boy who was saved by a heart transplant.

395. ▶ United Kingdom chosen *Sutherland*, on A'Mhoine peninsula on north coast of Scotland as site of UK's first spaceport, to send satellites vertically into orbit by early 2020s.

396. ▶ United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA) listed Pakistan among top three sources for money laundering, other two being Nigeria and Russia. UK is prime destination for foreign corrupt and politically exposed people (PEPs) to launder money.

397. ▶ United Nations E-Government Survey 2018 -
   - ✎ India jumped 22 places to break into top 100 this year, ranked 96th.
   - ✎ Top 5 - Denmark (1), Australia (2), South Korea (3), UK (4), Sweden (5)

398. ▶ United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index 2018 -
   - ✎ India ranked 130 among 189 countries.
   - ✎ Neighbours - Bangladesh (136), Pakistan (150), Nepal (149), Sri Lanka (76)
   - ✎ Top 5 - Norway (1), Switzerland (2), Australia (3), Ireland (4) and Germany (5)
   - ✎ Bottom 5 - Niger (189), Central African Republic (188), South Sudan (187), Chad (186), Burundi (185).

399. ▶ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Belgium as non-permanent members of UN Security Council (UNSC). They will have two-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

400. ▶ United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres constituted a High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, to be co-chaired by Melinda Gates and Jack Ma (Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group).
   - ✎ Panel has been mandated to contribute to broader public debate on the importance of cooperative and interdisciplinary approaches to ensure a safe and inclusive digital future. It Panel will identify policy, research and information gaps, and make proposals to strengthen international cooperation in the digital space.

401. ▶ United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2427 aimed at providing legal framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout conflict cycle. It strongly condemns recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts.

402. ▶ United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2428 to impose an arms embargo on South Sudan, 5 years after civil war began. It calls upon all UN member states to prevent supply, sale or transfer to South Sudan — from or through their territories till 31 May 2019.

403. ▶ United Nations finalized Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to better manage international migration and strengthen migrant rights. Its first time that UN Member countries negotiated an agreement covering all dimensions of international migration, forming a non legally binding framework. US did not agreed upon these new UN Migration terms.

404. ▶ United Nations will hold a Climate Summit will in September 2019, with focus on sectors that create most emissions and areas where building resilience could make great difference.

405. ▶ United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) designated 14 sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), located in China, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Sri Lanka. With this, there are now 50 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in 20 countries.
   - ✎ 14 New GIAHS-
     - ✎ Siwa Oasis - Egypt
     - ✎ Chinampa Agriculture in World Natural and Cultural Heritage Zone - Mexico
     - ✎ Zhagana Agriculture - Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System - China
     - ✎ Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish Pond System - China
     - ✎ Osaki Kodo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture - Japan
     - ✎ Nishi-Awa Steep Slope Land Agriculture System - Japan
     - ✎ Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem in Hwagae-myeon - South Korea
     - ✎ Agricultural System of Valle Salado de Añana - Spain
     - ✎ Malaga Raisin Production System in La Axarquía - Spain

- ✎ Cascaded Tank-Village System - Sri Lanka
- ✎ Rice Terraces in Southern Mountainous and Hilly Areas - China
- ✎ Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System - China
- ✎ Traditional Wasabi Cultivation in Shizuoka - Japan
- ✎ Barroso Agro-sylvo-pastoral System - Portuga
- ✎ GIAHS in India -
  - ✎ Saffron Heritage of Kashmir (J & K)
  - ✎ Koraput Traditional Agriculture (Odisha)
  - ✎ Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System (Kerala)

406. ▶ United States Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) approved Indian Pharma companies to market their medics in USA -
  - ✎ Sun Pharma - INFUGEM injection, used for treatment of cancer.
  - ✎ Lupin - Tadalafil tablets, used to treat erectile dysfunction and prostate gland enlargement.

407. ▶ United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced reviewing eligibility of India, Indonesia and Kazakhstan in Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) based on concerns about countries' compliance with program.
  - ✎ In Case of India, This review is based on concerns related to its compliance with GSP market access criterion and two petitions related to same criterion, filed by US dairy industry and US medical device industry.
  - ✎ Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) GSP is largest and oldest US trade preference programme introduced in 1976. It is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries. In India's case, GSP enables duty-free entry of 3,500 product lines in US markets. Total US imports under GSP in 2017 was $21.2 billion, of which India was biggest beneficiary with $5.6 billion.

408. ▶ University of Houston (USA) signed MoU with Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) to build scientific and technical knowledge through joint research.

409. ▶ Value of China's stock market fell to $6.09 trillion, losing its spot as the second biggest stock market to Japan ($6.17 trillion). China's stock market overtake Japan in 2014 and soared to an all-time high of over $10 trillion in 2015.

410. ▶ Vatican reached a landmark deal with China on appointment of bishops in China, with Pope Francis recognizing 7 state-appointed Chinese bishops as part of the deal.

411. ▶ Video sharing platform YouTube will invest $25 million to counter spread of fake news on its platform, as part of $300 million Google News Initiative launched in March 2018.

412. ▶ WHO launched new *WHO Global action plan on physical activity and health 2018-2030: More active people for a healthier world,* explaining how countries can reduce physical inactivity in adults and adolescents by 15% by 2030. It specifies a set of 20 policy areas aimed to develop more active societies by improving the environments and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to do more Physical Activities.

413. ▶ With Over 186000 Indian students studying in USA, India is 2nd highest sender of foreign students to US, next only to China.

414. ▶ World Bank (WB) agreed to provide a grant to Bangladesh for meeting the basic needs of around one million Rohingyas who fled their homeland Myanmar.

415. ▶ World Bank Group approved USD 13 billion increase in paid-in capital, as part of a series of internal reforms. It consists USD 7.5 billion paid-in capital for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and USD 5.5 billion for International Finance Commission (IFC). It also includes a USD 52.6 billion callable capital increase for IBRD.

416. ▶ World Bank approved $55mn Loan to expand use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily, under Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project.

417. ▶ World Bank approved $700 million to help Bangladesh achieve its education for all vision by improving primary education sector, under Quality Learning for All Program (QLEAP). Also, Pakistan and World Bank inked agreements worth $565 million to support projects in power and water sectors.

418. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) classified gaming addiction as mental health disorder in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD). WHO defines gaming disorder as pattern of gaming behaviour characterized by impaired control over gaming, increased priority given to gaming over other activities.

419. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) published its first *Essential Diagnostics List*, a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose most common diseases along with number of global priority diseases.
  - ✎ It aims to address inability to access diagnostic services, keeping the away from correct treatment.
  - ✎ The list contains 113 tests, out of which 58 are for detection of a wide range of common conditions and Remaining 55 tests are for detection of *priority* diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and human papillomavirus.

- WHO will update list on regular basis and will also issue call for applications to add categories to next edition.
- It will provide a uniform tool useful to all countries, to test and treat health complications better and use health funds more efficiently by concentrating on truly essential tests.

420. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) released 2018 Global TB Report, calling for commitments to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2030. As per report, global efforts have prevented approx 5.4 crore TB deaths since 2000, but TB remains world's deadliest infectious disease.

421. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) SAFER initiative to support governments in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health, beat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). SAFER provides five high-impact strategic actions prioritized for implementation to promote health and development -
- **S**trengthening restrictions on alcohol availability.
- **A**dvance and enforcing drink driving countermeasures.
- **F**acilitating access to screening, brief interventions, and treatment.
- **E**nforcing bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion.
- **R**aising prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies.

422. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) launched comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans fats from global food supply by 2023. WHO calls on governments to use 'REPLACE' action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from food supply. World Health Organization (WHO) also held an emergency meeting to discuss on outbreak of Ebola in Congo (Central Africa).

423. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) validated Nepal for having eliminated trachoma, a contagious bacterial infection of eye. It makes Nepal first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat trachoma, world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

424. ▶ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) notified declaration submitted by India related to Article II and III of Appendix to Paris Act (1971) related to Berne (*Switzerland*) Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.
- It will enable India to avail facilties provided for Article II and III of Appendix to Berne Convention during 10 years period that will expire, on October 10, 2024.
- India has been member of Berne Convention since April 1928 and has been submitting declaration as per Article II and III of Appendix from time to time.
- Berne Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Convention) is international copyright agreement that mandates equal treatment of copyrighted works by signatories, known as Berne Union. It was adopted in 1886 in Berne, Switzerland.

425. ▶ World Meteorological Organization (WMO) designated India as nodal centre for developing customized model to issue advance warning of floods to Asian countries, called as Flash Flood Guidance System.
- It will provide forecasts by computing likelihood of rainfall and soil moisture levels to warn of possible floods. It will be customized weather model, originally developed by US and donated to WMO to warn about flash floods at least six hours in advance.

426. ▶ World Reputation Rankings 2018 Times Higher Education (THE) -
- Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru (IISc Bangalore) is Only University in Global Top 100 (Ranked 91).
- Top 5 - Harvard University (USA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), Stanford University (USA), University of Cambridge (UK) and University of Oxford (UK).

427. ▶ World's First Intertidal art gallery called Coralarium opened in Maldives, filled with around 30 Sculptures acting as a habitat for coral and other marine species.

428. ▶ World's First third generation European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) reactor started working in Taishan (China).
- EPR is a third generation pressurised water reactor (PWR) design, developed mainly by Framatome and Électricité de France (EDF) in France, and Siemens in Germany. In Europe this reactor design was called European Pressurised Reactor, and internationalised name was Evolutionary Power Reactor. 2 EPR units under construction in Finland and France are both facing costly construction delays.

429. ▶ World's first all-digital art museum opened at MORI Building Digital Art Museum in Japan's Tokyo. It features around 50 kaleidoscopic installations triggered by motion sensors, which are projected across every surface of 100,000-square-foot exhibit space with help of lights.

430. ▶ World's first long-distance electric bus line began service in Paris (France), presented by Flixbus. It will link Paris to France's northern city of Amiens, undertaking a 160 kilometres journey within 2 hours.

431. ▶ World's first self-driving tram, fitted with multiple radar, LiDAR, and camera sensors, has been successfully been tested in Potsdam (Germany). The tram operated on a 6-km test route in real traffic with a safety driver for emergency purposes.

432. ▶ Yahoo launched a group messaging app called *Squirrel*, focussed on friends, family and work groups.

**Top**

**Meetings**

1. ▶ 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar (Punjab0 in January 2019, with theme *Future India: Science & Technology*. It will be organised by Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).

2. ▶ 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018, with Theme *Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti*.

3. ▶ 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meeting held in Beijing (China). It was attended by India for the first time with Defence Minister Raksha Mantri attending on India's Behalf.

   ✎ India agreed to participate in Its first ever Joint Peace Mission with Pakistan, as a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia to be held in September 2018 under aegis of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). It aims to enhance counter-terror cooperation among 8 SCO member countries.

4. ▶ 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meet Hosted by India in New Delhi.

5. ▶ 16th Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA16) held in New Delhi.

   ✎ India aims to achieve 175 GW of installed capacity of renewable energy generation by 2022.

   ✎ WGIA is an initiative of Japan, to improve quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories of Asian countries by building capacities through training and exchange of experience. 15 countries are WGIA members.

6. ▶ 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver (Canada).

7. ▶ 1st South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with theme *Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers*.

8. ▶ 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) will be held in Beijing (China) in August 2018. It will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from over 10 countries.

9. ▶ 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) held in Beijing (China), organized by International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University. Theme of this quinquennial (once in five year) event was *Learning To Be Human*.

10. ▶ 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Chicago (US) in September 2018, with theme *Sumantrite Suvikrante - think collectively, achieve valiantly*. It is organised by World Hindu Foundation to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's his toric Chicago address on September 11, 1893. Tulsi Gabbard, first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress is named as Chairperson of WHC 2018.

11. ▶ 2nd meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting held in Beijing . With Indian Delegation headed by Additional Secretary (Multilateral Diplomacy) Gitesh Sharma.

12. ▶ 34 leading global technology firms including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, Cisco, and Oracle signed Cybersecurity Tech Accord in Geneva (Switzerland) to work together on cybersecurity issues. Four Principles of Cybersecurity Tech Accord are -

   ✎ Protect users and customers everywhere.

   ✎ Oppose cyberattacks on innocent citizens and enterprises.

   ✎ Empower users, customers and developers to strengthen cybersecurity.

   ✎ Partner with each other and like-minded groups to enhance cybersecurity.

13. ▶ 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons' held in Seoul (South Korea). Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.

14. ▶ 3rd United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) held in New Delhi, conducted by Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with USA.

15. ▶ 4 day Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in New Delhi.

16. ▶ 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting completed in Bahrain's capital Manama, with 19 new sites inscribed to World Heritage List. New Addition to List are -

   ✎ Cultural -

      ✎ **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (India)**

      ✎ Aasivissuit – Nipisat, Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea (Denmark)

      ✎ Al-Ahsa Oasis, an evolving Cultural Landscape (Saudi Arabia)

      ✎ Ancient City of Qalhat (Oman)

      ✎ Archaeological Border complex of Hedeby and the Danevirke (Germany)

      ✎ Caliphate City of Medina Azahara (Spain)

      ✎ Göbekli Tepe (Turkey)

      ✎ Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region (Japan)

      ✎ Ivrea, industrial city of the 20th century (Italy)

      ✎ Naumburg Cathedral (Germany)

      ✎ Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea (Republic of Korea)

      ✎ Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Islamic Republic of Iran)

- 🔹 Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya)
  - 🔹 Natural sites -
    - 🔹 Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains (South Africa)
    - 🔹 Chaine des Puys - Limagne fault tectonic arena (France)
    - 🔹 Fanjingshan (China)
  - 🔹 Mixed sites -
    - 🔹 Chiribiquete National Park – "The Maloca of the Jaguar" (Colombia)
    - 🔹 Pimachiowin Aki (Canada)
    - 🔹 Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley: originary habitat of Mesoamerica (Mexico)

17. ▶ 44th G7 summit held in Quebec (Canada). Its Joint Statement was rejected by USA Prez Donald Trump. Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy,Japan,United Kingdom,United States AND European Union. Next (45th) G7 Summit will be held in Nouvelle - Aquitaine (France).

18. ▶ 4th Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit will be held in Kathmandu (Nepal) in August 2018. Nepal is current chair of BIMSTEC. Other members - India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar.

19. ▶ 4th Edition of Global Exhibition on Services held in Mumbai.
    - 🔹 In India, services sector contributes 61 % in gross value added. India's global services exports stood at 3.4 % in 2016, aimed to be 4.2 % by 2022.
    - 🔹 Champion Services Sectors scheme was also launched on the occasion. 12 identified sectors where Government wants to give focused attention for promoting their development includes *Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT& ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services*.
    - 🔹 Fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of Champion Sectors.

20. ▶ 4th edition of Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), to discuss state of elections and democracy in region. Theme of AESF-IV was *Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together*.

21. ▶ 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held an emergency summit in Istanbul (Turkey), to discuss recent Israeli violence against Palestinian protesters in Gaza Strip.

22. ▶ 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intersessional ministerial meeting held in Tokyo (Japan). It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) or comprehensive regional economic integration agreement between 10-ASEAN countries and its six FTA partners (Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea).

23. ▶ 62nd General Conference of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) held in Vienna (Austria). On India's Behalf of Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Note that Now, K N Vyas has been appointed as new Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
    - 🔹 Mr. Basu stated that India placed 4 more reactors under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, including 2 Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors and two Pressurised Heavy Reactors being built with Indian technology.
    - 🔹 Now, total 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be now under IAEA safeguards.
    - 🔹 IAEA Safeguards are system of inspection and verification of peaceful uses of nuclear materials as part of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

24. ▶ 6th biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore with theme *Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboratio*n.

25. ▶ 6th international Buddhist conclave held in New Delhi, organised by Ministry of Tourism. Its theme was 'Buddha Path – The Living Heritage".

26. ▶ 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi.

27. ▶ 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism held in Seoul (South Korea) , with theme *A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism*. The venue Next (8th) UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism 2019 will be Astana, Kazakhstan.

28. ▶ 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), co-organized by Ministry of Housing and Affairs, Japan's Environment Ministry, and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). Theme was *Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency– A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities*.

- Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was launched in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan with objective of integrating 3Rs– reduce, reuse and recycle in policy, planning and development.

29. An anti-doping sports conference named *Clean Sport=Fair Outcome?* conducted to address the issue of doping, at Oslo (Norway).

30. Canada and European Union will host the world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018 in Canada.

31. Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

32. Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance) hosted 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Mumbai (First in India) -
    - Theme for this year's AIIB meet is *Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration*.
    - With total project portfolios of US$4.4 Billion, India is largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
    - Inaugural Asian Infrastructure Forum was also held launched, which will gather infrastructure practitioners in a practical and project-driven discourse, focused on matching innovative finance to criticalinfrastructure needs.
    - Exhibition titled *India Infrastructure Expo 2018* was also organized on sidelines of 3rd AIIB Meet.
    - AIIB -
        - AIIB is China led multilateral development bank set up in 2016. It has 83 member nations. India is second largest shareholder in AIIB (7.5 %), after China (26.06). It is headquartered in Beijing (China).
        - Jin Liqun (China) is current president of AIIB.

33. European Union and UN co-chaired a 2 day international conference in Brussels (Belgium), aiming to pump financial aid for Syrians and garner political support for UN-led intra-Syrian talks.

34. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended and addressed 73rd session of UN General Assembly in New York (USA).
    - Antonio Guterres (Portugal) is Secretary-General of 73rd UN General Assembly.
    - India and G4 nations (Brazil, Germany and Japan) voiced concern over lack of substantive progress in the long-pending Security Council reform, saying it is time to initiate text-based negotiations to safeguard legitimacy and credibility of UNSC.
    - Also, J P Nadda(Minister of Health and Family Welfare) addressed *High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis* at 73rd session of UNGA. He stated that India commits to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030, by launching the TB Free India Campaign.
    - External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj also attended SAARC foreign ministers' meet on sidelines of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. She left the meeting early after delivering straight remarks on Pakistan.

35. First African Land Forces Summit (ALFS) held in Abuja (Nigerian capital), hosted by US and Nigeria Armies. It brings together land force chiefs from across Africa, aimed at improving security and stability across continent.

36. First Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg (Germany) in September 2018, with participation of over 100 countries. Summit will combine 2 main conferences - WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope, Holinsky.
    - India has 33GW installed capacity of wind energy, ranking 4th after China, US and Germany. Government targets 60 GW of wind energy by 2022.

37. First international conference on *Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership* held in Kathmandu (Nepal).

38. Food and Drink Technology Africa 2018 trade show held in Johannesburg (South Africa), Attended by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).

39. Global Climate Action Summit 2018 held at San Francisco in California (USA). During this, government functionaries of several Indian cities announced to scale up their actions to combat climate change and to protect people from hazardous climate impacts.
    - Global Green Bond Partnership (GGBP) was launched on this occasion, to accelerate issuance of green bonds. Members of GGBP will work to scale green bond issuance primarily by sub-national entities and corporations.
    - Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group announced that Mahindra & Mahindra will work towards being carbon neutral by 2040. M&M was first company in world to commit to double energy productivity by signing Climate Group's program 'EP100'. It was also first Indian company to announce its internal Carbon Price of USD 10 per ton of carbon emitted to fund investments required for carbon neutrality.

40. Global Logistics Summit (GLS-2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Commerce along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and World Bank Group.

41. HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar Inaugurated 4thWorld Summit on Accreditation(WOSA-2018), held in New Delhi. Focus of WOSA 2018 is on *CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION*.

42. ▶ Haryana Government will host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference at Gurugram in October 2018, to provide common unified structure of mandis all across world and take advantages of the improvements in mandis in the world for India's domestic requirements.

43. ▶ India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi, organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) with theme *Telling our Stories- Asia and More*.
    - 🖋 Established in 1977, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in field of electronic media. It is hosted in Kualampur (Malaysia).

44. ▶ Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) organized an international conference on recent advances in food processing technology, in Thanjavur (Tamilnadu), named 'iCRAFPT '18', Commemorating its golden jubilee. Theme of conference is *Doubling Farmers Income through Food Processing*.

45. ▶ International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini (Nepal), with theme *Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace*.

46. ▶ International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)'s 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology will be hosted by India in Navi Mumbai in October 2018. Focal theme is *25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 : with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods*.

47. ▶ International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 inaugurated in Kathmandu (Nepal), organised by South Asian Women Development Forum. Theme of summit is 'Equality begins with Economic Empowerment'.

48. ▶ Ireland will hold an international conference of female parliamentarians in September, in Dublin.

49. ▶ Most anticipated Bilateral Meeting for world peace, the USA-North Korea Meet held in Singapore.
    - 🖋 USA Prez Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un met in Singapore, after a round of negotiations and months of tensions among both parties.
    - 🖋 North Korea Pledged to give up its nuclear Program and destroy its Nuclear arsenal. It brings respite to whole world as North korea.
    - 🖋 After successful USA-North Korea Peace summit, USA and South Korea suspended 2 exchange program training exercises.

50. ▶ NITI Aayog will organize *MOVE: Global Mobility Summit* in New Delhi in September, 2018, to help drive Government's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth and also speed up India's transition to a clean energy economy.

51. ▶ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting held in Jurmala (Latvia). With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair NSG.

52. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated MOVE: India's ever first Global Mobility Summit organized by NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The focus of the summit is on raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility and bringing various stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility across different platforms.
    - 🖋 Earlier, NITI Aayog flagged off cycle rally MOVE Cyclathon to spread message of clean mobility to Indian public and promote cleaner, accessible modes of transport. It was held in run up to MOVE: Global Mobility Summit scheduled to be held in Sep 2018 in New Delhi.
    - 🖋 Earlier, NITI Aayog launched *Pitch to MOVE* mobility pitch competition, aiming to provide budding entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. Winners will be felicitated during Global Mobility Summit to be held in New Delhi in September 2018.
        - 🖋 Pitch to MOVE aims to identify startups, which will help vision of Shared, Connected, Intermodal and Environment Friendly Mobility in India. It is available at *http://mobilitypitch.movesummit.in*

53. ▶ USA Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis participated in inaugural India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, held in New Delhi. India was represented by Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman.
    - 🖋 During the summit, India and USA signed Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), to open up way for sale of more sensitive US military equipment to India. It will help India obtain critical and encrypted defence technologies from US.
    - 🖋 A Memorandum of Intent was concluded between US Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and Indian Defence Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX).
    - 🖋 COMCASA is one of the four foundational agreements that a country needs to sign to become a major defence partner of USA. It has a lifespan of 10 years. Other three agreements are General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMoA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).
    - 🖋 Collaboration between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company for the establishment of 6 nuclear power plants in India.
    - 🖋 To grow bilateral trade to $500-600 billion from the current $125 billon,
    - 🖋 A tri-Services joint exercise with the United States off the eastern coast of India in 2019 was decided.

54. ► World Hindu Congress (WHC-2018) was held Chicago, United States. It was organized to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago address on September 11, 1893. The theme of WHC-2018 was "Sumantrite Suvikrante" — think collectively, achieve valiantly". It was second edition of World Hindu Congress and was attended by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

**Top**

**National**

1. ► Cabinet Approvals (June 27, 2018) -
   - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approvals -
     - Contribution of 1040 crores to National Export Insurance Account Trust (NEIA), to be utilised till 2019-20. Corpus would strengthen NEIA to support project exports from the country that are of strategic and national importance.
     - Capital infusion of 2000 crores for strengthening of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC). It would enhance insurance coverage to MSME exports and strengthen India's exports to emerging and challenging markets like Africa, CIS and Latin American countries.
     - Hiked price of ethanol, used for doping in petrol, by almost INR 2.85 per litre to Rs 43.70 in a bid to cut India's oil import dependence as well as give higher price for sugarcane.
   - General Approvals -
     - Establishment of additional 6.5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facilities at Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MMT) and Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MMT), including construction of SPMs (Single Point Mooring) for 2 SPRs.
       - ISPRL has already constructed underground rock caverns for storage of 5.33MMT of crude oil at 2 locations - Vishakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT).
   - MOUs -
     - Singapore - Planning
     - Denmark - Science, Technology and Innovation, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
     - Germany - Civil Aviation
     - France - Maritime Awareness Mission
     - Indonesia - Technical Cooperation in Railways sector
     - Bahrain - Healthcare
2. ► Government declared 6 educational 'Institutions of Eminence' , out of 114 applications (74 from public sector & 40 from private sector) -
   - Public Sector - Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore Karnataka, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
   - Private Sector - Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation), Pune under Green Field Category, Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences Pilani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka).
   - Each 'Public Institution' selected as 'Institution of Eminence' will get financial assistance up to 1000 Crore over 5 years, to help them become World Class Educational Institutions.
   - To achieve top world ranking Institutions shall be provided with
     - Greater autonomy to admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students
     - Recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength
     - Offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes and
     - Enter academic collaboration with top 500 in world ranking Institutions without permission of UGC
     - Freedom to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction
     - Flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree
3. ► Nitin Gadkari (*Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Signed MoUs with 6 States - Uttarakhand, UP, HP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for construction of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project on Yamuna near Dehradun, with cost approx INR 3966 Crores.
   - It was initially approved in 1976 but work was suspended in 1992. It envisages construction of a 204 m high concrete dam across river Yamuna near Lohari village in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand with a storage capacity of 330.66 MCM.
   - It will provide irrigation for 33,780 hectares land and availability of 78.83 MCM water for use in the 6 basin states. The project will also generate 300 MW of power.
   - Besides Lakhwar Multi-Purpose project, there are two other major projects being envisaged in the Upper Yamuna reaches which are Kishau Multi-Purpose project and Renukaji Multi-Purpose project. A fourth project is the Vyasi project, a run-of-the-river scheme under which a concrete dam across River Yamuna is being constructed near Vyasi village in Dehradun district.

4. ▶ Odisha Government tied up with Japan for its mega investment Conclave 2018 to take place in November 2018, called *Make in Odisha*.

5. ▶ To make adventure sports safer, Minister of State for Tourism (IC) K. J. Alphons launched Government's newly formed Guidelines on Adventure Tourism, formulated along with Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI). Guidelines have been framed for 15 Land Based, 7 Air Based and 7 Water Based activities which cover entire portfolio of Adventure Tourism available in India.

6. ▶ 10-day pineapple festival showcasing different varieties of it has been organised in Manipur's Thayong village.

7. ▶ 12th Plan Document has fixed targets of 25.2 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2017-18 and 30% GER by 2020-21. As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2017-18, GER in higher education has increased from 24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.8% in 2017-18.

8. ▶ 13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification, for being Environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards. These beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states will be the first in Asia, to get Blue Flag certification. Blue Blue Flag beach standards are conferred by Copenhagen (Denmark) based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

9. ▶ 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) in January 2019, with Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth as Chief Guest. Theme of 15th PBD will be *Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India*.
   - 🔨 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated in India on 9 January, commemorating return of M K Gandhi from South Africa in Bombay on January 9, 1915.

10. ▶ 1st international festival of Mizoram 'Mizo Zohnahthlak' organized in Aizawl (Mizoram). It is aimed at uniting the Mizo ethnic community socially and culturally under a single platform.

11. ▶ 2 new projects of Punjab and Tripura got sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
   - 🔨 In Punjab, project covers sites of Anandpur Sahib, Fatehgarh Sahib, Chamkaur Sahib, Ferozpur, Amritsar, Khatkar Kalan Kalanour Patiala at the cost of Rs 100 crore.
   - 🔨 In Tripura, sites of Surma Cherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati-Bhunaneshwari- Matabari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chotta khola- Pilak- Avangchaarra have been covered. It has planned cost of 65 Crores.

12. ▶ 21st Law Commission Recommendations (headed by former SC judge B.S. Chauhan) -
   - 🔨 Declare Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) a public body and bring BCCI and its all member cricket associations under Right to Information (RTI) law regime.
   - 🔨 Recommendations related to Elections -
     - 🔨 Holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies. simultaneous elections were held after Independence up to 1967. Dissolution of certain Assemblies in 1968 and 1969 followed by dissolution of Lok Sabha led to disruption of conduct of simultaneous elections.
     - 🔨 Issuance of Notification - Statutory limit of six months for issuance of notification of general elections.
     - 🔨 No-confidence motion - Parties which introduce no-confidence motion should simultaneously give a suggestion for an alternative government as no-confidence motion and premature dissolution of House is major roadblocks to simultaneous elections.
     - 🔨 Anti-defection law - The rigour of 'Anti-defection Law' must be removed as exception, to prevent stalemate (गतिरोध) in Lok Sabha/Assembly in case of Hung Parliament/Assembly.
     - 🔨 Mid-term elections - In case of mid-term elections, new Lok Sabha or Assembly will only serve remainder of term of previous Lok Sabha/Assembly and not a fresh term of five years.
     - 🔨 Prime minister/ CMs should be elected to lead Lok Sabha/Assembly, by full house like electing speaker of Lok Sabha. This will provide stability to government and in turn to Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.
     - 🔨 Centre should get Constitutional amendments, if agreed upon, to be ratified by all the States so as to avoid any challenge to them.

13. ▶ 220 MW Unit-1 of Karnataka's Kaiga Generating Systems (KGS-1) has set a new record of the continuous operation of 766 days, surpassing earlier record of 765 days set by the Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) in 2014. With this, KGS-1 stands second in world among Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and fourth among all nuclear power reactors in terms of continuous operation.

14. ▶ 2nd India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) will be held in New Delhi in October 25-27, 2018 with theme *NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS Connect, Create, innovate*. It will be organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

15. ▶ 3 day annual Sindhu Darshan Festival celebrations on bank of Indus River in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.

16. ▶ 4 Northern States will set up a joint secretariat at Panchkula (Haryana), for data and information sharing to effectively tackle the issue of drug menace. States are Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh will also be included.

17. ▶ 4-day annual Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival *Behdienkhlam* held in Jowai (Meghalaya).

18. ▶ 51 day long 8th Theatre Olympics Concluded in Mumbai. This edition of Theatre Olympics brought together around 25,000 artists under theme "Flag of Friendship". It witnessed 450 shows from more than 30 countries performed across 17 cities.

19. ▶ 578 metre long Theng tunnel inaugurated in Sikkim, as state's longest tunnel. It is constructed on Gangtok-Chungthang Highway.

20. ▶ 71 ministries and departments of central government have allotted INR 16500 crores for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in 2018-19, as per Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) 2018-19 released recently.

21. ▶ *Ib Setu* has been launched by Odisha Govt. It is built over Ib river in Sambalpur district as 2nd larges river Bridge in State with 2.5-km length. It establishes direct connectivity between Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar.
    - 🖌 Dhola–Sadiya Bridge, also referred as Bhupen Hazarika Setu is a beam bridge and is longest River bridge in India (On Lohit River). It connects northeast states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
    - 🖌 New Ganga Bridge Project under construction in Bihar, will become longest bridge in India upon its completion in December 2020, with length of 9.8 kilometres.

22. ▶ A tripartite Concession Agreement signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), UP Jal Nigam and Triveni Engineering & Industries to develop an Integrated Sewage Infrastructure for Mathura on Hybrid Annuity-based PPP mode.

23. ▶ A 126 MW capacity wind power project has been commissioned in Bhuj (Gujarat), as part of India's first ISTS auction which was conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in February 2017.
    - 🖌 Bid was for projects to be connected on ISTS wherein power generated from one state (renewable resource rich state) can be transmitted to other renewable deficient states. Energy generated from this project is being purchased by Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
    - 🖌 It marks beginning of capacity additions in wind power based on market discovered tariffs, in line with Government's plan of having 175 GW renewable energy by 2022.

24. ▶ A 25 MW power plant worth Rs 502 crore will be set up in Bandhwari village of Gurugram (Haryana) to produce electricity from waste under Integrated Solid Waste Management Scheme.

25. ▶ A Multi Modal Logistics Park at Balli Station near Madgaon in Goa has been inaugurated, as per MoU entered between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR). Spread over 81,300 square meters, It can handle both domestic and exim container traffic.

26. ▶ A Web portal (www.praapti.in) and an App namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators), has been launched by Govt. It is meant to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms. It will capture Invoicing and payment data for various long term PPAs from Generators. It will also help make transactions in the power Sector more transparent.

27. ▶ A recent Nipah Virus (NiV) infection has been reportedly in Kerala, with Its traces were found in samples of two persons who died of viral fever in Kozhikode region, and confirmed by National Institute of Virology Pune.
    - 🖌 Fruit bats of Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus are natural host of this virus. Its first outbreak took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.
    - 🖌 Virus is beieved to spread through direct contact with infected bats, or contaminated Fruits. Human to Human transmission from other NiV-infected people is also reported.
    - 🖌 Symptoms Include breathing trouble, inflammation in brain, fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation and delirium. It can be deadly too.

28. ▶ ASEAN India Film Festival held in New Delhi, organised by Ministry of External Affairs as part of series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations. Its tagline was 'Friendship through Films'.

29. ▶ AYUSH Ministry introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs. It aims to develop culture of documenting adverse effects, monitoring and surveillance of misleading advertisements of drugs.
    - 🖌 Government has sanctioned grant of Rs 10.60 Crore for the establishment of 3 pharmacovigilance network, which will consist of National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPvCC), Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centres (IPvCCs) and Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres (PPvCC).
    - 🖌 All India Institute of Ayurveda New Delhi has been designated as National Pharmacovigilance Centre. It received the grant from the government.
    - 🖌 Government aims to achieve the target of 100 peripheral pharmacovigilance centres by 2020.

30. ▶ According to Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, rural sanitation coverage has risen to 85% under Swachh Bharat Mission. Sanitation coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) has increased more than double since launch of mission. As a result, over 3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts across country have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).

31. ▸ According to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India's installed renewable energy capacity has risen to 70 Gigawatts (GW) and 38 GW is under implementation. Thus, India is well on way to target of 175 GW renewable energy (100GW Solar, 60 GW Wind, 10 GW Biomass and 5 GW Hydro) by 2022.

32. ▸ According to Recently Released SRS bulletin (2016) -
    ✎ India registered significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio, with 22% reduction in since 2013. MMR declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016, against UN MDG (Millennium Development Goals) target of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 139 by 2015. Total maternal deaths for first time are reduced to 32000.
    ✎ Uttar Pradesh with 30% decline topped in reduction of Maternal Deaths. Three states (*Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu*) have already met SDG target for MMR of 70 per 100000.
    ✎ WHO commended India's progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 77 %, from 556 per one lac live births in 1990 to 130 per one lac live births in 2016. This puts India country on track towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target of MMR below 70 by 2030.

33. ▸ According to a report from wireless coverage mapping company OpenSignal, Patna (Bihar) topped in 4G connectivity among 20 of India's largest cities.

34. ▸ According to recently released language data of Census 2011, Hindi is most spoken in India with it being mother tongue of 43.63% Indians, followed by Bengali. Marathi replaced Telugu as 3rd most spoken language in nation. Sanskrit is least spoken in India(Sanskrit by approx 25000 people).
    ✎ More than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongue.
    ✎ There are 121 languages which are spoken by 10,000 or more people in India.

35. ▸ According to recently released language data of Census 2011, Hindi is most spoken in India with it being mother tongue of 43.63% Indians, followed by Bengali. Marathi replaced Telugu as 3rd most spoken language in nation. Sanskrit is least spoken in India.

36. ▸ According to report by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), maximum (35 %) of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites are from China, followed by US (17 %) and Russia (15 %). It is followed by Pakistan (9%), Canada (7%) and Germany (5%).

37. ▸ According to study under IIT-Kharagpur Science and Heritage Initiative (SANDHI) Initiative, Ganga has witnessed unprecedented low levels of water in several lower reaches in last few summer seasons.

38. ▸ After Supreme Court scrapped Section 377 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) that criminalised homosexuality, India became first-ever country to have a gender-neutral hostel. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai became first campus in India to have a gender-neutral hostel.

39. ▸ Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched Meghalaya Milk Mission in Shillong, to promote Milk revolution in State, along with sanctioning projects 215 crores through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
    ✎ Project consists of 2000 dairy farm units, in one unit there is provision for purchase of 5 cows, shed constructions, storage room construction, animal insurance, 79 bulk milk coolers of 500 litre capacity, 13 milk tankers of 3000 litre capacity etc.

40. ▸ Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched online software for Agmark, to make application and related services process simple, quick, transparent and 24x7.
    ✎ Agmark is certification mark that assures conformity to set of standards approved by Government agency Directorate of Marketing and Inspection. It is legally enforced by Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 (and ammended in 1986).
    ✎ The present AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for 205 different commodities spanning variety of cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, essential oils, fruits & vegetables, and semi-processed products like vermicelli.

41. ▸ Airport Authority of India (AAI) allotted space to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) for opening of Tribes India outlets at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Kolkata (West Bengal) airports. It will provide good opportunity to market tribal products and help to promote tribes India as brand among target customers.

42. ▸ Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced construction Goa's 2nd Airport (after first at Dabolim) at Mopa, with Both Passenger and Cargo Hub Facilities. It will become functional in 2020, with annual capacity of 30 million passengers.

43. ▸ Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport, with cost of 1200 crores to be spent over 12 years. Its focus will be on pursuing inter-disciplinary solutions to improve the civil aviation sector. CARO will find indigenous solutions to meet challenges posed by growing air traffic and for enhancing safety and efficiency of aircraft operations.

44. ▸ All India Council for Technical Education will establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur (Rajasthan), with 3 more ATAL academies to come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by 2019.
    ✎ These will provide upgraded teaching methods and modules to make technical education more effective and accountable. Faculties will be trained on the eight-module course in these academies in five months.

✎ The training will be mandatory for new teachers from 2019 and it will be necessary for existing teachers and assistant teachers while applying for promotions.

45. ▶ Amnesty International India launched a new campaign named 'Our Safety, Our Rights', among children against sexual abuse. The campaign will culminate on October 11 – International Day of Girl Child.

46. ▶ An MOU is signed between Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) and Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh), to introduce collaborative degree programmes including research in culinary arts. It aims to create a mechanism to promote Indian Cuisine and meet requirement of specialists in Indian Cuisine. ICI's New campus has been opened in Noida (UP).

47. ▶ An MoU has been signed between Government of Bihar and NTPC Limited, aiming to improve performance of Power Sector in Bihar through transfer of Barauni Thermal Power Station (720 MW) and Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam & Nabinagar Power Generating Company to NTPC. It will result in better performance of these units.

48. ▶ An innovative cost-effective drinking water project in Bihar will provide safe drinking water at price of 50 Paise / Litre, termed as *Sulabh Jal*. It is cheapest safe drinkling water solution in world, launched in Darbhanga by Sulabh International.

49. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM Minister Chandrababu Naidu flagged off 'Swachh Dhara' programme at Amravati, To provide clean drinking water across state.

50. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation stone of Amaravati International Sports Complex in Vijayawada. He also launched 'Project Gandiva'. Under it, government will choose students aged between 10-16 years and offer them international level facilities and coaching with an aim to secure medals in Olympic Games in a period of 10 years.

51. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation for icon tower in Amaravati, with 33 floors and 158-meter height. It will be in the form of letter 'A' and it represents Amaravati, to ber built at around 500 Crores.

52. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu stated that state is now Open Defecation Free (ODF), as it achieved goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets.

53. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched 'e-Pragati core platform', aimed at connecting citizens to various Govt departments, autonomous organisations and 745-plus services.

54. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government approved Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide Rs 1000 per month unemployed youth in state. It will benefit 12 lakh youth in the 22-35 years age group from state.

55. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched 60 Anna Canteens across state in first phase to provide subsidised food to urban poor. They will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner at Rs 5 a meal, to be run by Akshaya Patra Foundation. State Government plans to set up 203 *Anna Canteens*.

   ✎ Other States having subsidised food canteens - Amma canteens (Tamil Nadu (1st)).Tamilnadu Inspired other states - Rajasthan (Annapurna Rasoi Yojana), Madhya Pradesh (Deendayal canteens), Delhi (Aam Aadmi canteens), Aahar (Odisha), Indira Canteens (Karnataka).

56. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched a Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) scheme for benefitting farmers, aiming 100% chemical-free agriculture by 2024. It has provisioned investment of INR 16134 croress by 2024. It makes Andhra Pradesh as India's first 100 % natural farming state.

57. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government signed an MoU with electronics company Holytech, to set up Holytech' plant in 75 acres land in Tirupati and Chittoor districts. This first-of-its-kind facility in India will create 6000 direct job opportunities.

58. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. inaugurated Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Center (APCSOC) in Amaravati, to fight cyber security threats and offer real time intelligence sharing and threat analysis to all state government departments.

59. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. launched official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in Collector's conference in Amaravati, Aimed at implementing effective governance in Andhra Pradesh.

60. ▶ Andhra Pradesh and Odisha ranked at top 2 places in National Level Rating Framework assessment in implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.

61. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government Initiated its *Bhu Seva* project aimed at offering integrated services related with land. Each land parcel will be given an 11 Digit Bhudhar Number, to help in easy identification of details of land parcel. Ch Vijayamohan is Mission Director of Bhu Seva Mission.

62. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government announced monthly allowance of INR 1,000 each to unemployed graduate youths in state with an upper age limit of 35 years.

63. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government started unemployment allowance as part of Yuva Nestam scheme for state's youth from October 2018, launching a website at *yuvanestham.ap.gov.in*. It is aimed for unemployed youth between 25 - 35 years. It would give candidates an allowance of INR 1000 along with free of cost skill development training.

64. ▸ Andhra Pradesh will become first state to use auto-disable syringes for all clinical purposes to prevent infection, from World Hepatitis Day on July 28.

65. ▸ Andhra Pradsh Government launched 3rd year of insurance scheme Chandranna Bima Yojana, aimed to benenfit over 2.5 crores labourers in unorganised sector (with monthly income under INR 15000). Beneficiaries need to pay only 15 per year to get -
   ✎ Insurance of 5 lakh for accidental death / permanent disability and up to 2.50 lakh for temporary disability due to accident.
   ✎ Those in 18 - 50 years age will receive 2 lakh and those aged between 51 - 59 years will receive 30000 in case of natural death.

66. ▸ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) allowed photography within premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites except at Ajanta Caves, Leh Palace and Taj Mahal. It has been ruled after PM Narendra Modi questioned logic behind existing restrictions.

67. ▸ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered collection of 254 Copper Coins in premises of Khirki Mosque (Delhi). The mosque was built by Khan-i-Jahan Junan Shah, Prime Minister of Firoz Shah Tughluq (1351-88) and is believed to be one of 7 mosques built by him.

68. ▸ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will upgrade infrastructure at 7 sites in Tamil Nadu, under Adarsh Smarak Scheme for Conservation of Monuments. These are Shore Temple in Mamallapuram, Vellore Fort, Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, Kailasanathar Temple in Kancheepuram, Sittannavasal Caves, Gingee Fort and Moovar Koil in Kodumbalur.

69. ▸ Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been removed completely from Meghalaya. AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice.

70. ▸ Around 600 food and beverage (F&B) importers from about 50 countries are likely to participate in Indusfood-II, touted as the world's food supermarket, in January 2019. It will be held in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh).

71. ▸ Arunachal CM Pema Khandu inaugurated State's biggest solar power plant in Itanagar, with capacity of 1 MW and cost accumulated is INR 8.50 crores.

72. ▸ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu dedicated Arunachal Pradesh's first Sainik School at Niglok in East Siang district to people of Arunachal Pradesh. It started its first academic session from 27th August 2018 with 60 students.

73. ▸ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurated 6 MW Shaikangchu small hydro electric project at Gongkhar village in Arunachal Pradesh.

74. ▸ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched *Arunachal Rising* Campaign, to create awareness among people about government programmes. It will highlight positive works of government and involve feedback services covering all sections of people.

75. ▸ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched LED Solar Street Lighting System in 4 Districts (*Tirap, Longding, Namsai and Tawang*), with assistance from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

76. ▸ Arunachal Pradesh Government signed MOU with Andhra Pradesh-based Smart Village Movement (SVM), To facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of state. 100 villages spread over 60 constituencies would be selected in consultation with government for SVM project.

77. ▸ Arunachal Pradesh assembly approved creation of three new districts - Pakke-Kesang, Lepa Rada and Shi Yomi. It will take number of districts iin state up to up to 25 districts.
   ✎ Pakke-Kessang - To be carved out of East Kameng district.
   ✎ Lepa Rada - To be created by bifurcating Lower Siang district.
   ✎ Shi-Yomi - To be created by bifurcating West Siang district.

78. ▸ As a first of its kind ruling in India, Uttarakhand High Court invoked 'parens patriae' doctrine and declared itself as a legal guardian of members of bovine (cow) family across state. It grants court inherent power and authority to act as guardian for those who are unable to take care of themselves.

79. ▸ As a first such Initiative in Country, Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) will launch India's first public sector hotel run entirely by women for women in capital Thiruvananthapuram, named *Hostess*.

80. ▸ As a landmark reform in field of Higher Education, University Grants Commission has approved UGC (Online Courses) Regulations 2018, allowing Higher Educational Institutions to offer Programmes in completely online mode.
   ✎ It is appliaeble for disciplines in which institute has already been offering same or similar Courses at graduation level in regular mode or in Open and Distance Learning mode and from which at least one batch has been graduated and approved by statutory councils.
   ✎ Online Programmes requiring Practical/ Laboratory Courses as a curricular requirement shall not be permitted.
   ✎ Online learning shall have minimum four quadrants - video lectures, e- content, self-assessment and discussion forum to clarify doubts.
   ✎ Higher Educational Institutions will be eligible to offer Online Programmes if they have been in existence for at least five years and are accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a valid minimum score of 3.26 on a 4-point scale. It should also be in top-100 in overall category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for at least 2 years in the previous 3 years.

- Analytics of Learning Management System shall be used for ensuring the learner's participation at least for 2 hours every fortnight.
- This initiative is a big step towards attaining the targeted GER (Gross enrolment ratio) of 30% by 2020.

81. As per Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry -
- 19 of 25 dirtiest cities in India are from West Bengal. Jharkhand is the cleanest state in India, followed by Maharashtra and Chattisgarh.
- Among cities, Indore is cleanest for 2nd year in a row, followed by Bhopal and Chandigarh. While, Bhadreshwar in Gujarat is at bottom of 500 cities.

82. As per State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures that has been released recently by Down To Earth magazine -
- India ranked 177 out of 180 countries in Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings 2017, India silpped from 141st place in 2016.
- India scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality.
- Through Swachh Bharat scheme, 72.1 million individual household toilets have been constructed. But funds allocated for spreading awareness on this to rural people remains unused.
- Central government's target of installing 175 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy by 2022, is not seeing expected progress, with only 9 % of the roof-top solar target achieved so far.
- There is a 146 per cent increase in forestland diversion for non-forest activities in the last one year with maximum diversions recorded in Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. Forest fires have increased by 125 per cent in just two years (2015-2017).

83. As per UNWTO, International tourist arrivals hit record high in 2017 with India leading growth in South Asian region. In India, international tourists arrivals grew from 14.57 million in 2016 to 15.54 million in 2017.

84. As per US-based Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis (IEEFA), Karnataka is new national leader in renewable energy generation, overtaking Tamil Nadu.

85. As per a recent AAI survey, Mangalore International Airport is adjudged as cleanest in India.

86. As per a recent Law Ministry report, India has 19.49 judges per 10 lakh people on an average. Subordinate courts have a shortage of 5748 judicial officers, and 24 high courts have a total of 406 vacancies. Working strength of lower judiciary is 16726, while approved strength is 22474.

87. As per a recent census, population of Nilgiri tahr, an endangered mountain goat, at the Mukurthi National Park (Tamilnadu) has grown by 18% from 480 to 568 in last two years.

88. Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare) released 11th Common Review Mission (CRM) report of the National Health Mission. One of its findings stated that women bear uneven burden in family planning as they account for more than 93% of sterilisations in the country.

89. Assam Employees PRANAM Act would be implemented in state from October 02, 2018 (Gandhi Jayanti), To not let employee neglect their loved ones. The Act will deduct 10% of an employee's pay and transfer it to the account of relatives concerned. Another 5% would be deductible if the employee has a differently abled sibling.

90. Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi extended application of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state for six more months.

91. Assam government will introduce awareness programme called 'Sanskar' in all its development blocks and panchayats, after incidents triggered by superstition and ignorance including lynching of two people in Karbi Anglong district.

92. Assam government's new cashless health scheme, 'Atal Amrit Abhiyan' has been launched. It offers free medical care of up to Rs 2 lakh to every individual in state. It will cover 92 % of state's population with annual income below Rs 5 lakh, with INR 400 crores allocated in FY 2018-19.

93. Assam released final draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC), after first draft released in January 2018 that included 1.9 crore names out of total 3.29 crore applicants. It has left out 40.07 lakh people wherein 2.89 crore people were found eligible.
- NRC was prepared in 1951.
- Out of 40.07 lakh applicants left out of final draft, 2.48 lakh applicants have been kept on hold including D-Voters (doubtful voters), descendants of D-voters and persons whose cases are pending before foreigners tribunal.

94. Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2019 (91st Academy Awards) under Foreign Language Film category. It was selected by 12-member jury of Film Federation of India (FII), led by Kannada producer-director SV Rajendra Singh Babu.

95. Ayushman Bharat Yojana under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh from August 15 this year. Under it, annual health security cover worth Rs 5 lakh will be provided to each family. Expenditure for implementation of yojana is INR 1200 per family.

96. ▶ BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government won its 1st No Confidence motion moved in Lok Sabha, as moved by a former NDA ally Telugu Desham Party (TDP). In this trust vote, NDA bagged 325 votes against motion, while 126 members voted in favour.
   - 🖎 Constitutional rule allows any Lok Sabha MP who can garner support of 50 colleagues, to introduce motion of no-confidence against Council of Ministers. If there are 50 MPs in favour, motion is admitted and speaker allots date for discussion on motion. If government loses trust vote, it has to resign.
   - 🖎 Rajya Sabha does not have procedure for moving of no-confidence motion against Government and also adjournment motion, censure motion.

97. ▶ Badminton player PV Sindhu is only sportsperson featuring in Forbes India's 1st 'tycoons of tomorrow' list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.

98. ▶ Bengaluru Smart City is testing an intelligent traffic management solution in collaboration with Electronics City Township Authority (ELCITA) to improve traffic management in city. It aims to provide traffic information that is currently unavailable and help improve management of commuter traffic.

99. ▶ Bengaluru is named highest paying city in India, with average annual cost to company (CTC) standing at INR 11 lakh, according to Randstad Insights. Pune is 2nd at around 10 lakh, followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai with average annual CTC of INR 10 lakh and 9 lakh respectively.
   - 🖎 Bangalore also emerged as most preferred city for office expansion, according to real estate consulting firm CBRE South Asia.

100. ▶ Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will become first airport in Asia to introduce face recognition based passage system technology from 2019. For this, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), which operates KIA has signed agreement with Portuguese software firm Vision Box. It will allow passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport using automatic biometric boarding procedure instead of manual boarding passes verification.

101. ▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) is setting up a joint venture (JV) in India with Zorya Mashproekt, to overhaul turbines in India. The navy will soon have 34 warships driven by Zorya turbines, with four turbines per vessel, adding up to 136 in-service turbines. A turbine is overhauled after running 30,000 hours. This is costly and time-consuming process as it involves sending turbine back to Ukraine.

102. ▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) signed pact with South Korean firm NANO Ltd for design and manufacture of SCR Catalysts for De-NOx application in coal-fired plants. It will enhance BHEL's offerings for emission control systems (De-NOx applications).

103. ▶ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is setting up a LPG bottling plant in Balangir district in Odisha, capable of producing 42 lakh cylinders per year and will be operational from March 2020.

104. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) aunched its first Internet telephony service Wings, to be on complete roll out from August 1, 2018. It also launched prepaid initiative in its landline offerings and a rent free landline connection for existing subscribers
   - 🖎 To use Internet telephony through Wings, customer needs to install soft app on any of its smart devices, having internet to make and receive calls from anywhere in India and abroad with any party (mobile/landline). Through wings, customer can make or receive calls by using internet service of any operator.
   - 🖎 This service will use mobile numbering scheme, provided using IP based access network of IMS NGN Core switches to allow users to make and receive calls over the Internet via their landline or mobile phone.

105. ▶ Bharti Airtel will provide optical fibre network in Tamil Nadu, to add 3000 KM of fibre network to Taminadu's 14000 km fibre Network. Airtel will open 12,000 new mobile sites across the State to add to network capacity and take high-speed data services deeper into rural areas.

106. ▶ Bhitarkanika national park in Odisha became largest habitat of endangered estuarine crocodiles in India with a record number of 101 nesting sites.

107. ▶ Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL) launched India's first cloud-based Common Integrated Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC), powered by Hewlett Packard (HP). It will enable Madhya Pradesh State administration to administer multiple city civic utilities and citizen services across seven smart cities in state through central cloud.
   - 🖎 7 smart cities in state include Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore, Ujjain, Satna, and Sagar.

108. ▶ Bhubaneswar (Odisha) became 4th National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. New cloud-enabled National Data Centre has ability to support 35000 virtual servers. NIC hosts nearly 10,000 websites of Government.

109. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar flagged off *Krishi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath,* to create awareness among farmers about government schemes during Kharif season (2 Raths for each district). One is 'Kharif Mahabhiyan-cum-Mahotsav Rath' that would travel to villages AND other is 'Beej (Seed)Vahan Vikas Rath' which would have Kharif seeds and pesticides for treatment of kharif crop.

110. ▶ Bihar Cabinet approved setting up of a Fisheries College at Kishanganj at a cost of Rs 40.31 crore. It also approved creation of 88 new posts in Transplant and Nephrology departments of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for starting kidney transplant facility.

111. ▶ Bihar Govt. Requested Centre for granting Special Category Status for state, statin that It will act as catalyst for private investment and will boost employment generation.
    - 🖊 Concept of SCS was introduced in 1969 by 5th Finance Commission (Chaired by Mahavir Tyagi), for status was that were disadvantaged in contrast to others, because of their inherent features and low resource base. It is discretion of central govt. to give special favours to states.
    - 🖊 Special Category States have special socio-economic, geographical problems, high cost of production with less availability of useful resources and hence low economic base for livelihood activities.
    - 🖊 National Development Council accorded Special Category Status to 11 states - 7 North-East States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura), Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

112. ▶ Bihar Govt. launched girl child welfare scheme *Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana*. It will provide 54100 for a girl child from her birth until she graduates. It will be run by three departments namely education, health and social welfare. Also, State Govt. raised amount under Bicycle Yojna from 2500 to 3000.

113. ▶ Bihar assembly passed Bihar Prohibition and Excise (Amendment) Bill 2018, making 16 amendments in Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act 2016, to dilute some stringent provisions. It removed mandatory jail term for first-time offence in case of consumption of liquor, with fine of 50,000 or 3 month jail term for 1st time drinker. But for subsequent offence, jail term of 1-5 years and fine of 1 lakh is provisioned Several Other changes are also made.

114. ▶ Bihar government launched new crop insurance scheme named *Bihar State Crop Assistance scheme*, to be effective from Kharif season 2018. Under this, farmers would get compensation of INR 7500 per hectare if less than 20% of crop is damaged. And if more than 20% of crop is damaged, INR 10000 would per hectare would be given as compensation.

115. ▶ Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will start operating its first regional centre or avifauna observatory on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake (Asia's largest brackish water lagoon), Odisha. Avifauna observatory will carry out research on avian disease by collecting samples and monitor Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.

116. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) secured image trademark for its iconic building, Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers located on Dalal Street in Mumbai, under Trade Marks Act 1999. Henceforth no one can use images of the Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers for commercial purposes without consent from BSE or paying it licensing fee. BSE's Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers serves as barometer of Indian economy.

117. ▶ Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and NITI Aayog released *State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index* -
    - 🖊 It will serve as a standard reference document for energy intensive industries and help them achieve high operational efficiency of energy consuming utilities.
    - 🖊 States are categorised based on their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation, as 'Front Runner', 'Achiever', 'Contender' and 'Aspirant'.
    - 🖊 Front Runner States are Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Rajasthan.
    - 🖊 While most states have implemented national programmes designed by BEE and EESL, the 'Front Runner' and 'Achiever' states have several individual initiatives as well.

118. ▶ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted First Licence to Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on all India basis as per Indian Standard (IS) 646:1986. Licence is operative from April 2018, for 1 year. Liquid Chlorine is stored in metal containers and is used as gas. It is used in paper, pulp, water sterilization, textile bleaching and manufacture of chemicals.

119. ▶ CBSE affiliated schools in Kerala, whose board exam documents such as mark sheets/ migration certificates/ pass certificates have got lost or damaged in the state's floods, CBSE will provide them with digital mark sheets, migration certificates and pass certificates through the 'Parinam Manjusha' portal/ DigiLocker.
    - 🖊 CBSE with National E-Governance Division (NEGD) has developed the first-of-its-kind digital academic repository called 'Parinam Manjusha'. The academic repository will be integrated with DigiLocker.

120. ▶ CSIR- National Physical laboratory (NPL) signed MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for indigenous development of petroleum certified reference materials (CRMs) under trade name of Bhartiya Niredeshak Dravyas (BNDTM). It will make sure that highest standard quality ecosystem is maintained for petroleum products used by all stakeholders.

121. ▶ CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) received order for delivering critical composite air-frame components to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), for the LCA-Tejas Full Operational Capability (FOC) standard aircraft.

122. ▶ Cab Aggregator Ola signed MoU with Haryana government to create 35000 job opportunities in state, as part of Saksham Haryana initiative.

123. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Apr 11, 2018) -
    - 🖊 General Approvals -

- Increasing pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories, from INR 80000 per month to 2.25 Lac Per Month.
  - MOUs -
    - With United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on return of Illegal Migrants.
  - CCEA Approvals -
    - Delegated powers to Finance and Petroleum Ministers to award oil and gas exploration blocks to successful bidders under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP). Under HELP, exploration blocks awarded twice in a year and currently awarding of blocks requires CCEA's approval.
    - Relaxed rules for Coal India Ltd (CIL) for extraction of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) lying below coal seams in its blocks in bid to quickly boost production. Till now, CIL had to apply to oil ministry for a licence to extract coal-bed methane (CBM) from its coal blocks.

124. Cabinet Approvals (Apr 25, 2018) -
  - MOUs -
    - With Sao Tome and Principe for Cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, Medicinal Plants.
    - With World Health Organisation (WHO) for Cooperation in Public Health.
    - With BRICS countries on cooperation in regulation of medical products for human use amongst medicine regulatory agencies.
    - Renewal Long Term Agreements (LTAs) for supply of iron ore (lumps and fines) of grade +64% Fe content to Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea for 5 five years (till 31.3.2023) through MMTC Limited.
    - Declaration of Extension in Scheduled Areas in Rajasthan under 5th Schedule of Constitution of India.
  - CCEA Approvals-
    - Approved increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2018-19 season, at INR 3700 per quintal (compared to 3500 in 2017-18 season).
    - Approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20). Expenditure is estimated at INR 1290 crores.

125. Cabinet Approvals (Aug 01, 2018) -
  - General Approvals -
    - Raising funds up to 15,000 crores as Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) during 2018-19 through NABARD.
      - Expansion of scope of work of *International Centre for Drinking Water Quality* to authorise it for receiving EBR funds for SBM(G), disbursement of same to Sates/UTs implementing agencies, and its repayment.
      - Change name of Society to "National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality" in place of "International Centre for Drinking Water Quality".
    - Permit exploration of unconventional hydrocarbons such as Shale oil/gas, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) etc. It will enable realization of prospective hydrocarbon reserves in existing Contract Areas. New investment activities and chances of finding new hydrocarbon discoveries and resultant increased domestic production thereof is expected.
    - Restructuring Agricultural Scientists'Recruitment Board (ASRB), making it 4 Member body (up from 3 Members). Tenure of ASRB member will be for 3 years or till 65 years of age. Functioning ASRB shall be delinked from ICAR and to be attached with Deptt. of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
    - Approved first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme(CFS) to support Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad. It is proposed to extend the Scheme for another five years from 2018 to 2023.
    - Approved death penalty or life imprisonment to those involved in piracy at sea, to have a domestic anti-piracy legislation to provide necessary legal framework for prosecution of those involved in piracy-related crimes.
    - Approved introducing a Bill to restore original provisions of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, that was ruled out by Supreme Court in March 2018. It introduces three new clauses after Section 18 of original Act.
      - Preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person.
      - Arrest of a person accused of having committed an offence under Act would not require any approval.
      - Provisions of Section 438 of Code of Criminal Procedure, which deals with anticipatory bail, shall not apply to a case under this Act, in spite of any judgment or order of any Court.
  - CCEA Approvals -

- Approved Interest Free Loan (IFL) equivalent to interest during construction (IDC) component of 422 crores, 415 crores and 419 crores for Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni projects respectively to Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) fertilizer projects.
- Approved issue of fresh equity shares to extent of 15% of paid up equity capital efface value of Rs. 5 each by Hindustan Copper Limited(HCL) through Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) route . Gol shareholding will come down from 76.05% to 66.13%.
- Approved opening of 13 new KendriyaVidyalayas (KVs) in 7 States and 2nd JawaharNavodayaVidyalaya (JNV) in Alot in Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh). Presently, KVs are imparting quality education to more than 12 lakh students and JNVs are providing modern education free of cost to nearly 2.50 lakh students across country.

126. Cabinet Approvals (Aug 09, 2018) -
   - General Approvals -
      - Approved extension of term of Commission to examine issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in Central List till November 2018.
      - Approved raising 4 additional battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), at estimated cost of 637 crores. These will initially be raised as 2 battalions in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 1 battalion each in Border Security Force (BSF) and Assam Rifles (ARs). Later these battalions will be converted into NDRF battalions and will be placed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi National Capital Region.
   - MOUs -
      - Indonesia - cooperation in health and Scientce sector.
      - MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada).
      - Korea - Trade Remedy Cooperation.
      - Approved Joint issue of Postage Stamps on India-South Africa on theme *20 Years of Strategic Partnership*.
   - CCEA Approvals -
      - Approved release of pulses to States/UTs at discounted rate to be utilized for various Welfare Schemes from stock of pulses procured under Price Support Schemes (PSS), to enable States/UTs to use pulses in various Welfare Schemes like PDS, Mid-Day Meal Scheme etc.
         - States/UT can lift 34.88 lakh MT of Tur, Chana, Masoor, Moong and Urad at discount of 15 per Kg over prevailing wholesale market price of sourcing state. Government will spend 5237 crores for its implementation.
      - Approved construction of 6.930 km long 4-lane bridge at Kosi River in Phulaut (Bihar), to be completed by June 2022. It will fill 10 km long missing link between Phulaut and Bihpur on NH-106, to bring down journey between 2 places to 12 KM, from 72 KM Currenty.
      - Approved revision of *Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes Students for studying in India* scheme for upto 2019-20. Revisions include - Annual parental income will be increased from Rs. One Lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh, 30% of funds allocated earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.
      - Approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan period ((2012–2017)). It will help in connecting 38,412 habitations at estimated cost of Rs. 84,934 crore.
         - Initially targets of PMGSY were to be achieved by March 2022, however, sunset date of achievement of PMGSY-I was pre-poned to March 2019, with changed funding pattern in ratio of 60:40 between Centre and States (90:10 for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States)
         - PMGSY-II and habitations under identified LWE blocks (100-249 population) covered by March 2020. Under, PMGSY-II, against target length of 50,000 km works of upgradation almost 32,100 km road length have been sanctioned in 13 states, which have transited to PMGSY-II. 12,000 km road length has been completed up to March, 2018 against the sanctions issued.

127. Cabinet Approvals (Aug 29, 2018) -
   - MOUs -
      - Bulgaria - tourism
      - South Korea - railways
      - United Kingdom and Northern Ireland - Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
      - Morocco - signing of Air Services Agreement
      - Rwanda  - Trade Cooperation Framework

- USA - insurance regulatory sector
- General Approvals -
    - Revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 1,435 crore, to make up for enhanced Technology Costs and Human Resource Costs.
        - IPPB services shall be available at 650 IPPB branches and 3250 Access Points from 1st September 2018 and in all 1.55 lakh post offices (Access Points) by December 2018.
    - Approved release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2018 representing an increase of 2% over the existing rate of 7% of the Basic Pay/Pension.
- CCEA Approvals -
    - Approved umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)", for implementation during 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of INR 1623 crores. It encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.
        - Implementation of O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development. This scheme (O-SMART) also provide necessary scientific and technological background required for implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy.

128. Cabinet Approvals (July 18, 2018) -
- General Approvals -
    - Approved to make district magistrates (DMs), instead of courts, as final authority for approving adoptions. Courts are overburdened and take long time to approve adoptions. Since, DMs have information about adoption cases and have access to all departments, it is easier for DMs to take the process ahead faster.
    - Approved to grant Special Remission to Prisoners as part of commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi to be observed in 2019. Prisoners to be considered for special remission are Male convicts of over 60 years of age (55 for Women and Transgender convicts) and who have completed 50% of their actual sentence period, Physically disabled convicts (70% disability) and more and who have completed 50% of their sentence period AND Terminally ill convicts.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -
    - To protect interest of sugarcane farmers, Approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for 2018-19 at 275 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10% and premium of 2.75 /qtl for each 0.1 % increase in recovery above 10%. Cost of production of is INR 155 per quintal. Remittances to sugarcane farmers will be over 83000 crores. Updated FRP will be w.e.f. 1st October, 2018.
    - Approved establishment of new medical college at Deoria at a cost of INR 250 crores under Phase-II of Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
    - Approved proposal for Continuation of Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for the students belonging to the six notified Minority Communities at a total cost of Rs. 5338.32 crore for period up to 2019-20. This will benefit 70 lakh students annually.
    - Approved policy framework for streamlining operations of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for increased domestic production of hydrocarbon resources. Framework includes -
        - Special dispensation for E&P activities in North Eastern Region (NER), Based on recommendations in 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for North East'.
        - Sharing of Royalty and Cess in Pre-NELP Exploration Blocks, to benefit Pre-NELP Exploration Blocks in which fresh investment for additional development activities is expected as sharing of royalty and cess, and cost recoverability of same will help in making additional investment commercially viable for Licensee company; ONGC/OIL.
        - Extending tax benefits under Section 42 of Income Tax, 1961 prospectively to operational blocks under Pre-NELP discovered fields for extended period of contract under PSC extension policy.
        - Relaxing timeline from 7 days to 15 days for giving written notice to notify the occurrence of a Force Majure event in PSCs.
    - Approved completion of 83 minor irrigation projects and 8 major / medium irrigation projects in Maharashtra's drought prone Vidharbha and Marathawada regions. Cost of projects is approx 13651 crores, with Central Assistance of 3831 crores under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).
- MOUs -
    - MoU amongst BRICS Nations (*Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa*) on Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation.
    - Cuba - Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

- Indonesia - Pharmaceutical products, pharmaceutical substances, biological product and cosmetics regulatory functions.
- Approved Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) agreeents -
  - *Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)* (signed in 2010) with Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPA) of Ireland.
  - MoU with Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF).
  - MoU with National Board of Accountants and Auditors, Tanzania.

129. Cabinet Approvals (July 4, 2018) -
- MOUs -
  - With United Kingdom - Law & Justice and to set up a Joint Consultative Committee.
- General Approvals -
  - Approved creation of 1 post each of Vice-Chairperson and Member in National Commission for Safai Karmacharis.
  - Approved renaming Agartala Airport in Tripura as *Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport,* Agartala.
    - Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore, who ascended throne of the erstwhile Tripura Princely State in 1923, was an enlightened ruler. Agartala Airport was constructed in 1942 on land donated by Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore.
  - Approved continuance of 8 existing schemes of Ministry of Home Affairs upto March 2020 for relief and rehabilitation of migrants and repatriates under the Umbrella scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates", with financial implication of 3183 crores for 2017-18 to 2019-20. Schemes are -
    - Central Assistance for one-time settlement of displaced families from Pak Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and Chhamb settled in Jammu & Kashmir.
    - Rehabilitation Package and up-gradation of infrastructure of Bangladeshi Enclaves and Cooch Behar District after transfer of enclaves between India and Bangladesh under Land Boundary Agreement.
    - Relief assistance to Sri Lankan refugees staying in camps in Tamil Nadu and Odisha.
    - Grant-in-Aid to Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for five years for administrative and social welfare expenses of Tibetan settlements.
    - Grant-in-Aid to Government of Tripura for maintenance of Brus lodged in relief camps of Tripura.
    - Rehabilitation of Bru/Reang families from Tripura to Mizoram.
    - Grant of enhanced relief of Rs. 5.00 lakh per deceased person, who died during 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots.
    - Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims/Family of Victims of Terrorist/Communal/LWE Violence and Cross Border Firing and Mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory'.
  - Approved DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018, aimed at expanding application of DNA-based forensic technologies to strengthen justice delivery system of country.
    - By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, Bill ensures that with proposed expanded use of this technology in country, there is also assurance that DNA test results are reliable and data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.
  - Approved India's accession to WIPO Copyright Treaty, 1996 and WIPO Performers and Phonograms Treaty, 1996 which extends coverage of copyright to the internet and digital environment. These treaties will help India to enable creative right-holders enjoy fruit of their labour, through international copyright system that can be used to secure return on investment made in producing and distributing creative works.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -
  - Approved expanding scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to 10000 crores and asking it to mobilise 100000 crores for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022. CCEA also approved infusing additional Government equity of 5,000 crore (in addition to 1,000 crore already provided) in HEFA. This would enable addressing the needs of all educational institutions with differing financial capacity in an inclusive manner
  - Approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all 14 kharif crops for 2018-19 Season, ensuring minimum 50 % profit for farmers. Crops are - Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maize, Arhar(Tur), Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Sunflower Seed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed and Cotton. It will cost INR 15000 Crores to the Government.
    - Updated MSPs for Kharif Crops are -

      | Crop | Earlier MSP | New MSP | % Rise |
      |------|-------------|---------|--------|
      | Paddy | 1550 | 1750 | 12.90 |
      | Jowar | 1700 | 2430 | 42.94 |
      | Bajra | 1425 | 1950 | 36.84 |
      | Ragi | 1900 | 2897 | **52.47 (Most Increase)** |
      | Maize | 1425 | 1700 | 19.30 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arhar(Tur) - | 5450 | 5675 | 4.13 |
| Moong | 5575 | 6975 | 25.11 |
| Urad | 5400 | 5600 | 3.70 |
| Groundnut | 4450 | 4890 | 9.89 |
| Sunflower Seed | 4100 | 5388 | 31.42 |
| Soyabean | 3050 | 3399 | 11.44 |
| Sesamum | 5300 | 6249 | 17.91 |
| Nigerseed | 4050 | 5877 | 45.11 |
| Cotton | 4020 | 5150 | 28.11 |

✎ Several Farmer Friendly Initiatives taken by govt. are -

   ✎ Premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low - 2 % of sum insured for all kharif crops, 1.5% for all rabi crops and 5 % for commercial and horticulture crops. Government launched Mobile App *Crop Insurance,* to help farmers to find out details about insurance cover available in their area and to calculate insurance premium for notified crops

   ✎ Government launched a scheme to develop a pan India electronic trading platform under 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) aiming to integrate 585 regulated markets with common e-market platform in order to facilitate better price discovery and ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

   ✎ Government formulated a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 to provide farmers market options beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards.

   ✎ Soil Health Cards are being issued to farmers, renewed every 2 years. SHC provides information on fertility status of soil and a soil test based advisory on use of fertilizers. Over 15 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed.

   ✎ Under Paramparagat KrishiVikasYojana (PKVY), Government is promoting organic farming and development of potential market for organic products.

   ✎ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana is being implemented to extend coverage of irrigation 'HarKhetkoPani' and improving water use efficiency 'Per Drop More Crop ' in a focused manner.

   ✎ Government is focusing on improving productivity of crops such as rice, wheat, coarse grains and pulses under National Food Security Mission.

   ✎ A dedicated online interface e-KrishiSamvad provides direct and effective solutions to problems faced by farmers.

   ✎ Government is encouraging formation of Farmer Producer Organisations. Budget for 2018-19 has extended a favourable taxation treatment to Farmer Producers Organisations (FPQs) for helping farmers aggregate their needs of inputs, farm services, processing and sale operations.

   ✎ Government has set up a buffer stock of pulses and domestic procurement of pulses is also being done under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), mainly to protect consumers. It aims to ensure that farmers should get full benefit of increased MSPs. For this, it is essential that if price of agriculture produce market is less than MSP, Government should purchase either at MSP or work in a manner to provide MSP for farmers through some other mechanism.

   ✎ A handbook for women farmers 'Farm Women Friendly Hand Book' containing special provisions and package of assistance which women farmers can claim under various ongoing Schemes has been brought out.

   ✎ With above measures taken, Government has set a target to double the farmers' Income by 2022.

✎ Approved extension of scheme of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for upto 2019-20. It will enable RRBs to maintain minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9 %.

   ✎ 56 RRBs are functioning in the country. As on 31st March, 2017, credit given by RRBs is 2,28,599 crores.

   ✎ Scheme of Recapitalization of RRBs started in FY 2010-11 and was extended twice in 2012-13 and 2015-16. Amount of 342.80 crores will be utilized to provide recapitalization support to RRBs whose CRAR is below 9%.

   ✎ First regional rural bank was 'Prathama Bank' that was established on 2nd October, 1975 in Moradabad (UP). RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with capital shared in proportion of 50%, 15% and 35% respectively.

130. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 06, 2018) -

   ✎ CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) Approvals -

      ✎ Approved construction of 9.9 km long new 6 - lane bridge across river Ganga on NH - 96 at Phaphamau in Allahabad with total cost of INR 1948 crores, to be completed by December 2021. It will resolve the traffic congestion on existing old 2 - lane Phaphamau bridge on NH-96 at Allahabad. This will aso boost pilgrimage and local economy of Holy city of Prayag.

- Implementation of Phase-3 of Off-grid and Decentralised Solar PV (Photo Voltaic) Application Programme to achieve additional 118 MWp(Mega Watt peak) off-grid solar PV capacity by 2020. Off-grid solar systems will also open better livelihood opportunities for beneficiaries in remote areas, increasing self-employment. Implementation of Phase-Ill is likely to generate employment opportunity equivalent to 8.67 lakh man-days. It will Cover -
  - 300000 solar street lights will be installed across country.
  - Solar power plants of individual size up to 25 kWp(kilo Watt peak) will be promoted in areas where grid power has not reached or is not reliable. Aggregated capacity of solar power plants would be 100 MWp.
  - 2500000 solar study lamps will be provided in North Eastern States and LWE affected districts.
  - Total project of the three components included under the phase 3 is INR 1895 crores of which INR 637 crores will be provided as central financial assistance.
- General Approvals -
  - Release of Joint Stamps between with Russia, to establish postal cooperation.
  - Approved revision in wage structure of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), with expenditure of INR 1258 crores during 2018-19, benefitting . 3.07 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks. GDSs have been brought under two categories - Branch Postmasters (BPMs) and Assistant Branch Postmaster (ABPMs). Present 11 TRCA slabs will be merged into 3 TRCA Slabs with two levels each for BPMs and other than BPMs. Introduction of new Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA).
  - Approved Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Continuation Programme (Phase 6) and funding of thirty PSLV operational flights under the Programme, with total fund requirement of INR 6131 Crores.
    - PSLV Continuation Programme was sanctioned in 2008, with four phases completed and fifth phase to be completed by Q2 of 2019-20. Phase 6 approval will cater to launch of satellite missions during Q3 of 2019-20 to Q1 of 2023-2, with frequency of up to 8 launches per year.
  - Approved Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) continuation programme (Phase-I) consisting of ten (10) GSLV (Mk-III) flights, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 4338 crores.
    - The GSLV Mk-III continuation Programme – Phase 1 is first phase of operational flights that will enable launch of 4 tonne class of communication satellites to meet country's satellite communication requirements, during 2019-2024.
    - It will meet launch requirement of communication satellites to meet national demand for High Throughput Satellites for rural broadband connectivity, increase and sustain the availability of transponders for DTH, VSAT and Television broadcasters.
  - Approved several measures worth aprox INR 8500 crores, to improve liquidity of sugar mills resulting in accumulation of huge cane price arrears of farmers.
    - Creation of buffer stock of 30 LMT of sugar for 1 year and to incur estimated expenditure of 1175 crores.
    - To fix minimum selling price of white / refined sugar at mill gate below which no white / refined sugar can be sold by a sugar mill in domestic market. Minimum selling price of white/refined sugar shall be initially fixed at Rs.29/kg which can be revised by DFPD based on revision of FRP etc.
    - To up-grade existing distilleries attached to sugar mills by installing incineration boilers and setting up new distilleries in sugar mills. Government will bear interest subvention of maximum 1332 crores over 5 years on bank loans amounting 4440 crores to be sanctioned to sugar mills by banks.
- MOUs -
  - With Netherlands on technical cooperation in Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management.
  - With Denmark on technical cooperation in Sustainable and Smart Urban Development.
  - With United Kingdom, France on technical cooperation in Sustainable Urban Development.
  - With Oman on Cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space.

131. Cabinet Approvals (June 13, 2018) -
- MOUs -
  - Joint issue of a postage stamp between Department of Posts of India and Vietnam.
  - MoU signed between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Institut National de la Santeet de la Recherche Medicale (INSERM) of France. It aims at cooperation in areas of common interest within medical, life sciences and health research fields.
- General Approvals -
  - Permitted HDFC Bank to raise additional share capital of up to a maximum of 24000 crores, over previous approved limit of 10000 crores. Provided that Composite foreign shareholding in Bank shall not exceed 74% of paid-up equity share capital.

- Approved continuation of 3 Year Action Plan (2017-2020) of scheme for Agricultural Education Division and ICAR Institutes with outlay of INR 2225 crores. It is aimed to generate quality human resources from the institutions of higher agricultural education. It comprises of -
    - Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India - 2050 crores
    - ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) - 24 crores
    - ICAR - Central Institute of Women in Agriculture (CIWA) including All India Coordinated Research Project on Home Science (AICRP-HS) - 151 crores.
- Approved withdrawal of Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill 2013 (pending in Rajya Sabha). Nalanda University was established after a Joint Press Statement at 4th East Asia Summit in Thailand in October 2009. Present proposal is for withdrawing Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill 2013, which is aimed at amending certain existing provisions of Nalanda University Act 2010.
- Approved introduction of Dam Safety Bill 2018 in Parliament. It will help States and UTs to adopt uniform dam safety procedures which shall ensure safety of dams and safeguard benefits from such dams. The Bill provides for -
    - Constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety which shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend regulations.
    - Establishment of National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body which shall implement guidelines and standards for dam safety.
    - Constitution of a State Committee on Dam Safety by State Governments.
- Approved nomination of Home Minister as Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC), and Minister of State (Independent Charge) in Ministry of DoNER as Vice Chairman of NEC. NEC has Governors and CMs of all 8 North Eastern State as its members. Presently, Rajnath Singh is Home Minister and Jitendra Singh is Minister of State (IC) in Ministry of DoNER.

132. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 01, 2018) -
- **General Approvals** -
    - Approved doubling investment limit from INR 7.5 lakhs to 15 lakhs and extending time limits for subscription from May 4, 2018 to Mar 31, 2020 under Pradhan MantriVayaVandanYojana (PMVVY). It will enable upto Rs.10000 Pension per month for Senior Citizens.
        - PMVVY is implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged over 60 years . It provides assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for 10 years.
    - Approved construction of 100 bedded General Hospital at Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) Najafgarh in New Delhi at cost INR 95 Crores.
    - Approved Restructuring of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) by abolition of certain posts of Joint Secretary-level and above, with cadre strength Unchanged.
    - Approved Cadre review and formation of Group 'A' service of technical cadre of Petroleum & Safety Organization (PESO) in name *Indian Petroleum & Explosives Safety Service (IPESS)*, to enhance capacity of organization.
    - Approved promulgation of Ordinance to amend a law for speedy disposal of commercial disputes, aimed at improving India's ranking in World Bank's ease of doing business index. It will bring down specified value of commercial dispute to INR 3 lakh from 1 crore. It also aims to bring down time taken from present 1,445 days in resolution of commercial disputes of lesser value.
- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -**
    - Approved upgradation of infrastructure at Chennai, Guwahati and Lucknow airports at a total cost of INR 5,082 crores. Chennai airport woudl get max INR 2,467 crores, while Guwahati and Lucknow airports would get INR 1,383 and 1,232 crores.
    - Approved to provide financial assistance @ of Rs. 5.50 per quintal (INR 55 per Ton) of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane, in order to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, which have accumulated upto 19000 Crores INR
    - Approved Umbrella Scheme *Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana* for period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Central Share of INR 33270 crores. It comprises of 11 Schemes.
        - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) - Central share of INR 7533.04 crores, MIDH aims to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector.
        - National Food Security Mission (NFSM), including National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) - Central share of INR 6893.38 crores. It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - Central share of Rs.3980.82 crore. It aims at promoting sustainable agriculture practices best suitable to specific agro-ecology.
- Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE) - Ccentral share of 2961.26 crores. SMAE aims to strengthen ongoing extension mechanism of State Governments, local bodies etc., achieving food and nutritional security and socio-economic empowerment of farmers.
- Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) - Ccentral share of 920.6 crores. SMSP aims to increase production of certified seed, upgrade quality of farm saved seeds, strengthen seed multiplication chain and promote new technologies and methodologies in seed production.
- Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) - Central share of 3250 crores. SMAM aims to increase reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to regions where availability of farm power is low.
- Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plan Quarantine (SMPPQ) - Central share of 1022.67 crores. SMPPQ aims to minimize loss to quality and yield of agricultural crops from ravages of insect pests, diseases, weeds, nematodes, rodents, etc.
- Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACES) - Central share of 730.58 crores. It aims to undertake agriculture census, study of cost of cultivation of principal crops, undertake research studies on agro-economic problems.
- Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC) - Central share of 1902.636 crores. It aims to provide financial assistance for improving economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances and to speed up - cooperative development in agricultural marketing.
- Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) - Central share of 3863.93 crores. ISAM aims to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure, promote innovative and latest technologies and competitive alternatives in agriculture marketing.
- National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A) - Central share of 211.06 crores. It aims to bring farmer centricity & service orientation to programmes, to enhance reach & impact of extension services and improve access of farmers to information &services.
- These sub schemes/missions were approved independently as separate scheme/mission. In 2017-18, it was decided to club all these under one umbrella scheme known as *Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana*.
- Approved Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana(PMSSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan to 2019-20, with financial outlay of INR 14832 crores. Under this, new AIIMS are established and Government medical colleges are upgraded. It will lead to employment generation for nearly 3000 people in various faculty & non-faculty posts in each of AIIMS.
  - Under this extension, 20 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be established and 73 medical colleges will be upgraded.
- Approved renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), alomg with continuation during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission (Till 2020).
  - PMJVK would provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to minority communities, particularly in education, health & skill development.
  - Criteria for identification of Minority Concentration Towns have been rationalized by lowering population % criteria of Minority Communities (50 % to 25%) and fulfilment of parameters as Given -
    - Earlier Towns which were backward in terms of both in Basic Amenities and Socio-economic parameters were taken as MCTs. Now, Towns which were found backward in either or both of criteria have been taken up as MCT.
    - Area to be covered under PMJVK would be 57% more as compared to MsDP. MsDP covered 196 districts, while PMJVK will cover 308 districts.
    - Expenditure for continuation of programme as PMJVK will be INR 3972 crores.
    - It aims to address development deficits in identified minority concentration areas. Inclusion of Minority Concentration District HQs with Minority Concentration Towns having population over 25000, Minority Concentration Blocks and Cluster of Villages as per Census, 2011 data, will extend coverage.
    - PMJVK would cover 5 more States/UTs - Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Goa and Pondicherry.
    - Minority Concentration Areas of 61 districts out of 115 Aspirational districts have been covered under PMJVK.
    - Area covered under PMJVK will have 109 MCD Hqrs., 870 MCBs and 321 MCTs.
- **MOUs and Foreign Approvals** -

- Approved Mutual Recognition Agreement between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).
- Approved to accede to Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.

133. Cabinet Approvals (May 16, 2018) -
- Foreign MOUs -
  - France - Technical Cooperation in railways.
  - Morocco - legal Matters, Mining and Geology.
  - Swaziland - Health and Medicine
  - Colombia - Traditional Systems of Medicine.
  - Suriname - Electoral management and administration
  - Equatorial Guinea - Traditional Systems of Medicine
  - With Brunei Darussalam for Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.
- General Cabinet Approvals -
  - Establishing a **New Central University in Andhra Pradesh**, named *Central University of Andhra Pradesh*, in Janthaluru Village of Ananthapur District (Andhra Pradesh). INR 450 crores are approved for first phase expenditures.
    - Cabinet approved its operationalization initially by forming a society under Societies Registration Act 1860, till amendment to Central Universities Act 2009 is enacted and to enable commencement of academic activities from 2018-19.
  - Setting up a **new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Deoghar (Jharkhand)**. INR 1103 crores have been approved for it and it will be set up under Pradhan MantriSwasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
  - **Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** at Bhopal (MP) as a Society under Societies Registration Act 1860, under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Estimated cost is Rs. 179.54 crore in first three years. NIMHR will provide rehabilitation services to persons with mental illnesses. It will have 9 Departments and will conduct 12 courses in area of mental health rehabilitation.
  - Approved **strengthening of mechanism for resolution of commercial disputes** of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) -
    - New 2 tier mechanism will be put in place of existing Permanent Machinery of Arbitration (PMA) mechanism to resolve commercial disputes (excluding disputes concerning Railways, Income Tax, Custom & Excise Departments).
    - At First level, commercial disputes will be referred to a Committee comprising of Secretaries of administrative Ministries / Departments to which disputing CPSEs / Parties belong and Secretary in Deptt. of Legal Affairs. Max time at 1st Level is 3 Months.
    - If unresolved at 1st Tier, dispute will be referred to Cabinet Secretary, whose decision will be final.
  - Approved **National Policy on Biofuels 2018**, to promote biofuels, that are more environmetn friendly and match up well with ongoing initiatives of Government like Make in India, Skill Development and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Salient features Include -
    - Salient Features -
      - Categorises of biofuels -
        - Basic Biofuels - First Generation (1G) bioethanol and biodiesel.
        - Advanced Biofuels: Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.
      - Expansion scope of raw material for ethanol production - It allows use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like broken rice, wheat, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
      - Allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
      - Viability gap funding scheme indicated for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of 5000 crores in 6 years for giving special emphasis to advanced biofuels.
      - Encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops.
    - Expected Benefits Of Policy -

- Reduce Import Dependency.
- Cleaner Environment - will reduce CO2 emissions and Green House Gas emissions.
- Health benefits - Using cooking oil as a potential feedstock for biodiesel will prevent diversion of used cooking oil in the food industry.
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management - One ton of such waste has potential to provide around 20% of drop in fuels.
- Infrastructural Investment in Rural Areas - Addition of 2G bio refineries across country will spur infrastructural investment in rural areas.
- Employment Generation - Setting up one 100klpd 2G bio refinery contributes to 1200 jobs in plant operations, village level entrepreneurs and supply chain management.
- Additional Income to Farmers - Adopting 2G technologies for producing biofuels, agricultural residues and waste which otherwise are burnt by farmers can be converted to ethanol. Through this process farmers can fetch price for these waste.

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -
  - Approved Development of Freight Village, an Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub (IMLH), Nangal Chaudhary (Haryana), in two phases. Sanction of 1029 crore for development of Phase I has been approved. Investment of 763 crore by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).
  - Approved **enhancement of budget by 11,330 crores for Network For Spectrum (NFS) project** for laying alternate communication network for Defence Services for release of spectrum over INR 13,334 crore already approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in July 2012. Project, being implemented by BSNL, will be completed in 24 months. NFS project will boost communication capabilities of Defence Forces.
  - Approved initial Corpus of INR 5000 crores for setting up of a dedicated *Micro Irrigation Fund* **(MIF) with NABARD** under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
    - Allocation of 2,000 crore and 3,000 crore will be utilised during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. NABARD will extend loan to State Governments during this period, to be paid back in 7 years (with grace period of 2 years). Lending rate will be 3% lower than cost of raising fund by NABARD.
    - Dedicated MIF will supplement efforts of Per Drop More Crop Component (PDMC) of PMKSY.
    - Fund will facilitate States to mobilise resources for their initiatives, to achieve annual target of about 2 Million ha/year during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission under Per Drop More Crop Component of PMKSY.
  - Approved extension of Delhi Metro from Noida City Centre to Sector-62 (Noida - UP) covering 6.675 KM at cost INR 1967 crore.

134. Cabinet Approvals (May 23, 2018) -
  - MOUs -
    - Angola - Electronics and Information Technology
    - France, Morocco - Renewable Energy
    - Denmark - Food Safety Cooperation
    - Singapore - Personnel Management and Public Administration
    - Turkey - Trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey
  - General Cabinet Approvals -
    - Approved a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region(NER) in Meghalaya, at cost of INR 3911 crores to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Features Include Provision of 2G+4G mobile coverage in uncovered areas and National Highways in Meghalaya. It will increase penetration of mobile connectivity in Meghalaya, resulting in equitable access of communication, information and governance.
    - Approved *Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]* supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism [LWE] of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project, with cost approx 7330 Crores. It would be used by security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas and will also provide mobile services to residents in unconnected inhabited villages.
    - Approved an ordinance to set up country's first national sports university in Imphal (Manipur), on lines of National Sports University Bill 2017 which is pending in Parliament. Proposed university is expected to bridge gap that exists in sports environment of country in various areas such as sports science, sports technology, high performance training.
  - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approvals (CCEA) -

- Approved restructuring of balance sheet of Scooters India Limited Lucknow, by reducing equity of INR 85.21 crores in share capital of SIL held by Government, amid consistent accumulation of losses.
- Approved amending Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC), giving relief to homebuyers who invested in housing projects of real estate companies that have gone bankrupt -
  - Committee of creditors voting rights of resolution plans will be limited to 66 % from earlier threshold of 75 %, to speed up the resolution process.
  - Withdrawal of insolvency application will be allowed, if 90 % of creditors agree.
  - Promoters of companies with turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will be allowed to bid. Earlier, they were barred from bidding as government feared that they will walk away with stressed assets at a discount.
- Waiving Penal Interest on Government Loans to -
  - Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) - 250.89 crores of Penal Interest to be waived, although VPT will pay outstanding Principal of INR 44.69 crores. Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) availed INR 110.41 crore of loan during 1970-71 to 1984-85. VPT could not pay interest during 1979-80 to 1989-90 due to revenue losses, accumulating huge amount of Penal Interest.
  - Paradip Port Trust (PPT) - 1076.59 crores of Penal Interest to be waived, although PPT will pay outstanding Principal of INR 387.74 crores. Paradip Port Trust (PPT) availed INR 642.69 crore of loan during 1967 to 2002. PPT could not pay start repayment on time due to revenue losses, accumulating huge amount of Penal Interest.

135. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 05, 2018) -
- General Approvals -
  - Approved establishment of permanent campus of 7 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmaur, Vishakhapatnam and Jammu, and their recurring expenditure at a total cost of Rs 3775 crores.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) -
  - Approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond 12thPlan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT), Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and Project Elephant (CSS-PE). Outlay is INR 1731 crores.
    - Total 18 tiger range States in 5 landscapes of country would be benefitted under Project Tiger scheme.
    - Similarly, for other two schemes, the coverage is entire country in case of Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH) and 23 elephant range States for Project Elephant.
    - It will generate direct employment of about 30 lakh mandays annually which shall include many local tribes besides non-tribal local workforce.

136. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 12, 2018) -
- General Approvals -
  - Approved introduction of Bill in Parliament for amendment of NID Act 2014 to include four new National Institutes of Design (NID) viz. Amaravati/Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Jorhat (Assam) and Kurukshetra (Haryana) within ambit of NID Act 2014 and declare them as Institutions of National Importance (INIs) at par with NID Ahmedabad.
  - Approved Policy framework to promote and incentivize Enhanced Recovery (ER)/ Improved Recovery (IR)/ Unconventional Hydrocarbon (UHC) production Methods/ to improve recovery factor of existing hydrocarbons reserves for augmenting domestic production of oil and gas.
    - It will be applicable to all contractual regimes and Nomination fields. It is expected to spur new investment, provide impetus to economic activities and generate additional employment opportunities.
  - Cabinet approved new Umbrella Scheme *Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA)*, aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, as announced in Budget for 2018.
    - PM-AASHA includes mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to farmers and is comprised of -
      - Price Support Scheme (PSS),
        - Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments. In addition to NAFED, Food Cooperation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states /districts.
      - Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
        - It is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. In this direct payment of difference between the MSP and selling price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process. All payment will be done directly into registered bank account of farmer.

- This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops as farmers are paid difference between the MSP price and Sale price on disposal in notified market.
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).
- Procurement Stats -
  - During 2010-14, procurement was INR 3500 crores whereas during 2014-18, it has risen to INR 34000 crores.
  - For procurement of these agri-commodities during 2010-14, Government Guarantee of 2500 crore was provided with expenditure of only 300 crores. During 2014-18, Guarantee has been increased to 29000 crores with expenditure of 1000 crores.
  - Now, Cabinet has increased government guarantee by INR 16550 crores, making it 45550 crore in total. INR 15053 crores is sanctioned for PM-AASHA implementation.
- MOUs -
  - Brunei Darussalam - Cooperation in Space Research, Science and Applications. Operation of Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand station for satellite and launch vehicles.
  - Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block chain Technology in context of Development of digital economy by Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) with participating member banks, under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.
    - Participating banks are - Banco Nacional de DesenvolvimentoEconomico e Social (BNDES, of Brazil), China Development Bank (CDB), State Corporation Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank, of Russia) and Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).
  - South Africa - exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes.
  - Egypt - Agriculture & allied sectors.
  - Malta - Tourism.
- CCEA Approvals -
  - Approved revising price of ethanol derived from B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice and fix a higher price for 100% sugarcane juice based ethanol for ethanol supply year from 1st December 2018 to 30th November 2019.
    - Fix ex-mill price of ethanol derived out of B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice to INR 52.43 per litre (earlier 47.13 / litre).
    - Fix the ex-mill price of ethanol derived from 100% sugarcane juice at 59.13 per litre (earlier from prevailing price of Rs.47.13 per litre).
    - OMCs are advised to prioritise ethanol from 100 % sugarcane juice, B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice, C heavy molasses and Damaged Food grains/other sources, in that order.
  - Approved continuation of Capacity Development Scheme for 2017-18 to 2019-20 with outlay of INR 2250 crores.
    - CDS is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of MoSPI, aimed at augmenting infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely Official Statistics for policy makers and public.
    - It has 2 Sub-schemes - Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS).
      - Under Economic Census -listing of all non-agricultural establishments is undertaken periodically, which forms the basis for conducting detailed socio-economic surveys.
      - SSS Sub-scheme is to strengthen State/ Sub-State level statistical systems/ infrastructure to facilitate development of a robust national system.

137. Cabinet Approvals (Sep 16, 2018) -
- CCEA Approvals -
  - Approved equity investment of INR 1033.54 crores (± 29.67%) of project cost for setting up a Coal Gasification based fertilizer projectin Talcher Fertilizer Ltd. (TFL)by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF). Revival of Talcher project will ensure huge investment in the fertilizer sector from Government through PSUs.
  - Approved enhancement of honorarium to Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers (AWWs/AWHs) and performance linked incentive to AWHs with total cost of INR 10649 crores, till 31-03-2020.

| Name of Functionary | Old Rates p.m. | Revised Rates p.m. |
|---|---|---|
| Anganwadi Worker | 3000 | 4500 |
| Anganwadi Worker at Mini-AWC | 2250 | 3500 |
| Anganwadi Helper | 1500 | 2250 |

- Approved to construct new line between Budni to Indore (Mangaliyagaon) with approximate length of 205.5 Km, with cost 3261 crores.
- Approved ASHA Benefit Package w.e.f. October 2018, with 2 components -
  - Eligible ASHAs and ASHA facilitators to be enrolled in social security schemes - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojana.
  - Increase in amount of routine and recurring incentives under National Health Mission for ASHAs under NHM from Rs. 1000 to 2000 per month.
  - The package entails an expenditure (Central funding) to Rs.1224.97 crore for two years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Approved Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at the revised cost of Rs 3466 crore with the financial assistance of World Bank to improve safety and operational performance of 198 Dams. CCEA also approvaed 2 year time extension till 30th June, 2020.

138. Cabinet Approvals (Sep 26, 2018) -
- CCEA Approvals -
  - New BG Electrified Line of 294.53 route Kms from Katghora to Dongargarh will provide rail connectivity to unserved areas of Chhattisgarh, with approx cost of 5950 crores.
  - Construction of New Domestic Terminal Building and other allied structures at Patna airport at an estimated cost of 1216 crores, to enhance passenger handling capacity of airport to 4.5 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA), from 0.7 MPPA.
  - Due to excess stocks and indication of similar excess production in sugar season 2018-19, cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers may also peak at unprecedented high level. To check this, CCEA approved assistance over 5500 crores to support sugar sector -
    - Assistance to sugar mills by towards transport and other costs -
      - Rs. 1000/MT for mills located within 100 kms from ports
      - 2500/MT for mills located beyond 100 kms from port in coastal states
      - 3000/MT for mills located in other than coastal states or actual expenditure, whichever is lower.
      - Total expenditure on this account would be about Rs.1375 crore which will be borne by Government.
    - To help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, Government will provide assistance @ of Rs. 13.88 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2018-19 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane. Total expenditure on this account would be about 4163 crores.
- General Approvals -
  - Increasing of Government ownership in Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and change in existing structure -
    - Acquisition of 51% equity held by the -Government Institutions in GSTN, and Restructure GSTN, with 100% government ownership shall have equity structure between the Centre (50%) and the States (50%).
    - Allow change in the existing composition of the Board of GSTN inducting three directors from Centre and States and three other independent directors to be nominated by Board of Directors and one Chairman and the CEO. Thus total number of Directors is 11.
  - Central Assistance of INR 620 Crores and 206 Crores for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively over five years (2018-19 to 2022-23).
  - Approved National Digital Communications Policy-2018 and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the *Digital Communications Commission*.
    - It aims to -
      - Enhancing contribution of Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017
      - Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen;
      - Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
      - Attract investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector;
      - Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.
      - Secure digital communications infrastructure and services
    - Strategy Includes -
      - Establishment of a National Digital Grid by creating a National Fibre Authority.
      - Creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardization of costs and timelines.
      - Facilitating development of Open Access Next Generation Networks.

- MOUs -
  - With Uzbekistan -
    - Tourism
    - Law & Justice
    - Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics, Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors
    - For establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan. The MoU will be signed during the visit of President of Uzbekistan to India on 1st October 2018.
    - Agriculture and Allied sectors
    - Pharmaceutical sector
  - South Korea - Applied Science and Industrial Technology
  - Co-operation MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).
  - MoU between NITI Aayog, and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (MEDRF) in the field of social, economic, industrial and regional development programs.

139. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on Apr 04, 2018
- MOUs -
  - With Afghanistan for cooperation in field of food safety and related areas.
  - With Iran on establishment of an expert group on trade remedy measures.
  - With Canada to foster cross-border partnerships focused on research excellence and industry-academic collaboration.
  - With UAE for Techincal Co-operation in Railway Sector.
- CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) -
  - Approved closure of Burn Standard Company Ltd (BSCL) - a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Railways. It has been decided after continued poor physical and financial performance of company for over 10 years.
    - Government will provide one-time grant of INR 417.10 crores for clearing liabilities of company. 508 employees of BSCL will benefit from Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). BSCL was incorporated in 1976 following nationalization and amalgamation of Burn and Company and Indian Standard Wagon Company Limited in 1987 under Department of Heavy Industries (DHI). It and was declared sick in the year 1995.
  - Approved Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of scheme of Updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951 in Assam at a cost of Rs. 1220 crores upto 31-12-2018. Scheme of NRC, 1951 is specific to state of Assam covering about 3.29 crore applicants.
- Other Approvals -
  - Approved rightsizing Competition Commission of India (CCI) from One Chairperson and Six Members (totalling seven) to One Chairperson and Three Members (totalling four), by not filling the existing vacancies of two Members and one more additional vacancy, expected in September 2018. It is being done inn line with Government's objective of *Minimum Government - Maximum Governance.*

140. ▶ Cabinet cleared ordinance to make instant triple talaq penal offence, after It was signed by President Ram Nath Kovind later as per Article 123 of Constitution. Compelling reason cited by Government for promulgation of this ordinance was that practice of triple talaq continues unabated even after annulled by Supreme Court due to absence of legal framework.

141. ▶ Census 2021 for first time in independent India will collect data on Other Backwards Castes (OBCs), after over 25 years after implementation of 27% reservation for OBCs based on Mandal Commission's recommendations on basis of last castes data collected in 1931 census.
- In 1953, President under Article 340 had set up first Backward Classes Commission under chairmanship of Kaka Kelkar to identify backward classes other than SCs and STs at national level. Its conclusions were rejected later.
- Later in January 1979, 2nd Backward Classes Commission headed by B P Mandal was appointed to consider reservations, to redress caste discrimination. It reported that OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward. It also recommended increasing existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include OBCs. Its recommendations were implemented in 1990.
- UPA government (under Manmohan Singh) accepted demand for caste-based enumeration and undertaken Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in 2011. However, SECC-2011 data was not made public for certain errors identified by Registrar General of India.

142. ▶ Central Government notified that it has withdrawn proposal for setting up 'Social Media Communication Hub', after Supreme Court termed it like *creating a surveillance state*. Social Media Communications Hub was a proposed platform to allow government to keep eye

on all social media platforms, to track any individual's public posts across these online platforms.

143. ▶ Central Government started a Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for 3 years from generators with commissioned projects but without Power Purchase Agreement. It will revive power demand, which has affected generators who do not have Power Purchase Agreements. Maximum allotment to a single entity has been capped at 600 MW.

144. ▶ Central Govt's *Saubhagya, Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana* Yojana launched in North Eastern State of Nagaland, aimed at electrifying over 90000 households across state by March 31, 2019.

145. ▶ Central Oil PSUs IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL, and NRL signed agreement for executing 1500 Km North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid, to connect all North-East States to National Gas Grid, under Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project. JV will have equal equity contribution from all partners. Expenditure is INR 6000 crores and is scheduled to compete by 2022 in three phases.

   🖌 Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project was launched in October 2016 with an aim to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of eastern region of country and CNG gas for vehicles. It envisaged laying 2,050-km pipeline connecting Jagdishpur (UP) to Haldia (West Bengal) by 2018, covering UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

146. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched *Saathi* mobile help centre to reach out to people undertaking annual pilgrimage to 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath.

147. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force launched 'Madadgaar Helpline', a distress helpline for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with helpline number 14411.

148. ▶ Central Water Commission (CWC) signed agreement with Google for flood forecasting and dissemination of flood related information to masses, to help crisis management agencies to better handle extreme hydrological events, under National Hydrology Project (NHP).

   🖌 CWC will use technological advances made by Google in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning and geo-spatial mapping for effective management of water resources.

   🖌 Google also roled lout an offline mode for Android users, to enable surfing web with Chrome even without a constant internet connection. Users who are signed into Chrome can also access relevant articles, based on browsing history.

149. ▶ Centre and state governments of Tripura and Mizoram signed agreement for repatriation of thousands of people belonging to Bru community from Tripura to Mizoram. Over 3200 people living in refugee camps in Jampui Hills of Tripura for two decades are being replaced to Mizoram before October 2018.

150. ▶ Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) developed a mobile based application *utsonmobile*, with features -

   🖌 It enables booking of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and helps maintain user profile management and booking history.

   🖌 Upon registration, Railway Wallet (R-Wallet) will be created. R-Wallet can be recharged online (https://www.utsonmobile.indianrail.gov.in) or at any of UTS counters.

   🖌 No advance ticket booking is allowed (Journey date will always be current date).

   🖌 No need to carry hardcopy of ticket.

151. ▶ Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS) announced setting up of 24 labs (6 in Mumbai and 18 in Vizag campus), as first of its kind of infrastructure in Asia Pacific region. CEMS aims to build competency in maritime & shipbuilding sector through skill development.

152. ▶ Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to two more craft forms from Telangana - Adilabad dokra and Warangal Dhurries.

   🖌 Adilabad Dokra is an ancient bell metal craft and Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug.Adilabad DokraIt is form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by Woj community native to Adilabad district.

   🖌 Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug in which weavers create beautiful patterns and dye them using vegetable colours, which are washed in flowing water after printing process. Currently, there are more than 2000 weaving community members present in Kothawada, Warangal in spinning Dhurrie.

153. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched Vikas Yatra from Dantewada district aimed at spreading awareness about the development the state has witnessed during curret Govt's tenure. It will include distributing free pesticides to 5.5 lakh labourers and giving smartphones to 50 lakh families under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.

154. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government approved merger of *shikshakarmi* with state school education department., wef July 2018. It is expected to benefit around 1.50 lakh shikshakarmi who are currently working under Panchayats and urban local bodies. For merger, a shikshakarmi must have completed 8 years of service.

   🖌 Merged teachers would from now onwards be known as Teacher (LB) cadre and their management as well as control would be with School Education Department instead of Panchayat Department.

155. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government renamed Naya Raipur smart city as *Atal Nagar,* in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away recently. Also, Madhya Pradesh Govt. named 3 awards after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Awards are for poets, journalists and administration.

156. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government will start distributing free smartphones to over 50 lakh people across state under Sanchar Kranti Yojana (SKY), In a bid to reduce the digital divide. This will give phone connectivity to 13900 villages of Chhattisgarh.

157. ▶ Chhattisgarh Govt. launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojna. It includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children and setting up of 556 new mobile towers.

158. ▶ Chhattisgarh became first state to provide Right to Skills' Development to the youth, flagging off 15 Skill Chariots to launch government's 'Skills on Wheels' project.

159. ▶ Chhattisgarh government launched a new *Aabhar Aapki Sevaon Ka* Pensioners Portal, enabling a central mechanism for pension database and making payment in a unified manner to benefit 80,000 pensioners. All pensioners can access portal at *ekoshonline.cg.nic.in/aabhar/.*

160. ▶ Chhattisgarh will become first state to recruit transgenders in police force, To promote gender equality.

161. ▶ Chhattisgarh will soon get specialised anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther, like Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It Raised in 1989, Greyhounds is elite commando force force that specialises in anti-insurgency operations against Naxals and Maoists.

162. ▶ Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra launched three applications for benefit of litigants and lawyers - e-Filing, e-Pay, and National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP); created under eCourts project Phase II and led by Justice MB Lokur.
   - 🖌 e-Filing - Available at efiling.ecourts.gov.in, it is meant for online registration of lawyers and litigants.
   - 🖌 e-Pay - Available at pay.ecourts.gov.in, It is a unified portal wherein facility to pay online court fees is provided.
   - 🖌 NSTEP - It is a transparent and secure system for transmission of process from one location to another and will address delays in process.

163. ▶ Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu unveiled a new transaction structure for future greenfield airports proposed under NABH Nirmaan 2018, aimed at boosting investment in Indian aviation sector.
   - 🖌 *Maximum Blended Aeronautical Yield* (MBAY) in terms of INR per passenger shall be pre-determined by Concessioning Authority at beginning of Concession Period. It shall undergo adjustments to account for inflation and certain eventualities over Concession Period. MBAY for greenfield airports for FY 18-19 is proposed to be INR 400 per passenger.
   - 🖌 Concession Period is proposed to be 40 years. Base rate of MBAY and Concession Fee shall be indexed to 50% of inflation.
   - 🖌 Once in 5 years, Concessionaire shall propose base rate of MBAY for the next 5 years.
   - 🖌 Quality assurance -
      - 🖌 Regulator may formulate the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for greenfield airports and modify them once every 5 years.
      - 🖌 Every greenfield airport shall constitute a Airport User Consultative Committee (AUCC).
      - 🖌 AUCC may recommend change in MBAY to Regulator (limited to 10%) based on Concessionaire's performance.
   - 🖌 Benefits of new approach -
      - 🖌 Future airports will be simple and cost-efficient. There will be no incentive to enhance Capex and Opex to demand higher tariffs. The era of high revenue share (30-50 5) for Concessioning Authority may end. It will bring down cost to passengers. It will attract more investors and funding institutions into airports.

164. ▶ Civil Aviation Ministry approved setting up water aerodromes in Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. In first phase of the project, Chilka Lake (Odisha), Sabarmati River Front and Sardar Sarovar Dam (Gujarat) have been identified for the development of such facilities.
   - 🖌 Airdrome is location from which aircraft flight operations take place, regardless of whether they involve air cargo, passengers. The development of aerodromes projects in India will pave way for operation of amphibian planes (both in land and water) to enhance air connectivity.

165. ▶ Commerce ministry approved a proposal of HCL Technologies to establish a new IT special economic zone (SEZ) in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), with investment of Rs 408 crores.

166. ▶ Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology adopted word '*AYUSH*' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes. AYUSH is acronym for five traditional systems of medicine - *Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.*

167. ▶ Common Service Center (CSC) and National Health Accounts (NHA) signed MoU to implement Ayushman Bharat scheme (NHPS) through 3 lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) across country.
   - 🖌 NHPS aims to cover over 10 crore poor vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh (per family per year) for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

- CSCs will help beneficiary to identify his name in Health Ministry database and his entitlement for the scheme. It will also help beneficiary to scan and upload his KYC documents for verification of his identity and claim his entitlement.

168. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) launched an Online Guidance System for determining notifiability of merger & acquisitions (combinations) in terms of Competition Act 2002, named as *Do It Yourself (DIY): A notifiability check for mergers & acquisitions under the Competition Act 2002*.

169. ▶ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research -National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under Ministry of Communications signed an MOU on technical knowledge sharing for establishing a nationwide Time Stamping & Time Synchronization network and traceability of Time signal to UTC NPL Time.
    - Nationwide, Time Stamping & Time Synchronization network consisting of 22 numbers of Time Synchronization Centers (TSC's) will be set up by DoT with technical assistance from CSIR-NPL. This network will provide synchronizing pulse in Indian Standard Time(IST) to all Telecom & Internet Service providers in all the 22 LSA (Licensed Service Areas) in the country.
    - Purpose of synchronizing the telecom network with IST time stamp is to enable security agencies to overcome difficulty in analyzing cyber events in this era of greatly increasing network speed with advancement of telecom technology. It will also improve telecom network efficiency by reducing packet loss due to reduced slips in better synchronized digital network.

170. ▶ Country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru (Karnataka). As per a report, Bengaluru ranked third after Mumbai and Delhi and generates nearly 92,000 tonnes of e-waste annually.

171. ▶ Dalmia Bharat Group adopted Gandikota Fort in Andhra Pradesh and Red Fort in Delhi, under government's 'Adopt A Heritage' scheme, for a period of five years.

172. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched a defence industrial corridor in Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh), as part of government's efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in state. Six nodal points, Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi have been identified in state for corridor. Another defence corridor is wet to launch in Tamil Nadu.

173. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a 16 MW solar 'PV power plant' established by Bharat Electronics LTD at Heavy Vehicle Factory in Avadi (Chennai).

174. ▶ Delhi Government will introduce a "happiness curriculum" in Delhi's government schools from coming academic session, for students from nursery up to Class VIII.

175. ▶ Delhi Govt. approved a scheme under which farmers will be able to lease out a part of their agricultural land for setting up of solar panels to get additional income, called *Mukhyamantri Kisan Aaye Badhotri Solar Yojana*.
    - Any farmer can rent out not more than one-third of his land to a private firm to set up solar panels at a rate of 1 lakh per annum per acre.
    - Panels will be set up at a height of 3.5 metres, so that the land can also be used for agriculture.
    - Farmers will also get 1,000 units of free solar power without any investment.

176. ▶ Delhi High Court declared several sections of Bombay Prevention of Begging Act 1959 which have been extended to Delhi, as *unconstitutional*. With this, it struck down legal provision criminalising begging in Delhi, in response to PILs arguing that poverty can never be crime and if a person is destitute and begs for living, such person cannot be treated as criminal.

177. ▶ Delhi Police inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations.

178. ▶ Delhi government launched doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services such as caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections in the first phase. The services will be provided for an extra fee of Rs 50. Delivery would be completed with help of assigned *Mobile sahayaks*.

179. ▶ Delhi government will set up *Rogi Kalyan Samitis* in each Assembly constituency and *Jan Swasthaya Samitis* in state-run dispensaries, poly clinics and mohalla clinics, to provide support to health institutions. Each such entity will receive INR 3 lakh as grand-in aid every year.

180. ▶ Delhi has been ranked last among 14 cities on basis of vehicular emissions in a survey conducted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based research organisation to assess transport-related emissions from urban commuting.
    - It classified Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai as megacities and Bhopal, Vijaywada, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Kochi, Pune, Ahmedabad as metro cities.
    - Bhopal ranked best for its lowest overall vehicular emission and fuel consumption, followed by Vijaywada and Chandigarh.
    - In terms of Per-travel trip emissions & energy consumption - Kolkata (1), Mumbai and Bhopal.

181. ▶ Delhi-NCR region began supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel), to combat the rising levels of air pollution. Delhi became first city in country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI.

182. ▶ Department of Agriculture released 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18. At 279.51 million tonnes, Record Foodgrains generation is expected in 2017-18.

183. ▶ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) signedMOU with International Energy Agency (IEA). It seeks to deepen co-operation in clean energy innovations to accelerate development of clean energy technologies in India and will support generation of data for policymaking and improve knowledge of good policy practices for innovation in India and around world.

184. ▶ Department of Biotechnology (Ministry of Science and Technology) signed MoU with International Energy Agency (IEA) for enhancing innovation for Clean Energy Transition, to suppowrt clean energy technologies in India.
   - 🖌 It will be coordinated for Ministry of Sceince & Technology by Mission Innovation India Unit set up by DBT and for IEA it will be coordinated by its International Partnership and Initiatives Unit (IPI). It will be initially valid for three years.

185. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released final rankings of States in Ease of Doing Business.
   - 🖌 Top 5 - Andhra Pradesh (1), Telangana (2), Haryana (3), Jharkhand (4), Gujarat (5).
   - 🖌 DIPP (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in collaboration with World Bank conducted an annual reform exercise for all States / UTs under Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). It aims to improve delivery of various Government services in an efficient manner.
   - 🖌 DIPP for first time introduced taking feedback to ensure that reforms have actually reached ground level. 78 reforms out of 372 were identified for survey. More than 5,000 private sector users in 23 States and UTs shared their experience.

186. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) unveiled tricolour logo for geographical indication (GI) certified products, with tagline *Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India*. As per a contest, winning logo was designed by Adri Chatterjee and winning tagline was coined by Akancha Tripathi.
   - 🖌 GI tag is used on certain products which correspond to specific geographical location or origin. The goods and products having tag are recognised for their origin, quality and reputation and gives it required edge in global market.

187. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion(DIPP) launched a competitive ranking framework system called *State Startup Ranking Framework 2018*, to grow a sense of competition in providing startup environment in different states(including 30 states / UTs). These states and UTs will be evaluated based on 38 parameters categorized into 7 areas and on a score of 100 they will be ranked.

188. ▶ Department of Industrial and Management Engineering of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has set up India's first Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) with help of United Kingdom Govt. It aims at providing independent advisory on matters related to power and energy sector.
   - 🖌 IIT-Kanpur also signed a 15-crore MoU with VTOL Aviation India to develop vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) craft prototypes, potentially to be used as flying taxis.

189. ▶ Department of Posts launched DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT OF RURAL POST OFFICE FOR A NEW INDIA (DARPAN) Project, aiming to connect all 1.29 lakh Rural Branch Post Offices, to enable them to do online Postal and Financial Transactions. Project cost is INR 1300 crores.

190. ▶ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft of new Telecom policy – *National Digital Communications Policy 2018*.
   - 🖌 It Calls for Universal broadband coverage, creating 40 lakh jobs in digital communications sector, enhancing contribution of digital communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017. These objectives are to be achieved by 2022. It also aims to hike India's rank in ITU's ICT development index to top 50, from 134 in 2017.
   - 🖌 Improvement in regulatory framework - The policy recognises its importance for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve needs of people.
   - 🖌 Rationalising spectrum regulatory regime - It recognises spectrum as key natural resource for public benefit to achieve socio-economic goals. It calls for simplifying process of obtaining permissions from various agencies, to promote efficiency.
   - 🖌 National Broadband Mission - It will be established to secure universal broadband access for implementation of broadband initiatives, to be funded through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Its components include- BharatNet (10 to 10 Gbps to Gram Panchayats), GramNet (connecting key rural areas with 10 to 100 Mbps), NagarNet (establish one- million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas), JanWiFi (establishing two-million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas) and Fibre First Initiative.
   - 🖌 Satellite Communication Technologies - Government would develop an ecosystem for satellite communications in India.
   - 🖌 USOF's scope and modalities will be reviewed by redesigning USOF and broadening its objectives to enable universal broadband access and strengthening institutional capacity.
   - 🖌 Better Quality of services.
   - 🖌 Comprehensive data protection regime has been mandated for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.

191. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) or regulations for civil use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) commonly known as *Drones*, to be effective from December 1, 2018.
    🖌 Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu said Drone Regulations 1.0 are intended to enable visual line-of-sight daytime-only and a maximum of 400 feet altitude operations of drones.
    🖌 Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP) will be required for drone operators except for nano drones operating below 50 ft.; micro drones operating below 200 ft; and those owned by NTRO, ARC and Central Intelligence Agencies.
    🖌 Digital Sky Platform is the first-of-its-kind national Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) platform that implements "No Permission, No Takeoff" (NPNT).
        🖌 Users will be required to do a one-time registration of their drones, pilots and owners.
        🖌 For every flight, users will be required to ask for permission to fly on a mobile app. This requirement is exempted for the nano category of drones. Once the user puts forward his request to fly, an automated process permits or denies the request instantly.

192. ▶ Diu Smart City become first city in India to run 100% on renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green. Diu had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until last year.

193. ▶ Draft national disaster risk index prepared by home ministry with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has ranked Maharashtra at top, followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, while Delhi is most at risk among Union territories (UTs).

194. ▶ Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) recommended prohibition of 343 fixed drug combinations (FDCs) after reviewing 349 and called for regulation and restriction of remaining six. FDC means combination of two or more drugs in fixed dosage ratio.

195. ▶ Election Commission launched its online RTI Portal at URL (http://rti.eci.nic.in), to facilitate applicants seeking information under Right to Information Act.

196. ▶ Election Commission of India (EC) removed NOTA (None of the Above) option from ballot papers of Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council elections following directive of Supreme Court.
    🖌 In August 2018, Supreme Court had said that NOTA will not be applicable as ballot option in Rajya Sabha polls. It will only continue to be option in direct elections such as Lok Sabha and state assemblies, quashing June 2014 notification of EC that allowed use of NOTA option in Rajya Sabha elections.

197. ▶ Election Commission of India launched a mobile app called *Cvigil*, for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections. It will be operational only where elections are announced, beginning from coming elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan. Vigilant citizen has to take a picture / video of upto 2 minutes duration of scene of violations of model code.

198. ▶ Election Commission of India will aunch mobile application called *Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting App,* ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha polls, to empower people to share evidence of malpractices directly with ECI. It will allow instant sharing of photos, audio and video clips related to electoral malpractices.

199. ▶ Environment Ministry has set noise standards for all airports across country, excludING defence aircrafts. Civil airportS with over 50000 aircraft movements per year should not exceed noise levels beyond 75 dB(A) during daytime (till 10pm) and 65 dBA during night. All other airports should not exceed levels beyond 65 dBA during day and 60 dBA during night.

200. ▶ Environment Ministry notified Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018, validating phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP). MLP is non-recyclable, non-energy recoverable and has no alternate use. Other recommendations -
    🖌 Central registration system for registration of producer, importer or brand owner is to be created by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
    🖌 Producers with presence in over 2 states need to apply for national registry CPCB, while small producers require a state-level registration with State Pollution Control Board.
    🖌 Rule 15 has been removed, that stated explicit pricing of carry bags.

201. ▶ Environment ministry has banned plastics in all protected areas throughout India, declaring them *plastic free zones*.

202. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched new Passport Seva App, allowing people to apply for a passport from anywhere.

203. ▶ FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL), a CPSU under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers received approval from Government of Himachal Pradesh for setting up of White Cement Plant to cater to demand of white cement in North India. It will be first PSU white cement plant in India. Installed capacity of Plant will be 1000 TPD.

204. ▶ FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), women's wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) launched WOW (Wellness of Women) mobile application aimed at creating awareness on preventive healthcare for women across country, backed by Apollo Hospitals Group.

205. ▶ FMCG Firm Patanjali tied up Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to launch Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards.
    🖌 It can be recharged for INR 144, for which users will get unlimited calls throughout country, 2 GB data and 100 SMS daily.

- 🖋 After Roll Out, customers will get 10% discount on Patanjali products. SIM card also comes with medical insurance and life insurance covers. Medical insurance cover is for Rs 2.5 lakh, while life insurance costs Rs 5 lakh (in event of road accident).
- 🖋 Patanjali also launched a new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho' to compete with WhatsApp, with tagline *Ab Bharat Bolega.*

206. ▶ FMCG major ITC tied up with NITI Aayog to train 2 lakh farmers to increase their income and raise productivity of major crops in 25 *aspirational districts* across 7 states by 2022. These districts are from *Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.*

207. ▶ Facebook and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) partnered to train youth and entrepreneurs in India about digital skills. Courses will be on : digital marketing, online safety and financial literacy in regional languages.

208. ▶ Finance Ministry approved to provide Assistance for completion of 8 Irrigation projects and 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada and drought prone areas of Maharashtra, with Estimated cost INR 13651 Crores. These projects are expected to be completed by 2022-23.

209. ▶ Finance Ministry hiked threshold monetary limit for tax departments to file appeals all three levels of appeal — Appellate Tribunals, High Courts, and Supreme Court, to decrease taxpayer greivances.

210. ▶ First International Children's Film Festival of Kerala s held in Thiruvananthapuram. Chairman of organising committee is Mukesh.

211. ▶ First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team began its operations in Phagwara (Punjab). It was 192nd POPSK in country and first one to be operated by an all-woman team.

212. ▶ Food Ministry allowed sugar mills to manufacture ethanol directly from sugarcane juice or an intermediate product called B-molasses, amanding Sugarcane Control Order 1966. It would help mills divert cane juice for ethanol manufacturing during surplus years.
- 🖋 Now,in case of production of ethanol directly from sugarcane juice or B-molasses, recovery rate of sugarcane factory will be determined by considering every 600 liters so produced as equivalent to one tonne of production of sugar.
- 🖋 Earlier, sugar mills were allowed to manufacture ethanol from by-product called C-molasses, after sugar was taken out while processing raw sugarcane juice.

213. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) notified food safety standards for honey and its products in bid to curb adulteration, to help farmers to fetch better prices for their products.
- 🖋 Honey products should comply with 18 parameters like that of sucrose content, glucose ratio, pollen count, foreign oligosaccharides etc.
- 🖋 These products should contain fixed maximum 5% limit for sucrose, 10% for carvia callosa and honeydew honey. The moisture percentage should be maximum 20% and pollen count should be 25,000 per gram.

214. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched *Project Dhoop* to address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD). It aims to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

215. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative to enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel. According to FSSAI, maximum permissible limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at 25%, beyond which cooking oil is unsafe for consumption.

216. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched national campaign 'The Eat Right Movement' to improve public health and combat lifestyle diseases. FSSAI also launched Eat Right tool kit and Safe and Nutritious Food at Workplace campaign.

217. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recommended stringent punishment for food adulteration, with life imprisonment and penalty of up to s 10 lakh.FSSAI has proposed 100 amendments in Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- 🖋 It suggested creation of a 'Food Safety and Nutrition Fund' to support promotional and outreach activities among food businesses and consumers.
- 🖋 Recommended imprisonment of not less than 6 months and up to 2 years, besides penalty of up to 5 lakh. At present, imprisonment in such cases is up to 3 months and fine is up to Rs 1 lakh.

218. ▶ Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives, developed by Pratham Mittal. It is first of its kind platform in India that allows voters to rate and review the political representatives in their constituencies.
- 🖋 It aims to foster political accountability and transparency among leaders., inspired by US' approval system. Using it, voters can review and rate their elected representatives (MLAs, MPs and ministers) and hold them accountable as well.
- 🖋 It is also seen as instrument to gauge voter sentiment across constituencie, available in 16 languages.

219. ▶ Former footballer Bhaichung Bhutia launched his political party named "Hamro Sikkim".

220. ▶ Four States and 1 UT (*Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh (UT)*) signed first MoU with Government's National Health Mission, for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM).
- MOUs were signed during Ayushman Bharat Northern Region's first workshop on PMRSSM at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
- Ayushman Bharat is Centrally Sponsored health insurance scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
  - It will target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.
  - It will provide Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover per family per year.
  - Under it, government will set up 1.5 lakh wellness centres across the country by 2022 that will leverage on comprehensive primary health care for preventive, promotive and curative care.

221. ▶ French power utility EDF and American conglomerate General Electric (GE) signed strategic cooperation agreement with State-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) for construction of 6 EPR (European Pressurized Reactors) type nuclear reactors of capacity 1,650 megawatt (MW) each at Jaitapur nuclear plant in Ratnagiri district (Maharashtra).
- Agreement is for construction of conventional island on each of 6 reactor units of Jaitapur nuclear plant. GE Power will design conventional islands for plant and EDF will supply EPR technology and will be responsible for building and coordinating industrial partners.
- Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant is proposed 9900 MW nuclear power project to come at Madban village of Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra. It will be built under Indo-France Civil Nuclear Deal signed in December 2010. Estimated cost of this project was around US $15 billion (Rs. 1 Lakh Crores).
- World's First third generation European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) reactor recently started working in Taishan (China).

222. ▶ Gauhati High Court declared Arunachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2007 as "unconstitutional, in line with Supreme court's judgement against a public interest litigation filed by Kyoda Ram on matter of appointing parliamentary secretaries.

223. ▶ General Conferences (Apr 11-20, 2018) -
- India's Largest Defence Expedition DefExpo-18 Held in Thiruvidanthai, Chennai (Tamilnadu). Third India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was also held alongwith. Theme of expo was *India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub*. During DEFEXPO 18 -
  - Boeing India, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Mahindra Defence Systems entered into agreement to manufacture fighter aircraft F/A-18 Super Hornet in India.
  - Mahindra Defence Systems also signed agreement with ShinMaywa Industries of Japan to manufacture amphibious aircraft ShinMaywa US-2 in India. It is only 'in-service' open sea-capable amphibian aircraft with advanced equipment suitable for rough sea operations.
- India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) organized 2-day Consultative Workshop for Delegation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Kazakhstan in New Delhi.
- India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 held in New Delhi with theme *Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540*.
- First regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources is held in Kolkata (West Bengal), to address outstanding water resources issues.
- First meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan held in New Delhi. It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- 7th Home Expo India 2018, organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida (UP).
- Biannual Indian army commanders' conference 2018 held in New Delhi.
- 2-day Regional Conference on "Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges" held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

224. ▶ General Conferences (Apr 21 - 30, 2018) -
- Election Commission a Training and Certification Programme for State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs) at New Delhi. Certification course for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) was also conducted.
- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu chaired first meeting of think tank on Framework for National Policy on E-commerce held in New Delhi.
- National Kharif Conference 2018 held in New Delhi.

- 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- First International SME Convention organised by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in New Delhi.
- 29th Road Safety Week held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Book named "Have a Safe Journey" was also released.
- 3rd Annual 5G India Congress 2018 held in New Delhi.
- 3rd meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA) held in Delhi.
- Secure India Conclave, organised by Global Counter Terrorism Council held in New Delhi.
- National Disaster Response Authority (NDMA) conducted its first ever mock exercise at Patna (Bihar), aimed at enhancing preparedness of Airport Emergency Handlers (AEHs) to respond to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) emergencies at airports.
- A Cancer Screening Mela was organized in Mizoram, by state's Health Department with Public Foundation of India and National Health Mission under initiative of Swasth Purv.
- Odisha Govt. inaugurated 'Odisha Skills 2018', state-level chapter of India Skill competition organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in Cuttack (Odisha).
- Kerala hosted India Skills Kerala 2018 in Kochi, as part of World Skills India 2018, to help youngsters to show their vocational skills. It also helped training students for World Skills Competition Kazan 2019 (Russia).

225. ▶ General Conferences (April 1-10, 2018) -
- Second lead-up Conference to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Abut AIIB -
    - Headquarters - Beijing (China).
    - 64 Members and Jin Liqun is current (President).
- First meeting of the newly constituted 'NITI Forum for North East held in Agartala (Tripura) today.
- 9th US-Japan-India held trilateral meeting in New Delhi.
- 2 Assam Spring Festival held at Manas National Park, organised by Indian Weavers' Association and Swankar Mithinga Onsai Afat, an association of reformed poachers in Manas who are engaged in wildlife conservation.
- Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park- Himalayan Mega Food Park Private Ltd inaugurated at Mahuakhera Ganj in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district. State's first Mega Food Park is operational at Haridwar.
- National Convention of Swachhagrahis held at Motihari (Bihar) with theme Satyagraha se Swachhagrah, organized as part of centenary celebrations of Champaran Satyagraha.
- 34th annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) held in New Delhi.

226. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated *One District One Product* Summit in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). Amazon partnered with UP government to provide support MSME entrepreneurs across nine districts, under ODOP Scheme. This will be a part of Amazon India's Kala Haat programme which aims to help traditional industries to enter in to ecommerce business.
- NITI Aayog's International Conference on "Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions" Held in New Delhi.
- 17th Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting held in New Delhi
- 51st ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Foreign Ministers meeting Held in Singapore.
- Telangana Govt. signed MoU with It Firm Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district, during International Blockchain Congress 2018 in Hyderabad. It will be centre of excellence, incubator and process development for emerging technology with innovative infrastructure and facilities to foster growth of Indian blockchain start-ups and companies.
- Startup India Yatra launched in Raipur (capital of Chattisgarh), to travel to other cities of state over coming month.
- *Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo* event held in Tripura, with Japan committing to assist in Bamboo handicraft sector of Tripura.
- 5th *Act East Business Show -2018* held in Shillong (Meghalaya).
- First-ever festival for insects that help maintain ecosystem is organized jointly by WWF (World Wide Fund) India and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).
- Govt. inaugurated an exhibition entitled *Pratibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram* (Freedom Movement through Prescribed Literature) in National Archives of India (New Delhi).
- NITI Aayog hosted an Investors' Conference in New Delhi, for Holistic Development of Islands. It will attract investment for sustainable development of eco-tourism projects in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs launched official trailer for film *Halkaa*, under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in partnership with New Delhi Municipal Council, set to release on Sep 05.

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed MoU with IIT Delhi to boost research in traditional medicine and streamline hospital care facilities. It was signed at two-day conference of heads of AYUSH National Institutes organised by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, aimed at upgrading national institutes of traditional medicine at par with IITs and IIMs.

227. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Jatayu sculpture inaugurated at Jatayu Earth Center (JEC) at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district (Kerala), as world's largest bird sculpture.
- Meeting of Senior Officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held in Kathmandu (Npeal) today.
- Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 held in Birgunj (Nepal).
  Parijat Urja Chakra and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) organized a special campaign at Fatehgarh villageof Ambala in Haryana, to create awareness about the ill effects of crop residue burning and management.

228. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research organized 2 day conference on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA) held in New Delhi, In order to meet the challenge of providing sustainable livelihoods for a rapidly growing population and to motivate and attract youth in agriculture.
- India Banking Conclave (IBC) 2018 held in New Delhi, organised by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) along with NITI Aayog.
- 5 day International water colour festival held in Ranchi at Audrey House, to promote the rich art and culture of Jharkhand.

229. ▶ General Conferences (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
- National Workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in New Delhi.
- Election Commission organized a two-day "National Consultation on Accessible Elections," in New Delhi.
- A conference of Ministers for Power, New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories held in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare held special meet on *Marine Fisheries - Mariculture in India* in Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu).
- 2 Day National Level Consultations on Accessible Elections held in New Delhi. During This, Election Commission Announced several Measures to improve Participation of Persons With Disabilities in Election Process. It Includes Issuing Electoral Photo Identity Cards with Braille Features for Visually Impaired, Auxiliary Polling Stations to be Established, Mobile APP to be Developed by ECI for PWD.
- 9th and final meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations concluded in Kathmandu (Nepal).
- 9th Heads of Mission Conference held in New Delhi, with theme *Unprecedented Outreach: Unparalleled Outcomes*.
- Govt. Aims to link 22000 rural markets with Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) by 2020, as announced at *AgriVikas 2018* conclave on agriculture and allied sectors in Bhubaneswar (Odisha). It will enable farmers sale directly to potential buyers.
- Exhibition titled *Arth - art for earth* held at IGNCA (New Delhi. IGNCA introduced 5 PG diploma courses and 6 new Certificate Courses in art and culture and related subjects.
  - PG Diploma -
    - Cultural Informatics, Preventive Conservation, Buddhist Studies, Digital Library and Data Management, Manuscriptology and Palaeography
  - Certificate Courses -
    - Academic Integrity and Research Ethics, Open Access for Library and Information Science Professionals, Open Access for Researchers, Digital Library and Information Management, Research Methodology, Cinema Studies and Cultural Documentation.
- Ministry of Statistics &Programme Implementation (MoSPI) organized 2 day International Round Table Conference at New Delhi, called *Data for New India*. It aims to identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India, taking cue from best practices followed in advanced countries.
- 22nd International Conference on Non-Ferrous Minerals and Metals 2018 held at Ranchi (Jharkhand). During this meet, Tapan Kumar Chand, (CMD of NALCO), received Knowledge Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.
- First meeting of Task Force on e-commerce held in New Delhi. Task Force was formed under chairmanship of Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation). It is divided into nine sub-groups.
- 2nd meeting of joint working group on tourism cooperation between India and Nepal concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal.

- 67th plenary meeting of North Eastern Council (NEC) held in Shillong (Meghalaya).
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated *Dharohar Bhawan,* new Headquarters building of Archaeological Survey of India, in New Delhi.
- India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) organized a Capacity Development programme for Media Officials from Bhutan, in New Delhi.
- Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Ananth kumar laid foundation stone of new (32nd) Central Institute of Plastics Engineering &Technology (CIPET) Building at Dehradun (Uttarakhand). He also allocated 40 crores for establishing a plastic park in Uttarakhand, to generate employment for over 5000 people.

230. ▶ General Conferences (July 11 - 20, 2018)

- First meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats held in Agartala (Tripura).
- 10th Delhi Dialogue (DD X) held in New Delhi , with theme *Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation*. It is an important platform for engagement with ASEAN on political, security and economic issues.
- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and IIT (Indian Institute of Technology)-Delhi signed MoU to enhance research in field of Ayurveda, during 2 day conference on 'Raising towards Excellence' held in New Delhi.
- Ratha Yatra (Festival of Chariot of Lord Jagannath) celebrated every year at Puri in Odisha. It is be celebrated on 2nd day of shukla pakshya (waxing cycle of moon) of Ashadh Maas (3rd month in Lunar Calendar).
- 2nd India-China Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in Beijing, China. 4th India-Japan Maritime affairs dialogue also held in Japan.
- 7th Indo US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) held in New Delhi.
- 1st meeting of Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on coordination between Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and agriculture held at NITI Aayog (New Delhi). It was chaired by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- 1 day meeting of directors of 59 institutes of higher learning held in Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Conference of Intra-ocular Implant & Refractive Society of India held in Chennai (TN).
- 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals held at Indore ()Madhya Pradesh).
- Top Nuke Powers USA and Russia's current Presidents Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin held their first-ever one-to-one talks in Helsinki (Finland).
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) joined National Day event of Montenegro in India on July 13, 2018 in New Delhi, named *Trendy Montenegro with Indian Khadi*.
- SBI organized a Kisan Mela it its rural and semi-urban branches across country to impart financial literacy to farmers.

231. ▶ General Conferences (July 21 - 31, 2018)

- 1st Nepal-India Think Tank Summit held in Kathmandu, to foster greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the think tanks of two countries.
- 11th state-level pineapple festival cum Sellers & Buyers Meet and Youth Festival 2018, held in Thoubal district of Manipur.
- 2 day Air Defence India 2018 Seminar & Exhibition held in New Delhi.
- From 1st August 2018, *Gaj Yatra* exhibition will be conducted to raise awareness about conservation of elephants in Delhi. It will be conducted for 2 months. It is conducted as part of India Habitat Centre year-long multi-media festival on sustainable development named *Habitat Photosphere*.
- 2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference held in New Delhi.
- 3 day National Traders' Conclave held at Constitution Club of India in New Delhi.
- 2nd meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyan in New Delhi.
  - Government launched POSHAN Abhiyaan (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) from Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan). It aims to use a targeted approach to reduce level of malnutrition across Nation. More Info is available at http://www.icds-wcd.nic.in/nnm/home.htm.
- International conference on "Empowering Women: Fostering Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability" organized by NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) in New Delhi.
- International conference on India-Vietnam economic ties held in New Delhi.
- 7 day *Kharchi Puja* held at Puran Habeli in Tripura, as an annual festival to cleanse sins of mortal souls.
- The tourism department of Rajasthan announced that The 2nd National Tourism Conclave was organised in Jaipur.
- World-class permanent exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal – Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Syama Prasad Mukherjee, held at National Library in Kolkata.
- On occasion of Guru Purnima, Ministry of Human Resource Development organized a National Conference of Vice Chancellors & Directors of Higher Education Institutions of India in New Delhi, with theme *Research and innovation in Higher Education*.

- A conference for Indian Languages Technology Industry 'Bhashantar' held in New Delhi. During this, IT ministry launched a desktop software e-Aksharaya.

232. ▶ General Conferences (June 1 - 10, 2018) -
    - India and South Centre (an inter-governmental organisation based in Geneva (Switzerland)) organized an International Conference on TRIPS- CBD Linkage in Geneva, aiming to revive WTO discussions on issues related to preventing theft of traditional knowledge.
    - 49th Conference of Governors Held in New Delhi.
    - 3rdNational Health Editors' Conference on Yoga held at Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in New Delhi.
    - Oxford University Press South Asia Conclave 2018 held in New Delhi.
    - State Environment Ministers Conference as a run-up to World Environment Day held in New Delhi.
        - In this event, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan released 'Status of Environment Report, India 2015'.
        - India's forest cover was 21.34 % in 2015, and non forest trees area is 2.82%. Mizoram with 89 % has highest forest cover, followed by Lakshdweep (84.56 %), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (82 %), Arunachal Pradesh (80 %).
        - Assam has lowest forest cover with 35 % among 15 states / UTs with over 33 % forest cover.
        - Madhya Pradesh has maximum forest cover of 72,462 sq km, out of total approx 7 Lakh Sq Km forest cover in India.
    - 11th GeoIntelligence Asia 2018 organised at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi with theme *GeoSpatial : A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security*.
    - India's Sanjana Ramesh was awarded 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) even as compatriot Vaishnavi Yadav won the 'Girls Grit Award', during Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018 event held in New Delhi.
    - Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) organised National Consultation on Child Protection in New Delhi.
    - Ministry of Shipping in association with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Ministry of Rural Development conducted a workshop on "Skill Development in the Port and Maritime Sector" in New Delhi.

233. ▶ General Conferences (June 11 - 20, 2018) -
    - 15th annual Asia and Oceania Region Intergovernmental Ministerial meeting on anti-doping held in Colombo.
    - 2 day National Consultation on 'Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable' held at Pune (Maharashtra).
    - 4th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi.
        - Rajiv Kumar is Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and Amitabh Kant is Its CEO.
    - Kerala government organized promotion programme *Yoga Ambassadors Tour,* as a specialized trip for yoga professionals.
    - 1 day thematic Seminar on "Private Sector Participation and Innovation in Resource Mobilisation" hosted in Mumbai by Ministry of Finance and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) as knowledge partner.
    - Conference on Implementation of National Pension System (NPS) by Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs)  organized by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in Delhi.
    - J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare exchanged MOUs with State Health Ministers of 20 States marking their commitment towards launch of the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) at a Health Ministers conclave in Delhi.
        - Also, government proposed to impose penalty on insurance companies for delay in payment to hospitals for settlement of claims under its Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS). If an insurance company delays claim payment beyond 15 days, then it would have to pay a penalty of 1 % interest on claimed amount per week till it finally settles the claim.
        - About NHPM -
            - NHPS aims to provide a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually to 10 crore vulnerable families.
            - Indu Bhushan is CEO of NHPM.
    - 3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens(NCSrC) held in Delhi.
    - IIT Kharagpur hosted Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018 – Hardware edition, in association with Ministry of  HRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems and i4C.
        - SIH2018 – Hardware edition is first of its kind innovative initiative to provide platform to young technical minds to showcase their innovations which can bring out revolutionary changes in crucial sectors like agriculture, health, clean water, waste management, automotive, smart communication.
    - 2nd India-US colloquium on Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy was inaugurated at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO) at Dona Paula (Goa).
    - International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) held in Kathmandu (capital of Nepal) with Theme *Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society*.
    - 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) held in New Delhi.

- Workshop on Cyber Security Framework for Department of Defence organised by Ministry of Defence in New Delhi.
- 5th National Standards Conclave with theme *Implementing the Indian National Strategy for Standardization* held in New Delhi.

234. ▶ General Conferences (June 21 - 30, 2018) -
- National Seminar on Conservation of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (*The Way Forward*) held in New Delhi.
- Students from KCJ College of Engineering, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, have won first prize at the Smart India Hackathon 2018 Hardware Edition under the 'Smart Communication' category conducted at the CSIR-CEERI in Pilani, Rajasthan.
- 2 day National Consultation on 'Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable' held at Pune (Maharashtra).
- A turmeric workshop on 'Production and export promotion of turmeric' held in Telangana. Commerce Ministry announced to set up a special cell for turmeric in Nizamabad (Telangana).
- 19th All India Conference of Directors of Finger Prints Bureau in Hyderabad (Telangana).
- 7th India Minerals and Metals forum organized in New Delhi.
- 4th National Review and Consultation on Swachh Iconic Places began in Hyderabad.
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Vanijya Bhawan, a new office complex in New Delhi for Department of Commerce. PM also laid foundation stone for National Centre for Ageing at All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi. It will be completed by February 2020.
- Pilot Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on Civilian Protection and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a Seminar on Technology Partnerships 'TECH-THON' for steering POSHAN Abhiyaan at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.
- Confernce on Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan 'IPledgefor9' Achievers and MMR Reduction Awards held in New Delhi.
- 500th death anniversary of noted saint kabit observed at Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) organized Renewable Energy Dialogue 2018 in New Delhi. India has set a fresh target of achieving 100 GW of solar power by 2022 (up from 20 GW earlier). India also aims to achieve 40% of its total electricity generation from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
- 4th National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States & UTs, in-charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs held in New Delhi.
- J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated NIMHANS Digital Academy (Bengaluru).

235. ▶ General Conferences (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
- Ministry of Finance organized 4th Regional Conference on Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure in Bengaluru. This Conference is a lead-up to the 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to be hosted by India in June 2018.
- Women and Child Development Ministry held National Conferenceof 244 Districts under BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) in New Delhi.
- First meeting of National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati in New Delhi. Committee has total of 125 members, chaired by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba launched online Event Clearance System (https://conference.mha.gov.in) for grant of security clearance to conference/seminar/workshop organized in India.
- 15th Finance Commission held its First Conference on Agriculture sector, In New Delhi.
    - 15th Finance Commission of India was formed in November 2017 under Nand Kishore Singh and will be operational between 2020 - 2025. Appointments Committee appointed Ashok Lahiri as Full Time Member in 15th Finance Commission, subject to condition that he steps down as non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank.
    - Currently, 14th Finance Comission is Operational (2015–2020) with former Reserve Bank of India governor Y. V. Reddy.
- India and USA held 2nd round of India-US Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa, focussing on cooperation in Indo-Pacific region.
- National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database Held in New Delhi, by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- India will organize a cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition on paintings of Tagore titled 'Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours' will be held in Giza.
- *Vibrant North East 2018*, an event to make people aware of government's schemes was held in Guwahati (Assam).
- Government held Kisan Kalyan Karyashala at block level all over India, under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan initiative. At the workshops, farmers from each block interacted with agriculture scientists regarding increase of farmers' income using new technologies. on this

Occasion, Skill India also organized an Ajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

- First Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities held in in Bhopal (MP). During this, Aence Française de Développement (AFD's) programme to fund Smart City projects was launched. Under this, Euro 100 million will be provided to 30- 80 selected projects (selected through a challenge) and Euro 6 million will be available for technical support.
- 29th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between India and Sri Lanka held onboard INS *Sumithra* at Boundary Line off Kankesanthurai.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) organised a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' in Faridabad (Haryana).
- Exhibition called *India and the World: A History in Nine Stories* held at National Museum auditorium in New Delhi.
- 19th TOONZ Animation Masters Summit held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), organised by Toonz Media Group.
- Bi-annual Naval Commander's Conference held in New Delhi.
- *Star Khel Mahakumbh* held in Dharamshala  (Himachal Pradesh), seeking participation from youth across 5000 villages and 800 panchayats in various sports.

236. ▶ General Conferences (May 11 - 20, 2018)

- 6th US-India Aviation Summit held in Mumbai, jointly organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). During this, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Rs 945-crores 15 year deal with Harris Corporation of USA for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.
- Customs and Department of India Posts held a first-ever Joint Conference in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
- 2 day North east Regional Conference on *Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development* held in Guwahati (Assam).
- Stakeholder Meeting on Samarth (*Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under Skill India Mission*) held in New Delhi. This scheme was Launched in December 2017 and aims to provide placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), by training 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) by 2020, with outlay of 1300 crores.
- First International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), to focus on Rail Coaches and train sets, hosted by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) under Railways Ministry.
- National Conference of Fisheries Ministers of Coastal states held in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog and Vision India Foundation organized Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to deepen economic relationships between France and India. 20 big French venture capital participated in event, to explore investment opportunities.

237. ▶ General Conferences (May 21 - 31, 2018) -

- A children's theatre and personality development workshop held in North Delhi, organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA).
- Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities of Arbitration in SAARC region held in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar committed to provide govt financial assistance worth Rs 6 Lakh for cochlear implant of children with hearing impairment in economically weak sections of Sikkim.
- Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram launched an exhibition cum sale event, *the PANKHA (Hand-fans)*, created by TRIFED through its artisans from all over the country at its showroom Tribes India in New Delhi.
- Railways conducted a one day workshop "Mission Raftaar" aimed at raising average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi. Mission Raftar aims at doubling average speed of freight trains and increasing average speed of coaching trains by 25 kmph over 5 years.
- India and Pakistan held meeting of their coast guard officials in New Delhi.
- Actor Akshay Kumar launched twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi, to spread awareness on issue and make cleanliness drive more effective.
- Smart Cities India 2018 Expo held in New Delhi, with a vision to help develop attractive and safe cities.
- 34th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring held in New Delhi. During it, Construction of new 1.5 lakh affordable houses (most in Andhra Pradesh was approved, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban). It has an investment of 7227 crores with central assistance of 2209 crores. It took number of houses under PMAY(U) to 47,52,751 houses.
- 1st biannual IAF Commander's conference held at Air headquarters in New Delhi.

238. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -

- IARI held Conference on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA) at National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC) in New Delhi.

- 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference on theme "Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility" held at AIIMS Delhi.
- A National Conference organised by Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association in New Delhi.
- 3-day Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference – 2018, organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association in New Delhi.
- US-India Business Council (USIBC) organised its first India Ideas Summit in Mumbai.
- Ministry of Railways & Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) organised a seminar on "Leveraging IT for Mobility" in New Delhi. Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched a new app – "AAPOORTI' mobile App of 'Indian Railways e-procurement system' (IREPS).
- 31st meeting of Central Hindi Committee held in New Delhi.
- 115th meeting of India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) held in Lahore (Pakistan). PK Saxena (Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters), attended the same. Both countries agreed to undertake Treaty mandated tours of both Indus Commissioners in Indus basin on both sides.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) announced guidelines for 'Sandbox' method to enable testing of new innovative insurance products, during 11th Global Insurance Summit organised by Assocham in Mumbai. Sandbox method would allow insurers or a set of few policyholders to test products in a particular geography before they are available in market.
- Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) in association with NITI Aayog concluded in New Delhi.
- 4th Annual Sustainable Smart Cities India Conference held in Bengaluru.
- Bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces held in New Delhi.

239. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) organized National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres' at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- Rajasthan government held convention on 'Revitalising India as a Heritage Destination' to focus on preserving heritage properties in Bharatpur.
- All India Pension Adalat held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoP&PW). It is a large scale exercise for pensioners' welfare undertaken by Government as part of good governance practices.
- My India WiFi India Summit & Awards 2018  organized by DigiAnalysys in New Delhi, with theme Achieving 10 million WiFi Hotspots by 2018.
- Asean World Economic Forum held in Hanoi (Vietnam), with theme *ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution*.
- Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Narendra Singh chaired 20th Central Employment Guarantee Council meeting in Bhopal.
- 4th Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok (Russia), with theme *The Far East: Expanding the Range of Possibilities*.
- Inaugural Naval Flight Test Seminar held at Goa.
- Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated ISRO's Space Technology Incubation Centre(STIC) at National Institute of Technology Agartala. It was launched at the first edition of 'Spacetronics' organised by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA).
- Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani presented 'Shilp Guru' and National Award to Master craft persons at a function held at Raipur (capital of Chhattisgarh). 8 'Shilp guru' and 25 National awards were presented for 2016. Shilp Guru' is the highest award in the Handicraft sector in India.
- Home Affairs Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated two Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) pilot projects along India-Pakistan border in Jammu region.
- Jaipur Literature Festival held in Houston at Asia Society of Texas (USA). The festival is touted as world's largest free literary gathering.

240. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
- 7th National Conference on Excellence in Workplace Safety and Occupational Health in New Delhi.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence in New Delhi. To deliberate on challenges facing Indian education system and to work out a plan for a paradigm shift in terms of achieving academic outcomes and in regulation of education.

- 3rd meeting of IONS Working Group (IWG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) held in Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- National literary and intellectual conference Lok Manthan 2018 held at Khel Gaon in Ranchi (Jharkhand).
- Joint border conference of India and Bangladesh held at Aizawl (Mizoram).
- India and Nepal's 5th meeting of Boundary Working Group (BWG) held in Kathmandu. Both Nations agreed to explore possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work.
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs 2 day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in New Delhi.
  - NeVA is initiative of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aiming to make all legislatures in country paperless by making proceedings of houses digital. It hosts secure page for each Member of House for submitting Questions and other Notices.
  - NeVA serves as 'One Nation, One Application' by bringing uniformity of database for easy and effective engagement of citizens with Government.
- 21st Central Zonal Council meeting held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
- Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur (Rajasthan), to discuss utilizing benefits of new technology, town planning, challenges before socio-economic development in Smart City sector.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) held its Grameena Habba Event in Bangalore (Karnataka), to expand the market for weavers, rural artisans and craftsmen, SHGs, rural entrepreneurs, and farmers' producer organisations.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha's official Bhawan in Chennai (Tamilnadu). He also launched 'Kalahandi Dialogue' at Bhawanipatna, in Kalahandi (Odisha).

241. German auto major Volkswagen (VW) will set up a design centre in Chakan near Pune, to expand its production capacity, with investment of over 8000 crores.

242. Global monument conservation body *International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)* launched Kerala Heritage Rescue Initiative to assess damage to rich cultural and built heritage sites in flood-devastated Kerala. It aims at setting up platform for emergency response to cultural heritage damaged by floods in Kerala.

243. Goa Government launched helpline *181,* to help women in distress.

244. Goa government unveiled State IT Policy 2018, replacing the IT policy which was released in 2015. It aims at creating a globally competitive information technology ecosystem in state. Government plans to attract at least five large multinational IT companies and help create 8000 - 10000 jobs for locals.

245. Goa government will launch its own app-based taxi service to few key tourist destinations of state. Taxi operators would be required to follow online queuing system, based on which a ride will be confirmed or assigned to them. It is expected to solve state's problematic tourist taxi issue that has been plaguing its tourism sector for several years.

246. Goa tourism department will launch app-based taxi services in state called *GOAMILES* in July 2018, to organize taxi services in tourism prone state. It has more than 2,800 licensed taxi drivers partnering with the app.

247. Google Arts & Culture in partnership with Ministry of Tourism has unveiled 360-degree virtual reality (VR) video for global 'Incredible India' tourism campaign. As part of it, Google Arts & Culture will provide immersive 360-degree view of India's heritage, festivity and spirituality.

248. Google unveiled Project Navlekhā to help Indian language publishers take their content online. It will allow 1.35 lakh Indian publishers to digitise their offline content by creating instant web pages using scanned documents or PDFs.

249. Google's philanthropic arm Google.org announced $3 million in grants for teacher training and educational content creation in India.
- Google will also facilitate all Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh with internet access, by installing 25000 Wi-Fi hotspots by December 2018.

250. Gorakhpur administration in Uttar Pradesh launched a smart phone application named *Stop JE/AES* to combat encephalitis. Encephalitis claims lives of several children every year in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

251. Goverment unveiled a draft scheme for extending affordable air travel programme UDAN to international circuits, with state governments identifying routes for operation. Draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme envisages to increase international ticketing to 20 crore by 2027.

252. Government announced that all villages adopted by Member of Parliaments under 'Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana' would get free Wi-Fi services. Under this, Setting up of 25000 WiFi hotspots at existing rural exchanges of BSNL will be done.

253. Government appointed Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.

254. Government approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology 'IMPRINT-2' scheme.

- Implementation of 142 projects under IMPRINT-1 has got underway. Knowledge portal for monitoring progress of these research projects and to disseminate findings will be launched in October 2018.
- IMPRINT is the first of its kind government-supported initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges that India must address and champion to enable, empower and embolden nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance.

255. ▶ Government approved a new scheme to empower rural women through community participation. It is called 'Mahila Shakti Kendra' for 2017-18 upto 2019-20, with cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between centre and states (90 :10 for North Eastern states).It will be done through College Student Volunteers in 115 aspirational districts as part of Block Level initiatives.

256. ▶ Government approved assistance of INR 5.5 lakh per family to West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs), to benefit 5764 families of WPRs settled in Jammu and Kashmir. Full expenditure for this scheme will be borne by Central Government.

257. ▶ Government approved setting up an exclusive *Brahmaputra Study Centre* at Gauhati University (Assam), with funds approx INR 28 crores. It will offer an opportunity for research in different aspects of river Brahmaputra in physics, hydrology, waterways, environment, disaster/flood management, hydro-power production etc.

258. ▶ Government banned imports of hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in livestock industry, where it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals. Government will rely on domestic production to satisfy requirements of hormone.

259. ▶ Government decided that a museum for all prime ministers of country would be constructed in Teen Murti Bhavan complex that houses the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi.

260. ▶ Government has announced 50% reservation for women in upcoming recruitment of 9500-10000 jawans for Railway Protection Force (RPF).

261. ▶ Government in June 2017 approved setting up 10 indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW each in fleet mode, by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). Projects are -

| Location & State | Project | Capacity(MW) |
|---|---|---|
| Chutka, Madhya Pradesh | Chutka -1&2 | 2 X 700 |
| Kaiga, Karnataka | Kaiga - 5&6 | 2 X 700 |
| Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan | Mahi Banswara - 1&2 | 2 X 700 |
| Gorakhpur,  Haryana | GHAVP - 3&4 | 2 X 700 |
| Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan | Mahi Banswara - 3&4 | 2 X 700 |

- With these projects, Total nuclear power capacity of India will reach 22480 MW by 2031.

262. ▶ Government launched *#InnovateIndia Platform* as a collaboration between Atal Innovation Mission and Govt.'s citizen centric platform MyGov, to serve as common point for all innovation happening across nation. It is accessible at https://innovate.mygov.in/innovateindia/.

263. ▶ Government launched *National REDD+ Strategy India*. to improve livelihood of forest dependent population.
- REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation. It seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also enhance forest carbon stocks.
- India under its communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, has committed to capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- India's first biennial update report to UNFCCC has revealed that forests in India capture about 12% of India's total GHG emissions. Thus, forestry sector in India is making a positive cost effective contribution for climate change mitigation.
- Complying with UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy, built upon existing circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.

264. ▶ Government launched GOBARdhan Yojna nationally from National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal district of Haryana. GOBAR is acronym for Galvanising Organic Bio Agro Resources. This scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste from farms and fields to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG. It will also help in keeping villages clean and generate energy while increasing income of farmers and cattle herders.
- Central and state governments will provide funds in the ratio of 60:40, depending upon number of households in village.
- It will be beneficial as India is home to highest cattle population in world (around 30 crores) and produces around 3 million tonnes of dung. It will encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as waste but as source of income.

265. ▸ Government launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0, as a flagship programme of HRD Ministry, it aims to link Higher Education Institutions with set of atleast (5) villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these villages. Currently 748 Institutions are participating under it.

266. ▸ Government launched a new MicroDot Technology that would help check on vehicle thefts. Under this, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including its engine. It is yet to be finalized by Central Motor Vehicles Rules -Technical Standing Committee (CMVR-TSC).

267. ▸ Government named *The Walled City of Jaipur (Rajasthan)* as proposed site for Inclusion in UNESCO World Heritage List. There are a total of 37 World Heritage sites in India at Present.

268. ▸ Government permitted private retail chemists to sell Oxytocin with effect from September 2018.
   - Earlier, government banned sale of Oxytocin through private retail chemists, wef from July 2018. However, fearing shortage of Oxytocin in market, government deleted provisions of its April 27 notification stating that Oxytocin would be sold through government chemists only.
   - As per recent notification, with effect from September 1, 2018, oxytocin will be moved from Schedule H to Schedule H1. Drugs under Schedule H can only be sold against a prescription by a registered medical practitioner.

269. ▸ Government preponed national development target date for completion of PMGSY-I (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) , from 2022 to 2019. Since its inception in 2000, PMGSY provided connectivity to 152124 habitations (from 178184 eligible habitations). Target is to Provide connectivity to 166012 habitations by March 2019.
   - Construction of PMGSY roads reached record high of 134 kms per day in 2017-18 as against average of 73 kms during 2011 - 2014.

270. ▸ Government proposed to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30000 SHGs across country under Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
   - Van Dhan Scheme was launched on 14th April, 2018 during celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur (Chattisgarh).
   - Under Van Dhan Scheme, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers each have been constituted at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.  They are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the Jungle.
   - Van Dhan Mission targets at livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produces, with estimated value of 2 Lakh Crores per year.
   - Further it is to set-up tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (the Kendra) in predominantly forested tribal districts. A Kendra shall constitute of 10 tribal SHGs, each comprising of upto 30 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Kendra.

271. ▸ Government reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), 8 months ahead of schedule. Uttar Pradesh (87 lakh), West Bengal (67 lakh), Bihar (61 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (45 lakh), Rajasthan (37 lakh) and Odisha (30 lakh) accounted for 65% of connections under PMUY and 47% of beneficiaries are from weaker sections.
   - PMUY was launched in May 2016 with tagline of Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.

272. ▸ Government stated that Non-Resident Indians (NRI) cannot file Right to Information (RTI) applications to seek governance-related information from Central government departments, under RTI Act 2005.

273. ▸ Government will link additional 200 wholesale mandis to online trading platform eNAM (electronic National Agriculture Market) in 2018-19 and will encourage inter-mandi transactions. At present, 585 regulated mandis in 14 states are linked with the eNAM, with 73.50 lakh farmers, 53,163 commission agents and over 1 lakh traders registered on it.
   - eNAM is pan-India electronic trading portal for farm produce which aims creates unified national market for agricultural commodities by integrating existing Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets.
   - It provides single window service for all APMC related services, including commodity arrivals and prices, provision for responding to trade offers, buy and sell trade offers, among other services.

274. ▸ Government's Film Facilitation Office will launch dedicated web portal for disseminating information on filming locations and facilities available in India for production. It will help potential production companies looking to shoot in India to obtain permissions and explore potential benefits.

275. ▸ Government's Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme (implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) has so far distributed over 30 crore light emitting diode (LED) bulbs across country.
   - It has led to energy savings worth INR 15581 crores, increased penetration of LED in domestic market to 10% from mere 0.4% earlier.
   - It has increased India's share in global LED market to 12% from a mere 0.1%.

276. ▸ Governmet launched *JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA* Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), to be available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras across India. It is priced at INR 2.5 Per pad, down from average

price of a pad at INR 8 Currently.

277. ▶ Govt. inaugurated website for 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 (www.epfindia.gov.in). The PBD 2019 will will held Jan 21-23 and will include Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth as Chief Guest. Member of Parliament of Norway Himanshu Gulati will be Special Guest. Member of Parliament of New Zealand Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi will be Guest of Honor.

278. ▶ Govt. launched Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), at AICTE premises to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across country. Major Programs of MHRD Innovation Cell are -

   🖋 Network of Innovation Clubs (NIC) -
      🖋 It will prescribe basic framework for the structure and smooth running of ICs and will soon share list of different activities which ICs need to undertake for entire academic year.
   🖋 Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) -
      🖋 This will systematically rank education institutions primarily on innovation related indicators, to foster spitit of innovation ain Higher education.
   🖋 Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019 -
      🖋 3rd edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - Smart India Hackathon - 2019 has been launched.It is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing daily life problems, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.
      🖋 Smart India Hackathon 2019 would also have 2 sub-editions – Software edition (a 36-hour software product development competition) and Hardware edition (a 5 days long hardware product development competition).
   🖋 National Student Startup Policy (NSSP) -
      🖋 AICTE launched its Student Start-up Policy in  November 2016, designed for AICTE approved Institutions in accordance with Govt of India's "Start-up India" Action plan. AICTE's Student Start up policy intends to guide AICTE approved institutions to promote student driven innovations and start-ups.

279. ▶ Govt. launched a Mobile App (m-Awas) for allotment of Government accommodations in General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) in Delhi under the control of Directorate of Estates.

280. ▶ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan'--a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. He also launched PURNA (*Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls*) project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18.

281. ▶ Gujarat Government granted religious minority status to approx 170 Jews living in state, being 3rd state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

282. ▶ Gujarat Government partnered with India-centric American advocacy group US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), for 9th *Vibrant Gujarat* annual industry summit to be held in January 2019 in Gandhinagar.

283. ▶ Gujarat Govt. approved 39-crore rupees 'Seema Darshan' project for developing more infrastructure facilities from T-Junction to Zero Point at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district, to instil patriotism through a unique Gujarat initiative for border tourism.

284. ▶ Gujarat Govt. approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), as largest Solar Park in world. It would be set up in 11,000 hectares of land with an investment of INR 25000 crores.

285. ▶ Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) started *Neem Project* in Amethi District of Uttar Pradesh. Since 2015, GNFC, through its Neem Project has collected over 45,000 tonnes of neem seeds by engaging 4.5 lakh rural women in 5 states - Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

286. ▶ Gujarat government announced wind-solar hybrid power policy 2018, aiming to make optimum utilisation of the land and grid. It provides 50% concession for cross-subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge when generated energy is sold to a third party. Gujarat currently generates over 5,500 MW of wind power and 1,600 MW of solar power.

287. ▶ Gujarat government launched *Urban Sanitation and Cleanliness Policy* for better management of solid and liquid waste in cities. It focuses on streamlining collection and disposal of all types of waste in cities and towns.

288. ▶ Gujarat government launched Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY), solar power scheme for farmers enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell surplus power to grid and earn extra buck.

   🖋 It is first such scheme in country, where farmer will produce his power and sell surplus to State power utility.
   🖋 Pilot Phase with approx 137 feeders will cover as approx 12400 farmers from 33 districts. The project cost is around Rs 870 crore and it will generate 175 MW.
   🖋 Under it, farmers of state having existing electricity connection will be given solar panels as per their load requirements. It envisages setting up of separate feeders for agricultural solar energy consumption.

- Cost Sharing - State and Central governments will give 60% subsidy on cost of project. Farmer is required to take 5% cost, while 35% will be provided to him as affordable loan with interest rates of 4.5 to 6%.
- Duration of scheme is 25 years, split between 7 and 18 year periods. For first 7 years, farmers will get per unit rate of Rs 7 (Rs 3.5 by state power utility + Rs 3.5 by state government). For subsequent 18 years they will get rate of Rs 3.5 for each unit sold.

289. ▶ Gujarat government signed an MoU with Poland government, regarding centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other regions of world.

290. ▶ Gujarat government unveiled its *Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy,* that aims to reduce state's dependence on freshwater sources like Narmada river. It will promote use of treated wastewater and will see setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) across Gujarat.

291. ▶ Gujarat government will launch free treatment scheme for road accident victims, by bearing medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of a road accident in for first 48 hours.

292. ▶ Gujarat govt. launched Vaccination drive against measles-rubella, with 300 crores help from Central Government.

293. ▶ Gujarat police unveiled *Pocket Cop* project, which will enable quicker verification of passport applicants, and search of accused persons. Under this, smartphones with data connectivity will be given to 4,900 police personnel.

294. ▶ Gurugram (Haryana) is named India's most polluted city, in Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)'s Air quality index (AQI). 6 cities have been marked as 'Poor', 1 City (Gurugram) has been marked as 'Very Poor', 2 cities has been marked as 'Good', 26 cities marked as 'Satisfactory' and 27 cities as 'Moderate'.

295. ▶ Guwahati became India's first railway station run by solar power, with 2352 solar modules installed with a capacity of generating 700 kwp.

296. ▶ HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched 3rd edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - 'Smart India Hackathon- 2019'. .
- SIH-2019 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving. For 1st time, Private industry/organisations and NGOs can also send their problem statements to students under SIH-2019.
- It would have 2 sub-editions – Software edition (a 36-hour software product development competition) and Hardware edition (a 5 days long hardware product development competition).

297. ▶ HRD Ministry approved draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Bill 2018 , that seeks to repeal UGC Act and set up Higher Education Commission of India. Stakehoders can give their suggestions at reformofugc@gmail.com by 07-07-2018.
- Principals of Draft Include Less Government and more Governance, Separation of grant functions, End of Inspection Raj, Focus on academic quality, Powers to enforce.
- Highlights of Bill -
  - Improving academic standards and quality of higher education, specifying norms for learning outcomes, lay down standards of teaching/research etc.
  - Provide roadmap for mentoring of institutions found failing in maintaining the required academic standards.
  - Shall have the power to enforce decisions, grant or revoke authorization for starting / closure of academic operations.
  - Will encourage higher education institutions to formulate a Code of Good Practices covering promotion of teaching and learning.
  - Provides for penal provisions (graded), which will cover withdrawal of power to grant degrees/ diplomas, or even prosecution sanction in serious willful non-compliance.
  - There will be an Advisory Council to render advice the Commission on matters concerning coordination of standards in country.
  - Commission will specify norms for fixing of fee chargeable by higher education institutions and advice Governments accordingly..
  - It will monitor, through a national data base, development of emerging fields of knowledge and balanced growth of higher education in all spheres.

298. ▶ HRD Ministry launched *Study in India* portal at URL *www.studyinindia.gov.in*, as a single window to cover all aspects relating to studying in India for foreign students. Students across world will now be able to pursue the education in prominent Indian Educational Institutions. Integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository (of HRD Ministry), was also launched on the occasion.
- e-Sanad is aimed at online submission and verification of documents with ultimate object to extend contact less, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service. Using it, any type of document viz personal, educational or commercial can be authenticated and apostilled.

- National Academic Depository (NAD) is 24X7 online store house of all academic awards viz. diplomas certificates,, degrees, mark-sheets etc. duly digitised and lodged by academic boards, institutions, eligibility assessment bodies. It ensures easy access to and retrieval of academic award and validates and guarantees its authenticity and safe storage.

299. ▶ Handbook *Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime Against Children*, has been released by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) along with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai.

300. ▶ Harayana Government launched 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of seven social parameters - *sex ratio, education, hygiene, environment preservation, governance and social participation*. So far, Ambala topped star ranking followed by Gurugram and Karnal. .
   - Gram panchayats scoring maximum in all parameters will be recognized as Indradhanush Gram Panchayats. They will get special grants for development works from Development and Panchayats Department of State Government.
   - Rewards -
      - 6 stars - 20 lakh.
      - 5 stars - 15 lakh.
      - 4 stars - 10 lakh.
      - Villages for achieving each parameter will be rewarded Rs 1 lakh. Villages having equal or more girl population will be given INR 50000 as bonus with their reward money. Villages which adopt Swachhta Mission will be given additional INR 50000.
   - Various Colours -
      - Pink star - To panchayats that make outstanding performance in improving sex ratio.
      - Green star - For protection of environment
      - White star - Cleanliness.
      - Saffron star - For crime-free villages.
      - Sky colour star - To village that will have no drop out.
      - Golden star - For good governance.
      - Silver star - For participation in development of villages.

301. ▶ Hardeep S Puri (*Minister of State (I/C) of Housing and Urban Affairs*) launched India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) and Internship (ISCI) program, to provide youth an opportunity to experience aspects of Urban planning and governance. Smart Cities Digital Payments Awards 2018 were also launched.
   - India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) Program is designed to provide valuable experience to the youth interested in smart cities specifically, and urban renewal sector in general and will bring in new ideas to implement solutions for key urban problems.
   - India Smart Cities Internship (ISCI) Program - MOHUA will engage students pursuing Higher education as Interns to help implementation of Smart City Projects in various States/Cities. Internship will be on unpaid basis for 6 to 12 weeks. They will be given an Experience Certificate at successful completion of program.
   - The Smart Cities Digital Payments Awards 2018 - *100 days Challenge in 100 Smart Cities* aims to promote ease of living for India's urban residents. Objective of these awards is to guide and reward Smart Cities for promoting digital payments and carrying out innovative payment initiatives.

302. ▶ Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs launched several entities -
   - Swachh Survekshan 2019 - Planned to be conducted from 4th – 31st January 2019 – to rank all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). This will be the fourth survey of MoHUA.
   - SBM ODF Plus and ODF Plus Plus Protocol - Aims at addressing issue of holistic sanitation.
   - Swachh Manch web portal
   - Ease of Living Index (111 Cities) -
      - Maharashtra Cities at Top 3 - Pune (1), Navi Mumbai (2), Greater Mumbai (3). Others in Top 10 - Tirupati, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijaywada and Bhopal.
      - West Bengal refused to participate in Centre's rankings, just as it has done with all other urban schemes.
      - Last 3 - Rampur (UP - 111), Kohima (Nagaland - 110), Patna (109).

303. ▶ Hardeep Singh Puri (Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs) launched Smart Imprest Cards & e- Measurement Book ( e-MB) on PFMS portal for CPWD. This will be first integrated web based module in Civil Ministries to monitor both financial progress along with physical progress captured as per schedule of various items of works.

304. ▶ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate change) inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU(Wind Augmentation PurifYing Unit) for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi. WAYU is developed by CSIR – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI).

305. ▶ Harvest festival of Nuakhai celebrated in western Odisha. During this, new produce Nabannis are offered to presiding deities.

306. ▶ Haryana Assembly passed State Commission for Scheduled Castes Bill 2018, for development setting up a commission for scheduled castes in the state, to safeguard interests of people belonging to SC community.
   - ✎ State Assembly also passed Bills to rename 2 Universities - YMCA University of Science and Technology Faridabad renamed as J C Bose University of Science and Technology and Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University renamed as Shri Vishwakarma Skill University.

307. ▶ Haryana Education Department launched 'I am not afraid of English' initiative from Class 1 in the state's primary schools, aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them to help students to learn, read, write and speak English.

308. ▶ Haryana Government approved an affordable housing policy *Housing for all-2018* for core areas of municipalities in state. Town and Country Planning Department would be delegating power to Urban Local Bodies Department for implementation. Key Highlights -
   - ✎ For core areas, projects would be allowed in core areas of municipal towns with an area 1 - 5 acres, while floor area ratio (FAR) should be 250 and for 2.5 to 5 acres, it should be 275.
   - ✎ Allotment rate is 4000 per sq ft in hyper potential zones, Rs 3,000 per sq ft in high potential zones, Rs 2,500 for medium potential zones and Rs 2,100 per sq ft in low potential zones.
   - ✎ Beneficiaries would be provided financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh.

309. ▶ Haryana Government approved introduction of e-auction with an amendment in policy for allotment of petrol pumps, CNG (Compressed natural gas) or PNG (Piped Natural Gas) sites to oil companies in urban areas. It aims at bringing transparency in allotment process.

310. ▶ Haryana Government launched water ATM policy to provide clean drinking water at public places to people of state. Urban residents of state Haryana can now look forward to having a water ATM every 400 metres.

311. ▶ Haryana Government launched 'Paudhagiri campaign', to increase green cover in state and improve climatic conditions. Under this, 22 lakh students studying in Class 6th to 12th will plant sapling each, during 3 months of monsoon ( July, August and September), provided by State forest department. Student will get total Rs 300 in three years for succesfully looking after its sapling.

312. ▶ Haryana Government signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up ethanol plant at village Bohali village in Panipat district with an outlay of INR 900 crores, with capacity of 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day. This will motivate farmers in its 50 km radius area to manage crop residue and prevent straw burning and help to fulfill increasing demand of ethanol and also bio-fuels for consumers of petroleum product.

313. ▶ Haryana Govt. approved Slum-In-Situ Rehabilitation Policy to provide housing facility to slum dwellers without making them relocate to other areas. Under this, total INR 1.67 lakh per dwelling unit will be provided to developer for construction of houses (1 Lakh by Central and 67000 by State Govt.).

314. ▶ Haryana Govt. will launch *Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana*, developed for safety of girl students in Haryana.

315. ▶ Haryana government approved to provide monthly assistance of INR 8000 to female acid victims.

316. ▶ Haryana government enhanced ex-gratia grant being given to family members of police personnel who die in line of duty, from 10 lakh to 30 lakh.

317. ▶ Haryana government increased upper age limit to enter into government service from 40 to 42 years.

318. ▶ Haryana government issued a notification directing sports persons employed with state to pay 33% of their income earned professionally and through commercial endorsements to state sports council. It will be used for development of sports in Haryana. State government also hiked Dearness Allowance (DA) from 5 % to 7%.

319. ▶ Haryana government launched One-Stop centres for women affected by violence in all its districts. Presently there are 7 OSCs in some districts in Haryana and approval has been granted for 15 more OSCs. Haryana Governemnt also announced to develop Madhogarh Fort in Mahendragarh on pattern of Mughal Gardens in Pinjore, under Madhogarh-Mahendragarh-Narnaul-Rewari Heritage Circuit.

320. ▶ Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College in Hamirpur. It will admit first batch of 100 students from 2018-19 academic year.

321. ▶ Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launched *horn not ok* awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin' (no noise) mobile application, to spread awareness of unnecessary blowing horn as it creates unnecessary noise pollution and is harmful to health.

322. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Food, civil supplies and Consumer Affairs department launched an app for ration card holders, called ePDS (electronic public distribution system). Beneficiaries can use digital ration card in ration shops. HP government also recently started Himachal Grihni Suvidha Yojna, which will provide 1 lakh women with gas cylinders and stoves free of cost.

323. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government launched *Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana,* to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System. It would increase soil productivity, decrease use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals and increase water infiltration. State Govt. also Launched a week long *Polythene Hatao,Paryavaran Bachao* Campaign.

324. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government will introduce free Heli-ambulance services in order to help patients in far flung and inaccessible areas . Free Heli-ambulance services will be operated by Heli-mission Switzerland with the assistance of Lady Willingdon Hospital (Kullu District).

   🖊 State Govt. inaugurated Kanda Pattan-Sarkaghat Water Supply Scheme in Mandi district. It will benefit more than 31,000 people of region. State govt. also decreased age criteria for getting old age pension to 70 years from 80 years.

325. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Govt. a 1.55-crore project to set up a cow sanctuary at Kotla Barog. Unlike gaushalas where the animals are kept indoors and fed in-house, animals will be free to roam in fenced area meant to keep a fixed number of cows.

326. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Govt. launched Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) programme with an aim to promote breastfeeding, strengthening inter-personal communication through ASHA workers, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points.

327. ▶ Himachal Pradesh adjudged as top performer under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) in country.

328. ▶ Himachal Pradesh cabinet announced increment of honorarium of ASHA workers of he health department from 1000 to Rs 1250, to benefit 7,829 ASHA workers in the state.

329. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government approved implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of 2,29,136 metric tonnes of apples, with price fixed at 7.50 per kg.

330. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government banned use of plastic polythene and thermocol cutlery across state, which was announced by state govt on World Environment Day on June 5, 2018.

331. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government will do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system, as recommended by a committee formed to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan).

332. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating h istoric British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate' as a major tourist attraction. It was accquired by government for over 27 crores two years ago, from a Business family.

333. ▶ Hinduja Group's flagship company *Ashok Leyland* introduced Innoline technology as a BS IV engine driven by an in-line fuel pump, combination of indigenous mechanical pump for BS III engines with iEGR (Intelligent Exhaust Gas Recirculation) technology.

334. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched 2 portals to strengthen Women Safety -

   🖊 Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC) (url - cybercrime.gov.in), will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rapes. Complaints registered through this portal will be handled by police authorities of respective State/UTs.

   🖊 2nd portal, National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO), which is accessible only to law enforcement agencies, will assist in effectively tracking and investigating cases of sexual offences. It is a central database of "sexual offenders", to be maintained by NCRB for regular monitoring by State Police.

335. ▶ Home Ministry approved Central Assistance of INR 1161 Crores to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Lakshadweep (UT) and Rajasthan -

   🖊 Assam (480 Crores), Himachal Pradesh(84 Crores), Sikkim (67 Crores) were affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18.

   🖊 Lakshadweep (2.6 Crores) was affected by cyclone Ockhi.

   🖊 Rajasthan (526 Crores) affected by kharif drought during 2017.

336. ▶ Home Ministry excluded 29 inhabited islands in Andaman and Nicobar from Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order 1963, till December 2022., to promote tourism. However, citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries will continue to require RAP to visit here.

   🖊 Under RAP regime, foreigners are not normally allowed to visit protected area unless Government allows them. Every foreigner, except citizen of Bhutan, who desires to enter protected area, is required to obtain special permit from competent authority.

   🖊 Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals of Pakistani origin are exception and are not allowed to enter such areas.

337. ▶ Home Ministry relaxed conditions 'four-corner agreement' signed with Bru migrants for their repatriation from Tripura to Mizoram, signed with Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) in July 2018.

   🖊 As per Agreement -

      🖊 It covers 5,407 Bru families (32876 persons) presently staying in temporary camps in Tripura to repatriate them to Mizoram by end of September 2018. These families who moved to Mizoram from Tripura will be given one-time financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh to be kept as fixed deposit in name of head of family. Apart from this, house building assistance of 1.5 lakh, free ration for 2 years will also be provided.

   🖊 Relaxed Provisions -

      🖊 Period of stay for cash assistance of Rs 4 lakh for Bru refugees will be relaxed from 3 to two years. They can withdraw 90% of 4 lakh assistance as bank loan immediately after their return.

      🖊 On relocation, at least 50 refugees will be settled in each village.

- Background -
  - Bru (or Reang) are tribals inhabit to some parts of Northeastern states. In 1997, following bout of ethnic violence between Mizos and Brus, thousands of people from Bru tribe were forced to leave their homes in Mizoram and settle down in Tripura.
  - First phase of repatriation of Brus from Tripura to Mizoram started in November 2010, when 1,622 Bru families with 8,573 members were resettled in Mizoram. But repatriation stalled in 2011, 2012 and 2015 amid protests by Mizo NGOs.
338. Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba launched an online 'e-Sahaj' portal here today for grant of Security Clearance, to facilitate online submission of application and keep up with the status. MHA strives to decide Security Clearance cases in 60 days, down from 90 days currently.
339. Human Resource Development Ministry launched 2nd edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in New Delhi. Under this, students from 750 higher educational institutions from across country will adopt nearby villages and visit them to get acquainted with regular lifestyle of village people and problems faced by them. Main objective is to enable higher education institutions to work with people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable development in rural areas.
340. Human Resource Development Ministry released NIRF India Rankings 2018 of higher educational institutions -
  - Top 10 (Overall) -
    - Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru
    - Indian Institute of Technology Madras
    - Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
    - Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
    - Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
    - Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
    - Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
    - Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
    - Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
    - Anna University, Chennai
  - Top 5 Universities -
    - Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
    - Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi
    - Banaras Hindu University Varanasi
    - Anna University Chennai
    - University of Hyderabad
  - Top 5 Medical Institutes -
    - All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi
    - Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
    - Christian Medical College, Vellore
    - Kasturba Medical College, Manipal
    - King George`s Medical University, Lucknow
  - Top 5 Colleges -
    - Miranda House, Delhi University
    - St, Stephens, Delhi University
    - Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli
    - Hindu College, Delhi
    - Presidency College, Chennai
  - Top 5 Engineering Institutes -
    - IIT Madras
    - IIT Bombay
    - IIT Delhi
    - IIT Kharagpur
    - IIT Kanpur
  - Top 5 Management Institutes -
    - Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
    - Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore
    - Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta

- 🖋 Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow
- 🖋 Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode

341. ▶ Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar Minister launched *Samagra Shiksha'* - an integrated Scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondarylevels for first time It will treat *school* holistically as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels.
- 🖋 It focuses on improving quality of education at all levels by integrating two T's – Teachers and Technology.
- 🖋 Earlier budget on 3 education schemes (SSA, RMSA and Teacher Education) was 28,000 crores in 2017-18. But, budget outlay on new scheme will be 34,000 crore in 2018-19 and 41,000 crores in 2019-20.
- 🖋 10 Lakh schools will get library grant of 5,000 to 20,000 to strengthen libraries.
- 🖋 Every school will get sports equipment under *Samagra Shiksha* - 5000 for Primary, 10,000 for Upper Primary & up to 25,000 for SSC & HSC schools.
- 🖋 Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya (KGBV) will be expanded from Class 6-8 to Class 6-12 with 4385.60 crores in 2018-19 & 4553.10 crores in 2019-20.
- 🖋 *DIKSHA* - national digital platform for teachers would put high quality teaching learning resources for ready use of teachers. *Samagra Shiksha* Scheme will support 'Operation Digital Board' in all secondary schools over a period of 5 years, so as to enhance use of digital technology through smart classrooms. Digital initiatives like ShaalaKosh, Shagun, ShaalaSaarthi will be strengthened.

342. ▶ Hyderabad Metro became second biggest rail network in India with a total of 46 km service (2nd to Delhi Metro) After Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan flagged off 16-km stretch of Hyderabad Metro between Ameerpet and L B Nagar.

343. ▶ Hyderabad will soon get country's first exclusive dog park, spread over 1.3 acres. It will also has dog training and exercise equipments.

344. ▶ IFFCO launched e-commerce platform IFFCO iMandi to address needs of 5.5 Crores farming community associated with it, in partnership with Singapore-based technology firm iMandi. Through this, IFFCO is targeting to reach GMV (gross merchandise value) of $5 billion in 2 years. Using it, farmers buy all agri inputs of IFFCO, including fertilisers, agro chemicals and seeds at discounted price and get free delivery at their doorstep.

345. ▶ ISRO partnered with J&K's Directorate of Health Services-Kashmir (DHS-K) to set up a telemedicine center at an altitude of 12,700 feet to provide service to pilgrims en route to Amarnath shrine.

346. ▶ IT firm IBM has teamed up with IIT Bombay to 'accelerate' AI research in India through its AI Horizons Network.

347. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) teamed up with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to send extreme weather alerts to people. BSNL and IMD will send area-specific alerts to users if they happen to be at place likely to experience extreme weather conditions, even if their phone numbers do not belong to that particular telecom circle.

348. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) wil add 30 more doppler radars in 2 years, with 14 in northeast, 4 in Jammu and Kashmir and 3 each will be Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- 🖋 Doppler radar is an observational tool used for precisely monitoring and predicting severe weather events such as hailstorms, thunder storms, cyclones and tornados.
- 🖋 It uses Doppler effect by bouncing microwave signal off desired target to produce velocity data.
- 🖋 It mainly gives information about wind velocity and precipitation. Doppler radar has radius of 250 km and helps in issuing forecasts two-three hours prior to severe weather conditions.
- 🖋 First Doppler radar in India was installed in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in 2002. There are currently 27 Doppler radars in country.

349. ▶ India became only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products (1800-11-2356). India is the 4th such country in Asia after Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia to have a helpline number dedicated for helping people quit tobacco products.

350. ▶ India launched 9th and biggest ever auction of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks, offering permits to companies for selling Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in 86 geographical areas.
- 🖋 Companies with net worth over 150 crore can bid for cities with a population of 50 lakh and more. Companies with 100 crore net worth can bid for cities with 20 lakh to 50 lakh population and firms with Rs 5 crore net worth can bid for cities with under 10 lakh population.

351. ▶ India opened Zokhawthar land immigration check-post in Mizoram along border with Myanmar, as authorised immigration centre for travel to and from Myanmar. Zokhawthar will be second immigration check-post in Mizoram along Myanmar border after Zorinpui check-post in Lawngtlai district which was opened in September 2017.

352. ▶ India will get its first national police museum in Lutyens Delhi, depicting history of central and state police forces. It will be inaugurated on Police Commemoration Day, which is held on October 21.
- 🖋 Also, A National Tribal Museum along with a National Level Tribal Research Institute will also be set up in Delhi.

353. ▶ India's First corn festival held in Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh).

354. ▶ Indian Government will launch a national disaster database on UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR's) insistence to implement its commitment to Sendai Framework. State authorities will mandatorily report all disaster-related losses on real time basis.

355. ▶ Indian IT industry apex body NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) opened Centre of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (CoE-DSAI) in Bengaluru (Karnataka). to nurture innovation in emerging disruptive technologies such as AI and to leverage the power of data science.
   ✎ NASSCOM also signed MoU with NITI Aayog to collaboratively foster applied research, accelerating adoption and ethics, privacy and security.

356. ▶ Indian IT industry's apex body NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) has launched 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme to increase number of women in senior levels in Information Technology (IT) industry.

357. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur developed TreadWill, an online tool to help people cope with issues related to mental health. This website designed to help people deal with stress, low mood, lethargy and other depressive symptoms through different online exercises, questionnaires and games.

358. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University (Varanasi) and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL) signed MoU to develop cloud-ready job skills by providing access to AWS Educate program and to help establish a Cloud Research Lab on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). Cloud Research Lab will provide students with opportunities to use AWS Cloud technology to pursue research initiatives that focus on AI and ML innovation for India.

359. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) launched *Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI)* as an exclusive incubator to boost chip design.It is first of its kind in India that will focus on creating an ecosystem for start-ups in chip design.
   ✎ FabCI's purpose is to incubate at least 50 'Make-in-India' chip design companies that can compete globally and generate Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
   ✎ It will also offer virtual support to non-Hyderabad start-ups which can join FabCI and leverage the offerings and participate remotely.

360. ▶ Indian Instituted of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur will set up Aditya Choubey Re-Water Research Center to replenish and rejuvenate water resources. It aims to tackle challenge of resolving two burning issues faced by urban India – sewage disposal and access to clean potable water.
   ✎ IIT-Kharagpur will set up an on-campus plant which will convert 1.35 million litre of sewage water from the hostels to 1.2 million litre of potable water daily.

361. ▶ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) approved animal-free tests for drug manufacturers. It replaces pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes. These guidelines will come into effect from July 1, 2018.
   ✎ Pyrogen test will be replaced by bacterial endotoxin test or monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes.
      ✎ It is carried out to check impurity that can cause adverse side-effects. Drug is injected into rabbit and it is closely observed for feverish symptoms.
   ✎ For abnormal toxicity test, Vaccine manufacturers can apply for waiver by getting compliance certificate from National Control Laboratory.
      ✎ This test is carried out to check hazardous biological contamination in vaccine formulations. In this, mice or guinea pigs are injected with vaccine. The scientists observe if there is death of any animal.

362. ▶ Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will stop free travel insurance starting September 1 and *free insurance will be optional.*
   ✎ Insurance provided by IRCTC had a maximum cover of 10 lakh in case of a person's death during a train journey, 7.5 lakh if a person is disabled due to an accident, 2 lakh if injured and 10000 for transportation of mortal remains.

363. ▶ Indian Railways eliminated all unmanned level crossings (UMLC) from its four zones - West Central, Central, Eastern and South East Central Railways, aggregating 11,545 route kilometers that are now UMLC free on broad gauge route. Railways has target of September 2018 for eliminating UMLC in 11 zones of its total 16 zones. For remaining zones, target is set before 2020.

364. ▶ Indian Railways inducted three 09-3x Dynamic Tamping Express machines for improved mechanised Track Maintenance, manufactured in India under Make in Inida initiative with imported components. This technology is available in five countries including India.
   ✎ Railways plans to induct 42 more such machines in its maintenance fleet over next 3 years.
   ✎ These Machines can perform several track maintenance tasks which are currently performed manually / through several machines.
   ✎ Railways has planned complete mechanisation of inspection, monitoring, relaying and maintenance of track by 2024. Induction of such new machines will further help to improve safety, reliability and economy in maintenance of tracks over Indian Railways.

365. ▶ Indian Railways launched first consolidated Bridge Management System (IR-BMS), with data on its 1.5 lakh bridges. IR-BMS aims for meaningful assimilation, analysis and dissemination of information related to various activities about its bridges.

366. ▶ Indian Railways organized a programme on Ethics in Public Governance and Launched "Mission Satyanishtha", at National Rail Museum in New Delhi. It aims to sensitize all railway employees about need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.

367. ▶ Indian Railways signed MoU with GAIL India, to replace Industrial gases like Dissolved Acetylene, LPG, BMCG and Furnace Oil / High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil with environment friendly Natural Gas.
   - 🖊 This MoU is a broad based, in principle agreement, between GAIL and Indian Railways for creation of infrastructure and supply of CNG/LNG/PNG for both industrial and domestic purposes.
   - 🖊 Replacement by Natural Gases is likely to result into a saving of about Rs. 20 crore per annum to Indian Railways.

368. ▶ Indian Railways will start a special train called *Shri Ramayana Express*, which will cover important destinations related to Ramayana in a 16-days journey in November. It will be spread across India as well as Sri Lanka.

369. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) inaugurated S–Band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport (Andhra Pradesh). It will be used for observation of weather system up to range of 500 km and also for early warning of severe weather events.
   - 🖊 DWR has been developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd Bengaluru under ToT (Training of Trainers) from ISRO, as 7th radar of such type manufactured in country under "Make in India".

370. ▶ Indian actress Jaya Prada appointed as goodwill ambassador for Nepal tourism, for 4 years.

371. ▶ Indian government approved ters of net neutrality, allowing internet to remain unrestricted and non-discriminatory. Net neutrality implies that telecom service providers must treat all internet traffic equally, without any regard to the type, origin or destination of content. Govt. Also approved installation of around 12.5 lakh WiFi hotspots in all gram panchayats with funding of 6000 crores by December 2018.

372. ▶ Indian government extended e-visa facility for citizens of 165 countries at 25 airports and five seaports, to promote tourism.

373. ▶ Indian Railways launched a web portal called *Rail Sahyog,* at URL www.railsahyog.in, as a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility funds. Companies desirous of contributing can show willingness on the portal by registering their requests.

374. ▶ India's first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck (Model BH205-E), developed by Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has been launched, for use in the project of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) in Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh).
   - 🖊 EBH205E is electric drive rear dump truck for large scale mining operations. It is powered by Tier II emission compliant Modular Common Rail Electronic Engine with 2300 HP capacity. It is easily manoeuvrable with power-steering and short turning radius.

375. ▶ India's first automated and organised vehicle scrapping and recycling facility set up in Greater Noida by Mahindra & Mahindra Limited through a joint venture with MSTC Limited.

376. ▶ India's first engineless semi high speed train will run between Delhi and Bhopal, at a speed of 160 km/hr. Named 'Train 18', it will take journey time down by 3 Hours.

377. ▶ India's first flight using biofuel flown from Dehradun (capital of Uttarakhand) to Delhi, conducted by SpiceJet on its turborporp Q-400 plane. Flights used alternative environment friendly fuel for 10 minutes over Dehradun.
   - 🖊 India joined elite club of nations who have operated flight on alternative energy source like biofuel, having countries like Canada, Australia and US have already conducted these test flights. Biofuel is developed by CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun. The flight was powered with a blend of 75% air turbine fuel (ATF) and 25% biojet fuel.
   - 🖊 The Flight carried blend of 25% of bio jet fuel (derived from jatropha seeds) and 75% of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) in one of the two engines of plane, while other carried only ATF. International standards permit a blend rate of up to 50% biofuel with ATF. It can reduce fuel costs by 15-20%.
     - 🖊 Jatropha is drought-resistant perennial plant that can grow in marginal or poor soil. It is grows relatively quickly and lives, produces seeds for 50 years. Its seeds has oil content of 37% which be combusted as fuel without being refined. It burns with clear smoke-free flame.
     - 🖊 It has been tested successfully as fuel for simple diesel engine. Its oil also acts as insecticide..
   - 🖊 The use of bio jet fuel, apart from reducing carbon emissions by 80 %, greenhouse gas emissions by about 15 % and sulfur oxides (SOx) emissions by over 99 %, is expected to provide indigenous jet fuel supply security, possible cost savings as feedstock availability at farm level scales up, superior engine performance and reduced maintenance cost for the airline operators.
   - 🖊 World's first dedicated biofuel flight (by Dreamliner Boeing 787-9) was flown for first time from Los Angeles (US) to Melbourne (Australia) in January 2018 by Australian carrier Qantas.

- Biofuel is produced from vegetable oils, recycled grease, algae and animal fat. It is cleaner, environmental friendly fuel that can be used as alternative in place of fossil fuels.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy recently on August 10, 2018 (World Biofuel Day 2018) had released National Policy on Biofuels 2018. Under it, Government plans to triple ethanol production over the next four years. It also has set target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol by 2030.

378. India's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality in 2019, now undergoing sodium commissioning.
- Criticality of Nuclear Reactor is event of it reaching self-sustained chain reaction. This means that no external source of neutrons is required to sustain fission in reactor core. It is precondition of producing useful amounts of energy from the reactor.
- PFBR has been designed indigenously by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), to generate 500 MWe of electrical power, with operational life of 40 years. It generates power by burning mixed uranium-plutonium MOX fuel, a mixture of $PuO_2$ and $UO_2$.
- Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (Bhavini) has been given responsibility to build these reactors. India is planning to build 21 such reactors by 2030.

379. India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bulletproof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota (Rajasthan).

380. India's first robotic telescope at Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle (Ladakh) started observing the skies. It is part of a multi-country collaborative initiative called 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to observe transient events in universe. It is joint project of Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB).

381. India's first taxi ambulance services launched in Delhi, a service by a Gurugram-based startup Wagon Cab. Cabs are equipped with medical supplies and medically trained drivers.

382. India's longest Rail and Raod bridge *Bogibeel bridge*, linking Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh will be inaugurated in 2018. It is 4.94 km long and stays 32 metres above waters of Brahamaputra River. At present,travel from Dibrugarh to Arunachal Pradesh by train takes over 500 km detour. This bridge will bring travel length under 100 km.

383. India's wealthiest women list 2018 by Kotak Wealth-Hurun -
- Smitha Crishna, 3rd generation heir of Godrej Empire, topped the list with estimated net worth approx USD 6 Billion.
- Roshni Nadar (HCL) ranks second with approx 5 Billion USD. Indu Jain of BCCL and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are ranked 3rd and 4th in list.
- Hurun Global Rich List 2018 has 404 women, of which 14 are from India.

384. Indigenously manufactured semi high-speed train called *Train 2018*, code-named Train 18 will be rolled out in September 2018, built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai, It is capable of running at a speed of 160 km per hour. It will be self-propelled on electric traction like metro trains, along with Wi-Fi and infotainment and several other facilities.

385. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1), to serve as an enabler for domestic shipbuilding industry working on inland vessels and open huge possibilities for cargo and passenger movement on National Waterway-1.
- Government is implementing Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1 (Varanasi-Haldia stretch) at cost of INR 5369 crores with technical assistance and investment support of World Bank.

386. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) asked insurers to cover mental illness under medical insurance policy from immediate effect, treating it at par with physical illness. It follows Mental Healthcare Act 2017 enacted by Parliament and came into force from May 2018.

387. International Aviation Summit held in New Delhi, jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- Civil Aviation Ministry announced Vision 2035 under which it plans to build 100 new airports across India in the next 10-15 years with an investment of USD 60 billion and address major issues concerning aviation industry.

388. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed MoU with Telangana Government, to conduct a research on impact of Mission Kakatiya programme
- Mission Kakatiya aims to restore all minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana State, in 5 years. Tanks and lakes are dug to remove silt for increasing water storage capacity.

389. International Executive Council (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)), accorded Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS) status on Telangana's Sadarmatt anicut and iconic Pedda Cheruvu tank.  Both these sites will now be inscribed in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

- Sadarmatt anicut - The Sadarmatt barrage, across Godavari in Khanapur of Nirmal district, is an iconic structure installed by the then Hyderabad ruler Nawab Ikbal-ud-Dowla in 1891-92.
  - Sadarmatt is 437.4 m long on its left flank and 23.8 m on its right flank. maximum flood discharge at the anicut is 7.76 lakh cusecs.
- Pedda Cheruvu -
  - It is spread over an area of 618 acres and was built in 1897 during the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State. It has a 1.8-km-long tank bund and 145-metre wall and three sluices.

390. International Labour Organization (ILO)'s *World Employment and Social Outlook Report* projected increase in surface temperature due to global warming will lead to around 2,59,000 job losses in India by 2030. Global temperature rise of 1.5°C by end of 21st century will result in heat stress, which will reduce total number of working hours by 2030.
- It will result in 5.3% rise work loss in percentage of total hours and productivity loss equivalent to 30.8 million full-time jobs.
- Agricultural workers will be worst affected, with loss of around 64% of working hours lost by 2030 due to physical nature of their work.

391. J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare released National Health Profile (NHP) 2018 prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI). He also launched National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) - Country's first ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic, standardized and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
- NHRR will be ultimate platform for comprehensive information of all healthcare establishments in India (Private / Government). Over 20 lakh healthcare establishments like hospitals, doctors, clinics, diagnostic labs, pharmacies and nursing homes would be enumerated under this census, capturing data on over 1,400 variables.

392. Jammu and Kashmir Government formaed a committee to review security of protected persons in state.

393. Jammu and Kashmir government will host its first ever *global investors meet* in July 2018 in Srinagar, focused on harnessing hydropower potential of 20,000 mega watts in Jammu Kashmir.

394. Jammu will be the first city in north India to get a full-fledged space technology research centre devoted to research, academics and post-graduation degree course. It will function under Central University Jammu.

395. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust signed MoU with Ministry of Railways, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for implementation of the 362 km Indore- Manmad New Railway Line Project -
- It will reduce distance from Mumbai/Pune to key central India locations by 171 kilometers, resulting in lower logistics costs.
- Joint Venture Company will be formed between Ministry of Shipping or its nominated entity including JNPT with equity share of 55 %, Maharashtra or its nominated entity, Madhya Pradesh or its nominated entity and others with equity share of 15 % each.

396. Jharkhand Government announced to develop country's first Khadi mall.

397. Jharkhand government introduced electric vehicles for official use, becoming 5th state of India and first state in eastern India to procure eco-friendly vehicles for government use.

398. KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) created world record of distributing maximum number of bee-boxes in one day, 2330 bee-boxes were distributed among 233 beneficiaries in Zangalee Army area (Kashmir).

399. Karnataka Assembtly Election Results 2018 -
- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as largest party by winning 104 out of 222 Seats. INC (Indian National Congress) won 78 seats and Janata Dal (Secular) won 40 Seats.
- Votes Percentage - BJP (36.2%), INC (38 %), JDS (18.3%)
- Karnataka Election witnessed maximum expenditure by candidates and parties ever, estimated at 9500 - 10500 crores.

400. Karnataka government launched 'Swachha Meva Jayate' campaign, to promote cleanliness across state.

401. Karnataka government made Yoga mandatory for all colleges and universities in State. All government, aided and private degree colleges in state must conduct yoga for 20-minutes.

402. Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) launched a new portal with single window facility for job seekers and employers. KASE will develop a Labour Bank that will be connected to jobs portal.

403. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated Samagra Resource Portal and mobile app. More than 40,000 classrooms in Kerala will be made hi-tech by June 2018, through Samagra. Samagra is designed to make sure that all learning objectives are transacted through lesson plans as specified in curriculum.

404. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched Pravasi pension scheme, offering pension of INR 2000 a month to state's Non Resident Citizens of over 60 years age. To avail this scheme, person has to pay Rs 100 per month for 5 years.

405. Kerala Government appointed KPMG as project consultant partner for rebuilding state ravaged by recent massive floods. Services of KPMG rendered for projects related to revamping to Kerala will be free of cost.

🖊 Netherlands based KPMG is one of largest professional service companies in world and one of Big Four auditors, along with Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

406. ▶ Kerala Government approved setting up of *Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited*, to offer free internet to over 20 lakh poor families. A Joint Venture company will be launched by *IT Infrastructure Limited, State Electricity Board and state government* to get this task done.

407. ▶ Kerala Government declared Kozhikode and Malappuram districts free from Nipah virus infection, as no positive case of the infection was reported till completion of double incubation period of virus.

408. ▶ Kerala Government will start a 'community radio' to update farmers about latest developments, as first such community radio in India. It will start broadcast from Kuttanad in Alappuzha district, known as *rice bowl of Kerala*.

409. ▶ Kerala Govt inaugurate world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The Replica of Jatayu, a character in Ramayana is 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, 65 feet tall and is positioned at top of a rock at 1000 feet above sea level.

410. ▶ Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for increasing solar power generation in state, including setting up a 15 MW solar power unit at NTPC complex in Kayamkulam.

411. ▶ Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority launched of a 'Water Literacy'(Jala Saksharatha) campaign to create awareness about importance and optimal use of water and its conservation.

412. ▶ Kerala government told Supreme Court that barring entry of women aged 10 - 50 years into Sabarimala temple in Kerala is not permissible under Constitution, stating that it is a Hindu temple and not a temple of a particular denomination.

413. ▶ Kerala's startup ecosystem congregation held at Kovalam, with name *Huddle Kerala*. It is organised by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) along with Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

414. ▶ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched its, in-housedeveloped,single-umbrella e-marketing systemnamed Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS). The system can be accessed from anywhere in the country for the sale and purchase of Khadi and Village Industries products.

415. ▶ Kochi Metro Rail launched India's first exquisite air-conditioned bed space dormitory-Peters Inn, with 200 bed air-conditioned cabins. Daily rent for the bed space is inr 395.

416. ▶ Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launcahed a flood forecasting and early warning system (FFEWS) for Kolkata City, as India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS. Asian Development Bank (ADB) from its Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund funded this project with technical assistance of a $1 million.

417. ▶ Kolkata topped OpenSignal's list of 4G availability with over 90.7% coverage, across all of India's 22 telecom circles for May-July 2018. It is followed by Punjab (89.8%), Bihar (89.2%), Madhya Pradesh (89.1%) and Odisha (89%). Jammu and Kashmir circle comes at last spot.

418. ▶ Law Commission of India (LCI) in its 276th Report *Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India*, recommended that gambling and betting on sports be allowed as regulated activities.

🖊 It recommended number of changes in law for regulating betting for making it taxable under direct and indirect tax regimes and used as source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

🖊 It recommended linking Aadhar or PAN card of individual indulging in betting and gambling and making transaction cashless to regulate illegal activities such as money laundering.

🖊 FDI in casino and online gaming industry will bring substantial amounts of investment to those states that decide to permit casinos, propelling growth of tourism, while also enabling such states to generate higher revenue and employment opportunities.

🖊 21st Law commission of India is led by former SC Justice Balbir Sinsh Chauhan, constituted effect from 1st September, 2015. It has a three-year term, ending on 31st August, 2018.

419. ▶ Linguist Panchanan Mohanty from University of Hyderabad discovered 2 endangered languages Walmiki and Malhar predominantly spoken in remote regions of Odisha.

🖊 Walmiki - Spoken in district of Koraput of Odisha and on bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh.

🖊 Malhar - Spoken in a remote and isolated hamlet about 165 km away from Bhubaneswar. It is spoken by community consisting of about 75 speakers including children.

420. ▶ Lok Sabha MPs will be allowed to ask a maximum of five questions in the house per day from upcoming Monsoon Session, down from earlier 10 permitted questions.

421. ▶ MHA created a new Division to address issues of women safety comprehensively. Punya Salila Srivastava has been posted as Joint Secretary to head this Division. It will deal with - Crimes against women, SCs&STs, Crimes against children, elderly persons, Anti-trafficking Cell, Matters relating to Prison legislation and prison Reforms, Schemes under NIRBHAYA fund, Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network System (CCTNS) and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

422. ▶ MOU signed between Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, to jointly undertake upskilling and certification of 100,000 RAC service technicians on good servicing practices and knowledge of alternative

refrigerants to ozone-depleting chemicals.

423. ▶ MSME Ministry launched its monthly e-newsletter named *MSME Insider* to disseminate information of activities undertaken by MSME Ministry and act as a communication bridge between MSME Ministry and its stakeholders.

424. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chauhan inaugurated NTPC's 250 MW Solar Power Plant in Mandsaur, costing approx 1500 crores.

425. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched *My MP Rojgar Portal* to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per their needs, as part of *Ham Chhu Lenge Asman* programme.

426. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Governmet announced to observe August 14 eyery year as Shahid Samman Divas. State Govt. also launched Dial 100 Mobile app, to help needy at the time of emergency.

427. ▶ Madhya Pradesh forest department asked National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to revive its Cheetah Reintroduction Project to reintroduce Cheetahs in Nauradehi sanctuary located in Sagar district of state.
   - 🦯 Cheetah, fastest land animal was declared extinct in India in 1952. India's last spotted Asiatic cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus venaticus) had died in Chhattisgarh in 1947. According to earlier action plan, around 20 cheetahs were to be translocated to Nauradehi from Namibia in Africa.
   - 🦯 The Project was conceived in 2009, but State was not ready to finance plan contending that it was Centre's project.

428. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government announced outstanding power bill waiver scheme for laborers and poor families, expected to benefit about 77 lakh people. Cabinet also approved Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018 to provide subsidized power.

429. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government hiked ex-gratia to be paid to the kin of deceased journalists, from 1 to 4 lakhs. Also, 5 per cent interest subsidy will be given for a period of five years on housing loan up to Rs 25 lakh to deceased journalists from.

430. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families. Under it, Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per month (maximum).

431. ▶ Madhya Pradesh govt will appoint girls as a district Brand Ambassador who have recorded significant achievements in any field under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme, as a first of its kind initiative.

432. ▶ Madhya Pradesh launched a first of its kind initiative called "Mil -Banche" in all government schools across the state. It Aims to create education and learning awareness among children.

433. ▶ Madhya Pradesh received Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kadaknath chicken breed from State. GI tag denotes that product comes from particular geographical.
   - 🦯 Kadaknath Chicken Kadaknath or Kali Masi is unique breed of chicken that is complete black colour. Apart from its meat, its bones and most organs are also black. It is native tribal districts of Jhabua, Alirajpur and parts of Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.
   - 🦯 Kadaknath chicken contains 25-27% of protein in comparison with other breeds of chickens that contain 18% protein. It is also known for its high iron content.

434. ▶ Madras High Court became first court in south India and overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility. It will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to government through e-stamps.

435. ▶ Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal delivered its final verdict to ending 50-year-old dispute over sharing of Mahadayi / Mandovi River between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
   - 🦯 The tribunal was constituted in November 2010 under Interstate River Water Disputes Act 1956.
   - 🦯 About two-thirds (76 km) of Mahadayi's 111-km stretch lies in Goa and remaining 35 km is in Karnataka and Maharashtra. Mahadayi River is lifeline of Goa because it is one of few sweet-water sources at state's disposal (most of Goa's 11 rivers contain salt water).
   - 🦯 Dispute -
     - 🦯 Sharing of waters of Mahadayi River was major cause of dispute between Karnataka and Goa. Karnataka wanted to divert excess water from Mahadayi river to Malaprabha river basin, as part of Kalasa-Banduri Nala project.
     - 🦯 Goa opposed Karnataka's proposal, stating that its population is dependent on river's natural path.
   - 🦯 Verdict -
     - 🦯 Tribunal pegged Karnataka's access to 13.4 tmc of Mahadayi River water for its consumptive use (5.4 tmc) and power generation (8.02 tmc). Goa was allowed to use 24 tmc for state's needs.
     - 🦯 Maharashtra was awarded lowest share of 1.33 tmc for meeting its in-basin needs with respect to five projects.
     - 🦯 Central Government will set up Mahadayi Water Management Authority to implement this decision.

436. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched a new scheme to help the landless labourers from the Scheduled Castes to acquire agricultural land, paying only 5 % of cost. The rest up to 8 lakh rupees will be borne by Maharashtra government. This is a modified version of Dadasaheb Gaikwad empowerment scheme for landless labourers scheme, that offered 50 % subsidy.

437. ▶ Maharashtra Government signed MoU with Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) to launch Cotton Mission, to create value chain with final market linkages for thousands of cotton farmers in Vidarbha region. Under this, MCX will partner with state agriculture department and other agencies to work with Farmer Producer Organisations and help them connect to organised market network for building their capabilities.

438. ▶ Maharashtra Government will provide Rs 3 subsidy for every litre of milk to co-operative and private producers to manufacture milk powder, aimed at encouraging production of milk powder from surplus milk. Milk producers in Maharashtra will get Minimum Support Price (MSP) of INR 27 per litre.

439. ▶ Maharashtra Government will set up new Cyber University dedicated to mitigating cyber threats. It will train 3,000 professionals to fight cyber-attacks.

440. ▶ Maharashtra Govt. inaugurated a web portal named Continuous Medical Education (CME) to offer information and suggestions related to exact treatment received by patients for various health issues. Using this, medical practitioners can obtain suggestions regarding accurate treatment of patients suffering from various ailments.

441. ▶ Maharashtra Govt. launched QUEST (*Quality Evaluation for Sustainable Transformation*), a centre to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on tribal development, to bring greater accountability in management of funds allocated for tribal welfare.

442. ▶ Maharashtra State Government became first state to sign a MoU with Centre's Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state's Public Works Department (PWD) officials to rate government buildings. Objective is to encourage environment friendly buildings, that are designed using environmentally responsible processes.

443. ▶ Maharashtra became first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), to check irregularities and bring in transparency.

444. ▶ Maharashtra government announced *Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana*, in which farmers families with girl child will be given saplings for plantation. A farmer family with a girl child between April 1 and March 31 will get 10 saplings free of cost from forest department. Beneficiaries will have to plant saplings between July 1 and 7. Scheme will be applicable for 2 girl childs per family.

445. ▶ Maharashtra government announced that cancer patients would be provided with free chemotherapy treatment at district hospitals, starting June 2018. It aims to ease travelling and lodging problems of cancer patients who come to Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel, which is one of the country's premier cancer treatment facilities.

446. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a seven-member expert panel to prepare guidelines for surrogacy centres in state.

447. ▶ Maharashtra government made it compulsory for the Public Works Department to use plastic waste for construction and repair of asphalt roads, to sustainably use increasing amount of plastic waste collected by state civic bodies.

448. ▶ Maharashtra government partnered with Andhra Pradesh Government, to strengthen ecosystem of Fintech technology, during recent Mumbai Fintech Festival.

449. ▶ Maharashtra government will launch *one transformer per farmer* Scheme, to reduce electricity losses. Under it, 2 lakh farmers will be given electricity connection for high voltage distribution line which will ensure uninterrupted power supply.
    - ✎ Farmers who lose their cattle in attack by wild animals will now get Rs 40,000, up from Rs 25,000 earlier.
    - ✎ Rs 2 lakh hike in for kin of people killed in an attack by wild animals was announced.

450. ▶ Maharashtra government will rename Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University after Bahinabai Chaudhari, renowned poetess of 19th century.

451. ▶ Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar become wettest place in India in 2018, leaving behind Meghalaya's long famed Cherrapunji. Mahabaleshwar received a staggering 5661.6 mm rainfall this season till now, much more than Cherrapunji's 4735 mm.
    - ✎ Cherrapunji holds two Guinness world records for receiving the maximum amount of rainfall in a single year, 26,471mm (1,042.2 in) of rainfall between August 1860 and July 1861 and maximum amount of rainfall in a single month (9,300mm) in July 1861.

452. ▶ Mahindra Electric and cab service Meru announced joint electric vehicle (EV) pilot project in Hyderabad.

453. ▶ Manipur CM N.Biren Singh launched *Go to Village* mission throughout, aimed at identifying eligible beneficiaries across state and delivering government services at their doorstep. The mission has been launched in 60 villages of all 60 Assembly constituencies.

454. ▶ Manipur government constituted two committees to deal with illegal migrants, State Level Monitoring Committee and District Level Monitoring Committees. These will monitor presence of illegal immigrants in state.

455. ▶ Manipur has become first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets. Solar panel that are fitted to the toilets absorb heat to generate power, also have efficiency to transform waste material.

456. ▶ Manipur's Shirui Lily Festival 2018 has been concluded at Ukhrul district, to spread awareness about conservation of endangered Shirui Lily.

457. ▶ Meghalaya Cabinet approved convergence of phase 4 of Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) with centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Under this, health coverage has been increased to Rs. 5 lakh from previous Rs.2.8 lakh per household excluding government employees.

458. ▶ Meghalaya Govt. released policy document of 5 year jackfruit mission, during state's jackfruit festival. It aims to generate employment opportunities for over 80,000 farmers, costing approx 80 Crores INR.

459. ▶ Meghalaya government launched 'Mission Lakadong' to achieve a five-fold increase in production of Lakadong turmeric, an organic variety of turmeric grown in Meghalaya, to at least 50,000 metric tonne per year in 5 years. Jaintia Hills District is home to Lakadong turmeric.

460. ▶ Microsoft signed MoU with Rajasthan government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year. Microsoft will also train educators from government colleges through the Microsoft Innovative Educator Programme, building capacity for innovative use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in classroom.

461. ▶ Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Act 2017 has been officially notified after of President's Aproval. It amends Minimum Wages Act 1948, and was passed by Delhi Assembly in August 2017.
   - ✒ As per new rules, employers violating labour rules in Delhi will now face fine ranging from Rs 20000 to 50000 and jail term of one to three years.
   - ✒ Courts will be required to dispose it off within a month from the date of filing.
   - ✒ Delhi Government hiked minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers by 37 %. Minimum Wages are -
       - ✒ Unskilled worker - 13350
       - ✒ Semi-skilled - 14698
       - ✒ Skilled persons is Rs 16182 in Delhi.

462. ▶ Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga - digital mobile extension services.
   - ✒ Mobile app Coffee Connect is developed to ease work of field functionaries and to improve work efficiency. It harnesses power of mobility comprising latest technology in easing the whole process of the field activities like digitization of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging, collecting Plantation details.
   - ✒ Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customized information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

463. ▶ Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan laid foundation stone for permanent campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women at Mohali (Punjab). This is first NSTI Institute for Punjab and First in India which is exclusively for women.

464. ▶ Minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal (uttam.coalindia.in). It aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries. It provides a platform for monitoring of sampling and coal dispatches and aims to make citizens a stakeholder in coal ecosystem.

465. ▶ Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan laid foundation stone of country's first National Skill Training Institute at Barang near Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

466. ▶ Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid Foundation for India's First Advanced Forensic Lab in Chandigarh, dedicated to women related cases. It will augment current capacity of CFSL Chandigarh to 2000 Cases per year (from 160 cases). 5 more advanced forensic labs would come up in Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati, Pune and Bhopal in 3 months, taking annual capacity to 50000 cases.

467. ▶ Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh laid foundation stone of frozen semen station in Maranga, Purnea (Bihar), being set up at a cost of Rs 64 crore under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (100% contribution from Central Government). It aims at increasing milk production through artificial insemination techniques used by CMOFED (Sudha) in Bihar.
   - ✒ Rashtriya Gokul Mission was initiated in December 2014 with an aim to conserve and develop indigenous breeds.

468. ▶ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched *ReUnite* mobile application, to track missing children. It will use *AmazonRekognition* web facial recognition service to identify missing kids.

469. ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched Intellectual Property (IP) mascot – IP Nani, at conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.
   - ✒ Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson "Chhotu" aka Aditya. IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

- National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It aims to adapt global best practices to Indian scenario. In this regard, Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) was created in 2016 under DIPP.

470. Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) in New Delhi.
   - CEDA will aid in fast-tracking adoption of advanced analytics in government, with centre aiming to strengthen citizen service delivery through data-driven governance.
   - CEDA aims at providing following services to Government:-
       - Data Quality Assurance Services.
       - Custom-built Data Analytics Solutions.
       - Develop reusable assets.
       - Knowledge Management.
       - Capacity Building and Self Service Analytics.
       - Change Management - CEDA will help ministries in assessing impact from the analytics solutions and help in understanding changes to organizational roles and responsibilities
   - DigiVaarta was also launched on this occasion, to express intention of spreading awareness on DigiDhan. It aims to enable citizen government dialogue and engage citizens in educational and outreach programmes. It has two components –
       - An SMS application which operates from NIC's SMS Gateway on a special Short-code service allotted for this purpose by DoT with the number "14444". Citizens will receive SMS messages which are pre-approved by experts and the response messages will be made available for further action, analysis and research.
       - A Mobile application version of DigiVaarta.

471. Minister of Information & Broadcasting Smriti Zubin Irani Launched a scholarship of INR 25000 in commemoration of Deen Dayal Upadhyay, for people who did exemplary work in development of journalism.

472. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan launched an online portal to enable easy, efficient and transparent booking of common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services under GAIL's pipelines, as first step to facilitate gas trading on a exchange-traded platform in India.
   - The online portal is first-of-its-kind in the natural gas sector of the country. It will provide gas consumers the facility to register pipeline capacity bookings online.

473. Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal launched "Rail Heritage Digitisation Project" of Indian Railways in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture, accessible at *https://artsandculture.google.com/project/indian-railways*.
   - Its a landmark effort to showcase country's Rail Heritage to National and International audience in an online story-telling platform.
   - Railways in India started on 16th April, 1853 between Bori bunder and Thane. Today we have three World Heritage Railways: DHR (Darjeeling Himalayan Railways), NMR (Nilgiri Mountain Railway), KSR (Kalka Shimla Railways).
   - With over 151,000 kilometres of track, 7,000 stations, 1.3 million employees and 160 years of history, Indian Railway is one of the most celebrated railway networks in world.

474. Minister of State for Atomic Energy, Jitendra Singh inaugurated 10KW transmitter of All India Radio at Patnitop in Ramban District of Jammu & Kashmir. This would enable services to reach remote areas of the State in various districts like Ramban, Doda, Udhampur, Anantnag and parts of Jammu. It would be available at an ariel distance of 60 km in the frequency of 101 MHz.

475. Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Nation. Parvati is first Blast Furnace of SAIL that was launched in February 1959 by first President of India (Dr. Rajendra Prasad). It was put down in August 2013 for total rebuilding. With rebuild, annual production capacity of furnace increased from 0.438 Million tonnes (MT) to 1.015 MT.

476. Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh unveiled corporate sports policy for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under Ministry of Steel.
   - Steel CPSEs will discharge their responsibility through infrastructural and institutional support for talent spotting, scholarships, training and coaching.
   - CPSEs under Steel Ministry will form an apex sports body, which will be affiliated to National Level Sports Associations.

477. Ministry of Agriculture and Famers Welfare unveiled Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act 2018, to ensure better price to farmers and encouraging investment from agribusiness and food processing industries.
   - Under contract farming, agricultural production can be carried out based on pre-harvest agreement between buyers and producers (farmers or farmer organisations). It reduces risk of fluctuating market price and demand.

- Model Act seeks to create regulatory and policy framework for contract farming and servives. It covers contract farming in agriculture crops, livestocks, dairy and poultry products. It lays special emphasis on protecting interests of farmers, considering them as weaker of two parties entering into a contract.
- It makes mandatory for covering contracted produce under crop and livestock insurance in operation. Under it, no permanent structure can be developed on farmers' land or premises.
- It establishes Contract Farming Facilitation Group (CFFG) for promoting contract farming and services at village or panchayat at level.

478. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched seed import-export portal to facilitate export-import of seeds and planting material, for making trade process easy. Import export of seeds and planting material is controlled under Import Export Policy 2002-2007. Now, Organisations importing-exporting seeds will not be required to submit their applications in 20 copies.

479. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture launched *Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan* from June 1 to july 31, 2018, to promote best farming practices and double farmers income launched in 25 villages in Aspirational Districts identified by Ministry of Rural Development and NITI Aayog. Activities Include distribution of soil health cards, mini kits of pulses and horticulture plants etc.

480. ▶ Ministry of Civil Aviation notified Draft Passenger Charter defining rights for air passengers, aiming to improve hassle-free air travel experience of air passengers. Salient Features --
- Passenger can cancel air ticket within 24 hours of booking it and if provided travel is to take place after 96 hours, passenger will be able to cancel ticket without any charge. Cancellation charges will be not more than sum of basic fare and fuel surcharge.
- Airline must either offer alternative flight that departs within 2 hours of scheduled departure of flight booked originally or refund ticket cost. Full refund is to be issued If airline doesn't inform passengers about cancelled flight up to 24 hours ahead.
- For delays communicated more than 24 hours before scheduled departure, airline must offer option of full refund of ticket cost if delay is for more than 4 hours.
- If delay results in flight departing next day, then airline will have to offer free hotel stay. These norms will be applicable only if delay is due to fault of airline, and not caused by bad weather.
- If delay results in a passenger missing a connecting flight, then airline will have to pay Rs.5,000 to Rs.20,000. In case of lost baggage, minimum compensation proposed is INR 3000 per kg. If baggage is delayed or damaged, airline is liable to pay Rs. 1,000 per kg.
- If passenger doesn't receive due compensation, grievances can be filed on Ministry of Civil Aviation's AirSewa app or at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) portal.

481. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched digital initiatives of Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export to boost to India's potential for agricultural and food export.
- EIC developed three portals to reduce transaction time and cost in transparent manner.
- Lab-one assessment portal - It will provide unified approach to all stakeholders like accreditation bodies, regulators and laboratories by bringing them together on common platform.
- Export Alert Monitoring portal - It will monitor non-compliances raised by importing countries. It will enable monitoring of alerts and action taken by multiple organizations involved in initial certification in food safety and bio-security.

482. ▶ Ministry of Culture launched *Seva Bhoj Yojna* scheme with outlay of INR 325 Crores for 2018-19 and 2019-20. It envisages to reimburse Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST), to lessen burden of Charitable Religious Institutions who provide Food free of cost without any discrimination to General Public, Including Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram etc.
- It is applicable to Organizations which have been in existence for at least 5 years before applying for financial assistance/grant and who serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month.
- Ministry will register eligible charitable religious institutions for a time period ending with finance commission period and subsequently registration may be renewed by he Ministry, subject to performance evaluation.
- Entity will be permitted to submit reimbursement claim of GST and Central Government share of IGST to designated authority of GST Department at State level in prescribed format during validity of registration.
- Eligible institutions should be registered with Darpan portal.

483. ▶ Ministry of Culture organized 9th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*, in Tehri (Uttarakhand), also subsuming Tehri Lake Festival (where one can explore water sports) within itself.
- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) presents rich diversity and uniqueness of Indian culture and promotes cultural inter-linkages amongst states to strengthen National integration.
- Paired state for Uttarakhand under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix is Karnataka, giving special emphasis to Karnataka in the event.

484. ▶ Ministry of Culture released National Museum Research Bulletin Number 10, revived after gap of 16 years. It also has released Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata:Ek Parichay, a Hindi version of An Introduction To Indus Valley Civilization which among the bestsellers at National Museum.

   ✎ *Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata : Ek Parichay* is Hindi version of An Introduction To Indus Valley Civilization, co-authored by Sanjib Kumar Singhm, Gunjan Srivastava and Rajesh Kumar.

485. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts, aimed at providing clean drinking water. It will involve outlay of 700 crores through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget. 90% of project cost is taken care by Government and remaining 10% is contributed by beneficiary community.

   ✎ Modernisation of 2000 water quality testing laboratories spread across country will also be taken up. INR 1000 crores will be earmarked for addressing drinking water needs of 27,544 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations of country, under National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM).

486. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation selected 10 more iconic sites under Phase III of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of Swachh Bharat Mission, launched at Mana village (Uttarakhand).

   ✎ 10 new iconic sites are - Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Andhra Pradesh), Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana), Vidur Kuti (Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (J&K), Nagvasuki Temple (UP), Ima Keithal market (Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).

   ✎ SIP is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission and was launched in 2016. It was initiated as project to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of cleanliness (swachhata).

   ✎ Phase 1 and 2 of SIP each have 10 Iconic places listed under them.

487. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in New Delhi, a survey to rank all states / districts on basis of rural cleanliness.

   ✎ 6980 villages in 698 districts will be covered. The SSG 2018 will assign 65% weightage to findings and outcome and 35% to service level parameters to be obtained from Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of MDWS.

   ✎ Weights to different elements of SSG are - direct observation (30%), citizen's feedback (35%), service level progress on sanitation (35%).

   ✎ SSG 2018 will be conducted in August 2018. Best states / districts are expected to be awarded on 2nd October 2018.

488. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched a mobile application named Mumbai Weather Live that will provide information on extreme weather events in Mumbai.

489. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences unveiled blueprint of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM), that proposes to explore deep-ocean by emulating success of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in designing and launching satellites. For this, Centre has drawn up five-year, Rs. 8,000 crore plan. Focus will be on technologies for deep-sea mining, underwater vehicles, underwater robotics and ocean climate change advisory services, among other aspects.

490. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences will set up a Cyclone Warning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, by October 2018, after recent extreme weather events striking Kerala and Karnataka. Currently, IMD has cyclone warning centers at Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

   ✎ Earth Sciences Ministry will also set up a C-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Mangalore by end of 2019, which will cover parts of northern Kerala. At present, 2 Doppler Weather Radars are in Kerala, at Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.

491. ▶ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeITY) launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages in partnership with common service centres (CSCs), aiming to transform rural Internet connectivity through BharatNet. They will provide 60,000 WiFi hotspots in rural areas. Wi-Fi Choupals are in addition to broadband connectivity provided gram panchyats through optical fibre network under BharatNet.

492. ▶ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) willl expand its India BPO Promotion Scheme to 1 lakh seats from current 48,000 seats. It will also set up 5th and India's largest National data centre (NDC) in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) with capacity of 5 lakh virtual servers.

   ✎ India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) was Launched in 2014, to incentivize establishment of BPO firms and their extension to Tier II and Tier III cities.

493. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) launched Digital India Internship Scheme along with its website.

   ✎ Under this, 25 interns will be inducted for period of three months. These interns will be paid a stipend of Rs. 10, 000 per month.

   ✎ Eligibility - Indian students from recognized universities who secured over 60% marks in last held degree. Students pursuing B.E/B.Tech or M.E/M.Tech or dual degrees can apply for internships on the portal.

   ✎ Internship will be offered two times in year - summer Internship during May and June and winter Internship during December and January.

🖊 Proposed broad areas for Internship are Cyber Security, e-Governance, Digital Literacy (HRD), International Cooperation & Industrial Promotion, Hardware Industry and Digital Payments and Electronic Testing.

494. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors through 30 courses by 2021 for sustainable conservation of natural resources.

    🖊 GSDP-ENVIS mobile application was also launched to provide more information and applying to courses under GSDP programme.

    🖊 GSDP was launched in 2017 by MoEFCC in partnership with National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development.

495. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) rolled out 'Gaj Yatra', an awareness campaign to protect elephants from Tura in Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Under this, elephant mascot will be taken across districts frequented by jumbo herds for generating awareness.

496. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) declared 438 sq.km. area around Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in Nilgiris as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ)., to prohibit human activities near the reserve, which was declared a tiger habitat in 2007. It is a critical part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve spread over 5,500 sq. km.

497. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released draft of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) proposing multiple strategies to reduce air pollution. NCAP aims to meet prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in a stipulated time frame. However it does not mention any specific target and time frame.

498. ▶ Ministry of HRD has launched a Project called *Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)*, as an integrated platform and portal for online courses. It aims to ensure that every student has access to best quality higher education at affordable cost.

499. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued advisory to all states and Union Territories to not allow manufacture, sale and advertisement of e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).

    🖊 ENDS are devices that heat solution to create aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycolor and glycerin. e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) are most common prototype of ENDS.

500. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued notification for bringing Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act 2017 in force.

    🖊 It aims to safeguard rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It also prohibits requirement for HIV testing as pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education.

501. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched pilot project for transport of sputum specimen for Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis by utilising services of Department of Post in New Delhi.

    🖊 Learning from this pilot project experience will be useful for adaptation of specimen transport mechanism through Postal Department across the country, as Significant proportion of TB patients in India are not tested for their symptoms because specimen does not reach laboratory due to non-availability of specimen transport mechanisms.

502. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified new specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs, applicable w.e.f. 1st September 2018. Under new rules, Government released two separate set of images. The first set will be used on tobacco products from September 1, 2018 for period of 1 year, whereas second set of images will be used from September 1, 2019. All cigarette and tobacco packs will carry new pictorial warnings including 'Quit Today' message from September 1.

503. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare prohibited manufacture of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) for human use with immediate effect.

    🖊 Fixed dose combinations (FDC) Drugs have 2 or more active ingredients in a single dosage. They are widely used to improve patient compliance as it is easier for them to take one drug than several. They are acceptable only when drugs so combined have a therapeutic advantage.

504. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released draft Charter of Patients' Rights prepared by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), aimed at creating consolidating comprehensive document on patients' rights in India.

    🖊 It provides patients with right to emergency medical care and informed consent, right to non-discrimination, seek a second opinion and choose alternative treatment options, if available. It also includes 17 rights with description and draws upon all relevant provisions.

505. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed MoUs with Tata Trusts and Dell to provide a technological platform fornationwide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

506. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed an MoU with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to scale up short term healthcare courses through IGNOU's platform. Under this, curriculum for 10 courses especially designed for health sector, will provide more than 14 lakh trained manpower by 2025.

- With coming up of 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) by 2022 under National Health Protection Mission (NHPM), there will be an urgent need for such health care providers.
- Initially four courses will be launched, namely Home Health Aide, Geriatric Care Assistant, Phlebotomist and General Duty Assistant. Followed by remaining six skill-based curriculum as standardized by MoHFW- Diabetes Educator, Dietetic Aide, EMT-Basic, Dispensing Optician/VT and Medical Equipment Technology Assistant.

507. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will roll out 'Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis' under National Health Mission (NHM) for prevention and control of viral hepatitis. It will have budgetary support of over 517 crores for three years. India aims to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.

508. ▶ Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has extended Phase-1 of FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles) Scheme to provide financial support to electric and hybrid vehicles by another six months till 30 September 2018 or till launch of phase-II.
- FAME-India scheme was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM). It aims at promoting eco-friendly vehicles in the country.

509. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) signed MoU for setting up of an state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs. It will increase the operational effectiveness and will be helpful in rendering timely assistance during emergency situations.

510. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved institution of Home Minister's Special Operation Medal and 3 more Medals- Antarik Suraksha Medal, Asadharan Aashuchan Padak, and Utkrisht & Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal, to be awarded annually.
- HM's Special Operation Medal and Asadharan Aashuchan Padak will be awarded on Independence Day (15th August).
- Antarik Suraksha Medal and Utkrisht & Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal will be announced on Republic Day (26th January).
- Home Minister's Special Operation Medal - Aims to promote high professional standards of Investigation of Crime in State/UT Police and Central Investigating Agencies (CIAs) in country.
- Asadharan Aashuchan Padak - Will be given to security and Intelligence officials for acts of exceptional courage and skill in intelligence gathering.
- Antarik Suraksha Medal - To be bestowed upon Police personnel for operation duty rendered by them for tenure of every 2 years in internal security in Jammu & Kashmir, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) region and North East region.
- Utkrisht and Ati Utkrisht Seva Medal - To be awarded to permanent Police and intelligence personnel in recognition of Long Service of 15 and 25 year and good service records.

511. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) designated National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as nodal authority to curb online child pornography, sexual violence and rape videos. It also has been mandated to launch online portal for receiving complaints and acting on them.

512. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) to allow foreign tourists and travellers to avail of paperless and cashless visa-related services.

513. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) relaxed six-decade-old protected area permit (PAP) regime to allow foreign tourists to access border areas of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur for 5 years effect from April 1, 2018. However, citizens from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan will still be banned from all PAP areas.

514. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) revoked security clearance of Qatar government's state-funded English news broadcaster Al Jazeera, supposedly to be for documentary made by it on militancy in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), which Indian Government viewed as "biased".

515. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will create a National Database of Arms Licenses system from April 2019, with names of all arms licence holders with a unique identification number (UIN), to keeping tab on authorised private gun holders and hold their misuse. Any arms licence without UIN will be considered invalid.

516. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will upgrade National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) to secure government data and control access to it, to prevent leaking of sensitive information.
- NISPG has been prepared by MHA, based on experience of existing security standards and frameworks and global best practices and experience of implementation in wake of expanding information security threat scenario.

517. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs approved renaming Jharkhand's Nagar Untari town and railway station as Banshidhar Nagar, after Bansidhar Temple, dedicated to Krishna in Garhwa district of state. It is being done as part of its including Banshidhar Nagar as part of Krishna circuit and develop it as major tourist attraction under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

518. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs sponsored Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme launched in Gurugram (Haryana), to build bridge between Police and larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside. It focuses on students of class 8th and 9th.

- It does not have any prescribed text book and also any exam. Only one class is proposed in a month. Programme will broadly cover Crime prevention and control.
- Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) with support of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared handbook for imparting instructions.

519. ▸ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released the first ever 'Ease of Living Index' covering 111 Indian cities -
- Andhra Pradesh topped among States, followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh
- It was decided in June 2017 to rank 116 cities (all smart cities and million plus cities) based on liveability parameters. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given highest weightage of 45, institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.
- Ease of Living framework comprised four pillars namely Institutional, Social, Economic and Physical which are further broken down into 78 indicators across 15 categories .
- Top 10 Cities -
    - Pune
    - Navi Mumbai
    - Greater Mumbai
    - Tirupati
    - Chandigarh
    - Thane
    - Raipur
    - Indore
    - Vijaywada
    - Bhopal

520. ▸ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will launch Global Housing Construction Technology Challenge as part of technology sub-mission of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U). It aims to accelerate PMAY-U's target of providing 'housing for all', as it is moving very slower than its rural counterpart.
- Through this, MoHUA will invite ideas for innovative technologies for mass housing projects that can help build houses faster, cheaper and of better quality with sustainable green materials. Winning technologies will be used for cnstruction under PMAY (U).
- Also, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced that over 51 lakh houses have been approved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in the 3 years of its implementation. Out of Which, 28 lakhs houses are already in various stages of construction and 8 lakh completed. PMAY(U) aims provide affordable houses to all poor in urban areas by 2022. Its objective is to construct 2 crore houses across nation.

521. ▸ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA) launched *Technology Challenge: Identifying solutions for cleaning of Sewerage Systems and Septic Tanks,* to promote suitable techniques for cleaning sewers and septic tanks and eliminate need for human entry. It will be conducted for two categories each for cleaning of sewerage and septic tanks to eliminate need for human entry.

522. ▸ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map, under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM–U). It will run throughout October and November 2018 in an effort to increase awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India. It aims to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.

523. ▸ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) announced that National Testing Agency (NTA) will train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers. NTA It will take over all examinations from CBSE (except 10th and 12th board examinations) from 2019 in phased manner. It will be also conducting prestigious Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to prominent engineering colleges.

524. ▸ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched National Digital Library of India (NDLI) on occasion of National Reading Day (June 17) in New Delhi. NDLI aims to make digital educational resources available to all, to empower learning.
- NDLI (under aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)) is a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. It been developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.

525. ▸ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched initiative for development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using massive open online course (MOOC) platform SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). Under first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified.
- NRCS includes varied institutions under Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), in Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, State Universities, UGC's Human Resource Development

Centres (HRDCs), National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training (NITTTRs), IIITs, Open Universities.

526. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) declared medium (5 GW by 2022) and long-term (30 GW by 2030) targets for offshore wind power capacity addition, as a new element in already existing basket of renewable energy of country.

- Target for offshore wind power is moderate in comparison to on-shore wind target of 60 GW and its achievement of 34 GW and solar target of 100 GW by 2022, because of challenges in installing wind power turbines in open seas.
- Global capacity of off-shore wind power is about 17 to 18 GW, led by UK, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands & China.

527. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, aiming at promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land. It provides for integration of both energy sources (wind and solar) at AC and DC level.

- It also provides for flexibility in share of wind and solar components in hybrid project, subject to condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be at least 25 % of rated power capacity of other resource for it to be recognised as a hybrid project.
- Policy permits use of battery storage in hybrid project for optimising output and further reduce variability.
- With significant capacity additions in renewables, and Hybrid Policy aiming at better utilisation of resources, it is envisaged that Hybrid Policy will open-up a new area for availability of renewable power at competitive prices.
- A scheme for new hybrid projects under the policy is also expected shortly.

528. ▶ Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs inaugurated Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project of Government at Parliament House Annexe in New Delhi. e-Vidhan project aims to digitize functioning of State Legislatures to make them paperless.

529. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 to include shale in definition of petroleum, to enable exploration of all hydrocarbons in existing fields which is line with new Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP). It will help in enhancing domestic exploration and production of hydrocarbons and increasing India's energy security and reducing dependency on imports.

- Shale is fine-grained sedimentary rock that forms from compaction of silt and clay-size mineral particles, commonly called as mud. Shale is distinguished from other mudstones due to laminated (rock is made up of many thin layers) and fissile (rock readily splits into thin pieces along the laminations) nature.

530. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in New Delhi and Telangana. Under it, gas connections will be distributed to identified beneficiary women in Delhi. PMUY was launched by PM Narendra Modi in May 2016 with tagline of *Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.*

531. ▶ Ministry of Power will make 24 degrees celsius as mandatory default setting and labeling of air conditioners within few months, as part of campaign to promote energy efficiency.

- Every one degree increase in temperature of air-conditioner results in saving of 6% of electricity consumed.
- Normal human body temperature is approximately 36-37 degree Celsius. Lower temperature around 18-21 degree Celsius controlled by air conditioners is not only uncomfortable but is also unhealthy.

532. ▶ Ministry of Railways has launched new user interface of its Next Generation e-Ticketing (NGeT) System on Indian Railway's (url - www.irctc.co.in/nget).

- Using it, user can enquire trains and check availability of seats without logging in to system, saving time of users.
- It will provide enhanced class-wise, train-wise, destination-wise, departure and arrival time wise and quota-wise filters for facilitating customer while planning their journeys.
- It also has waitlist prediction which will allow user to get probability of wait-listed or RAC tickets getting confirmed.
- User can find out availability for entire Advance Reservation Period (of 120 days), except for few trains in improvised page.

533. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis to promote electric vehicles. It aims at easy identification of electric vehicles for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones besides other proposed benefits like concessional toll.

- India presently has approx 1 to 1.5 lakh electric vehicles. It is projected to grow to about 5% of total vehicles in next five years.

534. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued draft amendments to Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 -

- Makes mandatory for vehicles to affix sticker confirming fitting of Fastag in front wind screen of vehicles.
- Stipulates additional conditions for obtaining national permit.
- Tanker carrying dangerous or hazardous goods will be painted in white colour.
- Fitness certification of transport vehicles will be renewed for 2 years for vehicles up to 8 years old and for 1 year for vehicles older than 8 years.
- Henceforth, pollution under control certificates and driving license can be carried in physical or digital form.

🔧 Goods carrying vehicles will be required to carry goods in closed body of vehicle or container, or use tarpaulin if needed to carry in open.

535. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) published new draft rules to make mandatory for automobile manufacturers to provide high security registration plates (HSRP) to all new vehicles from January 1, 2019. HSRP to be fitted in all classes of motor vehicles will have tamper-proof plates with host of in-built security features and will offer increased protection against theft.

536. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed *One Nation One Tax policy* for seamless movement of commercial vehicles across country. The Group of Ministers is headed by Rajasthan transport minister Yoonus Khan.

🔧 It will put check on people registering their vehicles in low tax states and running them in other states. It will also bring necessary relief to genuine cases requiring transfer of vehicles.

🔧 Uniform tax should be based on invoice price of vehicles in three slabs. 8% tax on vehicles below 10 lakhs, 10% for vehicles costing between 10 -20 lakh, and 12% for vehicles above 20 lakh. Diesel vehicles may have to pay 2% extra taxes, while electric vehicles will be given 2% discount.

537. ▶ Ministry of Tourism expanded Buddhist tourism circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to 21 more states to make it India's first trans-national tourist circuit. Earlier it was envisaged only to 7 major Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

538. ▶ Ministry of Tourism inaugurated India's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The circuit connects Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot, and Tirthgarh in Chhattisgarh.

🔧 Tribal circuit project will improve existing tourist facilities, enhance the overall tourist experience and help in getting more visitors which in return will increase job opportunities in area.

🔧 Under tribal circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Tourism Ministry has sanctioned four projects to Nagaland, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

🔧 Chhattisgarh was considered for the first tribal circuit theme for acknowledging sovereignty of tribes and to promote rich and diverse primitive assets in state.

539. ▶ Ministry of Tourism organized first ever India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in New Delhi, in partnership with Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH).

540. ▶ Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of rural circuit in Kerala. Approved cruise are Malabari Cuisine and Culinary Cruise (Muthappan Cruise). Valapattanam River- Theyyam Cruise AND Mangrove Cruise.

541. ▶ Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) launched Adopt a Heritage Project. Under it, tourist amenities will be developed at selected heritage sites. Engaged Entities will be called as *Monument Mitra* and adopt sites essentially under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.

542. ▶ Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) will expand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in tribal districts, with 3000 such kendras proposed to be set up in 2 years. Initially, it will be taken up in 39 districts with over 50% tribal population and then will be expanded to other Tribal Districts.

🔧 Van Dhan Yojana aims at mainstreaming tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to Non Timber Minor Forest Produce (MFP) at grassroots level. It also aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.

🔧 Through this, share of tribals in value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from 20% to around 60%.

543. ▶ Ministry of Tribal affairs approved establishment of first multipurpose "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh for value addition of Forest Produce, as part of Government's scheme of Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support price (MSP) and development of Value chain for MFP.

544. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources instituted National Water Awards, to encourage efficient management of water resources and create water consciousness in country.

🔧 The awards will be given for 13 categories - Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Municipal Corporation, Best research, innovation and adaptation of new technology for water conservation, Best educative and mass awareness efforts, Best TV show for promoting water conservation, Best Newspaper, Best School, Best Institution for successful campus water usage, Best Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Organizations for Best Religious and Recreational & Tourism Water Uses and Best Industry for industrial water conservation.

545. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation prepared draft Bill which proposes setting up armed Ganga Protection Corps (GPC) to arrest any person who has committed offence of polluting River Ganga punishable under this law.

546. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation approved 2 major irrigation projects and 4 flood management schemes with a cumulative cost of INR 84748 crores from six States/ UT.

- Kaleshwaram Project (Telengana), will divert 195 TMC (5522 Million Cubic Meter) of Godavari water to irrigate about 18.25 lakh acres of land in 13 districts of Telangana. It is worth approx INR 80190 crores.
- Upper Pravara (Nilwande-II) Project (Maharashtra) will irrigate an area of 2,12,758 acres. It is worth approx INR 2232 crores.

547. ▸ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation launched fortnightly video contest *Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao*, to encourage people for better water management. Ministry joined hands with MyGov portal (www.mygov.in) for this contest. Contest will last till 4th November 2018 and three winners will be chosen every fortnight.
- Video should be uploaded on YouTube and share its accessible link in MyGov contest page, with duration 2 - 10 minutes. Prize amount for first, second and third positions is Rs 25,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively.

548. ▸ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) approved setting up additional 100 One Stop Centres (OSCs) for women affected by violence, in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- OSC are funded from Nirbhaya Fund. Aim is to provide women with services such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal aid and counselling, temporary stay for 5 days etc.

549. ▸ Ministry of Women and Child Development announced to observe September as the National Nutrition Month to mark the country's fight against malnutrition. Recently, Rajasthan State Govt also announced to observe September as Nutrition Month every year.

550. ▸ Ministry of Women and Child Development inaugurated widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at Vrindavan in Mathura (Uttar Pradesh). Krishna Kutir is special home for 1000 widows set under Swadhar Greh scheme and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by government organization.

551. ▸ Ministry of Women and Child Development launched report titled *Women in Prisons*, aiming to build an understanding of various entitlements of women in prisons and possible methods for resolution of the same. Report contains 134 recommendations for improving lives of women facing several issues.

552. ▸ Ministry of Women and Child Development partnered with NASSCOM to improv its nutrition monitoring app, Integrated Child Development Services-Common Application Software (ICDS-CAS), developed under Poshan Abhiyan (*PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment*) that aims to fight malnourishment and stunting.

553. ▸ Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched India's first *National Scholarship Portal Mobile App* (NSP Mobile App), to ensure a smooth and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weaker sections. Using it, Students will be able to apply for scholarships sitting in their home.

554. ▸ Mizoram government will introduce a resolution in state legislature objecting to Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016, as the amendment will legalise thousands of Buddhists (Chakmas) who have illegally entered Mizoram from Bangladesh.
- Also, cabinet approved Sinlung Hills Council Bill 2018, signed as result of peace accord betwee Mizoram government and erstwhile underground Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) in April 2018.

555. ▸ MoU was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency (NHA), to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.

556. ▸ Monsoon Season 2018 - 19 Passed Bills -
- Rajya Sbha passed State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017 to merge six subsidiary banks with SBI. It was approved by Lok Sabha in 2017. It repeals State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959 AND State Bank of Hyderabad Act 1956, that established SBI subsidiary Banks.
- Lok Sabha passed *The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Second Amendment) Bill 2017* to abolish 'no detention policy' in schools (meaing that no child can be held back in any class until completion of elementary school (classes 1-8)). It will empower central / state government to allow schools to hold back child in class 5 / 8, after re-examination on being failed at first.
- Lok Sabha passed Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill 2017 to reduce number of cheque dishonour cases pending in courts, amending Negotiable Instruments Act 1881.
  - Interim compensation - Allows court trying offence related to cheque bouncing to direct drawer (person who writes cheque) to pay interim compensation to complainant. It will not exceed 20% of cheque amount and will be paid by drawer within 60 days.
  - Deposit in case of appeal - If drawer convicted in cheque bouncing case files appeal, appellate court may direct him to deposit minimum of 20% of compensation awarded by trial court during conviction. This will be in addition to any interim compensation.
  - Returning interim compensation - If drawer is acquitted during trial or by appellate court, court will direct complainant to return interim compensation along with interest.
- Lok Sabha passed National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill 2017, to approve institutions which are funded by Centre or states, but do not have recognition. It amends NCTE Act 1993. Key Features Include Retrospective recognition of certain teacher education institutions and permits these institutions to start new course / training in teacher education to institutions.

- Rajya Sabha passed Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2013 . It amends Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) 1988, to bring it in line with United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Key Features Include
    - Making Giving bribe a punishable offence
    - Making it mandatory to take prior approval of competent authority to conduct any investigation into offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant.
    - Sets trail time period. In case of delays, reasons for it must be recorded for every extension of six months obtained. Total trial period may not exceed 4 years.
    - Anyone who is caught bribing government officials can be sentenced to a jail term of up to 7 years.
- Lok Sabha passed Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018 that aims to curb practice of evading criminal prosecution by economic offenders fleeing from country to evade clutches Indian law by remaining outside jurisdiction of Indian courts. Key Features -
    - It is applicable in cases where total value involved in such economic offences is Rs.100 crore or more.
    - It establishes Special Court under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 to declare a person as FEO. court will appoint 'administrator' to oversee confiscated property.
    - It empowers director / deputy director (appointed under Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002) to attach any property mentioned in application with permission of special court. Attachment will continue for 180 days, unless extended by court.
    - Bill allows any civil court or tribunal to disallow person declared FEO, from filing or defending any civil claim.
    - Director / deputy director will have powers vested of civil court.
    - Appeals against orders of special court will lie before High Court.
- Lok Sabha passed Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2018, that seeks to replace Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) with a board of governors.
    - It abolishes CCH, as it does not have the powers to deal with its corrupt chief and other members.
    - New board will comprise seven eminent homeopathy practitioners and administrators to be appointed by government.
- Lok Sabha passed Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2018 -
    - Jail term of minimum 20 years or life imprisonment or death for rape of girl under 12 years.
    - Increases minimum punishment from 10 years to 20 years for crime of rape of girl under 16 years, which can be extended to imprisonment for rest of life.
    - Increases minimum punishment for rape of women from rigorous imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.
    - Investigation and trial must be completed in two months. It proposes 6 months' time limit for disposal of appeals in rape cases.
557. ▶ Monsoon Session Passed Bills (August 2018) -
- Parliament passed Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill that seeks to provide constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
    - It provides for granting of constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, to extend Benefits given to SC / STs to backward classes.
    - Cabinet also decided to amend the SC/ST Act to further strengthen the law to protect their rights. A committee has been set up under G Rohini to examine sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes.
- Parliament passed Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill 2018. It enables creation of commercial divisions in High Courts and commercial courts at district level to adjudicate commercial disputes. Features -
    - Bill Reduction in pecuniary limits, from 1 crore to 3 lakh.
    - Parent Act barred commercial courts to be constituted in cases where High Court has original jurisdiction to hear commercial cases. Bill removes this bar and allows states to constitute commercial courts where High Courts have original jurisdiction.
    - Allows state governments to notify commercial appellate courts at the district judge level in areas where High Courts do not have ordinary original civil jurisdiction.
    - Introduces pre-institution mediation process in cases where no urgent, interim relief is contemplated, to provide parties with opportunity to resolve commercial disputes outside ambit of courts through authorities.
    - Bill removes provision of counterclaim in relation to transfer of suits in a commercial dispute of at least Rs. 1 crore in civil court.
    - It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.

- Parliament passed National Sports University Bill 2018, to set up India's first National Sports University in Imphal (Manipur). It is mandated to promote sports education in areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management, and sports coaching. Bill empowers It to grant degrees, diplomas and certificates. It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- Parliament passed Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill 2018 -
    - Investigating officer will not require approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused.
    - Preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
    - SC/ST Act 1989 states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail.  The Bill seeks to clarify that this provision will apply despite any judgements or orders of a court that provide otherwise.
    - Bill restores original provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. It prohibits commission of offences against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) and establishes special courts for trial of such offences and rehabilitation of victims. It overturns a March 2018 Supreme Court judgment which diluted some provisions of law protecting Dalits and tribals from atrocities.
    - It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- Parliament passed Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2018 -
    - Jail term of minimum 20 years or life imprisonment or death for rape of girl under 12 years.
    - Increases minimum punishment from 10 years to 20 years for crime of rape of girl under 16 years, which can be extended to imprisonment for rest of life.
    - Increases minimum punishment for rape of women from rigorous imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.
    - Investigation and trial must be completed in two months. It proposes 6 months' time limit for disposal of appeals in rape cases.
    - It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- Lok Sabha passed Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2017, to extend facility of 'proxy voting' to overseas Indians, on lines of service voters. It amends Representation of People Act (RPA) 1950 and 1951 to allow for proxy voting and make certain provisions of these Acts gender-neutral.
    - Approx 1 crore Indians are settled abroad, of which 60 lakh may be within eligible voting age. By granting them proxy voting rights, overseas Indians will be able to exercise franchise during elections and also need not to spend foreign currency to come to India during elections.
- Lok Sabha passed Arbitration and Conciliation Bill (Amendment) 2018, which provides for time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of arbitrator, to amend Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.
    - It contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration, and defines law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
    - Key Provisions -
        - Seeks to establish Arbitration Council of India (ACI), for promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
    - Relaxation of time limits - Under 1996 Act, arbitral tribunals are required to make their award within a period of 12 months for all arbitration proceedings. Amendment bill has proposed to remove this time restriction for international commercial arbitrations.
    - New Bill requires that written claim and the defence to the claim in an arbitration proceeding, should be completed within six months of the appointment of the arbitrators.
    - Bill provides that all details of arbitration proceedings will be kept confidential except for details of the arbitral award in certain circumstances.
    - Applicability of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 2015:  The bill clarifies that the 2015 Act shall only apply to arbitral proceedings that started on or after October 23, 2015.
- Parliament passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (2nd Amendment) Bill 2018, seeking to replace Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018. Provisions -
    - It clarifies that home buyers under a real estate project should be treated as financial creditors.
    - Voting threshold for routine decisions taken by committee of creditors has been reduced from 75 % to 51 %. For certain key decisions, this has been reduced to 66 %.

- Allows withdrawal of a resolution application submitted to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the Code, after approval of 90 % of committee of creditors.
- Features of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 -
  - Section 29(A) of IBC 2016 has been amended to exempt pure play financial entities from being disqualified on account of non-performing assets (NPA).
  - Promoters of companies with turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will be allowed to bid. Earlier, they were barred from bidding as government feared that they will walk away with stressed assets at a discount.
  - It provides a year time to Resolution Applicant to obtain necessary statutory clearances from central, state and other authorities.
- Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, outlawing talaq-e-biddat. According to it, talaq-e-biddat has been made a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
  - Three provisions of the Bill - Instant triple talaq is illegal, It imposes a jail term of up to 3 years and fine, It provides additional safeguards from the Act being misused It also provides for subsistence allowance to Muslim women and custody of minor children as may be determined by the magistrate.
  - It will soon be tabled in Rajya Sabha, for clearance.
- Parliament passed Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, regarding compensation payable for acquisition of immovable property by the Centre for defence and security purposes. It was earlier passed by Lok Sabha in July 2018.
  - The act enables central government to requisition immovable property (or land) for any public purpose like defence and security purposes. Amendment also involves a provision to allow the Centre to re-issue the notice of acquisition to make sure that the property owner gets an opportunity to be heard.

558. ▶ Mughalsarai Railway Junction of Uttar Pradesh renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station.
- RSS ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was found dead in mysterious circumstances near Mughalsarai station in February 1968.

559. ▶ Mumbai police will use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance and install 'panic buttons' in order to enhance safety of women in the city, as part of INR 252 crores Safe City to be implemented in 3v years.

560. ▶ Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji '*Maharaj*' International Airport, To pay more respect to great maratha warrior. Mumbai's airport was formerly known as Sahar International Airport. It was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in 1999.

561. ▶ Muthoot Fincorp became first major private sector player to partner with National Skill Development Corporation to train over 10,000 youth over 3 years.

562. ▶ Myanmar joined India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), making it 68th signatory to Framework Agreement of ISA.
- ISA was jointly launched by India and France in November 2015 at Paris on side lines of COP21 UN Climate Change Conference. Its Framework Agreement came into force in December 2017.
- It is headquartered at campus of Natioanl Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram, Harayana, making it first international intergovernmental treaty based organization to be headquartered in India. Upendra Tripathy is current head of ISA.

563. ▶ NITI Aayog Approved Bue Print for National health Stack, a Digital Healthcare Infrastructure To Implement Centre's Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- National Health Stack will facilitate collection of comprehensive healthcare data across the country. It Includes assigning a Digital Health ID for every Indian Citizen, Which will enable privileged medical institutions to access Person's Health Data.
- Ayushman Bharat aims to provide a coverage of INR 5 Lakh per family annually and benefit more than 10 crore poor families. NITI Aayog has invited comments from stakeholders on consultation paper, by August 1, 2018.

564. ▶ NITI Aayog Launched a Composite Water Management Index as a tool to improve management of water resources.  This index is an attempt to inspire States and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water. States are categortized as *North Eastern and Himalayan States* AND *Other States*. Outcomes of report (for 2016 - 17) -
- In Other States,Gujarat is ranked at top in reference year (2016-17), followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Tripura is at top followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.
- In terms of incremental change (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan is at top in general States and Tripura first amongst North Eastern and Himalayan States.

565. ▶ NITI Aayog and ABB India signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to government realise its vision of 'Make in India' through advanced manufacturing technologies that incorporate latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence. NITI Aayog will work with ABB

across various sectors, to suggest solutions for digitalisation, incorporating Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

566. ▶ NITI Aayog and Actor Sushant Singh Rajput collaborated to promote 2 major initiatives of NITI Aayog - promotion of BHIM and Women Entrepreneurship Platform.

567. ▶ NITI Aayog and Google signed a Statement of Intent (SOI), to work on a range of initiatives to help build AI (Artificianl Intelligence) ecosystem across country.

568. ▶ NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real-time advisory to farmers in aspirational districts. Aim is to enable cooperation in the use of technology to provide insights to farmers to improve crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the overarching goal of improving farmers' incomes.

569. ▶ NITI Aayog constituted group of experts submitted report titled 'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.'
   🖋 It stated that nearly 30% of springs crucial to water security of people are drying and 50% have reported reduced discharge.
   🖋 It calls for spring mapping and revival, using 8 steps protocol should be taken up across Himalayan states in phased manner, applying carrying capacity concept to all major tourist destinations and implementing and monitoring tourism sector. It also has mooted 8-year programme to overhaul spring water management.
   🖋 Meghalaya with 3,810 villages with springs has highest number of these water sources in Eastern Himalayan States. Sikkim had greatest density with 94% of its villages having spring. In Western Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir had both highest number of villages with springs at 3,313 and greatest density of 50.6%.

570. ▶ NITI Aayog has made computer chip manufacturer NVIDIA its deep learning technology partner to support its MoveHack event. NVIDIA will help NITI Aayog to solve grand challenge of making innovations in mass mobility matter of national importance using Artifical Intellegence (AI) and deep learning.
   🖋 MoveHack is global mobility hackathon event organized by NITI Aayog to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
   🖋 Deep learning technology is subset of machine learning (ML) in artificial intelligence (AI) that has networks capable of learning unsupervised from data that is unstructured or unlabelled.

571. ▶ NITI Aayog identified 117 districts as Aspirational Districts, for 2nd phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), in which central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges(MDCs) in 'Aspirational Districts. During first phase of RUSA, central assistance to States has been provided for creation of one Model Degree College each in 60 Educationally Backward Districts.

572. ▶ NITI Aayog launched *Pitch to MOVE* mobility pitch competition, aiming to provide budding entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. Winners will be felicitated during Global Mobility Summit to be held in New Delhi in September 2018.
   🖋 Pitch to MOVE aims to identify startups, which will help vision of Shared, Connected, Intermodal and Environment Friendly Mobility in India. It is available at *http://mobilitypitch.movesummit.in*

573. ▶ NITI Aayog launched Atal New India Challenge under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with aim to bring-in innovations and technologies relevant to people. It will focus on efforts towards solving problems in core areas, to have direct impact on improving lives of citizens and generate employment.

574. ▶ NITI Aayog launched Online Course on Digital Payments, titled 'Understanding Digital Payments'. It has been designed especially for India by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) a specialized UN Agency in ICT in consultation with NITI Aayog and Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
   🖋 It is being offered free of cost and is hosted by ITU Academy online, targeted at mid-level Government officers. Course duration is two weeks (1st to 15th October 2018).

575. ▶ NITI Aayog launched global mobility hackathon Move Hack to crowdsource solutions aimed at future of mobility in India. It is first platform in world that has enmeshed public transport, private transport, road safety, multimodal connectivity and new age transport technologies such as zero emission vehicles and intra city aerial transport spearheaded by Government.

576. ▶ NITI Aayog recommended that Ministry of Agriculture to take up mission on shifting cultivation to ensure inter-ministerial convergence between different ministries. Highlights -
   🖋 State governments have divergent approaches towards shifting cultivation. creating confusion among grass-roots level workers and jhum farmer.
   🖋 It calls for policy coherence and recognising land for shifting cultivation as agricultural land where farmers practise agro-forestry for production of food rather than as forestland.
   🖋 Shifting Cultivation

- It is traditional agricultural practice that involves clearing vegetative forest cover on land and slopes of hills, drying and burning it before onset of monsoon and cropping on it thereafter. After harvest, this land is left fallow and vegetative regeneration is allowed on it till plot becomes reusable for same purpose in cycle. In north east India, it is called as jhum cultivation.
- Shifting cultivation causes in long term causes problem of land degradation and threat to ecology of the region at large. Burning of forests provide temporary nutrients like potash to soil. Burning of forests results in emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as $CO_2$, $NO_2$.

577. ▶ NITI Aayog released first Delta ranking for 108 aspirational districts to measure their incremental progress across five developmental areas during April and May 2018. 49 key performance indicators were mapped across 5 developmental areas - health and nutrition, education, financial inclusion and skill development, agriculture and water resources and basic Infrastructure.
- Districts started entering data from April 1, 2018 in *Champions of Change* dashboard.
- Most improved - Dahod (Gujarat, rank: 1st), West Sikkim district (Sikkim, 2nd). Ramanathapuram district (Tamil Nadu, 3rd) and Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh, 4th) and YSR Kadapa district (Andhra Pradesh, 5th).
- Least improved - Kupwara (Jammu and Kashmir), Begusarai (Bihar), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Simdega (Jharkhand) and Khagaria( Bihar).

578. ▶ NITI Aayog released five Thematic Reports on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) recognizing uniqueness of Himalayas and challenges for sustainable development, prepared by 5 working groups that were set up by NITI Aayog in June 2017. Areas are -
- Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security, Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region, Transformative Approach to Shifting Cultivation, Strengthening Skill &amp; Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas and Data and Information for Informed Decision Making.
- Inventory and Revival of springs in Himalayas for Water Security.
- Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region.
- Transformative approach to shifting cultivation (i.e. slash and burn (Jhum cultivation)) - There is urgent need for assessment of nature and extent of shifting cultivation area.
- Strengthening Skill and Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas - There is need to set up demand driven network of skill and entrepreneurship development Centers in Himalayan States along with consortium of institutions of high learning for mountain specific research and technology.
- Data/Information for Informed Decision Making - Central Data Management Agency for Himalayan Database must be set up at GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. It should be linked with Hindukush Himalaya Monitoring and Assessment program (HIMAP).

579. ▶ NITI Aayog signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with Lupin Foundation to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme to create templates for concerted development policy. Under this, both parties will partner to improve indicators in education, health and nutrition, financial inclusion and skill development, agriculture and water resources and basic infrastructure in Aspirational Districts.

580. ▶ NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) to work together for implementing Proof-of-Concept (PoC) application for fertilizer subsidy management using Blockchain Technology.

581. ▶ NITI Aayog will build National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) to host and analyse huge amount of data which shall be helpful for citizens to understand spend patterns of government, consumption trends and success of various government policies.

582. ▶ NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) collaborated to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.
- It is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' Discussion Paper that focuses on establishing ICTAI in country through private sector collaboration.
- Based in Bengaluru, Model ICTAI aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas – healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility.
- Learnings developed through this model ICTAI will be used by NITI Aayog to set up future ICTAIs across country.

583. ▶ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) selected 3,000 additional schools for establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), bringing the total number of ATL schools to 5441. Selected schools shall receive a grant of Rs 20 lakh spread over 5 years to establish Atal Tinkering Labs for nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among secondary school children across India.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in country.

🖋 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) create innovators, Atal Incubation Centres and support to Established Incubation Centreensure that innovations are taken to market and help create enterprises around these innovations.

584. ▶ NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurs Platform (WEP) signed Statement of Intent (SoIs) with *Shri Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank, Indiabulls Housing Finance, SREI Infrastructure Finance, Srimanta Sankar Mission and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA),* to create opportunities and support women entrepreneurs. WEP was launched on International Women's day (March 8, 2018).

585. ▶ NTPC adopted iconic Charminar of Hyderabad (Telangans) under Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. NTPC, in partnership with the GHMC, will take up development and beautification works at Charminar.

586. ▶ National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) released report HIV Estimations 2017, stating Maharashtra has highest number of people living with HIV in India, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In 2017, India had around 21.40 lakh people living with HIV (PLHIV) with adult prevalence of 0.22%.

587. ▶ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) drafted fee regulations to put in place uniform fee framework to check increases in school fees by unaided private schools. NCPCR will recommend these draft regulations to Ministry of Human Resource Development. It Sugsests -

🖋 10% yearly cap on fee hike permissible by private, unaided schools.

🖋 Setting up district fee regulatory authority in states to monitor school fee increases.

🖋 Formula for determining fees, based on school's location, costs incurred, revenue earned, student strength and other parameters.

🖋 It proposes revenue fines of 1 %, 2 %, 5 % on first 3 violations and bar admissions after any further violations.

588. ▶ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) will constitute 'Mediation Cell' for cases of child custody dispute in NRI marital discord. The Cell will resolve cases of children who were taken away by one of the spouse without the permission of the other spouse due to marital discord or domestic violence.

589. ▶ National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) initiated process of introducing QR code (Quick Response code) in their textbooks, aimed at helping students understand chapters better by watching film or reading additional content on laptops and digital boards.

590. ▶ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is creating a national registry of crimes against women, amid growing concern over incidents of sexual assaults. Records will be sourced from the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

591. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) sigend pact with Macquarie for road projects under highway monetisation drive.

592. ▶ National Institute for Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh) successfully conducted its Expedition to Mount Everest, making it first time that any National Institute expedition team has put eight members on top of Everest in First attempt.

593. ▶ National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has installed a remote sensing instrument- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) for assessment of offshore wind resource at Gulf of Khambhat, off Gujarat Coast.

594. ▶ National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issued Expression of Interest (EoI) for first offshore wind energy project of India in Gulf of Khambat off the coast of Gujarat, with 1000 MW (1 GW) capacity. MNRE is plannning to install at least 5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2022.

595. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) launched *Yamuna River Front Development (RFD) project* implemented by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), named *Asita* (Another name for River Yamuna). It aims to restore, revive and rejuvenate river's floodplains and make them accessible to the people of Delhi.

596. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Campaign was initiated as part of Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component of Namami Gange programme.

597. ▶ National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), India's first university in transport sector, has started functioning. It is presently functioning at National Academy of Indian Railwaysm in Vadodara (Gujarat). University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University are its international partners. It offers two undergraduate courses: BSc Transportation Technology and BBA Transportation Managements.

598. ▶ National Security Guard (NSG) became first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of railway warrant. With this, NSG personnel don't have to carry railway warrants as Buying tickets through railway warrant system is a lengthy process.

599. ▶ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed MoU with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

600. ▶ Navratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) signed MoU with Ministry of Mines, setting highest ever target of Rs 9350 crore revenue from operations for FY 2018-19, 15% higher than last year.

🖋 It aims at production of 2.1 million tons Alumina with 100% capacity utilisation & an optimum Aluminium production target of 4.15 lakh tonnes.

601. ▶ Nissan Motors signed MoU with Government of Kerala to establish a new global center for its digital operations in India.

602. ▶ Niti Aayog proposed 15-point action plan named "Breathe India" for combating air pollution in ten most polluted cities.

- ✎ Government should increase focus on electric and hybrid vehicles. Procurement of electric vehicles (EVs) should be mandatory for vehicles for central government use. Central government offices should replace existing fleets older than 15 years to electric vehicles by April, 2021.
- ✎ Niti Aayog has suggested a carrot-and-stick policy towards air pollution adopted in many European countries. It has called for implementing a large scale feebate programme beginning 2020.
- ✎ Niti Aayog favoured setting up smog-free towers in cities for providing quick relief from sudden spike in air pollution. Smog-free towers are an innovative technological solution deployed across Europe, which cleans polluted air in an area around it.
- ✎ To deal with Construction dust, Niti Aayog asked government to enforce use of ready-made concrete.
- ✎ Recommended strategic decommissioning of inefficient power plants, primarily running on coal. Renewable energy sources must be deployed and preferred.
- ✎ Suggested government to push to rooftop solar panel power generators. Increasing solar power generation is a critical measure that needs to be adopted in order to reduce air pollution.

603. ▶ Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) has been honoured with 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 in Odisha.

604. ▶ North Eastern state Arunachal Pradesh has been put on air connectivity map after its first commercial flight (of Alliance Airlines) landed at Pasighat Airport (East Siang district), under UDAN scheme. Alliance Air (subsidiary of Air India), will operate flight services on Kolkata-Guwahati-Pasighat route thrice a week.

605. ▶ Northeast Frontier Railway started operating one lease Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) on fortnightly basis, connecting Northeast to West Coast, Connecting New Guwahati in Assam to Kalyan in Maharashtra with stoppages at New Jalpaiguri, Kalumna Goods Shed.
- ✎ It would enable farmers in North east to market their products like tea, betal nuts, pineapple, jute, horticulture products, cane furniture etc. at the retail markets in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Nagpur, Pune etc.
- ✎ A single PCET can carry consignment equivalent to 52 trucks. This will ensure less Carbon Emission which will contribute for Green India & saving of foreign exchange on account of purchasing of fuel.

606. ▶ Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh agreed to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum products, amid rising fuel prices. They also have agreed to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit.

607. ▶ Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam became first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) in India to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'. Legatrix is cloud-based compliance management system, to effectively manage legal and regulatory compliances through monitoring control at different levels.

608. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched a 'Star Rating program' for industries to support State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) regulatory efforts to reduce pollution. It will rate industries from 1 to 5 based on their compliance to pollution standards.

609. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 300 crores Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district, to irrigate 5,800 hectares of agricultural field.

610. ▶ Odisha Govenment launched Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana as a new Health Insurance Scheme for journalists. It provides INR 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists, initially covering families of around 3200 journalists. It is named after prominent social worker Gopalbandhu Das.

611. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Green Mahanadi Mission*, a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along Mahanadi river and its tributaries. It aims to stop soil erosion on river banks and recharge groundwater reserves. Odisha government will also set up a riverine port on river Mahanadi in Kendrapara district.

612. ▶ Odisha Government signed MoU with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) to enhance effective management of all kinds of disasters, aimed at automating risk management, advisory generation and dissemination.

613. ▶ Odisha Government unveiled first-ever 'Tribal Atlas of Odisha', a compilation of demographic and cultural information of the tribal population in state, as first-of-its-kind tribal compilation in India. It gives information on tribal regions in state and key demographic indicators like literacy, sex ratio and education.

614. ▶ Odisha Govt. would implement its own food security act from October 2, 2018. It would cover nearly 34.44 lakhs people left out of National Food Security Act (NFSA).

615. ▶ Odisha Special Task Force (STF) launched drive to bust international syndicate that peddles pangolin, one of world's most illegally traded mammals. It requested Home Ministry to ask Myanmar government to block transit route for smuggled pangolin under Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). Pangolin is only scaly mammal on planet. Of its 8 species worldwide, 2 are found in India (Chinese pangolin and Indian pangolin).

616. ▶ Odisha State Assembly has passed resolution seeking creation of 49 Member Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad or second house of legislature).
   🖌 Resolution now will be sent to Central Government (Union cabinet) for approval, following which it will be tabled in both houses of Parliament. Thereafter, presidential assent is required to make it Act.
   🖌 India has bicameral system of legislature. Just as Parliament has two Houses, States can have Legislative Council (LC) in addition to Legislative Assembly if they choose to. This option is available under Article 171 of Constitution.
   🖌 Currently, seven states have Legislative Councils viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. Proposals to create Councils in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament.
   🖌 Legislative Council of state cannot have MLCs more than one-third of total number of MLAs of state assembly and not less than 40 members. Jammu & Kashmir is exception, as Section 50 of state's Constitution, Assembly has 87 members and Legislative Council 36.
   🖌 Tenure of Member of Legislative Council (MLC) is six years (similar to Rajya Sabha MPs).

617. ▶ Odisha assembly approved naming newly-built Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. It will be the second airport in Odisha to be renamed, after Biju Patnaik International airport in Bhubaneswar.

618. ▶ Odisha government constituted a *Heritage Cabinet*, headed by CM Naveen Patnaik, aimed at protection of cultural and historical monuments.

619. ▶ Odisha government has set up a state-of-the-art interpretation centre at Bhitarkania National Park to showcase its flora, fauna and rich biodiversity.

620. ▶ Odisha government raised health cover from 5 lakh to 7 lakh under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) for women. CM Naveen Patnaik also sanctioned 31.54 crore for 154 panchayats in seven blocks of 6 districts under Ama Gaon Ama Bikash Yojana.

621. ▶ Odisha government signed MOU with two US-based agencies to eradicate malaria. in. The 2 agencies are: 'Malaria No More' and 'Malaria Elimination Trust'.

622. ▶ Odisha government signed a MoU with Hyderabad-based Pullela Gopichand Badminton Foundation (PGBF) for setting up of P Gopichand Badminton Academy in Odisha.

623. ▶ Odisha government signed an MoU with global organization Sightsavers to prevent avoidable blindness , to strengthen education for blind students. This would benefit 25,000 visually impaired and 1.3 lakh students with special needs.

624. ▶ Odisha will host Triennial of International Art (TIA), India's first private sector triennial, in December-January, as a 40 day event.

625. ▶ Odisha's government decided to increase the inter-caste marriage incentive from 1 lakh to INR 2.5 lakh. They can withdraw amount only after 3 years of marriage.

626. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) made oil and gas discoveries in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, as category-III basins, having hydrocarbon and are considered geologically prospective for exploration.
   🖌 Madhya Pradesh - Deposits were discovered in block in Vindhyan basin. This find is at 3,000-plus meters deep and is being now tested.
   🖌 West Bengal - Deposits discovered in well in Ashok Nagar of 24 Parganas district.
   🖌 India has 26 sedimentary basins, of which only seven category-I basins have commercial production of oil and gas. It is in the process of adding eighth basin by putting Kutch offshore discovery (it holds about one trillion cubic feet of gas reserves) to production.

627. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) began its operations in Nagayalanka block in Krishna District (Andhra Pradesh). This Early production System (EPS) has cost 6804 crores.

628. ▶ Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) launched a digital campaign, ThinkForHealth, calling for ideas to improve access to healthcare in india, in partnership with Telangana government.

629. ▶ PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Indian Yoga Association (IYA) signed MoU to Promote wellness, spiritual and cultural tourism in Krishna Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Under it, 12 destinations spread across five states have been proposed.

630. ▶ PM Modi inaugurated Delhi Metro's Mundka-Bahadurgarh section, The 11.2 km elevated corridor as part of Delhi Metro's Green Line. Delhi Metro network is now expanded to 288 km with 208 stations. This is third line of connectivity to the neighbouring state of Haryana.

631. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Bansagar Canal Project, aimed to boost irrigation in Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
   🖌 He also laid Foundation Stone of Mirzapur Medical College, inaugurated 100 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in State and launched a bridge over River Ganga at Balughat (Chunar), to facilitate connectivity between Mirzapur and Varanasi.

632. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced increase in remuneration for ASHA and Anganwadi workers.
   🖌 ASHA workers routine incentive has been doubled. In addition, all ASHA workers and their helpers will be provided free insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana.

- Anganwadi workers - Those receiving Rs. 3000 so far, will now receive Rs. 4500. Similarly those receiving Rs. 2200, will now get Rs. 3500. honorarium for Anganwadi helpers also has been increased from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2250.

633. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced that April 28 will be remembered as a historic day as on this day, every single village of India was electrified, few days before deadline of May 10, 2018.
- Leisang, a village in central Manipur's Senapati district, was last one to receive electricity on April 29, 2018 under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).
- Out of 18,452 villages that were without electricity in 2015, 17,181 have been electrified. Others are either uninhabited or classified as grazing reserves.
- Still, 3.2 crore homes are still not electrified as government considers a village electrified, if it has basic electrical infrastructure; and 10 % of its places including schools, local administrative offices and health centres have power.
- PM Modi in his speech on August 15, 2015 promised electrification all un-electrified villages within 1000 days. For this, government launched Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

634. ▶ PM Narendra Modi dedicated Mohanpura Project to the Nation, to facilitate irrigation of agricultural land in Rajgarh district (Madhya Pradesh), which is among 115 Aspirational Districts identified by Government for putting special developmental focus.
- INR 3866 crores project includes a dam and a canal system which will provide drinking water to over 400 villages.

635. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway-135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE).
- It has been completed in about 500 days, as against target of 910 days with cost INR 11000 crores. PM also inaugurated first phase of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, India's first 14 lane expressway and spans from Nizamuddin Bridge to Uttar Pradesh border.
- Several Features of Expresswauy Include Solar power Plants, Rainwater harvesting, Closed tolling system, Weigh-in-Motion (WIMs) equipment, Auto Challans, Intelligent Traffic management AND Green cover.

636. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid Foundation Stone of Pakal Dul Power Project in J & K -
- Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project -
  - With capacity of 330 MW, This project in Bandipora District of Jammu and Kashmir is a run of river scheme, that is designed to divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in Jhelum River basin.
  - It has been completed at cost of INR 5882 crores. Kishangana H.E. Project will provide free power of 13 % to J & K, of approx 133 crores per year.
- Pakal Dul -
  - With 1000 MW capacity, it will be largest Hydro Power Project in J & K on completion. To be built on Marusadar River (a right bank tributary of Chenab), It is also first storage Project in state. Its sansctioned cost is INR 8112 crores.
  - As it is a storage project, it shall improve water availability during lean season.
  - It will employ Around 3000 persons during construction and 500 persons shall be employed during operation phase.
  - J&K will get 12 % free power after 10 years of commissioning of Project.

637. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Zojila tunnel project, to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. Its Length will be 14.2 km, making it country's longest road tunnel. It will cut down time taken to cross Zojila pass from 3.5 hours to 15 minutes. It will also be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel and will be built at a cost of INR 6,809 crores.

638. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated several developmental projects in Chhattisgarh -
- Launched Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur Smart City.
- Launched modernized and expanded Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Laid foundation stone for IIT Bhilai.
- Inaugurated air services between Jagdalpur and Raipur.

639. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) in Dwarka (New Delhi). On completion, it will be biggest indoor exhibition space in India and also rank among the top 10 in world, with capacity to accommodate 11,000 persons, 5 exhibition halls, 1-kilometre long foyer etc. The project has estimated cost of INR 25703 crores.
- It will be implemented by India International Convention and Exhibition Centre Ltd, a 100% government-owned company set up by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

640. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of country's first Mobile Open Exchange (MOX) zone in Noida (Uttar Pradesh), to act as catalyst for growth of mobile and allied sectors in state. MOX will be dedicated ecosystem for mobile industry, providing integrated platform to mobile manufacturers, research and development (R&D) and allied industries. PM Modi also launched 81 investment projects worth INR 60,000 crores in Uttar Pradesh.

641. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone today for 2400MW first phase of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand, as a 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and NTPC Owned Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN). PVUNL will develop it in two phases: 2,400 MW (3x800MW) in Phase-I and 1,600 MW (2x800 MW) in Phase-II.

   ✎ It will allocate 85 % of power to Jharkhand. Under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) scheme, it will ensure 24x7 power availability to households.

   ✎ Engineering, Procurement & Construction contract of the project has been awarded to BHEL. Commissioning of first unit is envisaged in 2022.

642. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive with transport capacity of 6000 tonnes from Madhepura locomotive factory of Bihar, made with help of French company Alstom.

   ✎ India Joins Russia, China, Germany and Sweden that have successfully run over 12000 horsepower capacity electric Locomotives.

   ✎ Alstom will deliver 800 high horsepower locomotives over 11 years to India. First five locomotives will be imported while remaining 795 will be manufactured in India.

643. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched fortnight-long countrywide campaign- Swachhata hi Seva 2018, to mark start of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi on October 02, 2018.

   ✎ On this occasion, Jammu and Kashmir state has been declared open defecation free (ODF).

   ✎ Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019. Key Activities Include -

      ✎ National Launch, School Engagement - *September 15*

      ✎ Swachhata Sabhas: *September 16*

      ✎ Seva Diwas: *September 17*

      ✎ Railways Swachhata Divas – *September 22*

      ✎ Antyodaya Divas – *September 25*

   ✎ Also, President Ram Nath Kovind launched logo and web portal (http://gandhi.gov.in/) for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi on Oct 02, 2019. Logo is --



   ✎

644. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched work for India's first Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant with pet coke blending will come up in Talcher (Odisha), developed by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (joint venture of GAIL (29.67 %), Coal India (29.67%), Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCFL-29.67%) and Fertilizer Corporation of India (10.99%).

   ✎ It will be built at an estimated investment of Rs. 13,000 crore and is targeted to be commissioned by 2022. On completion, this plant will have capacity of producing 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Neem coated prilled urea using coal and petcoke as feedstock. Neem coated urea reduces leaching of nitrogen into soil and checks diversion of urea from agriculture uses.

   ✎ It will use gas produced from coal, thus reducing dependence on urea and gas imports. Pollutants like Carbon Dioxide ($CO_2$) produced by this plant will be recycled for production of Urea and other by – products.

645. ▶ Pakyong airport in Sikkim will be 100th operational airport in country, after its commissioning in June 2018. Post commissioning, Airline SpiceJet will be operating flights to Pakyong in Sikkim from Kolkata under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).

646. ▶ Patanjali Ayurved has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand (overall 13th) in TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018. Top Brand is Samsung and Top BFSI (Banking, Financial services and Insurance) is SBI.

647. ▶ PepsiCo Foundation announced a USD 4.26 million grant to an international non-profit organisation WaterAid to provide safe water access to communities in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala by December 2020. This adds to USD 17 million that Foundation has made in India to date.

648. ▶ Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) will set up a Gas Trading Hub / Exchange (GTHE) by October 2018, to create an Indian gas benchmark that will spark an increase in consumption of cleaner-burning fuel. Main objective is to boost consumption of natural gas in India.

649. ▶ Pindara Thakur village in Amethi (Uttarpradesh) has been made fully digital under Digital India Programme of government. It will have access to 206 government services digitally. It was linked with Wi Fi Chaupal and use of 2 GB free data for 15 days has been made available.

650. ▶ Piyush Goyal (*Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Company Affairs*) inaugurated Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLCIL)'s three 100 MW Solar Power Projects for commercial operation, situated at Thoppalaakkarai and Sethupuram in Virudhunagar District and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli District (Tamil Nadu).

651. ▶ Piyush Goyal (Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs ) launched the Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application 'Khan Prahari' developed by CMPDI (a Subsidiary of CIL).

   🔧 Basic objective of CMSMS is reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities. CMSMS is a web based GIS application through which location of sites for unauthorised mining can be detected. It will use satellite data to detect changes by which unauthorised mining activity extending beyondallotted lease area can be detected.

   🔧 Complaints originating from coal mines allotted to Coal India will go to Coal India Offices and those originating from coal blocks not allotted to Coal India will go straight to State Government Officers and for each complaint the alert will also go to DM and SP of district.

   🔧 System also uses information provided by responsible citizens using smartphones using the mobile application "Khan Prahari".

   🔧 Its Uniqueness is that it uses satellite data as well as public input to capture information on unauthorised coal mining activities and also take appropriate action on them with due transparency.

652. ▶ Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) signed pact with Ministry of Power to incur capital expenditure of INR 25000 crores for current fiscal.

653. ▶ Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID) signed MoU with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation (UPPCL) for energy efficiency and agricultural demand side management programme.

654. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind approved to set up a committee to run Medical Council of India, till Parliament passes legislation to replace MCI with a new commission.

655. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind formally declared *Queen Pineapple* as state fruit of Tripura. He also inaugurated National Highway from Matabari to Sabroom in Udaipur (Tripura), during his visit to State.

656. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to Good samaritan bill of Karnataka, as first such legislation in India.

   🔧 Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill 2016, provides legal protection to good samaritans who help accident victims with emergency medical care within the golden hour (first hour after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial).

657. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave is assent to Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill 2015, passed by State Assembly in August 2015. It aims to check rising incidents of witch hunting cases across state, eliminating superstition from society by making such offences under it as non-bailable, non-compoundable and cognizable.

   🔧 It imposes up to 7 years of jail and fine up to 5 lakh rupees. It also proposes sentence of 3 years imprisonment if anybody blames a person for natural disasters in a particular locality.

658. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Integrated Centre for Crisis Management (ICCM) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Mumbai. It will help respond more effectively to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies, monitoring radiological data from 504 radiation sensors across country. Other launches Include -

   🔧 Multi-leaf collimator system - It enables gamma radiation to be exposed only on cancer-affected organs.

   🔧 Trombay Chhattisgarh Dubraj Mutant-1 - High-yielding dwarf variety of Dubraj mutant rice.

   🔧 Metal fuel pin fabrication facility - Will help increase plutonium production in fast breeder reactors.

   🔧 High-power electron beam melting furnace - To be used for nuclear and strategic applications.

   🔧 Integrated enriched boron tri-fluoride gas generation facility - It was developed by Heavy-water Board in Odisha. It will be used in neutron detectors.

659. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi.

   🔧 Government had recognised DBHPS as one of Institutes of National Importance in 1964. It is divided into four divisions one each for south states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

   🔧 DBHPS was established by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi in 1918 with sole aim of prorogating Hindi in South India to unite northern and southern states.

660. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 'Festival of Democracy' in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), to mark diamond jubilee (60 years) celebrations of Kerala legislative assembly.

661. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind launched three public welfare schemes in Rajasthan - Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana and loan and interest waiver scheme for SCs/STs/OBCs, sanitation workers,

physically challenged -

- Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana - Government will provide loans of up to Rs 50000 to members of economically backward classes (EBC) from around 50,000 families at 4 % interest rate.
- Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana - State government would provide loans worth up to Rs 50000 at 4 % interest rate to about 50,000 families from the scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes for self-employment.
- Loan waiver scheme - State government would provide 2 lakh worth interest-free loans to people belonging to SC/ ST community and other backward classes for skill development and create employment resources.

662. ▶ Press Council of India Chairman C.K Prasad rejected Reporters Without Borders (RWB)'s World Press Freedom Index report 2018 that was recently released and ranked India 138th among 180 Nations in terms of level of freedom for media. PCI stated that the report had *lack of clarity*.

663. ▶ Project *Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom* inaugurated under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. The project covers two sites i.e. Kangla Fort and Khongjom.

- Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched in 2014 -15,with 70 projects sanctioned as on date.
- Kangla Fort is one of most important historic and archaeological site of Manipur located in the heart of the Imphal city. It served as the seat of Manipur's power till 1891.
- Khongjom is place where the last war of resistance of Anglo Manipur War of 1891 was fought.

664. ▶ Public Affairs Index 2018 released by think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC) -

- Top 5 States - Kerala (1), Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat (5). Kerala named 3rd best governed state for 3rd consecutive year.
- Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest on PAI.
- Top 5 small states - Himachal Pradesh (1), Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura (5). Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at the bottom of index among small states.
- Total of 30 focus subjects and 100 indicators were measured to derive PAI.

665. ▶ Puducherry Tourism announced first Pondicherry International Film Festival (PIFF), to showcase over 100 films from more than 25 countries. It will be held in September 2018, with France as partner country.

666. ▶ Punjab CM Amarinder Singh announced several development projects worth 555 crores for up-gradation of border district of Tarn Taran.

667. ▶ Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launched PUDA 360 model to facilitate online property transactions, provided by Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA). It would offer services like E-auction, common platform to the promoters/ builders for advertisement, Checking of delays in sanction of building plans etc.

668. ▶ Punjab Cabinet approved amendments to Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to make disrespect of religious texts (Sacrilege) punishable with life imprisonment.

669. ▶ Punjab Cabinet approved formation of the state higher education council to offer quality education, to be headed by CM Amarinder Singh and Higher education minister as vice chairman.

- It is formed to provide quality higher education in Punjab's institutions through optimum sharing of resources between universities and colleges, for research purposes, academic and governance reforms, monitoring and evaluation of higher education institutions.
- Cabinet also approved proposal of the Local Government Department for amending validity of the Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Fund (PMIDF) Act, 2011, to extend its validity till 2037-38, from 2020-21.
- Cabinet also approved a bill for creation of a price stabilisation fund, to ensure that state farmers get minimum support price (MSP). It would protect interests of farmers amid sudden fall in prices of certain agricultural commodities.

670. ▶ Punjab Government launched *Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao* campaign for checking depletion of underground water. Through this, farmers will receive monetary benefit for less use of tube well. Details related to the use of power and money transferred into account of farmers will be provided to them on phone.

671. ▶ Punjab Government launched a mobile application named 'i-Hariyali' aimed at increasing state's green cover, under 'Mission Tandarust Punjab. It will enable users to order free plant saplings. The 'i-Hariyali' app, ' can be downloaded from the app store for free.

672. ▶ Punjab Government launched a 'Business First Portal' to give a big push towards ease of doing business in state. It aims at facilitating industrialists for regulatory clearances and fiscal approvals and real-time tracking of applications on a common platform.

673. ▶ Punjab Government signed MoU with United Kingdom (UK) for setting up of bio-gas and bio- Compressed natural gas (CNG) plants in state. It aims to find a sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning, which is a major concern in Punjab and surrounding region.

674. ▶ Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir signed an agreement for renewing work on INR 2793 crore Shahpurkandi dam project. It will be irrigating 37,173 ha of land and would provide 206MW of electricity to Punjab and J&K.

675. ▶ Punjab assembly passed Police (Amendment) Bill 2018 that would pave way for setting up of a State Security Commission for selection of director general of police (DGP). It amends Punjab Police Act 2007, that did not provide for selection of DGP from panel as prepared by UPSC.

676. ▶ Punjab government along with WWF-India will conduct first organised census of Indus Dolphins, one of world's rarest mammals. Dolphins are found only in India and Pakistan, confined to 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas River in Punjab.

677. ▶ Punjab government started a 'Tatkal sewa' for property registration across the state. Under this, people can seek appointment for 'tatkal' (instant) registration for properties for an hour-long slot from 9 am to 10 am, with facilitation charges INR 5000.

678. ▶ RPG Group Owned Tyre major CEAT signed MoU with Tamil Nadu State government to invest 4000 crores in a greenfield plant in Sriperumbudur near Chennai to boost State's tyre manufacturing capacity.

679. ▶ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that Indian Railways will become a net zero-carbon emitter by 2030 with current action plans for 100% electrification and renewable strategies.

680. ▶ Railways flagged off a new Humsafar Jodhpur (Rajasthan) - Bandra (Maharashtra) Express. Humsafar Express are a completely 3-tier AC sleeper trains which started their operation from December 2016 (First being Anand Vihar - Gorakhpur Express). Humsafar Express have Special features such as LED screen displays, Vending machines, smoke alarms, CCTVs, refrigerating boxes etc.

681. ▶ Railways introduced Double Stack Dwarf Container Services, flagging off from Western Railway's Rajkot railway station on its maiden commercial run. Despite being smaller in size, dwarf containers can hold a capacity of 30,500 kgs.

682. ▶ Railways launched 2 mobile applications to ease traveling experience - *'Rail MADAD* and *Menu on Rails*. Rail MADAD will enable travelers to lodge complaints, and *Menu on Rails* will facilitate seamless ordering of food. Also, Northern Railways will now monitor the cleanliness of its trains using WhatsApp groups supervised by senior officials.

683. ▶ Railways released report on Station Cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI) -
   🖊 A1 category stations (out of 75) - Jodhpur (NWR), Jaipur (NWR), Tirupati (SCR).
   🖊 A category stations (out of 332) - Marwar (NWR), Phulera (NWR), Warangal (SCR)
   🖊 Zonal Railway rankings are - North Western Railway, South Central Railway AND East Coast Railway.

684. ▶ Rajasthan Assembly passed Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2018, containing provisions for -
   🖊 Relaxation of *two-child* provision for those aspiring to contest panchayat elections provided one of the children is differently-abled
   🖊 Allowing people suffering from leprosy to contest panchayat elections.

685. ▶ Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje inaugurated Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jhalana Industrial Area of Jaipur, said to be India's biggest start up incubator centre.

686. ▶ Rajasthan Government launched *Nidaan* software, for diseases monitoring and strengthening tele-medicine services in government hospitals. It will help in providing presumptive monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as trends of ailments found in specific areas.

687. ▶ Rajasthan Government signed MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows, in Bikaner district. State government introduced a 20 % surcharge on liquor to use the proceeds for protection of cows.
   🖊 In 2015, Rajasthan became first state to have a separate department and ministry for the welfare of cows.
   🖊 India's first cow sanctuary is located at MP's Agar Malwa district, named *Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya*.

688. ▶ Rajasthan Govt. launched *Bijli Mitra* Mobile app, to help farmers to get their defunct transformers replaced within 6 hours of registering a complaint through app. It is initially launched in Jhalawar.

689. ▶ Rajasthan became first state to implement National Policy on Biofuels, unveiled by central Government in May 2018. Under this, State Government will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.

690. ▶ Rajasthan government announced to observe September as 'month of nutrition'. State Govt earlier launched 'Annapurna Milk Scheme' -
   🖊 Students of Class 1 to 8 of government schools will be given milk daily instead of thrice a week.
   🖊 Students in age group of 3-6 years, adolescent girls and pregnant women registered with Anganwadi centres will be provided milk thrice a week.

691. ▶ Rajasthan government approved 1 % reservation for 5 communities - Gadia Lohar, Banjara, Gujjar, Raika and Gadariya.

692. ▶ Rajasthan government launched Annapurna Dudh Yojana, to provide milk thrice a week to 62 lakh students in government schools and madrassas. While students till Class 5 will get 150 ml, students in Class 6-8 will get 200 ml.

693. ▶ Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under Bhamashah Yojana, Focused on women in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

694. ▶ Rajasthan ranked first by NITI Aayog among all states after it registered a significant increase in groundwater level due to water conversation structures built under Chief Minister Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan. State also witnessed increase of 81% in irrigation capacity.

695. ▶ Rajasthan's first lion safari inaugurated at Nahargarh Biological Park, located on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Aravalli foothills, near Jaipur. 10 Lions in this park were brought from Junagarh, Gujarat under an exchange programme.

696. ▶ Reliance Industries announced to set up India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs.

697. ▶ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced development of a new Expressway between Delhi and Mumbai, at a cost of 1 Lakh Crore Rupees. Minister also disclosed plans for a Chambal Expressway which would be connected to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, and is likely to benefit states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

698. ▶ Road and Transport Minister Gadkari launched Bidder Information Management System (BIMS), Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage Initiatives of Ministry. Also, Annual Awards for Excellence in National Highways Projects were institutes, to be given from this yearonwards.

   🖎 BIMS aims at streamlining process of pre-qualification of bidders for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity. The portal will work as a data base of information about bidders, covering basic details, civil works experience, cash accruals and network, annual turnover etc.

   🖎 Bhoomi Rashi portal comprises entire revenue data of country, including all 6.4 lakh villages. It has been instrumental in reducing time taken for approval and publication of notifications pertaining to land acquisition.

   🖎 Integration of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) with Bhoomi Rashi is one of the key functionalities to facilitate payment related to compensation for land acquisition to all the beneficiaries directly through the Bhoomi Rashi system.

699. ▶ S.S. Ahluwalia, Minister of State for Electronics and IT has launched C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS) for improving Good Governance. Its a Media Server dedicated computer appliance with specialized application software that will offer audio and video on demand.

700. ▶ SJVN Limited signed MoU with Ministry of Power, setting target of generating 9200 Million Units during 2018-19 under 'Excellent' category. SJVN looks to have Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) target of 900 crores and Turnover of 2175 crores.

701. ▶ Sambalpur railway division (Odisha) of East Coast Railway Zone has set a record by constructing 6 limited height subways (LHS) at one go, in a single block of four and half hours, as first of its kind launch in Indian Railways. It eliminated all unmanned Level Crossing Gates over Sambalpur Division.

702. ▶ Santali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script after. Santali is written in Ol Chiki script and spoken by 6.4 million people in India.

703. ▶ Saudi Aramco and ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) signed MoU today to jointly develop an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, implemented by Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL).

   🖎 Earlier, Saudi Aramco joined the project by signing an MoU with Indian consortium, during International Energy Forum Ministerial meet in April 2018 in New Delhi. RRPCL will now have Saudi Aramco & ADNOC as overseas strategic partners.

   🖎 The project will be set up as a 50:50 joint partnership (50:50) between the consortium from India and Saudi Aramco and ADNOC.

   🖎 Mega refinery will be capable of processing 1.2 million barrels of crude oil per day (60 million metric tonnes per annum). It will also provide feedstock for integrated petrochemicals complex, with capacity of 18 million tonnes per annum of petrochemical products.

   🖎 Project cost is estimated at around Rs.3 lakh crore (USD 44 billion).

704. ▶ Science& Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan unveiled a Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in Delhi. The giant LED displays real-time air quality index with colour coding alongwith 72-hour advance forecast. The system, first of its kind in the country, was developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune.

   🖎 It will also measure sun's UV-Index (UVI), PM1, Mercury and Black carbon in real time in addition to regular air quality and weather parameters like PM2.5, PM10, Sulfur Dioxide, Ozone, Nitrogen Oxides, Carbon Monoxide.

705. ▶ Search engine Google is most trusted Internet brand in India as per TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, With 1.2 trillion searches per year. Google is followed by Facebook, Amazon and eBay. Biggest falls was seen by Snapdeal(fell by 142 ranks) and best trust gainer is Netflix (up 506 ranks).

706. ▶ Shillong (capital of Meghalaya) selected as 100th Smart City. With selection of Shillong, proposed investment in finally selected 100 cities under Smart Cities Mission would be INR 2,05,018 crores.

707. ▶ Singphan Elephant Reserve has been named as 30th elephant reserve in India, located in Mon district of Nagaland and spreads over an area of 5825 acres (2357 hac).

708. ▶ Snow leopard spotted at height of about 4,000 metres in Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, ascertaining that snow leopards are inhabiting new areas.

Snow leopard large cats are native to mountain ranges of Central and South Asia- including Himalayas, and Russia's remote Altai mountains. In India, it is found in states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

709. ▶ Social network Facebook partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch Digital Literacy Programme to train women on safe use of internet and social media. Under it, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities over 1 year.

710. ▶ Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is named as Nodal Agency to set up 2.5 GW Wind-Solar hybrid Project by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, aiming to Build Hybrid Projects with Transparent Bidding Process limited from 200 MW to 500 MW, with atleast 1 project site with capacity of 50 MW. As of now, we have only 20 GW of renewable energy produced through wind-solar hybrid power projects.

   ↘ Govt aims for 175 GW Renewable energy capacity by 2022. As of now, India has over 20 GW of Solar Power And approx 354 GW of Wind power Installed Capacity.

711. ▶ Startup India launched *Startup Academia Alliance* programme, as a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains, to fulfill Government's mission to promote entrepreneurship.

712. ▶ State government of Gujarat has launched a dedicated ambulance service for infants, under *Neonatal ambulance service project for inter-hospital transfer*.

713. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) approved *Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes-2018*, as a uniform compensation scheme for victims of sexual assault and acid attacks. It was prepared by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). It provisions Fines ranging 2 - 10 lakhs for several kinds of crimes against women.

714. ▶ Supreme Court Bench (A.K. Sikri and Ashok Bhushan) ruled for the 3rd time that Chief Justice of India (CJI, currently Dipak Misra) is *Master of Roster*. CJI is an individual judge and not powerful collective of five senior-most judges of Supreme Court called the 'Collegium'. CJI has exclusive authority to allocate cases to fellow judges and is spokesperson of the court.

   ↘ Judgment was based on petition filed by former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan for considering expression CJI should be read as meaning Collegium for purpose of allocation of cases. Petition mentioned that to have collegium of SC judges collectively to allocate cases rather than leave entire power in hands of CJI in his administrative capacity as 'Master of Roster'.

715. ▶ Supreme Court adjourned till end of August 2018, the hearing on pleas challenging Constitutional validity of Article 35A, pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).  Article 35A and controversy regarding it -

   ↘ Article 35A ppears in Constitution as an *appendix* and not as an amendment. In 2014, an NGO 'We the Citizens' filed a writ petition in Supreme Court seeking striking down of Article 35A as it was not added to Constitution through stated procedure. Hence, it lacks parliamentary sanction. In 2017, two Kashmiri women filed another case in Supreme Court against Article 35A for its discrimination against J&K women.

   ↘ This led to an uproar in Kashmir. Political Parties and peopel of J & K are warning to trigger an explosive situation in J&K, if Article 35A is scrapped.

   ↘ About Article 35A -

      ↘ It was added to Constitution (Appendix II) through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 1954, issued by then President Rajendra Prasad on May 14, 1954.

      ↘ Presidential Order of 1954 provided framework for division of powers between J&K and Union Government under Article 370.

      ↘ If Supreme Court strikes down Article 35A, it will have serious impact on all subsequent Presidential Orders.

      ↘ Article 370 accords special status to Jammu and Kashmir and acts like a bridge between Indian Constitution and Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.

      ↘ Its Origin dates back to 1927 when the Dogras from Jammu approached Maharaja Hari Singh fearing that arrival of people from Punjab will lead to their control in government services. These fears led to issuance of a separate notification by maharaja in 1927 and 1932 which defined the state subjects and their rights.

      ↘ J&K Constitution, framed in 1956, retained Maharaja's definition of permanent residents of state.

      ↘ J&K constitution defined a permanent resident as a person who was born or settled in J&K before 1911 or has been resident in the state for 10 years after lawfully acquiring property in state.

      ↘ Under Article 35A, emigrants from J&K, including those who migrated to Pakistan, are considered state residents. The descendants of emigrants are considered state subjects for two generations.

      ↘ It prohibits non-permanent residents from acquiring immovable property, government jobs, scholarships and aid in the state.

716. ▶ Supreme Court approved Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme for smooth distribution of water among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry (UT). SC raised Karnataka's share of Cauvery water by 14.75 tmcft saying that issue of drinking water of Southern

Karnataka region is of higher priority. Tamil Nadu's share is reduced, compensated by allowing TN to extract 10 tmcft more groundwater from river basin.

- 🖋 Cauvery Management Scheme deals with release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, implemented by Cauvery Management Authority (CMA).

717. ▸ Supreme Court approved issuing hologram-based coloured stickers for vehicles in Delhi based on the fuel used. While petrol and CNG vehicles will need to have a blue sticker, diesel vehicles must carry an orange one. This is aimed at better tackling of air pollution-related issues in Delhi.

718. ▸ Supreme Court asked Government to form a law on deciding whether lawmakers facing criminal charges be barred from contesting elections or should they be disqualified only after conviction. SC also asked political parties and candidates to publish their criminal records at least 3 times in newspapers / TV channels after filing of nomination papers.

719. ▸ Supreme Court asked Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board to show documents signed by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to prove its ownership on Taj Mahal. SC Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra asked Waqf board counsel to authenticate that Shah Jahan executed a 'Waqfnama' in favour of Waqf board, a document through which a person conveys intention to donate a property to Waqf for charitable purpose.

- 🖋 SC also raised a question for Waqf board that how Shah Jahan could sign a document when he was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb after war of succession at Agra Fort in 1658 and Mughal emperor died in fort itself in 1666. SC also told council that Taj Mahal and other heritage structures were built by Mughals and were taken over by Britishers after end of Mughal rule.
- 🖋 SC ruled this when he Waqf board counsel told court that Shah Jahan had himself declared Taj Mahal a Waqf property. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) filled an appeal in SC against waqf board's declaring Taj Mahal as its property.

720. ▸ Supreme Court banned all construction activities in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh till October 9, after these states / UT failed to comply with court's order to come up with a policy on solid waste management.

721. ▸ Supreme Court declared Centre's Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid. Bench stated that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for filing IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN). But, it will not be mandatory for Bank accounts, Telecom services, Educational Admissions. Other Notable statements by SC are -

- 🖋 Section 57 of Aadhaar Act that permits private entities to avail Aadhaar data has been struck down.
- 🖋 Aadhaar authentication data cannot be stored for more than 6 months.
- 🖋 National security exception under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act was also struck down.

722. ▸ Supreme Court declined to refer 1994 Ismail Farooqui judgment (that mosques are not integral to Islam) to a larger constitution bench.

- 🖋 Judgement was delivered by a 3 judge bench. Majority was written by Ashok Bhushan and Chief Justice Deepak Misra. 3rd judge, Abdul Nazeer presented a dissenting judgment.
- 🖋 Decision to not refer issue of reconsideration of 1994 observations on Ayodhya-Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute case to a five-judge constitution bench paves way for SC to hear main Ayodhya land dispute.
- 🖋 The issue whether mosque is integral to Islam cropped up when SC bench headed by CJI Misra was of petitions challenging Allahabad High Court's 2010 verdict, by which disputed land in Ayodhya was to be divided in 3 parts (Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla represented by Hindu Maha Sabha).
- 🖋 Ismail Farooqui judgement -
    - 🖋 In 1994, Supreme Court had ruled that namaz or prayers could be offered anywhere and that a mosque was not necessary. This cleared way for government to acquire the land where 16th century Babri mosque was demolished by Hindu Kar Sevaks.

723. ▸ Supreme Court decriminalised part of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that criminalises homosexuality, saying it was irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary.

724. ▸ Supreme Court directed Tamil Nadu government to lower water level at Mullaperiyar dam on Periyar River to 139 feet from current 142 feet, considering flood situation in all 14 districts of Kerala.

- 🖋 Tamil Nadu government opposed bringing down water level in the dam, saying that the inflow of water presently is over 12,000 cusec in contrast to outflow of 5,000 cusec.

725. ▸ Supreme Court modified its July 2017 order in dowry harassment case for preventing misuse of Section 498A of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

- 🖋 The July 2017 decision quashed immediate arrest of accused in dowry cases, saying that complaints under Section 498A of IPC should be scrutinised by Family Welfare Committees before any legal action by police.
- 🖋 Now, After a plea filed by NGO 'Nyayadhar', an organisation formed by women advocates of Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district, Family Welfare Committees are scrapped.
- 🖋 SC left it to Parliament to make suitable rules to check abuse of the law.

726. ▶ Supreme Court of India allowed live streaming and video recording of court proceedings across country, asking government to frame rules in this regard under Article 145 of the Constitution.
   ✎ SC earlier reserved its verdict on the matter on August 24, saying it wanted to implement *open court* concept to decongest courtrooms.

727. ▶ Supreme Court resumed filing of claims and objections by around 40 lakh people who were left out in draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) of Assam, giving second opportunity to citizens keeping in mind the magnitude of the issue. Bench will now hear the matter on October 23, 2018.
   ✎ Assam government in July 2018 released 2nd and final draft of state's National Register of Citizens (NRC). The draft left out approx 40 Lakh people living in state, not marking them as legal citizens of India.

728. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that *None of The Above* (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in Rajya Sabha elections. SC held that NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not for the polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in Rajya Sabha.

729. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that courts can look into Parliamentary Standing Committee reports while deciding on an issue. However, parliamentary reports cannot be challenged in Courts. It will help NGOs, which frequently file PILs in theSC, to rely on Parliamentary Standing Committee reports.

730. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that private hospitals in Delhi, which were given land on concessional rate, must provide free treatment to certain percentage of poor patients. It is mandatory for private hospitals, built on land allocated by government on concessional rates, to provide 10 % treatment to In Patient Department (IPD) and 25 % to Out Patient Department (OPD) for free.

731. ▶ Supreme Court stated that Lieutenant Governor does not have independent decision-making powers in UTs, and is bound to act on the aid and advice of Democratically Elected Council of Ministers.

732. ▶ Supreme Court struck down Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 that made adultery punishable offence for men.
   ✎ Section 497 of IPC (Adultery) says that whoever has sexual intercourse with wife of another man (without consent of that man), such intercourse not amounting to offence of rape, is guilty of offence of adultery. Such person shall be punished with imprisonment and / or Fine. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor.

733. ▶ Supreme Court struck down a legislation that allowed former Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers to continue occupying government accommodation even after demitting office, terming it as *arbitrary and discriminatory*.

734. ▶ Supreme Court struck down a rule that disallowed females in 10-50 age group from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. Chief Justice Dipak Misra-headed Constitution bench in a 4-1 verdict said temple rule violated their right to equality and right to worship.

735. ▶ Surat railway station (Gujarat) will be third in India to be developed as a world-class facility under Railway's station redevelopment programme, After Habibganj (Bhopal) and Gandhinagar (Gujarat), which will both be ready by 2019. It is being done Railway Ministry's 1 lakh crore station redevelopment programme.

736. ▶ Swachh Survekshan 2018 Results -
   ✎ Top 3 cleanest Cities - Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Chandigarh.
   ✎ Stats -
      ✎ Organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), It Assessed 4203 Urban Local Bodies, compared to 434 cities covered in 2017 and 73 cities in 2016.
      ✎ Record 37.66 lakh citizen feedbacks were collected during Swachh Survekshan 2018.
      ✎ In ranking cities, 35% weightage given to each of citizen feedback & service level progress, 30% weightage given to direct observation. In 2017, it was 25 % to direct observation, 30 % to citizen feedback and 45 % to service level progress.
      ✎ Cleanest cities in various categories -
         ✎ Big City - Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)
         ✎ Medium City - Mysuru (Karnataka)
         ✎ Small City - New Delhi Municipal Council
         ✎ State Capital / UT - Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra)

737. ▶ Swedish furniture giant IKEA will open its first store in India in Hyderabad in July 2018. In February 2018, IKEA opened a distribution centre spread over 2.3 lakh square feet in Pune.

738. ▶ Swedish-Swiss Firm ABB announced commissioning of India's first industrial solar microgrid in Vadodara (Gujarat). Microgrid is a localized electricity source which can function autonomously as well as by connecting and being synced with traditional centralized electrical grid (macrogrid). Microgrids with integrated battery energy storage are setup to ensure continuity of work during power outages.

739. ▶ Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has inaugurated India's tallest Film Studio named 'MGR Centenary Film Studio', as 56 feet tall, 110 metres long and 100 feet wide studio. The studio is named after former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.

740. ▶ Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for setting up of a Special Investment Region (SIR) in northern Krishnagiri district to attract investments, with approx 2420 crores expense.

741. ▶ Tamil Nadu Government launched bi-lingual (*Tamil and English*) Uzhavan (farmer) mobile application in a bid to use technology for benefit of farmers. It will allow farmers to access nine types of services, including crop insurance, farm subsidies, farm equipments and related infrastructure.

742. ▶ Tamil Nadu Govt. bannned sale of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), known as e- cigarettes.
   - It comes after recent central government notification, asking all states / UTs to ban e-cigarettes.
   - ENDS are devices that heat solution to create aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycolor and glycerin. e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) are most common prototype of ENDS.

743. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced SOPs for several sectors like Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and Establishment of an agency to attract foreign investment in state MSMEs. An Innovation Policy will also be launched through which government will develop entrepreneurs, in line with Tamil Nadu government's Vision 2023 document which estimates a 11 % GSDP by then.

744. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji (Strobilanthus kunthianus) plants that flower only once in 12 years.
   - This plant species is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats. It is also seen in Shevroys Hills in Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.
   - It grows at height of 30 to 60 cm on hills slopes at an altitude of 1300 to 2400 meters where there is no tree forest. The flowers are purple-blue in colour and blooms once in 12 years.

745. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) facility near Madurai, at estimated of INR 1500 crores.

746. ▶ Tamil Nadu government banned students from using mobile phones in college / schools premises. Centre-run institutes like IIT Madras have been exempted from ban stating 'their students know how to use mobiles reasonably'.

747. ▶ Tamil Nadu government demanded permanent closure of controversial Vedanta Group's Sterlite Copper factory in Thoothukudi / Tuticorin, which was centre of violent protests recently that led to killing of 13 people in Police Firing. Locals had been protesting for closure of the factory for 100 days. The actions of police has been highly criticised.
   - Protests intensified after Sterlite Copper recently applied for to double capacity of plant to 800,000 metric tonnes per annum.
   - Residents of nearby villages claimed that smelter caused huge level air and water pollution and is the reason behind unnaturally high cancer rates in surrounding villages.

748. ▶ Tamil Nadu government has set a 24-hour helpline to assist and protect inter-caste couples, to eradicate 'honour killing' completely.

749. ▶ Tamil Nadu government launched Amma Free Wi-Fi zones in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu, under which Wi-Fi zones will be set up in 50 spots. Users will be offered 20 minutes of free internet service per day. After that users will be charged Rs 10 per hour.

750. ▶ Tamil Nadu government released draft state Forest Policy that aims to conserve forests and wildlife, under Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 document.
   - Tamil Nadu has 30.92 % of the forest declared as 'protected areas'. It has 15 wildlife sanctuaries, 5 National parks, 15 bird sanctuaries, 3 biosphere reserves and 4 project tiger areas.
   - Tamil Nadu will develop innovative strategies to enhance forest and tree cover from current 21.76 % to 33 % by 2030.
   - Forest department will also develop mangroves in Tamil Nadu as 'bio-shield' along the coast as per the policy.

751. ▶ Tamil Nadu government released its Ecotourism Policy 2017, which includes identifying ecotourism sites and will have specific ecotourism product associated with it in their uniqueness and value in terms of aesthetic, natural, cultural and landscape characteristics.

752. ▶ Tata Motors and Maharashtra Government signed MoU to deploy 1,000 Electric Vehicles across a range of passenger and commercial vehicles in Maharashtra. Also, Mahindra & Mahindra signed two MoUs with Maharashtra Government to advance its next phase of expansion in electric vehicles (EVs) and achieve its goal to become completely electric ready.

753. ▶ Tata Trusts signed MoU with Government to provide development support in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, covered under Transformation of aspirational districts Programme of NITI Aayog. Districts are - Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Bijapur, Bastar, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.

754. ▶ Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao laid foundation stone for Gattu irrigation project in Jogulamba Gadwal district, Telangana, with cost approx 554-crores.

755. ▶ Telangana Government increased the free electricity supply to the families of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for domestic purpose from the current 50 units to 101 units.

756. ▶ Telangana Government launched Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in Hyderabad, as state's own dedicated disaster force trained in tackling of urban flooding, tree falls, structural collapses and any other site of normal emergencies.

757. ▶ Telangana Government signed MoU with Singapore-based engineering & consulting firm Surbana Jurong for preparing roadmap for Genome Valley 2.0, an upgraded version of life sciences and biotechnology industrial cluster state's capital Hyderabad.
    - 🖋 Genome Valley is India's first organized pharma-biotech cluster for life sciences R&D activities and largest life sciences destination in Asia, being home to over 200 companies employing 10,000 people.

758. ▶ Telangana Government will organize Bonalu Festival between July 15 and August 5, 2018. State government released INR 15 Crores for the same.

759. ▶ Telangana Govt. announced 2 % reservation in state government jobs for sportspersons.

760. ▶ Telangana Govt. announced setting up of a new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for government employees, giving special allowances to employees working in remote areas.

761. ▶ Telangana Police launched COP CONNECT' mobile application to support communication and collaboration needs of entire police department of state. This app has features of regular mobile messaging apps and is enabled for chatting, group chats, file and location sharing.

762. ▶ Telangana government allotted 200 acres to 3 women entrepreneurs' associations in Telangana. 50 acres has been allotted to FLO at Sultanpur. 30 acres has been allotted to Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE) at Toopran, and 120 acres to Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP).

763. ▶ Telangana government completed rejuvenation of 18,000 tanks in Telangana under its Mission Kakatiya programme, as announced at a convention on 'Rejuvenation of Krishna river'.

764. ▶ Telangana government launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support livelihood of farmers. It is first such investment support scheme for farmers to be launched by any state in India.
    - 🖋 Farmers will directly get financial support twice every year to maximise agricultural production. They will get support of 8,000 per acre every year (Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season) as crop investment support.
    - 🖋 State government has set aside Rs 12,000 crore in 2018-19 budget exclusively for this scheme.
    - 🖋 State government also announced to provide life insurance cover to all farmers in state for Rs five lakh each, from August 15, 2018 Onwards.

765. ▶ Telangana government launched first-of-its-kind life insurance programme worth Rs 5 lakh for farmers in state, called Rythu Bandhu Life Insurace Bonds, with cost approx 650 Crores. Insurance amount will be given to farmer's family within 10 days, in case of death of Farmer. Some Limitations -
    - 🖋 It is limited to farmers aged 18 - 60 years.
    - 🖋 Limited to landowners who received monetary assistance of Rs 4000 from the state government to bear farming costs under the 'Rythu Bandhu' programme earlier this year.
    - 🖋 Tenant farmers have been left out of it.

766. ▶ Telangana government will set up a biotech and pharma facility, B-Hub, India's first organised cluster for life sciences Research & Development at Genome Valley, To support manufacturing activities for bio-pharma R&D. Also, a web portal for life sciences sector has been launched.

767. ▶ Telecom Commission approved voice and data in-flight connectivity, permitting Internet and Mobile Communication on Aircraft (MCA) in Indian airspace. It is recommended to permit MCA services with minimum height restriction of 3000 meters in airspace.

768. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued *Telecommunication Interconnection (Amendment) Regulations 2018* to amend interconnect regulations, proposing certain changes in terms and conditions for operators to seek fresh call connect ports from other operators.
    - 🖋 Service provider can ask another operator for additional ports or Point of Interconnection (POI), when utilisation of capacity exceeds 85% over 60 day period. Time frame for provisioning of ports for initial interconnection and augmentation is to be increased to maximum 42 working days.

769. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposed open architecture-based public Wi-Fi grid to bring down the cost of internet by 90%, as Broadband proliferation across country is very important pillar of Digital India. TRAI suggested that any entity should easily be able to set up a public Wi-Fi access point.

770. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposed use of blockchain technology to check menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls / messages. Blockchain technology based norms will record all communication between subscribers and entities, capturing customer consent for information and authorised telemarketing agencies. Subscriber will be now able to revoke consent given to entities through TRAI app and other mechanism that will be provided under regulation.

771. ▶ Telengana Government will set up *District Child Protection Units (DCPU)* in all 31 districts to protect the children from child abuse, child labour and to implement the child rights in all districts.

772. ▶ To combat human trafficking, West Bengal government rolled out Swayangsiddha scheme (means self-reliance), to be executed by West Bengal Police. It aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.

773. ▶ To cut costs incurred by state over travel expenses of ministers and bureaucrats, West Bengal Govt. announced *one person, one car* policy.

774. ▶ To enable customers to check if medicine is genuine, Govt will mandate brands to print a unique 14-character code on packages. Sending this code to a number will tell if medicine is genuine.

775. ▶ To tackle counterfeit drugs in India, NITI Aayog and IT Firm Oracle signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) will pilot a real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.
   - ✏ It will allow sharing of information across drug supply chain securely, with every exchange getting recorded. There will be no tampering of any record of drug movement and no data will be deleted.

776. ▶ Top beverage companies initiated a buyback programme for all PET bottles sold in Maharashtra, with a predefined buyback price to be mandatorily printed on larger PET/PETE bottles. Most companies have set the buyback value at Rs 15 per kg for PET bottles and 5 per kg for shrink wraps.

777. ▶ Traditional *Marbat* festival observed in Nagpur (Maharashtra).

778. ▶ Traditional annual Hindu festival of Onam held in Kerala. It is celebrated to commemorate King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.

779. ▶ Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) made Aadhaar mandatory for Indian patients to register in the Tamil Nadu Network for Organ Sharing. While foreigners are asked to submit a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the respective Embassies.

780. ▶ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) signed MoU with National Medicinal Plants Board (Ministry of AYUSH), to promote Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) forest produce for livelihood development of tribal people through promotion of primary level value addition to MAPs produce from forest area at grassroots level.

781. ▶ Tripura Government announced 10% of all police force will be reserved for women, to encourage women to participate and deal more efficiently with crimes related to them.

782. ▶ Tripura Government approved INR 50 crores to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bodhjungnagar, 15 km away from Capital Agartala.

783. ▶ Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited (THCL) signed an MoU with Spicejet Merchandise Pvt Ltd, To provide pineapples to majority of country and help farmers earn profit.

784. ▶ Tripura became first North East state to launch state component of Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) in Agartala, aiming to train over 1.16 lakh youths by 2020.

785. ▶ Tripura government launched GPS (Global Positioning System) and wireless based 24×7 "mobile policing" service to control crime, mainly against women. Under Mobile policing, Police will reach the spot within a few minutes to tackle the situation.

786. ▶ UIDAI unveiled beta version of 'Virtual ID', which will soon be accepted by service providers in place of Aadhaar numbers. An Aadhaar holder can generate VID from UIDAI's website is a random 16-digit number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number and biometrics. VID would give any authorised agency like a mobile company, limited details for verification purpose.
   - ✏ It will do away with sneed of disclosing 12-digit Aadhaar number for authentication or verification purposes.

787. ▶ UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) launched Data Visualisation App to provide user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of education scenario in India, developed with technical inputs from UNICEF, NCERT and National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA).
   - ✏ It uses UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education), NAS (National Assessment survey) and demographic data. It can be used as visual tool by policy makers, academia and researchers to address gaps and monitor programs in education.

788. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration has approved World's first prosthetic iris that can be implanted to treat patients with missing or damaged iris (coloured part of eye).

789. ▶ Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) announced that Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) (Main) and National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) will now be held twice a year and over multiple days. Both exams will be conducted by newly formed National Testing Agency (NTA), which will also conduct National Eligibility Test (NET). It will provide more flexibility to aspirants.

790. ▶ Union Territory of Puducherry won top position in National Clean School Award after seven schools from Puducherry were awarded for cleanliness.
   - ✏ Tamil Nadu bagged second position in National Clean School Award. The third position was shared by Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

- 52 schools from across country were bestowed with National Clean School Award in recognition of their efforts in carrying forward Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

791. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) announced a new measure that seeks to facial recognition mandatory for every authentication that requires Aadhaar. It is being used to provide an added security layer and also make Aadhaar process more inclusive.

792. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) brought in secured digitally-signed QR Code on e-Aadhaar. It will contain photograph of Aadhaar holder in addition to demographic details.
    - QR code is form of barcode label which contains machine-readable information while e-Aadhaar is electronic version of Aadhaar that can be downloaded from official UIDAI website.

793. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced updated 'QR code' for offline Aadhaar verification to strengthen its privacy measures during usage, aimed at adding an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar after recently introducing concept of virtual identification.

794. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) notified that use of Aadhaar biometric data for criminal investigation is not allowed under Aadhaar Act 2016. This comes after National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) asked police to be provided with limited access to Aadhaar data to aid them in catching first-time offenders and for identification of unidentified bodies.

795. Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI) announced phased roll-out of face recognition for carrying out Aadhaar authentication as an additional security layer, from September 15, 2018. It also announced new feature *live face photo*, as live feed of person facial features whose Aadhaar is submitted. It will be in addition to fingerprint or iris scans for Aadhaar authentication.
    - It will curb possibility of fingerprint cloning or spoofing and also seeks to tighten audit process and security around issuance and activation of mobile SIMs.

796. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will set up a skill development centre for clients of Bharosa, an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad (Telangana). It aims at empowering marginalised women by imparting skills training.

797. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will set up 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. For This, UNESCO signed agreement with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB).

798. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as world's first fully solar energy powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.
    - It has 15 MWp solar power plant, comprising 46,150 solar panels laid across 45 acres. Plant generates 50,000 units of electricity daily.

799. University Grants Commission (UGC) directed universities and higher education institutes to ban sale of junk food on their campuses.

800. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a campaign to clean Gomti river.

801. Uttar Pradesh Government announced a new Defence Manufacturing policy named 'UP Defence Aerospace Unit and Employment Generating Policy 2018'. Under this -
    - Entrepreneurs will be given land under plug and play formula investment of INR 50000 crore in 5 years. This would generate 2.5 lakh jobs.
    - Six districts — Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow – will be notified for the Defence manufacturing hub, with focus on Bundelkhand region.
    - There will be 2 categories of investment - mega anchor project worth over Rs 1000 crore which will include companies willing to build aircraft, tanks, choppers and anchor units which could invest 200 - 400 crores in several regions.
    - Government also approved proposal to get bank loan of INR 12000 crores from PNB for construction of Purvanchal Expressway.
    - It also approved construction of civil airports at Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad and Shravasti under Regional Air Connectivity policy.
    - Government also approved asset settlement of UP Mining Development Corporation.

802. Uttar Pradesh Government granted Status of Revenue Village to three villages inhabited by the Tongia Scheduled Tribe in and around forests in Saharanpur district under Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA). Villages are - Kaluwala, Sodhinagar and Bhagwatpur.
    - Granting of Revenue Status to villages means that these villages will now come under revenue department instead of forest department.

803. Uttar Pradesh Government has launched Ganga Hariteema Yojana (also known as Ganga Greenery scheme) in 27 districts of the state located on bank of river Ganga. It aims at enhancing green cover in catchment areas of river Ganga and control land erosion. Under it, tree plantation will be carried out in 1 Km areas from banks of river.

804. Uttar Pradesh Government ordered all government hospitals and orphanages to establish Shishu Swagat Kendra - Palna, and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that any person can leave their unwanted child without disclosing their identity. Objective is to tackle problem of abandoning infants at roadside or other places which may pose a risk of life for baby.

805. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. approved construction of an integrated sugar complex in Pilibhit and setting up a Tiger Conservation Foundation in Dudhwa.

806. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. issued an order to ban use of plastic in state from July 15, 2018, in line with central govt's plan to end use of single-use plastic products by 2022. This will be 3rd Plastic ban in UP since 2015.

807. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Police will soon launch first of its kind dial-FIR scheme, where a common man can register regular crimes without going to a police station. Under it, an online photographic dossier of criminals that will be provided to policemen on 22,000 new i-pads.

808. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government will set up a police station in every district, which wil focus on minimizing power theft and power loss. State government has also approved a Solid Waste Management policy, Animal Breeding Policy 2018 and Milk Policy 2018.

809. ▶ Uttarakhand Assembly passed resolution seeking status of "rashtra mata — mother of the nation" for cow, to strengthen efforts to conserve the species across country.

810. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt inaugurated state's first (and India's 8th) City Gas Distribution (CGD) network at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district, comprising 500 km long pipeline and 10 CNG stations.

811. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt. Trivendra Singh Rawat launched campaign to improve standard of education in government schools of Uttarakhand. Under it, 1 model school will be opened in Almora (Kumaon) and another in Garhwal region to offer quality education to poor and underprivileged children.

812. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt. approved revised policy on adventure sports -
   🖊 Imposed total ban on smoking and substance abuse by enthusiasts when they perform rafting, kayaking or canoeing in Uttarakhand. Minimum qualification has been fixed for raft operators.

813. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt. launched a campaign called "Devbhoomi dialogue", calling upon youth to look for self-employment opportunities in their chosen fields.

814. ▶ Uttarakhand High Court (HC) banned commercial use of elephants in state and directed the state forest department to rescue the elephants deployed for commercial purposes within 24 hours. Uttarakhand also became first state to give identity cards to gau rakshaks, to differentiate people who protect cows from those who resort to violence in name of cow vigilantism.

815. ▶ Uttarakhand High Court declared entire animal kingdom (all animals, including avian and aquatic species) as legal entities with rights, duties and liabilities of living person.
   🖊 HC was hearing PIL by Narayan Dutt Bhatt, filed in 2014 where petitioner had sought directions to restrict movement of horse carts (tongas) between India and Nepal through Banbasa in Champawat district of Uttarakhand. However, HC enlarged scope of petition in larger public interest to promote protection and welfare of animals.
   🖊 HC directed State Government that no animal, including horses moving between India and Nepal, carries excess weight. It also banned use of any sharp equipment throughout state to avoid bruises, swelling, abrasions or severe pain to animals.
   🖊 It also directed all veterinary doctors across state to mandatorily treat animals brought to them.

816. ▶ Uttarakhand High Court declared fatwas as unconstitutional and illegal, banning all religious bodies and statutory panchayats in state from issuing fatwas. The ruling came, as the court declared illegal a fatwa banishing the family of a rape victim from their village.

817. ▶ Uttarakhand high court banned paragliding, and white water rafting and other water sports until the government frames a policy to regulate them.

818. ▶ Uttarakhand ranked as best state in construction of maximum number of roads under PMGSY during 2017-2018, constructing 1839 kilometre roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana against a target of 1,500 km for 2017-18.

819. ▶ Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport will become India's first airport to have an automated smart facial recognition system at its entry, security and boarding points. It will ensure quicker entry into airports by facilitating automated check-ins.

820. ▶ Various Welfare schemes for North eastern Region -
   🖊 North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) - It is a 100% Central Sector Scheme to be implemented till March 2020, with sum of 1600 crores.
   🖊 Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC) and North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) - With total cost of 4500 crore for upto 2019-20.
   🖊 North East Venture Fund (NEVF), set up by North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi), with capital commitment of 100 crores. Out of this, 25 crores has been committed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

821. ▶ Various changes in names as tribute to Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee who passed away recently -
   🖊 Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) announced its decision to rename its School of Management and Entrepreneurship as Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship.
   🖊 Chhattisgarh Govt. renaming upcoming capital of the state Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar.
   🖊 Uttar Pradesh Govt. will name proposed Bundelkhand Expressway as 'Atal Path'.

- AIIMS Rishikesh auditorium, a ghat on Sabarmati River in Gujarat and cyber tower in Mauritius to be named after him.
- Andhra Pradesh to name AIIMS Mangalagiri after Him.
- Himachal Pradesh to rename Rohtang Tunnel after him.
- Madhya Pradesh govt. to rename Habibganj railway station after him.
- Assam to name the yet-to-be-inaugurated Bogibeel bridge after him, as Atal Setu.

822. ▶ Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu rejected impeachment notice submitted by Opposition parties against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, stating that motion lacked substantial merit and was based on mere suspicion.

823. ▶ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 2 coastal tourism circuit projects in Andhra Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- First includes beautification of Nellore tank and Pulicat Lake, facelift to Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, construction of restaurant and development of Kotha Koduru, Ubbalamadugu, Mypadu, Rama Theertham, and Isukapalli project.
- Second coastal circuit is aimed at developing Kakinada port, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Hope Island, construction of cottages and wooden huts at Aduru, Pasarlapudi and S Yanam and development of Kotipalli project.

824. ▶ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), promoted by Ministry of Tourism. M main objective of ICI is to institutionalize mechanism to support efforts intended to preserve, document, promote and disseminate Indian Cuisine.

825. ▶ Website of Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh, topmost body for state veterinary associations has been launched at URL *www.pashuchikitsakmahasangh.in*'. It is aimed to act as a Knowledge Base for Veterinarians and a Forum.

826. ▶ West Bengal Assembly passed Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill2018, with 59 state subjects. It allows Lokayukta to investigate other 58 subjects under State List, with approval of two-third of members of assembly. The Bill Keeps CM out of its purview in matters relating to public order.

827. ▶ West Bengal Government removed annual family income ceiling in eligibility criteria to be beneficiary under state's Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme.
- Currently only girls belonging to families with annual family income not more than Rs 1.20 lakh were entitled to get benefits of this scheme. State government will also set up *Kanyashree University* soon.
- Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme -
  - It is conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at improving status and well-being of girl child by incentivising schooling of teenage girls and delaying their marriages until age of 18, launched in October 2013.
  - Targeted Beneficiaries are girl children within age 13 - 19 years.
  - Girls regularly attending institutions for education or vocational or sports training.
  - Girls of Child Care Institutes registered under Juvenile Justice Act (JJ), 2000 within age of 18-19 years.
- Components Include -
  - Annual Scholarship of INR 500 for unmarried girls aged 13-18 years enrolled in classes VIII-XII and One time Grant of Rs 25,000 for girls turned 18 at time of application.
  - Over 50 lakh girls from the state have been benefited by scheme and removal of ceiling will help another three lakh more girls annually. It was awarded United Nations Public Service Award in June 2017.

828. ▶ West Bengal Government will invest 107 crore rupees to check erosion at vulnerable areas along banks of Ganga and Padma.

829. ▶ West Bengal Governmet signed MOU with British Council, to promote cultural, educational and skill development exchanges between UK and west Bengal, on occasion of British Council's 70th anniversary in India.

830. ▶ West Bengal government applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kohitur mango, which was sold for INR 1500 a piece last season. It is believed to have been cultivated by a royal breeder named Hakim Ada Mohammadi at behest of thelast Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah. The variety was reportedly only consumed by royals.

831. ▶ West Bengal government will apply for coveted Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention for Sunderban Reserve Forest. Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be largest protected wetland in the country. There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance.

832. ▶ West Bengal state assembly passed a bill to change state's name from West Bengal to 'Bangla' in all three different languages.

833. ▶ Western Ghats, one of India's Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots and a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been marked 4th in Lonely Planet's top five '2018 Best in Asia' list. One of flowering plant species, Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana) which blooms once every 12 years and has started to bloom in famed hill station of Munnar, has been mentioned in report.

834. ▶ Western Railway renamed Elphinstone Road suburban railway station in Mumbai to Prabhadevi Station (PBHD). It was initially named after Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay Presidency from 1853 to 1860. It has now been renamed in honour of local deity Prabhadevi.

835. ▶ World Heritage Committee declared Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai as a World Heritage Property, inscribing it site on UNESCO's World Heritage list, as India's 37th UNESCO Heritage Site.
- 🖎 This makes Mumbai the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on World Heritage List.
- 🖎 Apart from the Mumbai site, committee inscribed three other cultural sites on World Heritage List - Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars region of Iran, Hidden Christian Sites in Nagasaki Region of Japan and Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea.
- 🖎 Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai comprises 2 architectural styles - 19th century collection of Victorian structures and the 20th century Art Deco buildings along the sea, conjoined by the historical open space of the Oval Maidan.
- 🖎 With this, India now has 37 World Heritage Inscriptions with 29 Cultural, 07 Natural and 01 Mixed sites. India stands second in Asia Pacific (after China), in number of World Heritage properties, overall sixth in world.

836. ▶ World Malaria Day (WMD) is being observed every year on 25 April across the world to recognise the global efforts to control preventable vector borne disease malaria. The theme of 2018 WMD is "Ready to beat malaria"

837. ▶ World's first of its kind International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF) launched at Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), as joint venture of International Committee of Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Gujarat Forensic Science University. It would promote best practices in forensics.

838. ▶ World's first-ever thermal battery plant will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST). First-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.
- 🖎 In first phase, batteries suited for telecommunications, mini or microgrids and electric buses would be manufactured. Batteries will run for up to 800kms on a single charge.
- 🖎 Thermal plant is expected to start commercial operations by May 2019.

839. ▶ World's tallest girder rail bridge (141 Metres Height) is being built near Noney (Manipur), as part of 111-km-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad gauge railway project in Manipur. First section involves construction of 84 kms of railway line connecting Jiribam to Tupul which is on verge of completion. 2nd section of 27 kms connecting Tupul to Imphal is expected to be completed by 2019.

840. ▶ World's largest Indian national flag has been unfurled in Hyderabad (Telangana), which is 122 feet in length and 183 feet in width.

**Top**

## Persons

1. ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
2. ▶ According to *World Leaders on Facebook* study by Burson Cohn & Wolfe, Indian PM Narendra Modi is most 'liked' world leader on Facebook. With 4.3 Crore Followers, he is way ahead of USA President Donald Trump (2.3 Crore Followers).
3. ▶ Actress Sonakshi Sinha joins UNESCO to promote safe & secure online environment for children and help empower our future digital citizens.
4. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) appointed Taniya Sanyal as country's first woman firefighter.
5. ▶ Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos becomes the richest man in the world with a net worth of USD 141.9 Billion according to Forbes world's billionaire list.
6. ▶ Australian Steve Plain became fastest climber to scale highest peaks on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he scaled Mount Everest. He began his mission by climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. Record was earlier held by a Polish climber who scaled in 126 days.
- 🖎 Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai become youngest person to scale six peaks over 8000 metres when he summited Kangchenjunga (Sikkim), third highest mountain in world. He intends to become youngest person in world to scale all 14 above 8000 metre-peaks. His next is Shishapangma (8013 metres) in Nyalam County, Tibet.
- 🖎 Also, Sangeeta Bahl became oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest, at 53 years of age.
7. ▶ British actress Millie Bobby Brown became youngest person in list of world's 100 most influential people by TIME. 4 Indians featured on this list - Virat Kohli, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Actor Deepika Padukone and Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal.
8. ▶ Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President M Karunanidhi (Tamilnadu) became first Indian political figure to lead a party for 50 years, Elected as DMK chief in 1969.
9. ▶ Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif has been sentenced to 7 years in jail and and son-in-law captain (retired) Safdar awarded 1 year jail term, along with fine of £8 million on Mr. Sharif and £2 million on Ms. Maryam (His Daughter).
10. ▶ Four year old Ayan Gogoi Gohain of Assam is honoured as *Youngest Author of India* title by Indian Book of Records, for his book 'honeycomb', published in January 2018.

11. ▶ French swimmer Ben Lecomte began his expedition to become first person to swim across Pacific Ocean, starting from Japan. He will swim for eight hours a day for more than six months as he heads towards US west coast, during approx 8850 kilometres long swim.

12. ▶ India's Prabhat Koli became first Asian to swim the choppy water from Jersey (an Island in the UK) to France in cold weather. He covered 25 km in 6 hours and 54 minutes.
    ✎ He had earlier crossed English Channel when he was 16.

13. ▶ India's Priyanka Das from Assam has been appointed as ambassador for 'promote science' initiative in France to encourage girls to pursue scientific careers.

14. ▶ Indian Australian Sashi Cheliah wion Masterchef Australia Title, fetching prize money of $250000.

15. ▶ Indian Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua climbed Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand. Its highest peak in Iran and also a potentially active volcano, with elevation of 5609 metres.

16. ▶ Indian Navy's Abhilash Tomy will be Asia's only attendant in Golden Globe Race (GGR) that commenced from Les Sables d'Olonne harbour in France. Participants are required to sail around the world, single-handed and non-stop. Boat technology newer than 1968 is not permitted, hence use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc is forbidden.
    ✎ GGR is conducted by Sir Robin Knox Johnston of UK to commemorate 50 years since world's first solo non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968 onboard Indian built boat, Suhaili.

17. ▶ Indian poet Abhay K became first Indian poet invited to record his poems at Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

18. ▶ Indian-origin lawyer Person Gobind Singh Deo become first Sikh in Malaysia to be appointed as a Cabinet minister, after being allotted communications and multimedia portfolio. Another Indian-origin lawmaker M Kulasegaran has been appointed as human resource minister.

19. ▶ Ishwar Sharma, 8-year old Indian-origin boy in England, who is currently under-11 UK national yoga champion has been named the 'British Indian of the Year'. He recently won a gold medal for Great Britain at the World Student Games 2018 in Winnipeg, Canada.

20. ▶ Karan Johar became first Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at Madame Tussauds Museum London (UK).

21. ▶ Monti Rajkhowa became first Assamese to scale Mount Kanchenjunga, 3rd highest mountain in world (8586 Metres).

22. ▶ Mukesh Ambani (chairman of Reliance Industries)' topped 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for 7th consecutive year, with the total net worth of INR 371,000 crores.

23. ▶ Nehal Chudasama declared as winner of Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Miss Universe 2018, to represent India at Miss Universe 2018 pageant in Bangkok (Thailand) in December 2018.

24. ▶ Nepali woman Nima Jangmu Sherpa created world record by scaling 3 highest mountains in a single climbing season within 25 days - Kangchenjunga (8586 metres), Nima summited Lhotse (8516 metres) and Everest (8848 metres).

25. ▶ Obituaries (April 2018) -
    ✎ Efrain Rios Montt - Noted military dictator of Guatemala. He was accused of a mass genocide.
    ✎ Munin Barua - Noted Assamese film-maker.
    ✎ Ray Wilkins - Noted England Footballer.
    ✎ S. Nihal Singh - Noted journalist.
    ✎ Ram Kumar - Noted painter. Hwa was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2010.
    ✎ TVR Shenoy - Noted journalist and columnist passed. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2003.
    ✎ Rajinder Sachar - Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice.
    ✎ Bhimsain Khurana - Noted animation expert
    ✎ Nabi Tajima - The world's oldest person (117 year old) from Japan. Another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, is now world's oldest person (117 Years).
    ✎ James Ajongo - South Sudan military chief who died during a visit to Egypt.
    ✎ Avicii - Noted Swedish dance music star.

26. ▶ Obituaries (August 2018) -
    ✎ Jalees Sherwani - Noted Bollywood Sreenwriter.
    ✎ Umbayee - Noted Malayalam Ghazal singer.
    ✎ Krishna Shripadrao Deshpande - Noted library scientist.
    ✎ Muthuvel Karunanidhi - Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, served for over five terms between 1969 and 2011.
    ✎ Sumatheendra R. Nadig - Noted Kannada poet.
    ✎ Jarrod Lyle - Noted Australian golfer.
    ✎ Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul - Noted Indian Origin British writer who won 2001 Nobel Prize for Literature. He was born in Trinidad in a family with Indian roots.

- Somnath Chatterjee - Former Lok Sabha speaker.
- Nicholas Bett - former 400m hurdles world champion from Kenya.
- Balramji Dass Tandon - Incumbent (Current) Governor of Chhattisgarh. Anandiben Patel (Governor of Madhya Pradesh) has been named as Acting Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- Ajit Wadekar - Former Cricketer.
- Hakam Singh - Former Track Athelete. He had won gold medal at 1978 Asian Games in 20 kilometre race walk.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Former Prime Minister of India.
    - He was Prime Minister thrice in 1996 (13 days), 1998-1999 and 1999-2004 (making him first non-Congress leader to have completed full term as Prime Minister).
    - During his second term as PM, he ordered thermonuclear tests in May 1998 which were seen as strategic masterstroke to blunt Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. He was awarded the India's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna' in 2015. His birthday is celebrated as Good Governance Day (GGD) by the Central Government since 2014. He was also honored by Bangladesh Muktijuddho Sanmanona (Bangladesh Liberation War honour) in 2015.
    - His poetry collection is released in his book Meri Ekyaavan Kavitayein (My 51 Poems). During his stint as PM, India won Kargil war Against Pakistan. Some Other notable books of Shri Vajpayee were -
        - Meri Sansadiya Yatra
        - Meri Ekyavan Kavitayen (poetry)
        - Sankalp Kaal
        - Shakti-se-Shanti
        - Four Decades in Parliament
        - Mrityu Ya Hatya
        - Amar Balidan
        - Kaidi Kaviraj Ki Kundalian
        - New Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy
        - Jan Sangh Aur Mussalman
        - Sansad Mein Teen Dashak
        - Amar Aag Hai
        - Kya Khoya Kya Paya
        - Kuchh Lekh Kuchh Bhaashan
        - Vichaar-Bindu
        - Bindu-Bindu Vichar
        - Gathbandhan Ki Rajneeti
        - Nayi Chunouti : Naya Avasar
        - Na Dainyam Na Palaynam
- Kofi Annan (Ghana) - Former United Nations Secretary General.
- Aretha Franklin - Noted US Singer.
- Uri Avnery - Noted Israeli journalist and peace activist.
- Chemmanam Chacko - Noted Malayalam poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee.
- Kuldip Nayar - Noted journalist and former Rajya Sabha member.
- Debu Bose - Noted Odia actor.
- John McCain - Noted US Senator and a celebrated Vietnam war hero.
- Gopal Bose - Former Bengal cricketer.
- K K Haridas - Noted Malayalam film director
- Nandamuri Harikrishna - Telugu actor and Politician.

27. Obituaries (July 2018) -
- JG Nadkarni - Ex Indian Navy chief
- M.M. Jacob - former Meghalaya Governor
- Kabutari Devi - Noted Kumaoni folk singer
- Kavi Kumar Azad - Actor
- J N Sadhu - Noted Journalist
- Kalpesh Yagnik - Noted journalist

- M.N. Vyasa Rao - Kannada poet and lyricist.
- Gopal Das Neeraj - Noted Hindi poet.
- Basabi Nandi - Noted Bengali actress.
- Swapan Sarkar - Noted Sports journalist.
- Chiyo Miyako - World's oldest person (117 years)
- Ramapada Chowdhury - Noted Bengali author

28. ▶ Obituaries (June 2018) -
- Timothy Pereira - Former Indian footballer.
- Urmila Singh - Former Himachal Pradesh governor.
- L.P. Shahi - Congress leader and former Union Minister (Appointed Education & Culture Minister in 1985).
- Narayan Prasad Singh - Odisha's Noted lyricist, popularly known as *Rasaraj*.
- David Douglas Duncan - Noted World War II photographer (USA).
- Maria Bueno - Noted Brazilian tennis player.
- Shahjahan Bachchu Noted Bangladeshi writer.
- Mulubha Jadeja - Former Saurashtra Cricketer.
- Adiraju Venkateswara Rao - Noted Telugu journalist and writer.
- Nerella Venumadhav - Noted Telugu Mimicry Artist from Telangana.
- Puan, world's oldest Sumatran orangutan passed away in Perth Zoo (Australia), at age of 62 years.
- Jamsheed Marker - Noted Pakistani diplomat who holds Guinness World Record for *World's longest-serving ambassador* and also being the *ambassador to more countries than any other person*.
- Kim Jong-pil - Prime Minister of South Korea.
- Donald Hall - Noted American poet and writer.
- Peter Thomson - Noted Australian golfer.
- B Sujatha Devi - Malayalam Poetess.

29. ▶ Obituaries (May 2018) -
- Ashok Mitra - Noted economist, served as former finance minister of West Bengal and Economic Adviser during Indira Gandhi's prime ministerial tenure.
- Kottayam Pushpanath - Noted Malayalam novelist.
- Keyur Bhushan - Noted freedom fighter & writer.
- Ravinder Sharma - Noted artist and philosopher, Founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram.
- Arun Date - Noted Marathi singer.
- Arjun Hingorani - Noted Filmmaker.
- Dave Michener - Noted American animator.
- Gurukrushna Goswami - Noted Odia lyricist.
- Rajinder Pal - Former cricketer.
- Anne V. Coates - Noted Oscar Winning British film editor.
- Nandram Das Bairagi (*known as Balkavi Bairagi*) - Noted Hindi film lyricist.
- Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani - Noted Telugu novelist.
- E C G Sudarshan - Great theoretical physicist.
  - Had been teaching at University of Texas for over 40 years.
  - Has been credited with numerous contributions to field of theoretical Physics including *Optical coherence, Sudarshan-Glauber representation, V-A theory, Tachyons, Quantum Zeno effect, Open quantum system, Spin-statistics theorem, non-invariance groups, positive maps of density matrices, quantum computation among others*.
  - Was given Padma Vibhushan honour in 2007 and had several other decorations to his name.
- David Goodall - Australia's oldest scientist. Aged 104, He opted for euthanasia in Switzerland to end his life.
- Yamunabai Waikar - Noted Lavani singer.
- Balakumaran - Noted Tamil writer
- Vinod Bhatt - Noted Gujarati writer.
- Alan Bean - Former US astronaut, who was 4th man to walk on Moon.
- Madala Ranga Rao -Noted Telugu actor and producer

30. ▶ Obituaries (September 2018) -

- Tarun Sagar - Noted Jainism monk.
- Bhagwati Kumar Sharma - Noted Gujarati author and journalist.
- Burt Reynolds - Noted American Actor.
- Rita Jitendra - Noted Writer from J & K.
- Vijay Shankar Vyas - Noted agricultural economist. He worked with two Prime Ministers (*Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh*) as a member of their Economic Advisory Councils (EAC).
- Goura Chandra Mohapatra - Noted Freedom fighter from Odisha.
- Brij Katyal - Noted Bollywood Storywriter.
- Satya Prakash Malaviya - Former Union petroleum minister. He served as petroleum minister in cabinet headed by former PM Chandra Shekhar.
- Anna Rajam Malhotra - India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence.
- Captain Raju - Noted Malayalam actor
- Ganpatrao Andalkar - former Asian Games champion Wrestler.
- Kalpana Lajmi - Filmmaker.
- Biswanath Dutt - Former BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) president.
- Tran Dai Quang - Serving President of Vietnam.
- Jasdev Singh - Noted Commentator (primarily cricket).
- Kavita Mahajan - Noted Marathi writer, novelist and translator.
- Pandit Tulsidas Borkar - Noted harmonium artist.

31. PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna.

32. Pallavi Durua of Koraput district in Odisha is crowned first Tribal Queen at Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap, was organised by SC & ST department of Govt of Odisha.

33. Persons Resigned / Retired (July 2018) -
    - David Davis - Brexit Secretary (UK).
    - Mohammed Kaif - Noted Indian cricketer.
    - Tushar Arothe - Indian Women's Cricket Team Coach. Ramesh Powar has been named as interim coach of women's cricket team.
    - Parvinder Awana - Delhi Cricketer.
    - Tim Cahill - Noted Austrlian Footballer.
    - Renu Satti -  Paytm Payments Bank CEO.

34. Persons Resigned / Retired (June 2018) -
    - Olivier Mahafaly Solonandrasana - Madagascar's Prime Minister.
    - James Sutherland - Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer.
    - Mike Hesson - New Zealand cricket coach.
    - Giorgi Kvirikashvili - Georgia's prime minister.
    - Peggy Whitson - Noted NASA Astronaut. She spent more 665 days off earth, most by an American.
    - Mehbooba Mufti - Jammu & Kashmir's Chief Minister. After BJP pulled out of an alliance with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), causing government to fall apart. After this, President Ram Nath Kovind imposited Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, as 8th time in four decades J&K was put under Governor's rule and third time under Current Governor N N Vohra.
    - Arvind Subramanian - Chief Economic Advisor of India.
    - Brian Krzanich - Removed as CEO of Intel Corp. after his past consensual relationship with an employee.
    - Economic Offences Wing (EOW) arrested Bank of Maharashtra CMD Ravindra P. Marathe in a case of INR 3000 crores fraudulent loans extended to Pune DSK Group.

35. Persons Resigned / Retired (May 2018) -
    - Emmanuel Issoze Ngondet - Prime Minister of Gabon (Central Africa).
    - AB de Villiers - South African Cricketer. Also Known as Mr. 360, He is Hailed as an All Time Great of the Game. He played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.
    - Vikas Gowda - Noted discus thrower. He is first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in Discuss Throw.

36. Persons Resigned / Retired (September 2018) -
    - Alastair Cook - England Cricketer. He is overall 5th and England's top scorer in test cricket, with 12472 runs.
    - Rudra Pratap Singh - Indian Cricketer.

- 🖊 Morna Nielsen - New Zealand Female Cricketer.
- 🖊 Sardar Singh - Former India Hockey Player and captain.
- 🖊 James Foster - England Cricketer.
- 🖊 Paul Collingwood - England cricketer.
- 🖊 Shaida Mohammad Abdali - Afghanistan Ambassador to India.
- 🖊 Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger - Co-founders of Social Media app Instagram.
- 🖊 Ramesh Bawa - IL&FS Financial Services Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- 🖊 Russia's Mikhail Youzhny (nicknamed 'Colonel'), retired from professional tennis, with 499 career wins.
- 🖊 Jiwanjot Singh Teja - National compound archery coach. He resigned following denial of Dronacharya award.

37. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired -
- 🖊 Mario Gomez - Noted German Footballer.
- 🖊 David Silva and Gerard Pique - Spanish Footballers.
- 🖊 Paresh Sukthankar - HDFC Bank Deputy Managing Director.
- 🖊 Sriram Kalyanaraman - National Housing Bank (NHB) Managing Director.
- 🖊 MD Ranganath - Infosys' Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- 🖊 Mitchell Johnson - Australian cricketer.
- 🖊 Usha Ananthasubramanian - Fired on her last day in office as Allahabad Bank's MD and CEO, in relation to PNB scam.
- 🖊 Jhulan Goswami - Indian women Cricketer (from T20 Internationals).
- 🖊 Subramaniam Badrinath - Indian Cricketer

38. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (April 2018) -
- 🖊 Morne Morkel - South African cricketer.
- 🖊 Julio Cesar - Brazilia Footballer.
- 🖊 Aditya Ghosh - Airline IndiGo CEO. Rahul Bhatia has been named Interim CEO.

39. ▶ Poland's Andrzej Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's second-highest mountain, the 8,611-metre high K2 peak in Pakistan. K2 also known as "Savage Mountain" is considered to be a more challenging climb than world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

40. ▶ Polish-born scientist Marie Curie (first to win two Nobel Prizes) has topped a BBC History magazine poll, which listed "100 women who changed the world". Former Indian PM Indira Gandhi ranked 49th. The list also feaured Indian poet Sarojini Naidu.

41. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind nominated 4 names to Rajya Sabha. Nominations are Farmer leader Ram Shakal, Author Rakesh Sinha, Sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra and classical dancer Sonal Mansingh.
- 🖊 As per Article 80 (Part V) of Constitution, President can nominate 12 members in Rajya Sabha. These persons should have special knowledge or practical experience in the field of Art, Science, Literature and Social Service.

42. ▶ Pune Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross Bangla Channel (Water stretch from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh). He accomplished this by completing swim of 32.2 kilometers in 9 hours and 10 minutes.

43. ▶ Satyarup Siddhanta become 2nd Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado (6893 m), highest volcano in world on Argentina-Chile border.

44. ▶ Shivangi Pathak, who recently became youngest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest, has now scaled Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro in 3 days. Tanzania Mount Kilimanjaro measures 5,895 meters in height.

45. ▶ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling (from Sikkim Democratic Front) became the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, surpassing Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000. Chamling became Chief Minister in December 1994 and serves till Date.

46. ▶ Three-time Oscar winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg became first director whose films have earned over $10 billion Globally.

47. ▶ US private space firm SpaceX signed world's first private passenger to fly around Moon aboard its Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) launch vehicle. Japanese billionaire (founder of fashion giant Zozo), Yusaku Maezawa will be the first Moon tourist on SpaceX's Lunar BFR Mission.

48. ▶ Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath created a Record in State's History as he became First CM to visit all 75 districts of state in first 16 months of his rule.

49. ▶ VD Dogra became first serving Indian Army officer and only General across world to have completed a gruelling 'Iron Man' competition held in Austria. It consists 3 consecutive events - 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km cycling and 42.2 km of running (a full marathon), to be completed within 17 hours. Actor Milind Soman was first Indian to complete this challenge, in 2015.
- 🖊 Also, Anju Khosla (52 years age) became oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon.

50. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -
- 🖊 Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Russia to attend *VII Moscow Conference on International Security*.

- External Affairs Minister Susma swaraj Visited japan for 9th India-Japan Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Azerbaijan to participate in Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku. On this occasion, India and Azerbaijan signed 2 MOUs for visa waiver for diplomatic, official and service passports holders and cooperation between diplomatic training institutes.
- Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Visited South Korea. India and SK signed mutual recognition of certificate of competency of seafarers to provide Indian seafarers employment on over 500 Korean ships.
- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited 3 African Nations - Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. It is first-ever visit by any head of state of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland.
    - Equatorial Guinea -
        - President Kovind was conferred with *Condecoracion*, highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by government of Equatorial Guinea. He was bestowed with *medal of the Gran Colar de la Independencia* by Equatorial Guinea government.
        - 3 MOUs signed - AYUSH and traditional medicine, medicinal plants, An action plan for Information and Communication Technology.
    - Swaziland -
        - President Kovind inaugurated Information Technology Centre located in Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP).
        - India and Swaziland signed two agreements on health and visa waiver.
        - President Kovind was conferred with Order of the Lion, highest civilian honour of Swaziland.
        - President Kovind announced to donate $1 million to support Swaziland's national disaster mmanagement agency
        - India will establish a Centre of Agricultural Excellence in Swaziland.
        - India donated US $1 million to support Swaziland's National Disaster Management Agency as well as food grains.
    - Zambia
        - India and Zambia signed four agreements - double taxation avoidance; on mutual visa waivers for officials and diplomats, judicial cooperation and on Entrepreneurship Development Institute that India will build in Zambia.
        - India will provide USD 100000 towards construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Lusaka (capital of Zambia).
        - India gifted medicines and medical equipment worth USD 3 million to Zambia.
51. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -
    - Minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar Visited Southeast Asian nation Timor Leste. MoU was signed in field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to people of Timor Leste.
    - P.P. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law & Justice Visited USA an Carribean Nations St. Vincent & Grenadines, Barbados.
    - Subhash Chandra Garg , Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs Visited Washington D.C. (USA) for BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting. It was held in sidelines of IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. Urjit R. Patel, RBI Governor Visited IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C on India's Behalf.
        - During BRICS Finance Ministers Meet, India pressed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations to set up an independent credit rating agency.
    - PM Narendra Modi Visited Sweden, United Kingdom and Germany -
        - UK Visit -
            - PM attended Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.
                - India and 3 other countries (Sri *Lanka, Mauritius and Malta*) participated creating in USD 5 million *Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility* which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve sustainable development goals. Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of Baroda, are facility managers for this fund. 31 Commonwealth nations classified as small states can avail this facility. Before it is available to all such nations, it will be rolled out on pilot basis in Bahamas, Botswana, Brunei, Dominica, Fiji, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles.
            - UK formally joined International Solar Alliance, founded by India and France. It was announced at an event called *Financing the Green Revolution*.
            - 10 MOUs Signed -
                - UK-India Cyber Relationship framework aimed at having a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace

- MoU to enable United Kingdom to support India in sustainable management of water resources in Ganga river basin.
- MoU on agreement on Skill Development, vocational education and training.
- Agreement for regulation of safe nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes.
- MoU on skill development, vocational education and training to promote collaboration and capacity-building.
- MoU on cooperation in the animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors.
- MoU on exchange of information for combating international criminality and tackling serious organised crime.
- addendum covering research in humanities and social sciences has been added to 2004 Newton-Bhabha MoU.
- MoU to enable development of evidence-based guidelines for integrating Ayurvedic principles and practices with modern medicine.
- MoU to strengthen institutional cooperation in sustainable urban development and enhance cooperation in Smart Cities Mission.
- Additionally, India's NASSCOM and TechUK launched new UK-India Tech Alliance, aimed at increasing collaboration on skills and new technologies, assisting policy development and encouraging innovation and lay groundwork for roadmap which will be jointly presented in June 2018.
- Sweden Visit -
  - India and Sweden hosted India-Nordic Summit titled *India-Nordic Summit: Shared Values, Mutual Prosperity*.
    - Nordic Nations are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, including Greenland and Faroe Islands.
    - Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and North Atlantic.
  - An India-Sweden Joint Action Plan was decided with target areas -
    - Innovation.
    - Trade and investment.
    - Smart Cities and Next Generation Transport.
    - Smart, sustainable and renewable energy.
    - Women's skills development and empowerment - Encourage women empowerment by skilling employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women through projects like"Kraftsamla", undertaken by Swedish and Indian actors in Pune, Maharashtra.
    - Defence
    - Space and science
    - Health and Life Sciences
  - MOUs -
    - With Sweden
      - Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future.
    - With Denmark -
      - In field of Sustainable and Smart Urban Development.
      - In fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
      - On Food Safety Cooperation between
      - Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education between.
    - With Iceland -
      - Establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and University of Iceland.
    - Agreements between India and Sweden Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future between Ministry of Science and Technology of India and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.
  - Germany -
    - The Visit to Germany was a brief stop over, to discuss issues of common interest and enhance co-operation.
52. Visits From India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
  - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited 3 central Asian nations - Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan AND Uzbekistan.
53. Visits From India (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
  - Kiren Rijij, Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 (AMCDRR 2018) held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), with theme *Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development*.

- Union Minister of State for HRD, Satya Pal Singh attended 6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town (South Africa). In this meeting of BRICS, India was allotted key theme of 'Digitization in Education'.
- Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad visited UK. An MoU for enhancing bilateral cooperation in legal affairs was signed, for promoting greater co-operation between judicial and legal professionals in both countries.
- Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan visited Switzerland for attending 3rd Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) meet in Geneva, oorgznied by UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).
- Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Upendra Kushwaha visited Oceanic Nation Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), as first ever ministerial visit from India to RMI. India committed to extend grant of USD 300,000 for a Water and Sanitation Project Proposal of Aur Atoll in RMI.

54. ▶ Visits from India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018) -
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mongolia. She co-chaired 6th round of India-Mongolia Joint Consultative Committee meeting.
- Indian Commerce Secretary Rita Teaotia Visited Nepal. During this Visit, India and Nepal agreed to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018, during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in Kathmandu.
- Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited China -
  - India and China's first Informal Summit was held in Wuhan, to discuss measures for strengthening bilateral ties.
  - PM Modi gifted to Xi Jinping (Chinese Premier), specially made prints of paintings by legendary Chinese artist Xu Beihong.
  - India and China agreed to undertake joint India-China economic project in Afghanistan.
  - PM Modi laid emphasis on importance of people-to-people (P2P) contact through STRENGTH. S-Spirituality; T-Tradition, Trade and Technology; R-Relationship; E-Entertainment (Art, Movies, etc.); N-Nature conservation; G-Games; T-Tourism and H-Health and Healing.

55. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mauritius. She Inaugurated Panini Language Laboratory at Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius. She also attended 11th World Hindi Conference being held in Mauritius, in its capital Port Lois. Theme of Conference was *Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti*.

56. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -
- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik visited Netherlands for 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC), organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Nepal (Kathmandu) -
  - Participated in 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Meet. Theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'.
    - BIMSTEC is regional grouping of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. It was established on 6 June 1997 through Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
    - Members - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand.
  - India and Nepal signed MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar, India to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.
  - Also, PM Modi inaugurated 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.
- 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee held in Nairobi (Kenya). It was attended by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu.
- Minister of Commerce& Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting in Singapore.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Vietnam and Cambodia. She attended 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi (Vietnam). Its theme was "Building Regional Architectures".
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Thailand.
- G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting held in Salta (Argentina). India was represented by Minister for Electronics and IT & Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

57. ▶ Visits from India (July 11 - 20, 2018)

- 8th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting held at Durban (South Africa). Indian delegation was led by J P Nadda (Minister of Health and Family Welfare).
- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu visited Oman for participating in 8th India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Muscat.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Bahrain.
- Ghana's Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchway Visited India. 2 Agreements were signed -
  - On exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports.
  - Establishment of a joint commission
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Bangladesh -
  - Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad and Bangladesh Police Academy for cooperation in training, management and exchange of trainers and trainees .
  - 6th meeting of India-Bangladesh Home Minister level talks held in Dhaka.
  - Revised Travel Arrangement 2018 (RTA 2018) was also signed, amending earlier RTA 2013. HM Rajnath Singh also announced withdrawal of e-token system for submission of Visa applications.

58. Visits from India (July 21 - 30, 2018)-
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited African Nations Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa -
  - Rwanda -
    - India and Rwanda signed 8 agreements. Including -
      - Cooperation in - Agriculture and Animal Resources, Defence, Cultural Exchange Program for 2018-22, Agricultural Research, Leather and Allied Sectors, Trade Cooperation Framework and 2 Lines of Credit for each $100 Million for
        - Development of industrial parks and Kigali Special Economic Zone.
        - 3 agricultural projects in Rwanda.
    - Mr. Modi became first Indian PM to visit Rwanda.
    - PM Modi also gifted 200 cows to villagers in Rweru Model Village, as a part of Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme.
  - Uganda -
    - India extended 2 lines of credit to Uganda – one of $141 million (around Rs 968 crore) for electricity lines and another of $64 million (Rs 439 crore) for agriculture and dairy production.
    - India and Uganda exchanged 4 MoUs covering Defence Cooperation, Visa exemption for Diplomatic and official passport holders, Cultural Exchange Programme and Material Testing Laboratory.
    - India will open 18 new embassies across Africa.
    - Unveiled a statue of *Loh Purush* Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (first home minister of India) in Kampala (Capital of Uganda).
  - South Africa -
    - Attended 10th BRICS (Brazil, Russian, India, China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg. This year's theme is *BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution*. It was 2nd time South Africa Hosted this event. PM Modi also held bilateral talks with leaders of Russia, Turkey, Angola and Argentina.
    - Next (11th) BRICS summit will be hosted by Brazil in 2019.
    - MOUs signed with South Africa -
      - Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.
      - Setting up of *Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills* in South Africa.
      - Cooperation in Exploration and uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

59. Visits from India (July 21 - 31, 2018) -
- Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended Global Disability Summit held in London (UK).

60. Visits from India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -
- Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Brazil.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited South Africa. She participated in BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting and IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting during her visit.
- PM Narendra Modi Visited China -
  - India and China signed 2 MoUs related to sharing of Brahmaputra river data and supply of non-Basmati rice. Under MoU, China will provide India hydrological data of Brahmaputra River in flood season crucial to predict floods.

- Attended 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Qingdao. SCO has 8 Members Including India and Pakistan.
- PM Narendra Modi Visited Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore -
  - Indonesia -
    - India and Indonesia signed 15 MoUs in fields of economic co-operation, defence, scientific and technological cooperation, railways and health, among others.
      - India and Indonesia agreed to Jointly develop strategic Indian Ocean Port.
      - India an Indonesia will set up a task force to enhance connectivity between Andaman (India) and Sabang (Indonesia).
  - Malaysia -
    - PM Modi met his newly elected 92-year-old Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad. Discussed issues of Bilateral Co-operation and Mutual Interest.
  - Singapore -
    - India and Singapore signed 14 MOUs in a business cum community event called 'Anushasanam'.
    - Key fields under which agreements were exchanged are - Naval cooperation, Economic co-operation, Fintech, Cybersecurity, Nursing, Combating Narcotics smuggling & Human Trafficking, Personnel Management and Public Administration, Planning.
    - Attended Annual Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual security meet of 28 Asia - Pacific Nations.
    - Conferred Padma Shri award to former Singaporean Diplomat Tommy koh. Koh served as Singapore's ambassador to US and the UN, and as president of Third United Nations Conference on Law of Sea in 1981 and 1982.
    - An orchid is named as 'Dendrobium Narendra Modi' as a special gesture for PM Modi during his visit.
    - Unveiled a plaque dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi at Clifford Pier in city-state, where his ashes were immersed.
    - Launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI. With this, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS). It would create multi-billion dollar transactions as some five million Indians travel to and transit through Singapore, internationalising RuPay beginning with first cross border usage.
    - India signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in Nursing with Singapore. This is first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners. It paves way for our healthcare service providers to institutionally access markets abroad.
    - India and Singapore concluded 2nd Review of India Singapore CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement).
- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended an Informal Meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministers in Paris.

61. ▶ Visits from India (June 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Nitin Gadkari (Minister for *Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation* and *Road Transport & Highways and Shipping*) visited Tajikistan (Central Asia) to represent India in high-level Conference on *International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028.*
- Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Visited OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Forum in Vienna (Austria). Theme of the Seminar is 'Petroleum – cooperation for a sustainable future'. Mr. Pradhan also visited Germany.
  - OPEC is an intergovernmental organization of 15 nations, headquartered since 1965 in Vienna (Austria). 15 OPEC members account for 44 % of global oil production and 81.5 % of world's proven oil reserves.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Vietnam -
  - She inaugurated first Representative Office of Navratna Defence Public Sector Unit Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Hanoi (Vietnam).
- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu visited USA.
- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis visited USA -
  - He met World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva at Washington DC and asked for World Bank's assistance for Rural transformation through sustainable livelihood in 10,000 villages and A multimodal transport corridor in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
  - Ford Motor Company submitted a proposal of 50 million USD for setting up a Centre of Excellence for integrated mobility in Maharashtra.

- Maharashtra government and Canada's Quebec province signed a pact to increase economic cooperation.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited european Nations Italy, France, Luxembourg and Belgium.
  - India will construct a war memorial at Villers Guislain in France as tribute to Indian soldiers who died in World War I.
  - 2018 marks 20th year of India's Diplomatic relations with France and 70th year of India's Diplomatic relations with Luxembourg.
  - It was First ever official visit by an India Minister of External Affairs to Luxembourg.
- President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Greece, Suriname and Cuba -
  - Greece -
    - He attended Greece-India Business Forum in Greek Capital Athens.
    - Stated that India is on its way to become a 5 trillion UDS Economy by 2025.
    - MOUs -
      - Cooperation in Fields of Standardization.
      - Cooperation in Diplomatic Training and.
      - Programme of Cultural Cooperation for 2018-2020.
  - Cuba -
    - 2 MoUs signed - Traditional Systems of Medicine AND deepen collaboration in biotechnology.
  - Suriname -
    - India announced $51 Million aid to suriname for several developmental Projects -
      - 20 Million USD for for setting up a solar project to provide clean energy to a cluster of 49 villages in Suriname.
      - 27.5 Million USD to support a power transmission project in PikinSaronarea
      - 3.5 Million Dollars 3.5 million for maintenance of Chetak helicopters.
      - India - Suriname MOUs -
        - To establish a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Suriname.
        - MoUs in fields of elections, diplomatic academies partnership, employment for spouse of diplomats.
        - Twinning Agreement Cities of Panaji (Goa) and City of Victoria of Seychelles.
62. ▶ Visits from India (June 21 - 30, 2018) -
  - Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani visited Israel and created a joint working group (JWG) between Gujarat and Israel in fields of agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors
  - 15th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) held in Canberra, Australia. It was sttended by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu during his visit to Australia.
  - Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar visited Australia to attend 4th Meeting of Australia-India Education Council (AIEC).
  - Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended a series of 'Incredible India road shows' in United States of America.
  - 5th 2 plus 2 vice-ministerial level dialogue between India and Japan held in Japan. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra
  - India and USA will hold 1st 2+2 Dialogue in Washington, DC in July 2018. India will be represented by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
  - Home Affairs Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Mongolia.
    - He jointly launched construction of Mongolia's first oil refinery, a long-awaited project that is funded by India and designed to end the country's dependence on Russian fuel.
    - The refinery, in southern Dornogovi province will be capable of processing 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil per year. It is planned for completion in late 2022, will meet all of the nation's demand for gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel and LPG.
    - Cost of project is estimated at $1.35 billion, and it will include a pipeline and its own power plant. Its financing is part of $1 billion soft credit line agreement between Mongolia and Export-Import Bank of India, made during 2015 visit by PM Narendra Modi.
  - Sunil Lanba, Chief of Indian Navy will visited Bangladesh. He inaugurated first Indian Navy - Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) which is being instituted as an annual feature between the navies of both countries.
  - Nitin Gadkari (*Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping*) Visited Dushanbe (Tajikistan Capital). He stated that India will make Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019.
63. ▶ Visits from India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -

- Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Johannesburg (South Africa), He attended India-South Africa business summit.
- 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in Manila (Philippines), Indian delegation was headed by Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs). Alongside, 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was also held.
    - During this meet, ADB Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 & 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.

64. ▶ Visits from India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization's First Tourism Ministers' conference held in Wuhan (China). India's Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons represented India at the conference.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj visited Myanmar.
- Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya (China).
- PM Narendra Modi Visited Nepal -
    - Nepal announced to host 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. BIMSTEC is sub-regional group of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. Nations are - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia.
    - PM Narendra Modi inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India). Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India's Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
    - PM Modi laid foundation stone of 900-megawatt Arun III Hydroelectric Power Plant in Tumlingtar area in eastern Nepal. iT is expected to bring in USD 1.5 billion foreign direct investment into Nepal. Nepal granted licence to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Power Development Company, to generate power from Arun-III Hydropower Project. Project will also provide 21.9 (197 megawatts) of generated energy free of cost to Nepal.
    - India and Nepal also agreed to run a joint operation to control wildlife poaching.
- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship,Dharmendra Pradhan Visited UAE. During this,
    - Mr. Pradhan flagged off first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern (India), as part of an agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE, under which ADNOC will store about 5.86 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Mangalore at its own cost.
- Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Sri Lanka.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited South American Nations Guatemala, Peru and Panama, along with Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Jasvantsinh Sumanbahi Bhabhor.
    - Guatemala -
        - MoUs signed in fields of wildlife protection, human resource training, education and exchanges between training institutes.
        - India and Guatemala agreed to support each other's candidature for Non-Permanent Membership in United Nations Security Council. Guatemala will support India's candidature for UNSC membership for 2021-22 while India will do so for Guatemala for 2031-32.
        - Agreement signed for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in educational field.
        - Indian agreed to Guatemala's request for supplying solar panels to its airports. An MoU has been signed for training training Guatemalan English Teachers in India.
    - Panama -
        - India will set up two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation in Panama worth US $10 million and US $15 million each.
        - Signed agreements for exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports. An agreement on strengthening cooperation in agriculture was also signed.
        - Panama will support India's bid for -
            - Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2019-2021, for which elections will be held in October 2018.
            - Council of International Telecom Union (ITU), elections for which will be held in October – November 2018.
    - Peru -
        - Attended an event to mark 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru.
        - India and Peru signed agreement in field of Renewable Energy.

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Subhash Bhamre visited Nauru (Oceania Nation).
- Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Durban (South Africa) to attend 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting.
  - During this meet, Indias *Green Good Deeds* societal movement to protect environment and promote good living, was included in its official agenda in next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.
  - Harsh Vardhan Also attended 26th Environment Ministers Meet Of BASIC (*Brazil, South Africa, India and China*) Nations, held in Durban.
- Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited North Korea, as first high-level visit to North Korea from India in 20 years.
- Health Minister J P Nadda visited Switzerland to attend 71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva, under theme *Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage*.
  - 71st World Health Assembly adopted resolution on Digital Health, initiated by India and co-sponsored by 20 countries. It paves way for WHO to establish global strategy on digital health, identify priority areas and engage nations to optimise their health systems in sync with global digital health agenda.
- Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Israel. He attended a conference on *Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability*.
- Minister of State for External Affairs, M.J. Akbar visited European Nations Austria and Slovak Republic. He met with President of STRATEGY (Society for Political & Strategic Studies), a leading think tank of Austria.

65. ▶ Visits from India (May 21 - 31, 2018)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Russia, To attend 1st India - Russia Informal Summit.
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare) visited Fiji (Oceania).
- Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences) visited Sweden and Denmark.
  - Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Smart Grid Workshop at Copenhagen (Denmark).
  - Attended 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Malmo (Sweden) -
    - On November 30th of 2015, 20 countries launched Mission Innovation (MI) as 5 year commitment to accelerate innovation and make clean energy widely affordable and accessible worldwide.
    - India announced setting up of First International Incubator for clean energy in public-private partnership at a total investment of US $ 5 million in Delhi. This incubator will promote entrepreneurship in clean energy and provide opportunities to innovators across MI countries to test their technologies in local market.
    - India announced research programmes emanating out of MI centric funding opportunities in smart grids and off-grid access at investment of $ 10 million.
    - After hosting 2 international MI workshops on Smart Grids and sustainable bio-fuels, India will host MI clean energy materials Workshop in October-November, 2018 at New Delhi.
    - India announced launch of Joint Virtual Clean Energy Centre with UK, with funding £ 5 million each (signed during PM Modi's recent Visit to UK).
    - An Indo US Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre on energy storage and smart grids with a total investment of US$ 30 million with matching share of both Governments and Consortia has been launched. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur will lead a pan-India consortia of technical institutes.
    - India also announced 3 dedicated MI funding opportunities on sustainable Bio-fuels, Carbon capture and Sunlight innovation challenge with investment of US $ 11 million.
- Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce and Industry) Visited Cambodia to attend Inaugural session of 5th India CLMV Business Conclave, held in Phnom Penh.
- Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council held in San Sebastian (Spain).
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare visited island nation of Tuvalu (Oceania). He handed over a cheque of A$ 66,705 (Australian Dollar) to Government of Tuvalu as a development partnership assistance from India.
- Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba visited UK, to attend 3rd Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and UK.

66. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018)
- India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul (Afghanistan). Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.
- Minister of State (IC) for Labour& Employment ShriSantosh Kumar Gangwar visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Labour& Employment Ministers' Meeting.

- Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Satya Pal Singh visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting. It was first ever meeting of Education Ministers in history of G-20.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Vietnam and Cambodia.
  - In Vietnam, She inaugurated 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi.
  - In Cambodia, She signed 2 MOUs - 1st MOU is on Rrestoration and preservation of world heritage site of an 11th century temple of Lord Shiva called 'Temple of Preah Vihear' in Cambodia's Preah Vihear. 2ndMOU is on cooperation between India's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Cambodia's National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR).
- Indian Air Force Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Myanmar and Malaysia.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited USA to address 2nd World Hindu Congress held in Chicago, on occasion of 125th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at Parliament of the World's Religions on Sep 11, 1893.
- Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment visited Seoul (Korea),to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'.
- Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das visited China. He invited China to participate in food processing summit, which will be organised by Jharkhand Government in November.
- President Ram Nath Kovind Visited European Nations Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic.
  - Cyprus -
    - India and Cyprus have signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in field of environment.
    - India and Cyprus agreed to revise Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) signed between India and Cyprus in 2016 to further enhance investment cross flows.
  - Bulgaria -
    - India and Bulgaria sign five pacts on Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, science and technology cooperation and Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University.
  - Czech Republic -
    - 5 Agreements signed -
      - Cooperation between Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Czech Academy of Sciences
      - Visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders
      - A work plan to support Indo-Czech projects in diverse areas of science and technology.
      - Cooperation in laser technology between ELI Beamlines and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
      - Cooperation between Haryana Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences.

67. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Rhode Island (USA).
- India and Niger signed an MoU for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey (Niger). It was signed during External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Niger (Western Africa).
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Russia for participiting in 23rd meeting of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC.
- Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Russia.
- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting in Mar del Plata (Argentina).
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited European Nations Serbia, Malta and Romania -
  - Romania -
    - Romania agreed to take lead to re-start negotiations on India-EU-BTIA (Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement)
    - Romania will open a Consulate in Chennai
    - India Opens Ayush Information cell in Romania
  - Malta -
    - 3 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed in fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training.
  - Serbia -
    - India and Serbia signed agreements on cooperation in plant protection and plant quarantine and on-air services. India and Serbia are observing 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

68. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
- Senior security officials from Iran, Russia, China, India and Afghanistan attended a meeting in Tehran (Iran). National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Visited on India's Behalf.

- USA and India formed 'USAID-India End TB Alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis. Event was attended by Health Minister J P Nadda on India's Behalf.
  - It includes Soumya Swaminathan (Deputy Director General of Programmes (DDP) at World Health Organisation (WHO)) and Blessina Kumar from Global Coalition of TB Activists.
  - USAID will make initial US $30 million commitment, subject to approval of the US Congress.
- Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Bangladesh.

69. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -
- Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli Visited India -
  - India and Nepal decided to develop inland waterways for cargo movement within Protocol to Treaty of Transit, recognizing untapped potential of inland waterways to contribute towards overall economic development of the region.
  - India agreed to build strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people (P2P) contact and bulk movement of goods.
  - India agreed to promote and co-operate in Agricultural development in Nepal.
- Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Dang Dinh Quy Visited India.

70. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Morocco Visited India. On this occasion, India and Morocco signed MoU in field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration.

71. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach Visited India, presented a memento to Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra and boxer Vijender Singh.

72. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
- Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President-elect of 73rd United Nations General Assembly visited India.

73. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Itsunori Onodera, Defence Minister of Japan Visited India. He attended India-Japan Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue.

74. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -
- China's Defence Minister Wei Fenghe Visited India (New Delhi). India and China decided to work towards a new bilateral MoU on Defence Exchanges and Cooperation to replace MoU signed in 2006.
- Defence Minister of Japan, Itsunori Onodera visited India.

75. ▶ Visits to India (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
- Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of Kenya Visited India.
- Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dasho Tshering Tobgay visited India.
- Bernard Makuza, President of Senate of Rwanda (East Africa) Visited India.
  - Rajya Sabha, for first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a MOU with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue, when it signed MoU with Upper House of Rwanda's Parliament (Senate).
  - Vice president (currentlyVenkaiah Naidu) is Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited India. He was accompanied with Korean Science and Technology Minister Yiu Young Min and Kim Hyun-chong, Korean Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy.
  - He, Jointly with Indian PM Narenra Modi inaugurated New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida (Uttar Pradesh). With investment of INR 5000 Crores, it is largest Mobile Phone Manufacturing facility in world in terms of number of units produced. It will create 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually. Samsung provides 70,000 direct and indirect jobs in India.
  - 4th India-Korea Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee Meeting held in Delhi. To increase bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030, India and South Korea signed 11 MoUs, including agreement to discuss upgrade of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Signed MoUs -
    - Joint Statement on Early Harvest Package of the Upgraded Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
    - Trade Remedies.
    - Establishment of Future Strategy Group
    - Programme of Cooperation 2018-21
    - MoU between Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and South Korean National Research Council for Science & Technology.
    - MoU on cooperation between Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Korea Railroad Research Institute (KRRI).

- Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bioeconomy.
- ICT and Telecommunications.
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Princess Suriratna (Queen Hur Hwang-ok) Memorial Project - A legendary Princess of Ayodhya, who went to Korea in AD 48 and married King Kim-Suro.
- MOU Between Government of Gujarat and Korea Trade Promotion Agency (KOTRA).
- Agreed to jointly establish 2 additional India-Korea Joint Network Centres in areas among 'Cyber Physical System- Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things focused on agriculture, energy, water and transportation and 'Semiconductor Electronics'.
- A financing arrangement of 10 billion USD has been set by South Korea for infrastructure development in India.
- India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre was Inaugurated, at National Small Industries Corporation premises in New Delhi.

76. ▶ Visits to India (July 11 - 20, 2018)
- Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, Navy Chief of Nigeria Visited India.

77. ▶ Visits to India (July 21 - 31, 2018) -
- Sam Gyimah, Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation of UK Visited India for 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi.

78. ▶ Visits to India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -
- Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff Rajendra Chhetri visited India.
- Singapore trade and industry minister Mr. R Iswaran Visited India. During this Visir, Andhra Pradesh Govt. announced set up of startup area with joint collaboration with Singapore, with signing of a Concession and Development agreement (CADA).
  - National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will partner with Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL) at National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) for implementation of skill development initiatives of India.

79. ▶ Visits to India (June 11 - 20, 2018) -
- United Kingdom Minister of State for Countering Extremism and Minister for Equalities, Baroness Williams of Trafford Visited India.

80. ▶ Visits to India (June 21 - 30, 2018)
- Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development Desmond Lee visited India. During hs visit, Andhra Pradesh Government signed MoU with Singapore to accelerate construction work of its new capital, Amratvati.
- United States Permanent Representative to United Nations, Nikki Haley visited India. Haley, daughter of Sikh immigrants from Punjab, is the first Indian-American to serve in a Cabinet-level position in any US presidential administration.
- UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India. He announced to set up a consulate of United Arab Emirates i Hyderabad (Telangana).
- Suhrob Kholmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan visited India.
- Chakra Pani Khanal, Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal visted India. He participated in India-Nepal "New Partnership in Agriculture" meet in New Delhi.
- Danny Faure, President of Seychelles Visited India -
  - Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended $10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles, as first tranche of the $50 million sanctioned by Exim Bank to Seychelles.
  - 6 MoUs signed between India and Seychelles -
    - Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of small development projects through local bodies, educational and vocational institutions.
    - Twinning Agreement on Establishment of and Cooperation between Panaji (Goa) and Victoria City of Seychelles
    - Cyber Security.
    - Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Seychelles for 2018-2022.
    - Technical Agreement on Sharing White Shipping Information between Indian Navy and National Information Sharing and Coordination Center of Seychelles.
    - MoU between Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Department of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles.
  - Seychelles gifted pair of Giant Aldabra tortoise to India as a goodwill gesture, both aged about 20 years. Aldabra Giant Tortoise (Aldabrachelys gigantea) is endemic to Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles, and is one of largest species of tortoises on planet.

🖋 India gifted a second Dornier aircraft to the Seychelles to help it enhance maritime reconnaissance and maintain security in that part of the Indian Ocean region.

81. ▶ Visits to India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
    🖋 Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko Visited India. He attended 9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi. Indo-Japan Startup Hub was also inaugurated in Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB).
    🖋 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dacic Visited India.
    🖋 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov Visited India.

82. ▶ Visits to India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -
    🖋 Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binser Pandjaitan Visited India.
    🖋 Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte visited India. During his visit, Invest India (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Dutch Government launched Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink initiative, to further spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum was also inaugurated, to take forward MoU signed in June 2017.
    🖋 India and Netherlands also launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi, aiming to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from Netherlands.
    🖋 Queen Maxima of Kingdom of the Netherlands visited India, as UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.

83. ▶ Visits to India (May 21 - 31, 2018)
    🖋 Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Visited India. She jointly (with Indian PM Narendra Modi) inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Vishwa Bharti University in Santiniketan (West Bengal).

84. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -
    🖋 Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister of Nepal Visited India.

85. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
    🖋 Goa government signed agreement with Portugal in field of water supply, waste water management and sanitation for a period of 2 years. It was signed during Portugal's Minister of Environment Joao Pedro de Matos Fernandes Visiting India.
    🖋 Sayyid Badr Saud Harib Al Busaidi, Defence Minister of Sultanate of Oman Visited India.
    🖋 India and Morocco have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security, during Visit of Moroccan Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudyi, to India. 2 MoUs signed - Cyber Security AND Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
    🖋 Minister for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan, Shuhrat Sadikov Visited India. 2 MoUs signed
        🖋 Strengthening e-Governance cooperation.
        🖋 Declaration of Intent between CDAC India and Tashkent University of Information Technologies (Uzbekistan) for cooperation in capacity building in ICT sector.
    🖋 Queen Mother of Bhutan, Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck Visited India.

## Science

1. ▶ NASA confirmed that there are frozen water deposits in darkest and coolest parts of Moon's Polar Regions, using data from India's Chandrayaan-I spacecraft.
    🖋 Chandrayaan-I spacecraft was launched in 2008 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
    🖋 At the southern pole of moon, most of ice is concentrated at lunar craters, while northern pole's ice is more widely and lightly spread.
    🖋 Most of the newfound water ice lies in shadows of craters near poles, where warmest temperatures never reach above minus 156 degrees Celsius (-250 degrees Fahrenheit).

2. ▶ 4 rare kingfisher species are spotted in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh, identified as White-throated kingfisher (Halcyon smyrnensis), Pied kingfisher (Ceryle rudis), Black-capped kingfisher (Halcyon pileate) and Common kingfisher.

3. ▶ 6 new species of minute goblin spiders discovered in forests of Sri Lanka, named after fictional characters described by English children's writer Enid Blyton. Names given are - goblins Bom, Snooky and Tumpy and the brownies Chippy, Snippy and Tiggy.

4. ▶ *IceCube*, a small NASA satellite has developed first global map of ice clouds. Ice clouds start as tiny particles high in atmosphere. They absorb moisture, and become heavier. This make them to fall to lower altitudes. Ice clouds affect Earth's energy budget by absorbing Sun's energy and by affecting emission of heat from Earth into space. IceCube will operate for a year, and then it will reenter Earth's atmosphere and burn up.

5. ▶ A Massive underground lake has been detected for first time on Mars, discovered by European Space Agency's Mars Express orbiter (launched in 2003). It is about 20 kilometres wide, located under a layer of Martian ice and is largest body of liquid water ever found on Red Planet.

   🪶 It lies almost 1.5 km beneath the icy surface and water is not drinkable. Tool that detected this is called Mars Advanced Radar for Subsurface and Ionosphere Sounding (MARSIS).

6. ▶ A group of Russian and Princeton University (USA) scientists revived a pair of frozen roundworms that were 32,000 and 41,700 years old and were found buried in Siberia. Around 300 prehistoric worms were defrosted and brought to 20ºC. After weeks of cultivation, two nematodes reportedly showed signs of life by starting to move and eat.

7. ▶ A new Clot buster, PEGylated Streptokinase - a Novel Biological Entity developed by CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) has been developed, to revolutionize treatment of ischemic strokes, a condition caused by a dysfunction in the supply of blood to the brain. Prevalence of stroke is much higher in India than West and about 87% of all strokes are ischemic strokes.

   🪶 CSIR-IMTECH and Epygen Biotech Mumbai signed an agreement to develop PEGylated Streptokinase for treatment of Ischemic Stroke.

   🪶 PEGylated Streptokinase (novel recombinant protein Thrombolytic molecule) is engineered for enhanced proteolytic stability and extended plasma half-life, with reduced immuno-reactivity which would have significant clinical advantages.

8. ▶ A rare blood group named "pp" or "P null" phenotype has been identified by doctors from Kasturba Medical College (KMC) in Mangaluru, Karnataka. ABO and Rh D are the most common blood group systems. Doctors confirmed that a needy patient's cells contained rare "pp" phenotype, making it first time that P blood group null phenotype is detected in India.

9. ▶ A swimming pool type research reactor *Apsara-upgraded* became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

   🪶 *Apsara*, first research reactor in Asia became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in August 1956. After providing more than five decades of dedicated service to the researchers, the reactor was shut down in 2009.

   🪶 The Upgraded version uses plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU). By virtue of higher neutron flux, this reactor will increase indigenous production or radio-isotopes for medical application by 50 % and would also be extensively used for research in nuclear physics, material science and radiation shielding.

10. ▶ According to a new study by BirdLife International, 8 avian species was declared "extinct" in this decade. It was carried out to analyse 51 Critically Endangered birds six statistical methods to assign to the IUCN Red List Category to determine which of them qualify as 'potentially extinct' and 'extinct'. 5 of 8 extinctions were from the South American mainland due to deforestation resulting in habitat loss.

11. ▶ According to study by Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) spacecraft mission of German Aerospace Center and NASA, India has seen sharp decline in availability of freshwater, due to overuse by humans, climate change and natural cycles.

12. ▶ Aditya-L1, India's first mission to study solar corona, will be launched in 2019-2020, by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL).

   🪶 Aditya – L1 will be inserted in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1), 1.5 million km from Earth. Solar corona is outer layers of the Sun.

   🪶 Lagrangian point where attraction by Sun and Earth becomes equal. This point does not experience gravitational force. It will observe Sun's Photosphere and Chromosphere and will also conduct additional experiments.

   🪶 It will have 6 additional payloads -

      🪶 Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)– to study the diagnostic parameters of solar corona and dynamics and origin of Coronal Mass Ejections.

      🪶 Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)– to image the Solar Photosphere and Chromosphere in near Ultraviolet (200-400 nm) and measure solar irradiance variations.

      🪶 Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) – to study the variation of solar wind properties and its distribution and spectral characteristics.

      🪶 Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)– to understand the composition of solar wind and its energy distribution.

      🪶 Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)– to monitor the X-ray flares to study the heating mechanism of solar corona.

      🪶 High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)– to observe the dynamic events in the solar corona and estimate the energy used to accelerate the particles during eruptive events.

      🪶 Magnetometer– to measure the magnitude and nature of the Interplanetary Magnetic Field.

13. ▶ All India Institute of Medical Sciences Delhi (AIIMS) has set up India's first Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of small tumour-like spots in lungs.

14. ▶ American Pharmaceutical Coompany Abbott will introduce a high-sensitive troponin-I blood test in India, that can predict chances of a heart attack or other cardiac event months to years in advance.

- Troponin-I test provides better predictive information for determining a person's chances of developing future heart disease when added to current standard of care.

15. ▶ American Spzce Exploration Firm SpaceX launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth's water Cycle i.e. water movement and icemelt.
   - GRACE-FO (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On) is joint project between NASA and German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ), as as follow-on mission to GRACE mission, which mapped Earth's water and ice by measuring changes in Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.
   - To measure Earth's gravity, 2 GRACE-FO satellites will orbit around Earth together, with one trailing behind other at distance of 220km.

16. ▶ An important peptide that can be used to create a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis (tropical infectious disease) has been found by researchers from Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre. At present there is no preventive vaccine for Leptospirosis.
   - Researchers learned whole protein set of bacteria Leptospira interrogans by narrowing down to one effective immunogenic protein.
   - This protein was found in almost all serovars (different types within a species) of the bacteria.

17. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government notified its new state symbols, after bifurcation of undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2014 that led to formation of New State Telangana. New state symbols -
   - State bird - Rose-ringed parakeet (Psittacula krameri). Locally known as Rama Chiluka.
   - State tree - Neem ( Azadirachta indica). Locally known Vepa Chettu.
   - State animal - Black-buck (Antilope cervicapra). Locally known as Krishna Jinka.
   - State flower - Jasmine (Jasminum officinale).
   - State symbols of Telangana - Bird - Indian Roller (It also state bird of Odisha and Karnataka), Tree: Jammi Chettu, Animal - Spotted deer. Flower - Tangidi Puvvu.

18. ▶ Antarctica has Reportedly lost about 3 trillion tonnes of sea ice since 1992 contributing to a global sea-level rise of 7.6 mm. Antarctica has enough ice to raise seas by 58 metres if it ever all melted.

19. ▶ As per a recent study, 26 % of nitrogen on Earth comes from weathering of planet's bedrock, as against current belief that all of nitrogen on Earth available to plants comes from atmosphere. Ecosystems need nitrogen and other nutrients to absorb carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) pollution and there is limited amount of it available from plants and soils.
   - Geology and carbon sequestration - Rock-derived nitrogen may fuel growth of forests and grasslands, and allow them to sequester more $CO_2$ than previously thought.
   - This discovery can improve climate change projections, which rely on understanding carbon cycle. Mapping nutrient profiles in rocks for their carbon uptake potential can help drive conservation efforts. For decades, scientists recognized that more nitrogen accumulates in soils and plants than can be explained by input from atmosphere alone, but they couldn't find missing sources of Nitrogen.

20. ▶ Astronomers discovered a first of its kind carbon-rich asteroid in Kuiper Belt, designated as *2004 EW95*.
   - Kuiper belt is a circum-stellar disc in outer Solar System, extending from orbit of Neptune to approximately 50 astronomical unit (AU) from Sun.
   - 2004 EW95 seems to have formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and then would have been flung billions of kms to its current locations.

21. ▶ Australian researchers have announced that they have developed a new technique to detect early-stage cancer tumour cells in the blood through malaria protein VAR2CSA. In this, VAR2CSA sticks to cancer cells and helps detect more number of cancer cells than before.

22. ▶ Australian scientist of Indian origin Veena Sahajwalla launched world's first microfactory that can transform components from electronic waste items into valuable materials for re-use. It uses green manufacturing technologies to turn many types of consumer waste such as glass, plastic and timber into commercial materials and products. Transformed materials from micro-factory includes metal alloys and range of micromaterials.

23. ▶ Australian scientists at Edith Cowan University (ECU) have developed world's first blood test capable of detecting melanoma in its early stages, the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

24. ▶ Bhabha Atomic Reseach Centre (BARC) developed Bhabha Kavach, a next-generation cheaper and lighter bulletproof jacket, named after Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, father of Indian nuclear programme.
   - Bhabha Kavach is made of boron carbide and carbon nanotube polymer composite and weighs just 6.6 kg, reducing weight by 50%.
   - It will cost Rs 60,000-70,000, compared to imported bulletproof jackets costing around Rs 1.5 lakh.

25. ▶ China launched bird-shaped drones fitted with a camera, GPS antenna, and satellite communication capability, to monitor citizens living in different parts of country, codenamed *Dove*.

26. ▶ China launched relay satellite *Queqiao (Magpie Bridge)* to establish communication with its planned Chang'e-4 lunar probe (rover) that will explore dark side of moon.

   ✎ Queqiao (meaning bridge of magpies) will serve as communications relay for future Chang'e-4 rover that will explore in South Pole-Aitken Basin in moon's far side. It will be world's first communication satellite operating in halo orbit - Earth-moon Lagrange point L2, a gravitationally stable spot located 64,000 kilometers beyond lunar far side.

   ✎ Need for relay Satellite -
      ✎ Moon is tidally locked to Earth, it always shows same face (near side) to Earth. So, relay link is necessary to communicate with spacecraft on far side, which will otherwise have to send their signals through moon's rocky bulk.
      ✎ Under China National Space Administration (CNSA)'s Chang'e program (Chinese Lunar Exploration Program), Chang'e 1 and Chang'e 2 probes already have reached lunar orbit in 2007 and 2010 respectively. Chang'e 3 mission is in process to put lander and rover on moon's near side.

27. ▶ China will launch a 300-satellite array known as *Hongyan constellation*, with 1st launch scheduled in end of 2018. The constellation will provide worldwide communication services, allowing a mobile phone to be connected anywhere on planet, including remote deserts or middle of an ocean.

   ✎ Low-orbit satellites have stronger signals and a shorter signal delay than synchronous orbit satellites, which are 36,000 kilometers above equator.

28. ▶ Chinese Researchers developed a new 3D conic device that can greatly increase solar-thermal conversion efficiency, Named *Artificial Transpiration* and inspired by transpiration process of trees. It is fixed with a special 1D water path which can reduce energy loss in conduction.

   ✎ As 10 to 50 % of sunlight is diffusive, the cone structure of the device could collect more sunlight throughout the day, compared with a flat device. It can enhance solar-thermal conversion rate to 85 percent (up from 40% Currently).

   ✎ It will also open new possibilities to utilise solar energy in several sectors, which was discontinued due to its low conversion rate caused by losses in radiation, convection and conduction.

29. ▶ Delhi government approved delinking Aadhaar number and Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for availing old age, disability and widow pensions. It will pay at old rates all pensions halted due to lack of Aadhaar

30. ▶ Facebook has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) system 'Rosetta' which can detect text from over a billion images like memes and videos in real time. It detects rectangular regions in images that contain text and then uses a neural network to recognise and transcribe what's written.

31. ▶ Flower *Impatiens dorjeekhanduii* has been named after former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu. It was discovered at a forest in Zemithang area of Tawang in September 2017.

32. ▶ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of USA approved an artificial-intelligence device called IDx-DR, that can detect diabetic eye problems, allowing doctors to diagnose the condition without need of any data or images. It uses artificial intelligence algorithm to analyse images of eye, taken with a retinal camera Topcon NW400.

33. ▶ Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) demanded more tests for genetically modified mustard- Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11) for *commercial cultivation*. It has called for 'field demonstrations' of GM mustard in an area of 5 acres at several locations, to study possible impact transgenic crop could have on honey bees.

   ✎ GEAC had given final clearance for GM mustard (in May 2017). Clearance was later put on hold by Environment Ministry.

   ✎ Even high-powered panel on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) said Genetic Engineering is 'powerful' tool for developing future crop, but for now it should be adopted only for non-food crops.

   ✎ Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11) is transgenic mustard developed by Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at Delhi University. It is genetically modified variety of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) mustard.

34. ▶ German Researchers created world's first rhino embryos in a test tube to save near-extinct northern white rhinos, which has only two females alive globally. For this, team fertilised southern white rhinos' eggs with dead northern white rhinos' sperm.

35. ▶ Germany rolled out world's first hydrogen-powered passenger train, manufactured by French TGV-maker Alstom. These locomotives named *iLint trains* emit zero emissions, offering greener and quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines.

   ✎ Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity by combining hydrogen with oxygen. This conversion process only emits steam and water, thus producing zero emissions.

   ✎ Excess energy produced is stored in ion-lithium batteries on board train. Hydrogen fuel cells have advantages over batteries. Instead of recharging, they can easily be refueled like gas or diesel engine.

   ✎ These trains can run for around 1,000 km on a single tank of hydrogen, similar to the range of diesel trains.

36. ▶ Google developed a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to combat online spreading of contents involving child sexual abuse, using deep neural networks for image processing to help discover and detect child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. Quick identification of new images will lead to quicker identification of children, who are being sexually abused and will help protect them from further abuse.

37. ▶ ISRO conducted its first PAT (pad abort test), through Crew Escape System that provides an escape mechanism for astronauts if the launch operation is aborted. Once deployed, India will become 4th nation (after USA, Russia and China), to have human space flight programmes.
    🖋 Only Indian to ever travel to space was fighter pilot Rakesh Sharma who flew aboard Soyuz T-11, a spacecraft of the former USSR in 1984. India currently does not have a human space flight programme.

38. ▶ ISRO postponed Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to moon to January 3, 2019, as 2nd time the mission is postponed. Chandrayaan 2 is advanced version of Chandrayaan-1 mission (launched in 2008) which only involved orbiting around moon.
    🖋 Chandrayaan-2 involves an orbiter, lander and rover. In this, ISRO will for first time attempt to land rover on moon's south-pole. It involves soft-landing on lunar surface and rover that will walk and analysis content on moon's surface. It will be launched on board of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10).
    🖋 Soft-landing on moon surface will be most complex part. Only US, Russia and China have been able to soft-land spacecraft on lunar surface.
    🖋 Space Commission also approved ISRO's proposal of naming Chandrayaan-2 lander 'Vikram' after Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme.

39. ▶ ISRO successfully conducted ground test of its high thrust version of Vikas Engine at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu).
    🖋 Vikas belongs to family of liquid fuelled rocket engines conceptualized and designed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre in 1970s. It is workhorse liquid rocket engine powering second stage of PSLV, second stage and four strap on stages of GSLV and is part of first stage twin engine core liquid stage (L110) of GSLV Mk-III.
    🖋 Tested high thrust version of Vikas engine will improve payload capability of PSLV, GSLV and GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles.

40. ▶ ISRO will launch Centauri I satellite later this year, which is a 10-kg nano-satellite made by Indian IOT startup Fleet Space Technologies.

41. ▶ ISRO will set up a satellite ground control station at the North Pole for a "14-orbit coverage" to efficiently download data from India's Earth-observing satellites. ISRO already has two ground stations, IMAGES at Telangana Shadnagar built in 2011, and AGEOS in Antarctica.
    🖋 Also, ISRO announced to conduct 19 missions, including 10 satellites and nine launch vehicles, in next seven months between September and March. It will include the launch of India's second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 in Jan 2019.

42. ▶ ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is developing environment-friendly propellant propellant blend based on hydroxylammonium nitrate (HAN) to power satellites and spacecrafts, aiming to replace conventional hydrazine fuel, Which has dominated space industry as choice of propellant for over six decades despite hazards.
    🖋 HAN-based monopropellant formulation consists of HAN, ammonium nitrate, methanol and water. Monopropellant is chemical propulsion fuel which does not require separate oxidizer. It is used extensively in satellite thrusters for orbital correction and orientation control.
    🖋 HAN-based monopropellant will replace conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with greener propellant for future missions. It will also ensure cost effective re-usable, recoverable, re-startable and reliable space launches of ISRO.

43. ▶ ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched 1425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite. IRNSS-1I is latest member of *Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)* system (also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)).
    🖋 NAVIC is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in Indian region and 1,500 km around Indian mainland.
    🖋 The constellation consists 7 Satellites, planned to be expanded to 11.

44. ▶ ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) will transfer its own in-house lithium ion (Li ion) cell technology to successful Indian industries and start-ups on non-exclusive basis in automobiles for INR 1 crore. It aims to accelerate development of indigenous electric vehicle (EV) industry and reduce dependence of imported lithium ion cell technology.
    🖋 Transfer of ISRO's technology will help in establishing production facilities in country that can produce cells of varying size, capacity, energy density and power density catering to entire spectrum of power storage requirements of electric vehicles (EVs).

45. ▶ IT Firm Tech Mahindra partnered with breach avoidance platform provider *Balbix* to launch first AI (Artificial intelligence)-powered continuous threat assessment and prioritised actionable risk intelligence platform.

46. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use flash flood guidance system for the first time, to forecast floods. Currently, Central Water Commission issues flood warnings. Different kinds of soil from various parts of country have been studied to find out how absorbent each variety was.

47. ▶ India and France have signed agreement to collaborate for ISRO's first human space mission Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022. The announcement was made 6th edition of Bengaluru Space Expo (touted to be largest space conference in Asia and held in Bengaluru).
   - 🔨 ISRO and French space agency CNES will form working group to exchange expertise in fields of astronaut life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems among others.
   - 🔨 During same event, ISRO displayed a space suit developed for Gaganyaan Mission 2022. It is an orange-coloured prototype space suit developed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. It can hold one oxygen cylinder, allowing an astronaut to breathe in space for 60 minutes.
   - 🔨 ISRO also displayed a crew model and crew escape model, with thermal shield and temperature inside maintained at 25 degree Celsius.
   - 🔨 Gaganyaan Mission astranauts will be living for five to seven days in a 400-km orbit from the Earth's surface as they would conduct micro-gravity experiments.
   - 🔨 Theme for Bengaluru Space Expo 2018 was *Creating dynamism in Indian space ecosystem*.

48. ▶ India will start producing first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries, after an MoU for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project was signed between CSIR Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd. India imported Li-Ion batteries worth 150 million dollars in 2017 and is one of its largest importers in the world.

49. ▶ India's Ranjit Srivastava (Ranchi) has developed Rashmi, India's first humanoid robot, which can speak Hindi, Bhojpuri, Marathi and English. Rashmi uses linguistic interpretation (LI), artificial intelligence (AI), visual data and facial recognition systems.

50. ▶ Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) discovered an invasive agricultural pest Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) in Karnataka. A major maize pest in North America, *Fall Armyworm* arrived in Africa in 2016. The pest feeds on around 100 different crops, such as vegetables, rice, and sugarcane and it spreads in no time. Karnataka finding is the first report of the pest in Asia.

51. ▶ Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) developed a *Arsenic Sensor and Removal Media* device to remove arsenic content from water and make it safe for use. It is capable of sensing soluble arsenic which cannot be easily removed. It is highly sensitive as it can sense up to parts per billion (ppb) levels, compared to currently available techniques that sense parts per million (ppm).
   - 🔨 Arsenic is a natural component in earth's crust, widely distributed and highly toxic in its inorganic form.

52. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras commissioned world's first remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope, which is operatable through special terminal by researchers divided geographically. LEAP can provide a precise atom-by-atom view of materials, providing atomic-scale insights into metallic.

53. ▶ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (Ministry of Earth Sciences) has developed a new model that would predict how far sea water would travel after violating natural boundaries. It would be a Level-3 alert under India's Tsunami Early Warning System, which was put in place after 2004 tsunami. Level-1 tracks magnitude of a tsunami and Level-2 generates an alert about a potential tsunami and wave height.

54. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) lost contact with recently launched India's communication GSAT-6A satellite. The second orbit raising operation of GSAT-6A was successfully carried out on March 31, 2018, but during third and final firing scheduled on April 1, 2018, communication with satellite was lost. Efforts by ISRO are on to re-establish communication with the satellite.

55. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its PSLV-C42 rocket carrying two British Earth observation satellites - NovaSAR and S1-4, intended to improve UK's disaster management capabilities.

56. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch several satellites in coming month.
   - 🔨 GSAT 7A - It will enable for Indian Air Force (IAF) to interlink different ground radar stations, airbases and Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. It will be similar to Gsat-7 or Rukmini, launched in September 2013 for Indian Navy.
   - 🔨 RISAT - 2A - It is an advanced remote sensing satellite and will boost India's surveillance capabilities.

57. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s heaviest satellite so far - GSAT-11 (weighing over 5700 kg), will take off a spaceport in French Guiana on 30 November. GSAT-11 is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity with up to 14 GB per second data transfer speed.
   - 🔨 ISRO will also launch incubators across India to support startups working on building newer solutions in rocketry, communication satellites and applications based on remote sensing data.

58. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) unveiled details of its first indigenous human space mission dubbed as Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022, announced by PM Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech.

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will outsource production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries.
- 3 Indian astronauts will be taken to space on board Gaganyaan spacecraft by 2022, as first human space mission to be indigenously developed by ISRO.
- India will become fourth nation in the world to send astronaut into space after US, Russia and China.
- Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space, as part of the Soviet Union's Soyuz T-11 expedition, launched on April 2, 1984, of the Intercosmos programme.
- Cost of Gaganyaan mission will be less than Rs 10,000 crore. Prior to actual launch, ISRO will launch two unmanned Gaganyaan missions (first in 30 months' time and then 36 months).
- GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle will be used to launch Gaganyaan as it has necessary payload capability for mission.
- ISRO also announced to outsource production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries.

59. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites to measure clear-cut location data. Currently ISRO imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium for navigation satellites.
- It will be used on seven navigation satellites of India as part of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NaVIC. Currently 3 NAVIC satellites have 3 imported Rubidium atomic clocks.

60. ▶ Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) postponed launch of India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' from April 2018 to October-November 2018 -
- Chandrayaan 2 is India's second mission to Moon, developed indigenously by ISRO with Orbiter, Lander and Rover configuration.
- It is ISRO's first inter-planetary mission to land rover on any celestial body, to be launched on board Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10). Orbiter weighs around 3,290 kg and it will orbit around moon and perform objectives of remote sensing moon.

61. ▶ Indian scientists formulated world's first ayurvedic drug to cure dengue, likely to be available by 2019. Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial (a medical study involving human participants) of this drug is going on in medical colleges in Karnataka.

62. ▶ India's Mars mission Mangalyaan, successfully completed four years around Mars, despite being designed to last only six months. ISRO inserted Mangalyaan into Mars' orbit in its first attempt on September 24, 2014.
- Also, ASTROSAT, India's first multi-wavelength space observatory will complete 3 years in Earth's orbit (Launched on September 28, 2015). ASTROSAT has helped scientists confirm the presence of younger stars in globular clusters, earlier believed to contain only old stars.

63. ▶ India's biggest cyclotron facility named Cyclone-30 became operational at Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)'s Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC).
- Cyclotron is used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care. Radiations from these isotopes are used to destroy cancer cells.
- Cyclone-30 will produce radioisotopes vital for diagnosis and treatment of cancer. It will be only cyclotron facility in country to produce Germanium 68 radioisotopes, used in diagnosis of breast cancer.
- It will also produce Palladium 103 isotopes, which is used for the treatment of prostate cancer. In its future stages, it will also produce Iodine 123 isotopes, which can help detect thyroid cancer.

64. ▶ India's first biofortified sorghum (jowar) named Parbhani Shakti containing higher iron and zinc than regular sorghum was formally launched, named Parbhani Shakti (ICSR 14001), developed by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT). It was released for cultivation by Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Maharashtra.

65. ▶ India's first captive-born Humboldt Penguin named Freedom Baby died barely a week after it was born at Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo (Byculla zoo) (Maharashtra). It was named Freedom Baby as it was born on Independence Day. It was the first Humboldt Penguin to born in captivity in India.
- Byculla zoo imported 8 Humboldt Penguins from South Korea in July 2016, kept thereafter in special enclosure where average temperature of 16-18 degrees celsius is maintained.
- Humboldt penguin is named after the cold water current (Humboldt current) it swims in. It is native to South America and breeds in coastal Chile and Peru.

66. ▶ India's first underwater robotic drone –Eyerov TUNA handed over to Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, as first commercial Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) / underwater drone. It would be used by NPOL for research and development activities for defence purposes.

67. ▶ Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) developed India's first indigenous medical kit for protection against nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage. It has 25 items which include radioactive protectors which can absorb 80-90% of radiation, nerve gas agents, bandages that absorb radiation as well as tablets and ointments. Its important parts are -
   - ✎ Prussian blue tablet - Highly effective in incorporating Radio Cesium (Cs-137) and Radio Thallium, among most feared radioisotopes in nuclear bombs that destroy human body cells.
   - ✎ Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) injection - Traps uranium in the guts and blood of victims during a nuclear accident or warfare.
   - ✎ Ca-EDTA Respiratory Fluid - Inhalation formula for chelation, or grabbing of heavy metals and radioactive elements deposited in lungs through inhalation at nuclear accident sites. It reduces the body burden of radioactivity by 30-40% in controlled conditions.
   - ✎ Radioactive Blood Mopping Dressing - Special bandage that absorbs radiation to prevent spread of radiation from radioactive patients to others.
   - ✎ Radioactive urine/biofluid collector - It can safely dispose of urine of person affected by radiation.
   - ✎ Anti-gamma ray skin ointment - Heals radiation damage on skin.
   - ✎ Amifostine injection - This conventional radiopharmaceutical that limits damage from gamma radiation.
   - ✎ Indranil 150 mg tablet.
68. ▶ Japanese scientists invented procedure to produce alcoholic beverages from wood of cherry, cedar, and birch trees. Four-kilogram cedar wood produced 3.8 litres of liquid, with 15% alcohol content.
69. ▶ Mars made its closest approach to the Earth on July 31, 2018. At a distance of 57.6 million km, it was closest since 2003. In 2003, Mars was closest in nearly 60,000 years, at 55.7 million km, which won't be repeated until 2287.
70. ▶ Microsoft Co-founder Bill Gates invested $4 million in genetically-modified mosquitoes to eradicate malaria, spread by female mosquitos. The research, conducted by UK-based Oxitec, involves releasing modified male mosquitoes to mate with female mosquitoes. The male will pass on a self-limiting gene, which will kill female offspring before reaching maturity.
71. ▶ Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) launched Ensemble Prediction System (EPS), as a new system to generate more area specific forecast of extreme weather events.
   - ✎ EPS system has been developed by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.
   - ✎ EPS is special for its high resolution short-medium range weather forecasts. Under it, area of spatial resolution (currently 23 km grid scale) will come down to 12 km.
   - ✎ In its calculations, system will use a newly procured 8 petaflops high-power computing system.
   - ✎ Forecasts of severe weather events at 12 km grid scale would greatly help in making better emergency response decisions.
72. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences announced that Century's (2001 AD to 2100 AD) longest total lunar eclipse of 1 hour 43 minutes will occur on July 27-28, 2018, to be visible from all parts of India.
   - ✎ Moon will be gradually covered by Earth's shadow and totality phase will begin on July 28 and total eclipse will last up to 2h 43m.
   - ✎ Longest Total Lunar Eclipse - Moon will be passing through central part of Earth's umbral shadow. During this, Moon is located at apogee (farthest from Earth) and will be moving at slower speed in its orbit. It will take longer time for Moon and greater distance of Earth's umbral shadow to travel, making it longest duration of total eclipse of century.
   - ✎ Such long duration of total lunar eclipses earlier had occurred on July 16, 2000 for totality duration of 1 hour 46 minutes.
73. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare banned manufacture and sale of Oxytocin drug formulations for domestic use in private sector to prevent its misuse from 1st July 2018. Henceforth, Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd will only manufacture and supply it directly to registered hospitals.
   - ✎ Oxytocin, often called love hormone, is released naturally in human bonding activities such as childbirth , breastfeeding and sex. It is uterine stimulant hormone, prescribed for initiation of uterine contractions and induction of labour in women as well as stimulation of contractions during labour.
74. ▶ Mumbai-based automaker Vazirani Automotive unveiled India's first turbine-electric hypercar called 'Vazirani Shul' at 2018 Goodwood Festival of Speed. The car is essentially an all-wheel-drive with four individual motors for each wheel, hence enabling torque vectoring.
75. ▶ NASA designed 2 virtual reality applications named NASA Selfies append NASA's Exoplanet Excursions, to celebrate 15th anniversary of the Spitzer Space Telescope.
   - ✎ NASA Selfies app users can take selfies in a virtual spacesuit and can pose in front of various cosmic locations.
   - ✎ NASA's Exoplanet Excursions takes the users on a virtual guided tour of the TRAPPIST-1 planetary system.
76. ▶ NASA detected signs of water above Jupiter's Great Red Spot, a storm that has been persistent for more than 350 years. The pressure of water combined with measurements of carbon monoxide, show that Jupiter has 2 to 9 times more oxygen than Sun.

77. ▶ NASA discovered 12 new moons around Jupiter, where one of them is on a collision course which could create a crash large enough to be visible from Earth. This brings total number of Jovian moons to 79, most for any planet.

78. ▶ NASA discovered a special kind of neutron star outside the Milky Way galaxy for first time. Neutron stars are highly dense cores of massive stars that collapse and go through a supernova explosion. It was spotted via NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile.

79. ▶ NASA extended Juno's science operations until July 2021, providing it additional 41 months in orbit around Jupiter. Larger orbits will also allow scientists to further explore far reaches of the Jovian magnetosphere, region of space dominated by Jupiter's magnetic field.

80. ▶ NASA launched its most advanced space laser, ICESat-2, a $1-billion mission that will shoot lasers towards Earth to track changes in Earth's ice sheets, glaciers, sea ice and vegetation around the world. The preceding mission, ICESat, which lasted from 2003-2009 revealed that ice cover was disappearing from Greenland and Antarctica. The new laser will fire 10,000 times per second, whereas ICESat fired 40 times a second.

81. ▶ NASA successfully conducted Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) to test supersonic parachute that will help its space exploration missions to land on Mars.
   🖋 NASA's Mars rover mission is set to launch in 2020 to deploy six-wheeled vehicle on martian surface to study rocks on site and cache samples for eventual return to Earth. It will rely on special parachute to slow spacecraft down when it is entering Martian atmosphere at over speed of 12,000 mph (5.4 kilometers per second).

82. ▶ NASA will launch humanity's first mission Parker Solar Probe (PSP) to Sun on July 31, 2018. After launch, probe will orbit directly through solar atmosphere (the corona), closer to surface than any human-made object has ever gone.
   🖋 It has been designed and built by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. It is named after solar astrophysicist Eugene Parker, first spacecraft of NASA to be named after living person.
   🖋 Probe will be fitted with thermal protection system (TPS) or heat shield made of reinforced carbon-carbon composite that will allow it to survive temperatures in Sun's corona.

83. ▶ NASA will launch mission InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) to study deep interior of Mars on May 5, 2018. Rocket will also launch two mini-spacecraft called Mars Cube One (MarCO), NASA's technology experiment. InSight is stationary lander that will be first NASA mission since Apollo moon landings to place seismometer, a device that measures quakes on soil of another planet.

84. ▶ NASA will launch world's lightest satellite in August 2018, which is developed by engineering students from Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science in Tamil Nadu. It is 4cm 'cube' satellite named 'Jaihind-1S', with a 3D printed outer casing from polylactic acid (PLA) nylon material, making it weigh just 33.39 grams.

85. ▶ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope discovered most distant star ever seen named 'Icarus, officially named *MACS J1149+2223 Lensed Star 1*. It took nine billion years for Icarus' light to reach Earth, captured through a phenomenon called 'Gravitational Lensing' that enormously intensifies star's feeble glow.

86. ▶ NASA's First asteroid sampling spacecraft OSIRIS-REx captured first images of its target asteroid Bennu (from a distance of 2.1 million KMs) and began its final approach towards it after almost two-year journey.
   🖋 OSIRIS-Rex stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer. kilometre. It was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid.
   🖋 It is scheduled to reach asteroid in 2018 and return to Earth after collecting some of its gravels by 2023.
   🖋 Bennu is near-Earth carbonaceous asteroid about the size of a small mountain in the Apollo group. It was discovered in September 1999 by the LINEAR Project. It is carbon-rich asteroid and believed to be the type of asteroids that may have chemical building blocks of life, along with lots of water.

87. ▶ NASA's Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager (FOXSI) took its third flight from the White Sands Missile Range in White Sands, New Mexico.
   🖋 It is first instrument built specially to image high-energy X-rays from Sun, that will capture nanoflares (miniature explosions invisible to naked eye).
   🖋 First FOXSI flight was in 2012, during which it successfully viewed a small solar flare in progress, and its second in 2014, when it detected best evidence at the time of X-ray emission from nanoflares.

88. ▶ NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mission to get closest to Sun than ever by any human-made object has got its revolutionary heat shield "Thermal Protection System or TPS" permanently attached to spacecraft.
   🖋 Parker Solar Probe will be launched in August 2018, after been in making for 60 years. Spacecraft's orbit will carry it to within 4 million miles of Sun's surface with the help of its heat shield, and will collect data about the inner workings of the corona.
   🖋 Heat shield's diameter is 8 feet and weighs 72.5 KG.

- As Probe approaches Sun, temperatures on heat shield will reach around 1,371 degrees Celsius. But, spacecraft and its instruments will be maintained at a relatively comfortable temperature of nearly 29.4 degrees Celsius.
- Sun-facing side of heat shield is sprayed with a specially formulated white coating to reflect most of Sun's energy away.
- Parker Solar Probe will travel at a speed of 69,2018 km per hour at its closest approach to Sun.

89. ▶ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) become operational, after its launch in April 2018. It will look for potential exoplanets in a strip of sky running from the far south to near equator.
- TESS mission is led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research.
- It is designed to find potential planets orbiting stars close to Earth. It will identify such planets by spotting decreased brightness of stars after planet passes in front of it.
- It is successor to Kepler, space observatory which is responsible for detecting most of the currently known exoplanets.
- TESS will be able to observe about 85% of sky over its expected two-year mission.
- Data collected by TESS will help to study mass, size, density and orbit of large cohort of small planets, including sample of rocky worlds in habitable zones (goldilocks zone) of their host stars.

90. ▶ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, known as TESS, has spotted "hot Earth" and "super-Earth" planets in solar systems 49 and 60 light-years away, marking its first discovery since April launch. TESS is designed to build on the work of its predecessor, Kepler space telescope, which discovered over 2,500 confirmed exoplanets in 20 years and is now running out of fuel.

91. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced its plan of creating a manned supersonic aircraft with no ear-shattering sonic boom. NASA will grant $247.5 million contract to American aerospace Firm Lockheed Martin, to build the new plane called X-plane.
- X-Plane is expected to cruise at an elevation of more than 16,700 meters, at a speed of more than 1,500 km per hour but not make a sonic boom.
- Under NASA's plan, beginning mid-2022, It will fly X-plane over select US cities and collect data about community responses to flights.

92. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) demonstrated that Its Kilopower portable nuclear fission reactor could enable crewed missions to Moon, Mars and beyond.
- Kilopower Reactor Using Stirling Technology (KRUSTY) experiment was conducted by NASA at in November 2017 - March 2018, established that this system can create electricity with fission power.
- KRUSTY is a small, lightweight fission power system which is capable of providing up to 10 kilowatts of electrical power continuously for at least 10 years. This prototype uses a solid uranium-235 reactor core.

93. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph (CHESS 4) from Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands, onboard a NASA Black Brant IX sounding rocket to study interstellar medium (matter between stars).
- Space between distant stars contains drifts of vast clouds of neutral molecules and charged plasma particles called interstellar medium, which may evolve into new stars and even planets with time.
- CHESS mission will focus on these floating interstellar reservoirs or translucent clouds of gas, which provide fundamental building blocks for stars and planets.
- CHESS 4 will study interaction of stellar wind with surrounding interstellar medium to study excitation of atoms and molecules in interface region. It will enable researchers to study catalysts of galactic chemistry and raw materials for future generations of stars and planets.

94. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a new planet-hunting spacecraft onboard of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. TESS is designed to find potential planets orbiting stars close to Earth. It will identify such planets by spotting decreased brightness of stars after planet passes in front of it.

95. ▶ National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) added 4 species (*Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda*) into Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species.
- Norther River Terrapin - Species of riverine turtle found in rivers that flow in Eastern India.
- Clouded Leopard - Found in Himalayan foothills. It is threatened due to habitat loss, poaching for its skin and is also as a live pet trade.
- Arabian Sea Humpback Whale - Migrates from Oman coast through Arabian sea, along Indian coasts till Sri Lankan coast.
- Red Panda - Closely associated with montane forests with dense bamboo-thicket. It is found in Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.

96. ▶ National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad (Telanagana), as India's first genetic resource bank where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.

    🪶 It is equipped with sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources that could be utilised to virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct. It will cryopreserve living cell lines, gametes and embryos of endangered wild animal species in India.

97. ▶ RH-300 MKII sounding rocket developed by IRSO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has been launched from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), under Sounding Rocket Experiment (SOUREX) programme for atmospheric studies.

    🪶 Objective is to measure neutral wind in dynamo region (80-120 km) of equatorial ionosphere using indigenously developed Electron Density and Neutral Wind Probe (ENWi).

    🪶 It will also perform cross-validation using an independent Tri Methyl Aluminium (TMA) release technique.

98. ▶ Recent National Institute of Virology (NIV) study found that Indian Aedes aegypti mosquito that transmits dengue and chikungunya viruses is susceptible to zika virus. It was found that Indian Aedes aegypti mosquito infected with African strain MR-766 of zika virus (ZIKV) can transmit infection.

99. ▶ Researchers at Shizuoka University (Japan) developed a space elevator, a miniature version on satellites.

    🪶 2 ultra-small cubic satellites will be used for demonstratiom, being released from International Space Station (ISS) and container acting like elevator car will be moved on cable connecting satellites using motor. The movement of motorised elevator box will be monitored with cameras in the satellites.

    🪶 Space elevator is a proposed type of planet-to-space transportation system. It will permit vehicles to travel along cable from planetary surface, such as Earth's, directly into space or orbit, without use of large rockets. The idea of space elevator was first proposed in 1895 by Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.

100. ▶ Researchers at University of Oxford (UK) developed a new technology that can detect patients with the risk of deadly heart attacks, well in advance. It uses a new biomarker named the Fat Attenuation Index (FAI). It analyzes computed tomography (CT) images of fat around arteries to detect the inflamed plaques that can cause heart attacks.

101. ▶ Researchers discovered new class of antibiotics called odilorhabdins or ODLs that fights drug resistance, produced by symbiotic bacteria found in soil-dwelling nematode worms that colonise insects for food. Bacterium helps kill insect and secrete antibiotic to keep competing bacteria away.

    🪶 During research it was found that ODL act on ribosome (molecular machine that makes proteins cells needed to function) of bacterial cells. ODL like many clinically useful antibiotics, work by targeting ribosome. But ODL is unique because it binds to place on ribosome that has never been used by other known antibiotics.

102. ▶ Researchers discovered new grass-like plant species named Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis in Ponmudi hills within Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot (Spread across Kerala and Tamilnadu). New species of plant belongs to Cyperaceae family.

103. ▶ Researchers discovered seven new wasp species belonging to the genus Clistopyga from Peru, Venezuela and Colombia. Most notable among is Clistopyga crassicaudata, named after its distinctly thickened ovipositor, a tube-like organ present in many insects that helps in laying eggs and also in injecting venom.

104. ▶ Researchers found that Aspirin which is an affordable and globally available drug could help prevent HIV transmission. They tested the effect of acetylsalicylic acid or aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs on HIV target cells. It showed that Aspirin was the most effective as it reduced number of HIV target cells.

105. ▶ Researchers from Britain's University of Portsmouth and US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developed a plastic-eating enzyme. Called Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6, this enzyme is able to eat polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which was patented as plastic in 1940s. It can be used to fight one of world's biggest pollution problems, called Plastic.

    🪶 Enzyme can also degrade polyethylene furandicarboxylate (PEF), a bio-based substitute for PET plastics that is being called as a replacement for glass beer bottles.

    🪶 Though PEF plastics are bio-based, they are not biodegradable and end up as a waste.

106. ▶ Researchers from China's Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences created the world's first single-chromosome yeast, while not affecting the majority of its functions. Experiment was conducted on Brewer's yeast having 16 chromosomes and which shares its one-third genome ancestry with humans. Researchers were able to fit nearly all genetic material of Brewer's yeast into just one chromosome.

107. ▶ Researchers from City University of Hong Kong (CityU) developed world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.

- 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension, where printed objects can re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time with external stimuli, such as mechanical force, temperature, or a magnetic field.
- Existing 3D-printed ceramic precursors, which are usually difficult to deform, also hinder the production of ceramics with complex shapes. To overcome these, researchers developed a novel 'ceramic ink', a mixture of polymers and ceramic nanoparticles.
- Applications include Printed ceramic precursors can be used in manufacturing of electronic devices. Ceramic materials have much better performance in transmitting electromagnetic signals than metallic materials.
- The artistic nature of ceramics and their capability to form complex shapes also provide the potential for consumers to tailor-make uniquely designed ceramic mobile phone back plates.

108. Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras developed first of family of six industry-standard microprocessors under Project Shakti. The initial batch of 300 chips have been named RISECREEK and have been fabricated at Intel's facility at Oregon, US for free to run Linux operating system.

109. Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee identified 2 small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II, for their inhibitory activity to treat Chikungunya disease. Small amount of concerned solution was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in virus. Currently, there are no drugs to treat chikungunya or any vaccine to prevent it.

110. Researchers from Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that global warming is driving proliferation of Noctiluca algae (known as sea tinkle), a harmful algae in Arabian Sea responsible for glowing of Mumbai's beaches in dark.
   - Noctiluca algae is parasite and occurs in patches or blooms in northern Arabian Sea. The algae compete with fish for food and choke their supply. It also excretes large amounts of ammonia, which causes massive fish mortality.

111. Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) developed a wireless 'in-body GPS' system that can track tumours and pinpoint location of ingestible implants inside body. In tests conducted on animals, system called 'ReMix' was found to be able to track implants with centimetre-level accuracy. It could be used to deliver drugs to specific regions in the body, and ease up the healing process.

112. Researchers from National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) developed a hybrid chayote fruit from two wild Mexican species, which can battle cancer. Raw extract of this fruit is as effective as Cytarabine, a medication used to treat some types of cancer.
   - Also, Mycological Laboratory of Goa university announced discovery of a new pigment from local wild mushrooms that may help fight cancer. The pigment has been declared as world's first sulphur-rich edible melanin.

113. Researchers from Northumbria University (UK) found out mountain ranges and three vast, deep sub-glacial valleys hidden under Antarctica ice. This is first finding observed from ice penetrating radar data collected in Antarctica as part of European Space Agency PolarGAP project. Largest valley, named Foundation Trough, is over 350 kilometres long and 35 kilometres wide. Other 2 are Patuxent Trough and Offset Rift.

114. Researchers from Surat's Veer Narmad South Gujarat University discovered world's smallest land fern in Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district. New Malvi's adder's-tongue fern Ophioglossum malviae is just one centimetre in size.

115. Researchers from University of Minnesota (USA) found a way to 3D print light receptors on a curved glass surface in a medical technology which could be used to produce a 'bionic eye'.

116. Researchers from University of Seville (Spain) identified absorbent materials that can help soak up pollutants found in urban waste water. Results show that material C18-Mica-4 is capable of eliminating majority of pollutants that were evaluated in urban waste water, as well as surface water and potable water.

117. Researchers from over 20 nations have first time have decoded wheat genome, with highest quality genome sequence generated to date for such wheat variety. Reference genome decoded covers 94% (14.5 Gb) of decoding of Chromosome 2A of wheat genome.
   - It will help to identify genes controlling complex agronomic traits such as yield, grain quality, resistance to diseases and pests as well as tolerance to drought, heat, water logging and salinity.
   - Availability of high quality reference genome will accelerate breeding of climate-resilient wheat varieties to feed ever-increasing world population and help address global food security in decades to come.

118. Russian researchers created a battery based on radioactive isotope nickel-63 that has a half-life of 100 years, which could help power deep space missions. The prototype packs about 3,300 kilowatt-hours of energy per gram, which is more than any other nuclear battery based on nickel-63 and 10 times more than commercial electrochemical cells.

119. Satellite named RemoveDEBRIS was successfully deployed from International Space Station (ISS), to clean up space debris orbiting Earth. It was transported to ISS via SpaceX CRS-14 launch in early April 2018. Satellite was built by consortium of space companies and research institutions led by Surrey Space Centre at University of Surrey (United Kingdom).
   - Satellite is aimed at performing key Active Debris Removal (ADR) technology demonstrations (e.g capture, deorbiting) representative of operational scenario during low-cost mission using novel key technologies for ADR.

120. ▶ Scientists approved three new ages on geologic time scale of Holocene Epoch - Meghalayan Age, Middle Holocene Northgrippian Age and Early Holocene Greenlandian Age.
  - 🔧 These new ages of Holocene Epoch are represented by wealth of sediments that accumulated worldwide on sea floor, on lake bottoms, as glacial ice, and as calcite layers in stalactites and stalagmites.
  - 🔧 Meghalayan Age -
    - 🔧 Named after cave in Indian state of Meghalaya. It helped to define climatic events 4,200 years ago, marking beginning of phase that continues till today. Meghalayan Age was part of longer period known as Epoch, which reflects everything that has happened over past 11,700 years.
    - 🔧 It began with mega global drought that devastated ancient agricultural civilisations from Egypt to China. Droughts over 200-year period resulted in human migrations in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Greece, Indus valley and Yangtze river valley.
  - 🔧 Middle Holocene Northgrippian Age and Early Holocene Greenlandian Age -
    - 🔧 These 2 ages are defined with beginnings at climatic events that happened about 8,300 years and 11,700 years ago, respectively.
    - 🔧 Lower boundary of Greenlandian and Northgripppian stages are defined at specific levels in Greenland ice cores.
121. ▶ Scientists at Ahmedabad Physical Research Laboratory have discovered an exoplanet, Taking India into a select group of countries which have found planets outside the solar system. The 'super-Neptune' is about 27 times mass of Earth and six times its radius. It is 600 light-years away from Earth. It is named as EPIC 211945201b (or K2-236b) and host star has been named EPIC 211945201 (or K2-236).
  - 🔧 Discovery was made by measuring mass using indigenously designed "PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search" (PARAS) spectrograph integrated with 1.2m Telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu (Rajasthan). PARAS is first of its kind spectrograph in Asia, which can measure the mass of a planet going around a star.
122. ▶ Scientists at Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) Rajasthan invented a new laparascope-assisted insemination technique for sheep breeding. It is minor invasive laparascopic technique involves passing rigid fibre-optic laparoscope into abdomen through small incision.
  - 🔧 It resolvs difficulties in freezing of semen and inability to transit tortuous reproductive tract of sheep kept as livestock. It will also help achieve up to 60% survival in birth of lambs.
123. ▶ Scientists at Northwestern University (USA) led by India's Vinod Kumar Sangwan (India), developed "Memtransistor", an electronic device that can mimic human brain, combining functions of a memristor and a transistor.
124. ▶ Scientists at University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) have set a new Guinness World Record by creating the smallest medical robot — a device measuring just 120 nanometres that could assist in future cancer and Alzheimer's treatments.
125. ▶ Scientists completed first test drive of a DNA 'unicycle' – a tiny machine made of genetic material powered by chemical energy that could perform directed movements, developed by Researchers from University of Bonn (Germany) and University of Michigan (USA). The tiny vehicle is 30 nanometers in size and Fuel is given by protein *T7 RNA polymerase*.
126. ▶ Scientists created world's smallest house – build on an area of 300 square micrometres – using a robotic system that can accurately assemble nanomaterials into tiny, desirable structures. Researchers from Femto-ST Institute in France, assembled new microrobotics system that pushes forward frontiers of optical nanotechnologies.
  - 🔧 With advancement, optical fibres as thin as human hair can be inserted into inaccessible locations like jet engines and blood vessels to detect radiation levels or viral molecules.
127. ▶ Scientists developed Aerogel, a transparent heat-resistant super-insulating gel using beer waste. It may be used to build greenhouse-like habitats for human colonization on extraterrestrial habitats.
  - 🔧 Aerogels defining feature is air, as it comprise at least 90% gas by weight. Their thin films are made up of crisscrossing patterns of solid material that trap air inside billions of tiny pores, similar to bubbles in bubble wrap. This trapping capacity makes them good insulators.
  - 🔧 It could also be used on buildings on Earth to help make huge savings on energy costs. It enables to harvest sunlight through thermally-insulating material and store energy inside, protecting from big oscillations in temperature.
128. ▶ Scientists discovered a beetle trapped in amber that dates back to 99 million years, in Myanmar. It may help better understand relationship between ancient flowering plants and pollinators.
  - 🔧 It uncovers earliest definitive fossil evidence of relationship between cycads and insects. Cycads are a group of unusual evergreen gymnosperms that may have been first insect-pollinated plants.
  - 🔧 The found beetle preserved in Burmese amber for an estimated 99 million years, is named Cretoparacucujus cycadophilus.

129. ▶ Scientists discovered a giant mosquito with a wingspan of 11.15 centimetres in China's Sichuan province, belonging to world's largest mosquito species Holorusia mikado. This species was first found in Japan and normally has wing span of 8 centimetres.

130. ▶ Scientists discovered an ancient fossil of Dickinsonia, earliest animal on geological record. Dickinsonia is an oval shaped creature that lived 558 million years ago. It grew up to 1.4 m in length. The fossil was discovered by researchers from Australian National University (ANU) near the White Sea in Russia.

131. ▶ Scientists discovered first interstellar immigrant, an Asteroid named (514107) 2015 BZ509 (Also called Oumuamua) that has a different origin other than our solar system because it moves in a direction opposite to that of all objects in our solar system.

132. ▶ Scientists discovered new frog species named *Microhyla kodial* or Mangaluru narrow-mouthed frog in a region in coastal Karnataka. It is seen only in small industrial region which was former timber dumping yards wurrounded by seaport, petrochemical, chemical and refinery industries. It is small in size measuring just 2 cm long.

133. ▶ Scientists discovered peripheries of a 14th century Maori village in New Zealand, containing tools and food items that can shed more light on the lifestyle of settlers. Obsidian (volcanic glass) was used by early Maori settlers as simple cutting tools.

134. ▶ Scientists discovered world's oldest lizard fossil, named Megachirella wachtleri, in Dolomites mountain range of Italy. Fossil is 240 million years old.

135. ▶ Scientists discovered world's second oldest grain of magmatic zircon (mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from Champua from Singhbhum rock sample in Odisha's Kendujhar district. It is oldest magmatic zircon on earth.
    🔦 Isotopic analysis of Singhbhum rock sample with magmatic zircon was done used Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP) at Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences. It confirmed presence of two zircon grains that aged 4240 million and 4030 million years.
    🔦 Oldest zircon on earth was found in Jack Hill (Western Australia), which is 4400 million years old. It is metamorphosed sedimentary rock.

136. ▶ Scientists found a drug named "PLX5622" that could prevent the brain damage caused by exposure to cosmic radiation, useful to spacewalkers as Humans travelling beyond Earth's protective magnetic fields will be exposed to cosmic radiation nearly 1000 times higher than that on Earth.

137. ▶ Scientists from Australian National University (ANU) discovered world's oldest colours. 1.1 billion-year-old bright pink pigments, extracted from rocks deep beneath the Sahara desert in Africa, have finally been traced.

138. ▶ Scientists from CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) found four bacterial strains that remove sulphur from fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. Sulphur is one of the major pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels. Bacterial strains are *Rhodococcus rhodochrous, Arthrobacter sulfureou, Gordonia rubropertinita and Rhodococcus erythropolis*. Bio-desulfurization using these bacterial strains can be used on commercial scale for removal of sulphur from fossil fuels on commercial scale.

139. ▶ Scientists from Julich Research Centre (Germany) have developed a computer named "SpiNNaker" that mimics human brain's neural networks, and would overcome speed and power consumption problems of conventional supercomputers. It would help to advance our knowledge of neural processing in brain, to include learning and disorders like epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease.

140. ▶ Scientists from New Zealand performed world's first-ever 3-D, colour X-ray on human, with potential to improve medical diagnostics. The new device is based on the traditional black-and-white X-ray but incorporates particle-tracking technology called Medipix developed by European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

141. ▶ Scientists from Newcastle University (UK) created world's first 3D printed human corneas that could solve problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again.
    🔦 Cornea is outermost layer of the human eye. Its key function is to focus vision. It also barricades eyes against harmful dirt and bacteria.
    🔦 3D printed human corneas were produced using bio-ink solution consisting of healthy corneal stem mixed together with alginate and collagen.

142. ▶ Scientists from Pennsylvania State University (USA) discovered signs of life in a massive cave in Italy, located about 1300 feet below ground. It may help detect life on other planets like Mars. Identification was made by researchers while exploring Frasassi Caves in central Italy. Scientists found variations in isotopic content of atoms in mineral gypsum, a weathering product of cave's formation.
    🔦 Study stated that not all gypsum is formed by microbes, but gypsum formed by microbes will have a different ratio of isotopes in atoms.• This isotopic variation indicates that life played an active role in producing gypsum.

143. ▶ Scientists from Tohoku University in Japan found mineral called moganite in lunar (Moon's) meteorite that points presence of abundant hidden reserves of water ice under surface of moon. The mineral discovered in a desert in northwest Africa could be potentially useful for future human exploration of moon.

- Moganite is a crystal of silicon dioxide (SiO), known to form on earth in specific circumstances in sedimentary settings from alkaline fluids.
- Researchers believe that mineral formed on surface of moon in area called Procellarum Terrane as water was present in lunar dirt, that evaporated due to strong sunlight. But in subsurface, water remains in form of ice.

144. Scientists from USA's University of Michigan developed world's smallest computer, measuring just 0.3 milimeters.

145. Scientists from University of Manchester (England), have developed a non-antibiotic drug that can treat tuberculosis (TB) in humans effectively. Results revealed that compound does not kill bacteria directly, but results in a significant reduction in bacterial burden.

146. Scientists from University of Minnesota (USA) discovered that chemical element ruthenium (Ru(44)) is fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature, after Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni). The discovery will help to improve sensors, devices in computer memory and logic industry or other devices using magnetic materials. It was discovered in 1844 by Russian-born scientist Karl Ernst.

147. Scientists have developed world's fastest rotor, which will help in studying quantum mechanics. It can spin at more than 60 billion revolutions per minute, making it world's fastest man-made object. Spinning dumbbell functions as rotor, and vibrating dumbbell functions like instrument for measuring tiny forces and torques, known as a torsion balance.

148. Scientists identified a new species of frog called Fejervarya goemchi,in highland plateaus of Western Ghats parts of Goa. It was identified using combination of morphology, geographic distribution range and molecular methods to distinguish from other Fejervarya species found in South and South-East Asia.

149. Scientists identified new shape called *scutoid* while studying epithelial cells.
- Scutoid shape has five sides on one end and six on the other and a triangular surface on one of its longer edges. and It is completely new to geometry and resembles beetle's scutellum (shield-like structure) from top-down view.
- It will help to explain how cells arrange themselves in tightly packed three-dimensional (3D) structures that serve as protective barriers in body. It will contribute to tissue engineering specifically development of artificial organs.

150. Scientists of Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered a 400 Million Year old fossilised body piece of an extinct class of marine animal named Cystoidea or cystoids at Guizhou province (China).

151. Search engine Google at its Cloud Next 2018 conference held in San Francisco unveiled two new Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips aimed at helping customers develop and deploy intelligent connected devices at scale. They are Edge TPU and Cloud IoT Edge.
- Edge TPU - A purpose-built application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) designed to run AI at the edge. It will bring brain to devices at extremely low cost and high power efficiency without compromising performance.
- Cloud IoT Edge - A software stack that extends Google Cloud's powerful AI capability to gateways and connected devices.
- During the same conference, Google partnered with Accenture to help enterprises build Cloud solutions customised to their specific industries and needs through Accenture Google Cloud Business Group (ABG). It aims to help companies to build next generation business processes with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based approaches to develop new value across enterprise.

152. Tamil Nadu State Animal Nilgiri tahr (a wild goat species) is Reporedtly endangered as climate change may cause it to loose 60% of its habitat by 2030s, with just 2500 left in wild. It is endemic to Western Ghats from Nilgiris to Kanyakumari.

153. Tapanuli Orangutan, the rarest ape species on Earth, is on verge of extinction with only approx 800 members of the species alive. This species was discovered in 2017 in Sumatra (Indonesia).

154. Turtle fossil dating back to 150 million years (Jurassic period) has been discovered in Chongqing municipality of China.

155. Two new species of cricket frogs named Kalinga and Krishnan discovered in the Odisha (Eastern Ghats) and Karnataka (Western Ghats) Respectively. The other species has been named Krishnan. Kalinga has been named after ancient kingdom of Kalinga. The other species from Karnataka has been named after eminent biologist, Dr. K Subramanian Krishnan.

156. U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), ISRO's nodal satellites division has signed separate contracts with three vendors to outsource Spacecraft Assembly Integration and Testing (AIT) activities. Vendors are Alpha Design Technologies, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and Tata Advanced Systems.
- It aims to promote participation of Indian industry from spacecraft subsystems to spacecraft assembly, integration and testing. Under this, 27 spacecrafts will be made by July 2021.

157. US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light. These contact lens are soft contact lenses indicated for daily use to correct vision of people with non-diseased eyes who are nearsighted (myopic) or farsighted (hyperopic).

158. US Scientists Scientists successfully grown oesophageal organoids, a miniature, functional versions of human food pipe using pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) in laboratory. It will help to study birth defects like esophageal atresia, organoids, eosinophilic esophagitis and Barrett's

metaplasia.

- Oesophagus is long muscular tube part of digestive system that connects mouth to stomach to actively pass food. It is also called as gastro-intestinal tract (GI tract or gullet or food pipe). It is around 25cm long in adults.

159. ▶ US Scientists identified 3 new species of ancient primates that were earlier unknown, and have named them: Ekwiiyemakius walshi, Gunnelltarsius randalli and Brontomomys cerutti. They lived 42 to 46 million years ago.

160. ▶ US scientists created a platinum-gold alloy, named as most wear-resistant metal in world. It is the first alloy in the same class as diamond and sapphire, and has been 100 times more durability than high-strength steel. With platinum-gold coating, several electronic productas can be made more cost-effective, long-lasting and dependable.

161. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Parker Solar Probe, a $1.5 billion spacecraft, aimed at looking after several factors of sun which are crucial to protect Earth by unveiling mysteries of dangerous solar storms.

- It is Humanity's first-ever mission to Touch the Sun. It will fly through Sun's atmosphere as close as 3.8 million miles from its surface, much closer than any spacecraft has come before.
- Parker Solar Probe launched aboard a Delta IV-Heavy rocket from Cape Canaveral (USA).
- It will use Venus' gravity during seven flybys over nearly seven years to gradually bring its orbit closer to Sun. Earth's average distance to Sun is 93 million miles.
- Why wont it Melt -
    - Parker Solar Probe will provide unprecedented observations of what drives the wide range of particles, energy and heat that course through Sun's Corona, which has temparature of approx 6000 Degrees and sends particles outward into solar system.
    - Parker Solar Probe has can withstand extreme temperature and fluctuations, with its custom heat shield that helps protect mission it from Sun's intense light emission.
    - The key Lies in **concept of heat versus temperature** -
        - High temperatures do not always translate to actually heating another object. In space, temperature can be thousands of degrees without providing significant heat to a given object or feeling hot, as Temperature measures how fast particles are moving, whereas heat measures total amount of energy they transfer.
        - Particles may be moving fast (high temperature), but if there are very few of them, they won't transfer much energy (low heat). Since space is mostly empty, there are very few particles that can transfer energy to spacecraft.
        - Sun's Corona has an extremely high temperature but very low density, so spacecraft interacts with fewer hot particles and doesn't receive as much heat.
        - It Means that while Parker Solar Probe will be travelling through space with temperatures of several million degrees, surface of heat shield that faces the Sun will only get heated to about 1,400 degrees Celsius. Shild uses a Thermal Protection System, (8 feet (2.4 meters) in diameter and 4.5 inches (about 115 mm) thick), allowing the other side of shield, the spacecraft body to be at comfortable 30 C.
- Other Facts about mission -
    - Naming - Eugene Newman Parker is person on whose name the Mission is named. In mid 1950s, he proposed a number of concepts about how stars — including our sun — give off energy. He called this cascade of energy the solar wind.
    - Cost is approx $1.5 Billion USD.
    - In its seven-year mission, Probe will make six more Venus flybys and 24 total passes by Sun, journeying steadily closer to Sun until it makes its closest approach at 3.8 million miles (6.16 million km ). It will be moving at roughly 430000 miles per hour, setting record of being the fastest human-made object ever.
    - It is expected to transmit its first science observations in December 2018.

162. ▶ University of Chicago (USA) identified a 'zombie' gene that makes elephants nearly immune to cancer. In response to DNA damage, a tumour-suppressing protein wakes up the non-functioning gene called LIF6 to kill cancer-prone cells.

163. ▶ Uropeltis bhupathyi, a new snake species has been discovered in the Anaikatty hills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It has been named after late herpetologist S. Bhupathy. They are non-venomous, burrowing, mostly earthworm-eating.

164. ▶ Weather scientists predicted normal monsoon in June-September 2018 monsoon season as prevailing conditions as well as neutral ENSO were favourable for good monsoon rainfall.

- India receives 89 cm of rainfall during four-month monsoon season, which is almost 75% of its annual rainfall.
- Most important favourable condition for good monsoon is near-neutral to neutral ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) in equatorial Pacific Ocean, off coast of South America.
- Moreover, La Niña conditions are present and equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is likely during March-May season, with neutral conditions to

continue in second half of year.

165. ▶ World's 1st habitable 3D-printed houses will be built in Eindhoven (Netherlands), to be occupied by mid-2019. It would help reduce carbon footprint as less cement would be needed for their construction.

166. ▶ World's largest iceberg (B-15), which broke away from Antarctica's Ross ice shelf 18 years ago, is nearing its end, as per NASA observation. It measured about 296 kilometres long and 37 kilometres wide when it first broke away in March 2000. As in May 2018, B-15Z measured just 18 km long and 9 km wide.

167. ▶ ZSL (Zoological Society of London) Institute of Zoology conferred title of 'world's largest bird' to Coombe titan (meaning 'big bird' in Malagasy and Greek), believed to have weighed up to 800 kg and 3 metres tall.

**Sports**

1. ▶ 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup 2018 (London (England)) -
   - Netherlands won the title for record 8th time, defeating Ireland in Final by 6-0.
   - Kitty van Male (Netherlands) was Top Goal Scooer with 8 Goals, while Netherlands' Lidewij Welten was named best player.
   - Spain won 3rd place, defeating Australia to claim their first ever World Cup medal.
   - India finished 8th in 16 Teams Tournament.

2. ▶ 'Son of Dreams' has been unveiled as official Mascot of FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 to be held in 8 Chinese Cities in August to September 2019.

3. ▶ 12th Malaysia Open Badminton title -
   - Men's Singles - Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
   - Women's Singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
   - Men's Doubles - Japan's Takeshi Kamura AND Keigo Sonoda
   - Women's Doubles - Japan's Misaki Matsutomo AND Ayaka Takahashi
   - Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong

4. ▶ 18th Asian Junior Athletics Championships 2018 in Gifu (Japan) -
   - 437 under 20 athletes from 35 nations participated in 44 Events.
   - Medal Table -

   | Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
   |------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
   | 1 | Japan | 14 | 15 | 12 | 41 |
   | 2 | China | 11 | 8 | 5 | 24 |
   | 3 | India | 5 | 2 | 10 | 17 |
   | 4 | Chinese Taipei | 4 | 5 | 3 | 12 |
   | 5 | Sri Lanka | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |

   - India Ranked 3rd with 17 Medals.
     - Gold - Ashish Jakhar (Hammer Throw), Kamalraj Kanagaraj (Triple Jump), Ajeet Kumar (5000 Metres), Anu Kumar (800 Metres), Jisna Mathew (400 metres Female Event)
     - Silver - 4×400 m relay Female Team comprising Subha Venkatesan, Rachna, Nidhi Singh AND Jisna Mathew, Damneet Singh (Hamer Throw)

5. ▶ 2018 AIBA Youth Women's & Men's World Championships in Budapest (Hungary).
   - 359 boxers from 65 countries participated. Mascot was Hungarian Grey bull and cow
   - Indian Winners:
     - Gold -Nitu (Women's Light Fly 45-48kg), Sakshi (Women's Feather 54-57kg)
     - Silver - Anamika (Women's Fly 48-51kg), Manisha (Women's Light Welter 64kg)
     - Bronze - Bhavesh Kattimani (Men's Fly 49-52kg), Ankit (Women's Light – 60kg), Jony (Women's Light 57-60kg), Pahwa A (Women's Middle 69-75kg), Gaidhani S (Women's Light Heavy 81kg), Yadav N (Women's Heavy +81kg)
   - Awards:
     - Best Men Boxer – Dzhambulat Bizhamov (Russia – 69KG)
     - Best Women Boxer – Charlie Cavanagh (Canada – 69KG)
     - Best Team – Team Russia
     - Fair Play Award – Team Hungary

6. ▶ 2018 Asian Games -
   - Facts -

- It was 18th edition of Asian Games, hosted by Jakarta and Palembang (Indonesia).
- 11720 Atheletes from 45 Nations participated in 465 events of 40 sports.
- Official Mascots were named Bhin Bhin, Atung and Kaka, representing Eastern, Central, and Western regions of Indonesia respectively.
- Next, 19th edition of Asian Games will be hosted by Hangzhou (China), in 2022.
- Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee named Most Valuable player in 18th Asian Games,after she had won 6 medals which is the most for a female athlete at a single Game. She will get a trophy and a cheque for $50,000. She became the fourth Japanese athlete to win the award since it's inception at the 1998 Bangkok Games, and first female athlete to be given this title.
- Medal Table -

| Rank | NOC | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|-----|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | China | 132 | 92 | 65 | 289 |
| 2 | Japan | 75 | 56 | 74 | 205 |
| 3 | South Korea | 49 | 58 | 70 | 177 |
| 4 | Indonesia | 31 | 24 | 43 | 98 |
| 5 | Uzbekistan | 21 | 24 | 25 | 70 |
| **8** | **India** | **15** | **24** | **30** | **69** |

- India at 2018 Asian Games -
  - 570 Indian atheletes participated in 36 sports.
  - Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was flag bearer for Indian contingent at opening ceremony of Asian Games 2018. Indian women hockey captain Rani Rampal was India's flag-bearer for Closing Ceremony.
  - It was India's best ever performance in terms of total medal tally. In terms of gold medal tally, India match its best performance at the inaugural 1951 Games in New Delhi.
  - Delhi Government announced enhance in prize money for meadalists -
    - Gold - 1 crore (earlier 20 lakh)
    - Silver - 75 lakh (earlier 14 lakh)
    - Bronze - 50 lakh (earlier Rs 10 lakh).
    - Trainers of medal winners to get 6 lakh (earlier Rs 3 lakh).
  - As per official provisions, pensions of medallists are -

| Category | Amount |
|----------|--------|
| Medallist at Olympic/Para-Olympic Games | 20000 |
| Gold medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympic/Asian Games disciplines) | 16000 |
| Silver/Bronze medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympics / Asian Games disciplines) Gold medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games | 14000 |
| Silver and Bronze medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games | 12000 |

- Some facts and notable points -
  - PV Sindhu became the first badminton player to win silver in Asian Games, after she lost to Tai Tzu-Ying (Taiwan).
  - Rahi Sarnobat became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games.
  - Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games.
  - Swapna Barman gave India its first-ever Asiad gold in women's heptathlon event.
  - Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.
  - Fouaad Mirza became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual equestrian medal since 1982.
  - India also won its first medal in sepaktakraw at the 18th Asian Games.
  - India's first medal in Kurash came through Malaprabha Yallapa Jadav.
  - Saina Nehwal winning bronze in Badminton, after losing to Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in women's singles semifinals.
- **Indian Gold Medalists (15 Medals) -**
  - Athletics - 7
    - Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Men's shot put) - *It was India's first gold in Athletics at 2018 Asian Games.*
    - Neeraj Chopra (Men's javelin throw) - *First Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold. With this, he also set up a national record.*

- Manjit Singh (Men's 800 metres)
- Arpinder Singh (Men's triple jump) - *He ended India's 48-year wait for a gold medal in men's triple jump event at Asian Games. It was an Indian medal in men's triple jump, after 36 years.*
- Swapna Barman (Women's heptathlon) - *India's first-ever Asiad gold in women's heptathlon event.*
- Jinson Johnson (Men's 1500 metres)
- M. R. Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das, Vismaya (Women's 4 x 400 m relay)
- Boxing - 1
  - Amit Panghal (Light flyweight (49 kg))
- Bridge - 1
  - Pranab Bardhan, Shibhnath Sarkar (Men's pair)
- Rowing - 1
  - Sawarn Singh Dattu, Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash, Sukhmeet Singh (Men's quadruple sculls)
- Shooting - 2
  - Saurabh Chaudhary (Men's 10 metre air pistol)
  - Rahi Sarnobat (Women's 25 metre pistol) - *She became first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games.*
- Lawn tennis - 1
  - Rohan Bopa
  - nna, Divij Sharan (Men's doubles)
- Wrestling - 2
  - Bajrang Punia (Men's freestyle 65 kg)
  - Vinesh Phogat (Women's freestyle 50 kg)
- **India's Silver Medalists -**
  - Shooting -
    - Deepak Kumar (Men's 10 metre air rifle)
    - Lakshay Sheoran (Men's trap)
    - Sanjeev Rajput (Men's 50 metre rifle three positions)
    - Shardul Vihan (Men's double trap)
  - Kabaddi -
    - Women's kabaddi (Lost to Iran).
  - Equestrian -
    - Fouaad Mirza (Individual eventing)
    - Team eventing
  - Athletics -
    - Hima Das (Women's 400 metres)
    - Muhammed Anas (Men's 400 metres)
    - Dutee Chand (Women's 100 metres)
    - Dharun Ayyasamy (Men's 400 metres hurdles)
    - Sudha Singh (Women's 3000 metres steeplechase)
    - Neena Varakil (Women's long jump)
    - Jinson Johnson (Men's 800 metres)
    - Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas,Hima Das, M. R. Poovamma (Mixed 4 x 400 metres relay)
    - Dutee Chand (Women's 200 metres)
    - Dharun Ayyasamy, Kunhu Mohammed, Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas (Men's 4 x 400 m relay)
  - Archery -
    - Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini (Men's team compound)
    - Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari,Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Women's team compound)
  - Badminton -
    - P. V. Sindhu (Women's singles)
  - Kurash -
    - Pincky Balhara (Women's 52 kg)

- Sailing -
  - Shweta Shervegar, Varsha Gautham (49er FX women)
- Hockey -
  - Women's hockey team
- Squash -
  - Dipika Pallikal, Joshna Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna, Sunayna Kuruvilla (Women's team)

7. ▶ 2018 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Urgench (Uzbekistan) -
  - India won 6 Medals, 5 in Youth Championships and 1 in Junior Championships (Bronze by JEREMY Lalrinnunga).
  - Medals in Youth Championships - SURAJIT Changmai (Bronze), GOGOI Sidhant (Bronze), JACOB Vanlaltluanga (Bronze), SHEULI Achinta (Silver), JEREMY Lalrinnunga (Silver).
  - India will host Asian Weightlifting Championships in 2019.

8. ▶ 2018 Athletics World Cup held in London (United Kingdom) -
  - This was the first edition of this competition.
  - 416 athletes from 8 nations Participated in 34 Events. India did not participate in the event.
  - Medal Table -
    - United States (USA) - 28 Medals (11 G)
    - Jamaica - 16 Medals (6 G)
    - Poland - 13 Medals (6 G)
    - Great Britain - 13 Medals (3 G)
    - South Africa - 9 Medals (3 G)

9. ▶ 2018 Badminton Asia Championships Held in Wuhan (China) -
  - Winners -

| Event | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | Kento Momota (Japan) | Chen Long (China) | Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia) |
| | | | **H. S. Prannoy (India)** |
| Women's singles | Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei) | Chen Yufei (China) | **Saina Nehwal (India)** |
| | | | Sung Ji-hyun (South Korea) |
| Men's doubles | Li Junhui (China) Liu Yuchen (China) | Takeshi Kamura (Japan) Keigo Sonoda (Japan) | Huang Kaixiang (China) Wang Yilü (China) |
| | | | Liu Cheng (China) Zhang Nan (China) |
| Women's doubles | Yuki Fukushima (Japan) Sayaka Hirota (Japan) | Misaki Matsutomo (Japan) Ayaka Takahashi (Japan) | Della Destiara Haris (Indonesia) Rizki Amelia Pradipta (Indonesia) |
| | | | Kim So-yeong (South Korea) Kong Hee-yong (South Korea) |
| Mixed doubles | Wang Yilü (China) Huang Dongping (China) | Tontowi Ahmad (Indonesia) Liliyana Natsir (Indonesia) | Zheng Siwei (China) Huang Yaqiong (China) |
| | | | Zhang Nan (China) Li Yinhui (China) |

  - Medal Table -

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | China | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 2 | Japan | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 3 | Chinese Taipei | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | Indonesia | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | **India** | **0** | **0** | **2** | **2** |
| | South Korea | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 7 | Malaysia | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

10. ▶ 2018 Barcelona Open Banco Sabadell Men's Tennis Title -
  - Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
  - Doubles - Spain's Feliciano López AND Marc López

11. ▶ 2018 China Open Badminton -
  - Men's Singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
  - Women's Singles - Carolina Marín (Spain)
  - Men's Doubles - Denmark's Kim Astrup AND Anders Skaarup Rasmussen

- Women's Doubles - Japan's Misaki Matsutomo AND Ayaka Takahashi
- Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong

12. ▶ 2018 Cincinnati Masters Tennis 2018 (Also called Western & Southern Open) -
- Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- Women's Singles - Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)
- Men's Doubles - Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) AND Bruno Soares (Brazil)
- Women's Doubles - Lucie Hradecká (Czech Republic) AND Ekaterina Makarova (Russia)

13. ▶ 2018 FIFA Football World Cup (21st) -
- Winners -
  - France Won the Title, Defeating First time finalists Croatia. It was 2nd World cup Title for France.
  - Final was played in Luzhniki Stadium (Moscow), with Antoine Griezmann (France) named Man of the Match.
  - Belgium defeat England to finish 3rd. England named 4th.
- Notable Facts -
  - Awards -
    - Golden Ball (Best Player in Tournament) - Luka Modric (Croatia).
    - Goldebn Boot (Top Goal Scorer) - Harry Kane (England)
    - Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper) - Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)
    - Best young player - Kylian Mbappé (France)
    - Fair play award - Spain
  - Russia Hosted FIFA World Cup for the First Time.
  - 32-day tournament featured 32 teams and 64 games, played in 12 stadiums across 11 cities in Russia.
  - Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo scored FIFA World Cup 2018's first hat-trick, overall 51st in World Cup history. Ronaldo also became first player to score in eight consecutive major internationals tournaments.
  - Argentine Goalkeeper Javier Mascherano announced his retirement from international football after FIFA World Cup 2018.
  - Japan became the first-ever Asian nation to defeat a South American country in World Cup history, after defeating Colombia.
  - Brazil Holds most WC Titles (5), Followed by Germany and Italy (4 Each).
  - 2022 FIFA WC will be hosted by Qatar (32 teams) and 2026 FIFA wc will be hosted by USA, Canada and Mexico (48 Teams), called United2026.
  - Anthropomorphic Eurasian wolf *Zabivaka* was official mascot of 2018 FIFA World Cup.
  - 2019 FIFA Women's WC will be held in France.

14. ▶ 2018 Forbes list of 'The World's 100 highest paid athletes' -
- Top 5 -
  - Floyd Mayweather (USA) - Boxing (285 Million USD)
  - Lionel Messi (Argentina) - Soccer (111 million USD)
  - Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) - Soccer (108 million USD)
  - Conor McGregor (Ireland) - Mixed Martial Arts (99 million USD)
  - Neymar (Brazil) - Soccer (90 million USD)
- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli is the sole Indian and Cricketer to feature in List with Pay of $24 Million USD.
- No Female Athelete Named in 2018's list. Last Year, USA Tennis star Serena Williams with $27 Million USD Earnings was ranked 51st.

15. ▶ 2018 Gerry Weber Open Men's Tennis Title (Also called Halle Open (Germany)) -
- Singles - Borna Ćorić (Croatia), defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer.
- Doubles - Łukasz Kubot (Poland) AND Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

16. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 1 (Shanghai (China)) -
- India - (2 Bronze). Medalists -
  - Bronze for Abhishek Verma (Coumpund Men)
  - Bronze for Recurve Mixed Team (Atanu Das and Ankita Bhakat).

17. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 2 (Antalya (Turkey)) -
- India - (2 Silver and 1 Bronze). Medalists -
  - Silver - Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Coumpund Women), Recurve Mixed Team (Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari)
  - Bronze - Compound Mixed Team (Abhishek Verma AND Jyothi Surekha Vennam)

18. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 3 held in Salt Lake (USA). India won 3 medals at the event.
    - Medals in Round 3 -
        - Gold for Deepika Kumari in Recurve Women. She defeated Michelle Kroppen (Germany). This win ensured Deepika will represent the country at the season-ending Archery World Cup Final in Samsun, Turkey in October 2018.
        - Silver for Abhishek Verma in COMPOUND MEN
        - Bronze for COMPOUND MIXED TEAM
    - Previous Rounds in 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup
        - Round 1 (Shanghai (China)) -
            - Bronze for Compound Mixed Team
        - Round 2 (Antalya (Turkey)) -
            - Silver for Compound Women Team
            - Bronze for Compound Mixed Team
19. ▶ 2018 Junior World Weightlifting Championships held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) -
    - Iran claimed title with 512 points, followed by host Uzbekistan (436 points) and Turkey (411 points).
    - Indian lifter Jhili Dalabehera won Bronze, lifting 167 kg in 48 kg category. She is 2nd Indian woman after Saikhom Mirabai Chanu in 2013 to win a medal in Junior World Championships.
20. ▶ 2018 Kunming Open Tennis Title (China) -
    - Men's Singles - Prajnesh Gunneswaran (India), defeated Mohamed Safawat (Egypt)
    - Women's Singles - Irina Khromacheva (Russia)
    - Men's Doubles -Aliaksandr Bury (Belarus) AND Lloyd Harris (South Africa)
    - Women's Doubles - Dalila Jakupović (Slovenia) AND Irina Khromacheva (Russia)
21. ▶ 2018 Los Cabos Men's Tennis Open -
    - Singles - Fabio Fognini (Italy)
    - Doubles - Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) AND Miguel Ángel Reyes-Varela (Mexico)
22. ▶ 2018 Mercedes Cup Men's Tennis (Stuttgart, Germany) -
    - Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland), defeating Milos Raonic (Canada)
    - Doubles - Germany 's Philipp Petzschner AND Tim Pütz
23. ▶ 2018 Monte - Carlo Masters Men's Tennis Tournament (France) -
    - Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
    - Doubles - USA's Bob Bryan AND Mike Bryan
24. ▶ 2018 Mutua Madrid Open Tennis Title (Spain) -
    - Men's Singles - Alexander Zverev (Germany)
    - Women's Singles - Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)
    - Men's Doubles - Nikola Mektić (Croatia) AND Alexander Peya (Austria)
    - Women's Doubles - Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) AND Elena Vesnina (Russia)
    - Spanish Tennis Player Rafael Nadal broke John McEnroe's 34-year record by winning his 50th consecutive set on clay at Madrid Open.
25. ▶ 2018 Porsche Women's Tennis Grand Prix (Allso Known as Stuttgart Open) -
    - Women's Singles - Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
    - Women's Doubles - Raquel Atawo (USA) AND Anna-Lena Grönefeld (Germany)
26. ▶ 2018 Rogers Cup Tennis (Toronto (Canada)) -
    - Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
    - Women's Singles - Simona Halep (Romania)
    - Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
    - Women's Doubles - Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)
27. ▶ 2018 Thomas Cup Badminton (30th Edition), Bangkok (Thailand) -
    - China won the tournament, beating Japan in Final. It is 10th Thomas cup title for China.
    - *Thomas Cup* is informally called World Team Championships for Men.
28. ▶ 2018 Uber Cup Badminton (27th Edition), Bangkok (Thailand) -
    - Japan won the tournament, beating Thailand in Final. It is Sixth Uber cup title for Japan.
    - *Uber Cup* is informally called World Team Championships for Women.

29. ► 2018 Vietnam Open (Badminton) -
   - 🔨 Men's Singles - Shesar Hiren Rhustavito (Indonesia)
   - 🔨 Women's Singles - Yeo Jia Min (Singapore)
   - 🔨 Men's Doubles - South Korea's Ko Sung-hyun AND Shin Baek-cheol
   - 🔨 Women's Doubles - Japan's Misato Aratama AND Akane Watanabe
30. ► 2018 World U20 Championships in Athletics (also known as the World Junior Championships), held in Tampere (Finland) -
   - 🔨 1462 Athletes from 158 Nations participated in 44 Events.
   - 🔨 Top 5 - Kenya (1), Jamaica (2), USA (3), Ethiopia (4), Great Britain (5)
   - 🔨 Assam's Hima Das became first Indian woman to win gold at IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships, after she won Women's 400 Metre Event, clocking 51.46 Seconds.
31. ► 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will be held in North Korean capital Pyongyang.
32. ► 26th Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award (ESPY) 2018, Los Angeles (USA) -
   - 🔨 Best Male Athlete - Alexander Ovechkin, Washington Capitals
   - 🔨 Best Female Athlete - Chloe Kim, Snowboard
   - 🔨 Best International Men's Soccer Player - Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)
   - 🔨 Best Male Tennis Player - Roger Federer
   - 🔨 Best Female Tennis Player - Sloane Stephens
33. ► 52nd ISSF World Shooting Championships held in Changwon (South Korea) -
   - 🔨 This also served as first qualification for 2020 Summer Olympics.
   - 🔨 India at the Games -
       - 🔨 In Senior - India won total 7 Medals (2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze), ranked 9th.
       - 🔨 In Junior - India won total 20 Medals (2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze), ranked 2nd.
       - 🔨 India with 27 medals was overall (senior + junior) ranked 3, after China (43 medals) and South Korea (36 medals).
       - 🔨 Shahzar Rizvi claimed India's first medal at ISSF World Cup 2018, winning 10m air pistol silver.
       - 🔨 Indian Gold Medalists -
           - 🔨 Senior -
               - 🔨 50 m pistol (Om Prakash Mitharwal)
               - 🔨 Double trap (Ankur Mittal)
           - 🔨 Junior -
               - 🔨 10 m air rifle (Hriday Hazarika)
               - 🔨 10 m air pistol (Saurabh Chaudhary)
               - 🔨 25 m pistol (Udhayveer Sidhu)
               - 🔨 25 m standard pistol (Vijayveer Sidhu)
               - 🔨 50 m pistol (Arjun Singh Cheema)
               - 🔨 25 m standard pistol team (Vijayveer Sidhu, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Adarsh Singh)
               - 🔨 25 m pistol team (Udhayveer Sidhu, Vijayveer Sidhu, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu)
               - 🔨 50 m pistol team (Arjun Singh Cheema, Gaurav Rana, Anmol)
               - 🔨 10 m air rifle Women team (Elavenil Valarivan, Shreya Agrawal, Manini Kaushik)
   - 🔨 Medal table -
       - 🔨 Senior -

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | China | 9 | 9 | 3 | 21 |
| 2 | Russia | 8 | 8 | 10 | 26 |
| 3 | South Korea | 7 | 5 | 8 | 20 |
| 4 | Germany | 6 | 6 | 3 | 15 |
| 5 | Sweden | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| **9** | **India** | **2** | **4** | **1** | **7** |

       - 🔨 Junior -

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | China | 11 | 6 | 5 | 22 |
| **2** | **India** | **9** | **5** | **6** | **20** |
| 3 | Italy | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 4 | South Korea | 4 | 9 | 3 | 16 |
| 5 | Norway | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

34. ▶ American fighter Ronda Rousey will become first female MMA fighter to be inducted into Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Fame.

35. ▶ Argentina Footballer Lionel Messi won European Golden Shoe for fifth time, after winning it earlier in 2010, 2012 and 2013, 2017.

   🖋 Additionally, Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is named he most popular athlete as he topped ESPN World Fame 100 list for 3rd straight year.

36. ▶ Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal named Indian Athlete Hima Das as first sports ambassador of Assam. Hima recently became first Indian to win gold at IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships, after winning Women's 400 Metre Event, clocking 51.46 Seconds.

37. ▶ Australia defeated India to win 37th (their 15th title) and last Men's Hockey Champions Trophy tournament, in Breda (Netherlands). It will be replaced by Hockey Pro League (HPL) in 2019.

38. ▶ Australian Cricketer Aaron Finch scored highest ever individual score in T20 Internationls, scoring 172 runs in 76 balls against Zimbabwe.

39. ▶ BCCI registered its new constitution with the Registrar of Societies of Tamil Nadu, in line with reforms listed by Supreme Court-appointed Justice Lodha Committee.

   🖋 Granted full permanent membership to Railways, Tri-Services, and Association of Indian Universities.

   🖋 It restored voting rights of the cricket associations of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

   🖋 It also agreed for *One State, One Vote* policy, that was recommended by R.M. Lodha Committee, formed in January 2015 after Mukul Mudgal Committee report that called for reforms within BCCI.

40. ▶ Badminton World Championships 2018, Held at Nanjing (China). -

   🖋 India's P V Sindhu finished second best in Women;s Singles, becoming only Indian to have four world championships podium finishes.

   🖋 Men's singles - Kento Momota (Japan), defeating China's Shi Yuqi. He became first Japanese man to win it.

   🖋 Women's singles - Carolina Marin (Spain) won by defeating India's P V Sindhu.

   🖋 Men's doubles - Chinese pair of Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen

   🖋 Women's doubles - Japanese pair of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara.

   🖋 Mixed doubles - Chinese pair of Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong.

   🖋 Mascot of Event was *Yu Bao*.

41. ▶ Bangladesh Cricketer Shakib Al Hasan became quickest to reach 10000 runs (ODI + Tests + T20I) and pick 500 wickets in international cricket. He also became first Bangladeshi cricketer with 500 international wickets.

   🖋 Also, England Became First ODI Nation to loose to an Associate Nation, after they lost an ODI to Scotland, in Edinburgh.

42. ▶ Bangladesh won Women's Asia T20 Cricket Cup 2018 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), defeating India.

43. ▶ Barcelona FC became first team in 85 years to win four straight Copa del Rey Football titles after defeating Sevilla.

44. ▶ Barcelona FC defeated Deportivo to win La Liga Football League Title (Spain) for 25th time. Barcelona also extended their league record unbeaten streak to 34 matches.

45. ▶ Bayern Munich FC won German Footnall League called Bundesliga for 28th time, defeating Augsburg.

46. ▶ Bengaluru FC won inaugural edition of Super Cup Football tournament in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), defeating Kolkata football giants East Bengal.

47. ▶ Biennial Asian Nations Cup Chess Tournament held in Hamadan (Iran) -

   🖋 India won 5 medals - 1 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze AND ranked 2nd in overall ranking.

   🖋 Winning team of Gold consisted of Harika Dronavalli , Eesha Karavade, Padmini Rout, Vaishali R, Aakanksha Hagawane.

   🖋 Medal Table was topped by Iran Green.

48. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recommended Rahul Dravid for Dronacharya award,Virat Kohli's for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna honour and Sunil Gavaskar for Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

49. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) signed Letter of Intent (LoI) with UN Environment to promote green' cricket in India. BCCI will endeavor to reduce its environmental impact by greening its operations and engaging cricketers and fans in green initiatives.

50. ▶ Brooks Koepka (USA) won US Open Golf 2018 by defeating Tommy Fleetwood, becoming first player in 3 decades to successfully defend his title.

51. ▶ CEAT Cricket Ratings awards 2018 -

   🖋 International Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli

   🖋 International Batsman of the Year - Shikhar Dhawan

- International Bowler of the Year - Trent Boult (NZ)
- T20 Bowler of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan.
- T20 Batsman of the Year - Colin Munro (NZ)
- Outstanding Innings of the Year - Harmanpreet Kaur (Indian Female Cricketer)
- U-19 Player of the Year - Shubman Gill
- Popular Choice Award - Chris Gayle (Windies)
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Farokh Engineer (India).

52. ▶ CERN(world's largest physics laboratory) has discovered two new particles, as well as hints of another new particle, in high-energy proton collisions at 27-km-long Large Hadron Collider. The particles belong to the same family of protons called baryons.

53. ▶ Chelsea FC defeated Manchester United FC to win 2017/18 FA Cup, winning the title for 8th time. FA Cup 2017-18, was 137th edition of oldest recognised football tournament in world.

54. ▶ Chennai Super Kings defeated Sun Risers Hyderabad to win their 3rd Indian Premier League title, equalling Mumbai Indians' record of winning number of Indian Premier League titles (3). 2018 was 11th Edition of IPL and 7th Final of CSK. They were Suspended for 2 years (2016 & 2017). Various Awards given at Closing Ceremony -

| S. No | Award | Winner (Team) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Man of the Match (Final) | Shane Watson (CSK) |
| 2. | Orange Cap (Most Runs) | Kane Williamson (SRH) |
| 3. | Purple Cap (Most Wickets) | Andrew Tye (KXIP) |
| 4. | Emerging Player AND Stylish Player | Rishabh Pant (DD) |
| 6. | Perfect Catch | Trent Boult (DD) |
| 7. | Super Striker | Sunil Narine (KKR) |
| 8. | Valuable Player | Sunil Narine (KKR) |
| 9. | Fairplay Award | Mumbai Indians |

55. ▶ Commonwealth Games gold medallist weightlifter Sanjita Chanu and tennis player Yuki Bhambri have been dropped from Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme, amid positive dope sample test results.

56. ▶ ESPN Multi-Sport Awards -
- Badminton players, PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth named Sportspersons of the Year in Male and Female Categories.
- Badinton Coach Pullela Gopichand adjudged 'best coach'.
- Indian Women's Hockey Team got 'Team of the Year' title.

57. ▶ Egyptian Football Player forward Mohamed Salah is named Player of the Year by England's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).

58. ▶ England created new record for highest total in a men's ODI with 481 against Australia, beating its own previous Record.

59. ▶ FC Goa and Forca Goa Foundation introduced *FC Goa Soccer Schools* as a soccer programme for kids, aimed at developing football in Goa and to provide opportunity to more children to play it.

60. ▶ FIFA lifted 18 Month long suspension imposed on Guatemala Football Association (Central America), over its failure to comply with anti-corruption rules.

61. ▶ FIFA proposed staging a 'mini-World Cup' every two years, replacing Confederations Cup currently staged every four years in a year before World Cup. New event will be called 'Final 8', would feature eight teams and could commence in October or November 2021.

62. ▶ FIFA took temporary control over the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) due to governance issues.

63. ▶ Ferrari's German racer Sebastian Vettel won Formula 1 British Grand Prix 2018 -
- 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

64. ▶ Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel won Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix 2018 -

🖊 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

65. ▶ Ferrari's Racer Sebastian Vettel (Germany) won F1 Belgian Grand Prix -

🖊 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

66. ▶ Ferrari's German Racer Sebastian Vettel won Bahrain Grand Prix title.

🖊 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

67. ▸ Football Delhi will launch a Pro League in October 2018 and a community league in January 2019. Earlier, Football Delhi, was known as Delhi Soccer Association.

68. ▸ For first time in history of FIFA international football team rankings, two teams are sharing top spot after World Cup 2018 semi-finalists Belgium joined World Cup winners France Jointly at top of rankings.

69. ▸ Forbes' List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes 2018 -
   - American Tennis Player Serena Williams (with earnings of $18.1 million) is highest paid female athlete for 3rd consecutive year.
   - Top 3 -
      - Serena Williams ($18.1 million) (American Tennis Player)
      - Dane Caroline Wozniacki ($13 million) (Danish Tennis Player)
      - Sloane Stephens ($11.2 million) (American tennis player)
   - Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu ranked at 7th place with earnings of $8.5 million.

70. ▸ Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer is appointed as Australian cricket team's new head coach for all formats, replacing Darren Lehmann, who stepped down after recent ball-tampering controversy.

71. ▸ France Football magazine announced that, a women's Ballon d'Or will be awarded for first time in 2018, to be presented on 8 December 2018 in Paris (France).
   - Ballon d'Or is awarded annually for men since 1956.

72. ▸ French Open Tennis 2018 -
   - Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain), defeating Dominic Thiem (Austria).
      - Nadal equaled Margaret Court's all-time record of 11 Grand Slam singles titles won at one major (French Open).
      - Overall, It was Nadal's 17th Grand Slam Victory, 2nd only to Swiss Star Roger Federer (20 Titles).
   - Women's Singles - Simona Halep (Romania), Defating Sloane Stephens (USA). It was Halep's first Grand Slam title.
   - Men's Doubles - Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) AND Nicolas Mahut (France)
   - Women's Doubles - Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) AND Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
   - Mixed Doubles - Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei) AND Ivan Dodig (Croatia)
   - Boys' Singles - Tseng Chun-hsin (Chinese Taipei)
   - Girls' Singles - Cori Gauff (USA)

73. ▸ Germany will host UEFA 2024 European Championship, as Germany's first major football championship hosting since World Cup 2006. 24 national teams will play in 10 German cities.

74. ▸ Government approved participation of Indian Kho Kho team at the 1st International Kho Kho Championship in England in first week of September 2018.

75. ▸ Government approved revised guidelines for MAKA (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad) Trophy, to simplify selection of top performing university in sports for award of MAKA Trophy. Under revised guidelines -
   - Receiving and Scrutiny of Applications will be invited by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports / Sports Authority of India (unlike Association of Indian Universities (AIU) upto now).
   - Tournaments which are held more than once a year will not be considered for computation of marks.
   - Award money for winner has been increased from 10 lakh to 15 lakh. While that for 1st and 2nd Runner-up universities is enhanced from 5 lakh to 7.5 lakh and 3 lakh to 4.5 lakh respectively.

76. ▸ Harry Kane (England) named most valuable player for upcoming FIFA World Cup in Russia 2018. Kane is estimated to be worth 201.2 million euros, as calculated by CIES Football Observatory algorithm.

77. ▸ ICC included Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland and the UAE in their ODI rankings list apart from 12 existing countries.

78. ▸ ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 Round 2 (Suhl (Germany)) -
   - Including Round 1 in Sydney (Australia) in March 2018, India won total 48 Medals in ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 (24 Gold, 7 Silver, 17 Bronze). India is at the top of table in ISSF Junior World Cup 2018.
   - Medal Table -

     | Rank | Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
     |---|---|---|---|---|---|
     | 1 | India | 24 | 7 | 17 | 48 |
     | 2 | China | 15 | 17 | 14 | 46 |
     | 3 | Italy | 7 | 6 | 10 | 23 |
     | 4 | Czech Republic | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
     | 5 | Russia | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 |

   - Gold Medals for India in ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 Round 2 (Suhl (Germany)) -

- 🔖 Individual -
  - 🔖 Men - Hriday Hazarika (10 Metre Air Rifle), Saurabh Chaudhary (10 metre air pistol), Vijayveer Sindhu (25 meter standard pistol)
  - 🔖 Women - Elavenil Valarivan(10 Metre Air Rifle), Vishwa Jignesh Dahiya (25 meter standard pistol), Manu Bhaker (10 metre air pistol)
- 🔖 Team -
  - 🔖 Men - 10 metre air rifle, 50 metre pistol, 10 metre air pistol, 25 meter standard pistol, 25 meter pistol
  - 🔖 Women - 50 metre pistol, 25 meter standard pistol
  - 🔖 Mixd Team - 10 metre air pistol (Saurabh Chaudhary / Devanshi Rana), 100 Metre air rifle (Elavenil Valarivan / Divyansh Singh Panwar)

79. ▶ ITF men's Futures Men's tennis tournament (Indonesia) -
- 🔖 Singles - Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (IND)
- 🔖 Doubles - Justin Barki (Indonesia) AND Christopher Rungkat (Indonesia)

80. ▶ Inaugural National Para Games, on lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru (Karnataka). Games will be held for age group of 16 to 40 in 10 disciplines - *para athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para powerlifting, shooting para-sport, para-swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing*.

81. ▶ India Blue won 2017-18 Duleep Cricket Trophy by defeating India Red, in Dindigul (Tamilnadu).

82. ▶ India Women Cricketer Smriti Mandhana became first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League (women's cricket super league in England).

83. ▶ India defeated Bangladesh to win Unimoni Asia Cup Cricket Championship 2018, held in UAE. This was India's seventh Asia Cup Title.

84. ▶ India won Intercontinental Cup football title by defeating Kenya by 2-0 in Mumbai. India's Sunil Chhetri became joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentina's Lionel Messi with his 64th strike. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is top active scorer with 85 Goals so far.

85. ▶ India won Kabaddi Masters Dubai tournament in Dubai (UAE), Beating Iran in Final.

86. ▶ India won South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Football Championship, held in Thimpu (Bhutan), by defeating Bangladesh.

87. ▶ India's gymnast Dipa Karmakar won gold medal in vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin (Turkey). BJP proposed Dipa Karmakar as brand ambassador of state.

88. ▶ Indian Boxer Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with *WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award*. He is current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category.

89. ▶ Indian Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni reached milestone of playing 500 international matches, playing 497 international matches for India and 3 matches for Asia. He is ninth player to achievbe this, apart from two more Indians - Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. Also, Rohit Sharma became first Indian to hit 3 centuries in T20I cricket, after he recently hit one against England.

90. ▶ Indian Cricketers Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj respectively were named as Wisden's leading male cricketer and standout female cricketer of the year. England's Female Cricketers Heather Knight, Anya Shrubsole and Natalie Sciver are also named among Wisden's five cricketers of the year.

91. ▶ Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen won gold medal in Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta (Indonesia), defeating Indonesia's Kunlavut Vitidsarn. He is 2nd Indian to get this title since Gautam Thakkar's gold back in 1965.

92. ▶ Indian badminton player Sourabh Verma won Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok, defeating Japan's Koki Watanabe. In Mixed Doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg, lost against Russian-Korean team of Vladimir Ivanov and Min Kyung Kim.

93. ▶ Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan became first Indian to score a century before lunch on first day of a test match, against Afghanistan. He is 6th batsman in world to achieve this feat.

94. ▶ Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami became first bowler in women's cricket to pick 300 international wickets. Also, Mithali Raj went past England's Charlotte Edwards as most-capped captain in women's ODIs with her 118th appearance.

95. ▶ Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi grabbed number one spot in 10m air pistol rankings by ISSF. He won silver in recent World Cup in Changwon (South Korea).

96. ▶ Indian sprinter Hima Das was appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam.
- 🔖 She was first Indian athlete to win gold medal in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere, Finland.
- 🔖 In 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta), she had won silver medal in 400 m final to win a silver medal. She is nicknamed 'Dhing Express' after her village in Assam.

97. ▶ Indian squash player Dipika Pallikal has been appointed as Asia's representative in Athletes Advisory Commission of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

98. ▶ Indian tennis' Player Leander Paes became most successful doubles player in history of Davis Cup, after he won his record 43rd title along with Rohan Bopanna.

99. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its Future Tours Programme (FTP) for 2018-2023, which includes World Test Championship and a 13-team ODI league. ICC World Test Championship will be held in July of 2019 to June 2021. Test championship will involve 9 teams playing 3 home and 3 away series.

100. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) approved granting International status to all Twenty20 matches between Member Nations. It is a part of wider strategic aim of using the T20 format to globalize the game. All Member women's teams will be awarded T20I status on 1 July 2018, whilst all Member men's teams will be awarded T20I status on 1 January 2019.

101. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted former Rahul Dravid (India), Ricky Ponting (Australia) and English Female circketer Claire Taylor into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. Dravid became 5th Indian to be named in Hall of Fame, after Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar and Anil Kumble.

102. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) added 7 medal events to 2022 Beijing Winter Games, with addition of women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials and snowboard cross.

103. ▶ International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 2 (Changwon, South Korea) -
    - 🖌 India could win 1 Silver medal at ISSF WC Leg 2, won by Shahzar Rizvi in 10 metre men's air pistol.
    - 🖌 In ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 1 in Guadalajara (Mexico), India topped medal tally with 4 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 bronze medals (9 Medals).
    - 🖌 India's Total Medal Tally in ISSF WC 2018 stands at 10 Medals, as of now. Medal Tally after Leg 2 looks like -

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | China | 6 | 4 | 2 | 12 |
| 2 | United States | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 3 | India | 4 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| 4 | Russia | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| 5 | Finland | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

104. ▶ International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 3 and Leg 4 (In Fort Benning (USA) and Munich (Gerrmany) Respectively) -
    - 🖌 India Could Not win a medal in Leg 3 and Leg 4 of ISSF World Cup 2018.
    - 🖌 India's Total Medal Tally in ISSF WC 2018 stands at 10 Medals, as of now. Medal Tally after Leg 4 looks like -

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | China | 13 | 14 | 9 | 36 |
| 2 | United States | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 3 | India | 4 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| 4 | Russia | 4 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| 5 | Ukraine | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |

105. ▶ International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that Madrid (Spain) would host the first 2 new-format Davis Cup Tennis finals in 2019 and 2020. It will engage 18 countries at one place for a week at the end of tennis season. Kosmos will spend $3 billion over 25 years on revamped 118-year-old Davis Cup.

106. ▶ Iraq will host West Asia Football Federation championship in Basra in November 2018, after FIFA recently lifted a three-decade ban on Iraq hosting international football.

107. ▶ Italian Open Tennis 2018 (also known as Rome Masters) -
    - 🖌 Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
    - 🖌 Women's Singles - Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
    - 🖌 Men's Doubles - Colombia's Juan Sebastián Cabal AND Robert Farah
    - 🖌 Women's Doubles Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

108. ▶ Japan Open Badminton 2018 -
    - 🖌 Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)

- Women's Singles - Carolina Marín (Spain)
- Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
- Women's Doubles - Japan's Yuki Fukushima AND Sayaka Hirota
- Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong

109. Japan won its first FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title, held in France. Japan defeated Spain in final.
- England held 3rd place while France stayed 4th.
- Patricia Guijarro (Spain) named as Best Player.

110. July 07 - International Day of Cooperatives (IDC). 2018 theme is *Sustainable societies through cooperation*. It is also known as World Chocolate Day.

111. Kagiso Rabada Named South Africa's Cricketer Of The Year, for 2nd time. He is also named ODI and Test Cricketer of the Year.

112. Kerala won their sixth Santosh Trophy Football title, defeating Bengal.

113. Kho-Kho will be included as a demonstration sport in Asian Indoor Games, Also having possibility to be included as a discipline in next Asian Games.

114. Kidambi Srikanth became first Indian male badminton player to attain world number 1 ranking, since Prakash Padukone in 1980s.

115. Lagos International Badminton 2018 -
- Men's Singles -  Misha Zilberman (Israel)
- Women's Singles - Ksenia Polikarpova (Israel)
- Men's doubles - India's Mannu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy
- Women's doubles - India's Kuhoo Garg and Ria Mukherjee
- Mixed doubles - India's Manu Attri and Manisha

116. Laver cup Tennis 2018 (Chicago, United States)-
- Its an indoor hard court men's tennis tournament between two teams - Team Europe and Team World. It was founded in 2017.
- Team Europe successfully defended their title, winning the tournament 13–8.

117. Long time Rivals North and South Korea will field a unified team for semi-finals of world Table Tennis championships to be held in Halmstad (Sweden). It was decided after a recent meet between two nations to ease up tensions.

118. MS Dhoni became fastest wicketkeeper-batsman and third fastest Indian to score 10,000 runs in ODI cricket, achieving it in 273 innings.

119. Madurai Panthers won their first Tamil Nadu Premier League 2018 title, defeating Dindigul Dragons.

120. Maldives won 2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup 2018, defeating India. It was hosted by Bangladesh.

121. Mario Abdo Benítez has been elected as New president of South American Nation Paraguay.

122. Mercedes's British driver Lewis Hamilton won Formula 1 French Grand Prix 2018 -
- 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

123. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (England) won F1 German Grand Prix -

✏ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

124. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (England) won F1 Hungarian Grand Prix -

✏ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |
| 20 | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

125. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Italian Grand Prix -

✎ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

126. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Singapore Grand Prix -

✎ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **4** | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **5** | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **6** | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| **7** | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| **8** | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **9** | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |
| **10** | British Grand Prix | 8 July | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| **11** | German Grand Prix | 22 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **12** | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **13** | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| **14** | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **15** | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| **16** | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| **17** | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| **18** | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| **19** | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| **20** | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| **21** | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

127. ▶ Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton won Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix 2018 -

✎ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| **Serial** | **Grand Prix** | **Date** | **Winner** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

128. ▶ Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018.

    ✎ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

129. ▶ Miami Open Tennis 2018 (USA) -

    ✎ Men's Singles - John Isner (USA)

    ✎ Women's Singles - Sloane Stephens (USA)

    ✎ Men's Doubles - Mike Bryan (USA), Bob Bryan (USA)

    ✎ Women's Doubles - CoCo Vandeweghe (USA), Ashleigh Barty (Australia)

130. ▶ Mike Hesson (New Zealand), Belinda Clark (Australia), and Kyle Coetzer (Scotland) have been appointed to International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee.

131. ▶ Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore approved revision of pension to meritorious Sportspersons. New Rates are -

| Category | Pension Amount |
|---|---|
| Medallist at Olympic/Para-Olympic Games | 20000 |
| Gold medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympic/Asian Games disciplines) | 16000 |
| Silver/Bronze medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympics / Asian Games disciplines) Gold medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games | 14000 |
| Silver and Bronze medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games | 12000 |

132. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (August 2018) -

    ✎ 10-year-old swimmer Clark Kent Apuada (USA) has broke a record held by Noted Olympian Swimmer Michael Phelps, completing 100-meter butterfly in 1:09:38, ahead of Phelps' record that he set in 1995 (with 1:10.48 timing).

    ✎ Kliment Kolesnikov of Russia created a world record for 50 metres backstroke swimming, as he won European Championship in Glasgow (Scotland). He recorded 24 seconds and broke previous record by 0.04 seconds.

- Indian Chess Player Vaibhav Suri beat Prithu Gupta and won Biel Masters Chess title in Switzerland.
- Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his first European Tour title at Fiji International.
- Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli became fastest captain to reach 7000 international runs. Kohli also featured at top in latest ICC Test Rankings. Also, Nepalese cricketer Rohit Kumar Paudel (aged 15 years) became 4th youngest debutant in men's ODI cricket.
- Karman Kaur Thandi became 6th Indian to rank among top 200th in WTA (Women's Tennis Association) list, after Ankita Raina, Sania Mirza, Nirupama Vaidyanathan, Shikha Uberoi and Sunitha Rao.
- India's under-20 Football team won a game against traditionally strong Argentina tea by 2-1, during COTIF Cup in Spain. Also, under-16 team football of India defeated under-16 champions team of Iraq in West Asian Football Federation Cup in Amman (Jordon).
- India's Swastika Ghosh won bronze medal in junior girls' doubles along with Singapore's Jingyi Zhou in 2018 Hang Seng Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open, in Hong Kong.
- Tokyo 2020 (Japan) will be first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues. It will use IC chips within identification cards to automatically verify identity of those entering over 40 sporting venues.
- Indian-American student Avi Goel won world championship at International Geography Bee's junior varsity division held in Berlin (Germany).
- Saudi Arabia's Mosaad Aldossary won FIFA eWorld Cup held at O2 Arena in London (Britain).
- English cricketer James Anderson became first player to take 100 wickets at Lord's, achieving it during second Test against India.
- Indian golfer Viraj Madappa became youngest Indian to win on Asian Tour, after winning his first title on Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- Indian cricketer Virat Kohli stayed at top spot in list of highest run scorers in international cricket in 2018.
- Indian cyclist Esow Alben won India's maiden medal in track cycling at world level, after he won silver medal in Men's Keirin event of UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships held in Aigle (Switzerland).
- New Delhi will host Combined ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup to be held before 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- 14 years old Nihal Sarin became India's 53rd Chess Grandmaster after winning at Abu Dhabi Masters. Also, Vaishali R (17 years), became India's latest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) after earning her third and final WGM norm at Riga Technical University Open at Latvia.
- India's Para Athlete Divyesh Sondagar won 2 Gold medals in World Celebral Palsy Games in Barcelona (Spain).
- Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Irfan set the world record for the most economical four-over bowling figures in history of T20 cricket, when he conceded just 1 run in 4 overs spell, with 23 dot balls.

133. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (July 2018) -

- India's Bajrang Punia won Gold in 65kg Category in United World Wrestling's Tbilisi Grand Prix (Georgia Capital), defeating Iranian wrestler Mehran Nasiri. Also, India's Deepak Punia won bronze medal in 86kg category, defeating Turkey's Osman Gocen.
- NADA gave 4 year suspension to shot putter Inderjeet Singh for testing positive for anabolic steroids in a dope test before 2016 Rio Olympics.
- India won 3 silver and 1 bronze to finish joint third with Iran in Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei. Korea topped tally with 8 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze, followed by hosts Taipei.
- Noted Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo left Spanish club Real Madrid after 9 years, joining Italian club Juventus in a reported £105-million (INR 956 crores) four-year deal.
- India's INS Tarangini arrived Sunderland (UK), during its #Lokayan-18 voyage. It also participated in prestigious 'tall ship races – 2018'.
- Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan won women's air rifle gold medal in 28th Meeting of Shooting Hopes junior international championship in Plzen (Czech Republic).
- Indian Badminton Player Ajay Jayaram finished runners-up at White Nights International Challenge in Gatchina (Russia).
- Golfer Rishi Narain won Indian Golf Union's 48th annual All India Seniors Golf Championship.
- India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won gold medal in Sotteville Athletics meet (France), covering distance of 85.17 meters. He also won gold medal in Savo Games in Lapinlahti (Finland).
- Alisson Becker of Brazil became World's most expensive goalkeeper, while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a record £56 million. Noted Portuguese player Cristiano Ronaldo also changed from Real Madrid (Spain) to Juventus (Italy).
- Indian Golfer Shubhankar Sharma became youngest Indian golfer to make cut in any major after he capped a wonderful back nine at 147th Open Championships at Carnoustie (Scotland).

- India won 8 medals in Junior Asian Wrestling Championship concluded in New Delhi., comprisingf of 2 gold (Sachin Rathi, Deepak Punia ), 3 silver and 3 bronze.
- Indian sprinter Muhammed Anas Yahiya broke his own national record to win 400 metres race at Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji meet in Czech Republic, with time of 45.24 seconds.
- Fakhar Zaman became first Pakistani cricketer to score a double century in ODIs, after hitting one against Zimbabwe. He also became quickest player in history to reach 1,000 runs in ODIs, taking 18 innings.
- Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold at Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, defeating Canada's Natasha Fox.
- India won 17 medals to finish at top in 36th Golden Glove of Vojvodina youth boxing tournament in Subotica (Serbia), including 7 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 bronze. Russia was 2nd with 11 medals.
- Indian team won 4 silver and 5 bronze medals at 7th World Junior Wushu Championships in Brasilia (Brazil).
- Vancouver Knights won Inaugural 2018 Global T20 Canada Cricket Tournament. Six teams took part in it.
- Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk became first man to hold all four world cruiserweight titles, after he beat Russia's Murat Gassiev.
- BCCI Include 9 More teams in Ranji Trophy Cricket competition for 2018-19 season, now with 37 teams.
- 28th Meeting of Shooting Hopes junior International Championship held in Pilsen (Czech Republic).
  - India won 27 medals (11 Gold, 9 Silver, 7 Bronze)
  - Manu Bhaker won her 9th International Gold medal in 1 year.
- Asian Cup for Cadets & Junior Judo Championships 2018 held in Macau. Indian Cadet and Junior Judo Teams have won 15 medals (4 Gold, 2 Silver and 9 Bronze medals).
- India Cricketer Virat Kohli presented with International Player of the Year award 2017-2018 by England's Popular Cricket Fan Club Barmy Army.
- Indian women's compound archery team became world rank one side in category, ahead of Chinese Taipei team.
- Yasar Dogu International Wrestling in Istanbul (Turkey) -
  - India won 10 medals, with Bajrang Punia and Pinki winning Gold. Women won 7 medals.
- 15th National Youth Athletics Championships held in Vadodara (Gujarat).
- Kathleen Baker (US) has set a world record of 58 sec to win 100m backstroke at US swimming championships. She has got past 58.10 record set by Canadian Kylie Masse at World Championships in Budapest in July 2017.
- India won 15 medals (including 2 gold) at Jordan Junior and Cadet Open. Gold was won by Suhana Saini and Deepit Patil & Dev Shroff (Doubles).
- International Army Games 2018 held at Patriot Park in Moscow (Russia).
- American Golfer Dustin Johnson won 2018 RBC Canadian Open Golf Championship.
- Noted Former Indian Cricketer Kapil Dev is selected in national golf team to take part in 2018 Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Championships to be held in October in Japan.
- All five Indian participants won gold medals at 49th International Physics Olympiad held in Portugal.
- International Cricket Council organised the 'Sano Cricket Curry Festival' in Japanese city of Sano to promote cricket in Japan.

134. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (June 2018) -
- Ariya Jutanugarn (Thailand) won 73rd US Women's Open, becoming first player from Thailand to win a US Women's Open title.
- Long distance runner Gavit Murali Kumar bagged a gold in men's 10,000m race at Gouden Spike meeting in Leiden (Netherlands) He also became second fastest Indian in this event, 2nd only to Surendra Singh, who holds national record of 28:02.89.
- India's Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker win Mauritius Open Badminton title 2018.
- Indian boxers won 1 Gold and 2 Silver medals at Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in Russian city of Kaspiysk.
  - Gold - Saweety Boora in Women's 75 kg category, beating Anna Anfinogenova (Russia).
  - Silver - Brijesh Yadav (men's 81 kg) and Virender Kumar (91 kgs).
- Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal won gold medal in men's 50m breaststroke event at Singapore National Swimming Championships in Singapore.
- India's R Praggnanandhaa become country's youngest and world's second youngest Grand Master at age of 12 years and 10 months, after reaching the final round of Grenadine Open in Italy.
- Indian Tenis Player Karman Kaur Thandi won first singles title on ITF Pro circuit at Hong Kong ITF Tournament.
- 18th KSS Memorial Shooting Championships held in New Delhi.
- Ulaanbaatar Cup boxing tournament 2018 held in Mongolia. India won total 9 medals, including a Gold by Mandeep Jangra (69kg).
- Chemistry World Cup of Olympic Boxing 2018 held in Halle (Germany), conducted in 10 Weight Categories. Cuba topped medal tally by winning 9 medals in total. India won 6 medals (2 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals). India's Gaurav Solanki (52kg) defeated

Cuba's Jorge Alejandro Merencio and won a gold medal.

🔨 Sprinter Dutee Chand has set a new national record in women's 100-metre race, when she clocked 11.29 seconds at 58th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Guwahati (Assam).

🔨 45th Glenmark Junior and 35th Sub Junior National Aquatic Championships held in Pune, (Maharashtra).

🔨 12th Tunis International Meeting organized by National Paralympic Committee of Tunisia. Iran won total 23 medals. India's Amit Kumar Saroha wins gold at World Para Athletics Grand Prix , in men's club throw F51 event.

135. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (May 2018) -

🔨 Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) conducted 3rd All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament in Kochi (Kerala).

🔨 India finished on top in 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo (Sri Lanka), with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (50 Medals).

🔨 India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished 4th in IAAF Diamond League at in Doha (Qatar). Neeraj Chopra bettered his previous national record mark of 86.48 metres, with a throw of 87.43 metres. Germany's Thomas Rohler won gold medal with throw of 91.78 metres.

🔨 Shooters Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar won silver in mixed event at Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting competition in in Pilsen (Czech Republic).

🔨 Indian judokas won 3 medals at Asian Cadet Judo Championships 2018 in Beirut (Lebanon) - Gold - Rohini S Mohite AND Thanjam Tababi Devi, Bronze - Harish.

🔨 Indian U-16 football team won Four-Nation Tournament held in Serbia , defeating Tajikistan. Tournament was played by India, Serbia, Tajikistan and Jordan.

🔨 Indian shooter Heena Sidhu won gold medal in 10-meter air pistol category of international shooting competition of Hannover (Germany).

🔨 Swiss Tennis Star Roger Federer became oldest world number one male tennis player for 2nd time in his career. He regained top rank after Rafael Nadal lost in Madrid Open quarter-final.

🔨 Bala Prasath won Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu).

🔨 Srinath Narayanan won LIC 3rd Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament.

🔨 Indian Shooter Tejaswini Sawant won gold in Munich Grand Prix (Germany).

🔨 Table tennis player Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu signed multi-year agreements with sports management firm IOS.

🔨 A mountain biking race, touted to be world's highest, at over 17,000 feet across 330 km will be held in June 2018 in North Sikkim. The themes for the race are 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Secure Himalayas'.

136. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (September 2018) -

🔨 Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela became first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

🔨 Indian shuttlers Anoushka Parikh,Saurabh Sharma AND Krishna Prasad Garaga, Dhruv Kapila won mixed doubles and men's doubles title respectively, at RSL Kharkiv International challenge in Kharkiv (Ukraine).

🔨 Man Kaur, 102-year-old Indian athlete won 200m race in 100-104 age group category at World Masters Athletics Championships in Spain. Last year, Man Kaur won 100m gold at World Masters Games at Auckland (New Zealand).

🔨 Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin (Germany), smashing previous best as he clocked 2 hours 1 minute 39 second.

🔨 Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Monika (48 kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81 kg) claimed gold medals at Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul (Turkey).

🔨 Indian boxing champion M C Mary Kom won her 3rd gold medal of 2018 in 48 kg category, while Jyoti Gulia picked up gold in 51 kg of youth category of Silesian Open boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice (Poland).

🔨 Medved International Wrestling tournament held in Minsk (Belarus). India's Sakshi Malik won silver in 62 kg category. India's Pooja Dhanda won a Bronze medal in 57 kg category.

🔨 Mahendra Singh become 2nd most capped player for India in international cricket as he played his 505th match for India, in Asia Cup 2018 against Pakistan. Dhoni overtook Rahul Dravid as 2nd most capped player for India.

🔨 India won silver medal after losing to Pakistan in final of Asian Team Snooker Championships, in Doha (Qatar).

🔨 Junior World wrestling championships held in Trnava (Slovakia), with India winning total 7 Medals (Silver - 4, Bronze - 3).

🔨 5th Track Asia Cup Cycling championships held in New Delhi. India topped medal tally with 6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals. It was followed by Indonesia in 2nd place and Hong Kong in third.

🔨 Serbia Junior and Cadet Open (table tennis) held in Belgrade (Serbia).

🔨 Cadet boys singles title was won by India's Payas Jain. Junior girls also won team title.

- Cadet boys team event title won by India's Payas Jain and Vishwa Deenadayalan.
  - Silver medal was won by India B team - Divyansh Srivastava and Aadarsh Om Chhetri.
- Blind chess player Vaishali Narendra Salavkar became first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at world chess Olympiad held in Batumi (Georgia).
- 58th National Open athletics championships held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar (Odisha).
- India's Yuvraj Wadhwani won 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title, by beating Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan. It was held in Chennai. Also, in Under 15, Arnav Sareen settled for runner-up spot.
- 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).

137. ▶ Misc. Sports Events (April 2018) -
- 17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championships held in Jammu.
- India defeated Bangladesh to win fifth South East Asian Women Handball Championship, in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
- India's Selena Selvakumar and Shreya Shivakumar won 2 bronze medals at 2018 Ivory Coast Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis Tournament in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).
- 8th South Asian Judo Championships held in Lalitpur (Nepal). India won 10 Gold medals and stayed on top. India won all 7 Gold medals in Women's events and men won 4 Gold medals. Next South Asian Judo Championships will be held in Bangladesh.
- 16th Federation Cup Junior National athletics championships held at Coimbatore (Tamilnadu). This meet will serve as selections trials for 18th Asian Junior Athletic Meet to be held at Gifu (Japan) in June.
- Asian Armwrestling Championships and Para Armwrestling Championships 2018 held in Kazakhstan. India's Differently-abled Indian arm wrestler Shrimant Jha won a bronze medal in 80kg senior category.
- India will host Asian Weightlifting Championship in 2019.
- Iindia's CA Bhavani Devi won silver medal in sabre event of Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik (Iceland).
- 56th Belgrade International Boxing Championship held at Belgrade in Serbia. Indian boxers won 3 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals.

138. ▶ Mithali Raj become first Indian Female Cricketer to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket.

139. ▶ Monterrey Open Women's Tennis 2018 (Mexico) -
- Women's singles - Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain)
- Women's doubles - Naomi Broady (United Kingdom) & Sara Sorribes Tormo (Spain)

140. ▶ Mumbai Football Arena will host inaugural edition of 4 nation Intercontinental Cup to be held in June 2018 and will see participation of South Africa, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei.

141. ▶ New Kabaddi Federation of India (NKFI) launched Indo International Premier Kabaddi League, to start on 26 January 2019.
- Winner will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 1.25 crore, with Over 1000 players participating.
- League will have 8 teams, Each team having 2 to 3 international players.

142. ▶ New Zealand Cricketer Amelia Kerr created a world record in women's ODI cricket by scoring an unbeaten 232 runs (145 Balls) in a match against Ireland in Dublin.

143. ▶ Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) is appointed as official partner for Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 to be held in November - December at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. India will host Hockey WC for 3rd time.

144. ▶ Odisha for First time will Organize 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, which will be the 14th edition of tournament. It will be organized in November - December 2018, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

145. ▶ Parijat Urja Chakra and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) organized a special campaign at Fatehgarh villageof Ambala in Haryana, to create awareness about the ill effects of crop residue burning and management.

146. ▶ Rani Rampal is named as captain of India's 18-member squad for women's hockey World Cup to be played in London in July 2018.

147. ▶ Real Madrid won 2017 - 18 UEFA Champions League Football by defeating Liverpool in Kiev (Ukraine).

148. ▶ Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen won Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix 2018 -
- 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

149. ▶ Red Bull's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo won Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix 2018 -

🖊 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | Lewis Hamilton (UK) |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

150. ▶ Red Bull's Australian Racer Daniel Ricciardo won Chinese Grand Prix 2018.

✏️ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

| Serial | Grand Prix | Date | Winner |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australian Grand Prix | 25 March | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 2 | Bahrain Grand Prix | 8 April | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) |
| 3 | Chinese Grand Prix | 15 April | Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) |
| 4 | Azerbaijan Grand Prix | 29 April | |
| 5 | Spanish Grand Prix | 13 May | |
| 6 | Monaco Grand Prix | 27 May | |
| 7 | Canadian Grand Prix | 10 June | |
| 8 | French Grand Prix | 24 June | |
| 9 | Austrian Grand Prix | 1 July | |
| 10 | British Grand Prix | 8 July | |
| 11 | German Grand Prix | 22 July | |
| 12 | Hungarian Grand Prix | 29 July | |
| 13 | Belgian Grand Prix | 26 August | |
| 14 | Italian Grand Prix | 2 September | |
| 15 | Singapore Grand Prix | 16 September | |
| 16 | Russian Grand Prix | 30 September | |
| 17 | Japanese Grand Prix | 7 October | |
| 18 | USA Grand Prix | 21 October | |
| 19 | Mexican Grand Prix | 28 October | |
| 20 | Brazilian Grand Prix | 11 November | |
| 21 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix | 25 November | |

151. ▶ September 25 - Antyodaya Divas. It marks birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

152. ▶ South Korea won 5th Women's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy, Defeating defending chamions India in Donghae City (South Korea).

153. ▶ Sports Authority of India cleared 734 players for a scholarship programme under Khelo India Talent Identification Development scheme, with 1.2 lakh stipend for selected trainees. Talent spotting and age verification of the selected players has been driven by trusted method through TW3.

154. ▶ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore stated that name of Sports Authority of India will be changed to Sports India.

155. ▶ Sports Ministry granted a financial assiatnce (for Medical purpose) of 5 Lakh to Manipuri Fencer Kalambia Chanu , from Pandit DeenDayal Upadhyay National WelfareFund for Sportsperson (PDUNWFS).

156. ▶ Sports and Youth Affairs Ministry included entire Men's Hockey team of India under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), being first instance of an entire team made as beneficiary of scheme. 18 team members will be provided with monthly allowance of Rs. 50,000 each under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

157. ▶ Supreme Court approved draft Constitution of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) -
   ✏️ Granted full permanent membership to Railways, Tri-Services, and Association of Indian Universities.
   ✏️ It restored voting rights of the cricket associations of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
   ✏️ It also agreed for *One State, One Vote* policy, that was recommended by R.M. Lodha Committee, formed in January 2015 after Mukul Mudgal Committee report that called for reforms within BCCI.

158. ▶ Thailand Open Badminton 2018 -
   ✏️ Men's Singles - Kanta Tsuneyama (Japan)
   ✏️ Women's Singles - Nozomi Okuhara (Japan), defeated PV Sindhu (India)
   ✏️ Men's Doubles - Japan's Takeshi Kamura AND Keigo Sonoda
   ✏️ Women's Doubles - Indonesia's Greysia Polii AND Apriyani Rahayu
   ✏️ Mixed Doubles - Indonesia's Hafiz Faisal AND Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja

159. ▶ The Best FIFA Football Awards 2018 (London) -

- Best FIFA Men's Player - Luka Modrić (Croatia)
- Best FIFA Goalkeeper - Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)
- Best FIFA Men's Coach - Didier Deschamps (France)
- Best FIFA Women's Player - Marta (Brazil)
- Best FIFA Women's Coach - Reynald Pedros (Lyon)
- FIFA Fair Play Award - Lennart (Germany), Missed an Eredivisie match to donate stem cells to a leukemia patient
- FIFA Puskás Award (Best Goal) - Mohamed Salah (Egypt), Plays for Liverpool FC. Won for his goal in 2017–18 Premier League.

160. Tim Paine and Aaron Finch have been appointed as Australia Cricket Team's new ODI and T20 captains respectively.

161. Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee officially launched its Olympic mascots *Miraitowa* and *Someity*.
- Blue-checked *Miraitowa* is derived from a combination of Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks.
- Pink-checked Paralympic mascot Someity owes its name to a type of cherry tree blossom and exhibits enormous mental and physical strength.

162. Triple jumper Arpinder Singh became first Indian to win a medal in IAAF Continental Cup 2018 held in Ostrava (Czech Republic), after winning bronze. He was representing the Asia-Pacific team.
- IAAF Continental Cup (formerly known as IAAF World Cup) is an international athletics competition. It is the only world cup contested by teams representing entire continents, rather than just those of individual countries.
- In 2018, first Athletics World Cup was held in London (UK). It is not related to original IAAF Continental Cup, and latter continues to be held.

163. UAE will host upcoming Asia Cup Cricket T20 Tournament 2018. 6 Asian Teams will participate in it.

164. US Open Tennis 2018 -
- Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), defeating Juan Martín del Potro (Argentina). It was 14th Grand Slam Title for Djokovic, and his 3rd US Open title.
- Women's Singles - Naomi Osaka (Japan), Defeating Serena Williams (USA).
- Men's Doubles - USA's Mike Bryan AND Jack Sock
- Women's Doubles - Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND CoCo Vandeweghe (USA)
- Mixed Doubles - Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) AND Jamie Murray (UK)

165. US defeated Belgium in 4th Quidditch World Cup 2018 final to win their 3rd title, Hosted by Italy. Quidditch is a game mentioned in JK Rowling's Harry Potter books.

166. USA, Mexico and Canada chosen as hosts of 2026 FIFA Football World Cup.
- 2026 FIFA World Cup will be 23rd FIFA World Cup. It will be jointly hosted by 16 cities in USA (60 Matches), Canada (10 Matches) and Mexico (10 Matches). 2026 World Cup will also see the tournament expanded from 32 to 48 teams.
- 2022 FIFA World Cup will be hosted by Qatar, with 32 teams participating.

167. Wimbeldon 2018 Tennis Championships, London (UK) -
- Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), defeating Kevin Anderson (South Africa). Djokovic won his 4th Wimbeldon title and overall his 13th Grand Slam Title.
- Women's Singles - Angelique Kerber (Germany), defeating Serena Williams (USA). It was Angelique Kerber's 1st Wimbeldon and overall her 3rd Grand Slam win.
- Men's Doubles - USA's Mike Bryan AND Jack Sock
- Women's Doubles - Czech Republic's Barbora Krejčíková AND Kateřina Siniaková
- Mixed Doubles - Alexander Peya (Austria) AND Nicole Melichar (USA)
- Boys' Singles - Tseng Chun-hsin (Chinese Taipei)
- Girls' Singles - Iga Świątek (Poland)

168. Wimbledon officials announced increase of £50,000 for 2018 men's and women's singles champions, to receive £2.25 million as Prize Money This year. It has boosted overall prize money total to £34 million this year.

169. With 69 Doping cases, India is ranked joint-sixth (with Russia) in World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)'s report of number of doping violations in 2016. India improved after being joint-third for from 2013 to 2015. Italy topped drug cases in 2016, followed by France (86), USA (76).

170. Women's Boxing World Championships, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, in November 2018 in New Delhi.

171. World Junior Squash Championships 2018 (Chennai, India) -
- Egypt beat England to win World Junior squash team title.
- Czech Republic and USA finished third and secured the bronze medal. Host India finished 11th overall.

172. ▶ XXI (21st) Commonwealth Games 2018, Held at Gold Coast, Queensland Country (Australia) -
- ✎ About -
  - ✎ Motto - Share theDream.
  - ✎ 4426 Athletes from 71 Commonwealth Nations participated in 275 Events of 19 sports.
  - ✎ Borobi is Official mascot of 2018 Commonwealth Games. Borobi is a blue koala, with indigenous markings on its body.
- ✎ Medal Tally -

  | Rank | CGA | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
  |------|-----|------|--------|--------|-------|
  | 1 | Australia | 80 | 59 | 59 | 198 |
  | 2 | England | 45 | 45 | 46 | 136 |
  | **3** | **India** | **26** | **20** | **20** | **66** |
  | 4 | Canada | 15 | 40 | 27 | 82 |
  | 5 | New Zealand | 15 | 16 | 15 | 46 |
  | 6 | South Africa | 13 | 11 | 13 | 37 |
  | 7 | Wales | 10 | 12 | 14 | 36 |
  | 8 | Scotland | 9 | 13 | 22 | 44 |
  | 9 | Nigeria | 9 | 9 | 6 | 24 |
  | 10 | Cyprus | 8 | 1 | 5 | 14 |

- ✎ India at CWG 2018 -
  - ✎ PV Sindhu was flag-bearer of Indian contingent for opening ceremony.
  - ✎ India Finished 3rd with 66 Medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver and 20 Bronze), better than 5th Place India had in 2014 CWG Games in Glasgow (Scotland) with 64 Medals (15 G, 30 S, 19 B).
  - ✎ Indian Gold Medalists at CWG 2018 -
    - ✎ Saikhom Mirabai Chanu - **Weightlifting** Women's 48 kg
    - ✎ Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu **- Weightlifting** Women's 53 kg
    - ✎ Sathish Sivalingam - **Weightlifting** Men's 77 kg
    - ✎ Ragala Venkat Rahul - **Weightlifting** Men's 85 kg
    - ✎ Punam Yadav - **Weightlifting** Women's 69 kg
    - ✎ Manu Bhaker - **Shooting** Women's 10 metre air pistol
    - ✎ Table tennis Women's team (Manika Batra, Mouma Das,Sutirtha Mukherjee,Madhurika Patkar, Pooja Sahasrabudhe )
    - ✎ Jitu Rai - **Shooting** Men's 10 metre air pistol
    - ✎ Table tennis Men's team (Sharath Achanta, Anthony Amalraj, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran)
    - ✎ Badminton Mixed team (Pranav Chopra, Prannoy Kumar, Saina Nehwal, Ashwini Ponnappa, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Sikki Reddy, Chirag Shetty, Gadde Ruthvika, Shivani, P V Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth)
    - ✎ Heena Sidhu - **Shooting** Women's 25 metre pistol
    - ✎ Shreyasi Singh - **Shooting** Women's double trap
    - ✎ Rahul Aware - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 57 kg
    - ✎ Sushil Kumar - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 74 kg
    - ✎ Tejaswini Sawant - **Shooting** Women's 50m rifle 3 positions
    - ✎ Anish Bhanwala - **Shooting** Men's 25 metre rapid fire pistol
    - ✎ Bajrang Punia - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 65 kg
    - ✎ Mary Kom - **Boxing** Women's light flyweight 48 kg
    - ✎ Sanjeev Rajput - **Shooting** Men's 50m rifle 3 positions
    - ✎ Gaurav Solanki - **Boxing** Men's flyweight 52 kg
    - ✎ Neeraj Chopra - **Athletics** Men's javelin throw
    - ✎ Sumit Malik - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 125 kg
    - ✎ Vinesh Phogat - **Wrestling** Women's freestyle 50 kg
    - ✎ Manika Batra - **Table tennis** Women's singles
    - ✎ Vikas Krishan Yadav - **Boxing** Men's middleweight 75 kg
    - ✎ Saina Nehwal - **Badminton** Women's singles (Beating India's P V Sindhu)
173. ▶ Zimbabwe Cricket council appointed 56 year old former Indian Cricketer Lalchand Rajput as interim head coach of Zimbabwe.