



Current Affairs - May to July 2018

Month Type



- [1505 Current Affairs were found in Last Three Months for Type - All](#)

(Showing **1008** Important Ones)

Appointments

- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Airline GoAir appointed Cornelis Vrieswijk as its new CEO.
- ▶ Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ▶ Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as acting chief justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- ▶ Alicia Pucheta has been appointed as South American Nation Paraguay's first woman President (Interim).
- ▶ Amar Devulapalli and Sabina Indrajit have been appointed as President and the Secretary –General of the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) respectively.
- ▶ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been elected as New President of North American nation Mexico.
- ▶ Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India.
- ▶ Anoop Kumar Pandey will be appointed as Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Arvind Saxena has been appointed as acting chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ▶ Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as vice-president of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
- ▶ Bandhan Bank appointed former RBI deputy governor Harun Rashid Khan as non- executive part time chairman, for 3 years.
- ▶ Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan has been named as Green Ambassador of Sikkim by State government.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Caribbean island Nation Barbados elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from UK in 1966.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Devraj Anbu has been appointed as new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).
- ▶ Ethnic Indian lawyer Tommy Thomas is appointed as Malaysia's new attorney general (Top Lawyer of Nation).
- ▶ Financial Services Firm Paytm appointed former RBI Deputy Governor Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as an advisor.
- ▶ Football Club FC Pune City appointed Brazilian Marcos Paqueta as head coach.
- ▶ Former Supreme Court Judge C K Prasad is appointed as chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term.

23. ▶ Giuseppe Conte has been appointed as New Prime Minister of European Nation Italy.
24. ▶ Government appointed Anant Barua as whole-time member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). SEBI Chairman is currently Ajay Tyagi.
25. ▶ Government appointed Arijit Basu as Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), replacing Rajnish Kumar who was elevated as chairman recently.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ Government appointed Inder Jit Singh as Secretary in Ministry of Coal.
29. ▶ Government appointed former SC Judge R K Agrawal as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
30. ▶ 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
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ Hun sen reelected as Prime Minister of South East Asian Nation Cambodia, after landslide victory in General Elections 2018. He has been rulling cambodia for 33 years.
35. ▶ ICICI Bank appointed Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its non-executive part-time chairman.
36. ▶ Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has been appointed as new prime minister of Guinea (West Africa).
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ Indian Ambassadors Appointed in May 2018 -
 - ✎ Munu Mahawar - Sultanate of Oman.
 - ✎ S.D.Moorthy - South Sudan.
 - ✎ Pradeep Kumar Gupta - Mauritania.
 - ✎ Mahender Singh Kanyal - Suriname.
39. ▶ Indian Analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of National University of Singapore.
40. ▶ Indian ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran has been appointed as deputy National Security Advisor. Note that Ajit Doval is current National Security Advisor.
41. ▶ Ivan Duque has been appointed as New president of South Amerian Nation Colombia.
42. ▶ Janardan Singh Gehlot has been appointed as International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) chief for 4 years.
43. ▶ Jordan's King Abdullah II appointed Omar Razzaz as new prime minister of Middle east Nation.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ Law Ministry appointed Krishna Murari as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
 46. ▶ Lebanon's Saad Hariri has won his 3rd term as Prime Minister.
 47. ▶ 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.
 48. ▶ 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.
 49. ▶ 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.
 50. ▶ New Governors Appointed -
 - Odisha - Ganeshi Lal, replacing Satya Pal Malik.
 - Mizoram - Kummanam Rajasekharan, replacing Nirbhay Sharma.
 51. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors (June 2018) -
 - Rudrendra Tandon - 10 Member ASEAN (Association 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
 52. ▶ Nikol Pashinyan has been appointed as prime minister of Armenia.
 53. ▶ Noted Music composer A R Rahman named Brand Ambassador of Sikkim government.
 54. ▶ P K Srivastava is appointed as Director General and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board.
 55. ▶ 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.
 56. ▶ 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.
 57. ▶ Rajinder Singh is named the new President of Hockey India (HI), after Mariamma Koshy's resignation.

58. ▶ Ramalingam Sudhakar is appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court (Imphal).
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is re-elected as President of Turkey, for his 2nd term as President.
61. ▶ S Ramesh has been appointed as New Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), succeeding Vanaja N. Sarna.
62. ▶ Sandeep Sancheti is appointed as President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
63. ▶ Sitanshu Ranjan Kar, took over as 27th Principal Spokesperson of Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ South Korean firm LG appointed Koo Kwang-mo as new chairman. He is fourth-generation leader of family-controlled conglomerate.
66. ▶ Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
67. ▶ Sudha Balakrishnan has been named first Chief Financial Officer of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
68. ▶ Sukhdeep Sangwan has been appointed as Director General of Indian Army Unit Assam Rifles.
69. ▶ 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
70. ▶ T.C.A. Raghavan is appointed as new Director General of ICWA (Indian Council of World Affairs).
71. ▶ Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan will be appointed as Chief Justice of Hyderabad High Court.
72. ▶ US India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India.
73. ▶ US Senate confirmed Gina Haspel as first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
74. ▶ 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.
75. ▶ United India Insurance Company appointed K B Vijay Srinivas as its Director and General Manager.
76. ▶ United Nations General Assembly elected Ecuador's Foreign Minister *Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés* 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.
77. ▶ Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro won another six years term, after being re-elected.
78. ▶ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu is appointed as Chancellor of Pondicherry Central University.
79. ▶ Vijay Mahajan is selected as Secretary and CEO of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation(RGF) and Director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS).
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ YES Bank re-appointed Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO for 3 years.
82. ▶ Yudhvir Singh Malik (Secretary in Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways) has been given additional charge as chairman of NHAI.

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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 Kothiyari
 - ▶ 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 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.
4. ▶ 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*.
5. ▶ 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 - Pawel 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
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be awarded annual Mark Twain award for American Humor from John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts.
8. ▶ All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2018 -
 - 🏆 Player of the Year -Sunil Chettri
 - 🏆 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
9. ▶ American activist Jane Fonda will be awarded Lumiere Award 2018 in Lyon (France). Lumiere Festival is largest international festival of classic cinema.
 10. ▶ 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.
 11. ▶ 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
 12. ▶ 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.
 13. ▶ Chennaiyin FC's head coach John Gregory has been presented a Special Achievement Award by England's League Managers Association (LMA) London. He became first Englishman to win Indian Super League (ISL).
 14. ▶ 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.
 15. ▶ Femina Miss India Beauty Pageant 2018 -
 - ▶ Anukreethy Vas from 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).
 16. ▶ Fiji's Indian-origin former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry has been selected for V K Krishna Menon Award for his contribution to Indian diaspora.
 17. ▶ 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).
 18. ▶ 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).
 19. ▶ 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) - Nawazuddin 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)

20. ▶ 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.

21. ▶ 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 award for 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.

22. ▶ 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.

23. ▶ 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 Magazine in 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.
24. ▶ 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.
 25. ▶ 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.
 26. ▶ 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.
 27. ▶ 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.
 28. ▶ 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)
 29. ▶ 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.
 30. ▶ Nobel Laureate Child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi and ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar have been honored by *Santokbaa Humanitarian Award*.
 31. ▶ Noted Actor Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured by European Union for strengthening Europe-India cultural ties.
 32. ▶ Noted Bollywood actor Prem Chopra honoured with living legend prize at 25th annual Bharat Nirman awards.
 33. ▶ 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.
 34. ▶ Noted Indian actress Late Sridevi has been posthumously conferred with BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.
 35. ▶ 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.
 36. ▶ Noted Singer Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.
 37. ▶ Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon received National Kalidas Samman for visual arts from Madhya Pradesh government.
 38. ▶ Noted singer Asha Bhosle honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for contribution in the field of Indian music.

39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ Prajnesh Gunneswaran won T.K. Ramanathan award 2017-18 at by Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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
46. ▶ 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 also 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.
47. ▶ 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*

48. ▶ US-based Kathak dancer *Anindita Anaam* has been presented *Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018* at *Jayadev International Dance Festival* in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
49. ▶ 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.

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Books

1. ▶ Book *Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System* written by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan has been released.
2. ▶ Book *Gandhi The years that changed the world (1914-1948)*, has been written by Ramachandra Guha. It will be released in September 2018.
3. ▶ Book *Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos*, collection of essays and lectures by Dr. R.P. Dhokalia has been launched.
4. ▶ Book *Straight Talk* authored by Member of Rajya Sabha, Abhishek Manu Singh has been released.
5. ▶ Book *Two Classical Plays from India*, English translation of Hindi plays written by DP Sinha has been released.
6. ▶ Book *Vedvigyan Alok*, written by Acharya Agnivarat Naishtik has been released.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ Book *Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly*, written by Abhirup Bhattacharya has been released.
9. ▶ Books *A Treatise on Cleanliness and Waste Management, an Introduction*, written by Rajat Bhargava have been released.
10. ▶ Cricket journalist Boria Majumdar's new book *Eleven Gods and A Billion Indians* has been released.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ Hindi, Kannada, Telugu and Gujarati versions of Book *Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour*, written by Prasara Bharti Chairman Surya Prakash Have been released.
13. ▶ NABARD released book on Indian Crops named *Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops*, based on a study of 10 important crops.
14. ▶ Noted wildlife photographer Latika Nath unveiled her New book *Hidden India*.
15. ▶ 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.

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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. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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 Committees and their tasks are -
 - ▶ Content Committee and Project implementation committees headed by Shakti Sinha.
 - ▶ Swapan Dasgupta Committee - Will vet content for curation for museum
4. ▶ 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 convener.
 - ✎ Second GoM - Will consider issues relating to imposition of Cess on Sugar under GST. Himanta Biswa Sarma (Finance Minister of Assam) is its convener.
5. ▶ 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.
 6. ▶ 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.
 7. ▶ 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.
 8. ▶ 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.
 9. ▶ 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).
 10. ▶ 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.
 11. ▶ 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.
 12. ▶ 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.
 13. ▶ 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.
 14. ▶ 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.
 15. ▶ 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.
 16. ▶ 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.
 17. ▶ 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.
 18. ▶ 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.

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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. ▶ 4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.. June 4, 2018 also 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 Chinese History.
4. ▶ 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.
- 5. ▶ 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 %.
- 6. ▶ 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.
- 7. ▶ 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.
- 8. ▶ July 15 - World Youth Skills Day. It aims to raise awareness on importance of investing in youth skills development.
- 9. ▶ July 17 - International Justice Day, marks 1998 Rome Statute that created International Criminal Court (ICC).
- 10. ▶ July 18 - UN Nelson Mandela International Day 2018. This year marks 100th birth anniversary of Great South African Social Reformer Nelson Mandela.
- 11. ▶ 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.
- 12. ▶ 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.
- 13. ▶ July 29 - International Tiger Day. The annual day is celebrated with slogan *Their survival is in our hands*.
- 14. ▶ 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.
- 15. ▶ July 4 - American Independence Day. USA Attained independence from UK in 1776.
- 16. ▶ 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.
- 17. ▶ June 1 - Global Day of Parents. It was Announced by UNICEF in 2012.
- 18. ▶ 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.
- 19. ▶ June 13 - International Albinism Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *shining our light to the world*.
- 20. ▶ June 14 - World Blood Donor Day. 2018 theme is *Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life*. The 2018 host is Greece.
- 21. ▶ 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.
- 22. ▶ June 18 - World Sustainable Gastronomy Day, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2016.
- 23. ▶ June 2 - Telangana Statehood Day. It was formed in 2014, after Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.
- 24. ▶ June 20 - World Refugee Day. 2018 theme is *Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees*.
- 25. ▶ June 21 - World Music Day. 2018 theme is *Live the music together*.
- 26. ▶ 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.
- 27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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*.
 28. ▶ June 23 - is observed as United Nations Public Service Day. It is also observed as International Olympics Day and UN International Widows' Day.
 29. ▶ June 25 - Day of the Seafarer. 2018 theme is *Seafarers wellbeing*.
 30. ▶ 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*.
 31. ▶ 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.
 32. ▶ June 29 - International Day of Tropics.
 33. ▶ June 29 - National Statistics Day. It marks Birth anniversary of Regarded statistician 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.
 34. ▶ June 3 - First UN World Bicycle Day. It aims to encourage a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.
 35. ▶ June 30 - International Day of Parliamentarism. It is also observed as International Asteroid Day.
 36. ▶ 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, aim 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*.
 37. ▶ June 8 - World Oceans Day. 2018 theme is *Peventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean*. June 8 is also observed as World Brain Tumor Day.
 38. ▶ 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.
 39. ▶ May 02 - World Tuna Day. 2018 theme is *Smart Tuna – Smart Ocean*.
 40. ▶ 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'.



41. ▶ May 1 - World Asthma Day. 2018 theme is *Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease.*
42. ▶ May 1 - International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day AND May Day. 2018 Theme is *Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement.*
43. ▶ 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.*
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ May 12 - World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). 2018 theme is *Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation.*
46. ▶ May 15 - International Day of Families. 2018 theme is *Families and inclusive societies.*
47. ▶ May 16 - UNESCO International Day of Light AND International Day of Living Together in Peace.
48. ▶ May 17 - World Hypertension Day. 2018 theme is *Know Your Numbers.*
49. ▶ May 17 - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. 2018 Theme is *Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All.*
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ May 20 - World Metrology Day. 2018 Theme is *Constant evolution of the International System of Units.*
52. ▶ 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.*
53. ▶ 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.

54. ▶ May 24 - Commonwealth Day.
55. ▶ May 28 - International Day of Action for Women's Health.
56. ▶ May 29 - International Day of UN Peacekeepers. 2018 Theme is *UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice*.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ May 31 - World No Tobacco Day. 2018 theme is *Tobacco and heart disease*.
59. ▶ May 8 - World Red Cross Day. Theme of 2018 is *Memorable smiles from around the world*.

Top

Defence

1. ▶ 13th Joint Military Exercise of India and Nepal, named SURYA KIRAN-XIII conducted at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Rajasthan.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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 (Indian-IDD)' 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ High Power Tank Engines V-46-6 and V92S2 handed over to Indian Army, manufactured by Engine Factory Avadi (EFA) under Make in India Initiative. Indian Army also gave 100 crores contract for 81 high mobility 10x10 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.
10. ▶ 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 System It is long-range air defence missile system is one of most advanced long-range defence systems in world, manufactured by Almaz-Antey. It has capability to destroy incoming all airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.
11. ▶ 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 Mashinostroyeniya 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 increased to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.
 12. ▶ 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 range 40 - 70 KMs. Earlier Pinaka version was an unguided one.
 13. ▶ 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.
 14. ▶ 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.
 15. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
 16. ▶ 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.
 17. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
 18. ▶ 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.
 19. ▶ 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.
 20. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
 21. ▶ 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).
 22. ▶ 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.
 23. ▶ Joint Military Exercises of India over past 3 years -

Army -

S. No.	Country	Exercise
1	Australia	AUSTRA HIND
2	Bangladesh	SAMPRIITI
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
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

24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ Navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2018.
26. ▶ Tri service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will be held in India in second half 2018.
27. ▶ 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.

Top

Economy

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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 the increased 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 Appellate 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, THROUGH 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.
- 3. ▶ 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.
- 4. ▶ 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.

5. ▶ *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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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).
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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).
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ 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. 40% will be funded by government.
16. ▶ 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.
 17. ▶ 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.
 18. ▶ 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.
 19. ▶ 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.
 20. ▶ 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.
 21. ▶ 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.
 22. ▶ 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.
 23. ▶ 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.
 24. ▶ 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 be 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.
 25. ▶ Delhi based Sudeva Football Club acquired 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.
 26. ▶ 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.

27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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 Viduyt Nigam Limited and Central Water Commission.
32. ▶ Facebook will launch Whatsapp Pay, a payment service for its whatsapp platform. It will be partnering with HDFC , AXIS, ICICI and SBI banks.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ Finance Ministry announced to keep interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for July-September quarter. Interest 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

35. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm acquired Chennai-based online ticketing platform *TicketNew*, owned by Orbgen Technologies, for approx \$40 million.
36. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm partnered 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 is aimed at increasing quantity of cashless payments in Japan, which are currently only 20 % of total transactions.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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, IEST 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.
43. ▶ Government imposed safeguard duty of 25% on import of solar cells from China and Malaysia, to help domestic solar cell manufacturing sector.
44. ▶ Government reduced minimum yearly deposit required under girl child savings scheme *Sukanya Samridhi 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.
- 45. ▶ 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.
- 46. ▶ 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.
- 47. ▶ 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.
- 48. ▶ HDFC bank launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds, in partnership with transfer agent 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%.
- 49. ▶ 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.
- 50. ▶ ICICI Venture sold its 30% stake in hospital chain Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) to General Atlantic for INR 850 crores.
- 51. ▶ 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.
- 52. ▶ IDFC Bank received RBI's approval for merger of Capital First, Capital First Home Finance and Capital First Securities with Itself.
- 53. ▶ 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.
- 54. ▶ 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.
- 55. ▶ 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.
- 56. ▶ 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.

57. ▶ 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
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ 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).
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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 & 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.
66. ▶ Indian IT Firm HCL Technologies acquired German IT services provider H&D International Group, one of largest IT service providers in German automotive industry.
67. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired WongDoody Holding Company, a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency, for \$75 million.
68. ▶ 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).

69. ▶ 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).
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ 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
72. ▶ 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 voluntarily.
 - ▶ It shall be required to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 15 % of its risk weighted assets (RWA) on a continuous basis.
73. ▶ Karnataka Bank will sell 8.26 % stake (from total 14 % stake) in Universal Sompoo General Insurance.
74. ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Additional 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 %.
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ 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.
77. ▶ 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.
78. ▶ 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.
79. ▶ 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.
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ 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."
- 82. ▶ 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.
- 83. ▶ 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.
- 84. ▶ 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.
- 85. ▶ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries acquired Radisys Corporation, a US-based open telecom platform solutions provider for \$75 million (Rs 510 crores).
- 86. ▶ 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.
- 87. ▶ 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.
- 88. ▶ 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.
- 89. ▶ 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.
- 90. ▶ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) sanctioned INR 5000 crores for Rajasthan government farm loan waiver, To help waiver loans of small and marginal farmers.
- 91. ▶ National Stock Exchange (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.
- 92. ▶ 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.
- 93. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank launched a program named *AshaKiran* aimed at educating rural women about financial services.

94. ▶ 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).
 - ▶ Promoters 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.
95. ▶ 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).
96. ▶ 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.
97. ▶ 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.
98. ▶ 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.
99. ▶ RBI conducted Financial Literacy Week from June 4 on theme 'Customer Protection'. Last year's theme of the week was, 'Know Your Customer'.
100. ▶ 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.
101. ▶ 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.
102. ▶ 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.
103. ▶ RBI made changes in Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to make it more attractive -

- Shareholders of Reliance Industries also approved Mukesh Ambani as Chairman and Managing Director for another 5 years.
113. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced changes 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.
114. ▶ 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.
115. ▶ 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.
116. ▶ Reserve Bank of India cancelled licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar (Rajasthan), due to irregularities in functioning.
117. ▶ Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue INR 100 denomination banknotes with lavender as base colour in Mahatma Gandhi (New) series, with motif of 'Rani Ki Vav' (the queen's stepwell located at Patan, Gujarat). Dimension of new note will be 66 mm×142 mm.
118. ▶ 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.
119. ▶ 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 Vodafone having 29.4 % Airtel will have 37.2 %. Indus Towers is valued at INR 71500 crores.
120. ▶ 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).
121. ▶ 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 (PEs) etc.
 - ▶ It also provide better visibility and wider investor base.
122. ▶ 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.
123. ▶ 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.
124. ▶ 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.
125. ▶ 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.
126. ▶ 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.
127. ▶ 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).
128. ▶ 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.
129. ▶ Tata Steel's subsidiary Bamnival 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).
130. ▶ 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).
131. ▶ 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.
132. ▶ US retail giant Walmart acquired 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.

133. ▶ 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.
134. ▶ 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.
135. ▶ 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.
136. ▶ 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.
137. ▶ 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.
138. ▶ Yes Bank launched *Agenda 25x25*, 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.
139. ▶ 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.
140. ▶ Yes Bank received SEBI approval to start mutual fund business, named Yes Asset Management (India) Limited (YAMIL). It will have its Headquarters in Mumbai.

Top

International

1. ▶ A public health emergency has been declared in Oceania Nation Papua New Guinea (PNG), amid recent polio outbreak (first in 18 years).
2. ▶ 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.











3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
 6. ▶ 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.
 7. ▶ 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.
 8. ▶ 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.
 9. ▶ 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
 10. ▶ *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)
 11. ▶ 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.
 12. ▶ 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).
 13. ▶ 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

14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ Aditya Puri, managing director of HDFC Bank is only Indian in Barron's top 30 global CEO list 2018, Featuring for fourth consecutive year.
16. ▶ 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).
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.*
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ As per a UN Report, Delhi will surpass Tokyo (Japan) as most populous city in world by 2028.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.*
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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).
27. ▶ Canadian Parliament passed a historic bill legalizing recreational use of marijuana nationwide, becoming second country to do so.
28. ▶ Caribbean Nation Dominican Republic and China established diplomatic relations, amid China's growing influence. With this, Dominican Republic has broken 77-year alliance with Taiwan.
29. ▶ 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.

30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ China launched an optical remote sensing satellite which will be used to monitor its Belt and Road Initiative, named Gaofen-11.
35. ▶ 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).
36. ▶ Chinese e-Commerce giant Alibaba acquired Pakistan's Largest e-commerce firm *Daraz.pk* for \$150 Million.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
 46. ▶ 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.
 47. ▶ 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).
 48. ▶ 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.
 49. ▶ 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, including 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.
 50. ▶ 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).
 51. ▶ 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.
 52. ▶ France banned smartphones, tablets and other internet-enabled devices in schools, applicable for pupils aged between 3 - 15 years.
 53. ▶ German conglomerate Bayer completed its \$63-billion takeover of US-based Monsanto to create world's biggest agro-chemical and seed company.
 54. ▶ 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.
 55. ▶ Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018, by Cornell 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)
 56. ▶ 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).
 57. ▶ 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.
 58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ Guatemala (Central America) and Paraguay (South America) moved their Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently moved its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ 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).
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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).
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ India become 69th shareholder of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- ✎ European Bank is headquartered in London (UK). President is Suma Chakrabarti (Indian Origin).
66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ 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).
72. ▶ 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.
73. ▶ 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.

74. ▶ 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)
75. ▶ 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 %.
76. ▶ 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.
77. ▶ 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.
78. ▶ 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.
79. ▶ 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.
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ 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 %.
82. ▶ 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.
83. ▶ 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.
84. ▶ Israel government enacted a new law which will financially penalize Palestinian Authority for paying stipends to Palestinians killed or jailed by Israel. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly demanded to stop Palestinians from paying stipends to prisoners and their families.
85. ▶ 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.
86. ▶ 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.
87. ▶ 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.
88. ▶ 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.
89. ▶ 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.
90. ▶ 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.
91. ▶ 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.

92. ▶ 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)

University 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).

93. ▶ Rajniranth 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.

94. ▶ 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.

95. ▶ 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.

96. ▶ 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.

97. ▶ 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.

98. ▶ Russia launched world's First floating nuclear power unit into Baltic Sea, with 70-megawatt Capacity, named Akademik Lomonosov.

99. ▶ 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.

100. ▶ 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.

101. ▶ Saudi Arabia Government established Ministry of Culture, separating it from Information Ministry, amid attempts to modernise the conservative kingdom.

102. ▶ 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.

103. ▶ 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.

104. ▶ 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.
105. ▶ 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.
106. ▶ 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.
107. ▶ 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 %.
108. ▶ 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.
109. ▶ 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.
110. ▶ 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.
111. ▶ 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.
112. ▶ USA and Philippine Armies held their Joint annual military exercise *Balikatan*.
113. ▶ 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).
114. ▶ 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.
115. ▶ 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.
116. ▶ 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.
117. ▶ 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.
118. ▶ USA renamed its oldest and largest strategically 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.
 119. ▶ 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.
 120. ▶ 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).
 121. ▶ USA's Stanford University will assist Uttar Pradesh Government to combat chronic disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
 122. ▶ 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.
 123. ▶ 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.
 124. ▶ 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.
 125. ▶ 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)
 126. ▶ 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.
 127. ▶ 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.
 128. ▶ 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.
 129. ▶ 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.
 130. ▶ 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.
 131. ▶ 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.
 132. ▶ 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.

133. ▶ 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.
134. ▶ 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).
135. ▶ 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.
136. ▶ 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 facilities 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.
137. ▶ 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.
138. ▶ 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).
139. ▶ 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.
140. ▶ Yahoo launched a group messaging app called *Squirrel*, focussed on friends, family and work groups.

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Meetings

1. ▶ 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar (Punjab) 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. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver (Canada).
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.

7. ▶ 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)

 Chaîne 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)


8. ▶ 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).

9. ▶ 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.

10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 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).

12. ▶ 6th biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore with theme *Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration.*

13. ▶ An anti-doping sports conference named *Clean Sport=Fair Outcome?* conducted to address the issue of doping, at Oslo (Norway).

14. ▶ 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 critical infrastructure 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.
- 15. ▶ 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.
- 16. ▶ 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.
- 17. ▶ 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).
- 18. ▶ 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*.
- 19. ▶ 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.
- 20. ▶ 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.
- 21. ▶ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting held in Jurmala (Latvia). With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair NSG.
















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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. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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).
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 3 day annual Sindhu Darshan Festival celebrations on bank of Indus River in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
8. ▶ 4-day annual Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival *Behdienkhlam* held in Jowai (Meghalaya).
9. ▶ 578 metre long Theng tunnel inaugurated in Sikkim, as state's longest tunnel. It is constructed on Gangtok-Chungthang Highway.
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ 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 believed 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.
12. ▶ 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'.
13. ▶ 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.

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 drinking water solution in world, launched in Darbhanga by Sulabh International.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 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 crores by 2024. It makes Andhra Pradesh as India's first 100 % natural farming state.
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. launched official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in Collector's conference in Amaravati, Aimed at implementing effective governance in Andhra Pradesh.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched 3rd year of insurance scheme Chandranna Bima Yojana, aimed to benefit 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.

29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurated 6 MW Shaikangchu small hydro electric project at Gongkhar village in Arunachal Pradesh.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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).
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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*.
36. ▶ 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 applicable 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.
37. ▶ 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, Bhadrachal in Gujarat is at bottom of 500 cities.
38. ▶ 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 slipped 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).
39. ▶ As per US-based Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis (IEEFA), Karnataka is new national leader in renewable energy generation, overtaking Tamil Nadu.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.

42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched 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.
47. ▶ Bhitarkanika national park in Odisha became largest habitat of endangered estuarine crocodiles in India with a record number of 101 nesting sites.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ Bihar Govt. Requested Centre for granting Special Category Status for state, stating 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.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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 Majeure 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) agreements -
 - ✎ *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.

54. ▶ 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.

55. ▶ 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 also 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-III 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 approx 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.

56. ▶ 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.

57. ▶ 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 Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (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 would 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) - Central 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) - Central 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 Plant 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), along 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.

58. ▶ 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 Jantnaluru 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 Mantri Swasthya 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 environment 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.

59. ▶ 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.

60. ▶ 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 complete 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.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force launched 'Madadgaar Helpline', a distress helpline for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with helpline number 14411.
63. ▶ 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 rolled out 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.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched Vikas Yatra from Dantewada district aimed at spreading awareness about the development the state has witnessed during current 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.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ 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/.
70. ▶ Chhattisgarh will become first state to recruit transgenders in police force, To promote gender equality.
71. ▶ 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.
72. ▶ 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*.
73. ▶ 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.
- 74. ▶ 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.
- 75. ▶ Delhi Government will introduce a "happiness curriculum" in Delhi's government schools from coming academic session, for students from nursery up to Class VIII.
- 76. ▶ 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.
- 77. ▶ 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.
- 78. ▶ 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.
- 79. ▶ 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.
- 80. ▶ 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.
- 81. ▶ 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).
- 82. ▶ Election Commission launched its online RTI Portal at URL (<http://rti.eci.nic.in>), to facilitate applicants seeking information under Right to Information Act.
- 83. ▶ 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.
84. ▶ 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.
 85. ▶ 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.
 86. ▶ FMCG Firm Patanjali tied up Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to launch Swadeshi Samridhi 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*.
 87. ▶ 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.
 88. ▶ First International Children’s Film Festival of Kerala s held in Thiruvananthapuram. Chairman of organising committee is Mukesh.
 89. ▶ 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.
 90. ▶ 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.
 91. ▶ 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).
 92. ▶ 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 (IIDEM) 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.

93. ▶ 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 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 at its rural and semi-urban branches across country to impart financial literacy to farmers.

94. ▶ 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 Pura 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.


95. ▶ 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.
- ✎ 3rd National 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.

96. ▶ 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.
- 97. ▶ 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.
 - Conference on Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan ‘IPledgefor9’ Achievers and MMR Reduction Awards held in New Delhi.
 - 500th death anniversary of noted saint Kabir 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).

98. ▶ 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.

99. ▶ 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 Raftaar 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.

100. ▶ Goa tourism department will launch app-based taxi services in state called *GOAMILLES* in July 2018, to organize taxi services in tourism prone state. It has more than 2,800 licensed taxi drivers partnering with the app.


101. ▶ 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.

102. ▶ 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.

103. ▶ 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.

104. ▶ 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.

105. ▶ 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/>.
106. ▶ 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.
107. ▶ 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 (Chhattisgarh).
 - ▶ 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.
108. ▶ 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.
109. ▶ 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%.
110. ▶ Government 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.
111. ▶ 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.
112. ▶ 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.
113. ▶ 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.
114. ▶ 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.
115. ▶ 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.
116. ▶ 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.
117. ▶ Gujarat government signed an MoU with Poland government, regarding centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other regions of world.
118. ▶ 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.
119. ▶ 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.
120. ▶ 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. Stakeholders 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.
121. ▶ 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.

122. ▶ 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.
123. ▶ 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.
124. ▶ 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 successfully looking after its sapling.
125. ▶ Haryana Govt. will launch *Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana*, developed for safety of girl students in Haryana.
126. ▶ Haryana government increased upper age limit to enter into government service from 40 to 42 years.
127. ▶ 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%.
128. ▶ 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 Suidha Yojna, which will provide 1 lakh women with gas cylinders and stoves free of cost.
129. ▶ 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.
130. ▶ Himachal Pradesh adjudged as top performer under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) in country.
131. ▶ Himachal Pradesh cabinet announced increment of honorarium of ASHA workers of the health department from 1000 to Rs 1250, to benefit 7,829 ASHA workers in the state.
132. ▶ 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 Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan).
133. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate' as a major tourist attraction. It was acquired by government for over 27 crores two years ago, from a Business family.
134. ▶ 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.
135. ▶ Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar Minister launched *Samagra Shiksha'* - an integrated Scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondary levels 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 Balika Vidyalaya (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.
136. ▶ 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.
137. ▶ 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.
138. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) will 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.
139. ▶ 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.
140. ▶ 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.
141. ▶ 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.
142. ▶ 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.
143. ▶ 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.
144. ▶ 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.

145. ▶ India's longest Rail and Road 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 Brahmaputra 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.
146. ▶ 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.
147. ▶ 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.
148. ▶ Jharkhand Government announced to develop country's first Khadi mall.
149. ▶ Karnataka Assembly 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.
150. ▶ 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.
151. ▶ 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 Singh Chauhan, constituted effect from 1st September, 2015. It has a three-year term, ending on 31st August, 2018.
152. ▶ 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.
153. ▶ 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.
154. ▶ 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).
155. ▶ 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.
156. ▶ 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.
157. ▶ 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.
158. ▶ 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.
159. ▶ Maharashtra became first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), to check irregularities and bring in transparency.

160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ 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.
162. ▶ 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.
163. ▶ Maharashtra government will rename Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University after Bahinabai Chaudhari, renowned poetess of 19th century.
164. ▶ 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.
165. ▶ 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.
166. ▶ 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.
167. ▶ 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.
168. ▶ Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Act 2017 has been officially notified after of President's Approval. 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.
169. ▶ Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan laid foundation stone of country's first National Skill Training Institute at Barang near Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
170. ▶ 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.
171. ▶ 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.
172. ▶ 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.
173. ▶ 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.

174. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers 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 services. It covers contract farming in agriculture crops, livestock, 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 level.
175. ▶ 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.
176. ▶ 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 financial commission period and subsequently registration may be renewed by the 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.
177. ▶ Ministry of Culture organized 9th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under *Ek Bharat Shreshtha 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.
178. ▶ 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).
179. ▶ 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.
180. ▶ 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.
181. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched a mobile application named Mumbai Weather Live that will provide information on extreme weather events in Mumbai.
182. ▶ 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.
183. ▶ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) will 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.
184. ▶ 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.
185. ▶ 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.
186. ▶ 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.
187. ▶ 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.
188. ▶ 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.
189. ▶ 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.
190. ▶ 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 construction 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.
191. ▶ 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.
192. ▶ 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.
193. ▶ 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 (PMMNMTT), 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.
194. ▶ 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.
195. ▶ 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.
196. ▶ 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.
197. ▶ 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.
198. ▶ 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](http://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.
199. ▶ 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.
200. ▶ 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.
201. ▶ 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.
202. ▶ 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%.
203. ▶ 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 (Telangana), 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.
204. ▶ 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.
205. ▶ 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.
206. ▶ 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.
207. ▶ 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 (meaning 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.
- 208. ▶ 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 Natianl 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.
- 209. ▶ 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.

210. ▶ 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 categorized 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.
211. ▶ 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.
212. ▶ NITI Aayog and Actor Sushant Singh Rajput collaborated to promote 2 major initiatives of NITI Aayog - promotion of BHIM and Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
213. ▶ 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.
214. ▶ 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).
215. ▶ 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.
216. ▶ 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 Centres ensure that innovations are taken to market and help create enterprises around these innovations.
217. ▶ 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).
218. ▶ 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 suggests -
- ▶ 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.
219. ▶ 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.
220. ▶ 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).
221. ▶ 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.

222. ▶ 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.
223. ▶ 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.
224. ▶ Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) has been honoured with 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 in Odisha.
225. ▶ 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, betel 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.
226. ▶ 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.
227. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 300 crores Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district, to irrigate 5,800 hectares of agricultural field.
228. ▶ Odisha Government 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.
229. ▶ 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.
230. ▶ 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.
231. ▶ 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.
232. ▶ 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).
233. ▶ Odisha government constituted a *Heritage Cabinet*, headed by CM Naveen Patnaik, aimed at protection of cultural and historical monuments.
234. ▶ 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.
235. ▶ 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.
236. ▶ 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 Expressway Include Solar power Plants, Rainwater harvesting, Closed tolling system, Weigh-in-Motion (WIMs) equipment, Auto Challans, Intelligent Traffic management AND Green cover.
237. ▶ 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. Kishanganga 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 sanctioned 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.
238. ▶ 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.
239. ▶ 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.
240. ▶ 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.
241. ▶ 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).
242. ▶ 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.
243. ▶ 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).
244. ▶ 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 beyond allotted 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.
245. ▶ 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.
246. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his 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.
247. ▶ 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.
248. ▶ 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.
249. ▶ 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*.
250. ▶ 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.
251. ▶ 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.
252. ▶ 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.
253. ▶ 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.
254. ▶ 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.
255. ▶ 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.
256. ▶ 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.

257. ▶ 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.
258. ▶ 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.
259. ▶ 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.
260. ▶ Rajasthan Government signed MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladevi 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*.
261. ▶ 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.
262. ▶ 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.
263. ▶ Rajasthan government approved 1 % reservation for 5 communities - Gadia Lohar, Banjara, Gujjar, Raika and Gadariya.
264. ▶ 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.
265. ▶ Rajasthan ranked first by NITI Aayog among all states after it registered a significant increase in groundwater level due to water conservation structures built under Chief Minister Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan. State also witnessed increase of 81% in irrigation capacity.
266. ▶ 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).
267. ▶ 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.
268. ▶ 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.
269. ▶ 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.
270. ▶ 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'.

271. ▶ 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).
272. ▶ 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 the SC, to rely on Parliamentary Standing Committee reports.
273. ▶ 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*.
274. ▶ 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)
275. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) facility near Madurai, at estimated of INR 1500 crores.
276. ▶ 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.
277. ▶ 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.
278. ▶ 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.
279. ▶ 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.
280. ▶ 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.
281. ▶ 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.

282. ▶ Telangana Government will organize Bonalu Festival between July 15 and August 5, 2018. State government released INR 15 Crores for the same.
283. ▶ 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.
284. ▶ 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.
285. ▶ 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.
286. ▶ 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.
287. ▶ Telangana 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.
288. ▶ 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.
289. ▶ 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.
290. ▶ Tripura government launched GPS (Global Positioning System) and wireless based 24x7 "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.
291. ▶ 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.
292. ▶ 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).
293. ▶ 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.
294. ▶ 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).
295. ▶ 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.
296. ▶ 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.
297. ▶ 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.
 298. ▶ 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.
 299. ▶ Uttarakhand high court banned paragliding, and white water rafting and other water sports until the government frames a policy to regulate them.
 300. ▶ West Bengal Government will invest 107 crore rupees to check erosion at vulnerable areas along banks of Ganga and Padma.
 301. ▶ West Bengal Government 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.
 302. ▶ 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 the last Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah. The variety was reportedly only consumed by royals.
 303. ▶ 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.
 304. ▶ 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.
 305. ▶ 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.
 306. ▶ 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.

Top

Persons

1. ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
2. ▶ Actress Sonakshi Sinha joins UNESCO to promote safe & secure online environment for children and help empower our future digital citizens.
3. ▶ 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.

4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ 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

12. ▶ 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.

13. ▶ 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 imposed 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.

14. ▶ 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.

15. ▶ 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.

16. ▶ 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.

17. ▶ 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.

18. ▶ 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.

19. ▶ 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.

20. ▶ 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.

- ✎ 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 USD 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 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.

24. ▶ 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 attended 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.

25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ 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 Jashvantsinh 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.


27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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 (currently Venkaiah 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 Narendra 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.
29. ▶ Visits to India (July 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✎ Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, Navy Chief of Nigeria Visited India.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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 Visit, 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.


32. ▶ 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.

33. ▶ Visits to India (June 21 - 30, 2018)

 Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development Desmond Lee visited India. During his 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 in Hyderabad (Telangana).


 Suhrob Kholmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan visited India.

 Chakra Pani Khanal, Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal visited 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.

34. ▶ 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.

35. ▶ Visits to India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -


 Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsar 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.

36. ▶ 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).

Science

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ *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.
3. ▶ 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).
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is developing environment-friendly 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.
14. ▶ 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).
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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.

21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) demonstrated that Its Kilowatt portable nuclear fission reactor could enable crewed missions to Moon, Mars and beyond.
 - ▶ Kilowatt 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.
30. ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Northern 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.
31.  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.
32.  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.
33.  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.
34.  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 Northgrippian stages are defined at specific levels in Greenland ice cores.
35.  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 Gurusikhhar 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.
36.  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 surrounded by seaport, petrochemical, chemical and refinery industries. It is small in size measuring just 2 cm long.
37.  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.
38.  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.

39. ▶ 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 (SiO₂), 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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).
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.

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Sports

1. ▶ 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

2. ▶ 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)
3. ▶ 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)

4. ▶ 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).

Golden 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 international 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.

5. ▶ 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 Athlete Named in 2018's list. Last Year, USA Tennis star Serena Williams with \$27 Million USD Earnings was ranked 51st.

6. ▶ 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)

7. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 2 (Antalya (Turkey)) -

India - (2 Silver and 1 Bronze). Medalists -

Silver - Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Compound Women), Recurve Mixed Team (Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari)

Bronze - Compound Mixed Team (Abhishek Verma AND Jyothi Surekha Vennam)

8. ▶ 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.

-  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).

24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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

26. ▶ England created new record for highest total in a men's ODI with 481 against Australia, beating its own previous Record.
27. ▶ FIFA lifted 18 Month long suspension imposed on Guatemala Football Association (Central America), over its failure to comply with anti-corruption rules.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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)
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	

30. ▶ 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)
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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	

31. ▶ 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.

32. ▶ 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.

33. ▶ 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)

34. ▶ 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)

35. ▶ 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.*
36. ▶ India Women Cricketer Smriti Mandhana became first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League (women's cricket super league in England).
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ India won Kabaddi Masters Dubai tournament in Dubai (UAE), Beating Iran in Final.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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).
43. ▶ Indian squash player Dipika Pallikal has been appointed as Asia's representative in Athletes Advisory Commission of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted former Rahul Dravid (India), Ricky Ponting (Australia) and English Female cricketer 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.
46. ▶ International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 3 and Leg 4 (In Fort Benning (USA) and Munich (Germany) 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
	India				

3		4	2	4	10
4	Russia	4	2	0	6
5	Ukraine	3	0	1	4

47. ▶ 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.

48. ▶ 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)

49. ▶ July 07 - International Day of Cooperatives (IDC). 2018 theme is *Sustainable societies through cooperation*. It is also known as World Chocolate Day.


50. ▶ MS Dhoni became fastest wicketkeeper-batsman and third fastest Indian to score 10,000 runs in ODI cricket, achieving it in 273 innings.

51. ▶ 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	
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	

52. ▶ 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	

53. ▶ 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	

54. ▶ 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 Portuguese 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., comprising 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.

55. ▶ 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 Gavitt 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 Tennis 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.

56. ▶ 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 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'.

57. ▶ 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.

58. ▶ Real Madrid won 2017 - 18 UEFA Champions League Football by defeating Liverpool in Kiev (Ukraine).

59. ▶ Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen won Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix 2018 -

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

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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	

60. ▶ 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	
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9	Austrian Grand Prix	1 July	
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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	

61. ▶ South Korea won 5th Women's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy, Defeating defending champions India in Donghae City (South Korea).
62. ▶ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore stated that name of Sports Authority of India will be changed to Sports India.
63. ▶ 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).
64. ▶ 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
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ Wimbledon 2018 Tennis Championships, London (UK) -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), defeating Kevin Anderson (South Africa). Djokovic won his 4th Wimbledon title and overall his 13th Grand Slam Title.
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Angelique Kerber (Germany), defeating Serena Williams (USA). It was Angelique Kerber's 1st Wimbledon 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)
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ Zimbabwe Cricket council appointed 56 year old former Indian Cricketer Lalchand Rajput as interim head coach of Zimbabwe.

