



### Current Affairs - August to October 2018

Month  Type








- ▶ [1459](#) Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - All

(Showing **1086** Important Ones)






#### Appointments

- ▶ 85-year-old Paul Biya won Cameroon (Central Africa) presidential elections for seventh time. First elected as the President in 1982, Biya is sub-Saharan Africa's oldest leader.
- ▶ Adel Abdul Mahdi Appointed as new Prime Minister of Iraq.
- ▶ Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) appointed D Shivakumar as its chairman for 3 years.
- ▶ Anil Khosla will be appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- ▶ Arun Kumar appointed as Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ▶ Arup Kumar Goswami has been appointed acting chief justice of the Gauhati High Court.
- ▶ Axis Bank appointed Amitabh Chaudhry as its managing director & CEO from January 1, 2019, for 3 years. Mr. Chaudhry is MD & CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company at present. He will replace Shikha Sharma for Top post at Axis Bank.
  - ▶ On leaving of Amitabh Chaudhary, Vibha Padalkar has been appointed HDFC Life MD & CEO.
- ▶ Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan took oath as 22nd prime minister of Pakistan. While, Asad Qaiser is chosen as Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan.
- ▶ Emmerson Mnangagwa has been re-elected Zimbabwe's President after winning presidential elections held for first time since ouster of Robert Mugabe. Mnangagwa took over as President last year after Mugabe was ousted by the Army, ending Mugabe's rule of over Zimbabwe 37 years.
- ▶ Former Indian Cricketer Lalchand Rajput has been appointed as head coach of Zimbabwe's national team.
- ▶ Government Appointed Anil Kumar Chaudhary as Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), for 2 years.
- ▶ Government Appointed R N Ravi as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs). He will be 3rd deputy NSA to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval after former Rajinder Khanna and Pankaj Saran.
- ▶ Government appointed Ashish Kumar Bhutani as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), till May 2020.
  - ▶ PMFBY was launched in 2016, replacing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
  - ▶ It aims to reduce premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.
  - ▶ Under this, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%. Balance premium will be paid by Government, without a limit on subsidy.
  - ▶ It covers yield losses due to non-preventable risks including natural hazards.
- ▶ Government appointed Chief executive officers and managing directors (CEOs and MDs) at 10 public sector banks, as part of 15 names recommended by Bank Boards Bureau for elevation. First 5 People are currently deputy MDs at SBI.
  - ▶ Padmaja Chundru - Indian Bank
  - ▶ Mrutyunjay Mahapatra - Syndicate Bank
  - ▶ Pallav Mohapatra - Central Bank of India
  - ▶ Packirisamy - Andhra Bank
  - ▶ Karnam Sekar - Dena Bank

-  SS Mallikarajuna Rao - Allahabad Bank
-  AS Rajeev - Bank of Maharashtra
-  Atul Kumar Goel - UCO Bank
-  S Harisankar - Punjab & Sind Bank.
-  Ashok Kumar Pradhan - United Bank of India.

15. ▶ Government appointed G. Satheesh Reddy as Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Secretary in Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D).
16. ▶ Government appointed Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas (Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre) as secretary in Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairperson in Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
  -  Also, Anindo Majumdar is Appointed as Secretary in Central Vigilance Commission.
  -  A. Gitesh Sarma appointed as Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs.
17. ▶ Government appointed M Nageswara Rao as interim Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
18. ▶ Government appointed Pravin Srivastava as Chief statistician of India (CSI), replacing TCA Anant.
19. ▶ Government appointed Rajni Mishra as the director general of Border Security Force (BSF).
20. ▶ Government appointed Rakesh Sharma as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of IDBI Bank.
21. ▶ Government appointed Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), which will function as an independent regulator for auditing profession.
22. ▶ Government appointed S S Deswal as Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
23. ▶ Government appointed S. S. Deswal as Director General in Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He will also hold additional charge of post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
24. ▶ Government appointed Shekhar Mande as Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary in Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
25. ▶ Government appointed Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General of India (*second-highest ranking law officer of government*) till June 2020.
  -  Attorney General for India is Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. Currently the post is held by K. K. Venugopal.
26. ▶ Govind Mathur appointed as the acting chief justice of Allahabad High Court.
27. ▶ Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected as President of Mali (West Africa) for 5 year term.
28. ▶ India's Srinivasan Swamy appointed as chairman and world president of International Advertising Association (IAA) for 2 years.
29. ▶ India's Subrata Dutta is elected as vice president of newly formed South West Asian Football Federation (SWAFF).
30. ▶ India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath appointed as Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will resign as Economic Adviser to Kerala CM.
31. ▶ Indian Ambassadors and Misc. Appointments (August 2018) -
  -  HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh was appointed as non-executive director on board of HDFC.
  -  Vijay Thakur Singh - Secretary (East) in External Affairs Ministry.
  -  Supreme Court will have 3 serving women judges for first time, after Govt. cleared elevation of Madras HC Chief Justice Indira Banerjee as SC Judge. Other judges are R Banumathi and Indu Malhotra.
  -  Anurag Sachan - Managing Director of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL).
  -  Russia appointed Hollywood actor Steven Seagal as its special representative for Russian-US humanitarian ties.
  -  Nikhil Nanda - CMD of Farm and construction equipment maker Escorts.
  -  S Gopakumar - Director & GM in United India Insurance Company.
  -  Rashida Tlaib - First Muslim woman elected to US Congress after winning Democratic primary election from US state of Michigan.
  -  Raghvendra Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Textiles
  -  Arun Goel - Secretary in Ministry of Culture
  -  Aditya Vikram and Pramod Chandra Mody - members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
  -  R. G Anand - Member of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
  -  KS Srinivas - Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
  -  Actor Akshay Kumar become the brand ambassador of Government's Road Safety Campaign.
  -  Former RBI Deputy Governor Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHFL) appointed Former RBI Deputy Governor S.S.Mundra as an independent director.
  -  Goldman Sachs appointed Prachi Mishra as managing director and chief India economist.
  -  Partha Satpathy - New Indian Ambassador to Ukraine.

- ✎ Srikumar Menon - Indian Ambassador to Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.
  - ✎ Oscar Kerketta - Appointed as India's ambassador to Rwanda.
  - ✎ D Bala Venkatesh Varma - Appointed as India's ambassador to Russia.
  - ✎ Man Mohan Bhanot - Indian Ambassador to Republic of Equatorial Guinea. He is the first resident Ambassador of India to Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
  - ✎ Prashant Agrawal - New Indian High Commissioner to Namibia.
  - ✎ Sandeep Kumar - New Indian Ambassador to Ireland.
  - ✎ Ruchi Ghanashyam - India's New Ambassador to United Kingdom.
32. ▶ Indian American Neil Chatterjee is appointed as chairman of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
  33. ▶ Indian Banks Association (IBA) elected PNB MD and CEO Sunil Mehta as chairman for 2018-19. Madhav Nair has been elected as Honorary Secretary of association for 2018-19.
  34. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chosen veteran scientist VR Lalithambika to head its Gaganyaan mission to put an Indian in space by 2022.
  35. ▶ Indian development economist and lawyer Satya Tripathi has been appointed the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
  36. ▶ Indian scientist N Raghuram became first Indian and Asian to get elected as Chair of International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative, to take up role from January 1, 2019. He will steer 6 regional centres.
  37. ▶ Industry chamber Assocham appointed Uday Kumar Varma as its new Secretary General.
  38. ▶ Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) selected Ajay Data as new council member of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO), making him first Indian to get selected as a member of ccNSO, which is policy development body of ICANN for ccTLD (country code top-level domains) issues and represents all country code top level domain operators from around world.
    - ✎ He is founder & CEO of Data XGen Plus and global leader in email linguistic services. He is creator of world's first email address mobile app and email solution for IDN (Internationalized Domain Names) Domains. He was awarded Graham Bell Award for this innovation.
    - ✎ He is also credited for giving access to World for Internationalized Email Address in 19 languages which is available through DataMail app.
  39. ▶ Iraq's parliament elected Kurdish politician Barham Salih as new president.
  40. ▶ Ivan Duque has been appointed as new President of Colombia (South America).
  41. ▶ Jack Ma, co-founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, will step down as head of the company in 2019. He named company CEO Daniel Zhang as his successor.
  42. ▶ Jair Bolsonaro won Brazil's presidential elections, securing over 55 % votes.
  43. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Government appointed Dilbagh Singh as Director General of Police (DGP) of the state.
  44. ▶ Justice Surya Kant appointed as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
  45. ▶ Lotay Tshering is set to become new Prime Minister of Bhutan, after his party Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) won majority in National Assembly.
  46. ▶ Maeen Abdulmalik has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Yemen (Middle East).
  47. ▶ Mahesh Y Reddy appointed as its Secretary General of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).
  48. ▶ Michael D Higgins re-elected as President of Ireland for his 2nd term, receiving 56 % of votes.
  49. ▶ Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad elected as new President of Hockey India (HI).
  50. ▶ Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become new Prime Minister of African Nation Sudan.
  51. ▶ N.Ravi (Publisher of *The Hindu* Group) is appointed as chairman of Press Trust of India. While, Vijay Kumar Chopra (Chief Editor of Punjab Kesari Group) is appointed as Vice Chairman.
  52. ▶ National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye is appointed chairman of working committee and director on board by international industry body – World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).
  53. ▶ New Governors Appointed (As per Article 156 of Constitution, State Governors are appointed by President for five years) -
    - ✎ Lalji Tandon - Bihar
    - ✎ Baby Rani Maurya - Uttarakhand
    - ✎ Satyadev Narayan - Haryana
    - ✎ Kaptan Singh Solanki - Tripura
    - ✎ Tathagata Roy - Meghalaya
    - ✎ Ganga Prasad - Sikkim

54. ▶ Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi elected as 13th President of Pakistan.
55. ▶ Pakistani origin woman Mehreen Faruqi became first muslim senator to be sworn in to Australia's Parliament.
56. ▶ Pankaj Sharma appointed as ambassador and India's permanent representative to United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, replacing Amandeep Gill.
57. ▶ Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been re-elected as Regional Director of WHO for another five-year term beginning February 2019. She is the first woman to have been elected to the position of Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region.
58. ▶ President Ramnath Kovind appointed Madan Bhimarao Lokur as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA).
59. ▶ Priyank Kanoongo appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
60. ▶ Punjab government banned sale of weedicide glyphosatem which is cancer causing, According to Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh. Systemic herbicide is a group 2A cancer causing material and has potential to damage the human DNA. Punjab is 4th State after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to regulate sale of herbicide.
61. ▶ Ram Sewak Sharma has been reappointed as chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for upto September 2020.
62. ▶ Ramon Laguarta took charge as chief executive officer (CEO) of PepsiCo. He succeeded India-born Indra Nooyi, who remained PepsiCo CEO for for 12 years.
63. ▶ Ramon Laguarta will be new CEO of Leading Beverages Firm PepsiCo, replacing Indra Nooyi, who will step down in October 2018 after serving for 12 years. She will remain chairman till 2019.
64. ▶ Ranjan Gogoi will be appointed as new Chief Justice of India (46th), on October 3, 2018. He will replace current CJI Dipak Misra.
65. ▶ Rekha Sharma has been appointed as chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW).
66. ▶ Sahle-Work Zewde is appointed as first-ever female President of Ethiopia (East Africa).
67. ▶ Sajjan Jindal (JSW Steel CMD) elected as treasurer of World Steel Association (WSA), during its general assembly in Toyko (Japan). Tata Steel MD T V Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief L N Mittal are appointed as members, while Andre Johannpeter elected as Chairman.
68. ▶ Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as ICICI Bank's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, After Chanda Kochhar resigned from the post.
69. ▶ Sanjay Verma is appointed as India's new Ambassador to Spain.
70. ▶ Shri Harivansh has been elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Note that Vice president of India (Currently Venkaiah Naidu) is Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
71. ▶ Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena removed Ranil Wickremesinghe as prime minister of Sri Lanka, amid Political Turmoil because of Differences between President Sirisena and PM Vikramasinghe. Mahinda Rajapaksha is appointed as new Prime Minister.
72. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) appointed Anshula Kant as its Managing Director. Also, SBI Mutual Fund appointed Ashwani Bhatia as its managing director and chief executive officer.
73. ▶ Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi recommended names of 5 Chief Justices to High Courts of -
  -  Bombay - NH Patil
  -  Calcutta - DK Gupta
  -  Uttarakhand - Ramesh Ranganathan
  -  Gauhati - AS Bopanna
  -  Sikkim - Vijai Kumar Bist
74. ▶ T P Sharma has been appointed as new chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh.
75. ▶ Tajinder Mukherjee has been appointed as new Chairman and Managing Director of National Insurance Company Limited (NIC).
76. ▶ Treasurer Scott Morrison has been elected new Prime Minister of Australia, replacing Malcolm Turnbull.
77. ▶ UNICEF appointed India's Ravi Venkatesan as its special representative of young people, to provide strategic guidance and support UNICEF globally.
78. ▶ United Nations appointed former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet ad UN's new human rights chief.
79. ▶ Vikram Misri has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to China.

## **Awards**

1. ▶ *Invest India* initiative of Government won top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in renewable energy sector in India. It was announced in Geneva (Switzerland) at inauguration of World Investment Forum organised by UN Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

2. ▶ 2018 Seoul Peace Prize has been conferred on Indian PM Narendra Modi, for his dedication to improving international cooperation, raising global economic growth, accelerating the Human Development of people of India.
  - ✎ Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul (South Korea).
3. ▶ 3 jailed Saudi human rights activists awarded Right Livelihood Award, widely referred to as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani and Waleed Abu al-Khair jointly got a one million kronor cash award for their efforts to reform the totalitarian political system in Saudi Arabia.
4. ▶ Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan will be bestowed with inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award.
5. ▶ Actress Anushka Sharma received Smita Patil Memorial Award at Priyadarshni Academy 34th Anniversary Global Awards in Mumbai.
6. ▶ Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan will receive first World Agriculture Prize instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), to be presented by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.
  - ✎ During Same Event, ICFA Global Agriculture Leadership Awards were presented (given annually since 2008). Notable Winners are -
    - ✎ International Leadership Award - Ruby Rabbinge (Netherlands)
    - ✎ Lifetime Achievement Award - K H Gharda
    - ✎ Best States -
      - ✎ Fisheries - Jharkhand
      - ✎ Animal Husbandry - Bihar
      - ✎ Horticulture - Nagaland
      - ✎ Agriculture - Gujarat
7. ▶ All-women crew of INSV Tarini won Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award, for beating odds in water and sailing across the world for eight long months. It is highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
  - ✎ Other winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure awards are -
    - ✎ Udit Thapar - Skydiver
    - ✎ SonamWangyal - Mountaineer (Life time)
    - ✎ Anshu Jamsenpa - Mountaineer
    - ✎ Ravi Kumar - Mountaineer
8. ▶ American actress Anne Hathaway will be honoured with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) National Equality Award.
9. ▶ Anna Burns became First Northern Irish author to win 2018 Man Booker Prize (Fiction), after she won it for her novel *Milkman*. 'Milkman' tells story of a young girl's affair with an older man. Award consists cash prize of £50,000 (~\$65,000).
  - ✎ Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK.
10. ▶ Arshdeep Singh (Punjab) won Wildlife Photographer of Year award in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum. He won the award for the picture titled 'Pipe Owls', which showed two spotted owlets sitting inside an old waste-pipe in Punjab Kapurthala.
  - ✎ At the same occasion, Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten won Wildlife Photographer of Year award, for his photo of critically endangered golden snub-nosed monkeys in China, titled 'The Golden Couple'.
11. ▶ Arul Chinnaiyan (Indian-American scientist at University of Michigan) researcher has been awarded an "Outstanding Investigator Award" along with a grant of \$6.5 million by the U.S. National Cancer Institute.
12. ▶ Ashis Mukherjee, faculty member in Tezpur University won Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018), for his consistent high level of inspiring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.
13. ▶ Athletics Federation of India will be awarded FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018, in category of Best National Sports Federation (NSF).
14. ▶ Balzan Foundation announced winners for 2018 Balzan Prizes -
  - ✎ Peace and Fraternity among Peoples - Terre des Hommes, an international children rights charity based in Switzerland.
  - ✎ Chemical Ecology - Eva Kondorosi (Hungary/France)
  - ✎ Fluid Dynamics - Detlef Lohse (Deutschland)
  - ✎ Global History - Jürgen Osterhammel (Germany)
  - ✎ Social Anthropology - Marilyn Strathern (UK)
15. ▶ Breakthrough Prize Foundation announced recipients of 2019 Breakthrough Prize, known as the "Oscars of Science,".
  - ✎ Each prize is \$3 million and presented in the fields of Life Sciences (up to four per year), Fundamental Physics (one per year) and Mathematics (one per year). Awardees are -

Award	Awardee
2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences	C. Frank Bennett and Adrian R. Krainer
	Angelika Amon
	Xiaowei Zhuang
	Zhijian "James" Chen
2019 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics	Charles Kane and Eugene Mele
2019 Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics	Vincent Lafforgue
2019 Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics	Jocelyn Bell Burnell

16. ▶ CSIR announced Winners of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2018 -

Every year, scientists below 45 years age are awarded for their outstanding scientific work in last 5 years. 2018 Winners -

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

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

18. ▶ European Parliament awarded Sakharov human rights prize to jailed Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov (with 50,000 euro cash), for an "exceptional contribution" to human rights around world.

19. ▶ European Union selected Department of European Studies (DES) of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) for prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE) Award.

It became only Centre of Excellence in European Studies in India.

It grants close to one lakh euros for various activities planned for 3 years.

Earlier, MAHE had been titled as an Institute of Eminence by Government of India.

20. ▶ Former Indian Cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi honoured with Dr.M.A.Chidambaram Birth Centenary Award in Chennai, instituted by MAC Charities in memory of the former BCCI president M.A.Chidambaram.

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

22. ▶ Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2018

About Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards -

Started by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2017 to propel global action and track progress on the United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goals, Also known as Oscar for Social Progress

2018 Awardees -

Amika George (Campaign Award). Indian Origin Girl. Her #FreePeriods campaign that brought her granddad and 2,000 other protestors on Downing Street in UK in December 2017 to demand free sanitary products for poor.

Nadia Murad (Pagemaker Award). She is a Yazidi survivor of Islamic State (IS) genocide in Iraq.

Dysmus Kisilu (Progress Award). His renewable energy solutions increased yields of small farmers in Kenya by 150%.

23. ▶ Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde has been honored with New Academy Prize in Literature, an alternative award formed in protest to Nobel Literature Prize.

Note That Right Livelihood Awards are also promoted as Alternative Nobel Awards, Presented annually in Stockholm (Sweden).

2018 Winners are -

- ✍️ Thelma Aldana, Iván Velásquez (Guatemala)
- ✍️ Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
- ✍️ Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani, Walid Abu al-Chair (Saudi Arabia)
- ✍️ Tony Rinaudo (Australia)

24. ▶ Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja won 18th Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title, in Prague (Czech Republic). She is first Indian to have won any title at Miss Deaf World Pageant.
25. ▶ Hindi Academy Delhi gave its highest Shalaka Samman for 2017-18 to bollywood lyricist and poet Javed Akhtar.
26. ▶ Hyderabad International Airport (Rajiv Gandhi International Airport) has been awarded Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award in 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category, for 2nd consecutive year.
  - ✍️ Also, 6 Indian Airports winning airports are (Lucknow, Indore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune) were awarded at Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2017 presented by Airports Council International (ACI). Delhi and Mumbai aerodromes shared top slot in the best airport category in Asia-Pacific region with regard to handling of over two million passengers per year.
27. ▶ India won Awards in 2 Categories at Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) International Innovations Awards (IIA) - (announced annually since 1998).
  - ✍️ India's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions) is a member of CAPAM.
  - ✍️ Initiative named *Unnayan Banka* - Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District (Bihar) has been awarded under Category "Innovation Incubation". Its an initiative which envisages "Quality education for all" using latest technologies.
  - ✍️ Another initiative entitled "Unified Agriculture Markets" of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has also been selected under the Category 'Innovation in Public Service Management'. It has also been awarded overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards 2018.
28. ▶ India's Raghupati Singhanian (JK Tyres CMD) has been awarded *Mexican order of the Aztec Eagle*, highest honour given to non-nationals by Government of Mexico.
29. ▶ Indian-American Minal Patel Davis honoured with USA Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking', for her extraordinary contribution towards combating human trafficking. She is special advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.
30. ▶ Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in world to achieve this.
  - ✍️ Deming Prize bestowed on Indus Towers for distinctive performance improvements through application of Total Quality Management (TQM) practices. Indus Towers is 29th Indian company to win this award.
31. ▶ Industrial Awards (August 2018)-
  - ✍️ Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) received top honours at Swachhta Pakhwada Awards by oil ministry, with Indian Oil Corp (IOC) as runner-up.
  - ✍️ Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (marketers of popular milk brand Amul) has been awarded *Marketer of the Year* award by the International Advertising Association of India (IAAI).
  - ✍️ Indian-American Aruna Vishwanathan was one of 3 women honoured with 'Women in Business: Making a Difference Award' at 19th annual Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) gala in Houston (USA).
  - ✍️ Reliance Power subsidiary Reliance Power Netherlands BV has won an international arbitration award of USD 56 million (Rs 390 crore) against Prestige Capital Holdings (a Seychelles-based company) and Kokos Jiang.
32. ▶ Industrial Awards (September 2018) -
  - ✍️ Panchpatmali bauxite mine of National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) won 5 awards at 20th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) week, held under guidance of Indian Bureau of Mines.
  - ✍️ Kerala Tourism won 2 gold awards of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns, in *Travel Advertisement Print* and *Travel Poster* categories.
  - ✍️ Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) became first ever metro rail corporation from India to win International 'Royal Society For The Prevention Of Accidents' (RoSPA) Award (Silver).
  - ✍️ Manatec, Pondicherry-based garage equipment manufacturer, won Innovation Award at Automechanika, a leading trade fair in Germany. It won for its innovation of JUMBO 3D – World's 1st 3D Wheel Aligner for Multi-Axle Trucks, Buses & Trailers.
33. ▶ Jaipur-based poet and writer Sawai Singh Shekhawat will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.
34. ▶ K.Anvar Sadath became first Indian to receive the International Contributions Award given by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), USA. He is vice chairman and executive director of the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for

Education (KITE) also known as IT@school Project.

35. ▶ Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at University of Pennsylvania School of Design (USA) awarded its 4th annual Carnot Prize to India's Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Coal (former Minister of Power), Recognising his work for bringing pathbreaking transformations in India's energy sector.

- ✎ Carnot Prize is named after French physicist Nicolas Sadi Carnot who recognised that power of the steam engine would “produce a great revolution” in human development.
- ✎ 2018 Carnot Prize Honors India's work towards mission *24x7 Affordable, Environment Friendly Power for all*.
  - ✎ India has eliminated decades of darkness in more than 19,000 villages on 28th April, 2018.
  - ✎ With Saubhagya Programme, last-mile connectivity to every household in the villages is being fast tracked, with 51% of the 3.1 crore rural households electrified.
  - ✎ India's Massive thrust to green energy is reflected in India's 175 GW target by 2022, being world's largest renewable expansion programme with 72 GW already achieved.
  - ✎ Carnot Prize recognises India's *solid footing to reach a 40% renewable mix by 2030*.
  - ✎ In last 4 years, energy efficiency has become a people's movement in India, making the Government's UJALA scheme the world's largest LED distribution programme. 130 crore LED bulbs have been already distributed.

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

37. ▶ Malayalam author Benyamin's novel Jasmine Days won JCB Prize for Literature, consisting a trophy and 25 lakhs as prize money. Benyamin, earlier won Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Aadujeevitham.

38. ▶ Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM) has been conferred with UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals..

- ✎ UNIATF on Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates activities of relevant UN organizations and other inter-governmental organizations to support Governments to meet high-level commitments to respond to NCD epidemics worldwide.

39. ▶ Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa won Miss Grand International 2018 title at 6th edition of the beauty pageant in Yangon (Myanmar). Femina Miss Grand India 2018 Meenakshi Chaudhary named 1st runner-up.

40. ▶ National Sports Awards 2018 -

- ✎ Selection Committees Headed by -

- ✎ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards - Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar
- ✎ Dronacharya Awards and Dhyani Chand Awards - Justice Mukul Mudgal
- ✎ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar - Rahul Bhatnagar (Secretary (Sports)).
- ✎ MAKATrophy - Ashok Kumar (former Olympian).

- ✎ Winners -


- ✎ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna - (Given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sports person over a period of four year)

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

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






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




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

 S. No.	<b>Name of the Sportsperson</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
	Naib Subedar Jinson Johnson	Athletics
	Hima Das	Athletics
	Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy	Badminton
	Subedar Satish Kumar	Boxing
	Smriti Mandhana	Cricket
	Shubhankar Sharma	Golf
	Manpreet Singh	Hockey
	Ms. Savita	Hockey
	Col. Ravi Rathore	Polo
	Rahi Sarnobat	Shooting
	Ankur Mittal	Shooting
	Shreyasi Singh	Shooting
	Manika Batra	Table Tennis
	G. Sathiyam	Table Tennis
	Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
	Sumit	Wrestling
	Pooja Kadian	Wushu
	Ankur Dhama	Para-Athletics
	Manoj Sarkar	Para-Badminton

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

 S. No.	<b>Name of the Sportsperson</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
	Satyadev Prasad	Archery
	Bharat Kumar Chetri	Hockey
	Bobby Aloysius	Athletics
	Chougale Dadu Dattatray	Wrestling


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

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

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

41. ▶ Nobel Prizes 2018 -

 2018 Winners -

 Trade	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Description</b>
Physiology or Medicine	James P Allison (USA) and Tasaku Honjo (Japan)	For discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation
Physics	Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada)	For groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics

Chemistry	(a) one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) (b) other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK)	(a) For directed evolution of enzymes (b) For phage display of peptides and antibodies
Peace	Denis Mukwege (Congo) and Nadia Murad (Iraq)	For efforts to end use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. <i>Both these winners are also nominated for 2018's 'Mother Teresa Memorial Award.'</i>
Economic Sciences	(a) William D. Nordhaus (USA) (b) Paul M. Romer (USA)	(a) For integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis (b) For integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis
Literature	<i>No Winners announced due to Sexual assault allegations. Postponed to 2019.</i>	

#### 📌 Facts About Nobel prizes -

📌 In 2018, it was for first time in 70 years of Nobel Prizes, that no *Literature Prize* was given. It was announced by Swedish Academy after a recent sexual assault scandal. It has now been postponed to 2019.

#### 📌 Background -

- 📌 Will of Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel established five Nobel prizes in 1895 - Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine, first awarded in 1901.
- 📌 In 1968, Sweden's central bank Sveriges Riksbank established the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, which, although not being a Nobel Prize, has become informally known as *Nobel Prize in Economics*.

#### 📌 Physics -

- 📌 Granted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- 📌 2 women have been awarded Physics Prize so far.
- 📌 Youngest - Australian-British physicist Lawrence Bragg (25 years age), awarded in 1915 together with his father.
- 📌 India's C. V. Raman was awarded Physics Nobel in 1930, For his work on scattering of light and for discovery of effect named after him.

#### 📌 Chemistry

- 📌 Granted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- 📌 4 women have been awarded the Chemistry Prize so far.
- 📌 1 person, Frederick Sanger, has been awarded the Chemistry Prize twice, in 1958 and in 1980.
- 📌 Youngest - France's Frédéric Joliot (35 years age), awarded in 1935.

#### 📌 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences

- 📌 Granted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- 📌 1 woman has been awarded Prize in Economic Sciences so far, Elinor Ostrom, in 2009.
- 📌 Youngest - USA's Kenneth J. Arrow (51 years age), awarded in 1972.
- 📌 India's Amartya Sen was given Economic studies Nobel in 1998. For his contributions to welfare economics.

#### 📌 Physiology or Medicine -

- 📌 Granted by Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute awards.
- 📌 12 women have been awarded Medicine Prize so far.
- 📌 Youngest - Canada's Frederick G. Banting (32 years age), awarded in 1923 for discovery of insulin.

#### 📌 Literature -

- 📌 Granted by Swedish Academy.
- 📌 14 women have been awarded Literature Prize so far.
- 📌 Youngest - UK's Rudyard Kipling (41 years age), known for Jungle Book.
- 📌 Rabindranath Tagore, Only Indian to receive Nobel Literature Prize so far (in 1913). He is also first Indian Nobel Laureate.

#### 📌 Peace -

- 📌 Granted by Norwegian Nobel Committee.
- 📌 16 women have been awarded Nobel Peace Prize so far.
- 📌 Peace Prize Laureate Le Duc Tho (Vietnamese) declined his Nobel Peace Prize in 1973. He was awarded jointly with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, for negotiating Vietnam peace accord.
- 📌 Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan is youngest to win Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, at the age of 17.

2 Indian Person have been given Nobel Peace Prize so far. Mother Teresa (1979), Kailash Satyarthi (2014).

Indian Nobel Laureates -

Rabindranath Tagore in 1913 (Literature)












C.V. Raman in 1930 (Physics)

Mother Teresa in 1979 (Peace)

Amartya Sen in 1998 (Economic Studies)




Kailash Satyarthi in 2014 (Peace)

42. ▶ Noted Indian-Australian mathematician Akshay Venkatesh is among 4 winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for maths. Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize. Other three winners are: Caucher Birkar (Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin), Germany's Peter Scholze and Italian mathematician Alessio Figalli.
43. ▶ Noted Odia poet Satrugna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad', to be awarded by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).
44. ▶ Noted children's writer Ramendra Kumar honoured at 36th International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Congress in Athens (Greece).
45. ▶ Noted jurist Fali S. Nariman has been awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration. He is internationally recognised jurist on international arbitration. He has been awarded Padma Bhushan (1991), Padma Vibhushan (2007) and Gruber Prize for Justice (2002).
46. ▶ Noted music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famously known as Khayyam won 2018 Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement, by Maharashtra Govt.
47. ▶ Noted neurosurgeon B.K. Misra has been named for this year's prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award as an Eminent Medical Person of Year, given by Medical Council of India (since 1962). It will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1 next year (National Doctors Day).
48. ▶ Odia hockey player Lilima Minz selected for Ekalavya Puraskar 2018 by Karnataka based by IMPACT, social wing of IMFA. It comprises of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation. 2 other sportswomen felicitated - Weight lifter Jhili Dalabehera and Badminton player Rutuparna Panda.
49. ▶ PM Narendra Modi has been awarded the United Nations highest environmental honour 'Champions of the Earth' for his leadership of the band pledge to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022. Awards will be presented during Champions of the Earth Gala in New York, on sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly. Other Awardees are -
  - ▶ French President Emmanuel Macron.
  - ▶ India's Cochin International Airport - Awarded in Entrepreneurial Vision category. It is world's first fully solar-powered airport.
  - ▶ Joan Carling - Awarded lifetime achievement award as a prominent defender of environmental and indigenous rights.
  - ▶ Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods - Jointly recognised in Science and Innovation category.
  - ▶ China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme - Awarded in inspiration and action category.
50. ▶ Pakistani Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University's 2018 Gleitsman Award award for her work in promoting girls' education. It provides 125,000 US dollars for activism that has improved quality of life around world.
51. ▶ Prema Gopalan has been honored with 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award (SEOY) 2018, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship and rural livelihood. She is the founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP).
52. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for 2013-2017 -
  - ▶ 2013 - Najma Heptulla
  - ▶ 2014 - Hukmdev Narayan Yadav
  - ▶ 2015 - Ghulam Nabi Azad
  - ▶ 2016 - Dinesh Trivedi
  - ▶ 2017 - Bhartruhari Mahtab
53. ▶ Retired English professional footballer David Beckham will be presented 2018 UEFA President's Award by European football's governing body.
54. ▶ Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won World Health Summit Startup award 2018 for invention of Manovue, world's first intelligent personal assisting system for visually impaired.
55. ▶ Russian Human rights activist Oyub Titiev became 6th Receptient of Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel prize, consisting 60,000-euro (\$67,000) cash prize, for his struggle defending human rights in troubled Russian Caucasus republic.
56. ▶ SK Arora (Delhi) has been awarded World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.

57. ▶ Sikkim has been awarded UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award (Gold Prize) for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state. Sikkim beat out 51 other nominees from around the world for the award. Policies from Brazil, Denmark and Quito (Ecuador) were jointly Silver Awardees.
58. ▶ Social Activist Ulka Mahajan has been conferred with Praful Bidwai memorial award 2018.  
 Award was instituted in memory of journalist and social activist "Praful Bidwai" who died in Amsterdam in 2015.
59. ▶ Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon won International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission Grant Award for his contribution to sports development. Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.
60. ▶ Social network Firm Facebook selected 3 Indian women (among 115 selected globally) for \$1 million award as part of its Community Leadership Programme. They are Adhunika Prakash, Chetana Misra and Tamanna Dhamija, awarded \$50,000 in fellowship each.  
 Adhunika Prakash - founded non-profit Breastfeeding Support for Indian Moms in Pune.  
 Chetana Misra - founded Mompreneurs India, community of like-minded women, allowing them to network, share knowledge and contacts and benefit from partnerships to start business and take it online.  
 Tamanna Dhamija - Created Baby Destination, that helps mothers exchange information and support one another.
61. ▶ Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana announced Grammy-winning Hindustani classical music instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt as recipient of annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Bhatt is known for his Grammy award winning album "A Meeting by the River" with Ry Cooder.
62. ▶ Three US scientists James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg are declared winners of 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.
63. ▶ UEFA Awards 2018 -  
 Croatia captain Luka Modric voted best player in Europe.  
 Best women's player award was won by Pernille Harder of Denmark and Wolfsburg.  
 2018 UEFA President's Award was given to David Beckham, Johan Cruyff, Franz Beckenbauer, Eusebio and Sir Bobby Charlton.
64. ▶ UN 2018 UN Human Rights Prize -  
 Rebeca Gyumi – activist for the rights of women and girls (Tanzania)  
 Asma Jahangir (posthumously) – human rights lawyer (Pakistan).  
 Joênia Wapichana (Joênia Batista de Carvalho) – activist for the rights of indigenous communities (Brazil)  
 Front Line Defenders – organization advocating and working for the protection of human rights defenders (Ireland)
65. ▶ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) conferred 2018 Nansen Refugee Award to South Sudanese surgeon Dr. Evan Atar Adaha, for his 20-year medical service to refugees of Sudan and South Sudan.
66. ▶ US-based Indian writer Sujatha Gidla won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India".
67. ▶ USA awarded Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to Former Indian Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag, for exceptional service as chief of Indian Army. With this, he became 2nd Indian to get this award, first being General Rajendrasinghi Jadeja in 1946.
68. ▶ World Konkani Centre honored writer and journalist H M Pernal with 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for 2018, for 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani.

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## **Books**

1. ▶ 3 New Books released -  
 Jewellery - Gulab Kothari  
 Ghats of Banaras - Sachidanand Joshi  
 Untold Story of Broadcasting - Gautam Chatterjee.
2. ▶ *Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple*, final book of Vineet Bajpai's Harappa trilogy has been released. First 2 books of series are *Harappa: Curse of the Blood River* and *Pralay: The Great Deluge*.
3. ▶ A coffee-table book titled *Narendra Modi: A Charismatic & Visionary Statesman* written by BJP president Amit Shah has been released.
4. ▶ A new book on Maharana Pratap named 'Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior' authored by historian Rima Hooja has been released.
5. ▶ Australian Cricketer Shane Warne written his autobiography titled *No Spin*, to be released in October 2018.
6. ▶ Author Preeti Shenoy's new book named *The Rule Breakers* has been released.

7. ▶ Author Sundeep Misra will write a book on life of Indian Female Sprinter Dutee Chand, who rose from abject poverty to become one of India's biggest sprinting stars. Title of book will be titled *Story so Far*.
8. ▶ Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi released a book named 'Lalu-Leela', as Sushil Modi's second book after 'Beech Samar Mein'.
9. ▶ Biography of late Industrialist Anumolu Ramakrishna titled 'Building a Legacy' has been released, written by V. Pattabhi Ram and R. Mohan.
10. ▶ Book *Bebak Baat*, authored by Vijay Goel (*Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation*) has been released.
11. ▶ Book *Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project*, authored by Bidyut Chakrabarty has been released.
12. ▶ Book on Life of Former PM who passed away recently, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, titled *Atal Ji Ne Kaha* has been released. It is Authored by Brijendra Rai.
13. ▶ Congress leader Shashi Tharoor introduced his new book *The Paradoxical Prime Minister*, Stating it as *floccinaucinihilipilification*, which Means *action or habit of estimating something as worthless*.
14. ▶ Indian cricketer VVS Laxman written his autobiography named *281 and Beyond*. It will be released in November 2018.
15. ▶ New Book *Shades of Truth: A Journey Derailed*, written by Former Congress MP Kapil Sibal has been released.
16. ▶ Noted Late Space Scientist Stephen Hawking's final Book, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions* has been Launched. It tackles issues from existence of God to the potential for time travel.
17. ▶ Noted cricket statistician Vijayan Bala's new book *Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections* has been released. Its a compilation of interviews of eminent sports persons he has conducted since 1971.
18. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released book *Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office*, written by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu to mark his 1 year in office.
19. ▶ Sea Prayer, new book of writer Khaled Hosseini has been released.
20. ▶ book "Feisty At Fifty" authored by Sudha Menon has been released.

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### **Committees**

1. ▶ 5G steering committee chaired by Stanford University's Professor AJ Paulraj submitted its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT). It was set up by Government in September 2017 to suggest a road map for adoption of 5G. Recommendations Include -
  - ✎ It expects commercial rollout of 5G in India by 2020 and advance to full range of services by 2024.
  - ✎ Deployment of 5G in India should be classified into three phases based on technologies and use cases.
  - ✎ Early adoption will likely make equipment needed for 5G roll out more expensive and it will also be glitchy as needed for cost maturing. However, early adoption will fast track India's embrace of 5G's benefits and increase opportunities.
  - ✎ After entry of 5G into Indian telecom sector, earlier generation mobile technologies – 2G, 3G and 4G, will take over 10 years to phase out.
2. ▶ 9-member group has been constituted with Shivaji B Zaware as convener, to enquire and list ongoing issues with Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS).
3. ▶ A parliamentary panel has been formed to examine functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears. It will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
4. ▶ Committee on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 submitted its report to Finance Ministry. It was constituted in July 2018 to review framework for dealing with offences under Companies Act 2013 and make recommendations to promote better corporate compliance. It was headed by Injeti Srinivas (Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs). Main recommendations Include -
  - ✎ Restructuring of Corporate Offences to relieve Special Courts from adjudicating routine offences - Re-categorization of 16 out of the 81 compoundable offences by shifting them from the jurisdiction of special courts to an in-house E-adjudication framework
  - ✎ De-clogging NCLT by -
    - ✎ Enlarging jurisdiction of Regional Director with enhanced pecuniary limits for compounding of offences.
    - ✎ Vesting in Central Government the power to approve alteration in financial year of a company.
  - ✎ Recommendations related to corporate compliance and corporate governance
    - ✎ Re-introduction of declaration of commencement of business provision to better tackle the menace of 'shell companies'.
    - ✎ Greater disclosures with respect to public deposits, particularly in respect of transactions exempted from the definition of public deposits.

5. ▶ During 30th Meeting of GST Council, 7-Member Group of Ministers (GoM) was tasked to examine proposal of Kerala Government for imposition of Cess on SGST for rehabilitation and flood affected works this issue in depth. Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar is Convenor of the GoM.
6. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) constituted 3 member committee to look into draft food labelling and display regulations-Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2018, headed by B Sesikeran.
7. ▶ Government constituted Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu, to advise Prime Minister on whether to continue or withdraw from 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.
8. ▶ Government constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review Competition Act, which was passed in 2002 and Competition Commission of India was set up. Commission started functioning from 2009. The committee is headed by Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Currently Injeti Srinivas).
9. ▶ Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at workplace. It will be chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. With 3 other Union Ministers as Members.
10. ▶ Government constituted new 21-member advisory panel on science, technology and innovation called Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). It will be headed by Principal Scientific Advisor to government K Vijay Raghavan.
11. ▶ Govt. constituted an eight-member search committee, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.
12. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) formed a panel to examine claims in installments, headed by Suresh Mathur. Panel look in to feasibility of proposal of general and health insurance companies for payment of claims in installments as against lump sum payments.
13. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a working group to update norms for insurance surveyors, to be headed by Yegna Priya Bharat. It will address areas pertaining to licensing, renewal and IIISLA membership in context of existing regulatory framework for surveyors and loss assessors.
14. ▶ Justice Mukul Mudgal is named as Chairman of 11-member selection committee to pick this year's Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awardees, given as part of National Sports Awards ceremony to be held on September 25.
15. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry constituted a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to address challenges in order to find a way forward in the contemporary global trade scenario, under chairmanship of Surjit S. Bhalla.
16. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has set up a committee to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced), after inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year. It committee will be headed by IIT-Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthy.
17. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a committee to oversee the rejuvenation work of river Ganga, to be headed by a former Allahabad high court judge, who will be nominated by current chief justice of Allahabad high court (Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale currently). NGT also formed a committee to look into whether sub regional plans for protection of Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs).
18. ▶ Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into the aspect of jail reforms across country.

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## **Days**

1. ▶ 28 September: World Rabies Day. 2018 theme is *Rabies: Share the message. Save a life*. It seeks to raise awareness about impact of rabies on animals and human beings. It is also observed as UNESCO International Day for Universal Access to Information.
2. ▶ 2nd Anniversary of Surgical Strike celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 - 30, 2018 by Indian Army to showcase gallant action of brave Army in conduct of Surgical Strikes on September 29, 2016. It also marked to remember sacrifice of soldiers during 'Uri Attacks'. PM Modi inaugurated an Exhibition in Jodhpur (Rajasthan), on this occasion.  
 UGC also directed all universities / higher educational institutions to observe September 29 as Surgical Strike Day.
3. ▶ Assam government decided to observe September 22 as "Rhino Day".
4. ▶ Aug 1 - Earth Overshoot Day. It is the day each year when humans have consumed a year's worth of planet's natural resources. It was earlier called Ecological Debt Day. It is calculated illustrative calendar date on which humanity's resource consumption for year exceeds Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year. In 2018, it falls on Aug 1.
5. ▶ Aug 10 - World Biofuel Day. On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of diesel engine) successfully ran mechanical engine with Peanut Oil. His research experiment predicted that vegetable oil may replace fossil fuels in next century to fuel different mechanical engines.



16. ▶ Disarmament Week observed across Globe from Oct 24 - 30, 2018.
17. ▶ Government observed 75th anniversary of formation of Azad Hind Government, led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Founded on 21st October, 1943 was inspired by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose who was leader of Azad Hind Government and also Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile.
18. ▶ National Nutrition Week observed from 1st to 7th September, to spread awareness regarding importance of nutrition.
19. ▶ Oct 01 - International Coffee Day. 2018 theme is *Women in Coffee*. Oct 1 is also observed as World Vegetarian Day.
20. ▶ Oct 01 - International Day of Older Persons. 2018 theme is *Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions*. On this occasion, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred *Vayoshreshtha Samman-2018* on eminent senior citizens and institutions.
21. ▶ Oct 01 - World Habitat Day. 2018 theme is *Municipal Solid Waste Management*.
22. ▶ Oct 02, 2018. 150th Birth Anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. It is also observed as UN International Non Violence Day, since 2007.
  - ▶ Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) held in New Delhi.
  - ▶ Earlier, On Sep 15 of 2018, PM Modi launched mega countrywide campaign- Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018.
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot (Gujarat). He also launched Mujkva Solar Energy Cooperative Group in Gujarat, created with assistance of National Dairy development Board.
  - ▶ On this occasion, Odisha government launched its own State Food Security Scheme (SFSS). Under this, 18.32 lakh poor and eligible people will receive 5 kg of rice at rate of Rupee 1 per kg. This is in response to the failure of the central government's approval against the state's request to include 25 lakh people under NFSA.
  - ▶ 6 US lawmakers (Including 6 Indian Americans) moved a resolution in US House of Representatives to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi for his contribution towards promotion of peace and non-violence.
  - ▶ On this occasion, SIDBI launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog. Campaign would run from Oct 3 - 8, 2018 across India. Objectives include -
    - ▶ Inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise
    - ▶ Impart trainings through digital medium, to create business opportunities for CSC VLEs (Village level entrepreneurs).
  - ▶ On this occasion, world's largest dome inaugurated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus in Pune (Maharashtra). It has diameter of 160 feet, overtaking earlier record holding Vatican Dome having diameter of 139.6 feet. It stands 263 feet tall with bell hanging from centre and has prayer hall with area of around 30,000 sq ft.
  - ▶ On this occasion, National Khadi Festival 2018 began in Mumbai, organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote Khadi products.
  - ▶ Ministry of Railways was named the best department for its contribution to "Swachhta Pakhwada" under the "Swachhta Hi Seva" category of awards.
  - ▶ Assam Govt. launched Universal Pension scheme in the state. Under it, pension will be given to all BPL and APL ration card holders over 60 years of age.
    - ▶ 50 lakh rupees has sanctioned to filmmaker Rima Das whose movie Village Rockstar has been nominated for Oscars.
    - ▶ Small tea growers exempted from levy of cess amounting to 10 paise per kilogram.
    - ▶ Approved amendment in Assam GST Act by which GST registration has been relaxed from 10 lakh rupees annual turnover to 20 lakh rupees annual turnover.
    - ▶ Sports University Bill introduced to set up a sports university at Chabua named after Aniruddha Dev.
23. ▶ Oct 04 - World Animal Day. It marks *feast day* of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.
24. ▶ Oct 09 - World Post Day. It marks anniversary of establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in Swiss Capital, Bern. 2018 theme is *Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?*. Oct 9 - 15 is also observed as Postal Week in India.
25. ▶ Oct 1 - World Vegetarian Day.
26. ▶ Oct 10 - World Mental Health Day. 2018 Theme is 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'. On this Occasion, Britain Govt appointed Jackie Doyle-Price as Nation's First suicide-prevention minister, as part of a national effort to reduce number of people who take their own lives.
27. ▶ Oct 11 - International Day of the Girl Child. 2018 theme was *With Her: A Skilled Girl Force*.
28. ▶ Oct 11 - World Obesity Day. 2018 theme is *It's time to End Weight Stigma*. It is also named as World Sight Day.
29. ▶ Oct 13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR). 2018 theme is *Reducing Disaster Economic Losses*.
  - ▶ On This occasion, United Nations report titled 'Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017' was released. As per the report -
    - ▶ India suffered \$79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years.



-  Greatest economic losses was experienced by United States at \$944.8 billion followed by China (\$492.2 billion), Japan (\$376.3 billion), India (\$79.5 billion), Puerto Rico (\$71.7 billion), France (\$48.3 billion).
-  Floods (43.4%) followed by storms (28.2%) are the two most frequently occurring disasters.
30. ▶ Oct 13 - World Migratory Bird Day. 2018 theme is *Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation*.
31. ▶ Oct 14 - World Standards day.
32. ▶ Oct 15 - International Day of Rural Women. 2018 theme is *Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*. It is observed as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas in India.
33. ▶ Oct 15 - World Students' Day. In 2010, UN declared 15 October as World Students' Day, commemorating birth anniversary of Late APJ Abdul Kalam, scientist and former President of India.
34. ▶ Oct 16 - World Food Day. 2018 Theme is *Our actions are our future – A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible*.
-  On this occasion, Government launched national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra', to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy. Under it, pan-India cycle rally is being organized to create consumer awareness about eating safe and nutritious food for becoming healthy and combating food adulteration.
-  On this occasion, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated a two-day Agri-startup and Entrepreneurship event in New Delhi.
-  On This Occasion, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee launched 'Khadya Sathi' Food security scheme.
35. ▶ Oct 17 - UN International Day for Eradication of Poverty. 2018 theme is *Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity*.
36. ▶ Oct 20 - National Solidarity day. On October 20, 1962, China started the attacks on India and the Sino-Indian War started.
37. ▶ Oct 20 - World Osteoporosis Day. Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become weak and brittle and increases the risk of a broken bone.
38. ▶ Oct 21 - Police Commemoration Day, observed in memory of policemen killed at Hot Springs in Ladakh by Chinese troops on this date in 1959. On this occasion, National Police Memorial was dedicated to nation by PM Narendra Modi, in Chanakyapuri (New Delhi).
-  On this Occasion, PM also announced an annual award in name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces for commendable contributions in disaster relief operations.
39. ▶ Oct 22 - International Stuttering Awareness Day.
40. ▶ Oct 24 - 2nd World Diplomats Day. It began in 2017.
41. ▶ Oct 24 - United Nations Day. It marks enactment of UN Charter on this day in 1945. 2018 theme is *Traditions of Peace and Non-violence*. It is also observed as World Development Information Day, established in 1972.
-  2018 UN Day Concert held at UN Headquarters in New York (US). Theme of this year's concert, which is sponsored by Permanent Mission of India to UN, is *Traditions of Peace and Non-violence*.
-  Oct 24 is also observed as World Polio Day.
42. ▶ Oct 27- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. 2018 theme is "Your Story is Moving".
43. ▶ Oct 28 - International Animation Day.
44. ▶ Oct 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
-  It was introduced by Government of India in 2014, marking Birth Anniversary of Legendary Leader and 1st Deputy PM of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
-  On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial in Gujarat's Narmada district. Called the Statue of Unity, the bronze sculpture is the world's tallest statue measuring 600 feet (182m). It has overtook China's Spring Temple Buddha (153m) and USA's Statue of Liberty (93m). It was constructed in 33 months at 2,989 crores.
-  On this occasion, Home Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off 'Run for Unity' from Major Dhyan Chand Stadium (New Delhi). PM Narendra Modi also unveiled the 'Wall of Unity', a wall created with the earth samples collected from various states across country.
45. ▶ Oct 31 - World Cities Day. 2018 Sub-theme is *Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities*.
46. ▶ Oct 5 - World Teachers' Day. 2018 marks 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) that recognizes education as a key fundamental right. 2018 theme is *The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher*.
-  Note that In India, National Teachers Day is held on Sep 5. It marks Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (2nd President of India).
47. ▶ Oct 8, 2018 - 86th Indian Air Force Day. It was officially established on October 8, 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire and the prefix Royal was added in 1945 in recognition of its services during World War II.
-  On this occasion, IAF launched 'MedWatch' mobile health app to provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics. It is first of its kind mobile health app built by any of the three armed forces.

48. ▶ Sep 05 - International Day of Charity.
49. ▶ Sep 05 - International Day of Charity.
50. ▶ Sep 05 - National Teachers' Day in India.
- ✎ On this occasion, Vice President Venkaih Naidu presented National Awards for Teachers 2017 to 45 teachers from across country.
  - ✎ It marks birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, first Vice-President, and second President of independent India. Celebration of National Teacher's Day started in 1962.
  - ✎ As a gift on occasion of Teachers' Day, Uttar Pradesh government has decided to give 7th pay commission pay scale to teachers and professors of state colleges and universities.
  - ✎ On this occasion, A book named 'Experiential Learning – Gandhi's Nai Talim' (basic education) was released.
51. ▶ Sep 08 - International Literacy Day. 2018 theme is *Literacy and skills development*.
52. ▶ Sep 10 - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD).
53. ▶ Sep 12 - International Day for South-South Cooperation.
54. ▶ Sep 14 - National Hindi Divas. marking adaptation of Hindi language as official language of India by Constituent Assembly of India on 14 September 1949. Under Article 343 of Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagri script was adopted as official language.
- ✎ On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind presented Rajbhasha awards for Year 2016-17 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. PNB bagged *Rajbhasha Kirti* award for outstanding performance in implementing Official Language Policy during 2017-18.
55. ▶ Sep 15 - Engineers' Day in India. IOT marks birth anniversary of Sh. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a world-renowned civil engineer who was a master of irrigation design.
- ✎ He was awarded India's highest honour, Bharat Ratna, in 1955 for his work in engineering and education. He was also awarded British knighthood King also awarded to by George V, giving him the honorific "sir".
56. ▶ Sep 15 - International Coastal Cleanup Day.
57. ▶ Sep 15 - International Day of Democracy. 2018 theme is *Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World*. Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to promotion and consolidation of democracy.
58. ▶ Sep 16 - UN International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- ✎ This designation was made on December 19 2000, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
  - ✎ On this occasion, Ministry of Power launched Chiller Star Labelling Program to encourage deployment of energy efficient chiller systems in India. Based on test certificate from designated agencies and after verification from Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), star label on the scale of 1 (less efficient) to 5 (most efficient) will be assigned.
    - ✎ It will help in saving over 500 million units of electricity in 2019 along with Green House Gases reduction of 0.5 million-ton equivalent of CO<sub>2</sub>. It will also save more than 4 billion units of electricity by 2030 with CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction of 3.5 million ton.
    - ✎ On this occasion, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), making India first country in world to develop such document. It aims to provide sustainable cooling, while protecting ozone layer.
      - ✎ It provides a 20-year perspective, with projections for cooling needs in 2037-38.
      - ✎ Goals suggested in ICAP are -
        - ✎ Reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by year 2037-38.
        - ✎ Reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25 % by 2037-38.
        - ✎ Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38.
        - ✎ Train and certify 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, in synergy with Skill India Mission.
59. ▶ Sep 21 - International Day of Peace. 2018 Theme is *The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70*. Sep 21 is also observed as World Alzheimer's Day.
60. ▶ Sep 23 - International Day of Sign Languages. 2018 theme is *With Sign Language, Everyone is Included*. Sep 23, 2018 Also marks Centenary of the Battle of Haifa, when on 23 Sep 1918, Indian soldiers from Jodhpur, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers liberated city of Haifa (Israel).
61. ▶ Sep 26 - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 68/32 in December 2013.
62. ▶ Sep 27 - World Tourism Day. 2018 theme is *Tourism and the Digital Transformation*. Hungary is the host country for 2018's WTD, While India will be official Host country for WTD 2019. This year, 77 awardees were honored under National Tourism Awards 2016-17. Notable Awardees are -

- ✎ Best State/ UT (Comprehensive Development of Tourism) - Andhra Pradesh (1), Kerala (2), Goa & Rajasthan (Joint 3rd). Sikkim in category of Jammu & Kashmir & North East of India including Sikkim.
  - ✎ Madhya Pradesh won Hall of Fame National Award, given to a state for being best for tourism three years consecutively. MP also won 10 other awards.
  - ✎ Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station - Secunderabad Railway Station
  - ✎ Best Tourist Friendly Airport - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport Ahmedabad (Class X cities), Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport Indore (Rest of India)
  - ✎ Best Film Promotion Friendly State/ UT - Rajasthan
  - ✎ Best Tourism Film - Department of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala for 'Live Inspired'.
  - ✎ Best Heritage City - Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Mandu (Madhya Pradesh) as Joint Winners.
  - ✎ Tourism Minister also launched 'Incredible India Mobile App' and the 'Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification' programme.
63. ▶ Sep 27, 2018 - World Maritime Day (WMD) 2018. It is observed every year on last Thursday of September. 2018 theme is *IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future*. The day was first observed in 1978.
64. ▶ Sep 29 - World Heart Day.
65. ▶ Sep 30 - International Translation Day. 2018 Theme is *Translation: promoting cultural heritage in changing times*.
66. ▶ Sep 9 is observed as Himalaya Day in Uttarakhand, since 2014 onwards.
67. ▶ September 2 - World coconut day.

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## **Defence**

1. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) announced its plans for Andhra Pradesh to make it a 'strategic base' and strengthen its presence in the region. It Includes -
  - ✎ Set up a major helicopter training facility at Donakonda in Prakasam district.
  - ✎ Establishing a drone manufacturing facility in Anantapur district.
  - ✎ A cyber security centre in Amaravati and making Rajahmundry and Vijayawada airports asset positioning bases.
2. ▶ 1st session of India and Russia joint air exercise Aviandra 2018 held in Lipetsk (Russia). 2nd session of Aviandra 2018 will be conducted in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in December 2018. Since 2014, it is conducted bi-annually (twice a year) in both countries.
3. ▶ 2nd India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) Joint Naval Exercise held in Belawan (Indonesia). Ships and aircraft from both countries undertook patrolling on respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary Line.
4. ▶ 2nd Nepal-China joint military exercise named Mt Everest Friendship Exercise-2018 (Sagarmatha Friendship-2018) commenced in China's southwestern Sichuan province. The 12 day long joint exercise will focus on combating terror and disaster management training.
5. ▶ 3rd Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' 2018 conducted in Otar region (Kazakhstan).
6. ▶ 3rd Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) held in Indian Ocean, after a gap of 5 years.
7. ▶ 6th edition IBSAMAR (joint Navy Exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies) began at Simons Town (South Africa).
8. ▶ About Rafale Fighter Jets Deal -
  - ✎ India in September 2016 signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with France to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets (Manufactured by Dassault Aviation), for €7.8 billion. Under the deal, it was decided that India will pay 15 per cent in advance.
  - ✎ Earlier deal -
    - ✎ In June 2001, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft. In January 2012, IAF announced Rafale as preferred bidder and contract negotiations began.
    - ✎ It was proposed that 18 Rafales would be supplied to the IAF by 2015, while remaining 108 would be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in India under transfer of technology agreements.
    - ✎ Deal stalled due to a lack of agreement on various terms of RFP compliance and cost-related issues.
  - ✎ Current Controversy is that India's main opposition party raised an issue over Dassault partnering with Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence, a private company instead of state-owned HAL. However, Both French government and Dassault stated that it was Dassault's decision to choose Reliance Defence instead of HAL.
9. ▶ DRDO successfully tested indigenously developed light weight glide bomb Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW).
  - ✎ SAAW is India's first fully indigenous anti-airfield weapon project sanctioned by Government in September 2013.
  - ✎ SAAW is long-range lightweight high precision-guided anti-airfield weapon. It is 120 kg smart weapon capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to range of 100 km.

10. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved induction of upgraded Akash short-range surface-to-air missile (SRSAM) system in Indian Army, under 'Buy (Indian)' category from Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
  - ▶ Indian Army already has inducted two Akash regiments, which will now increase to 4 regiments.
  - ▶ It has range of 25 km and can engage multiple targets at time in all-weather conditions.
  - ▶ Upgraded Akash Missile System will include seeker technology, possess 360 degree coverage and will be of compact configuration with reduced signature.
11. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement worth approx INR 46000 crores.
  - ▶ Procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for Indian Navy was approved at cost of over INR 21000 crores, as first project under MoD's Strategic Partnership (SP) Model that aims at providing significant fillip to Government's 'Make in India' programme.
  - ▶ Procurement of 150 Indigenously Designed and Developed 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems for Indian Army.
  - ▶ Procurement of 14 Vertically Launched Short Range Missile Systems. Of these, 10 systems will be indigenously developed and remaining four will be imported. These missile systems will help boost self-defence capability of ships against anti-ship missiles.
  - ▶ To enhance capability of Navy at sea, approval granted for procurement of Anti-Submarine capable, 24 Multi Role Helicopters.
12. ▶ Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, started at Chebarkul (Russia). It is notable due to India and Pakistan for the first time are participating in any Joint Army Exercise.
13. ▶ First-ever joint air force exercise Between India and Malaysia commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
14. ▶ Government approved INR 8606 crores for 60 projects being implemented under umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM). projects are being implemented in 111 border districts in 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
  - ▶ India shares borders with Pakistan (3,323 km), China (3,488 km), Nepal (1,751 km), Bhutan (699 km), Myanmar (1,643 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km).
15. ▶ Government reconstituted Security Policy Group (SPG) to assist National Security Council (NSC) in Nation's security Operations. SPG will be 16-member body chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
16. ▶ ICGS Varuna (Indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited) launched for service in Indian Coast Guard.
17. ▶ INS Sahyadri will participate in Exercise KAKADU 2018, hosted by Australian Navy and will finish on Sep 15, 2018. It will be 14th edition of biennial KAKADU exercise, with participation by over 25 different countries.
18. ▶ Inaugural Military Field Training Exercise for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation nations named MILEX-18 held at Aundh Military Station (Maharashtra).
  - ▶ Nepal refused to participate in inaugural BIMSTEC military exercise, after stringent criticism from ruling and opposition parties in Nepal.
  - ▶ Also, Nepal will take part in a 12-day-long military exercise with China later in September, called 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2'.
19. ▶ India along with 23 other nations participated in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as IOWave18, organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Purpose is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout region.
  - ▶ In India, It is being coordinated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
20. ▶ India and Japan will hold first ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018 at in Vairengte (Mizoram), During November 1 - 14, 2018. Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment.
21. ▶ India and Thailand Armies conducted Joint Military Exercise called *Maitree*, in Thailand.
22. ▶ India and US agreed to elevate their bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to trilateral format by including Japan. Next edition of this exercise is scheduled to be held in December 2018. The three countries already are conducting trilateral naval war games under expanded Malabar naval exercise.
23. ▶ India and USA conducted their annual army exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2018* at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand, as 14th edition of this exercise.
24. ▶ India successfully tested Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'.
25. ▶ India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations, participated in as IOWave18. Its a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill), organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. In India, IOWave18 is being coordinated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
26. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out first ever midair refuelling of indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. It involved dry linkup (no fuel actually transferred) between IAF Il-78 tanker and Tejas fighter jet through its air-to-air refuelling probe.

- ✎ Its a be major leap for indigenous fighter which will help in enhancing its mission capability by increasing its range and payload.
  - ✎ LCA Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) as part of LCA programme, started in 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters.
27. ▶ Indian Army will consider reducing 13-lakh strong Army force by at least 150000 over next few years and revamping cadre to optimise functioning at various levels. This change will now be placed at the Army's Commanders Conference in October 2018 and the modalities will be finalised and rolled out by November-December 2018.
  28. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned indigenously built patrol vessel ICGS Vijaya in Chennai, as second in the series of 98 m offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned by ICG.
  29. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri participated in 14th edition of Multi Nation Exercise KAKADU 2018, hosted by Australian Navy. INS Sahyadri also won multi activity competition KAKADU 18 Cup.
  30. ▶ Indian Navy inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea. It will be based in Mumbai and will enhance Navy's operational capabilities.
    - ✎ With this, India joined select list of international navies (United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore UK, Sweden and Australia) with ability to search, locate and provide assistance to downed or disaster-struck or distressed submarines at high sea.
  31. ▶ India's first 'smart fence' pilot project inaugurated along two 5-km each patches of India-Pakistan International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.
    - ✎ This initiative has been taken up by BSF as part of comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS). It uses number of devices for surveillance, communication, data storage and automated surveillance technology and alarm detection systems.
    - ✎ It will make virtually impossible for terrorists to infiltrate into Indian side of border.
  32. ▶ Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 held in Ullanbaatar (Mongolia).
  33. ▶ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) received additional \$777 million contract to supply LRSAM air and missile defence systems to seven ships in Indian navy, in a contract with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL). LRSAM is part of Barak 8 family, and is an air and missile defence system.
  34. ▶ Joint exercise of India and Vietnam, named *Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018* began off Chennai coast.
  35. ▶ Ministry of Defence awarded contract for construction of 4 Survey Vessels for Indian Navy to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Limited Kolkata, with order value of 2435 crores.
    - ✎ First ship is to be delivered within 36 months and remaining within an interval of six months for each vessel.
    - ✎ These Survey Vessels (Large) shall be 110 metre long with deep displacement of 3,300 tonnes.
  36. ▶ SLINEX 2018, the joint Naval Exercise of India Sri Lanka navies held in Trincomalee.

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## **Economy**

1. ▶ RBI released new guidelines for all notes which were introduced post note ban imposed in November 2016, ending lack of clarity over exchange of the New 2000 / 200 currency notes, introduced post demonetisation.
  - ✎ Rs 2000 and Rs 200 (issued in November 2016 and September 2017 respectively) could not be governed by old rules due to their difference in size.
  - ✎ As per new Rules, the undivided area of the single largest piece of the note for a damaged Rs 2000 note must be 88 square cm for a full refund, and 44 square cm for half refund. Rs 2000 note is 109.56 square cm in dimension.
  - ✎ For a damaged Rs 200 note, the criteria is 78 square cm for a full refund, and 39 square cm for half refund.
2. ▶ 10th Edition Of Agriculture Census Data For 2015-16 Released By Agriculture Ministry -
  - ✎ Female operational land holders increased from 12.79% in 2010-11 to 13.87% in 2015-16.
  - ✎ By the number of people tilling the land, Uttar Pradesh topped the chart followed by Bihar and Maharashtra.
  - ✎ In terms of total operated area: Rajasthan comes first followed by Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
  - ✎ Among the states, the highest increase in number of operational holdings is topped by Madhya Pradesh followed by Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Nagaland.
  - ✎ Goa witnessed the sharpest fall and Manipur had the lowest in number of operational holdings.
  - ✎ The average size of agriculture landholding declined to 1.08 hectare in 2015-16 from 1.15 hectare in 2010-11.
  - ✎ The average size of farm holding was the highest in Nagaland at 5.06 hectares and the lowest in Kerala at 0.18 hectare.
3. ▶ 1st Advance Estimates of production of major Kharif crops for 2018-19 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. As per 1st Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during Kharif

2018-19 is -

- ✎ Foodgrains – 141.59 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Rice – 99.24 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Nutri / Coarse Cereals – 33.13 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Maize – 21.47 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Pulses – 9.22 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Tur – 4.08 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Urad – 2.65 million tonnes.
- ✎ Oilseeds – 22.19 million tonnes.
  - ✎ Soyabean – 13.46 million tonnes
  - ✎ Groundnut – 6.33 million tonnes
  - ✎ Castorseed – 1.52 million tonnes
- ✎ Cotton – 32.48 million bales (of 170 kg each)
- ✎ Jute & Mesta -10.17 million bales (of 180 kg each)
- ✎ Sugarcane – 383.89 million tonnes

4. ▶ 2 Loan Agreements signed between India and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) for -

- ✎ Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (I) of Yen 89.457 billion (Rs.5591 crore approx).
- ✎ Kolkata East-West Metro Project (III) of Yen 25.903 billion (Rs.1619 crore approx).

5. ▶ 21 public and 3 major private sector banks lenders collected INR 4989 crores from customers for non-maintenance of minimum balance in their accounts in 2017-18.

- ✎ SBI collected maximum 2433 crores, over half the amount raised by 24 banks together.
- ✎ In private sector, HDFC bank collected max 590.84 crores.

6. ▶ 29th meeting of GST council Held in New Delhi -

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

7. ▶ 4th Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare -

- ✎ Foodgrains – 284.83 million tonnes (record) (higher by 9.72 million tonnes than the previous record production of foodgrain of 275.11 million tonnes achieved during 2016-17). Consists of Rice , Wheat, Nutri/Coarse Cereals, Pulses, Gram, Tur and Urad.
- ✎ Oilseeds – 31.31 million tonnes. It consists of Soyabean, Groundnut, Rapeseed & Mustard AND Castorseed.
- ✎ Cotton – 34.89 million bales (of 170 kg each)
- ✎ Sugarcane – 376.91 million tonnes (record)

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

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

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

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

12. ▶ Amazon Pay, payments arm of Amazon, will acquire Sequoia-backed Tapzo, for approx \$35-40 million.

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

14. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Govt launched two farmer welfare schemes - Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY) and the Chief Ministers Krishi Samuh Yojana (CMKSY).

- ✎ CMSKY would subsume 3 programmes - CM's Employment Generation Scheme, CM's Agri-Mechanization Programme and the CM's Flagship Programme on Tea and Rubber.

- ▶ CMKSY aims at empowering farmers through cooperative approach, by providing them timely support and marketing intervention for better price realization and income.
- 15. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh became first State in North East India to introduce Smart e-Public Distribution System (e-PDS), developed by Madras Security Printers. It provides centralized online real-time electronic PDS to improve efficiency in supplying commodities to the beneficiaries.
- 16. ▶ As per National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development's (NABARD)'s First All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17 -
  - ▶ Agricultural household account for 48% of rural households. Agriculture (farming) generates only 23% of rural income. Only 43% of average income of agricultural households comes from cultivation of crops and rearing of animals.
  - ▶ Number of rural households in India at 21.17 crores, of which 10.07 crores are agricultural.
  - ▶ Average net monthly income of Indian rural households in 2016-17 was INR 8059.
  - ▶ Among agricultural households, share of average income from cultivation and livestock rearing was just over 43%.
- 17. ▶ As per a RBI Report, India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to a four-quarter-high at 2.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) in April-June period, from 1.9% of GDP in the January-March quarter of 2017-18.
- 18. ▶ As per recent report, FDI in telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-18. Draft National Digital Communications Policy 2018 aims to attract investment of USD 100 billion in Digital Communications Sector.
- 19. ▶ Asia Index Pvt Ltd launched S&P BSE Private Banks Index to measure performance of private banks, drawn from constituents of S&P BSE Finance Index, Asia's oldest exchange. It would measure performance of private banks listed in India.
- 20. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing of up to \$500 million for a multi tranche financing facility (MFF) infrastructure project in various cities of Tamil Nadu.
- 21. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing package of \$245 million to implement project for providing safe, sustainable drinking water service to million people in three districts of West Bengal (North 24 Parganas, Bankura and Purba Medinipur) affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.
- 22. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US \$150 million loan for establishing first multi-skills park of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal. It will create more skilled workforce that meets labour market needs of the state.
- 23. ▶ Asian News International (ANIO) and Emirates News Agency (WAM) signed MoU for bilateral cooperation in area of free news exchange in Abu Dhabi.
- 24. ▶ Assam state assembly passed an amendment in Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act 2018 -
  - ▶ GST registration for companies having up to 20 lakh rupees (earlier Rs. 10 lakh) turnover per annum has been exempted.
  - ▶ limit of turnover from Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore has been increased for businesses to be eligible for filing one per cent composite tax.
- 25. ▶ Axis bank become first bank in India to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar -based transactions through its micro ATM tablets. This is being run as a pilot project in 8 branches of rural Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- 26. ▶ BRICS' Bank (New Development Bank) approved a \$525-million loan for infrastructure projects in Madhya Pradesh, for rehabilitating major district roads with a total length of about 2,000 km.
  - ▶ NDB Headquarters is in Shanghai (China), with K.V. Kamath as President.
- 27. ▶ BSE, PTC India Ltd and ICICI Bank will jointly form India's third electricity exchange, after 2 operating power exchanges - Power Exchange of India (PXIL) and India Energy Exchange (IEX).
- 28. ▶ BSNL signed pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India. As per BSNL, 5G will be launched in India in 2020 as soon standards are finalized by ITU.
- 29. ▶ Bandhan Bank surpassed YES Bank and became 6th most valuable private sector bank and seventh most valued listed lender in India. Bandhan Bank with a market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 840 billion surpassed YES Bank with m-cap of Rs 838 billion.
- 30. ▶ Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) closed its 51 branches across country (out of its approx 1900 branches) as part of cost-cutting measures, as first such measure initiated by any PSB.
- 31. ▶ Banks Board Bureau (BBB) appointed two firms *Egon Zehnder International* and *Hay Consultants* to assist in developing strategies for top bank management.
  - ▶ Egon Zehnder will design a flagship leadership development strategy for state-run banks in India.
  - ▶ Hay Consultants will assess leadership competencies and potential capabilities of people appearing for post of whole time directors in state-run banks.
- 32. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) launched BSNL WINGS VOIP based service, requiring no SIM or cable wiring. WINGS offers unlimited free audio/video calling for one year. It can be activated with a one-time fee of Rs. 1,099.

33. ▶ Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* (PMJJBY), a government-backed life insurance scheme. It offers Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover for a nominal premium of Rs 330 per annum and can be purchased by all existing or new Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between ages 18-50.
34. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became first Indian stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts, with launch of contracts in popular commodities like gold (1kg) and silver (30kg). SEBI recently allowed BSE and NSE to launch commodity derivatives trading under unified exchange regime wherein stock exchanges will be allowed to offer trading in commodities derivatives.
35. ▶ CRISIL upgraded AU Small Finance Bank's Long Term Debt Instruments Rating to CRISIL AA- with Stable Outlook from previous CRISIL A+. Now, AU Bank's long-term instruments have got a rating of AA- from all four rating agencies including CARE Ratings, India Ratings and ICRA Ratings.
36. ▶ Cabinet extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018.
- ▶ To further incentivize people's participation, age criterion for participation has been revised. Earlier, people of age 18 to 60 years were entitled to enroll in this scheme. But now it has been relaxed further to 65 years.
  - ▶ All accounts opened after August 2018 will have accident insurance limit of Rs 2 lakh, double than earlier Rs 1 lakh limit.
  - ▶ The overdraft facility of the scheme was also increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
  - ▶ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is a social security scheme that aims to provide affordable universal access to essential social security protection to unorganized work force of country, which constitute more than 85% of workforce.
  - ▶ It had replaced earlier government-backed pension Swavalamban scheme targeted at the unorganised sector. It was launched in June 2015. It is available to all citizens of India in age group of 18-40 years.
37. ▶ Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange, to launch commodity derivatives trading from 1 October, 2018. It is done as part of SEBI's December 2017 announcement of having unified exchange regime wherein stock exchanges will be allowed to offer trading in commodities derivatives.
- ▶ Universal exchanges will help in achieving integration of trading in commodity derivatives market with other segments of securities market at exchange level. It will help in providing efficient price discovery, reduction in timelines, cost effective, user-friendly, robust risk management system and wider market penetration.
  - ▶ In long term, Indian exchanges will find it easier to compete with their global counterparts and they are present in multiple segments.
  - ▶ SEBI also approved several proposals, including a revised framework for settlement of cases and new KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors. It allowed foreign investors to trade in commodity derivatives market, except for sensitive commodities, as well as common application form for registration of FPIs in domestic market.
38. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released Direct Taxes Data updated up to FY 2017-18 and income-distribution data for AY 2016-17 and AY 2017-18.
- ▶ Constant growth in direct tax-GDP ratio over 3 years and ratio of 5.98% in FY 2017-18 is the best DT-GDP ratio in last 10 years.
  - ▶ Growth of over 80% in number of returns filed in last four financial year, from 3.79 crore in FY 2013-14 to 6.85 crore in FY 2017-18.
  - ▶ For AY 2014-15, corresponding to FY 2013-14 (base year), return filers declared gross income of 26.92 lakh crores, which has increased by 67% to Rs.44.88 lakh crore for AY 2017-18.
  - ▶ 88,649 taxpayers disclosed income above 1 crore in AY 2014-15, which increased to 1,40,139 for AY 2017-18 (growth of 60%).
  - ▶ Individual taxpayers disclosing income above Rs. 1 crore increased during the period under reference from 48,416 to 81,344, which translates into a growth of 68%.
39. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released its annual report on additional tax from MNCs through 219 APAs(199 unilateral and 20 bilateral). As per report, In FY18, MNCs have acquired an extra income of Rs 10,000 crore, translating into a tax of Rs 3,000 crore.
- ▶ APAs (Advanced Pricing Agreements) are primarily aimed at avoiding transfer pricing disputes arising from cross-border transactions undertaken by MNCs. It is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority.
40. ▶ Central Government enhanced its contribution in State Disaster Response fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90%, from April 2018. Additional contribution thus rising for Central Government in SDRF will be 1690 crores for 2018-19 and 1774 crores for 2019-20.
- ▶ Under Disaster Management Act 2005, SDRF has been constituted in each State in which Centre, so far, had been contributing 75% for General Category States and 90% for Special Category States of hilly regions every year.
  - ▶ On recommendations of 14th Finance Commission (Headed by Y V Reddy and operational between 2015-20), Government significantly enhanced allocation to SDRF by 82.30% (from 33580 crores during 2010-11 to 2014-15 to 61,220 crore 2015-16 to 2019-20).
41. ▶ Central Government, State Government of Rajasthan and World Bank signed \$250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL) to support Rajasthan in improving the performance of its Electricity Distribution Sector under State's 24x7 Power for All program



- ▶ Second Programmatic Electricity Distribution Reform Development Policy Loan for Rajasthan is second in series of 2 operations planned for a comprehensive turnaround of Rajasthan's electricity distribution sector. The First Loan was closed in March 2017.
- 42. ▶ Department of Financial Services (DFS) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) jointly developed a mobile app called *Jan Dhan Darshak*, as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiatives. It will guide common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location.
  - ▶ With over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) mapped on App, approx. 1.35 lakh Bank Mitras would be onboarded by December 2018.
- 43. ▶ Digital North East Vision 2022 was released in Guwahati, Assam by Ravi Shankar Prasad (Minister for Electronics & Information Technology), along with First electronics manufacturing cluster in northeastern region in Guwahati.
  - ▶ It identifies eight areas namely, Digital Infrastructure, Digital services, Promotion of Electronics Manufacturing, Digital empowerment, Promotion of IT and ITes including BPOs, Digital Payments, Innovation & Startups and Cyber security.
  - ▶ Under Digital North East, government will invest nearly 10,000 crore over 4 years to implement over 400 projects.
- 44. ▶ E-Commerce Firm Flipkart acquired AI-led speech recognition Liv.ai, to introduce easier shopping experience through Voice recognition.
- 45. ▶ Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) rolled out Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to changing employment pattern, during 175th ESI Corporation meeting in New Delhi.
  - ▶ Amid changing scenario of employment in India, from long to fixed short term engagement, there is need to provide assistance to employees in case they get unemployed for sometime and search new job.
  - ▶ Its beneficiaries will be insured persons covered under ESI Act 1948 for 2 years continuously. Financial assistance will be given to insured persons even while they search for new engagement.
  - ▶ Beneficiaries will be paid money, from their own contribution towards ESI scheme, in cash through bank account transfer.
  - ▶ Under this scheme, workers will be able to draw 47% of their total contributions towards ESIC after remaining unemployed for at least 36 months.
- 46. ▶ End-to-end IoT service provider *Unlimit* partnered with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to offer comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) services to enterprise customers across India.
- 47. ▶ Exim Bank of India signed cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake "collaborative research" in distributed ledger/blockchain technology.
- 48. ▶ Federal Bank signed MOU with Infopark Kakkanad for leasing space in their campus, after obtaining RBI approval for creation of a subsidiary company.
- 49. ▶ Finance Ministry doubled pecuniary limit to INR 20 lakh from 10 lakh for filing loan recovery application in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions. It means that banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if pecuniary limit amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh. This move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs.
- 50. ▶ Finance Ministry increased interest rates for non-governmental provident funds, gratuity and superannuation to 8 % from existing 7.6 %, Also hiking interest rates for small savings schemes by 40 basis points. Changes are effective from October to December 2018.
- 51. ▶ First-ever Mizoram International Short Film Festival (MISFF) held at Aijal Club in Aizawl.
- 52. ▶ Google partnered with four Indian banks to grant Instant consumer loans online, after rebranding its UPI Payments app Tez as *Google Pay*. Banks are HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank. The Instantly lending features will be available soon in the Google Pay App.
- 53. ▶ Government announced several measures to check rising Current Account Deficit (CAD) and fall in Indian Rupee. CAD had widened to 2.4% of GDP in the first quarter of 2018-19, compared to 1.9 % a quarter before. Indian Rupee is touching new Lows everyday, staying over 70 / USD. Several steps to be taken by government to curb these issues -
  - ▶ To permit manufacturing sector entities to avail of External Commercial Borrowing (ECBs) up to \$50 million with minimum maturity of one year, instead of the earlier limit of three years.
  - ▶ Removing restrictions with respect to FPI exposure limit of 20 % in corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate group or company or entity and 50 % of any issue of corporate bond.
  - ▶ Removal of withholding tax on rupee-denominated bonds known as Masala bonds issued till March 2019.
- 54. ▶ Government approved a special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector, involving implementation of Central Sector Scheme - Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP) with expenditure of 2600 Crores for 2017-20.
  - ▶ To boost leather industry in Tamil Nadu under IFLADP, 4 projects with outlay of 107 crores are approved - Upgradation of Tala Trichy Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Trichy, Pallavaram CETP at Nagalkeni Chrompet, and SIDCO Phase-I CEPT at Ranipet and Perundurai leather industries Eco Security Pvt. Ltd. at Erode.
  - ▶ DIPP also approved mega leather cluster at Bantala in West Bengal.

55. ▶ Government approved complete electrification of Indian Railways by 2021-22, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel and saving revenue. It will cost approx 12100 crores.
- ✎ CCEA's decision covers only electrifying remaining 13,675 kilometers (16,540 track kilometers). Currently, around 48% of 61,680 km broad gauge railway network is electrified. This approval does not cover 3,479 km of metre gauge and 2,209 of broad gauge network.
  - ✎ After complete electrification, India will be having second largest electrified railway networks in the world after China, which has 87,000 km electrified network (around 68% of its network) and only large railway with 100 % electrification.
56. ▶ Government approved expansion of capital base of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to 10000 crores, under Revitalising Infrastructure & Systems in Higher Education (RISE) by 2022. Financing of infrastructure of Centrally Funded Educational Institutions would henceforth be through HEFA loans. Financing windows -
- ✎ Technical Institutions more than 10 yr old would repay Principal Portion from internally generated budgetary resources. 100% of interest costs would be serviced by Government.
  - ✎ Technical Institutions started between 2008 and 2014 would repay 25% of principal portion from internal resources. 75% of principal and 100% of interest costs would be serviced by Government.
  - ✎ Central Universities started prior to 2014 will repay 10% of principal from internal resources. 90% of principal and 100% of interest costs would be serviced by Government.
  - ✎ Newly established Institutions (started after 2014) would completely service principal and interest costs of loan through OH-31.
57. ▶ Government made Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts. It was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years
- ✎ Overdraft limit for account holders has now been doubled to Rs 10000.
  - ✎ Free accident insurance cover for those opening Jan Dhan accounts after August 28 too has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh
  - ✎ There will be no conditions attached for over-draft of up to Rs 2,000.
  - ✎ Upper age limit for availing the facility has also been hiked to 65 from the earlier 60 years.
58. ▶ Government modifies operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) -
- ✎ Provision of Penalties for States, ICs and Banks - 12% interest rate to be paid by Insurance Company to farmers for delay in settlement claims beyond 2 months of prescribed cut off date. State Govt. will pay 12% interest rate for delay in release of State share of Subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut off date/submission of requisition by Insurance Companies.
  - ✎ Detailed Standard Operating Procedure for Performance evaluation of ICs and their de-empanelment.
  - ✎ Inclusion of Perennial horticultural crops (on pilot basis) under PMFBY.
  - ✎ Inclusion of cloud burst and natural fire in localized calamities in addition to hailstorm, landslide, and inundation. Add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals on pilot basis.
  - ✎ Mandatory capturing of Adhaar number, to avoid duplication.
  - ✎ Rationalization of methodology for calculation of TY - Moving average of best 5 out of 7 years for calculation of claim amount.
  - ✎ More time to insured farmer to intimate individual claims – 72 hours (instead of 48 hours).
  - ✎ To ensure that more non-loanee farmers are insured under scheme, insurance companies are given a target of enrolling 10% more non-loanee farmers than previous corresponding season.
  - ✎ Insurance companies will mandatorily spend 0.5% of gross premium per company per season for publicity and awareness of scheme.
  - ✎ Release of upfront premium subsidy will be made at beginning of the season based on 50% of 80% of total share of subsidy of corresponding season of previous year as GOI/State subsidy.
59. ▶ Government notified sale of electoral bond by SBI through its 29 authorized branches from 1-11-2018 to 10-11-2018.
- ✎ Electoral Bond is just like a promissory note that will be payable to bearer on demand and free of interest, aimed at Transparent political funding.
    - ✎ A party registered under the Representation of People's act, 1951 and securing not less than one percent of the votes polled in the preceding election is entitled to receive the electoral bonds.
    - ✎ Electoral Bonds are valid for fifteen calendar days from date of issue.
    - ✎ Bonds are issued in multiples of 1000, 10000, 1 lakh, 10 lakh, 1 crore. Cash donation has been capped at Rs. 2000 and beyond that donations are via electoral bonds.
60. ▶ Government of India approved changes in interest rates for Small Savings Schemes for Third Quarter of the Current Financial Year 2018-19 (October - December 2018). Updated interest rates are -

Name	Rate of interest in Current Quarter (July - September 2018)	Rate of interest in Current Quarter (October - December 2018)	Compounding frequency
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually

1 Year Time Deposit	6.6	6.9	Quarterly
2 Year Time Deposit	6.7	7.0	Quarterly
3 Year Time Deposit	6.9	7.2	Quarterly
5 Year Time Deposit	7.4	7.8	Quarterly
5 Year Recurring Deposit	6.9	7.3	Quarterly
5 Year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.3	8.7	Quarterly and paid
5 Year Monthly Income Account	7.3	7.7	Monthly and paid
5 Year National Savings Certificate	7.6	8.0	Annually
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.6	8.0	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.3 (will mature in 118 months)	7.7 (will mature in 112 months)	Annually
Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme	8.1	8.5	Annually

61. ▶ Government proposed merger of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank in order to create India's third-largest bank. It aims to make banks stronger and sustainable as well as increase their lending ability.

✎ After this merger announcement, Fitch Ratings ranked BOB's viability ratio to 'rating watch negative'. It currently stands at 'bb'. It reflects potential negative effects of the merger in the long term, as merged entity would have larger bad loans.

62. ▶ Government to Government Umbrella Agreement on Financial Cooperation and Technical Cooperation 2017 under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation signed in New Delhi.

✎ Financial Cooperation of 610 million Reduced Interest Loan (RIL) and Euro 5.5 million Financial grant

✎ Technical Cooperation of Euro 38.20 million.

63. ▶ Government unlocked green funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore to increase the country's forest cover, as an accumulated amount, deposited by user agencies as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, since past 10 years.

✎ 80 % of this green fund will be utilised by the states for green activities listed under 13 permissible activities.

✎ Remaining 20 % will be used for 11 listed works to strengthen forest and wildlife protection related infrastructure.

✎ According to India State of Forest Report (SFR) 2017, India posted a marginal 0.21 % rise in area under forest between 2015 and 2017. India has about 7, 08,273 sq kms of forest, which is 21.53 % of its geographical area, aimed to increase it to at least 33 %.

64. ▶ Government will issue Sovereign Gold Bonds every month from October 2018 to February 2019 as per Given schedule, through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, NSE and BSE.

S.No.	Tranche	Period of Subscription	Date of Issuance
1	2018-19 Series II	October 15-19, 2018	October 23, 2018
2	2018-19 Series III	November 05-09, 2018	November 13, 2018
3	2018-19 Series IV	December 24-28, 2018	January 01, 2019
4	2018-19 Series V	January 14-18, 2019	January 22, 2019
5	2018-19 Series VI	February 04-08, 2019	February 12, 2019

✎ Features of Bond -

Item	Details
Eligibility	Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
Denomination	Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
Tenor	Tenor will be for 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th and 7th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
Minimum size	Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.
Maximum limit	4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March).
Issue / Redemption price	Price will be fixed in INR on basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for last 3 working days of week preceding subscription period (50 per gram less for online payments)
Payment	Cash payment (upto a maximum of ` 20,000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.

option	
Interest rate	The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
Collateral	Can be used as collateral for loans. Loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by RBI.
Tax treatment	Interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per provision of Income Tax Act 1961. Capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted.
SLR eligibility	Bonds acquired by banks shall be counted towards Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
Commission	Commission for distribution of bond shall be paid at rate of 1 Rupee per 100 Rupees of total subscription received. Receiving offices shall share at least paise 50 per hundred Rupees of commission so received with agents.

65. ▶ Government, NABARD and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) signed revised Agreement funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) through Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).
66. ▶ Government's gross direct tax collection rose 16.7% to Rs 5.47 lakh crore in first six months of Current FY 2018-19. Government issued refunds of Rs 1.03 lakh crore in the first six months, 30.4% higher than the amount returned during same period last year.
67. ▶ Govt. Owned Bank of India closed down its operations at New Jersey in Channel Islands (USA), soon after it recently closed down its operations in Yangon, Botswana and Dubai.
68. ▶ Gujarat government formed a committee to look into complaints of farmers who have not received timely compensation for crop loss.
- ▶ Gujarat government also increased insurance cover compensation for farmers in event of accidental death or disability. Compensation doubled for Accidental death from 1 lakh to 2 lakh, and Partial disability from 50000 to 1 lakh.
69. ▶ HDFC Bank retained its top spot in the Brand India Top 50 for the fifth year in a row. The total brand value of HDFC bank grew by 21 % to \$21.7 billion in 2018. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) comes at the second spot, while Tata Consultancy Services ranked third on the list.
70. ▶ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) become first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform", an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers. TReDS refers to Trade Receivables Discounting System.
71. ▶ Home Ministry has issued new Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for cash refilling of automated teller machines (ATMs), after rising incidents of attacks on cash vans, cash vaults, ATM frauds and other internal frauds.
- ▶ Most Notable event was a recent huge cyber attack on pune based Cosmos co-operative bank, in which hackers robbed approx 94 Crores from bank. It was first such attack on any Indian Bank.
  - ▶ New Terms will be effective from 8 February 2019. There are over 8,000 cash vans in India, handling over 15000 crores daily.
  - ▶ New Features -
    - ▶ Sets deadline of replenishing cash in ATMs before 9pm in cities and 6pm in rural areas, 4 PM for Naxal-hit districts.
    - ▶ Every cash van must have one driver, two armed security guards, two ATM officers or custodians.
    - ▶ The cash van should not carry cash of more than Rs. 5 crore per trip.
72. ▶ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) launched a new digital platform 'MyDeal' to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to information such as investors' feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.
73. ▶ ICICI Prudential Life inked pact with Saraswat Bank to offer insurance products to its customers.
74. ▶ IDFC bank will change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd', after amalgamation with non-banking financial company Capital First.
75. ▶ IFFCO signed joint venture with Spanish Firm Congelados De Navarra (pioneer in quick frozen (IQF) technology) to set up food processing plant at Ludhiana in Punjab with an investment of Rs 325 crores, to foray into food processing sector. In JV, IFFCO will have 30% stake.
76. ▶ IRDA approved micro-insurance policies (sum assured of 50000 or less) disbursement through point-of-sales (PoS), to promote insurance coverage among economically vulnerable sections.
77. ▶ IT Industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) launched its Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at Gurugram (Haryana). It will provide platform to best minds from industry, academia, start-ups and government to drive culture of collaboration and co-creation to find solutions to accelerate India's economic development.
- ▶ NASSCOM also stated that Indian BPM industry is largest in world, generating revenue close to \$32.5 billion and an employee strength of 1.2 million. It now holds more than a 37% share in global sourcing and is witnessing a 1.7x revenue growth.
78. ▶ Ibrahim Mohamed Solih elected as President of Maldives.
79. ▶ Idea Cellular completed its merger with Vodafone India, after final approval from National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Merged entity has more than 41 Crore subscribers, a broadband network of 340,000 sites and market share of 32.2%. It has leadership position in 9 out of 22 circles. Balesh Sharma took over as Vodafone Idea first CEO.
80. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Private Life Insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd (BALIC) partnered to provide life insurance solutions, especially at doorstep of every household in country. It will leverage IPPB last mile reach for building awareness about life


insurance.

81. ▶ India Signed \$110 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance upgrade of 2800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in State of Madhya Pradesh under Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY). It is part of \$500 million Second Rural Connectivity investment Program for India approved by ADB in December 2017.
82. ▶ India signed \$ 100 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expand Sewerage and Drainage Coverage in Kolkata (West Bengal).
83. ▶ India signed \$150 Million Loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for continued improvements to road connectivity and efficiency of International Trade Corridor in West Bengal and North-Eastern Region of India.
84. ▶ India signed \$220 million Loan Agreement and a \$80 million Guarantee Agreement with World Bank, for *India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program*, to be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). It will help scale-up deployment of energy saving measures in residential and public sectors, strengthen EESL's institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing.
85. ▶ India signed \$240 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of state of West Bengal.
86. ▶ India signed \$346 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance improvement of over 400 kilometers of state highways that will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.
87. ▶ India signed Loan Agreement of US\$74 million with World Bank Group's IBRD, for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP). The Project has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 17 years. Closing date for Project is 30th June, 2023.
88. ▶ India signed a \$375 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB), to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.
89. ▶ India will overtake Japan as world's third-largest economy by 2030, according to a report by UK's HSBC Holdings. India's GDP will stand at \$5.9 trillion in 2030, compared to \$2.59 trillion at end of 2017. Notably, India recently surpassed France to become 6th largest economy.
90. ▶ India's economy grew at an impressive 8.2 % in first quarter of 2018-19 financial year (Apr - June).
  - ▶ GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2018-19 is estimated at 33.74 lakh crores, as against 31.18 lakh crore in Q1 of 2017-18, showing a growth rate of 8.2 %.
  - ▶ GDP Growth Rate was 7.7 % in Previous quarter (Q4 of 2017-18).
91. ▶ India's fiscal deficit remained INR 4.29 trillion (\$62.57 billion) for April-June Quarter of FY 2018-19 (68.7 % of budgeted target), compared with 80.8 % a year ago. India expects to trim deficit to 3.3 % of GDP this fiscal year, after meeting an upwardly revised fiscal deficit target of 3.5 % of GDP in 2017-18.
92. ▶ Indian Fertiliser major IFFCO ranked as the biggest cooperative in world by 'World Cooperative Monitor' report 2018, by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).
  - ▶ IFFCO has nearly 36,000 member co-operatives and a turnover of nearly USD 3 billion (FY 2017-18). It has retained this position from 2016.
93. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (August 2018) -
  - ▶ RBI retained GDP growth forecast at 7.4 pc for FY'19, in Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19.
  - ▶ USA's Financial Firm Morgan Stanley projected India's GDP to grow by 7.5 % in 2018 – 2019.
  - ▶ As per International Monetary Fund, India's GDP will grow by 7.3 % in 2018-19 and 7.5 % in 2019-2020.
  - ▶ India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) revised down its FY19 economic growth forecast to 7.2% from 7.4% earlier.
  - ▶ As per Ficci's survey 'Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey', Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.4 % in current fiscal.
  - ▶ Japanese Financial Firm Nomura predicted India's current account deficit (CAD) to widen to 2.8 % of GDP in FY19, from 1.9 % of GDP in 2017-18. Note that India's CAD was 0.6 % of GDP in 2016-17.
  - ▶ Indian economy is expected to grow by around 7.5% in 2018 and 2019, according to Moody's Investors Service.
  - ▶ National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) expected India's growth forecast for the current fiscal (2018-19) at 7.4 %.
  - ▶ RBI annual report 2017-18 expected India's growth forecast for the current fiscal (2018-19) at 7.4 %.
94. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (October 2018) -
  - ▶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) predicted GDP growth of India for 2018 to be at 7%.
  - ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) retained its India growth forecast for current year at 7.3% in FY19 and 7.4% in FY20, in IMF's World Economic Outlook (WTO) Report. With this, India will retain tag of fastest growing Major Economy.
    - ▶ In 2017, India had clocked a 6.7 per cent growth rate. China was the fastest growing economy in 2017 as it was ahead of India by 0.2 percentage points.
    - ▶ In China, growth is projected to moderate from 6.9 % in 2017 to 6.6 % in 2018 and 6.2 % in 2019.
    - ▶ International growth projections for both this year and next are downgraded to 3.7 %.

 Growth rate of US for 2018 is 2.9 % and that of 2019 has been powered to 2.5 %.

95. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (September 2018) -

 Fitch Ratings upgraded India's growth forecast for current fiscal to 7.8% from 7.4% earlier.

 Asian Development Bank's (ADB)'s Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2018 stated that India's economy is in an upward trajectory and GDP forecast remains unchanged at 7.3 % for 2018, and 7.6 % for 2019.


96. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired Finnish company Fluido, a top consulting partner of Salesforce, for 65 million euros (about Rs 545 crore).

97. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys signed a 3-year partnership with Tennis Grand Slam Tournament Australian Open as its official digital innovation partner.


98. ▶ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a dedicated portal named FOCAL (Forum of Cargo-Owners and Logistics-Operators) to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels, To know availability of vessels in the market. It would ensure direct interaction among the vessel operators, shippers and cargo owners.

99. ▶ Insurance Firm HDFC ERGO launched 'E@Secure', a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals, to provide protection against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss.

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101. ▶ Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) launched a new deposit scheme called *Vikas Bonanza 456*, a scheme with tenure of 456 days an interest rate of 7.10 % for public and 7.60 % for senior citizens. Minimum of 10000 and maximum of 1 crore can be deposited under this scheme.

102. ▶ Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) will issue masala bonds worth Rs. 5,000 crore to mobilise funds for various development works, with appointment of Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings for rating its masala bonds issue. The bonds will be listed in London and Singapore stock exchanges.

 Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency. It is debt instruments used by corporates to raise money from foreign investors in local currency.

103. ▶ Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and BSNL have signed an MoU for extending benefits in customer services. BSNL will use the smart card services of DMRC for collection of post-paid bills.


104. ▶ Maharashtra Government announced 500 crores for OBCs in Maharashtra, to help OBC community develop employment opportunities.

105. ▶ Mahindra Mutual Fund (subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited) launched new open ended equity scheme called 'Mahindra Rural Bharat and Consumption Yojana', to provide investors an opportunity to participate in India growth story predominantly in Rural India.


106. ▶ Meghalaya cabinet approved final draft of state's first Education Policy, to address issues related to education sector. In March 2017, a 24-member Task Force was constituted to finalise the Meghalaya State Education Policy.


107. ▶ Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) in New Delhi, with outlay of 10881 crores.

 Additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT per day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day shall be created.

 Under this scheme, milk cooperatives will be provided financial assistance of Rs 8004 crore in the form of a loan at 6.5% interest, which will be reimbursed over 10 years.


 Other schemes for Dairy Development -

 World Bank-funded National Dairy Plan Phase-I scheme is being done by NDDB through state government's cooperative milk organizations/milk federations.

 Implementation of the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) is being done by state's cooperative/milk federations, for development of cooperative milk committees, incentives to increase the number of milk producers and increase processing and refrigeration capacity.


 Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which Aims to Conserve and Develop Indigenous Breeds.

108. ▶ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched Niryat Mitra mobile App, developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). It provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade, including policy provisions for export and import, GST rate, available export incentives, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures. All information is available at tariff line.
- ✎ It maps ITC HS code of other countries with that of India and provides all required data without users bothering about HS code of any country. Presently app comes with data of 87 countries.
109. ▶ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched a transformative initiative in MSME credit space, with URL *portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com*, which will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to INR 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya and Indian Bank).
- ✎ It sets a new benchmark in loan processing and reduces the turnaround time from 20-25 days to 59 minutes. Subsequent to this in principle approval, loan will be disbursed in 7-8 working days.
  - ✎ The loans are undertaken without human intervention till sanction / disbursement stage. A User Friendly Platform has been built where MSME borrower is not required to submit any physical document for in-principle approval.
110. ▶ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley reviewed performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) with their Chief Executives and other Whole-time Directors in New Delhi.
- ✎ Review took note of continued improvement in banking in terms of highest ever recovery in the last quarter, pick-up in credit growth to 13.5%, growth in MSME lending to 10.5%, highest Provision Coverage Ratio in over five years, and higher operating profits.
  - ✎ Highlights of Review include -
    - ✎ Targeting recovery of 180000 crores, up from Rs. 74,562 crore in last FY.
    - ✎ Mobilising over 18500 crore through monetisation of banks' Non-core assets in current FY for strengthening capital base of PSBs.
    - ✎ Complete rationalisation of foreign operations of PSBs by March 2019, with closure/consolidation of 57 branches/office
    - ✎ PCA banks would pursue their Quarterly Performance Milestones, including improvement in their lending risk profiles through a 6% reduction in Credit RWA to Advances Ratio and 8% reduction in Cost to Income Ratio.
    - ✎ Banks would complete action by December 2018 on fraud detection and initiation of action in respect of NPAs with outstanding of above INR 50 crore.
    - ✎ End-to-end OTS platform for all online & offline OTS proposals by March 2019
    - ✎ EASE and financial inclusion efforts are to be intensified. For EASE, banks were advised to modernise more branches to enable self-service for customers in digital mode.
  - ✎ Mr. Jaitley also launched Financial Inclusion Index, to be annually released by Department of Financial Services (DFS). It will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality. It will be released in January 2019.
111. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) for increasing awareness and accelerating use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments and their agencies.
- ✎ GeM provides online, end to end solution for procurement of commonly used goods and services for all Central Government Departments and State Governments.
112. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry is developing National Logistics Portal is to ensure ease of trading in international and domestic markets, by linking stakeholders of EXIM (export and import), domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on single platform.
- ✎ It will be implemented in phases and will fulfil Central Government's commitment to enhance trade competitiveness, create jobs, boost India's performance in global rankings and pave way for India to become logistics hub.
113. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) made it mandatory for unlisted public companies to issue new shares or transfer of all shares in dematerialised or demat (i.e. in electronic form) form, beginning October 2, 2018. With this, major benefits of dematerialisation of securities will now be available to unlisted Public companies.
- ✎ It is seen as measure for further enhancing transparency, investor protection and governance in the corporate sector.
  - ✎ It will also help in elimination of risks associated with physical certificates such as loss, theft, mutilation, fraud etc.
114. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched facility for completely online incorporation of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). LLP Rules have been amended and came into effect from 02nd October 2018 -
- ✎ Introduction of a Web Service titled 'RUN-LLP (Reserve Unique Name – Limited Liability Partnership)' replacing the erstwhile Form 1 (Application for reservation or change of name).
  - ✎ Introduction of a new integrated Form christened FiLLiP (Form for incorporation of Limited Liability Partnership) replacing the erstwhile Form 2 (Incorporation document and subscriber's statement) combining therein 3 services i.e.,


 Name reservation.

 Allotment of Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN/DIN).

 Note -


 In January 2016, Central Registry Centre (CRC) was established for online incorporation of companies and reserving unique names. Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically (SPICE) and Reserve Unique Name (RUN) were launched.


 Now, PAN and TAN are issued on near real time basis by integrating online process with department of Income Tax. DIN is also allotted to the individuals at time of their appointment as Director in Company.


 Every week, over 2700 are incorporated through online company incorporation system.

115. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued draft 'National Policy on Electronics 2018' (NPE 2018) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector of India.

 Sets ambitious target of creating \$400 billion electronics manufacturing industry by 2025.

 Aims to double the target of mobile phone production from 500 million units in 2019 to 1 billion by 2025.


 Replaces existing incentive schemes like Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS), with schemes that are easier to implement such as interest subsidy and credit default guarantee etc.

 Proposes to set up 20 greenfield and three brownfield electronic manufacturing cluster projects have been sanctioned with project outlay of Rs 3,898 crore, including Rs 1,577 crore from Central Government.

116. ▶ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved proposal by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase wages of artisans by over 36 %. Now, Wages will be increased from Rs 5.50 per hank previously to Rs 7.50 per hank. On an average, an artisan makes over 20 hanks per day.

117. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched Closing the Skills Gap Task Force in India, in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF). It will be chaired by Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan along with Salil Parekh (Infosys MD & CEO). It aims to develop action plan to address skills gaps in India and make Indian workforce ready for jobs of future.

118. ▶ Moody's Investors Service stated that profitability of Indian banks is "distinctively weak" compared to other BRICS nations.


 In India, asset quality is weak due to stressed public sector banks, which dominate the sector. Indian banks have a tangible common equity ratio of 8.7 % at the end of 2017. Although profitability will improve from the next fiscal year as asset quality stabilizes.

 Comparing to BRICS, Indian lenders had 2nd highest NPA stats at 2017-end, followed by banks in Brazil (3.5 %), South Africa (2.9 %) and China (1.5 %). Russian banks had the highest NPA ratio of 11.8 %.

119. ▶ NITI Aayog and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed 3 year partnership on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeking to develop vision and action agenda for businesses and industries to contribute to SDGs. It was signed during Government and Business Partnership Conclave, jointly organised by NITI Aayog, CII and United Nations.

120. ▶ NSDL Payments Bank started operations as 7th payments bank, since RBI gave approval to 11 applicants in August 2015. Vodafone m-Pesa Ltd is the only applicant left to set up its payments bank, while 3 entities have surrendered their licenses.


121. ▶ NSE Indices launched 2 dynamic asset allocation indices designed to combine equity and debt. These are - Nifty 50 & short duration debt –Dynamic P/E index AND Nifty 50 & short duration debt – Dynamic P/B index.

 These compare current price-earnings ratio (P/E) or price-book ratio (P/B) with historical P/E or P/B ratio of Nifty 50 in previous seven years. Maximum allocation to equity is 80 % and minimum allocation is 65 %.

122. ▶ Naropa traditional Festival held in Ladakh (J & K). On this occasion, 299 women dressed up in traditional Ladakhi wedding attire danced together making it to the Guinness World Records and declared the dance performance as *Largest Ladakhi Dance*.

 Celebrated every 12th year of the Tibetan calendar, the Naropa festival, also known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas'.

123. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved Rs 65,634.93 crore loan so far to 93 prioritised irrigation projects under government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

 NABARD is mandated to provide Rs 70,000 crore loan to 99 prioritised irrigation projects under PMKSY through long term irrigation fund (LTIF), to be completed by 2019.

124. ▶ National Housing Bank (NHB) increased Refinance limit of Housing Finance Companies in current year (July 2018-June 2019) to 30000 crores up from 24000 crores. Its a credit flow to Housing Finance Companies & other Institutions.

 NHB is Principal Agency to promote Housing Finance Institutions (currently 97), and to provide financial support to eligible institutions.

125. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched UPI 2.0, as upgraded version of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) -

 It adds 4 new features to UPI,



- ✎ Overdraft facility - It will allow users to link their overdraft (OD) account to UPI. Earlier, only current accounts and savings accounts were able to linked with UPI.
  - ✎ One Time Mandate - It allows users to schedule payments. It also allows pre-authorisation of transaction in which amount will be deducted on date for which has been scheduled.
  - ✎ Invoice in Inbox - It allows users to get invoices sent by merchants in their inbox, which will help them to view and verify credentials.
  - ✎ Signed Intent and QR - This will allow users to check credentials of merchants via Quick Response (QR) code. It will enable to check whether merchant is UPI verified or not.
126. ▶ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and London Stock Exchange (LSE) signed MoU to collaborate on creating dual listing route for masala bonds and foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.
- ✎ Through approval of single listing document, issuer can obtain dual listing on LSE's International Securities Market and NSE's Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT City).
  - ✎ Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency. It is debt instruments used by corporates to raise money from foreign investors in local currency. It transfers risk associated with currency fluctuations to investors and not to issuers.
  - ✎ From issuer's perspective, masala bonds provides cheaper borrowings compared to raising funds in India besides helps in diversifying its sources of fund-raising.
  - ✎ Its issuance in long term can help to check slide of rupee and also reduce current account deficit over time.
127. ▶ New Bancassurance Tie Ups -
- ✎ Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance tied up Fincare Small Finance Bank. It aims is to push life insurance to rural population.
  - ✎ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and HDFC Life Insurance tied up with Vijaya Bank.
  - ✎ DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance and Aditya Birla Health Insurance tied up with SVC Co-operative Bank.
128. ▶ Over 27 Crore people in India moved out of poverty in since 2005-06, according to 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index released by United Nations. It stated that India's poverty rate came down to 27.5% from 54.7% during the period.
129. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Pakyong Airport, as Sikkim's first and India's 100th functional Airport, Situated at 4,500 feet above sea level. It will provide a big boost to connectivity in Sikkim and will boost its tourism.
- ✎ It is located around 60 km from Indo-China border and around 30 km away from Gangtok, capital of Sikkim. It has capacity to handle 50 in-bound and as many out-bound passengers flights.
  - ✎ PM also inaugurated new airport in Jharsuguda, also known as powerhouse of Odisha. It is first airport in Odisha to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (UdeDesh Ka AamNaagrik) Scheme.
    - ✎ Other than Jharsuguda, three more airports are being developed in Odisha - Jeypore (Koraput), Rourkela (Sundargarh) and Utkela (Kalahandi). Jharsuguda Airport Jharsuguda is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational.
    - ✎ Odisha assembly recently approved naming Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. It is 2nd airport in Odisha to be renamed, after Biju Patnaik International airport in Bhubaneswar.
130. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched flagship scheme '*Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana*' (PMJAY), also known as Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). In terms of beneficiaries, it is world's largest health insurance scheme. It was launched from Ranchi (Jharkhand).
- ✎ PM also launched a toll free number 14555 for people to get more information about Ayushma Bharat scheme. A website was also launched with URL **[mera.pmjay.gov.in](http://mera.pmjay.gov.in)**
  - ✎ Government announced that treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
  - ✎ It will provide free coverage of up to INR 5 lakh per family per year in any government or empanelled private hospitals all over India. Around 13000 hospitals in country have been coordinated for the implementation of the scheme. It will be available for 10.74 crore beneficiary families and about 50 crore Indian citizens.
  - ✎ It will be funded with 60 % contribution from Centre and remaining from states.
  - ✎ So far, 30 states / UTs have signed MoUs with Union Government to implement the programme. However, Telangana, Odisha, Delhi, Kerala and Punjab have still not signed MoUs, so the scheme will not be implemented in these states till they come on board.
  - ✎ States will be required to form a State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme and at district level also, a structure for implementation of the scheme will be set up.
  - ✎ Scheme will become operational from September 25, 2018 i.e. on birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay.

- ✎ Transactions will be cashless and paperless. It will also provide reimbursement for bed charges and drugs and diagnostics two days before, during and 15 days after hospitalisation. Beneficiary will be also paid transport allowance for hospitalisation.
  - ✎ First part of Ayushman Bharat - the health and wellness centres, was launched on Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary (April 14), and second part - the health assurance scheme, is being launched two days before Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary. Aim is to have 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres in India by 2022.
  - ✎ Beneficiaries will be decided on the basis of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.
  - ✎ Ayushman Bharat call centre was formally inaugurated in Bengaluru by CEO of Ayushman Bharat Dr. Indu Bhushan. This national call centre is operational since August 25.
  - ✎ Jharkhand government signed MoU with National Insurance Company to provide medical facilities to the people of the state under the Centre's flagship health scheme "Ayushman Bharat Yojana".
131. ▶ PayU India received RBI approval to operate its own non-banking financial company (NBFC), to help PayU promote inclusive growth by catering to the diverse financial needs of various segments of society.
132. ▶ PayU India signed partnership with Reliance Money, to offer instant app-based personal loans, via LazyPay. Loan amount will be between INR 10 - 100000.
133. ▶ Paytm Money has launched its app for mutual fund investments, in partnership with 25 asset management companies.
- ✎ Paytm Money is subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd targets to sell mutual fund to around 25 million people in 3 - 5 years.
134. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his nod to Lok Sabha passed Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018 that aims to curb practice of evading criminal prosecution by economic offenders fleeing from country to evade clutches Indian law by remaining outside jurisdiction of Indian courts. Key Features -
- ✎ It is applicable in cases where total value involved in such economic offences is Rs.100 crore or more.
  - ✎ It establishes Special Court under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 to declare a person as FEO. court will appoint 'administrator' to oversee confiscated property.
  - ✎ It empowers director / deputy director (appointed under Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002) to attach any property mentioned in application with permission of special court. Attachment will continue for 180 days, unless extended by court.
  - ✎ Bill allows any civil court or tribunal to disallow person declared FEO, from filing or defending any civil claim.
  - ✎ Director / deputy director will have powers vested of civil court.
  - ✎ Appeals against orders of special court will lie before High Court.
  - ✎ As per Reports, Vijay Mallya (promoter of defunct Kingfisher Airlines) is biggest offended as he frauded banks of about 7500 crores. Mehul Choksi, promoter of Gitanjali Jewels (7,080 crore) and his nephew Nirav Modi (6,498 crore) took second and third spots.
135. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launched India Post Payments Bank, as 6th Payments Bank in India.
- ✎ India Post Payments bank is being projected as a major steps towards Financial Inclusion, keeping in view its large reach and huge customer base (17 crore postal savings bank (PSB) accounts).
  - ✎ On this occasion, 648 branches of IPPB were inaugurated (1 in each district). 2 IPPB branches were already operational, taking number of IPPB branches to 650.
  - ✎ Government will link all 1.55 lakh post office branches with IPPB services, to create country's largest banking network.
  - ✎ IPPB will have 3,250 access points co-located at post offices. 11,000 gramian dak sevaks (in rural area) and postmen (in urban area) will provide doorstep banking services.
  - ✎ IPPB will enable general banking services including Funds transfer, mobile banking access etc.
  - ✎ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) does away with ATM cards and debit cards for both cash and cashless transactions. IPPB will issue new QR (Quick-Response) cards which work on biometric authentication and not on passwords or PINs. QR card transactions can be done through postmen, post offices or Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS).
  - ✎ Several Differences between IPPB and Post Office Savings Accounts (POSA) are -
    - ✎ Types of Account -
      - ✎ IPPB offers regular, digital and basic Accounts.
      - ✎ POSA offers standard banking and remittance services.
    - ✎ Deposits -
      - ✎ IPPB supports zero balance savings accounts and can hold max 1 Lakh. Any balance in excess of Rs 1 lakh will be transferred to related post office account, which is a regular savings bank account.
      - ✎ POSA Accounts can be opened with minimum deposit of 20 (and INR 50 as minimum to balance). The accounts with cheque facility require a minimum deposit of Rs 500.
    - ✎ Interest Rate -

- ✎ Both, IPPB and POSA accounts attract an interest rate of 4% per annum, paid quarterly.
  - ✎ Doorstep Banking -
    - ✎ IPPB aims at financial inclusion, with focus on doorstep banking services.
    - ✎ POSA does not have provisions of doorstep banking services.
  - ✎ Money Transfer -
    - ✎ IPPB, being a general Bank account, will allow funds transfer to any bank account (UPI / IMPS / NEFT).
    - ✎ In case of POSA, Money transfer allowed within post office savings bank (POSB) accounts. After POSA accounts are linked with IPPB, customers will be able to enjoy all money transfer service like other banks.
  - ✎ Governing Authority -
    - ✎ Being a Bank, IPPB will be governed by Reserve Bank of India
    - ✎ POSA are under supervision of finance ministry.
  - ✎ About Payments Banks -
    - ✎ Earlier Active Payments Banks are Airtel, Paytm, Aditya Birla, Fino and jio.
    - ✎ RBI, in 2015, gave in-principle approval to 11 entities to set up Payments Banks in India.
136. ▶ RBI cancelled licence of Rajasthan-based Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank, due to inadequate capital and earning prospects.
137. ▶ RBI Annual Report 2017 - 18 -
- ✎ RBI Expects 7.4 % GDP Growth rate for Current Fiscal 2017-18, compared to 6.7% in previous year.
  - ✎ RBI Stated that 99.3 % notes of 500 and 2000 Denominations came back into system, after being demonetized in November 2016. There were 500 and 2000 Notes worth INR 15.4 Lakh crores at the time of demonetization, out of which banned notes worth INR 15.31 Lakh crores have come back into economy.
  - ✎ India's external sector will have to confront global headwinds, but expressed confidence that the Current Account Deficit would largely be financed by foreign direct investment.
  - ✎ NPA (Non Performing Assets) percentage of Banks is likely to increase further, from 12.1 % currently.
  - ✎ Headline inflation that averaged 4.8 per cent during Q1:2018-19, is likely to face upside risks over the rest of the year.
  - ✎ India remains a preferred destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). India received \$37.3 billion capital inflow in 2017-18 as compared to \$36.3 billion in 2016-17 and \$36.06 in 2015-16.
138. ▶ RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) issued its fourth bi-monthly statement. It decided to keep policy repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5 %. GDP growth projection for 2018-19 is retained at 7.4 %. Current Monetary Policy Rates are -
- ✎ Repo Rate - 6.50 %
  - ✎ Reverse Repo - 6.25 %
  - ✎ Bank Rate - 6.75 %
  - ✎ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
  - ✎ SLR (Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 %
  - ✎ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.75 %
139. ▶ RBI allowed non-fund-based Umbrella organisations (UO) at State levels to revive India's co-operative banking sector. Gujarat is first State to have an UO for UCB sector. A conference of co-operative banking sector under name Sahakar Setu 2018, has been held in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
140. ▶ RBI allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital from overseas (relaxing policy on borrowing up to 10 billion USD). RBI has allowed state-owned oil companies to raise ECB (External Commercial Borrowings) of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.
141. ▶ RBI announced more measures to increase liquidity flows to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). RBI permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit, to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements. Also,
- ✎ RBI allowed banks to avail up to 15% of holdings under statutory liquidity reserves to meet liquidity coverage ratio norms.
  - ✎ RBI cancelled Certificate of Registration of 31 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
  - ✎ RBI approved license for Germany based Kreditech, to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) for digital lending business and app-based financing.
142. ▶ RBI approved State Bank of Mauritius to operate in country through a wholly-owned subsidiary route under name SBM Bank (India), becoming first foreign bank to obtain such RBI approval.
143. ▶ RBI approved proposal of Kerala government for the formation of Kerala Bank, decided by special task force headed by M S Sriram. Bank will be formed by consolidating State Cooperative Bank and 14 district cooperatives, with net deposit amount of INR 65000 Crores. Unification will be completed by March 2019.

144. ▶ RBI barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches and also ordered freezing of bank's CEO salary over failure to stick to shareholding rules.
- ▶ Bandhan Bank was not able to bring down shareholding of Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) to 40% as required under licensing condition.
145. ▶ RBI eased liquidity squeeze afflicting nation's money markets, allowing banks to carve out up to 15% of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements, compared to 13% currently.
146. ▶ RBI fined Karur Vysya Bank a total of Rs. 5 crore for non-compliance of its directives.
- ▶ RBI also stated that India's external debt for quarter ended June 2018 declined by 2.8 % cent to \$514.4 billion. Also, external debt to GDP ratio stood at 20.4 % at June-end.
147. ▶ RBI imposed penalty of INR 1 crores each on Union Bank of India (UBI), Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra, due to delay in detecting and reporting frauds.
148. ▶ RBI injected INR 12000 crores into system through purchase of government bonds, under Open Market Operations. Purchase of government securities maturing will bear interest rate of - 8.27 % in 2020, 8.15 % in 2022, 7.35 % in 2024, 8.15 % in 2026 and 7.61 % in 2030.
149. ▶ RBI issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control.
- ▶ As per norms,ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments. ETP Operator' shall mean an entity authorised by RBI to operate an ETP under these Directions.
  - ▶ An entity seeking authorisation as an ETP operator should possess and maintain a minimum net-worth of Rs 5 crore at all times.
150. ▶ RBI paid INR 50000 crores as dividend to Govt for last fiscal (FY 2017-18), 63% more than previous year's 30659 crores (FY 2016-17).
151. ▶ RBI proposed a flexible route for FPIs to invest in debt markets, called: voluntary retention route (VRR). Under this, a FPI will be required to invest a minimum of 67% of committed portfolio size (CPS) within 1 month.
- ▶ Under VRR-Govt, foreign portfolio investors will be eligible to invest in any government security, including treasury bills.
  - ▶ Under VRR-Corp, FPIs may invest in corporate debt instruments, including commercial papers.
  - ▶ FPIs under VRR would be eligible for participating in repo for liquidity only if their amount doesn't exceed 10% of their investment under VRR.
152. ▶ RBI shortlisted 5 IT firms for implementation of Centralised Information and Management System (CIMS) - Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini Technology Services India, IBM India and Larsen & Toubro Infotech.
- ▶ RBI has proposed CIMS comprising of DW and Data Lake (DL) to harness power of big data analytics. CMIS will include seamless data collection from regulated entities by creating system-to-system interface, system driven data validation and data review, flexible and scalable data repository and providing data dissemination platform.
  - ▶ RBI in April 2018 announced to harness power of big data analytics by setting up data sciences lab that will comprise experts and budding analysts. In pursuance of this, it had issued EOI in July 2018 for implementation of CIMS.
153. ▶ Rajasthan Govt. announced 4% reduction in value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel and Andhra Pradesh has announced Rs 2 reduction in VAT on petrol and diesel. In Rajasthan, VAT on petrol is reduced from 30% to 26% and on diesel from 22% to 18%.
154. ▶ Reliance Health Insurance (subsidiary of Reliance Capital) received final approval from IRDAI for its new health insurance business. Ravi Viswanath has been appointed as CEO of new health insurance company.
155. ▶ Reliance Industries became first Indian company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore (\$114 billion) market capitalisation, also taking up Mukesh Ambani's wealth to over \$48 billion and cementing his place further as Asia's Richest Man.
- ▶ So far in 2018, RIL shares surged over 38 %. RIL added the latest Rs 1 trillion in market cap in just 23 trading sessions.
  - ▶ Currently, RIL's market value accounts for 5% of India's total market cap.
  - ▶ TCS was first Indian IT company to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore (\$100 billion club) market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone in May 2018.
156. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all scheduled commercial banks with more than 10 branches to appoint an internal ombudsman (IO). RBI, The however, excluded regional rural banks (RRBs) from appointing IOs.
157. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19 -
- ▶ Increased Repo Rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.50 %.
  - ▶ Reverse Repo Rate adjusted to 6.25 %
  - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate now stand at 6.75 %.
  - ▶ RBI retained GDP growth forecast at 7.4 pc for FY'19.
  - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) and SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) stayed at 4 % and 19.5 % respectively.

158. ▶ SBI Changed Names and IFSC codes of its 1295 branches, after rationalisation/merger with six associate banks and Bhartiya Mahila Bank (BMB). SBI had 22,428 branches across India by the end of the first quarter of the current fiscal.
159. ▶ SBI launched its wealth business services by opening “SBI Wealth Hub” at Lalbagh branch in Mangalore (Karnataka), becoming first PSU bank to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.
160. ▶ SEBI allowed foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market of stock exchanges for hedging their exposures.
- ✎ Earlier, foreign entities were not permitted to directly participate in Indian commodity derivatives market, even if they imported or exported various commodities from and to India.
  - ✎ Foreign entities participating in Indian commodity markets shall be known as eligible foreign entities (EFEs). They will be eligible for all commodity derivatives (except contracts defined as sensitive commodity).
  - ✎ All eligible EFEs are mandated to have actual exposure to Indian physical commodity markets with minimum net worth requirement of \$500,000.
  - ✎ It will increase liquidity, especially in commodities like guar gum, guar seed, mustard seeds and cardamom that are not traded in other international exchanges. It will also expand participation of foreign entities in metals commodities.
161. ▶ Sarvatra Technologies launched ‘Sevalia Urban Co-operative Bank’ as 450th co-operative bank on National Financial Switch (NFS). Sarvatra brings many co-operative banks on digital payment platform by making them inter-operable with large banks.
162. ▶ Shipping Ministry signed new wage settlement agreement for Group C & D category of Port and Dock Workers, to benefit over 1.35 lakh port and dock workers and pensioners in 12 major ports across country. It includes -
- ✎ It will provide 10.6 % wage hike to workers and pensioners.
  - ✎ The lowest grade of workers would get a pay-scale of Rs 20900-43600 and the highest grade worker would get a pay-scale of Rs 36500-88700. Financial implication expected to be around Rs 560 crore per annum.
163. ▶ Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling launched first data sharing and accessibility portal of Sikkim, called State Data Sharing and Accessibility Platform (SDSAP). State IT Department would upload data in portals twice a year – in April-May and September-October. State Direct Benefit Transfer portal was also launched.
164. ▶ Singapore-based investment firm Temasek will invest up to Rs 2,750 crore (\$400 million) in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund’s (NIIF) Master Fund.
- ✎ NIIF now has agreements totalling almost Rs. 10,000 crore, with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) having committed to invest up to \$1 billion (about Rs 6,500 crore) and domestic financial institutions, about Rs. 500 crore.
  - ✎ NIIF was set up in December 2015 to catalyse funding into the country’s infrastructure sector by serving as quasi sovereign wealth fund (SWF). It aims to maximize economic growth of country mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects.
  - ✎ It has targeted corpus of Rs 40,000 crore to be raised over the years – 49% of it will be funded by government and remaining 51% will be raised from domestic and global investors.
165. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) and Hitachi Payment Services India signed agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.
166. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched its Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD), aimed at providing digital convenience to customers and ease of doing business for merchants. MOPAD also aims at providing convenience to merchants by eliminating multiple machines that they keep in order to facilitate transaction from different sources.
167. ▶ TCS displaced Accenture as world’s largest IT firm servicing banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector. TCS got \$2.07 billion in business from sector in July-September period as compared to Accenture’s \$2.01 billion in June-August period.
168. ▶ Telecom Operator Reliance Jio partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) to extend next generation of digital banking and payments services to customers. MyJio platform will enable SBI YONO digital banking features and solutions for a superior customer experience.
169. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) announced spectrum auction of 5G services at a pan-India reserve price of about INR 492 crore per MHz for first time in India. Previously, in 2016, recommended pan-India reserve price for 700 MHz was 11,500 crore and it has been reduced to Rs.6,538 crore per MHz in 2018.
170. ▶ To Further promote digital transactions, RBI released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) (mobile wallets). It elaborate on requirements for achieving interoperability for mobile wallets and cards, and norms for customer protection and grievance redressal.
- ✎ Interoperability will be achieved in phased manner i.e. initially inter-operability of PPIs issued in form of wallets through UPI, and later between wallets and bank accounts through UPI, and interoperability for PPIs issued in form of cards through card networks.
  - ✎ It will be facilitated to all KYC-compliant PPI accounts and entire acceptance infrastructure. In case where PPIs are issued in form of cards, then cards will be affiliated to authorised card networks.



- ✎ Level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide fell to 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000.
  - ✎ India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.
  - ✎ 15 countries with 2018 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1–15. These are - Belarus, Cuba, Estonia, Kuwait, Latvia, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Chile, Lithuania, Bosnia & Herzegovina.
  - ✎ Bottom 5 - Central African Republic (119), Chad (118), Yemen (117), Madagascar (116), Zambia (115)
  - ✎ Neighbours - Bangladesh (86), China (25), Nepal (72), Pakistan (106), Sri Lanka (67)
3. ▶ 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -
- ✎ Austrian capital Vienna ranked as world's most liveable city among 140 major cities.
  - ✎ Top 5 -
    - ✎ Vienna (Austria)
    - ✎ Melbourne (Australia)
    - ✎ Osaka (Japan)
    - ✎ Calgary (Canada)
    - ✎ Sydney (Australia)
  - ✎ Bottom 10 (Least Liveable) -
    - ✎ Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) (136th)
    - ✎ Karachi (Pakistan) (137th)
    - ✎ Lagos (Nigeria) (138th)
    - ✎ Dhaka (Bangladesh) (139th)
    - ✎ Damascus (Syria) (140th)
  - ✎ No Indian cities were ranked in top ten or bottom ten of this edition of index. New Delhi ranked 112th and Mumbai ranked 117th position in list.
4. ▶ 7 Indian companies have been listed in Fortune's 500 list 2018 of world biggest corporations, led by Indian Oil Corp (137th) and followed by Reliance (148th).
- ✎ RIL is most profitable in India and ranked 99th globally, with with Apple at top.
  - ✎ World's 500 largest companies generated \$30 trillion in profits in 2017.
  - ✎ Top 5 - Walmart, State Grid, Sinopec Group (China), China National Petroleum (China), Royal Dutch Shell
5. ▶ A massive Earthquake of 7.5 Richter Scale along with Tsunami waves hit Palu City of Indonesia, triggering over 1000 human casualties.
6. ▶ According to *The Annual World Airport Traffic Report 2018* by Airport Council International (ACI) -
- ✎ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) is 16th busiest in world, by handling 63.4 million passengers in 2017.
  - ✎ First place was held by Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson in US, handling 103.9 million passengers in 2017, followed by Beijing with 95.8 million passengers.
7. ▶ According to Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India faces grave danger to soil biodiversity -
- ✎ Atlas was released as part of WWF's biennial Living Planet Report (LPR) 2018. The key aspect of this year's report was threat to soil biodiversity and pollinators, the two key drivers of biodiversity.
  - ✎ Soil Biodiversity -
    - ✎ Soil biodiversity is total community from genes to species, and varies depending on environment. The immense diversity in soil allows for great variety of ecosystem services that benefit species that inhabit it.
    - ✎ India was coloured red on atlas and is among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk
  - ✎ Pollinators -
    - ✎ 150 million bee colonies were needed to meet pollination requirements of about 50 million hectares of agricultural land in India, only 1.2 million colonies were present. Pollination is process by which plant pollen is transferred from male reproductive organs to female reproductive organs to form seeds.
8. ▶ According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), Macau in China would overtake oil-rich Qatar with highest per-capita gross domestic product of any country or jurisdiction on earth, by 2020. Macau is only place in China where casinos are legal and its gross domestic product has more than tripled from about \$34,500 per capita in 2001.
9. ▶ According to a recent study, earth may enter an irreversible hothouse condition, with global temperatures rising by 4 - 5 degrees and sea levels rising 10 - 60 metres, even if targets under 2015 Paris climate deal are met.

- ✎ Currently, global average temperatures are just over 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial and rising at 0.17 degree Celsius per decade.
- ✎ Keeping global warming to within 1.5-2 degrees Celsius as agreed in 2015 Paris climate agreement by around 200 countries.
- 10. ▶ According to a study by Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation published in *The Lancet* -
  - ✎ India ranks 158th in world for its investments in education and healthcare, among 195 Surveyed countries.
  - ✎ Finland tops the list in two key sectors.
  - ✎ USA ranked 27th, while China placed at 44th and Pakistan 164th.
- 11. ▶ According to a study named Economic Freedom in the World by Centre for Civil Society (CCS) along with Canada's Fraser Institute -
  - ✎ India stands at 96th rank out of 162 countries in economic freedom.
  - ✎ Hong Kong (1) and Singapore (2) are at top of list. New Zealand (3), Switzerland (4), Ireland (5) are others in Top 5.
  - ✎ Among BRICS nations, Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th place and China and Brazil are behind it at 108th and 144th positions.
  - ✎ 10 lowest-ranked countries - Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Syria, Algeria, Argentina, Libya and last-place Venezuela.
- 12. ▶ According to global airlines events organiser Routesonline -
  - ✎ Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport Secured Second Spot and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport Secured Sixth Spot as fastest growing airport in world during January to June 2018.
  - ✎ Tokyo's Haneda Airport topped the Survey.
- 13. ▶ According to recent report, Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads. Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and its stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 (surpassing United Kingdom).
  - ✎ The current estimate of 140 to 150 nuclear weapons with Pakistan exceeds projection made by US Defense Intelligence Agency in 1999 that Pakistan would have 60 to 80 warheads by 2020.
- 14. ▶ According to review by Asia Pacific Policy Group on Money Laundering (APPG), Pakistan's recent action against terror financing, particularly on legal front were found to be "unsatisfactory". Note that Pakistan was placed on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in February 2018 for failing to curb terror funding. APPG examines cases of all countries on the grey and black lists and reports to FATF.
- 15. ▶ After recent launch of Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror) short-range ballistic missile, Iran unveiled first domestically manufactured fighter jet nicknamed Kowsar. Its a fourth-generation fighter with advanced avionics and multi-purpose radar.
- 16. ▶ Agriculture and Environment ministries along with UN body Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched agriculture project that seeks to bring transformative change in farm sector through conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes.
  - ✎ It will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
  - ✎ It is being funded with US \$33.5 million grant from Global Environment Facility (GEF).
  - ✎ Existing unsustainable agricultural practices have resulted in depletion of water tables, biodiversity and habitat loss for wild species and land and soil degradation which have contributed to the environmental crisis in India. To overcome it, there is need for alternative paradigm to current extractive methods of agricultural production systems.
- 17. ▶ Amid economic crisis, Argentina central bank raised its benchmark interest by 15 percentage points to 60%, highest in world. The Argentine peso is down 50% this year against the dollar and the country's inflation is running at over 30%. Many south american nations are facing economic crisis, with neighbouring nation venezuela being under more more steep financial stress.
- 18. ▶ As per Germany's Ifo Institute for Economic Research -
  - ✎ Germany's current account surplus will remain world's largest in 2018, for 3rd year at \$299 billion, in spite of increased trade tensions. It is followed by Japan in second position with \$200 billion. Netherlands is 3rd with 110 billion dollars. From 2011, Germany's current account surplus has been consistently above the European Commission's indicative threshold of 6 % of gross domestic product (GDP).
  - ✎ Current account surplus measures flow of goods, services and investments. It is considered a positive for any economy.
  - ✎ On other hand, in terms of Current Account Deficit, USA will remain to have largest current account deficit with nearly 420 billion euros.
- 19. ▶ As per International Air Transport Association (IATA), India will become world's 3rd largest aviation market by 2024. India is presently at 7th place.
- 20. ▶ As per a UN report on 'state of food security and nutrition in the world' number of undernourished globally increased to 821 million in 2017. Africa has highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting almost 21 % of population (more than 25 crore people). Situation is also deteriorating in South America, where PoU increased from 4.7 % in 2014 to a 5 % in 2017.



21. ▶ Asian Development Bank released its 2018 Flagship Statistical Report for Asia and the Pacific. This year's report is focusing on: Technological Innovation for Agricultural Statistics. As per the report -
  - ▶ Asia and Pacific region continues to grow in GDP and labour force has been reduced and is shifting from agriculture towards employment in industry and services.
  - ▶ Around 780 million people from the region moved out of extreme poverty from 2002 to 2013,
  - ▶ The GDP has increased from 30.1% in 2000 to 42.6% in 2017 (at 2011 purchasing power parity),
  - ▶ Use of satellite imagery and remote sensing technology has improved data accuracy.
22. ▶ Asian Economic Integration Report 2018 presented by Asian Development Bank, with focus on progress in cooperation and migration.
  - ▶ India hosts highest number of outward international migrants in 2017, followed by China and Bangladesh. About one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.
  - ▶ FDI in Asian region remain stable with 517.5 billion in 2017.
  - ▶ This year in the report there was a special chapter "Toward Optimal Provision of Regional Public Goods in Asia and the Pacific". It stressed on that optimal provision of Regional public goods can be a solution for development challenges in era of economic interdependence.
23. ▶ At International Court of Justice, India supported Mauritius over its claim on Chagos Islands, which are under United Kingdom's control in Indian Ocean..
24. ▶ Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid approved controversial Digital Security Bill 2018, combining colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions such as arrests without warrant. It aims to deal harshly with cybercrimes, including hurting religious sentiment, spreading negative propaganda against 1971 Liberation War and Bangabandhu (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman).
  - ▶ It also covers illegal activities in e-transactions and spreading defamatory data under its ambit. It provides for 7 - 14 years imprisonment and monetary fines of 25 lakh - 1 crore Taka
  - ▶ Law faced widespread vocal opposition from rights groups and journalists that it could endanger freedom of speech— especially on social media. The law has also drawn opposition internationally including from USA.
25. ▶ Canada agreed to sign a trade deal with USA and Mexico, revamping North American Free Trade Agreement. New deal has been named as *United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)*.
  - ▶ USMCA modernises what was covered by NAFTA by adding provisions on digital trade and intellectual property.
  - ▶ It would allow US farmers greater access to Canada's dairy market and address concerns about potential US auto tariffs. The pact will come up for review every six years.
  - ▶ Canada will export 2.6 million vehicles to USA, after 25 % global autos tariffs imposed by US on national security grounds. Deal, however, failed to resolve U.S. tariffs on Canada's steel and aluminum exports.
  - ▶ Background -
    - ▶ USA President Trump threatened to end 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement into a bilateral pact with Mexico and tax Canadian vehicle exports to USA if Canada failed to sign deal before September 30 midnight deadline. Canada, USA's 2nd largest trading partner, was left out when the US and Mexico had reached a preliminary deal in late August to revamp NAFTA.
26. ▶ Canada legalised possession and use of recreational cannabis (also called Marijuana), becoming 2nd country to do so After Uruguay.
27. ▶ China and Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) started off their first joint maritime exercises in Zhanjiang (China), to ease regional tensions linked to rival claims in South China Sea.
28. ▶ China is planning bullet trains from Kolkata to Kunming City of China, expected to traverse through Myanmar and Bangladesh. The service is also expected to give a thrust to trade and commerce in the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor.
  - ▶ BCIM project is projected to run through Mandalay in Myanmar, Chittagong and Dhaka in Bangladesh, terminating in Kolkata.
29. ▶ China launched its Centispace-1-s1 satellite, on a Kuaizhou-1A low-cost solid-fuel carrier rocket.
30. ▶ China pledged \$60 billion of financial assistance to Africa, announced at 3rd Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing. FOCAC excludes Swaziland (recently renamed to Eswatini).
  - ▶ Out of \$60 billion offered, China will disburse \$15 billion as aid, interest-free loans and concessional loans, \$20 billion as credit line, channel \$10 billion into special fund for China-Africa development and \$5 billion special fund will be set up only for African imports.
31. ▶ China successfully launched a new marine satellite called HY-1C aboard a Long March-2C rocket. It will aim at better monitor its maritime waters and study impact of climate change.
32. ▶ China successfully tested its first hypersonic aircraft called Xingkong-2 *Starry Sky-2*, capable of flying at speed 5 - 6 times that of Sound. It attained top speed of 4563 miles (7344 kilometers) per hour (speed of sound is 1235 km/h). It is difficult to trace this spacecraft due to its excessive speed.

33. ▶ China tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes, called Feihong-98 (FH-98). It has Max takeoff weight of 5.25 tonnes, capacity of 1.5 tonnes and 15 cubic metres, a flight height of 4,500 metres, speed of 180 KMPH, and a maximum range of 1200 kms.
- ✍ China is also planning to put a 'moon' of its own in the night sky by 2020, to replace conventional street lamps and save electricity.
  - ✍ Chengdu city in southwestern Sichuan province of China is developing illumination satellites, which will shine along with the real moon but will be eight times brighter.
  - ✍ These satellites will have a reflective coating which can reflect sunlight towards Earth similar to the moon. Placed only 500km above Earth, light reflected from the man-made moon will be more luminous than actual moon.
34. ▶ China will sale 48 Wing Loong II high-end armed drones to Pakistan, as largest export deal for drones to date to any country.
- ✍ Wing Loong II is a high-end reconnaissance, strike and multi-role endurance unmanned aerial system, capable of being fitted with air-to-surface weapons. It can payload up to 480kg (1,060lbs), including 12 laser guided missiles or YJ-9E anti-ship missiles. It can fly at maximum altitude of 9,000 metres (29,500 feet).
35. ▶ China's first private research university officially inaugurated in Zhejiang Province's Hangzhou city. Autonomy for top educational institutions has been a long-standing demand of Chinese academic community, as china's higher education bodies are mostly govt owned.
- ✍ Chinese Govt also announced to scrap setting population target in future, and give people more freedom with respect to childbirth. China wants to ease restrictions on family planning to combat ageing population.
36. ▶ China-Maldives Friendship Bridge opened for traffic, as first cross-sea bridge to be built in Maldives.
- ✍ It is 2.2 km long bridge and has four vehicle lanes and two pedestrian lanes. It connects Maldives capital city Male and neighbouring Hulhule island where island country's main international airport is located.
  - ✍ The bridge was built with Chinese grant of \$116 million, along with \$72 million as an additional loan.
37. ▶ Chinese President Xi Jinping officially opened world's longest sea-crossing bridge.
- ✍ The \$20-billion bridge, which spans 55 kilometres, connects Hong Kong and Macau to the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai.
  - ✍ Bridge is designed to withstand earthquakes and typhoons, built using 400,000 tonnes of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.
  - ✍ It includes dual three-lane, oversea stretch (22.9 km) and undersea tunnel (6.7 km) which reaches depth of 44 m. The rest 25.4 km of the bridge runs over land. The two ends of tunnel of bridge are connected to two artificial islands. Bridge contains 400,000 tonnes of steel.
  - ✍ Its total cost was 120 billion yuan (\$17.3 billion).
38. ▶ Delhi government signed MOU with Seoul Metropolitan Government to work closely in the fields of environment, tourism, waste / solid waste management, infrastructure and public health.
39. ▶ Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the Moscow (Russia) for cooperation in fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.
40. ▶ Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018) joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russia held in Pakistan, as 3rd addition of this joint military drill.
41. ▶ Europe Space Agency launched a rocket named 'Aeolus' from French Guyana. This satellite will be put into orbit at an altitude of 320 kilometres (200 miles) above the Earth which will track global winds, allowing for improved weather forecasting.
42. ▶ European Union (EU) will stop twice-yearly changing of clocks from October 2019, implemented during the two World Wars and the 1970s oil crisis to save energy. EU countries are required to move forward by an hour on the last Sunday of March and back by an hour on the last Sunday of October.
43. ▶ External Affairs Ministry and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) signed agreement for implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project in Africa, seen as digital bridge of knowledge and health between India and Africa.
- ✍ It is technological upgrade and extension of Pan-African e-Network Project (Phase 1) which was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017.
  - ✍ e-VBAB Network Project is completely funded by India for its entire duration, open for participation to all India's partner countries in Africa. Over its five-year duration, this project will provide free tele-education courses to 4000 students every year from African countries.
44. ▶ Facebook will invest over \$1 billion to build its first Asian data centre in Singapore, expected to open in 2022. Like other data centres, it will be fully powered by renewable energy.
45. ▶ Forbes' list of World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018 -
- ✍ Top 3 -
    - ✍ George Clooney: \$239m
    - ✍ Dwayne Johnson: \$124m

- ✎ Robert Downey Jr: \$81m.
- ✎ Indian Actors Akshay Kumar (\$40.5 million) and Salman Khan (\$38.5 million) ranked at 7th and 9th place respectively.
- 46. ▶ Former PM HD Deve Gowda (*11th PM from June 1, 1996 to April 21, 1997*) conferred with Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti Award on occasion of Valmiki Jayanti (Oct 24), for his contribution to welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities. Award will be given by Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy.
- 47. ▶ Fortune Change the World List 2018 -
  - ✎ It ranked companies using profit motive to help tackle social problems.
  - ✎ Reliance Industries' Telecom Unit Jio ranked as top company globally, for widening Internet access in India and benefitting the subscribers in terms of monetary savings and quality of services.
  - ✎ Top 5 Companies are -
    - ✎ Reliance Jio (Telecommunications) - India
    - ✎ Merck (Pharmaceuticals) - USA
    - ✎ Bank of America (Commercial Banking) - USA
    - ✎ Inditex (Specialty Retailers) - Spain
    - ✎ Alibaba Group (Internet Services & Retailing) - China
- 48. ▶ France Parliament approved a controversial asylum and immigration bill, designed to accelerate asylum procedures by cutting maximum processing time from 120 days to 90 days after entering France.
- 49. ▶ From January 2019, Indian tourists travelling to Bhutan via road will need either a voter ID or a valid passport to enter the country, while accompanying children can also travel with a birth certificate. Visitors will now get entry permits instead of identification slips.
- 50. ▶ Germany and UK with support from World Bank, launched a new Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF), To support vulnerable countries to climate and disaster shocks.
  - ✎ This fund will consist of an initial corpus of \$150 million. It will be built on the work of several existing programs including InsuResilience Climate Risk Financing and Insurance Program MDTF established by BMZ, DFID and World Bank, Centre for Global Disaster Protection established by DFID and World Bank, and InsuResilience Solutions Fund jointly established by BMZ and KFW.
  - ✎ Funding includes Insurance premium financing, Risk financing investments, Risk financing mechanisms that promote parallel improvements in countries for crisis response and recovery AND Technical assistance and capacity building where this is not yet covered by other programs.
- 51. ▶ Germany will provide soft loan of euro 120 million (INR 990 crore approximately) to India to strengthen sewage water treatment infrastructure in Uttarakhand in an effort to clean River Ganga under Clean Ganga Mission. German development agency GIZ also has prepared 'Ganga Box' aimed to target schools-going children and inform them about the river.
- 52. ▶ Global Competitiveness Report 2018 by World Economic Forum (WEF) -
  - ✎ India - Ranked 58th, Bettering 2017 Rank by 5 Places.
  - ✎ Top 5 - USA (1), Singapore (2), Germany (3), Switzerland (4), Japan (5)
  - ✎ Bottom 5 - Chad (140), Yemen (139), Haiti (138), Angola (137), Burundi (136)
  - ✎ Neighbours - Bangladesh (103), Sri Lanka (85), Pakistan (107), Nepal (109)
- 53. ▶ Google will shut down its social network Google+ for consumer use over next 10 months after a bug exposed personal data of up to 5 lakh users. Google+ currently has "low usage and engagement" and that 90% of Google+ user sessions last less than 5 seconds. Company plans to keep it alive enterprise customers who use it to facilitate conversation among co-workers.
- 54. ▶ Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved more than \$1 billion new investments for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change, during a meeting of GCF in Manama (Bahrain).
  - ✎ Funding was approved for projects linked to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and Middle East and protection for coastal communities in India.
  - ✎ About GCF -
    - ✎ GCF is UN-backed fund considered as key vehicle for climate-related development programs, guided by principles of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It aims to help developing countries to finance clean energy projects other mitigation efforts, practices and adaptation to counter climate change.
    - ✎ It was formally established by UNFCCC decision in Durban, South Africa in December 2011.
- 55. ▶ Henley Passport Index 2018.
  - ✎ Indian passport secured 81st rank with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations.
  - ✎ Top 5 - Japan (1), Singapore (2), Germany (3), France (4), South Korea (5)

56. ▶ Historic Esala Maha Perehera festival held in Kandy (Sri Lanka), held in month of Esala (July or August). It commemorates first teaching of Buddha after his enlightenment.
57. ▶ IT Firm IBM partnered with Indian IT companies (*including Persistent Systems, Invest India, Wipro, Capgemini and NASSCOM*) for its 'Call for Code' initiative that aims to build global solutions for disaster management. For this, IBM provides access to its cloud, data, Artificial Intelligence and blockchain technologies, along with training and code to developers.
58. ▶ India-based construction major Larsen & Toubro is only Indian firm to be featured among top 25 companies in Forbes' global 2000 best employers list (ranked 22).
- ▶ Among top 100, there are 4 Indian firms - Mahindra & Mahindra (55), Grasim Industries (59) and HDFC (91). Also, Total 24 domestic companies in overall list.
  - ▶ Top 3 - Alphabet (1), Microsoft (2), Apple.
59. ▶ India and Agence Française de Développement (France) signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY (MYC). MYC is part of an international initiative which is supported by French and German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December 2015.
- ▶ European Union has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million through the AFD to contribute to specific investments and technical assistance components within the Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India.
  - ▶ MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad, to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport.
60. ▶ India and Bangladesh jointly launched construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project, as first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India.
- ▶ It involves construction of 130-kilometre long pipeline that will connect Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. 6 KM stretch will be in India side and remaining 124 kilometres will be in Bangladesh.
  - ▶ Pipeline has capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum. Initially, it will supply Bangladesh 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel every year and gradually it will be increased to 4 lakh tonnes. It will replace existing practice of sending diesel by rail covering distance of 510 kilometers.
  - ▶ Also, Bangladesh approved allowing India to use its Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargo to and from its northeastern states. Indian goods can be transported through four entry points from states Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam. India will have to follow General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) and Bangladeshi regulations, pay customs duties and buy tax equivalent bonds to transport freight.
61. ▶ India and Bangladesh signed several agreements for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity, including an agreement to use Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India. An addendum to 'Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between two countries' has also been signed for the inclusion of Dhubri in India and Pangaon in Bangladesh as new Ports.
62. ▶ India and Germany signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on skill development, which will provide dual vocational education and training to Indian youth. Under it, students who complete specific training courses in India will get certificate that is recognised in India and also in Germany.
63. ▶ India and Myanmar signed MoU for appointment of private port operator for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project.
- ▶ Sittwe port in Myanmar will connect India's landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram. It will also provide alternate route to Kolkata.
  - ▶ It is also significant in implementation of India's Act East Policy as it will boost connectivity and will contribute to job creation in whole region, particularly in Myanmar's strife-torn Rakhine and Chin States.
  - ▶ It will significantly lower cost and distance of movement from Kolkata to Mizoram and beyond. It will also reduce dependency on only route narrow strip dubbed as Chicken's Neck in West Bengal, sandwiched between Bhutan and Bangladesh.
64. ▶ India contributed \$1 million to United Nations (UN) Headquarters' Solar Project, under which solar panels will be installed on roof of UN headquarters at New York (US).
65. ▶ India elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for 2 years, during its annual gathering in Colombo (Sri Lanka). Also, India's F. Sheheryar was re-elected as chair of executive board of AIBD and Sri Lanka elected as vice-chair.
- ▶ AIBD is regional inter-governmental organisation serving countries of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in field of electronic media development. It was established in 1977 under auspices of UNESCO.
66. ▶ India elected to United Nations' Human Rights Council for a period of three years, by securing 188 votes in Asia-Pacific category (highest vote among all candidates).






67. ▶ India is Partner Country in 87th Izmir International tradeshow in Turkey. India also launched its mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies. Izmir is 3rd most populous city in Turkey, after Istanbul and Ankara.
68. ▶ India launched humanitarian operation Samudra Maitri to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia, dispatching two aircraft C-130J and C-17 and three naval ships carrying relief material and personnel to Indonesia.
69. ▶ India lost one spot to rank as 9th most valuable nation brand in world, according to UK-based consultancy Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2018 report. However, India's brand value increased by 5% to \$2,159 billion. US topped the list with a brand value of \$25,899 billion.
70. ▶ India ranked 28th among 73 countries in 2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR) by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- - ▶ India jumped 8 positions in this ranking from 36th in 2011.
  - ▶ Norway has topped 2018 GEAR list scoring 89.7 points in seven categories.
71. ▶ India ranked 5th among 206 countries in 2018 *Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status* Report by Canadian Cancer Society. In India, 85% of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings.
- ▶ Top 5 - Timor-Leste (92.5%), Nepal (90%), Vanuatu (90%), New Zealand (87.5%) and India held 5th rank jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85% warnings.
72. ▶ India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion, according to a Credit Suisse report. India followed China (159 companies) and US (121 companies).
73. ▶ India stands 19th in 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons-usable nuclear materials, according to the Nuclear Security Index. The index was released by the US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI).
- ▶ Neighboring Pakistan ranks 20th in List.
  - ▶ Australia shared top spot with Switzerland.
74. ▶ India will buy 18 Bullet Trains from Japan, Each train with 10 coaches and would be able to attain speed of 350 km per hour. The 508-km high speed train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad at an estimated cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore is expected to be operational by 2022.
75. ▶ India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting joined SDG Media Compact aimed at advancing awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ▶ SDG Media Compact is initiative of United Nations, in collaboration with UN Foundation. It is alliance of news and entertainment media and it is committing to work with United Nations to foster public discourse and spur action on SDGs.
  - ▶ It seeks to inspire media companies around world to leverage their resources to advance SDGs adopted by all world leaders at UN in 2015.
  - ▶ SDGs are 17 global non-binding goals featuring 169 targets to be implemented from 2015 to 2030.
76. ▶ Indian IT industry apex body Nasscom partnershiped with Hiroshima government for co-creating a Japan-India IT Corridor in Hiroshima. Through this partnership, India would be getting a gate way to the cutting-edge manufacturing technology of Japan. Indian companies on software side can help Japanese manufacturing companies adopt digital transformation and create innovative product and solutions lines.
77. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and CMs of West Bengal (Mamta Baannerjee) and Tripura (Biplab Kumar Deb), jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh, via video conference. Projects are -
- ▶ 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, through existing Bheramara (Bangladesh) - Baharampur (India) interconnection.
  - ▶ Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link
  - ▶ Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
78. ▶ India's non-life insurance penetration risen marginally to 0.9 % of GDP (\$ 27 billion), but still remains among highest underinsurance levels globally, as per a report by Lloyd's. It was .7 % for India in 2012.
- ▶ India's insurance gap accounts for 17 % of the total global insurance gap (\$162.5 billion).
  - ▶ Globally, India has seventh-largest insurance gap, with top spot held by Bangladesh (in Terms of % of GDP). In absolute terms, China has biggest insurance gap of \$ 76.4 billion.
  - ▶ Netherlands remains the country with the highest insurance penetration at 7.7 per cent, followed by South Korea (5 %).
79. ▶ Indra Jatra festival hed in Kathmandu (Nepal), as an eight day long annual festival observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
80. ▶ Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report -
- ▶ Apple displaced Google to become top brand in the world in 2018. Apple's brand value grew 16 % to \$214.5 billion. It also became first company in US to hit the \$1 trillion market cap.


- ✎ Amazon achieved 56% growth to become third top brand globally.
- ✎ Facebook fell to 9th place, amid data breach controversies.
- 81. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a loan agreement with Economically troubled South American Nation Argentina, on a 36-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) totaling to US\$57.1 billion. It is largest ever loan given by IMF.
- 82. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization collectively launched report “Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth” report, seeking liberalisation of global service sector, asserting that barriers to these services trade currently is roughly as high as those to trade in goods about a half century ago.
  - ✎ Services comprise some two-thirds of global GDP and employment, Yet facing lags due to limited opening of service sectors to foreign competition. Full services trade liberalisation can raise manufacturing productivity by average of 22%.
  - ✎ Services comprise significant shares of value added of all sectors in economy, yet Only quarter of global trade is traded as services. The trade in services sector has potential of contributing particularly strongly to productivity growth and economic growth overall.
  - ✎ Prolonged slowdown in pace of trade reform is leading to widespread trade distortions and putting at risk strength of global economic recovery, despite recent rebound in trade.
- 83. ▶ Iran unveiled Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror) next generation short-range ballistic missile capable of striking targets on land and sea. It is believed to have range between 300-500 kilometers.
  - ✎ Amid this, USA created Iran Action Group (IAG) to execute Its Iran strategy and pressure it to change its behaviors. USA recently withdrawn from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (also known nuclear deal) signed between Iran and P5+1 countries (P5: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and +1: Germana) and European Union in Vienna (Austria) in July 2015.
- 84. ▶ Israel opened a Visa Application Centre in Kolkata for tourists from West Bengal and the northeastern states to encourage more Indian travelers to visit Israel. It also reduced visa fees to INR 1,100 rupees from 1,700 charged from Indians.
- 85. ▶ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries launched United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) first locally made satellite KhalifaSat into orbit. The Japanese rocket also carried an IBUKI-2 greenhouse gas observation satellite for Japan.
- 86. ▶ Japan became world’s first country to land 2 robotic rovers in asteroid Ryugu, also being first man made robot to have landed in an asteroid. Name of the rover that landed is *MINERVA-III1*, consisting of 2 rovers.
- 87. ▶ Japan joined joint exercise ‘Kamandag’(venom) with US and Filipino troops in Philippines for first time since World War II. Its first time Japanese armoured military vehicles were used on foreign soil since 1945.
- 88. ▶ Joint military exercise *Iron Magic 19* between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) held near Dubai.
- 89. ▶ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve became 11th Biosphere Reserve from India, to be included in UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), during 30th Session of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang (Indonesia).
  - ✎ India has 18 Biosphere Reserves, with 11 internationally designated WNBR now with this Inclusion.
  - ✎ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (Sikkim) reaching elevations of 1220 metres above sea-level.
  - ✎ Khangchendzonga National Park was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under ‘mixed’ category.
  - ✎ Over 118 species of large number of medicinal plants found in Dzongu Valley in north Sikkim are of ethno-medical utility.
- 90. ▶ Macedonia held a referendum on whether to change its name to the ‘Republic of North Macedonia’.
  - ✎ Greece and Macedonia had signed a deal in this regard in June. Greece argued that the name ‘Macedonia’ implied a territorial claim on its own province of the same name and has thus vetoed Macedonia’s entry into NATO and European Union.
- 91. ▶ Malaysia Government abolished death penalty, following strong domestic opposition for it.
- 92. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched its first Trade Finance Scorecard, a new tool to address market and boost trade finance. It aims to prevent money-laundering and terrorism. It will use a 2 level assessing, First level will consist of score out of 10 on seven criteria on the macro level and Second level will consist of five working-level issues on the micro level.
- 93. ▶ Members of European Parliament approved banning single-use plastics, to curb marine pollution. The ban is likely to take effect by 2021.
- 94. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare asked United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) to declare 2019 as ‘International Year of Millets’, to draw wider global attention and action to promote cultivation of millets.
  - ✎ India is observing 2018 as *National Year of Millets* to promote cultivation by amending cropping pattern of areas which are especially susceptible to climate change.
- 95. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) decided to participate in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) after gap of nine years, by sending team of officers to Paris to negotiate India’s terms of participation in PISA 2021.
  - ✎ Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is assessment test for 15-year-olds, organised every three years by Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Paris (France).
  - ✎ PISA measures student performance in mathematics, reading, and science and even innovative subjects like collaborative problem-solving and money literacy.

- ▶ PISA test results give insight into education systems around the world. The results are shown as a national mean score and not shown individually. Its objective is not to rank countries, but to see how education system can be improved.
- 96. ▶ NITI Aayog and United Nations signed India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022.
  - ▶ It outlines work of UN agencies in India, with 19 UN agencies signing UNSDF 2018-2022.
  - ▶ 7 priority areas outlined in the UNSDF are - Poverty and Urbanization; Health, Water, and Sanitation; Education and Employability; Nutrition and Food Security; Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Disaster Resilience; Skilling, Entrepreneurship, and Job Creation; Gender Equality and Youth Development.
- 97. ▶ NSE signed a pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to SMEs, to fuel growth of such SMEs in state by increasing awareness along with government on opportunities to raise capital, SME exchange guidelines, listing processes, compliance with listing etc.
- 98. ▶ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) signed a MoU with the Dubai Internet City (DIC) to help small and medium-sized Indian enterprises expand their operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- 99. ▶ Nepal become first country to double its tiger population in a decade as part of World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme, that aims to double number of tigers in all over world by 2022.
  - ▶ There are now estimated 235 wild tigers in Nepal, compared to 121 back in 2009.
  - ▶ Tx2 programme It was launched by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia. Under it, 13 tiger range countries had agreed to double the world tiger population by 2022, which is the year of tiger in Chinese calendar.
- 100. ▶ Ocean Cleanup foundation (founded by 24-year-old Dutch innovator Boyan Slat) launched world's first ocean cleanup array from San Francisco, called System 001, marking start of cleanup of Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a collection of marine debris in North Pacific Ocean. The patch is larger than area of France.
  - ▶ System 001, named as 'Wilson', will be able to collect 50 tons of plastic in its first year. • It consists of a 2000 ft long U-shaped floating barrier with a three-meter (10 ft) skirt attached below.
  - ▶ Great Pacific Garbage Patch -
    - ▶ Its a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean, containing up to 16 times more waste than previously thought.
    - ▶ The Patch occupies an area three times the size of France in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii with 79000 tons of plastic debris in the form of 1.8 trillion pieces.
    - ▶ It was discovered in 1997 by Charles Moore, who had sailed through a mishmash of floating plastic bottles and other debris on his way home to Los Angeles.
- 101. ▶ PM Narendra Modi conferred with United Nation's Champions of the Earth Award 2018 by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New Delhi. He is among the six winners who received this award. Other Awardees are -
  - ▶ French President Emmanuel Macron.
  - ▶ India's Cochin International Airport - Awarded in Entrepreneurial Vision category. It is world's first fully solar-powered airport.
  - ▶ Joan Carling - Awarded lifetime achievement award as a prominent defender of environmental and indigenous rights.
  - ▶ Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods - Jointly recognised in Science and Innovation category.
  - ▶ China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme - Awarded in inspiration and action category.
- 102. ▶ Pacific Endeavor-2018, a communication exercise under Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) began in Kathmandu (Nepal). It aims to develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in Asia Pacific region to collectively work in wake of disaster. It is jointly organised by Nepali Army and United States Pacific Command.
- 103. ▶ Pakistan and Russia signed contract on admission of service members of Pakistan in Russia's Military Training Institutes. This will be for first time, Pakistani soldiers will undergo training at Russian military institutes.
- 104. ▶ Pakistan invited Saudi Arabia to join \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as 3rd strategic partner. Saudi Arabia is first country that Pakistan has invited to become partner in CPEC.
  - ▶ Saudi Arabia has long history of financially bailing out Pakistan during economic crisis. Saudi Arabia loaned Pakistan \$1.5 billion in 2014 to strengthen its rupee currency, six months after Pakistan obtained its last IMF bailout.
- 105. ▶ Pakistan test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1300 kilometres.
- 106. ▶ Pakistan will launch its first manned mission in 2022, same year that India has planned to launch its own manned space mission Gaganyaan. It will be attempted by Pakistan with China's help.
- 107. ▶ Paytm launched QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan, Named *PayPay*, in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation. It is built around its QRtech, which is deployed in India to allow customers to make offline payments.

108. ▶ Philips selected 19 start-up companies for its first global start-up collaboration programme named 'AI in Healthcare for Radiology, Ultrasound and Oncology'. It will be conducted at Philips' innovation hubs in Bengaluru, Cambridge (US), Eindhoven (Netherlands) and Shanghai (China).
109. ▶ QS Asia University Ranking 2018 -
- ▶ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay) has topped the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings from India followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Madras.
  - ▶ Eight Indian universities have figured among the top 100 in the list of Asia's top 50 universities.
  - ▶ There are 75 universities from India in the top 500 Asia list.
  - ▶ National University of Singapore is ranked as Asia's best university, followed by University of Hong Kong, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Tsinghua University (China) and Peking University (China).
110. ▶ Qatar become first Gulf nation to offer permanent residency to expatriates, allowing maximum 100 expatriates to gain permanent residency each year.
111. ▶ RTI rating by Access Info Europe and the Centre for Law and Democracy , created by Transparency International -
- ▶ India ranked at 6th position out of 123 countries, after a downfall of 4 positions from the previous year. India got a score of 128 out of 150. It noted that India doesn't provide protection for whistleblowers.
  - ▶ In India, total RTIs filed in 2017 were: 66.6 lakh, out of which, 4.8 lakh were rejected. Total number of second appeals were 18.5 lakh and total penalty imposed by CIC is 1.9 crore.
  - ▶ Top 5 - Afghanistan, Mexico, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Slovenia. Austria Ranked Lowest.
112. ▶ Russia will conduct Vostok-2018 (East-2018) military exercise in September 2018, as biggest war games ever conducted by Russia since Zapad-81 (West-81) exercise conducted by erstwhile Soviet Union in 1981 which saw involvement of 100,000 to 150,000 troops.
- ▶ In Vostok 2018, over 300000 troops will participate. China and Mongolia will also participate in Vostok 2018.
  - ▶ Vostok-2018 exercise is being conducted in response to aggressive attitude towards Russia by NATO and West countries.
113. ▶ SBI signed MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for development of human resources of NBI. SBI will impart education, training and development to facilitate transformation of NBI's HR department.
114. ▶ Search engine Google launched Dataset Search, a new search engine for scientific community that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online. It will work like Google Scholar, company's popular search engine for academic studies and reports.
- ▶ It will have twin benefits of creating data sharing ecosystem that will encourage data publishers to follow best practices for data storage and publication and give scientists way to show impact of their work through citation of datasets that they have produced.
  - ▶ Google also launched a new app 'Blog Compass' to help Indian bloggers manage their site and find topics to write about. The India exclusive app works as an analytics and recommendation platform. .
115. ▶ Singapore based DBS Bank named as world's best bank by Global Finance magazine, for its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers. DBS is the first Asian bank to receive this title from New York-based publication, which last year gave it to ING Bank.
116. ▶ Super Typhoon Mangkhut, world's strongest storm in 2018, hit northern coast of Philippines with winds up to 200 kmph and heavy rains.
117. ▶ Sweden released a handbook of its "feminist foreign policy" for rights groups and foreign governments, showcasing lessons from nation's flagship approach to promote women's rights globally.
- ▶ Sweden began its feminist foreign policy in response to discrimination and systematic subordination that still marks daily lives of countless women and girls around the world.
  - ▶ Policy's main aim is to include promotion of economic emancipation, fighting sexual violence and improving women's political participation.
118. ▶ Swedish PM Stefan Löfven became country's first leader to be ousted in a no-confidence vote.
119. ▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018, according to data from US Department of Labour.
- ▶ H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals. London-headquartered Ernst and Young emerged as top employer to have received the certification.
120. ▶ Times Higher Education's (THE) world university rankings 2019 -
- ▶ No Indian institution figures in the top 250 Universities. Although number of Indian institutions in rankings increased from 42 last year to 49, making India 5th best-represented nation.
  - ▶ Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru retained its position as best In India (ranked 251 - 300 globally), followed by IIT Indore (351-400).
  - ▶ Top 5 Globally -



-  University of Oxford (UK)
-  University of Cambridge (UK)
-  Stanford University (USA)
-  Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
-  California Institute of Technology (USA)

121. ▶ Trident Juncture 18 (TRJE18) NATO-led military exercise to be held in Norway in October and November 2018, as largest of its kind in Norway since 1980s. 50,000 participants from 31 nations will take part, including 10,000 vehicles, 250 aircraft and 65 vessels.
122. ▶ UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index -
  -  India ranked 147th among 157 countries, describing country's poor commitment to reducing inequality.
  -  Top 5 - Denmark (1), Germany (2), Finland (3), Australia (4), Norway (5).
  -  Bottom 5 - Nigeria (157), Uzbekistan (156), Haiti (155), Chad (154), Sierra Leone (153).
  -  Neighbours - Bhutan (152), Bangladesh (148), Nepal (139), Pakistan (137), Sri Lanka (102), China (81)
123. ▶ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared 2019-2028 as *Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace*, during Nelson Mandela peace summit honouring South African leader at UN.
124. ▶ UN Security Council (UNSC) held its first-ever meeting on corruption and its linkages to global conflicts. Citing the World Economic Forum's estimates, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that corruption costs at least \$2.6 trillion or 5% of global GDP.
125. ▶ UN will launch a project on creating an "inventory" of art forms, craftsmanship and other intangible cultural heritage of the country. A total of 13 intangible cultural heritage elements from India have been inscribed till date on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
126. ▶ US Defence Department will create a Space Force as 6th branch of military by 2020.
127. ▶ US-based *Internet Society and Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)* signed MoU to make Internet safe and secure in India by securing routers which is vital for healthy internet infrastructure. It will also promote Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS) which is global initiative to implement crucial fixes needed to reduce most common threats to internet's routing system.
128. ▶ US-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies or HyperloopTT launched first full-scale transportation capsule to be operational in 2019, named *Quintero One*. Its a 32-metre 5 tonne capsule, made a specially made dual-layer smart composite material called "Vibranium".
  -  It can move at speeds of more than 750 miles (1,200 kilometers) per hour and has a capacity to hold 30 to 40 passengers.
  -  In May 2018, Andhra Pradesh signed Mou with HyperloopTT to set up Hyperloop transportation system connecting Anantapur, Amaravati, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, as part of 700-800-km-long integrated public transit system.
  -  Maharashtra government too signed pact with Richard Branson-led Virgin Group to build Mumbai-Pune Hyperloop.
  -  HyperloopTT would build the first Hyperloop system in China in the Guizhou province.
129. ▶ US-based aircraft maker Boeing will set up an electronics manufacturing and avionics assembly facility in Bengaluru at an investment of INR 1,152 crores, as company's second-largest such facility after one in Seattle (Washington).
130. ▶ USA and Morocco launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), to enable sharing expertise on implementing effective counterterrorism watchlisting and screening tools. It will strengthen UNSC Resolution 2396 aiming to stop terrorist travel altogether.
131. ▶ USA announced \$39 million grant to Sri Lanka as part its foreign military financing to boost maritime security, as first US grant to Sri Lanka since 2009, after US stopped arms sales to Sri Lanka during its Tamil separatist war that ended in 2009.
132. ▶ USA announced closure of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in Washington DC, after PLO leaders failed to engage with US efforts to bring about peace with Israel and attempted to prompt an investigation of Israel by International Criminal Court.
133. ▶ USA based IT Firm IBM acquired software Firm Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash and debt deal, as IBM's biggest ever acquisition so far. It will become a unit of IBM's Hybrid Cloud division.
134. ▶ USA merged its Consulate General with its new embassy in Israel into single diplomatic mission in Jerusalem, as part of US's global efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. Earlier in May 2018, US moved its Israeli Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
  -  US will establish new Palestinian Affairs Unit inside embassy in Jerusalem to continue reporting, outreach and programming in West Bank and Gaza as well as with Palestinians in Jerusalem.
135. ▶ USA will pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.
  -  INF was crucial Cold War-era treaty banning development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with range of 500-5,000 km, signed in December 1987 between USA and USSR.

- It was central to ending arms race between two superpowers during cold war and protected America's NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks. It was designed to provide measure of some strategic stability on continent of Europe.
  - USA alleged that Russia has violated treaty and has been violating it for many years. This violation comes after Russia's alleged development and deployment of Novator 9M729 missile (also known as SSC-8), that could strike Europe at short notice.
  - It will allow US new nuclear weapon options in Pacific, to counter China's growing influence and may also trigger new Arms race between USA & Russia.
- 136. ▶ USA's Central Bank Federal Reserve raised interest rates for a third time this year (by 25 basis points to 2.25 %), also reaffirming outlook for further hikes well into 2019. It reflects an upbeat assessment of economy.
- 137. ▶ Ukraine began series of large-scale air force exercises with USA and other NATO countries, named *Clear Sky 2018*.
- 138. ▶ Ukraine launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries, to be held in western Ukrainian village of Starychi till September 15, 2018.
- 139. ▶ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) reiterated India's status as polio-free country, after some oral polio vaccine vials being found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus.
  - They also asserted that all vaccines provided under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) are safe and urged people to get their children vaccinated.
  - India was certified polio-free in March 2014 and it still continues to remain vigilant against all three types of polioviruses. Last polio case due to wild poliovirus in country was detected on 13 January 2011.
- 140. ▶ United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index 2018 -
  - India ranked 130 among 189 countries.
  - Neighbours - Bangladesh (136), Pakistan (150), Nepal (149), Sri Lanka (76)
  - Top 5 - Norway (1), Switzerland (2), Australia (3), Ireland (4) and Germany (5)
  - Bottom 5 - Niger (189), Central African Republic (188), South Sudan (187), Chad (186), Burundi (185).
- 141. ▶ United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released special report on global warming in Incheon (South Korea), with contributions from 91 authors from 40 countries. It will be key scientific input in upcoming Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018.
  - It shows how half degree of warming makes big difference, adversely impacting global population and overall ecosystem.
  - It is possible to meet new warming target, with nations taking rapid transitions over 10 to 20 years and reach net zero around 2050, 25 years earlier than planned under earlier 2-degree goal.
  - It lists four pathways to curb global warming and through which the 1.5 degree target can be achieved. Also, Varying amounts between 100 to 1000 gigatons (billion tonnes) of CO<sub>2</sub> needs to be removed from atmosphere in these four pathways.
  - Advantages of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees celsius -
    - By 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5 degrees compared with 2 degrees Celsius.
    - Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5 degrees, compared with at least once per decade with 2 degrees Celsius.
    - Coral reefs will decline by 70-90% with global warming of 1.5 degrees, whereas virtually all (over 99%) would be lost with 2 degrees Celsius.
    - Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and increase further with 2 degrees Celsius.
- 142. ▶ Vatican reached a landmark deal with China on appointment of bishops in China, with Pope Francis recognizing 7 state-appointed Chinese bishops as part of the deal.
- 143. ▶ World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe, aimed at funding rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.
  - Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas. IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments.
- 144. ▶ World Bank announced concessional loan worth USD 195 million to Nepal to reform country's financial and energy sectors.
- 145. ▶ World Bank announced funding of up to \$1 billion for the Indonesian government to supplement relief and reconstruction efforts in wake of the earthquake and tsunami that hit the country last month.
- 146. ▶ World Bank released its East Asia and Pacific economy update October 2018 edition.
  - Countries of the East Asia and Pacific region will grow at 6.3 per cent in 2018 mainly due to China's moderate growth, down from 6.6 % growth of region in 2017.

147. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) SAFER initiative to support governments in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health, beat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). SAFER provides five high-impact strategic actions prioritized for implementation to promote health and development -
- ▶ Strengthening restrictions on alcohol availability.
  - ▶ Advance and enforcing drink driving countermeasures.
  - ▶ Facilitating access to screening, brief interventions, and treatment.
  - ▶ Enforcing bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion.
  - ▶ Raising prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies.
148. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) launched first global guidelines on sanitation and health, aimed at securing health and wellbeing for everyone, everywhere by considering sanitation as fundamental foundation of human health and development. By adopting these, countries can significantly reduce diarrhoeal deaths due to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene.
149. ▶ World Trade Organization has set up a panel to look into the India-US export-subsidy dispute, on request of the US to examine the allegations on India's export incentive measures.
- ▶ US has challenged India's export subsidy programmes such as Merchandise Exports from India Scheme in the WTO, stating that these initiatives were harming its companies.
  - ▶ According to US, all WTO members, including India, are required to provide subsidies consistent with provisions of WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.
150. ▶ World's First Intertidal art gallery called Coralarium opened in Maldives, filled with around 30 Sculptures acting as a habitat for coral and other marine species.
151. ▶ World's Most Innovative University Report, by Reuters news agency rankings -
- ▶ It was first published in 2015, since then there has been no mention of any Indian university in the list.
  - ▶ In top 100, 48 universities are from North America, 23 from Asia, 27 from Europe and 2 from Middle East. US dominated with 46 universities among top 100.
  - ▶ Top 10 -
    - ▶ Stanford University (US)
    - ▶ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
    - ▶ Harvard University (US)
    - ▶ University of Pennsylvania (US)
    - ▶ University of Washington(US)
    - ▶ University of Texas System(US)
    - ▶ KU Leuven (Belgium)
    - ▶ Imperial College London (United Kingdom)
    - ▶ University of North Carolina (US)
    - ▶ Vanderbilt University (US)
152. ▶ World's first self-driving tram, fitted with multiple radar, LiDAR, and camera sensors, has been successfully tested in Potsdam (Germany). The tram operated on a 6-km test route in real traffic with a safety driver for emergency purposes.

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### **Meetings**

1. ▶ India and Australia held their 2nd edition of '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra.
2. ▶ 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave Held in New Delhi, with theme *Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy*.
  - ▶ Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that Kaiga Atomic Power Station (Karnataka) unit has set world record among PHWR for operating uninterrupted for 895 days.
  - ▶ Cabinet also recently approved construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
3. ▶ 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus held in Singapore. Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited on India's Behalf.
4. ▶ 2018 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group held in Bali Nusa Dua (Indonesia). Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs) Attended the meets. G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting was also held on the sidelines of IMF /World Bank annual meets in Bali.

5. ▶ 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) held in Beijing (China), organized by International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University. Theme of this quinquennial (once in five year) event was *Learning To Be Human*.
6. ▶ 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), organised by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research. Its a forum for discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion (reaction that powers Sun and stars) as a source of energy.
7. ▶ 2nd India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). Theme was “New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate”.
8. ▶ 2nd conference on Primary Health Care held in Astana (Kazakhstan), by Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF. It commemorates 40 years of Alma Ata Declaration on Primary health care (Alma Ata Declaration was adopted at international conference on primary health care held in Kazakhstan in 1978). Theme is *The future of Primary Health Care*.
9. ▶ 32nd world conference of World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) held at Gurugram, (Haryana), as first Hosting of a WUWM conference by India. Theme is *The Wholesale Markets in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities*.
10. ▶ 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on ‘Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons’ held in Seoul (South Korea). Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
11. ▶ 4th edition of Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), to discuss state of elections and democracy in region. Theme of AESF-IV was *Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together*.
12. ▶ 62nd General Conference of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) held in Vienna (Austria). On India's Behalf of Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Note that Now, K N Vyas has been appointed as new Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
  - ▶ Mr. Basu stated that India placed 4 more reactors under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, including 2 Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors and two Pressurised Heavy Reactors being built with Indian technology.
  - ▶ Now, total 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be now under IAEA safeguards.
  - ▶ IAEA Safeguards are system of inspection and verification of peaceful uses of nuclear materials as part of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
13. ▶ 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi.
14. ▶ 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism held in Seoul (South Korea) , with theme *A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism*. The venue Next (8th) UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism 2019 will be Astana, Kazakhstan.
15. ▶ *2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030* held in New Delhi.
16. ▶ *Indian Ocean: Defining our Future* Conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), aimed at exploring strongest challenges in Indian Ocean region.
17. ▶ Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers’ Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
18. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended and addressed 73rd session of UN General Assembly in New York (USA).
  - ▶ Antonio Guterres (Portugal) is Secretary-General of 73rd UN General Assembly.
  - ▶ India and G4 nations (Brazil, Germany and Japan) voiced concern over lack of substantive progress in the long-pending Security Council reform, saying it is time to initiate text-based negotiations to safeguard legitimacy and credibility of UNSC.
  - ▶ Also, J P Nadda(Minister of Health and Family Welfare) addressed *High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis* at 73rd session of UNGA. He stated that India commits to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030, by launching the TB Free India Campaign.
  - ▶ External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj also attended SAARC foreign ministers’ meet on sidelines of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. She left the meeting early after delivering straight remarks on Pakistan.
19. ▶ First Assembly of International Solar Alliance held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi). 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors’ Meet and Expo) were also held alongside. Antonio Guterres (Secretary General of United Nations), was present on this occasion.
  - ▶ ISA Is headquartered in Gurugram (Haryana), with Upendra Triathy as its curent chief.
20. ▶ Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi, with theme *Connecting Farmers to Market*.
21. ▶ Global Climate Action Summit 2018 held at San Francisco in California (USA). During this, government functionaries of several Indian cities announced to scale up their actions to combat climate change and to protect people from hazardous climate impacts.



32. ▶ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Brussels (Belgium) to attend 12th ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) Summit 2018. Theme of Summit is *Global Partners for Global Challenges*.
33. ▶ World Hindu Congress (WHC-2018) was held Chicago, United States. It was organized to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago address on September 11, 1893. The theme of WHC-2018 was "Sumantrite Suvikrante" – think collectively, achieve valiantly". It was second edition of World Hindu Congress and was attended by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

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## National

- ▶ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) signed 2 MoUs with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), to launch the programme "PRAKRITI" with objective to promote awareness about forests and environment.
  - ▶ Through this collaboration, knowledge will be imparted to students/teachers of NVS and KVS on environment, forest, environmental services and contemporary areas of forestry research by way of lectures and interactive sessions by scientists of ICFRE institutes.
  - ▶ MoUs are signed for period of 10 years are expected to make youth sensitive about issues of environment and forests and help them to become responsible citizens.
- ▶ Nitin Gadkari (*Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Signed MoUs with 6 States - Uttarakhand, UP, HP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for construction of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project on Yamuna near Dehradun, with cost approx INR 3966 Crores.
  - ▶ It was initially approved in 1976 but work was suspended in 1992. It envisages construction of a 204 m high concrete dam across river Yamuna near Lohari village in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand with a storage capacity of 330.66 MCM.
  - ▶ It will provide irrigation for 33,780 hectares land and availability of 78.83 MCM water for use in the 6 basin states. The project will also generate 300 MW of power.
  - ▶ Besides Lakhwar Multi-Purpose project, there are two other major projects being envisaged in the Upper Yamuna reaches which are Kishau Multi-Purpose project and Renukaji Multi-Purpose project. A fourth project is the Vyasi project, a run-of-the-river scheme under which a concrete dam across River Yamuna is being constructed near Vyasi village in Dehradun district.
- ▶ Odisha Government tied up with Japan for its mega investment Conclave 2018 to take place in November 2018, called *Make in Odisha*.
- ▶ 12th Plan Document has fixed targets of 25.2 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2017-18 and 30% GER by 2020-21. As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2017-18, GER in higher education has increased from 24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.8% in 2017-18.
- ▶ 17.86 KM long Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake to Shiv Vihar section of Delhi Metro Pink Line has been flagged off, taking Delhi Metro to league of top metro networks with operational length over 300 km (like London, Beijing, Shanghai and New York). Delhi Metro Network has now become 314 kilometres long with 229 metro stations.
- ▶ 2 new projects of Punjab and Tripura got sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
  - ▶ In Punjab, project covers sites of Anandpur Sahib, Fatehgarh Sahib, Chamkaur Sahib, Ferozpur, Amritsar, Khatkar Kalan Kalanour Patiala at the cost of Rs 100 crore.
  - ▶ In Tripura, sites of Surma Cherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati-Bhunaneshwari- Matabari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chotta khola- Pilak- Avangchaarra have been covered. It has planned cost of 65 Crores.
- ▶ 4 day international dance festival titled "Udbhav Utsav" held in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh).
- ▶ 4th International Film Festival of Shimla "IFFS 2018" concluded in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). Best Feature Film award was given to *Sinjar* by Sandeep Pampally.
- ▶ 6th India International Silk Fair (IISF) held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, organised by Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC).
  - ▶ India is 2nd largest producer of silk after China.
- ▶ A 126 MW capacity wind power project has been commissioned in Bhuj (Gujarat), as part of India's first ISTS auction which was conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in February 2017.
  - ▶ Bid was for projects to be connected on ISTS wherein power generated from one state (renewable resource rich state) can be transmitted to other renewable deficient states. Energy generated from this project is being purchased by Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
  - ▶ It marks beginning of capacity additions in wind power based on market discovered tariffs, in line with Government's plan of having 175 GW renewable energy by 2022.
- ▶ AYUSH Ministry introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs. It aims to develop culture of documenting adverse effects, monitoring and surveillance of misleading advertisements of drugs.



26. ▶ Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2019 (91st Academy Awards) under Foreign Language Film category. It was selected by 12-member jury of Film Federation of India (FII), led by Kannada producer-director SV Rajendra Singh Babu.
27. ▶ Badminton player PV Sindhu is only sportsperson featuring in Forbes India's 1st 'tycoons of tomorrow' list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.
28. ▶ Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will become first airport in Asia to introduce face recognition based passage system technology from 2019. For this, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), which operates KIA has signed agreement with Portuguese software firm Vision Box. It will allow passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport using automatic biometric boarding procedure instead of manual boarding passes verification.
29. ▶ Bharti Airtel will provide optical fibre network in Tamil Nadu, to add 3000 KM of fibre network to Taminadu's 14000 km fibre Network. Airtel will open 12,000 new mobile sites across the State to add to network capacity and take high-speed data services deeper into rural areas.
30. ▶ Bihar Govt. launched girl child welfare scheme *Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana*. It will provide 54100 for a girl child from her birth until she graduates. It will be run by three departments namely education, health and social welfare. Also, State Govt. raised amount under Bicycle Yojna from 2500 to 3000.
31. ▶ Bihar's Shahi litchi got Geographical Indication (GI) tag, making it an exclusive brand. Shahi litchi is famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma, is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and neighbouring districts including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur and Begusarai.
32. ▶ Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will start operating its first regional centre or avifauna observatory on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake (Asia's largest brackish water lagoon), Odisha. Avifauna observatory will carry out research on avian disease by collecting samples and monitor Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.
33. ▶ Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and NITI Aayog released *State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index* -
- ▶ It will serve as a standard reference document for energy intensive industries and help them achieve high operational efficiency of energy consuming utilities.
  - ▶ States are categorised based on their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation, as 'Front Runner', 'Achiever', 'Contender' and 'Aspirant'.
  - ▶ Front Runner States are Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Rajasthan.
  - ▶ While most states have implemented national programmes designed by BEE and EESL, the 'Front Runner' and 'Achiever' states have several individual initiatives as well.
34. ▶ CBSE affiliated schools in Kerala, whose board exam documents such as mark sheets/ migration certificates/ pass certificates have got lost or damaged in the state's floods, CBSE will provide them with digital mark sheets, migration certificates and pass certificates through the 'Parinam Manjusha' portal/ DigiLocker.
- ▶ CBSE with National E-Governance Division (NEGD) has developed the first-of-its-kind digital academic repository called 'Parinam Manjusha'. The academic repository will be integrated with DigiLocker.
35. ▶ CSIR has developed Less Polluting Firecrackers named – safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR), which are environment friendly and are 15-20 % cheaper than conventional ones. E-crackers also being developed with products like E-Ladi, E-Anar, E-cracker.
36. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Aug 01, 2018) -
- ▶ General Approvals -
    - ▶ Raising funds up to 15,000 crores as Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) during 2018-19 through NABARD.
    - ▶ Expansion of scope of work of *International Centre for Drinking Water Quality* to authorise it for receiving EBR funds for SBM(G), disbursement of same to Sates/UTs implementing agencies, and its repayment.
    - ▶ Change name of Society to "National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality" in place of "International Centre for Drinking Water Quality".
    - ▶ Permit exploration of unconventional hydrocarbons such as Shale oil/gas, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) etc. It will enable realization of prospective hydrocarbon reserves in existing Contract Areas. New investment activities and chances of finding new hydrocarbon discoveries and resultant increased domestic production thereof is expected.
    - ▶ Restructuring Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB), making it 4 Member body (up from 3 Members). Tenure of ASRB member will be for 3 years or till 65 years of age. Functioning ASRB shall be delinked from ICAR and to be attached with Deptt. of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.



- ✎ Approved first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme(CFS) to support Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad. It is proposed to extend the Scheme for another five years from 2018 to 2023.
- ✎ Approved death penalty or life imprisonment to those involved in piracy at sea, to have a domestic anti-piracy legislation to provide necessary legal framework for prosecution of those involved in piracy-related crimes.
- ✎ Approved introducing a Bill to restore original provisions of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, that was ruled out by Supreme Court in March 2018. It introduces three new clauses after Section 18 of original Act.
  - ✎ Preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person.
  - ✎ Arrest of a person accused of having committed an offence under Act would not require any approval.
  - ✎ Provisions of Section 438 of Code of Criminal Procedure, which deals with anticipatory bail, shall not apply to a case under this Act, in spite of any judgment or order of any Court.

#### ✎ CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ Approved Interest Free Loan (IFL) equivalent to interest during construction (IDC) component of 422 crores, 415 crores and 419 crores for Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni projects respectively to Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) fertilizer projects.
- ✎ Approved issue of fresh equity shares to extent of 15% of paid up equity capital efface value of Rs. 5 each by Hindustan Copper Limited(HCL) through Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) route . Gol shareholding will come down from 76.05% to 66.13%.
- ✎ Approved opening of 13 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in 7 States and 2nd JawaharNavodayaVidyalaya (JNV) in Alot in Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh). Presently, KVs are imparting quality education to more than 12 lakh students and JNVs are providing modern education free of cost to nearly 2.50 lakh students across country.

#### 37. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Aug 09, 2018) -

##### ✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved extension of term of Commission to examine issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in Central List till November 2018.
- ✎ Approved raising 4 additional battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), at estimated cost of 637 crores. These will initially be raised as 2 battalions in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 1 battalion each in Border Security Force (BSF) and Assam Rifles (ARs). Later these battalions will be converted into NDRF battalions and will be placed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi National Capital Region.

##### ✎ MOUs -

- ✎ Indonesia - cooperation in health and Science sector.
- ✎ MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada).
- ✎ Korea - Trade Remedy Cooperation.
- ✎ Approved Joint issue of Postage Stamps on India-South Africa on theme *20 Years of Strategic Partnership*.

##### ✎ CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ Approved release of pulses to States/UTs at discounted rate to be utilized for various Welfare Schemes from stock of pulses procured under Price Support Schemes (PSS), to enable States/UTs to use pulses in various Welfare Schemes like PDS, Mid-Day Meal Scheme etc.
  - ✎ States/UT can lift 34.88 lakh MT of Tur, Chana, Masoor, Moong and Urad at discount of 15 per Kg over prevailing wholesale market price of sourcing state. Government will spend 5237 crores for its implementation.
- ✎ Approved construction of 6.930 km long 4-lane bridge at Kosi River in Phulaut (Bihar), to be completed by June 2022. It will fill 10 km long missing link between Phulaut and Bihpur on NH-106, to bring down journey between 2 places to 12 KM, from 72 KM Currently.
- ✎ Approved revision of *Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes Students for studying in India* scheme for upto 2019-20. Revisions include - Annual parental income will be increased from Rs. One Lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh, 30% of funds allocated earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.
- ✎ Approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan period ((2012–2017)). It will help in connecting 38,412 habitations at estimated cost of Rs. 84,934 crore.
  - ✎ Initially targets of PMGSY were to be achieved by March 2022, however, sunset date of achievement of PMGSY-I was pre-poned to March 2019, with changed funding pattern in ratio of 60:40 between Centre and States (90:10 for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States)

- PMGSY-II and habitations under identified LWE blocks (100-249 population) covered by March 2020. Under, PMGSY-II, against target length of 50,000 km works of upgradation almost 32,100 km road length have been sanctioned in 13 states, which have transited to PMGSY-II. 12,000 km road length has been completed up to March, 2018 against the sanctions issued.

38. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Aug 29, 2018) -

MOUs -

- Bulgaria - tourism
- South Korea - railways
- United Kingdom and Northern Ireland - Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- Morocco - signing of Air Services Agreement
- Rwanda - Trade Cooperation Framework
- USA - insurance regulatory sector

General Approvals -

- Revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 1,435 crore, to make up for enhanced Technology Costs and Human Resource Costs.
  - IPPB services shall be available at 650 IPPB branches and 3250 Access Points from 1st September 2018 and in all 1.55 lakh post offices (Access Points) by December 2018.
- Approved release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2018 representing an increase of 2% over the existing rate of 7% of the Basic Pay/Pension.

CCEA Approvals -

- Approved umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)", for implementation during 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of INR 1623 crores. It encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.
  - Implementation of O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development. This scheme (O-SMART) also provide necessary scientific and technological background required for implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy.

39. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Oct 03, 2018) -

General Approvals -

- Approved implementation of Indore Metro Rail Project (MP), with Ring Line of length 31.55 Km, to connect major public nodes.
  - Length of the Ring Line is 31.55 km, with 30 Stations on Ring Line
  - Estimated cost is INR 7500 crores and it will be completed in four years.
- Approved implementation of Bhopal Metro Rail Project (MP), comprising two corridors of total length 27.87 Km - Karond Circle to AIIMS (14.99 Km) and Bhadbhada Square to Ratnagiri Tiraha (12.88 Km) -
  - Estimated cost is INR 6941 crores and project will be completed in 4 years.
- Approved 2nd Protocol amending Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore.
- Approved Redevelopment of Railway Stations by IRSDC as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and longer lease tenure (upto 99 years). Multiple sub leasing, simplified bid procedures Redevelopment will create smart stations that will function as mini smart cities.
- Approved establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation(NIMHR) in Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway) instead of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, as decided earlier.

MOUs -

- Russia - Road Transport, MSME.

CCEA Approvals -

- Approved providing a package of 469 crores for Revival and Mill Development Plan (RMDP) of PSU NEPA Limited, in Napanagar (Madhya Pradesh).
- To boost farmers' income, CCEA approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all Rabi crops for 2018-19 to be marketed in 2019-20 season. It will give additional return to farmers of INR 62635 crores to at least 50 % return over cost of production and will aid in doubling farmers' income.
  - Increase in MSPs of wheat has been raised by 105 per quintal, safflower by 845 per quintal, barley by 30 per quintal, masur (lentil) by 225 per quintal, gram by 220 per quintal and rapeseed & mustard by 200 per quintal.

40. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Oct 10, 2018)

✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved closure of National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) and its subsidiary Birds Jute & Exports Ltd. (BJEL).
  - ✎ NJMC has been incurring losses for several years and was under reference to BIFR since 1993. Its primary product was hessian jute bags used for packaging of food grain used by various State Governments.
- ✎ Approved establishment of permanent campuses of 2 new Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Berhampur (Odisha). Cost is INR 3074 crores.
- ✎ Approved merger of skills space regulatory institutions National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) into *National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)*.
  - ✎ NCVET will regulate entities engaged in vocational education and training, and establish minimum standards for their functioning.
- ✎ Approved Productivity Linked Bonus for Railway Employees Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for the financial year 2017-18 for About 11.91 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees.

✎ MOUs -

- ✎ Lebanon - agriculture and allied sectors.
- ✎ Romania - Tourism.
- ✎ Finland - Environmental Cooperation.

✎ CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ Approved closure of Biecco Lawrie Limited (BLL) including giving Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to its employees.
  - ✎ BLL is a Schedule 'C' CPSE with 67.33% and 32.33% equity share held by Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) and Government of India respectively. It operates in four segments - Switchgear Manufacturing, Electrical Repair, Projects Division and Lube blending & filling facility.
  - ✎ BLL has been making losses for several years. Net worth of Company stood - 78.88 crores at end of FY 2017-18 and accumulated loss during 2017-18 were - 153.95 crores.

41. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Oct 24, 2018) -

✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved setting up of Indian Institute of Skills(IISs) across the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP), to augment global competitiveness of key sectors of Indian economy by providing high quality skill training and applied research education.
- ✎ Approved appointment of Adjudicating Authority and establishment of Appellate Tribunal under Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act (PBPT) 1988. It is aimed at better administration of cases referred to Adjudicating Authority and speedy disposal of appeals filed against order of the Adjudicating Authority before Appellate Tribunal.
- ✎ Approved constitution of a High Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated targets. It will be chaired by Chief Statistician of India and Secretary in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI, Currently Pravin Srivastava).
  - ✎ SDGs with 17 Goals and 169 Targets intend for promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.
  - ✎ NIF will help in outcome-based monitoring & reporting on progress on SDGs at National level.
- ✎ Creation of 1 post of Director in basic pay of Rs. 2,25,000/- (fixed) plus NPA (under 237500) each for new AIIMS at Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Bathinda (Punjab), Guwahati (Assam), Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) and Deoghar (Jharkhand).

✎ MOUs -

- ✎ Approved signing and ratification of Extradition Treaty with Malawi (East Africa).
- ✎ MoU among BRICS Nations for Cooperation in Social and Labour Sphere, Environment.
- ✎ MoU with Singapore on constitution of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on FinTech.
- ✎ MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Certified Professional Accountants Afghanistan (CPA Afghanistan)

✎ CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ Creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), with size 7522 crores, comprising 5,266 crores to be raised by Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs), 1316 crores beneficiaries contribution and 939 crores budgetary

support from Government. NABARD, National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and Banks shall be NLEs.

- ✎ It aims to achieve fish production of 15 million tonnes by 2020 and 20 million tonnes by 2022-23, up from current production of 11.4 million tonnes.
- ✎ Increase in supervisory visit charges for ASHA Facilitators from 250 per visit to 300 per visit for 2018-2019 to 2019- 2020. ASHA Facilitator will undertake about 20 supervisory visits per month.
- ✎ New Railway Between Bahraich and Khalilabad in Uttar Pradesh, to serve 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh including 4 aspirational districts (Bahraich, Balrampur, Shravasti and Siddharth Nagar) and Sant Kabirnagar. It will cost approx 4939 crores and will be completed by 2024-25.

42. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 05, 2018) -

✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved establishment of permanent campus of 7 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmaur, Vishakhapatnam and Jammu, and their recurring expenditure at a total cost of Rs 3775 crores.

✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) -

- ✎ Approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT), Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and Project Elephant (CSS-PE). Outlay is INR 1731 crores.
  - ✎ Total 18 tiger range States in 5 landscapes of country would be benefitted under Project Tiger scheme.
  - ✎ Similarly, for other two schemes, the coverage is entire country in case of Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH) and 23 elephant range States for Project Elephant.
  - ✎ It will generate direct employment of about 30 lakh mandays annually which shall include many local tribes besides non-tribal local workforce.

43. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 12, 2018) -

✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved introduction of Bill in Parliament for amendment of NID Act 2014 to include four new National Institutes of Design (NID) viz. Amaravati/Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Jorhat (Assam) and Kurukshetra (Haryana) within ambit of NID Act 2014 and declare them as Institutions of National Importance (INIs) at par with NID Ahmedabad.
- ✎ Approved Policy framework to promote and incentivize Enhanced Recovery (ER)/ Improved Recovery (IR)/ Unconventional Hydrocarbon (UHC) production Methods/ to improve recovery factor of existing hydrocarbons reserves for augmenting domestic production of oil and gas.
  - ✎ It will be applicable to all contractual regimes and Nomination fields. It is expected to spur new investment, provide impetus to economic activities and generate additional employment opportunities.
- ✎ Cabinet approved new Umbrella Scheme *Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA)*, aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, as announced in Budget for 2018.
  - ✎ PM-AASHA includes mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to farmers and is comprised of -
    - ✎ Price Support Scheme (PSS),
      - ✎ Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments. In addition to NAFED, Food Cooperation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states /districts.
    - ✎ Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
      - ✎ It is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. In this direct payment of difference between the MSP and selling price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process. All payment will be done directly into registered bank account of farmer.
      - ✎ This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops as farmers are paid difference between the MSP price and Sale price on disposal in notified market.
  - ✎ Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).
- ✎ Procurement Stats -
  - ✎ During 2010-14, procurement was INR 3500 crores whereas during 2014-18, it has risen to INR 34000 crores.
  - ✎ For procurement of these agri-commodities during 2010-14, Government Guarantee of 2500 crore was provided with expenditure of only 300 crores. During 2014-18, Guarantee has been increased to 29000 crores with expenditure of 1000 crores.
  - ✎ Now, Cabinet has increased government guarantee by INR 16550 crores, making it 45550 crore in total. INR 15053 crores is sanctioned for PM-AASHA implementation.

MOUs -

- Brunei Darussalam - Cooperation in Space Research, Science and Applications. Operation of Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand station for satellite and launch vehicles.
- Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block chain Technology in context of Development of digital economy by Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) with participating member banks, under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.
  - Participating banks are - Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social (BNDES, of Brazil), China Development Bank (CDB), State Corporation Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank, of Russia) and Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).
- South Africa - exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes.
- Egypt - Agriculture & allied sectors.
- Malta - Tourism.

CCEA Approvals -

- Approved revising price of ethanol derived from B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice and fix a higher price for 100% sugarcane juice based ethanol for ethanol supply year from 1st December 2018 to 30th November 2019.
  - Fix ex-mill price of ethanol derived out of B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice to INR 52.43 per litre (earlier 47.13 / litre).
  - Fix the ex-mill price of ethanol derived from 100% sugarcane juice at 59.13 per litre (earlier from prevailing price of Rs.47.13 per litre).
  - OMCs are advised to prioritise ethanol from 100 % sugarcane juice, B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice, C heavy molasses and Damaged Food grains/other sources, in that order.
- Approved continuation of Capacity Development Scheme for 2017-18 to 2019-20 with outlay of INR 2250 crores.
  - CDS is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of MoSPI, aimed at augmenting infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely Official Statistics for policy makers and public.
  - It has 2 Sub-schemes - Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS).
    - Under Economic Census -listing of all non-agricultural establishments is undertaken periodically, which forms the basis for conducting detailed socio-economic surveys.
    - SSS Sub-scheme is to strengthen State/ Sub-State level statistical systems/ infrastructure to facilitate development of a robust national system.

44. Cabinet Approvals (Sep 16, 2018) -

CCEA Approvals -

- Approved equity investment of INR 1033.54 crores ( $\pm 29.67\%$ ) of project cost for setting up a Coal Gasification based fertilizer project in Talcher Fertilizer Ltd. (TFL) by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF). Revival of Talcher project will ensure huge investment in the fertilizer sector from Government through PSUs.
- Approved enhancement of honorarium to Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers (AWWs/AWHs) and performance linked incentive to AWHs with total cost of INR 10649 crores, till 31-03-2020.

Name of Functionary	Old Rates p.m.	Revised Rates p.m.
Anganwadi Worker	3000	4500
Anganwadi Worker at Mini-AWC	2250	3500
Anganwadi Helper	1500	2250

- Approved to construct new line between Budni to Indore (Mangaliyagaon) with approximate length of 205.5 Km, with cost 3261 crores.
- Approved ASHA Benefit Package w.e.f. October 2018, with 2 components -
  - Eligible ASHAs and ASHA facilitators to be enrolled in social security schemes - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
  - Increase in amount of routine and recurring incentives under National Health Mission for ASHAs under NHM from Rs. 1000 to 2000 per month.
  - The package entails an expenditure (Central funding) to Rs.1224.97 crore for two years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Approved Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at the revised cost of Rs 3466 crore with the financial assistance of World Bank to improve safety and operational performance of 198 Dams. CCEA also approved

2 year time extension till 30th June, 2020.

45. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 26, 2018) -

✎ CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ New BG Electrified Line of 294.53 route Kms from Katghora to Dongargarh will provide rail connectivity to unserved areas of Chhattisgarh, with approx cost of 5950 crores.
- ✎ Construction of New Domestic Terminal Building and other allied structures at Patna airport at an estimated cost of 1216 crores, to enhance passenger handling capacity of airport to 4.5 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA), from 0.7 MPPA.
- ✎ Due to excess stocks and indication of similar excess production in sugar season 2018-19, cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers may also peak at unprecedented high level. To check this, CCEA approved assistance over 5500 crores to support sugar sector -
  - ✎ Assistance to sugar mills by towards transport and other costs -
    - ✎ Rs. 1000/MT for mills located within 100 kms from ports
    - ✎ 2500/MT for mills located beyond 100 kms from port in coastal states
    - ✎ 3000/MT for mills located in other than coastal states or actual expenditure, whichever is lower.
    - ✎ Total expenditure on this account would be about Rs.1375 crore which will be borne by Government.
  - ✎ To help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, Government will provide assistance @ of Rs. 13.88 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2018-19 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane. Total expenditure on this account would be about 4163 crores.

✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Increasing of Government ownership in Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and change in existing structure -
  - ✎ Acquisition of 51% equity held by the -Government Institutions in GSTN, and Restructure GSTN, with 100% government ownership shall have equity structure between the Centre (50%) and the States (50%).
  - ✎ Allow change in the existing composition of the Board of GSTN inducting three directors from Centre and States and three other independent directors to be nominated by Board of Directors and one Chairman and the CEO. Thus total number of Directors is 11.
- ✎ Central Assistance of INR 620 Crores and 206 Crores for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively over five years (2018-19 to 2022-23).
- ✎ Approved National Digital Communications Policy-2018 and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the *Digital Communications Commission*.
  - ✎ It aims to -
    - ✎ Enhancing contribution of Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017
    - ✎ Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen;
    - ✎ Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
    - ✎ Attract investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector;
    - ✎ Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.
    - ✎ Secure digital communications infrastructure and services
  - ✎ Strategy Includes -
    - ✎ Establishment of a National Digital Grid by creating a National Fibre Authority.
    - ✎ Creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardization of costs and timelines.
    - ✎ Facilitating development of Open Access Next Generation Networks.













✎ MOUs -

- ✎ With Uzbekistan -
  - ✎ Tourism
  - ✎ Law & Justice
  - ✎ Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics, Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors
  - ✎ For establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan. The MoU will be signed during the visit of President of Uzbekistan to India on 1st October 2018.
  - ✎ Agriculture and Allied sectors
  - ✎ Pharmaceutical sector
- ✎ South Korea - Applied Science and Industrial Technology

- ✍ Co-operation MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).
  - ✍ MoU between NITI Aayog, and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (MEDRF) in the field of social, economic, industrial and regional development programs.
46. ▶ Cabinet cleared ordinance to make instant triple talaq penal offence, after It was signed by President Ram Nath Kovind later as per Article 123 of Constitution. Compelling reason cited by Government for promulgation of this ordinance was that practice of triple talaq continues unabated even after annulled by Supreme Court due to absence of legal framework.
47. ▶ Census 2021 for first time in independent India will collect data on Other Backwards Castes (OBCs), after over 25 years after implementation of 27% reservation for OBCs based on Mandal Commission's recommendations on basis of last castes data collected in 1931 census.
- ✍ In 1953, President under Article 340 had set up first Backward Classes Commission under chairmanship of Kaka Kelkar to identify backward classes other than SCs and STs at national level. Its conclusions were rejected later.
  - ✍ Later in January 1979, 2nd Backward Classes Commission headed by B P Mandal was appointed to consider reservations, to redress caste discrimination. It reported that OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward. It also recommended increasing existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include OBCs. Its recommendations were implemented in 1990.
  - ✍ UPA government (under Manmohan Singh) accepted demand for caste-based enumeration and undertaken Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in 2011. However, SECC-2011 data was not made public for certain errors identified by Registrar General of India.
48. ▶ Central Government launch Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) scheme to promote research in Social Sciences.
- ✍ Government support would be funding of 414 crore on 1500 projects for policy themes in the social sciences at cost of 20-25 Lakh per project.
  - ✍ 11 Thematic Areas - State and Democracy Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society Employment, Skills and Rural transformation Governance, Innovation and Public Policy Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy Agriculture and Rural Development Health and Environment Science and Education Social Media and Technology Politics, Law and Economics.
  - ✍ Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency.
49. ▶ Central Government notified that it has withdrawn proposal for setting up 'Social Media Communication Hub', after Supreme Court termed it like *creating a surveillance state*. Social Media Communications Hub was a proposed platform to allow government to keep eye on all social media platforms, to track any individual's public posts across these online platforms.
50. ▶ Central Information Commission (CIC) brought Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act, after concluded that characteristics of BCCI fulfil required conditions of Section 2(h) of RTI Act.
51. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government renamed Naya Raipur smart city as *Atal Nagar*, in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away recently. Also, Madhya Pradesh Govt. named 3 awards after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Awards are for poets, journalists and administration.
52. ▶ Chhattisgarh became first state to provide Right to Skills' Development to the youth, flagging off 15 Skill Chariots to launch government's 'Skills on Wheels' project.
53. ▶ Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra launched three applications for benefit of litigants and lawyers - e-Filing, e-Pay, and National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP); created under eCourts project Phase II and led by Justice MB Lokur.
- ✍ e-Filing - Available at [efiling.ecourts.gov.in](http://efiling.ecourts.gov.in), it is meant for online registration of lawyers and litigants.
  - ✍ e-Pay - Available at [pay.ecourts.gov.in](http://pay.ecourts.gov.in), It is a unified portal wherein facility to pay online court fees is provided.
  - ✍ NSTEP - It is a transparent and secure system for transmission of process from one location to another and will address delays in process.
54. ▶ Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu unveiled a new transaction structure for future greenfield airports proposed under NABH Nirmaan 2018, aimed at boosting investment in Indian aviation sector.
- ✍ *Maximum Blended Aeronautical Yield* (MBAY) in terms of INR per passenger shall be pre-determined by Concessioneering Authority at beginning of Concession Period. It shall undergo adjustments to account for inflation and certain eventualities over Concession Period. MBAY for greenfield airports for FY 18-19 is proposed to be INR 400 per passenger.
  - ✍ Concession Period is proposed to be 40 years. Base rate of MBAY and Concession Fee shall be indexed to 50% of inflation.
  - ✍ Once in 5 years, Concessionaire shall propose base rate of MBAY for the next 5 years.
  - ✍ Quality assurance -
    - ✍ Regulator may formulate the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for greenfield airports and modify them once every 5 years.

- ✍ Every greenfield airport shall constitute a Airport User Consultative Committee (AUCC).
- ✍ AUCC may recommend change in MBAY to Regulator (limited to 10%) based on Concessionaire's performance.
- ✍ Benefits of new approach -
  - ✍ Future airports will be simple and cost-efficient. There will be no incentive to enhance Capex and Opex to demand higher tariffs. The era of high revenue share (30-50%) for Concessioning Authority may end. It will bring down cost to passengers. It will attract more investors and funding institutions into airports.
- 55. ▶ Civil Aviation Ministry approved setting up water aerodromes in Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. In first phase of the project, Chilka Lake (Odisha), Sabarmati River Front and Sardar Sarovar Dam (Gujarat) have been identified for the development of such facilities.
  - ✍ Airdrome is location from which aircraft flight operations take place, regardless of whether they involve air cargo, passengers. The development of aerodromes projects in India will pave way for operation of amphibian planes (both in land and water) to enhance air connectivity.
- 56. ▶ Coal India and NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) will jointly set up 5000 MW of power generation capacity of which 3000 MW would be solar powered while the rest 2000 MW would be coal-fuelled.
  - ✍ Coal India has been tasked to become a net zero emission energy company by the ministry of coal, a move which requires it to generate 3,000 MW of solar power.
- 57. ▶ Delhi Police inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations.
- 58. ▶ Delhi government launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges. Fellows will be assigned to work with ministers or senior officials and will be paid remuneration of Rs 1.25 lakh per month (75,000 per month to Associate Fellows).
- 59. ▶ Delhi government launched doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services such as caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections in the first phase. The services will be provided for an extra fee of Rs 50. Delivery would be completed with help of assigned *Mobile sahayaks*.
- 60. ▶ Delhi has been ranked last among 14 cities on basis of vehicular emissions in a survey conducted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based research organisation to assess transport-related emissions from urban commuting.
  - ✍ It classified Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai as megacities and Bhopal, Vijaywada, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Kochi, Pune, Ahmedabad as metro cities.
  - ✍ Bhopal ranked best for its lowest overall vehicular emission and fuel consumption, followed by Vijaywada and Chandigarh.
  - ✍ In terms of Per-travel trip emissions & energy consumption - Kolkata (1), Mumbai and Bhopal.
- 61. ▶ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) signed MOU with International Energy Agency (IEA). It seeks to deepen co-operation in clean energy innovations to accelerate development of clean energy technologies in India and will support generation of data for policymaking and improve knowledge of good policy practices for innovation in India and around world.
- 62. ▶ Department of Biotechnology (Ministry of Science and Technology) signed MoU with International Energy Agency (IEA) for enhancing innovation for Clean Energy Transition, to support clean energy technologies in India.
  - ✍ It will be coordinated for Ministry of Science & Technology by Mission Innovation India Unit set up by DBT and for IEA it will be coordinated by its International Partnership and Initiatives Unit (IPI). It will be initially valid for three years.
- 63. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) unveiled tricolour logo for geographical indication (GI) certified products, with tagline *Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India*. As per a contest, winning logo was designed by Adri Chatterjee and winning tagline was coined by Akancha Tripathi.
  - ✍ GI tag is used on certain products which correspond to specific geographical location or origin. The goods and products having tag are recognised for their origin, quality and reputation and gives it required edge in global market.
- 64. ▶ Department of Telecom (DoT) exempted wireless devices that operate in low frequency range like bluetooth, wireless chargers, internet-of-things (IoT) products, medical devices etc. from licensing requirement. It is aimed at facilitating ease of doing business for adoption of new technologies like IoT, machine-to-machine (M2M) communications.
- 65. ▶ Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) launched SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) as an innovative initiative to make available Compressed Bio-Gas CBG in market for use in automotive fuels.
  - ✍ Under it, with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) to set up CBG production plants, by 31st March, 2019.
  - ✍ Government is keen to set up 5000 CBG plants in next 5 years. Government will incur 75,000 Crore capital expenditure for setting up infrastructure for City Gas distribution network.



- ▶  SATAT initiative promises efficient municipal solid waste management and tackling problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.
- 66. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) or regulations for civil use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) commonly known as *Drones*, to be effective from December 1, 2018.
  - ▶  Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu said Drone Regulations 1.0 are intended to enable visual line-of-sight daytime-only and a maximum of 400 feet altitude operations of drones.
  - ▶  Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP) will be required for drone operators except for nano drones operating below 50 ft.; micro drones operating below 200 ft; and those owned by NTRO, ARC and Central Intelligence Agencies.
  - ▶  Digital Sky Platform is the first-of-its-kind national Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) platform that implements “No Permission, No Takeoff” (NPNT).
    - ▶  Users will be required to do a one-time registration of their drones, pilots and owners.
    - ▶  For every flight, users will be required to ask for permission to fly on a mobile app. This requirement is exempted for the nano category of drones. Once the user puts forward his request to fly, an automated process permits or denies the request instantly.
- 67. ▶ Election Commission announced Schedule for General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana (To be held in November - December 2018).
- 68. ▶ Election Commission of India (EC) removed NOTA (None of the Above) option from ballot papers of Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council elections following directive of Supreme Court.
  - ▶  In August 2018, Supreme Court had said that NOTA will not be applicable as ballot option in Rajya Sabha polls. It will only continue to be option in direct elections such as Lok Sabha and state assemblies, quashing June 2014 notification of EC that allowed use of NOTA option in Rajya Sabha elections.
- 69. ▶ Environment Ministry launched *Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali* campaign, which was initiated in 2017-18, aiming to minimize bursting of crackers. This campaign is now merged with “Green Good Deed” movement, initiated as a social mobilization for protection of environment.
- 70. ▶ FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL), a CPSU under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers received approval from Government of Himachal Pradesh for setting up of White Cement Plant to cater to demand of white cement in North India. It will be first PSU white cement plant in India. Installed capacity of Plant will be 1000 TPD.
- 71. ▶ FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), women’s wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) launched WOW (Wellness of Women) mobile application aimed at creating awareness on preventive healthcare for women across country, backed by Apollo Hospitals Group.
- 72. ▶ First India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC) entrepreneurial technology hub launched in Bengaluru (Karnataka), to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from two countries.
- 73. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) notified food safety standards for honey and its products in bid to curb adulteration, to help farmers to fetch better prices for their products.
  - ▶  Honey products should comply with 18 parameters like that of sucrose content, glucose ratio, pollen count, foreign oligosaccharides etc.
  - ▶  These products should contain fixed maximum 5% limit for sucrose, 10% for carvia callosa and honeydew honey. The moisture percentage should be maximum 20% and pollen count should be 25,000 per gram.
- 74. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative to enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel. According to FSSAI, maximum permissible limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at 25%, beyond which cooking oil is unsafe for consumption.
- 75. ▶ Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives, developed by Pratham Mittal. It is first of its kind platform in India that allows voters to rate and review the political representatives in their constituencies.
  - ▶  It aims to foster political accountability and transparency among leaders., inspired by US’ approval system. Using it, voters can review and rate their elected representatives (MLAs, MPs and ministers) and hold them accountable as well.
  - ▶  It is also seen as instrument to gauge voter sentiment across constituencie, available in 16 languages.
- 76. ▶ Foundation stone for Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited laid at Baulasingha village in Bargarh ditrict of Odisha.
  - ▶  The Bio-refinery, the first of its kind to be set up, will have a capacity to produce 3 crore litres of fuel grade Ethanol annually using Rice straw as feedstock. Ethanol produced from this plant will be blended with Petrol. The cost is around 100 Crores.

- ✎ India has surplus biomass availability of about 120-160 MMT annually which if converted, has potential to yield 3000 crore litres of ethanol. National Biofuel Policy of India 2018 targets 20% Ethanol blending to Petrol by 2030. However, due to non-availability of Ethanol, current Ethanol blending in Petrol is about 3 to 4%.
- ✎ Setting up of 2G Ethanol plants will help achieve target of Ethanol blending in Petrol. Bargarh Bio-Refinery will utilize about 2 lakh tonnes of Rice straw annually as feedstock which will be sourced from nearby locations.

77. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated *One District One Product* Summit in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). Amazon partnered with UP government to provide support MSME entrepreneurs across nine districts, under ODOP Scheme. This will be a part of Amazon India's Kala Haat programme which aims to help traditional industries to enter in to ecommerce business.
- ✎ NITI Aayog's International Conference on "Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions" Held in New Delhi.
- ✎ 17th Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting held in New Delhi
- ✎ 51st ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Foreign Ministers meeting Held in Singapore.
- ✎ Telangana Govt. signed MoU with It Firm Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district, during International Blockchain Congress 2018 in Hyderabad. It will be centre of excellence, incubator and process development for emerging technology with innovative infrastructure and facilities to foster growth of Indian blockchain start-ups and companies.
- ✎ Startup India Yatra launched in Raipur (capital of Chattisgarh), to travel to other cities of state over coming month.
- ✎ *Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo* event held in Tripura, with Japan committing to assist in Bamboo handicraft sector of Tripura.
- ✎ 5th *Act East Business Show -2018* held in Shillong (Meghalaya).
- ✎ First-ever festival for insects that help maintain ecosystem is organized jointly by WWF (World Wide Fund) India and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).
- ✎ Govt. inaugurated an exhibition entitled *Pratibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram* (Freedom Movement through Prescribed Literature) in National Archives of India (New Delhi).
- ✎ NITI Aayog hosted an Investors' Conference in New Delhi, for Holistic Development of Islands. It will attract investment for sustainable development of eco-tourism projects in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- ✎ Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs launched official trailer for film *Halkaa*, under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in partnership with New Delhi Municipal Council, set to release on Sep 05.
- ✎ All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed MoU with IIT Delhi to boost research in traditional medicine and streamline hospital care facilities. It was signed at two-day conference of heads of AYUSH National Institutes organised by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, aimed at upgrading national institutes of traditional medicine at par with IITs and IIMs.

78. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✎ Jatayu sculpture inaugurated at Jatayu Earth Center (JEC) at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district (Kerala), as world's largest bird sculpture.
- ✎ Meeting of Senior Officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held in Kathmandu (Npeal) today.
- ✎ Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 held in Birgunj (Nepal).

79. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -

- ✎ Indian Council of Agricultural Research organized 2 day conference on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA) held in New Delhi, In order to meet the challenge of providing sustainable livelihoods for a rapidly growing population and to motivate and attract youth in agriculture.
- ✎ India Banking Conclave (IBC) 2018 held in New Delhi, organised by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) along with NITI Aayog.
- ✎ 5 day International water colour festival held in Ranchi at Audrey House, to promote the rich art and culture of Jharkhand.

80. ▶ General Conferences (Oct 1-10, 2018) -

- ✎ Workshop on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' held in New Delhi by NITI Aayog in collaboration with ICC International Court of Arbitration.
- ✎ 2-day First ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' held at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
- ✎ First Uttarakhand Investors Summit held in Dehradun, attracting investments over 125000 Crores.
- ✎ Exhibition "Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti" held at IGNCA (New Delhi).

- 🔗 *India Chem 2018*, 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference held in Mumbai, as largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India.
- 🔗 PM Narendra Modi has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana, sculpted by renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar.
- 🔗 International Conference on Technological Advancements in Railway and Metro Projects (IC-TRAM 2018) held in New Delhi.
- 🔗 Women Health for Women Empowerment Conference held in Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh).
- 🔗 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region held in Guwahati (Assam).
- 🔗 14th Hospitality India and Explore the World Annual International Travel Awards 2018 held in New Delhi. Nepal won tourism award. Also, Chandragiri Hills Limited of Nepal got the best tourism destination of Nepal award in hospitality and tourism sector.
- 🔗 Actor Ruhaan Rajput received the Mid-day Young Achiever Icons Award for 2018 recently in Mumbai, in film and television category for his work in industry in short time.

81. ▶ General Conferences (Oct 11-20, 2018) -

- 🔗 6th UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force meeting held in Mumbai. During this, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu announced setting up of a special UAE desk to facilitate investments and resolve any business issues between two nations.
- 🔗 8th European Congress on SMEs held in Katowice, Poland, with theme *Science- Business-Self Government TOGETHER FOR ECONOMY*.
- 🔗 Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai. It measured 20×30 feet and stood 350 feet.
- 🔗 46th world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair held at India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida (UP). It has played a vital role in increasing exports of handicrafts from country and has special importance for handicrafts sector.
- 🔗 Turkey will host a summit for Turkey, France, Germany and Russia in Istanbul, to discuss conflict in Syria and efforts for a lasting solution to end war in Syria.
- 🔗 Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has released 12th Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018, prepared by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) since 2005.
- 🔗 inaugural 'Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration' organised by NITI Aayog and ICC International Court of Arbitration in New Delhi.
- 🔗 6th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) held in Singapore. C. R. Chaudhary (*Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*) Visited On India's Behalf.
- 🔗 India and Japan held their 2nd edition of 'Japan-India Act East Forum' in New Delhi.
- 🔗 Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan Launched air quality early warning system for Delhi.
- 🔗 6th India International Silk Fair (IISF) HELD in New Delhi. India is 2nd largest producer of silk in world, providing gainful employment to around 8 million artisans and weavers in rural areas.

82. ▶ General Conferences (Oct 21 - 31, 2018) -

- 🔗 4th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM-2019) will be organised in Mumbai in January - February 2019, to be organised jointly by Government of Maharashtra, Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS), IIT Bombay & TISS Mumbai. WCDM 2019 will be largest assembly on disaster management outside UN system.
- 🔗 5th National Summit on "Good & Replicable Practices & Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India" held at Kaziranga (Assam).
- 🔗 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA, the largest show on the "Organic Sector" in India, held at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi), with theme *Enhancing export of organic products trade from India – strategies and synergies*.
- 🔗 6th North East festival and 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival organized in New Delhi.
- 🔗 20th Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2018 held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Dubai (UAE).
- 🔗 5th Edition of 'Women of India National Organic Festival' held in New Delhi.
- 🔗 *Krishi Kumbh 2018* held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), to pave way for new technology to be imbibed and better opportunities to created in the agriculture sector.
- 🔗 36th Indian Carpets Expo held at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), to augment efforts of the handicrafts and small and medium industries.
- 🔗 3-day Sagar Discourse 2 conference held in Panaji (Goa), organized by Forum for Integrated National Security.
- 🔗 Conclave on Capital Goods for Steel Sector, manufacture in India, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Bhubaneswar (Odisha). 38 pacts worth \$5 billion were signed among 20 technology providers, to boost manufacturing of capital goods for iron and steel industry.

- ✎ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign aimed to reduce adverse environmental conditions after Diwali celebrations due to excessive bursting of crackers. It is merged with “Green Good Deed” movement that has been initiated as social mobilization for conservation and protection of environment.
- ✎ First trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran (Iran). Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Economic Relations) TS Tirumurti.
- ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated International Arya Mahasammelan 2018 in Delhi.
- ✎ NITI Aayog organized 4th NITI Lecture Series at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, with theme *AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth*.
- ✎ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised a seminar on Gandhian thoughts and Swachhta to make India a Swachh Bharat by 2019 - 150 the birthday celebration of M K Gandhi.
- ✎ 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF 2018) began in Assam, with theme ‘*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*’ Focus region of GIFF 2018 is the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.
- ✎ *Childrens Film Bonanza* concluded at Naharlagun (Arunachal Pradesh), organized by Children’s Film Society of India (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting).

83. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ IARI held Conference on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA) at National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC) in New Delhi.
- ✎ 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference on theme “Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility” held at AIIMS Delhi.
- ✎ A National Conference organised by Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association in New Delhi.
- ✎ 3-day Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference – 2018, organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association in New Delhi.
- ✎ US-India Business Council (USIBC) organised its first India Ideas Summit in Mumbai.
- ✎ Ministry of Railways & Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) organised a seminar on “Leveraging IT for Mobility” in New Delhi. Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched a new app – “AAPOORTI’ mobile App of ‘Indian Railways e-procurement system’ (IREPS).
- ✎ 31st meeting of Central Hindi Committee held in New Delhi.
- ✎ 115th meeting of India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) held in Lahore (Pakistan). PK Saxena (Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters), attended the same. Both countries agreed to undertake Treaty mandated tours of both Indus Commissioners in Indus basin on both sides.
- ✎ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) announced guidelines for ‘Sandbox’ method to enable testing of new innovative insurance products, during 11th Global Insurance Summit organised by Assocham in Mumbai. Sandbox method would allow insurers or a set of few policyholders to test products in a particular geography before they are available in market.
- ✎ Conference on “E-Mobility in Indian Railways” organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) in association with NITI Aayog concluded in New Delhi.
- ✎ 4th Annual Sustainable Smart Cities India Conference held in Bengaluru.
- ✎ Bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces held in New Delhi.















84. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✎ Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) organized National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres’ at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- ✎ Rajasthan government held convention on ‘Revitalising India as a Heritage Destination’ to focus on preserving heritage properties in Bharatpur.
- ✎ All India Pension Adalat held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoP&PW). It is a large scale exercise for pensioners’ welfare undertaken by Government as part of good governance practices.
- ✎ My India WiFi India Summit & Awards 2018 organized by DigiAnalysis in New Delhi, with theme Achieving 10 million WiFi Hotspots by 2018.
- ✎ Asean World Economic Forum held in Hanoi (Vietnam), with theme *ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution*.
- ✎ Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Narendra Singh chaired 20th Central Employment Guarantee Council meeting in Bhopal.
- ✎ 4th Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok (Russia), with theme *The Far East: Expanding the Range of Possibilities*.

- ✍ Inaugural Naval Flight Test Seminar held at Goa.
  - ✍ Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated ISRO's Space Technology Incubation Centre(STIC) at National Institute of Technology Agartala. It was launched at the first edition of 'Spacetrionics' organised by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA).
  - ✍ Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani presented 'Shilp Guru' and National Award to Master craft persons at a function held at Raipur (capital of Chhattisgarh). 8 'Shilp guru' and 25 National awards were presented for 2016. Shilp Guru' is the highest award in the Handicraft sector in India.
  - ✍ Home Affairs Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated two Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) pilot projects along India-Pakistan border in Jammu region.
  - ✍ Jaipur Literature Festival held in Houston at Asia Society of Texas (USA). The festival is touted as world's largest free literary gathering.
85. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
- ✍ 7th National Conference on Excellence in Workplace Safety and Occupational Health in New Delhi.
  - ✍ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence in New Delhi. To deliberate on challenges facing Indian education system and to work out a plan for a paradigm shift in terms of achieving academic outcomes and in regulation of education.
  - ✍ 3rd meeting of IONS Working Group (IWG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) held in Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
  - ✍ National literary and intellectual conference Lok Manthan 2018 held at Khel Gaon in Ranchi (Jharkhand).
  - ✍ Joint border conference of India and Bangladesh held at Aizawl (Mizoram).
  - ✍ India and Nepal's 5th meeting of Boundary Working Group (BWG) held in Kathmandu. Both Nations agreed to explore possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work.
  - ✍ Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs 2 day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in New Delhi.
    - ✍ NeVA is initiative of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aiming to make all legislatures in country paperless by making proceedings of houses digital. It hosts secure page for each Member of House for submitting Questions and other Notices.
    - ✍ NeVA serves as 'One Nation, One Application' by bringing uniformity of database for easy and effective engagement of citizens with Government.
  - ✍ 21st Central Zonal Council meeting held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
  - ✍ Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur (Rajasthan), to discuss utilizing benefits of new technology, town planning, challenges before socio-economic development in Smart City sector.
  - ✍ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) held its Grameena Habba Event in Bangalore (Karnataka), to expand the market for weavers, rural artisans and craftsmen, SHGs, rural entrepreneurs, and farmers' producer organisations.
  - ✍ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha's official Bhawan in Chennai (Tamilnadu). He also launched 'Kalahandi Dialogue' at Bhawanipatna, in Kalahandi (Odisha).
86. ▶ Global monument conservation body *International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)* launched Kerala Heritage Rescue Initiative to assess damage to rich cultural and built heritage sites in flood-devastated Kerala. It aims at setting up platform for emergency response to cultural heritage damaged by floods in Kerala.
87. ▶ Goa Government launched helpline 181, to help women in distress.
88. ▶ Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service inaugurated in Gujarat, under Sagarmala programme of Ministry of Shipping.
- ✍ In a successful trial run, 12 loaded trucks were transported by Ro- Pax ferry from Dahej to Gogha across the Gulf of Cambay, via sea route.
  - ✍ Land route is a 294 km or 8 hour drive, while Ro-Pax service reduces this to just 31 km through sea route by crossing Gulf in Cambay, taking just 1.5 hours.
  - ✍ This is an important development for diamond and textiles traders & workers in Surat to travel via coastal shipping and save the travel time by almost half.
  - ✍ Fully operational Ro Pax service with carrying capacity of 100 vehicles and 500 passengers is now opened
  - ✍ Total cost of project is estimated to be 615 Crores, of which 117 Crore is funded by Central Government under Sagarmala programme.



 Pictorial Representation -

89. ▶ Government allowed foreign tourists to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions, overpowering its earlier order that made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of their arrival. However, citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan will require Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit.
90. ▶ Government announced recipients of Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 -
-  2014 - Manipuri dancer Rajkumar Singhajit Singh
  -  2015 - Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh)
  -  2016 - Ram Vanji Sutar (Noted sculptor).
-  Tagore Award -
-  First Tagore Award was conferred on Noted Sitar Maestro Pt. Ravi Shankar, in 2012. 2nd was conferred on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013. It carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft item.
91. ▶ Government approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology 'IMPRINT-2' scheme.
-  Implementation of 142 projects under IMPRINT-1 has got underway. Knowledge portal for monitoring progress of these research projects and to disseminate findings will be launched in October 2018.
  -  IMPRINT is the first of its kind government-supported initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges that India must address and champion to enable, empower and embolden nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance.
92. ▶ Government launched *National REDD+ Strategy India*. to improve livelihood of forest dependent population.
-  REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
  -  REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation. It seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also enhance forest carbon stocks.
  -  India under its communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, has committed to capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
  -  India's first biennial update report to UNFCCC has revealed that forests in India capture about 12% of India's total GHG emissions. Thus, forestry sector in India is making a positive cost effective contribution for climate change mitigation.
  -  Complying with UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy, built upon existing circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.
93. ▶ Government launched an air pollution prediction system for Delhi, making it easier to alert general public about air quality 48 hours in advance. It is called *Air Quality Early Warning System*.
94. ▶ Government observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 29th Oct-3rd Nov 2018, with 2018 Theme *Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India*.
95. ▶ Government reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), 8 months ahead of schedule. Uttar Pradesh (87 lakh), West Bengal (67 lakh), Bihar (61 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (45 lakh), Rajasthan (37 lakh) and Odisha (30 lakh) accounted for 65% of connections under PMUY and 47% of beneficiaries are from weaker sections.
-  PMUY was launched in May 2016 with tagline of Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.
96. ▶ Government will build a stadium of international standard for differently-abled persons in Meghalaya, expected to be completed by 2022, at an estimated cost of over 200 crores.
-  Meghalaya Govt also launched flagship scheme "Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries", to enable self-sufficiency in fish production.

97. ▶ Government will introduce a bill in Winter Session in December 2018, to speed up inter-state river water dispute resolution among states and manage affairs of 13 river basins across country. Named River Basin Management Bill 2018, it will replace River Board Act 1956 which is only advisory in nature.
- ▶ Authorities will be set up for river basins of Ganga, Indus, Godavari, Mahanadi, Mahi, Narmada, Pennar, Cauvery, Krishna, Tapi, Subarnrekha, Brahmani-Baitarini and Brahamaputra- Barak-inter-state rivers of north-east.
98. ▶ Government's think tank NITI Aayog signed agreement with Microsoft India to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare and promote adoption of local languages. This will help NITI Aayog to move beyond pilots and understand how to scale AI implementation in sectors characterized by preponderance of public goods.
99. ▶ Govt. laid foundation stone for proposed Museum on Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Estate in New Delhi.
- ▶ Teen Murti Estate has a total area of 25.50 acres out of which, Nehru Memorial Museum Building occupies around 2 acres only. Government decided to set up *Museum on Prime Ministers of India* in remaining area of Teen Murti Estate.
100. ▶ Govt. launched Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), at AICTE premises to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across country. Major Programs of MHRD Innovation Cell are -
- ▶ Network of Innovation Clubs (NIC) -
    - ▶ It will prescribe basic framework for the structure and smooth running of ICs and will soon share list of different activities which ICs need to undertake for entire academic year.
  - ▶ Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) -
    - ▶ This will systematically rank education institutions primarily on innovation related indicators, to foster spirit of innovation in Higher education.
  - ▶ Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019 -
    - ▶ 3rd edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - Smart India Hackathon - 2019 has been launched. It is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing daily life problems, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.
    - ▶ Smart India Hackathon 2019 would also have 2 sub-editions – Software edition (a 36-hour software product development competition) and Hardware edition (a 5 days long hardware product development competition).
  - ▶ National Student Startup Policy (NSSP) -
    - ▶ AICTE launched its Student Start-up Policy in November 2016, designed for AICTE approved Institutions in accordance with Govt of India's "Start-up India" Action plan. AICTE's Student Start up policy intends to guide AICTE approved institutions to promote student driven innovations and start-ups.
101. ▶ Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US \$43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India's coastal communities. This project will focus on selected vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha states. It will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions – over 3.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> will be absorbed through restored ecosystems.
- ▶ It is part of Green Climate Fund (GCF)'s recently approved over \$1 billion new investments for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change, during a meeting in Manama (Bahrain).
102. ▶ Gujarat Forest Department started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly canine distemper virus (CDV) and protozoa infections, The virus blamed for death of as many as 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary in less than month.
- ▶ Asiatic lions are believed to have split from African Lions 100,000 years ago. Gir sanctuary is the only wild population of Asiatic lions in world, having over 523 Asiatic Lions.
103. ▶ HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched 3rd edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - 'Smart India Hackathon- 2019' . .
- ▶ SIH-2019 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving. For 1st time, Private industry/organisations and NGOs can also send their problem statements to students under SIH-2019.
  - ▶ It would have 2 sub-editions – Software edition (a 36-hour software product development competition) and Hardware edition (a 5 days long hardware product development competition).
104. ▶ Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs launched several entities -
- ▶ Swachh Survekshan 2019 - Planned to be conducted from 4th – 31st January 2019 – to rank all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). This will be the fourth survey of MoHUA.
  - ▶ SBM ODF Plus and ODF Plus Plus Protocol - Aims at addressing issue of holistic sanitation.
  - ▶ Swachh Manch web portal
  - ▶ Ease of Living Index (111 Cities) -

- ▶ Maharashtra Cities at Top 3 - Pune (1), Navi Mumbai (2), Greater Mumbai (3). Others in Top 10 - Tirupati, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijaywada and Bhopal.

- ▶ West Bengal refused to participate in Centre's rankings, just as it has done with all other urban schemes.

- ▶ Last 3 - Rampur (UP - 111), Kohima (Nagaland - 110), Patna (109).

105. ▶ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate change) inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU(Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi. WAYU is developed by CSIR – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI).
106. ▶ Harvest festival of Nuakhai celebrated in western Odisha. During this, new produce Nabannis are offered to presiding deities.
107. ▶ Haryana Assembly passed State Commission for Scheduled Castes Bill 2018, for development setting up a commission for scheduled castes in the state, to safeguard interests of people belonging to SC community.
  - ▶ State Assembly also passed Bills to rename 2 Universities - YMCA University of Science and Technology Faridabad renamed as J C Bose University of Science and Technology and Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University renamed as Shri Vishwakarma Skill University.
108. ▶ Haryana Government introduced *Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa* scheme to provide free of cost health care services to livestock in the state through mobile veterinary clinics. Livestock farmers would be able to avail service 24×7 after giving a call on toll free No.1962.
109. ▶ Haryana Government launched an anti-terrorist force (ATF) 'Kavach, to deal with security challenges. For this, Haryana police recruits will be trained by National Security Guard (NSG).
110. ▶ Haryana Government signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up ethanol plant at village Bohali village in Panipat district with an outlay of INR 900 crores, with capacity of 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day. This will motivate farmers in its 50 km radius area to manage crop residue and prevent straw burning and help to fulfill increasing demand of ethanol and also bio-fuels for consumers of petroleum product.
111. ▶ Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launched *horn not ok* awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin' (no noise) mobile application, to spread awareness of unnecessary blowing horn as it creates unnecessary noise pollution and is harmful to health.
112. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched 2 portals to strengthen Women Safety -
  - ▶ Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC) ([url - cybercrime.gov.in](http://url-cybercrime.gov.in)), will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rapes. Complaints registered through this portal will be handled by police authorities of respective State/UTs.
  - ▶ 2nd portal, National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO), which is accessible only to law enforcement agencies, will assist in effectively tracking and investigating cases of sexual offences. It is a central database of "sexual offenders", to be maintained by NCRB for regular monitoring by State Police.
113. ▶ Home Ministry excluded 29 inhabited islands in Andaman and Nicobar from Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order 1963, till December 2022., to promote tourism. However, citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries will continue to require RAP to visit here.
  - ▶ Under RAP regime, foreigners are not normally allowed to visit protected area unless Government allows them. Every foreigner, except citizen of Bhutan, who desires to enter protected area, is required to obtain special permit from competent authority.
  - ▶ Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals of Pakistani origin are exception and are not allowed to enter such areas.
114. ▶ Home Ministry relaxed conditions 'four-corner agreement' signed with Bru migrants for their repatriation from Tripura to Mizoram, signed with Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) in July 2018.
  - ▶ As per Agreement -
    - ▶ It covers 5,407 Bru families (32876 persons) presently staying in temporary camps in Tripura to repatriate them to Mizoram by end of September 2018. These families who moved to Mizoram from Tripura will be given one-time financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh to be kept as fixed deposit in name of head of family. Apart from this, house building assistance of 1.5 lakh, free ration for 2 years will also be provided.
  - ▶ Relaxed Provisions -
    - ▶ Period of stay for cash assistance of Rs 4 lakh for Bru refugees will be relaxed from 3 to two years. They can withdraw 90% of 4 lakh assistance as bank loan immediately after their return.
    - ▶ On relocation, at least 50 refugees will be settled in each village.
  - ▶ Background -
    - ▶ Bru (or Reang) are tribals inhabit to some parts of Northeastern states. In 1997, following bout of ethnic violence between Mizos and Brus, thousands of people from Bru tribe were forced to leave their homes in Mizoram and settle down in Tripura.



- ✎ First phase of repatriation of Brus from Tripura to Mizoram started in November 2010, when 1,622 Bru families with 8,573 members were resettled in Mizoram. But repatriation stalled in 2011, 2012 and 2015 amid protests by Mizo NGOs.
- 115. ▶ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced Swachh Campus rankings -
  - ✎ Cleanest Government universities -
    - ✎ Maharashi Dayanand University, Haryana
    - ✎ Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab
    - ✎ Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi
  - ✎ Cleanest residential campus of private universities - Symbiosis International University, Pune
  - ✎ Cleanest non-residential campus of private universities - ITM University, Raipur
  - ✎ Cleanest technical institutions -
    - ✎ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore
    - ✎ IIT Guwahati
    - ✎ Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University in Bhubhaneshwar
    - ✎ IIIT Delhi.
- 116. ▶ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched web portal of Scheme *Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)*, at url [www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in](http://www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in).
  - ✎ SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in world. Under this, 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years.
  - ✎ Government in August 2018 had sanctioned SPARC scheme at total cost of 418 Crores for implementation up to 31-3-2020 and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement it.
- 117. ▶ Hyderabad Metro became second biggest rail network in India with a total of 46 km service (2nd to Delhi Metro) After Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan flagged off 16-km stretch of Hyderabad Metro between Ameerpet and L B Nagar.
- 118. ▶ IIT-Kharagpur named national coordinating institute of Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 119. ▶ IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance, by supporting State government on various data science and ICT-related challenges.
- 120. ▶ IRCTC launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot *Ask Disha*, aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users' queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.
- 121. ▶ IT firm IBM has teamed up with IIT Bombay to 'accelerate' AI research in India through its AI Horizons Network.
- 122. ▶ India became only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products (1800-11-2356). India is the 4th such country in Asia after Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia to have a helpline number dedicated for helping people quit tobacco products.
- 123. ▶ India opened Zokhawthar land immigration check-post in Mizoram along border with Myanmar, as authorised immigration centre for travel to and from Myanmar. Zokhawthar will be second immigration check-post in Mizoram along Myanmar border after Zorinpui check-post in Lawngtlai district which was opened in September 2017.
- 124. ▶ India's First corn festival held in Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh).
- 125. ▶ IndiaSkills 2018, 2nd edition of India's biggest skill competition held at Aerocity Ground in New Delhi. some of awardees in 46 trades will participate in 45th WorldSkills Competition at Kazan (Russia) in 2019.
- 126. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) launched *Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI)* as an exclusive incubator to boost chip design. It is first of its kind in India that will focus on creating an ecosystem for start-ups in chip design.
  - ✎ FabCI's purpose is to incubate at least 50 'Make-in-India' chip design companies that can compete globally and generate Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
  - ✎ It will also offer virtual support to non-Hyderabad start-ups which can join FabCI and leverage the offerings and participate remotely.
- 127. ▶ Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will stop free travel insurance starting September 1 and *free insurance will be optional*.
  - ✎ Insurance provided by IRCTC had a maximum cover of 10 lakh in case of a person's death during a train journey, 7.5 lakh if a person is disabled due to an accident, 2 lakh if injured and 10000 for transportation of mortal remains.
- 128. ▶ Indian Railways signed MoU with GAIL India, to replace Industrial gases like Dissolved Acetylene, LPG, BMCG and Furnace Oil / High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil with environment friendly Natural Gas.


- ✎ This MoU is a broad based, in principle agreement, between GAIL and Indian Railways for creation of infrastructure and supply of CNG/LNG/PNG for both industrial and domestic purposes.
- ✎ Replacement by Natural Gases is likely to result into a saving of about Rs. 20 crore per annum to Indian Railways.
- 129. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) inaugurated S–Band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport (Andhra Pradesh). It will be used for observation of weather system up to range of 500 km and also for early warning of severe weather events.
  - ✎ DWR has been developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd Bengaluru under ToT (Training of Trainers) from ISRO, as 7th radar of such type manufactured in country under “Make in India”.
- 130. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed MoU with Central University of Jammu (CUJ) for setting up Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in University. Another MoU was signed between CUJ and Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO), To create awareness about space research and to motivate young minds to take up research related to space.
- 131. ▶ Indian actress Jaya Prada appointed as goodwill ambassador for Nepal tourism, for 4 years.
- 132. ▶ Indian postal services honoured Udaipur-based non-profit organisation Narayan Seva Sansthan, by launching their rs 5 postal stamps.
- 133. ▶ Indian Railways launched a web portal called *Rail Sahyog*, at URL [www.railsahyog.in](http://www.railsahyog.in), as a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility funds. Companies desirous of contributing can show willingness on the portal by registering their requests.
- 134. ▶ India’s first National Environment Survey (NES) will begin in January 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 UTs. The earliest first set of complete green data from this survey will be available in 2020.
  - ✎ It will be carried out by MoEFCC through Environmental Information System (ENVIS). It will be done through grid-based approach, using grids measuring 9×9 km to collect comprehensive data on various environmental parameters.
  - ✎ Green data from this survey will provide important tool in hands of policy-makers for decision making at all levels – district, state and national. skilled manpower required for survey will be provided from persons skilled and trained under MoEFCC’s Green Skill Development Programme.
- 135. ▶ India’s first flight using biofuel flown from Dehradun (capital of Uttarakhand) to Delhi, conducted by SpiceJet on its turboprop Q-400 plane. Flights used alternative environment friendly fuel for 10 minutes over Dehradun.
  - ✎ India joined elite club of nations who have operated flight on alternative energy source like biofuel, having countries like Canada, Australia and US have already conducted these test flights. Biofuel is developed by CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun. The flight was powered with a blend of 75% air turbine fuel (ATF) and 25% biojet fuel.
  - ✎ The Flight carried blend of 25% of bio jet fuel (derived from jatropha seeds) and 75% of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) in one of the two engines of plane, while other carried only ATF. International standards permit a blend rate of up to 50% biofuel with ATF. It can reduce fuel costs by 15-20%.
    - ✎ Jatropha is drought-resistant perennial plant that can grow in marginal or poor soil. It is grows relatively quickly and lives, produces seeds for 50 years. Its seeds has oil content of 37% which be combusted as fuel without being refined. It burns with clear smoke-free flame.
    - ✎ It has been tested successfully as fuel for simple diesel engine. Its oil also acts as insecticide..
  - ✎ The use of bio jet fuel, apart from reducing carbon emissions by 80 %, greenhouse gas emissions by about 15 % and sulfur oxides (SOx) emissions by over 99 %, is expected to provide indigenous jet fuel supply security, possible cost savings as feedstock availability at farm level scales up, superior engine performance and reduced maintenance cost for the airline operators.
  - ✎ World’s first dedicated biofuel flight (by Dreamliner Boeing 787-9) was flown for first time from Los Angeles (US) to Melbourne (Australia) in January 2018 by Australian carrier Qantas.
  - ✎ Biofuel is produced from vegetable oils, recycled grease, algae and animal fat. It is cleaner, environmental friendly fuel that can be used as alternative in place of fossil fuels.
  - ✎ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy recently on August 10, 2018 (World Biofuel Day 2018) had released National Policy on Biofuels 2018. Under it, Government plans to triple ethanol production over the next four years. It also has set target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol by 2030.
- 136. ▶ India’s first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public at the Pushpa Gujral Science City, in Kapurthala (Punjab).
- 137. ▶ India’s first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality in 2019, now undergoing sodium commissioning.
  - ✎ Criticality of Nuclear Reactor is event of it reaching self-sustained chain reaction. This means that no external source of neutrons is required to sustain fission in reactor core. It is precondition of producing useful amounts of energy from the reactor.

- ▶ PFBR has been designed indigenously by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), to generate 500 MWe of electrical power, with operational life of 40 years. It generates power by burning mixed uranium-plutonium MOX fuel, a mixture of PuO<sub>2</sub> and UO<sub>2</sub>.
  - ▶ Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (Bhavini) has been given responsibility to build these reactors. India is planning to build 21 such reactors by 2030.
138. ▶ India's longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam, connecting Dhubri (Assam) to Fulbarani (Meghalaya). At present, India's largest river bridge is Dhola-Sadia bridge, its length is 9.15 kilometers. It will be completed by 2026-27 and will be public-funded work, with loan from Japanese Finance Agency (JICA).
139. ▶ India's wealthiest women list 2018 by Kotak Wealth-Hurun -
- ▶ Smitha Crishna, 3rd generation heir of Godrej Empire, topped the list with estimated net worth approx USD 6 Billion.
  - ▶ Roshni Nadar (HCL) ranks second with approx 5 Billion USD. Indu Jain of BCCL and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are ranked 3rd and 4th in list.
  - ▶ Hurun Global Rich List 2018 has 404 women, of which 14 are from India.
140. ▶ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has set sail a container cargo belonging to food and beverage giant PepsiCo (India) from Kolkata to Varanasi on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). It is India's first container movement on inland vessel post-independence.
141. ▶ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will start a new Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facility in collaboration with Assam Government to provide much-needed connectivity for Majuli Island. It will cut down circuitous road route of 423 KMs that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli Island via Tezpur Road Bridge, by limiting distance to only 12.7 KM.
- ▶ Majuli is one of the biggest riverine islands in the world located on river Brahmaputra and faces serious challenges of connectivity. It has 144 villages with a population of over 1,50,000. Currently, there are only four road bridges across river Brahmaputra - at Jogighopa, Guwahati, Tezpur and Sadiya for connectivity between southern and northern parts of Assam.
  - ▶ Earlier, IWAI started a similar Ro-Ro service between Dhubri and Hatsingimari which reduced the travel distance by 190 KMs.
142. ▶ Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) submitted its 2nd Report on Cross Border Insolvency to Arun Jaitley, which was constituted by Ministry of Corporate Affairs to recommend amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India 2016,
- ▶ ILC recommended adoption of UNCITRAL Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency 1997, for it provides for a comprehensive framework to deal with cross border insolvency issues.
  - ▶ UNCITRAL Model Law has till now been adopted in 44 countries and forms part of international best practices in dealing with cross border insolvency issues. The model law gives precedence to domestic proceedings and protection of public interest.
143. ▶ International Aviation Summit held in New Delhi, jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ▶ Civil Aviation Ministry announced Vision 2035 under which it plans to build 100 new airports across India in the next 10-15 years with an investment of USD 60 billion and address major issues concerning aviation industry.
144. ▶ International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed MoU with Telangana Government, to conduct a research on impact of Mission Kakatiya programme
- ▶ Mission Kakatiya aims to restore all minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana State, in 5 years. Tanks and lakes are dug to remove silt for increasing water storage capacity.
145. ▶ International Executive Council (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)), accorded Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS) status on Telangana's Sadarmatt anicut and iconic Pedda Cheruvu tank. Both these sites will now be inscribed in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.
- ▶ Sadarmatt anicut - The Sadarmatt barrage, across Godavari in Khanapur of Nirmal district, is an iconic structure installed by the then Hyderabad ruler Nawab Iqbal-ud-Dowla in 1891-92.
    - ▶ Sadarmatt is 437.4 m long on its left flank and 23.8 m on its right flank. maximum flood discharge at the anicut is 7.76 lakh cusecs.
  - ▶ Pedda Cheruvu -
    - ▶ It is spread over an area of 618 acres and was built in 1897 during the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State. It has a 1.8-km-long tank bund and 145-metre wall and three sluices.
146. ▶ Jammu will be the first city in north India to get a full-fledged space technology research centre devoted to research, academics and post-graduation degree course. It will function under Central University Jammu.
147. ▶ Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust signed MoU with Ministry of Railways, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for implementation of the 362 km Indore- Manmad New Railway Line Project -
- ▶ It will reduce distance from Mumbai/Pune to key central India locations by 171 kilometers, resulting in lower logistics costs.

- Joint Venture Company will be formed between Ministry of Shipping or its nominated entity including JNPT with equity share of 55 %, Maharashtra or its nominated entity, Madhya Pradesh or its nominated entity and others with equity share of 15 % each.
148. ▶ Jharkhand government introduced electric vehicles for official use, becoming 5th state of India and first state in eastern India to procure eco-friendly vehicles for government use.
149. ▶ Karnataka Government unveiled 'Unnati Scheme' to help entrepreneurs from SC/ST Communities. Under it, State Govt. will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.
150. ▶ Karnataka government launched 'Swachha Meva Jayate' campaign, to promote cleanliness across state.
151. ▶ Karnataka government made Yoga mandatory for all colleges and universities in State. All government, aided and private degree colleges in state must conduct yoga for 20-minutes.
152. ▶ Kerala Government appointed KPMG as project consultant partner for rebuilding state ravaged by recent massive floods. Services of KPMG rendered for projects related to revamping to Kerala will be free of cost.
- ▶ Netherlands based KPMG is one of largest professional service companies in world and one of Big Four auditors, along with Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.
153. ▶ Kingdom of Netherlands will be Partner Country in 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019.
154. ▶ Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a flood forecasting and early warning system (FFEWS) for Kolkata City, as India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS. Asian Development Bank (ADB) from its Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund funded this project with technical assistance of a \$1 million.
155. ▶ Lonar Lake, an ancient circular lake created by a meteorite strike, in Maharashtra and St. Mary's Island, a hexagonal mosaic of basaltic rocks in an island off Udipi will be made global geoparks by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- ▶ St. Mary's Island which was declared a national geo-heritage site in 1975 is estimated to be an 88-million-year-old.
- ▶ Lonar crater became a geo-heritage site in 1979. It is around 50,000 years old.
156. ▶ MSME Ministry launched its monthly e-newsletter named *MSME Insider* to disseminate information of activities undertaken by MSME Ministry and act as a communication bridge between MSME Ministry and its stakeholders.
157. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced creation of Niwari as its 52nd district, carved out of Tikamgarh district. It will include tehsils of *Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur*.
158. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced to observe August 14 every year as Shahid Samman Divas. State Govt. also launched Dial 100 Mobile app, to help needy at the time of emergency.
159. ▶ Madhya Pradesh forest department asked National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to revive its Cheetah Reintroduction Project to reintroduce Cheetahs in Nauradehi sanctuary located in Sagar district of state.
- ▶ Cheetah, fastest land animal was declared extinct in India in 1952. India's last spotted Asiatic cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) had died in Chhattisgarh in 1947. According to earlier action plan, around 20 cheetahs were to be translocated to Nauradehi from Namibia in Africa.
- ▶ The Project was conceived in 2009, but State was not ready to finance plan contending that it was Centre's project.
160. ▶ Madhya Pradesh launched a first of its kind initiative called "Mil -Banche" in all government schools across the state. It Aims to create education and learning awareness among children.
161. ▶ Madhya Pradesh received Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kadaknath chicken breed from State. GI tag denotes that product comes from particular geographical.
- ▶ Kadaknath Chicken Kadaknath or Kali Masi is unique breed of chicken that is complete black colour. Apart from its meat, its bones and most organs are also black. It is native tribal districts of Jhabua, Alirajpur and parts of Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.
- ▶ Kadaknath chicken contains 25-27% of protein in comparison with other breeds of chickens that contain 18% protein. It is also known for its high iron content.
162. ▶ Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal delivered its final verdict to ending 50-year-old dispute over sharing of Mahadayi / Mandovi River between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- ▶ The tribunal was constituted in November 2010 under Interstate River Water Disputes Act 1956.
- ▶ About two-thirds (76 km) of Mahadayi's 111-km stretch lies in Goa and remaining 35 km is in Karnataka and Maharashtra. Mahadayi River is lifeline of Goa because it is one of few sweet-water sources at state's disposal (most of Goa's 11 rivers contain salt water).
- ▶ Dispute -
- ▶ Sharing of waters of Mahadayi River was major cause of dispute between Karnataka and Goa. Karnataka wanted to divert excess water from Mahadayi river to Malaprabha river basin, as part of Kalasa-Banduri Nala project.
- ▶ Goa opposed Karnataka's proposal, stating that its population is dependent on river's natural path.
- ▶ Verdict -

- ▶ Tribunal pegged Karnataka's access to 13.4 tmc of Mahadayi River water for its consumptive use (5.4 tmc) and power generation (8.02 tmc). Goa was allowed to use 24 tmc for state's needs.
  - ▶ Maharashtra was awarded lowest share of 1.33 tmc for meeting its in-basin needs with respect to five projects.
  - ▶ Central Government will set up Mahadayi Water Management Authority to implement this decision.
163. ▶ Maharashtra Government will set up new Cyber University dedicated to mitigating cyber threats. It will train 3,000 professionals to fight cyber-attacks.
164. ▶ Maharashtra launched website and app Maha madat to analyze drought situation, to help in accurate analysis of drought-like situation in villages of state. Drought can be declared if a region does not receive rain for a span of 21 days.
165. ▶ Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar become wettest place in India in 2018, leaving behind Meghalaya's long famed Cherrapunji. Mahabaleshwar received a staggering 5661.6 mm rainfall this season till now, much more than Cherrapunji's 4735 mm.
- ▶ Cherrapunji holds two Guinness world records for receiving the maximum amount of rainfall in a single year, 26,471mm (1,042.2 in) of rainfall between August 1860 and July 1861 and maximum amount of rainfall in a single month (9,300mm) in July 1861.
166. ▶ Mammals of India (MaOI) model of repository on Indian mammals, by National Centers for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Bangalore -
- ▶ It is a first of its kind repository of Mammals in India, as an online portal that aim is to develop individual pages for all Indian mammals covering all related information.
  - ▶ The website *mammalsofindia.org* provides facility for common citizen to upload photographic observations about mammals.
  - ▶ MaOI is an initiative under Biodiversity Atlas project (a species-based bioinformatics platform).
  - ▶ There are about 426 species of mammals known from India, which is about 8.86% of the world species.
167. ▶ Manipur government constituted two committees to deal with illegal migrants, State Level Monitoring Committee and District Level Monitoring Committees. These will monitor presence of illegal immigrants in state.
168. ▶ Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat, located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat. State's 2nd mega food park is sanctioned in Mehsana.
169. ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu released the policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called "Digi Yatra".
- ▶ It aims to develop standards for digital processing of passengers at airport to ensure uniform implementation and passenger experience across airports. DigiYatra Central Platform will be operational by February 2019, starting from Bangalore & Hyderabad Airports.
170. ▶ Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) in New Delhi.
- ▶ CEDA will aid in fast-tracking adoption of advanced analytics in government, with centre aiming to strengthen citizen service delivery through data-driven governance.
  - ▶ CEDA aims at providing following services to Government:-
    - ▶ Data Quality Assurance Services.
    - ▶ Custom-built Data Analytics Solutions.
    - ▶ Develop reusable assets.
    - ▶ Knowledge Management.
    - ▶ Capacity Building and Self Service Analytics.
    - ▶ Change Management - CEDA will help ministries in assessing impact from the analytics solutions and help in understanding changes to organizational roles and responsibilities
  - ▶ DigiVaarta was also launched on this occasion, to express intention of spreading awareness on DigiDhan. It aims to enable citizen government dialogue and engage citizens in educational and outreach programmes. It has two components –
    - ▶ An SMS application which operates from NIC's SMS Gateway on a special Short-code service allotted for this purpose by DoT with the number "14444". Citizens will receive SMS messages which are pre-approved by experts and the response messages will be made available for further action, analysis and research.
    - ▶ A Mobile application version of DigiVaarta.
171. ▶ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan launched an online portal to enable easy, efficient and transparent booking of common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services under GAIL's pipelines, as first step to facilitate gas trading on a exchange-traded platform in India.
- ▶ The online portal is first-of-its-kind in the natural gas sector of the country. It will provide gas consumers the facility to register pipeline capacity bookings online.
172. ▶ Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal launched "Rail Heritage Digitisation Project" of Indian Railways in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture, accessible at <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/indian-railways>.


- ✎ Its a landmark effort to showcase country's Rail Heritage to National and International audience in an online story-telling platform.
  - ✎ Railways in India started on 16th April, 1853 between Bori bunder and Thane. Today we have three World Heritage Railways: DHR (Darjeeling Himalayan Railways), NMR (Nilgiri Mountain Railway), KSR (Kalka Shimla Railways).
  - ✎ With over 151,000 kilometres of track, 7,000 stations, 1.3 million employees and 160 years of history, Indian Railway is one of the most celebrated railway networks in world.
173. ▶ Minister of State (IC) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh laid foundation stone of new Science Centre, the "Technology Facility Centre" (TFC) in Jorhat (Assam), in premises of CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST).
174. ▶ Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, Vijay Goel, inaugurated Online Assurances Monitoring System (OAMS), To create transparency in assurance process in Parliamentary affairs.
175. ▶ Minister of State for Power and Renewable Energy RK Singh launched award scheme under Saubhagya Scheme (known as Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana). It will felicitate the power distribution companies (DISCOMs) for achieving 100 % household electrification. There will be two quantum of award -
- ✎ Under first quantum of award, 1st DISCOM / Power Department that achieves 100 % household electrification by end of November 2018 would be provided cash award of Rs 50 Lakh.
  - ✎ 2nd quantum of award includes cash award of Rs 100 crore as grant to concerned DISCOM to be spent in distribution infrastructure development in their area of operation.
176. ▶ Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh unveiled corporate sports policy for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under Ministry of Steel.
- ✎ Steel CPSEs will discharge their responsibility through infrastructural and institutional support for talent spotting, scholarships, training and coaching.
  - ✎ CPSEs under Steel Ministry will form an apex sports body, which will be affiliated to National Level Sports Associations.
177. ▶ Ministry of Culture released National Museum Research Bulletin Number 10, revived after gap of 16 years. It also has released Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata: Ek Parichay, a Hindi version of An Introduction To Indus Valley Civilization which among the bestsellers at National Museum.
- ✎ *Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata : Ek Parichay* is Hindi version of An Introduction To Indus Valley Civilization, co-authored by Sanjib Kumar Singhm, Gunjan Srivastava and Rajesh Kumar.
178. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences will set up a Cyclone Warning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, by October 2018, after recent extreme weather events striking Kerala and Karnataka. Currently, IMD has cyclone warning centers at Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.
- ✎ Earth Sciences Ministry will also set up a C-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Mangalore by end of 2019, which will cover parts of northern Kerala. At present, 2 Doppler Weather Radars are in Kerala, at Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.
179. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in Country. It provides recommendations on five broad themes – policy, institutions and capacity, technology, community engagement and data and information.
- ✎ People are main driver of fires in India and forest fires are distributed close to people and infrastructure. But over longer term, shifts in climate caused by anthropogenic global warming may further alter India's forest landscape and fire regime.
  - ✎ India's monsoons are largely responsible for seasonal nature of forest fires in country. Forest fires peak during dry months of March or April before arrival of monsoon.
  - ✎ Forest fires in Northeast are concentrated in smaller area that is subject to repeat burning. Peak fire season is most concentrated (shortest) in Northeast and Northern state of Bihar. Fires in other regions, particularly districts in Central and Southern India are more expansive.
  - ✎ According to National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), fires affecting forests have significant ecological value. Between 2006 and 2015, NRSC scientists forest fires were detected in just under half (281 of 614) of protected areas in India.
  - ✎ Report is significant in light of recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report that explores possibilities of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius to prevent catastrophic impacts due to unchecked temperature rise.
180. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA). Bhure Lal will continue to be Chairman of reconstituted 20 Member EPCA.
- ✎ EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region, notified in 1998 under Environment Protection Act 1986. It is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels.

 In November 2017, EPCA enforced several measures, including ban on brick kilns, closure of Badarpur thermal power plant, hot mix plants and stone crushers, and construction activities in NCR.


181. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched India for Humanity initiative, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi. It will feature year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning globe. MEA has collaborated with renowned charitable organisation Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS).

182. ▶ Ministry of HRD has launched a Project called *Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)*, as an integrated platform and portal for online courses. It aims to ensure that every student has access to best quality higher education at affordable cost.


183. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued notification for bringing Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act 2017 in force.

 It aims to safeguard rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It also prohibits requirement for HIV testing as pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education.

184. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched pilot project for transport of sputum specimen for Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis by utilising services of Department of Post in New Delhi.

 Learning from this pilot project experience will be useful for adaptation of specimen transport mechanism through Postal Department across the country, as Significant proportion of TB patients in India are not tested for their symptoms because specimen does not reach laboratory due to non-availability of specimen transport mechanisms.

185. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare prohibited manufacture of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) for human use with immediate effect.

 Fixed dose combinations (FDC) Drugs have 2 or more active ingredients in a single dosage. They are widely used to improve patient compliance as it is easier for them to take one drug than several. They are acceptable only when drugs so combined have a therapeutic advantage.

186. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) signed MoU for setting up of an state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs. It will increase the operational effectiveness and will be helpful in rendering timely assistance during emergency situations.

187. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) designated National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as nodal authority to curb online child pornography, sexual violence and rape videos. It also has been mandated to launch online portal for receiving complaints and acting on them.


188. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) revoked security clearance of Qatar government's state-funded English news broadcaster Al Jazeera, supposedly to be for documentary made by it on militancy in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), which Indian Government viewed as "biased".


189. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) sanctioned 5 new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force (RAF), to be stationed at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Hajipur (Bihar), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Nuh (Haryana). Total number of RAF battalions in the country has gone up to 15.


190. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs approved renaming Jharkhand's Nagar Untari town and railway station as Banshidhar Nagar, after Bansidhar Temple, dedicated to Krishna in Garhwa district of state. It is being done as part of its including Banshidhar Nagar as part of Krishna circuit and develop it as major tourist attraction under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.


191. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs clarified that members of Gorkha community living in Assam are Not Foreigners and Belong to State, amid questions arising about the same after recently released National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam that left out 40 Lakh People.

192. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released the first ever 'Ease of Living Index' covering 111 Indian cities -

 Andhra Pradesh topped among States, followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

 It was decided in June 2017 to rank 116 cities (all smart cities and million plus cities) based on liveability parameters. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given highest weightage of 45, institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.

 Ease of Living framework comprised four pillars namely Institutional, Social, Economic and Physical which are further broken down into 78 indicators across 15 categories .


 Top 10 Cities -

 Pune

 Navi Mumbai

 Greater Mumbai

 Tirupati

 Chandigarh

 Thane

- ✍ Raipur
- ✍ Indore
- ✍ Vijaywada
- ✍ Bhopal

193. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map, under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM–U). It will run throughout October and November 2018 in an effort to increase awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India. It aims to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.
194. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways launched Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi, as a Public–private partnership (PPP) initiative in collaboration with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE). It attempts to bring structured training program for young, first-time drivers as they apply for learner’s license.
195. ▶ Ministry of Tourism inaugurated India’s first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The circuit connects Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot, and Tirthgarh in Chhattisgarh.
- ✍ Tribal circuit project will improve existing tourist facilities, enhance the overall tourist experience and help in getting more visitors which in return will increase job opportunities in area.
  - ✍ Under tribal circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Tourism Ministry has sanctioned four projects to Nagaland, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.
  - ✍ Chhattisgarh was considered for the first tribal circuit theme for acknowledging sovereignty of tribes and to promote rich and diverse primitive assets in state.
196. ▶ Ministry of Tourism organized first ever India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in New Delhi, in partnership with Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH).
197. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources instituted National Water Awards, to encourage efficient management of water resources and create water consciousness in country.
- ✍ The awards will be given for 13 categories - Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Municipal Corporation, Best research, innovation and adaptation of new technology for water conservation, Best educative and mass awareness efforts, Best TV show for promoting water conservation, Best Newspaper, Best School, Best Institution for successful campus water usage, Best Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Organizations for Best Religious and Recreational & Tourism Water Uses and Best Industry for industrial water conservation.
198. ▶ Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched India's first *National Scholarship Portal Mobile App* (NSP Mobile App), to ensure a smooth and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weaker sections. Using it, Students will be able to apply for scholarships sitting in their home.
199. ▶ Monsoon Session Passed Bills (August 2018) -
- ✍ Parliament passed Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill that seeks to provide constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
    - ✍ It provides for granting of constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, to extend Benefits given to SC / STs to backward classes.
    - ✍ Cabinet also decided to amend the SC/ST Act to further strengthen the law to protect their rights. A committee has been set up under G Rohini to examine sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes.
  - ✍ Parliament passed Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill 2018. It enables creation of commercial divisions in High Courts and commercial courts at district level to adjudicate commercial disputes. Features -
    - ✍ Bill Reduction in pecuniary limits, from 1 crore to 3 lakh.
    - ✍ Parent Act barred commercial courts to be constituted in cases where High Court has original jurisdiction to hear commercial cases. Bill removes this bar and allows states to constitute commercial courts where High Courts have original jurisdiction.
    - ✍ Allows state governments to notify commercial appellate courts at the district judge level in areas where High Courts do not have ordinary original civil jurisdiction.
    - ✍ Introduces pre-institution mediation process in cases where no urgent, interim relief is contemplated, to provide parties with opportunity to resolve commercial disputes outside ambit of courts through authorities.
    - ✍ Bill removes provision of counterclaim in relation to transfer of suits in a commercial dispute of at least Rs. 1 crore in civil court.



- ✍ It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- ✍ Parliament passed National Sports University Bill 2018, to set up India's first National Sports University in Imphal (Manipur). It is mandated to promote sports education in areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management, and sports coaching. Bill empowers It to grant degrees, diplomas and certificates. It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- ✍ Parliament passed Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill 2018 -
  - ✍ Investigating officer will not require approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused.
  - ✍ Preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
  - ✍ SC/ST Act 1989 states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail. The Bill seeks to clarify that this provision will apply despite any judgements or orders of a court that provide otherwise.
  - ✍ Bill restores original provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. It prohibits commission of offences against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) and establishes special courts for trial of such offences and rehabilitation of victims. It overturns a March 2018 Supreme Court judgment which diluted some provisions of law protecting Dalits and tribals from atrocities.
  - ✍ It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- ✍ Parliament passed Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2018 -
  - ✍ Jail term of minimum 20 years or life imprisonment or death for rape of girl under 12 years.
  - ✍ Increases minimum punishment from 10 years to 20 years for crime of rape of girl under 16 years, which can be extended to imprisonment for rest of life.
  - ✍ Increases minimum punishment for rape of women from rigorous imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.
  - ✍ Investigation and trial must be completed in two months. It proposes 6 months' time limit for disposal of appeals in rape cases.
  - ✍ It was passed by Both (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in current Monsoon Season of Parliament.
- ✍ Lok Sabha passed Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2017, to extend facility of 'proxy voting' to overseas Indians, on lines of service voters. It amends Representation of People Act (RPA) 1950 and 1951 to allow for proxy voting and make certain provisions of these Acts gender-neutral.
  - ✍ Approx 1 crore Indians are settled abroad, of which 60 lakh may be within eligible voting age. By granting them proxy voting rights, overseas Indians will be able to exercise franchise during elections and also need not to spend foreign currency to come to India during elections.
- ✍ Lok Sabha passed Arbitration and Conciliation Bill (Amendment) 2018, which provides for time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of arbitrator, to amend Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.
  - ✍ It contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration, and defines law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
  - ✍ Key Provisions -
    - ✍ Seeks to establish Arbitration Council of India (ACI), for promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
  - ✍ Relaxation of time limits - Under 1996 Act, arbitral tribunals are required to make their award within a period of 12 months for all arbitration proceedings. Amendment bill has proposed to remove this time restriction for international commercial arbitrations.
  - ✍ New Bill requires that written claim and the defence to the claim in an arbitration proceeding, should be completed within six months of the appointment of the arbitrators.
  - ✍ Bill provides that all details of arbitration proceedings will be kept confidential except for details of the arbitral award in certain circumstances.
  - ✍ Applicability of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 2015: The bill clarifies that the 2015 Act shall only apply to arbitral proceedings that started on or after October 23, 2015.
- ✍ Parliament passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (2nd Amendment) Bill 2018, seeking to replace Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018. Provisions -
  - ✍ It clarifies that home buyers under a real estate project should be treated as financial creditors.
  - ✍ Voting threshold for routine decisions taken by committee of creditors has been reduced from 75 % to 51 %. For certain key decisions, this has been reduced to 66 %.

- ✎ Allows withdrawal of a resolution application submitted to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the Code, after approval of 90 % of committee of creditors.
  - ✎ Features of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 -
    - ✎ Section 29(A) of IBC 2016 has been amended to exempt pure play financial entities from being disqualified on account of non-performing assets (NPA).
    - ✎ Promoters of companies with turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will be allowed to bid. Earlier, they were barred from bidding as government feared that they will walk away with stressed assets at a discount.
    - ✎ It provides a year time to Resolution Applicant to obtain necessary statutory clearances from central, state and other authorities.
  - ✎ Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, outlawing talaq-e-biddat. According to it, talaq-e-biddat has been made a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
    - ✎ Three provisions of the Bill - Instant triple talaq is illegal, It imposes a jail term of up to 3 years and fine, It provides additional safeguards from the Act being misused It also provides for subsistence allowance to Muslim women and custody of minor children as may be determined by the magistrate.
    - ✎ It will soon be tabled in Rajya Sabha, for clearance.
  - ✎ Parliament passed Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, regarding compensation payable for acquisition of immovable property by the Centre for defence and security purposes. It was earlier passed by Lok Sabha in July 2018.
    - ✎ The act enables central government to requisition immovable property (or land) for any public purpose like defence and security purposes. Amendment also involves a provision to allow the Centre to re-issue the notice of acquisition to make sure that the property owner gets an opportunity to be heard.
200. ▶ Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji 'Maharaj' International Airport, To pay more respect to great maratha warrior. Mumbai's airport was formerly known as Sahar International Airport. It was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in 1999.
201. ▶ NITI Aayog and IBM launched a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). It will see 38 students receive a two-week paid training in areas like artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, cybersecurity, cloud computing and blockchain.
  - ✎ 14 Selected teachers from ATIs will also be trained by IBM volunteers and mentors to become innovation coaches.
202. ▶ NITI Aayog constituted group of experts submitted report titled 'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.'
  - ✎ It stated that nearly 30% of springs crucial to water security of people are drying and 50% have reported reduced discharge.
  - ✎ It calls for spring mapping and revival, using 8 steps protocol should be taken up across Himalayan states in phased manner, applying carrying capacity concept to all major tourist destinations and implementing and monitoring tourism sector. It also has mooted 8-year programme to overhaul spring water management.
  - ✎ Meghalaya with 3,810 villages with springs has highest number of these water sources in Eastern Himalayan States. Sikkim had greatest density with 94% of its villages having spring. In Western Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir had both highest number of villages with springs at 3,313 and greatest density of 50.6%.
203. ▶ NITI Aayog has made computer chip manufacturer NVIDIA its deep learning technology partner to support its MoveHack event. NVIDIA will help NITI Aayog to solve grand challenge of making innovations in mass mobility matter of national importance using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deep learning.
  - ✎ MoveHack is global mobility hackathon event organized by NITI Aayog to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
  - ✎ Deep learning technology is subset of machine learning (ML) in artificial intelligence (AI) that has networks capable of learning unsupervised from data that is unstructured or unlabelled.
204. ▶ NITI Aayog launched *Pitch to MOVE* mobility pitch competition, aiming to provide budding entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. Winners will be felicitated during Global Mobility Summit to be held in New Delhi in September 2018.
  - ✎ Pitch to MOVE aims to identify startups, which will help vision of Shared, Connected, Intermodal and Environment Friendly Mobility in India. It is available at <http://mobilitypitch.movesummit.in>
205. ▶ NITI Aayog launched Online Course on Digital Payments, titled 'Understanding Digital Payments'. It has been designed especially for India by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) a specialized UN Agency in ICT in consultation with NITI Aayog and Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

- It is being offered free of cost and is hosted by ITU Academy online, targeted at mid-level Government officers. Course duration is two weeks (1st to 15th October 2018).
206. ▶ NITI Aayog launched global mobility hackathon Move Hack to crowdsource solutions aimed at future of mobility in India. It is first platform in world that has enmeshed public transport, private transport, road safety, multimodal connectivity and new age transport technologies such as zero emission vehicles and intra city aerial transport spearheaded by Government.
207. ▶ NITI Aayog launched model guidelines for Public-Private partnership in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Under these, private partner will invest in upgrading, building and deploying human resources. They will be responsible for operational management and service delivery. Newly issued guidelines will help streamline private participation and encourage world-class infrastructure and patient care in the health sector.
208. ▶ NITI Aayog recommended that Ministry of Agriculture to take up mission on shifting cultivation to ensure inter-ministerial convergence between different ministries. Highlights -
- State governments have divergent approaches towards shifting cultivation. creating confusion among grass-roots level workers and jhum farmer.
  - It calls for policy coherence and recognising land for shifting cultivation as agricultural land where farmers practise agro-forestry for production of food rather than as forestland.
  - Shifting Cultivation
    - It is traditional agricultural practice that involves clearing vegetative forest cover on land and slopes of hills, drying and burning it before onset of monsoon and cropping on it thereafter. After harvest, this land is left fallow and vegetative regeneration is allowed on it till plot becomes reusable for same purpose in cycle. In north east India, it is called as jhum cultivation.
    - Shifting cultivation causes in long term causes problem of land degradation and threat to ecology of the region at large. Burning of forests provide temporary nutrients like potash to soil. Burning of forests results in emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>.
209. ▶ NITI Aayog released five Thematic Reports on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) recognizing uniqueness of Himalayas and challenges for sustainable development, prepared by 5 working groups that were set up by NITI Aayog in June 2017. Areas are -
- Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security, Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region, Transformative Approach to Shifting Cultivation, Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas and Data and Information for Informed Decision Making.
  - Inventory and Revival of springs in Himalayas for Water Security.
  - Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region.
  - Transformative approach to shifting cultivation (i.e. slash and burn (Jhum cultivation)) - There is urgent need for assessment of nature and extent of shifting cultivation area.
  - Strengthening Skill and Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas - There is need to set up demand driven network of skill and entrepreneurship development Centers in Himalayan States along with consortium of institutions of high learning for mountain specific research and technology.
  - Data/Information for Informed Decision Making - Central Data Management Agency for Himalayan Database must be set up at GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. It should be linked with Hindukush Himalaya Monitoring and Assessment program (HIMAP).
210. ▶ NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) collaborated to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.
- It is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' Discussion Paper that focuses on establishing ICTAI in country through private sector collaboration.
  - Based in Bengaluru, Model ICTAI aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas – healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility.
  - Learnings developed through this model ICTAI will be used by NITI Aayog to set up future ICTAIs across country.
211. ▶ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) will constitute 'Mediation Cell' for cases of child custody dispute in NRI marital discord. The Cell will resolve cases of children who were taken away by one of the spouse without the permission of the other spouse due to marital discord or domestic violence.
212. ▶ National Commission for Women (NCW) launched dedicated e-mail address (ncw.metoo@gmail.com) to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace. On receiving complaint, NCW will take forward complaints of sexual harassment at workplace received so that

appropriate action may be taken.

213. ▶ National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna (Bihar), as Asia's first Dolphin research centre.
- ▶ Gangetic river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is one of four freshwater dolphin species in world. The other three are found in Yangtze river, Indus river in Pakistan and Amazon river.
214. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga laid down limits of ecological flow of the river Ganga for first time, to enable hydropower projects to modify their operations along river.
- ▶ Upper stretches (origin to Haridwar) will have to maintain 20% of average flow of preceding 10-days between November and March which are dry seasons, 25% during October, April and May, which are the lean seasons, 30% during monsoon months of June-September.
  - ▶ In main stem from Haridwar to Unnao, minimum flow of various barrages have been specified.
215. ▶ National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), India's first university in transport sector, has started functioning. It is presently functioning at National Academy of Indian Railways in Vadodara (Gujarat). University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University are its international partners. It offers two undergraduate courses: BSc Transportation Technology and BBA Transportation Managements.
216. ▶ National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) signed MoU with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide skill training and jobs in construction sector for 2.5 lakh poor people. It will strengthen skill trainings in construction sector for urban poor under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission.
217. ▶ Nepal celebrated festival of Fulpati, observed on 7th day of Dashain festival. Tradition is to bring nine types of Fulpati into home on seventh day of Navaratri.
218. ▶ North Central Railways (NCR) launched two mobile apps, NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summerised Tracking Application) and Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) for its employees and passengers, respectively, for locating assets and stations.
219. ▶ Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program" in Namrup (Assam). 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project, scaling it to 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka.
- ▶ It aims at reducing import of crude and an effort to provide clean, import substitute, cost effective and pollution free cooking medium.
  - ▶ Safe handling cannister based cooking stoves are from Swedish Technology and through a Technology transfer a large-scale cooking stove manufacturing plant will come up in India in next 18 months, producing 10 lakh Cookstoves and 1 Crore Cannisters per year.
  - ▶ This Cooking medium can directly substitute LPG, Kerosene, Wood, Charcoal and any other fuel for cooking. The gaseous form, Methanol - DME, can be blended in 20% ratio with LPG.
  - ▶ It is a much more cost effective and environment friendly solution for domestic cooking needs.
220. ▶ Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh agreed to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum products, amid rising fuel prices. They also have agreed to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit.
221. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched a 'Star Rating program' for industries to support State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) regulatory efforts to reduce pollution. It will rate industries from 1 to 5 based on their compliance to pollution standards.
222. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Nirman Kusuma* programme for providing financial assistance to children of construction workers for their technical education in state. It aims to help fulfil dreams of construction workers' children by providing financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- ▶ Under it, ITI student is entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600 and diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum. Besides this, State government also -
    - ▶ Increased financial assistance for girl students by 20%.
    - ▶ Doubled death benefits for the construction workers, to 2 lakh now. Accidental benefit for construction workers' also doubled to 4 lakh.
223. ▶ Odisha Government launched an automatic public address system to warn citizens about cyclone and tsunami, as first such technology in field of Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) in India. It has been implemented under the assistance of World Bank with a cost of 82 crores.
- ▶ 122 towers have been installed along 480 km long coastline, to produce sirens during emergency. Sound from towers can be heard in communities within 1.5 km. Button will be pressed from state emergency centre in Bhubaneswar during an emergency situation.
  - ▶ Six coastal districts named Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri and Ganjam have been covered under the system.

224. ▶ Odisha State Assembly has passed resolution seeking creation of 49 Member Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad or second house of legislature).
- ✍ Resolution now will be sent to Central Government (Union cabinet) for approval, following which it will be tabled in both houses of Parliament. Thereafter, presidential assent is required to make it Act.
  - ✍ India has bicameral system of legislature. Just as Parliament has two Houses, States can have Legislative Council (LC) in addition to Legislative Assembly if they choose to. This option is available under Article 171 of Constitution.
  - ✍ Currently, seven states have Legislative Councils viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. Proposals to create Councils in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament.
  - ✍ Legislative Council of state cannot have MLCs more than one-third of total number of MLAs of state assembly and not less than 40 members. Jammu & Kashmir is exception, as Section 50 of state's Constitution, Assembly has 87 members and Legislative Council 36.
  - ✍ Tenure of Member of Legislative Council (MLC) is six years (similar to Rajya Sabha MPs).
225. ▶ Odisha assembly approved naming newly-built Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. It will be the second airport in Odisha to be renamed, after Biju Patnaik International airport in Bhubaneswar.
226. ▶ Odisha government signed MOU with two US-based agencies to eradicate malaria. in. The 2 agencies are: 'Malaria No More' and 'Malaria Elimination Trust'.
227. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) made oil and gas discoveries in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, as category-III basins, having hydrocarbon and are considered geologically prospective for exploration.
- ✍ Madhya Pradesh - Deposits were discovered in block in Vindhyan basin. This find is at 3,000-plus meters deep and is being now tested.
  - ✍ West Bengal - Deposits discovered in well in Ashok Nagar of 24 Parganas district.
  - ✍ India has 26 sedimentary basins, of which only seven category-I basins have commercial production of oil and gas. It is in the process of adding eighth basin by putting Kutch offshore discovery (it holds about one trillion cubic feet of gas reserves) to production.
228. ▶ Old World Theatre festival will be organized by India Habitat Centre, recognized by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity". It will showcase 15 plays on a pan-Indian constellation of original scripts from Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, and Kerala.
229. ▶ Ongoing CBI Controversy -
- ✍ Government on October 23, 2018 removed CBI Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana from their posts. Government and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) cited that Verma was not cooperating with CVC's inquiry into allegations made by Asthana against him.
  - ✍ Alok Verma approached Supreme Court after his removal from post of CBI Director, claiming that it was in violation of Section 4B of Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946, which grants CBI Director a secure term of 2 years. SC will now examine the issue. Meanwhile, M Nageshwar Rao is appointed as CBI Director by Govt.
  - ✍ Rakesh Asthana Removal -
    - ✍ On October 15, CBI booked Asthana for alleged corruption following the FIR registered against him for alleged extortion of over 3 crores from Sathish Babu Sana in a case against meat exporter Moin Qureshi, who is accused of taking money from several people for getting favours from senior government functionaries.
  - ✍ Timeline -
    - ✍ August 24 - CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana writes to Cabinet Secretary, informing him that Alok Verma took Rs 2 crore bribe from businessman Sathish Babu Sana
    - ✍ September 14 - Asthana informs CBI that Verma has issued orders to remove him from IRCTC and INX Media cases
    - ✍ September 20 - Special Investigation Team headed by Aasthana proposes to interrogate Sathish Babu Sana
    - ✍ October 3 - Sana appears before CBI
    - ✍ October 15 - CBI booked Asthana and Sana for alleged corruption. Alok Verma filed a case against Rakesh Asthana, accusing him of taking Rs 3 crore as bribe from Sana. Sana accepted that he agreed to pay Rs 5 crore to Asthana as bribe to give clean chit to Moin Qureshi.
    - ✍ October 19 - Asthana removed from Special Investigation Team
    - ✍ October 21 - PM Modi summons Alok Verma
    - ✍ October 22 - CBI raids its own office and arrests DSP Devender Kumar in connection with allegations against Asthana
    - ✍ October 23 - Central Vigilance Commission divested Alok Verma and Rakesh Asthana of their CBI posts
    - ✍ October 23 - Asthana approached Delhi High Court to get CBI's FIR against him quashed

✍ October 24 - Alok Verma moved SC against his removal and pressed for an urgent hearing

230. ▶ PM Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018. As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 6786 villages were covered. top ranked States / Districts -
- ✍ States - Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra
  - ✍ Districts - Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana), Pedapalli (Telangana)
  - ✍ States with maximum citizen participation - Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra
  - ✍ Districts with maximum citizens' participation - Nashik (Maharashtra), Solapur, (Maharashtra), Chittorgarh (Rajasthan)
231. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) in Dwarka (New Delhi). On completion, it will be biggest indoor exhibition space in India and also rank among the top 10 in world, with capacity to accommodate 11,000 persons, 5 exhibition halls, 1-kilometre long foyer etc. The project has estimated cost of INR 25703 crores.
- ✍ It will be implemented by India International Convention and Exhibition Centre Ltd, a 100% government-owned company set up by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
232. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched *Main Nahin Hum* Portal and App, on theme "Self4Society". It will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform. It is also expected to generate wider participation of interested people who are motivated to work for the benefit of society.
233. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched fortnight-long countrywide campaign- Swachhata hi Seva 2018, to mark start of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 02, 2018.
- ✍ On this occasion, Jammu and Kashmir state has been declared open defecation free (ODF).
  - ✍ Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019. Key Activities Include -
    - ✍ National Launch, School Engagement - *September 15*
    - ✍ Swachhata Sabhas: *September 16*
    - ✍ Seva Diwas: *September 17*
    - ✍ Railways Swachhata Divas – *September 22*
    - ✍ Antyodaya Divas – *September 25*
  - ✍ Also, President Ram Nath Kovind launched logo and web portal (<http://gandhi.gov.in/>) for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi on Oct 02, 2019. Logo is --













234. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched work for India's first Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant with pet coke blending will come up in Talcher (Odisha), developed by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (joint venture of GAIL (29.67%), Coal India (29.67%), Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCFL-29.67%) and Fertilizer Corporation of India (10.99%).
- ✍ It will be built at an estimated investment of Rs. 13,000 crore and is targeted to be commissioned by 2022. On completion, this plant will have capacity of producing 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Neem coated prilled urea using coal and petcoke as feedstock. Neem coated urea reduces leaching of nitrogen into soil and checks diversion of urea from agriculture uses.
  - ✍ It will use gas produced from coal, thus reducing dependence on urea and gas imports. Pollutants like Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) produced by this plant will be recycled for production of Urea and other by – products.
235. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind approved bill seeking punishment for sexual offenders, cyber criminals and traditional unlawful acts like bootlegging and dacoity in Telangana state. This will replace 1986 Act that had jurisdiction for the undivided Andhra Pradesh but not for Telangana.
236. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to Good samaritan bill of Karnataka, as first such legislation in India.
- ✍ Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill 2016, provides legal protection to good samaritans who help accident victims with emergency medical care within the golden hour (first hour after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial).

237. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi.
- ▶ Government had recognised DBHPS as one of Institutes of National Importance in 1964. It is divided into four divisions one each for south states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
  - ▶ DBHPS was established by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi in 1918 with sole aim of prorogating Hindi in South India to unite northern and southern states.
238. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 'Festival of Democracy' in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), to mark diamond jubilee (60 years) celebrations of Kerala legislative assembly.
239. ▶ Project *Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom* inaugurated under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. The project covers two sites i.e. Kangla Fort and Khongjom.
- ▶ Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched in 2014 -15, with 70 projects sanctioned as on date.
  - ▶ Kangla Fort is one of most important historic and archaeological site of Manipur located in the heart of the Imphal city. It served as the seat of Manipur's power till 1891.
  - ▶ Khongjom is place where the last war of resistance of Anglo Manipur War of 1891 was fought.
240. ▶ Punjab Cabinet approved amendments to Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to make disrespect of religious texts (Sacrilege) punishable with life imprisonment.
241. ▶ Punjab Cabinet approved formation of the state higher education council to offer quality education, to be headed by CM Amarinder Singh and Higher education minister as vice chairman.
- ▶ It is formed to provide quality higher education in Punjab's institutions through optimum sharing of resources between universities and colleges, for research purposes, academic and governance reforms, monitoring and evaluation of higher education institutions.
  - ▶ Cabinet also approved proposal of the Local Government Department for amending validity of the Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Fund (PMIDF) Act, 2011, to extend its validity till 2037-38, from 2020-21.
  - ▶ Cabinet also approved a bill for creation of a price stabilisation fund, to ensure that state farmers get minimum support price (MSP). It would protect interests of farmers amid sudden fall in prices of certain agricultural commodities.
242. ▶ Punjab Govt. launched 3 apps to prevent crop residue burning, To check and create awareness about environmental effects of crop residue burning. Apps are i-Khet Machine, e-PEHaL and e-Prevent.
243. ▶ Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir signed an agreement for renewing work on INR 2793 crore Shahpurkandi dam project. It will be irrigating 37,173 ha of land and would provide 206MW of electricity to Punjab and J&K.
244. ▶ Punjab assembly passed Police (Amendment) Bill 2018 that would pave way for setting up of a State Security Commission for selection of director general of police (DGP). It amends Punjab Police Act 2007, that did not provide for selection of DGP from panel as prepared by UPSC.
245. ▶ Punjab government signed four MoUs with Israeli institutions to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in state.
246. ▶ QS Quacquarelli Symonds released "QS India University Rankings 2019" as first standalone ranking of India's higher education institutions - Top 5 universities in QS India University Rankings 2019 -
- ▶ Indian Institute Of Technology Bombay
  - ▶ Indian Institute Of Science Bangalore
  - ▶ Indian Institute Of Technology Madras
  - ▶ Indian Institute Of Technology Delhi
  - ▶ Indian Institute Of Technology Kharagpur
247. ▶ Railways will Build first station inside a tunnel, at Keylong, at a height of 3,000 metres, on strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line in Himachal Pradesh.
- ▶ It will be part of world's highest rail network at 5,360 metres height. 465-km railway line will have 30 stations and is estimated to cost 83,360 crores.
248. ▶ Rajasthan Assembly passed Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2018, containing provisions for -
- ▶ Relaxation of *two-child* provision for those aspiring to contest panchayat elections provided one of the children is differently-abled
  - ▶ Allowing people suffering from leprosy to contest panchayat elections.
249. ▶ Rajasthan government announced to observe September as 'month of nutrition'. State Govt earlier launched 'Annapurna Milk Scheme' -
- ▶ Students of Class 1 to 8 of government schools will be given milk daily instead of thrice a week.
  - ▶ Students in age group of 3-6 years, adolescent girls and pregnant women registered with Anganwadi centres will be provided milk thrice a week.
250. ▶ Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under Bhamashah Yojana, Focused on women in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

251. ▶ Rajasthan's first lion safari inaugurated at Nahargarh Biological Park, located on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Aravalli foothills, near Jaipur. 10 Lions in this park were brought from Junagarh, Gujarat under an exchange programme.
252. ▶ Road and Transport Minister Gadkari launched Bidder Information Management System (BIMS), Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage Initiatives of Ministry. Also, Annual Awards for Excellence in National Highways Projects were instituted, to be given from this year onwards.
- ▶ BIMS aims at streamlining process of pre-qualification of bidders for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity. The portal will work as a data base of information about bidders, covering basic details, civil works experience, cash accruals and network, annual turnover etc.
  - ▶ Bhoomi Rashi portal comprises entire revenue data of country, including all 6.4 lakh villages. It has been instrumental in reducing time taken for approval and publication of notifications pertaining to land acquisition.
  - ▶ Integration of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) with Bhoomi Rashi is one of the key functionalities to facilitate payment related to compensation for land acquisition to all the beneficiaries directly through the Bhoomi Rashi system.
253. ▶ Rural Development Ministry's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) signed MoU with Delhi University's Lady Irwin College for establishing ROSHNI - Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action.
254. ▶ Santali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script after. Santali is written in Ol Chiki script and spoken by 6.4 million people in India.
255. ▶ Severe Cyclone Titli caused heavy losses in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, with winds above 150 KMPH.
256. ▶ Shipping and Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone for development work of Ghagra River as National Waterway-40 at Basti in Uttar Pradesh, as part of Sagarmala Programme.
- ▶ Waterway will stretch from Manjhihat at Ganga-Gaghra river confluence to Faizabad or Ayodhya along Gaghra River for 354 kms.
  - ▶ It was declared as National Waterway (NW)-40 during the year 2016.
  - ▶ Together with National Waterway-1 (on river Ganga), NW-40 will be a major transport modal choice for cargo and passenger movement.
257. ▶ Singphan Elephant Reserve has been named as 30th elephant reserve in India, located in Mon district of Nagaland and spreads over an area of 5825 acres (2357 hac).
258. ▶ Startup India launched *Startup Academia Alliance* programme, as a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains, to fulfill Government's mission to promote entrepreneurship.
259. ▶ State government of Arunachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation, to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of state.
260. ▶ Supreme Court adjourned till end of August 2018, the hearing on pleas challenging Constitutional validity of Article 35A, pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Article 35A and controversy regarding it -
- ▶ Article 35A appears in Constitution as an *appendix* and not as an amendment. In 2014, an NGO 'We the Citizens' filed a writ petition in Supreme Court seeking striking down of Article 35A as it was not added to Constitution through stated procedure. Hence, it lacks parliamentary sanction. In 2017, two Kashmiri women filed another case in Supreme Court against Article 35A for its discrimination against J&K women.
  - ▶ This led to an uproar in Kashmir. Political Parties and people of J & K are warning to trigger an explosive situation in J&K, if Article 35A is scrapped.
  - ▶ About Article 35A -
    - ▶ It was added to Constitution (Appendix II) through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 1954, issued by then President Rajendra Prasad on May 14, 1954.
    - ▶ Presidential Order of 1954 provided framework for division of powers between J&K and Union Government under Article 370.
    - ▶ If Supreme Court strikes down Article 35A, it will have serious impact on all subsequent Presidential Orders.
    - ▶ Article 370 accords special status to Jammu and Kashmir and acts like a bridge between Indian Constitution and Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.
    - ▶ Its Origin dates back to 1927 when the Dogras from Jammu approached Maharaja Hari Singh fearing that arrival of people from Punjab will lead to their control in government services. These fears led to issuance of a separate notification by maharaja in 1927 and 1932 which defined the state subjects and their rights.
    - ▶ J&K Constitution, framed in 1956, retained Maharaja's definition of permanent residents of state.
    - ▶ J&K constitution defined a permanent resident as a person who was born or settled in J&K before 1911 or has been resident in the state for 10 years after lawfully acquiring property in state.



- ✎ Under Article 35A, emigrants from J&K, including those who migrated to Pakistan, are considered state residents. The descendants of emigrants are considered state subjects for two generations.
  - ✎ It prohibits non-permanent residents from acquiring immovable property, government jobs, scholarships and aid in the state.
261. ▶ Supreme Court approved issuing hologram-based coloured stickers for vehicles in Delhi based on the fuel used. While petrol and CNG vehicles will need to have a blue sticker, diesel vehicles must carry an orange one. This is aimed at better tackling of air pollution-related issues in Delhi.
262. ▶ Supreme Court asked Government to form a law on deciding whether lawmakers facing criminal charges be barred from contesting elections or should they be disqualified only after conviction. SC also asked political parties and candidates to publish their criminal records at least 3 times in newspapers / TV channels after filing of nomination papers.
263. ▶ Supreme Court banned all construction activities in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh till October 9, after these states / UT failed to comply with court's order to come up with a policy on solid waste management.
264. ▶ Supreme Court declared Centre's Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid. Bench stated that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for filing IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN). But, it will not be mandatory for Bank accounts, Telecom services, Educational Admissions. Other Notable statements by SC are -
- ✎ Section 57 of Aadhaar Act that permits private entities to avail Aadhaar data has been struck down.
  - ✎ Aadhaar authentication data cannot be stored for more than 6 months.
  - ✎ National security exception under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act was also struck down.
265. ▶ Supreme Court declined to refer 1994 Ismail Farooqui judgment (that mosques are not integral to Islam) to a larger constitution bench.
- ✎ Judgement was delivered by a 3 judge bench. Majority was written by Ashok Bhushan and Chief Justice Deepak Misra. 3rd judge, Abdul Nazeer presented a dissenting judgment.
  - ✎ Decision to not refer issue of reconsideration of 1994 observations on Ayodhya-Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute case to a five-judge constitution bench paves way for SC to hear main Ayodhya land dispute.
  - ✎ The issue whether mosque is integral to Islam cropped up when SC bench headed by CJI Misra was of petitions challenging Allahabad High Court's 2010 verdict, by which disputed land in Ayodhya was to be divided in 3 parts (Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla represented by Hindu Maha Sabha).
  - ✎ Ismail Farooqui judgement -
    - ✎ In 1994, Supreme Court had ruled that namaz or prayers could be offered anywhere and that a mosque was not necessary. This cleared way for government to acquire the land where 16th century Babri mosque was demolished by Hindu Kar Sevaks.
266. ▶ Supreme Court modified its July 2017 order in dowry harassment case for preventing misuse of Section 498A of Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- ✎ The July 2017 decision quashed immediate arrest of accused in dowry cases, saying that complaints under Section 498A of IPC should be scrutinised by Family Welfare Committees before any legal action by police.
  - ✎ Now, After a plea filed by NGO 'Nyayadhar', an organisation formed by women advocates of Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district, Family Welfare Committees are scrapped.
  - ✎ SC left it to Parliament to make suitable rules to check abuse of the law.
267. ▶ Supreme Court of India allowed live streaming and video recording of court proceedings across country, asking government to frame rules in this regard under Article 145 of the Constitution.
- ✎ SC earlier reserved its verdict on the matter on August 24, saying it wanted to implement *open court* concept to decongest courtrooms.
268. ▶ Supreme Court resumed filing of claims and objections by around 40 lakh people who were left out in draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) of Assam, giving second opportunity to citizens keeping in mind the magnitude of the issue. Bench will now hear the matter on October 23, 2018.
- ✎ Assam government in July 2018 released 2nd and final draft of state's National Register of Citizens (NRC). The draft left out approx 40 Lakh people living in state, not marking them as legal citizens of India.
269. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that *None of The Above* (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in Rajya Sabha elections. SC held that NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not for the polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in Rajya Sabha.
270. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020.
- ✎ Bharat stage emission standards were instituted by Government to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles. BS-IV norms were in force across country since April 2017

-  In 2016, Government decided to switch over to BS-VI grade fuel directly from BS-IV skipping BS-V.
271. ▶ Supreme Court struck down Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 that made adultery punishable offence for men.
-  Section 497 of IPC (Adultery) says that whoever has sexual intercourse with wife of another man (without consent of that man), such intercourse not amounting to offence of rape, is guilty of offence of adultery. Such person shall be punished with imprisonment and / or Fine. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor.
272. ▶ Supreme Court struck down a rule that disallowed females in 10-50 age group from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. Chief Justice Dipak Misra-headed Constitution bench in a 4-1 verdict said temple rule violated their right to equality and right to worship.
273. ▶ Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has inaugurated India's tallest Film Studio named 'MGR Centenary Film Studio', as 56 feet tall, 110 metres long and 100 feet wide studio. The studio is named after former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.
274. ▶ Tamil Nadu Govt. banned sale of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), known as e- cigarettes.
-  It comes after recent central government notification, asking all states / UTs to ban e-cigarettes.
-  ENDS are devices that heat solution to create aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin. e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) are most common prototype of ENDS.
275. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years.
-  This plant species is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats. It is also seen in Shevroys Hills in Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.
-  It grows at height of 30 to 60 cm on hills slopes at an altitude of 1300 to 2400 meters where there is no tree forest. The flowers are purple-blue in colour and blooms once in 12 years.
276. ▶ Tea Board of India will launch an app aimed at guiding small growers, whose share in total tea production is increasing. Name of the app is Chai Sahay (tea help). It aims to establish two-way communication between manufacturer and customers.
277. ▶ Telangana Government launched Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in Hyderabad, as state's own dedicated disaster force trained in tackling of urban flooding, tree falls, structural collapses and any other site of normal emergencies.
278. ▶ Telangana government launched first-of-its-kind life insurance programme worth Rs 5 lakh for farmers in state, called Rythu Bandhu Life Insurance Bonds, with cost approx 650 Crores. Insurance amount will be given to farmer's family within 10 days, in case of death of Farmer.
- Some Limitations -
-  It is limited to farmers aged 18 - 60 years.
-  Limited to landowners who received monetary assistance of Rs 4000 from the state government to bear farming costs under the 'Rythu Bandhu' programme earlier this year.
-  Tenant farmers have been left out of it.
279. ▶ Telangana government will set up a biotech and pharma facility, B-Hub, India's first organised cluster for life sciences Research & Development at Genome Valley, To support manufacturing activities for bio-pharma R&D. Also, a web portal for life sciences sector has been launched.
280. ▶ To combat human trafficking, West Bengal government rolled out Swayangsiddha scheme (means self-reliance), to be executed by West Bengal Police. It aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.
281. ▶ To tackle counterfeit drugs in India, NITI Aayog and IT Firm Oracle signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) will pilot a real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.
-  It will allow sharing of information across drug supply chain securely, with every exchange getting recorded. There will be no tampering of any record of drug movement and no data will be deleted.
282. ▶ Traditional *Marbat* festival observed in Nagpur (Maharashtra).
283. ▶ Traditional annual Hindu festival of Onam held in Kerala. It is celebrated to commemorate King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.
284. ▶ Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) made Aadhaar mandatory for Indian patients to register in the Tamil Nadu Network for Organ Sharing. While foreigners are asked to submit a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the respective Embassies.
285. ▶ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) signed MoU with National Medicinal Plants Board (Ministry of AYUSH), to promote Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) forest produce for livelihood development of tribal people through promotion of primary level value addition to MAPs produce from forest area at grassroots level.
286. ▶ UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions.
287. ▶ Union Territory of Puducherry won top position in National Clean School Award after seven schools from Puducherry were awarded for cleanliness.



- ✎ It is conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at improving status and well-being of girl child by incentivising schooling of teenage girls and delaying their marriages until age of 18, launched in October 2013.
- ✎ Targeted Beneficiaries are girl children within age 13 - 19 years.
- ✎ Girls regularly attending institutions for education or vocational or sports training.
- ✎ Girls of Child Care Institutes registered under Juvenile Justice Act (JJ), 2000 within age of 18-19 years.
- ✎ Components Include -
  - ✎ Annual Scholarship of INR 500 for unmarried girls aged 13-18 years enrolled in classes VIII-XII and One time Grant of Rs 25,000 for girls turned 18 at time of application.
  - ✎ Over 50 lakh girls from the state have been benefited by scheme and removal of ceiling will help another three lakh more girls annually. It was awarded United Nations Public Service Award in June 2017.

300. ▶ World Bank released World Development Report 2019, with Theme *The Changing Nature of Work*. As part of report, World Bank launched a Human Capital Project (HCP), claimed to be a program of advocacy, measurement, and analytical work to raise awareness and increase demand for interventions to build human capital.

- ✎ There are three components of HCP - Human capital measurement metric called Human Capital Index (HCI), a programme of measurement and research to inform policy action, and a programme of support for country strategies to accelerate investment in human capital.
- ✎ Human Capital index (HCI) -
  - ✎ HCI is constructed for 157 countries. It measures amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. HCI has three components -
    - ✎ Survival, as measured by under-5 mortality rates.
    - ✎ Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School
    - ✎ Health environment using two proxies of *adult survival rates* and *rate of stunting for children under age 5*.
  - ✎ How World Bank's HCI Is different from UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) -
    - ✎ HIC uses survival rates and stunting rate instead of life expectancy as measure of health, and quality-adjusted learning instead of merely years of schooling as measure of education.
    - ✎ Two significant changes from HDI are exclusion of income component and introduction of quality adjustment in learning. Exclusion of income element and introduction of quality adjustment makes HCI far less representative of Human Capital Development than Index claims it to be.
  - ✎ Observations of 1st HCI Report -
    - ✎ For 56% of world's population, HCI is below 0.50, for 92% it is at or below 0.75. Hence only 8% of the population can expect to be 75% as productive as they could be.
    - ✎ Advanced economies such as North America and Europe mostly have HCI value of above 0.75, while South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa have lowest HCI.
    - ✎ Top 5 - Singapore (1), South Korea (2), Japan (3), Hong Kong (4), Finland (5)
    - ✎ Bottom 5 - Chad (157), South Sudan (156), Niger (155), Mali (154), Liberia (153)
    - ✎ Neighbours - China (46), Bangladesh (106), Pakistan (134), Sri Lanka (74), Nepal (102)
    - ✎ Report in Context of India -
      - ✎ HCI for India is estimated at 0.44, **ranked 115th**.
      - ✎ There has been improvement in HCI components in India over last five years.
      - ✎ Probability of Survival to Age 5 is 96 %.
      - ✎ In India, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete 10.2 years of school by her 18th birthday.
      - ✎ Harmonized Test Scores: Students in India score 355 on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
      - ✎ Across India, 83 per cent of 15-year olds will survive until age 60.
      - ✎ In India, HCI for girls is marginally higher than for boys.
      - ✎ Further, India finds the report Insignificant as -
        - ✎ Quality adjusted learning has been measured in case of India by using the data as old as 2009.
        - ✎ Purpose of Index is to create political incentive for increased spending on health and education. Unfortunately, indicators used are so slow moving that none can really be excited about setting out programme of Index improvement.

✍ HCI score for India does not reflect the key initiatives that are being taken for developing human capital,

Including -

✍ *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan*

✍ *Ayushman Bharat Programme* (world's largest Health Insurance initiative providing 500 million citizens with adequate health coverage)

✍ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that triggered Sanitation coverage expansion from 38% in 2014 to 83% in 2018, under *Swachh Bharat Mission*.

✍ *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* that provided over 4 Crore women with LPG connection to replace firewood and coke based cooking stoves.

301. ▶ World Economic Forum (WEF) launched new Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India, based in Maharashtra, as fourth center in chain-ones as part of WEF's global network along with San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China).

✍ It will facilitate to bring together government and business leaders to pilot emerging technology policies. It has selected drones, artificial intelligence and blockchain as the first three project areas.

✍ First project will focus on expanding access to data to accelerate adoption of AI in socio-economic areas like education, healthcare and agriculture. 2nd will focus on application of smart contracts to boost productivity and transparency while reducing inefficiency.

302. ▶ World's first-ever thermal battery plant will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST). First-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.

✍ In first phase, batteries suited for telecommunications, mini or microgrids and electric buses would be manufactured. Batteries will run for up to 800kms on a single charge.

✍ Thermal plant is expected to start commercial operations by May 2019.

**Top**

## **Persons**

1. ▶ Indian Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua climbed Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand. Its highest peak in Iran and also a potentially active volcano, with elevation of 5609 metres.

2. ▶ Kerala government approved Compensation worth 50 Lakh for Former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan, in compliance with a September 14 Supreme Court order, that required awarding the compensation to him for being falsely implicated in 1994 espionage case.

3. ▶ Mukesh Ambani (chairman of Reliance Industries)' topped 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for 7th consecutive year, with the total net worth of INR 371,000 crores.

4. ▶ Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became first person from whom honorary Canadian citizenship has been taken back, for her role in gross human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims. The honour was bestowed on Suu Kyi in 2007.

5. ▶ Obituaries (August 2018) -

✍ Jalees Sherwani - Noted Bollywood Sreenwriter.

✍ Umbayee - Noted Malayalam Ghazal singer.

✍ Krishna Shripadrao Deshpande - Noted library scientist.

✍ Muthuvel Karunanidhi - Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, served for over five terms between 1969 and 2011.

✍ Sumatheendra R. Nadig - Noted Kannada poet.

✍ Jarrod Lyle - Noted Australian golfer.

✍ Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul - Noted Indian Origin British writer who won 2001 Nobel Prize for Literature. He was born in Trinidad in a family with Indian roots.

✍ Somnath Chatterjee - Former Lok Sabha speaker.

✍ Nicholas Bett - former 400m hurdles world champion from Kenya.

✍ Balramji Dass Tandon - Incumbent (Current) Governor of Chhattisgarh. Anandiben Patel (Governor of Madhya Pradesh) has been named as Acting Governor of Chhattisgarh.

✍ Ajit Wadekar - Former Cricketer.

✍ Hakam Singh - Former Track Athlete. He had won gold medal at 1978 Asian Games in 20 kilometre race walk.

✍ Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Former Prime Minister of India.

✍ He was Prime Minister thrice in 1996 (13 days), 1998-1999 and 1999-2004 (making him first non-Congress leader to have completed full term as Prime Minister).

- ✍ During his second term as PM, he ordered thermonuclear tests in May 1998 which were seen as strategic masterstroke to blunt Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. He was awarded the India's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna' in 2015. His birthday is celebrated as Good Governance Day (GGD) by the Central Government since 2014. He was also honored by Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Sanmanona (Bangladesh Liberation War honour) in 2015.
- ✍ His poetry collection is released in his book Meri Ekyavan Kavitayein (My 51 Poems). During his stint as PM, India won Kargil war Against Pakistan. Some Other notable books of Shri Vajpayee were -
  - ✍ Meri Sansadiya Yatra
  - ✍ Meri Ekyavan Kavitayen (poetry)
  - ✍ Sankalp Kaal
  - ✍ Shakti-se-Shanti
  - ✍ Four Decades in Parliament
  - ✍ Mrityu Ya Hatya
  - ✍ Amar Balidan
  - ✍ Kaidi Kaviraj Ki Kundalian
  - ✍ New Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy
  - ✍ Jan Sangh Aur Mussalman
  - ✍ Sansad Mein Teen Dashak
  - ✍ Amar Aag Hai
  - ✍ Kya Khoya Kya Paya
  - ✍ Kuchh Lekh Kuchh Bhaashan
  - ✍ Vichaar-Bindu
  - ✍ Bindu-Bindu Vichar
  - ✍ Gathbandhan Ki Rajneeti
  - ✍ Nayi Chunouti : Naya Avasar
  - ✍ Na Dainyam Na Palaynam
- ✍ Kofi Annan (Ghana) - Former United Nations Secretary General.
- ✍ Aretha Franklin - Noted US Singer.
- ✍ Uri Avnery - Noted Israeli journalist and peace activist.
- ✍ Chemmanam Chacko - Noted Malayalam poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee.
- ✍ Kuldip Nayar - Noted journalist and former Rajya Sabha member.
- ✍ Debu Bose - Noted Odia actor.
- ✍ John McCain - Noted US Senator and a celebrated Vietnam war hero.
- ✍ Gopal Bose - Former Bengal cricketer.
- ✍ K K Haridas - Noted Malayalam film director
- ✍ Nandamuri Harikrishna - Telugu actor and Politician.
- 6. ▶ Obituaries (October 2018) -
  - ✍ Otis Rush - Noted Chicago blues guitarist (USA).
  - ✍ Balabhaskar - Noted violinist.
  - ✍ Thampi Kannanthanam - Noted Veteran Malayalam film personality.
  - ✍ Will Vinton - Oscar-winning American animator.
  - ✍ Natwar Thakkar - Noted Eminent Gandhian social worker from Nagaland.
  - ✍ Montserrat Caballé - Noted Spanish Opera singer.
  - ✍ Pradip Chowdhury - Noted journalist and former News Editor of Press Trust of India (PTI).
  - ✍ M N Paloor - Noted Malayalam poet.
  - ✍ G.D. Agarwal - Environmentalist. He was on a fast for last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga.
  - ✍ Annapurna Devi - Noted musician. She was daughter and disciple of Noted sarod player Allauddin Khan, and married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.
  - ✍ Kishour Giri - Assamese singer and music director.
  - ✍ Paul Allen - co-founder of Microsoft.
  - ✍ N D Tiwari - Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

- Osamu Shimomura - Japanese-born Marine biologist. He won Chemistry Nobel Prize in 2008, for discovery of a jellyfish protein that contributed to cancer studies.
- Madan Lal Khurana - Former Delhi Chief Minister
- Qazi Abdus Sattar - Urdu writer. He won Padma Shri in 1974 and was first recipient of Ghalib Academy Award in 1978.
- Yeshwant Deo - Noted Marathi musician.

7. ▶ Obituaries (September 2018) -

- Tarun Sagar - Noted Jainism monk.
- Bhagwati Kumar Sharma - Noted Gujarati author and journalist.
- Burt Reynolds - Noted American Actor.
- Rita Jitendra - Noted Writer from J & K.
- Vijay Shankar Vyas - Noted agricultural economist. He worked with two Prime Ministers (*Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh*) as a member of their Economic Advisory Councils (EAC).
- Goura Chandra Mohapatra - Noted Freedom fighter from Odisha.
- Brij Katyal - Noted Bollywood Storywriter.
- Satya Prakash Malaviya - Former Union petroleum minister. He served as petroleum minister in cabinet headed by former PM Chandra Shekhar.
- Anna Rajam Malhotra - India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence.
- Captain Raju - Noted Malayalam actor
- Ganpatrao Andalkar - former Asian Games champion Wrestler.
- Kalpana Lajmi - Filmmaker.
- Biswanath Dutt - Former BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) president.
- Tran Dai Quang - Serving President of Vietnam.
- Jasdev Singh - Noted Commentator (primarily cricket).
- Kavita Mahajan - Noted Marathi writer, novelist and translator.
- Pandit Tulsidas Borkar - Noted harmonium artist.

8. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (October 2018) -

- Igor Akinfeev - Russian footballer.
- Mile Jedinak - Australian footballer.
- Nick Compton - England Cricketer Retires.
- John Terry - England Footballer.
- Meng Hongwei - resigned as President of International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).
- Indian American Nikki Haley resigned as United States Ambassador to the United Nations (UN).
- Abdur Rehman - Pakistani Cricketer.
- Praveen Kumar - Indian Cricketer.
- MJ Akbar - resigned as Union minister of state for external affairs. He is facing allegations of sexual harassment.
- Rangana Herath - Sri Lankan Cricketer.
- Dwayne Bravo - West Indies Cricketer (Trinidad).
- Anupam Kher - Chairan of Film & Television Institute of India Pune.

9. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (September 2018) -

- Alastair Cook - England Cricketer. He is overall 5th and England's top scorer in test cricket, with 12472 runs.
- Rudra Pratap Singh - Indian Cricketer.
- Morna Nielsen - New Zealand Female Cricketer.
- Sardar Singh - Former India Hockey Player and captain.
- James Foster - England Cricketer.
- Paul Collingwood - England cricketer.
- Shaida Mohammad Abdali - Afghanistan Ambassador to India.
- Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger - Co-founders of Social Media app Instagram.
- Ramesh Bawa - IL&FS Financial Services Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Russia's Mikhail Youzhny (nicknamed 'Colonel'), retired from professional tennis, with 499 career wins.
- Jiwanjot Singh Teja - National compound archery coach. He resigned following denial of Dronacharya award.

10. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired -

- 🔗 Mario Gomez - Noted German Footballer.
  - 🔗 David Silva and Gerard Pique - Spanish Footballers.
  - 🔗 Paresh Sukthankar - HDFC Bank Deputy Managing Director.
  - 🔗 Sriram Kalyanaraman - National Housing Bank (NHB) Managing Director.
  - 🔗 MD Ranganath - Infosys' Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
  - 🔗 Mitchell Johnson - Australian cricketer.
  - 🔗 Usha Ananthasubramanian - Fired on her last day in office as Allahabad Bank's MD and CEO, in relation to PNB scam.
  - 🔗 Jhulan Goswami - Indian women Cricketer (from T20 Internationals).
  - 🔗 Subramaniam Badrinath - Indian Cricketer
11. ▶ US private space firm SpaceX signed world's first private passenger to fly around Moon aboard its Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) launch vehicle. Japanese billionaire (founder of fashion giant Zozo), Yusaku Maezawa will be the first Moon tourist on SpaceX's Lunar BFR Mission.
  12. ▶ Visits From India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
    - 🔗 External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited 3 central Asian nations - Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan AND Uzbekistan.
  13. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -
    - 🔗 External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mauritius. She Inaugurated Panini Language Laboratory at Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius. She also attended 11th World Hindi Conference being held in Mauritius, in its capital Port Lois. Theme of Conference was *Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti*.
  14. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -
    - 🔗 Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik visited Netherlands for 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC), organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune.
    - 🔗 Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Nepal (Kathmandu) -
      - 🔗 Participated in 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Meet. Theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'.
      - 🔗 BIMSTEC is regional grouping of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. It was established on 6 June 1997 through Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
      - 🔗 Members - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand.
      - 🔗 India and Nepal signed MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar, India to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.
      - 🔗 Also, PM Modi inaugurated 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.
    - 🔗 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee held in Nairobi (Kenya). It was attended by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu.
    - 🔗 Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting in Singapore.
    - 🔗 External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Vietnam and Cambodia. She attended 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi (Vietnam). Its theme was "Building Regional Architectures".
    - 🔗 Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Thailand.
    - 🔗 G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting held in Salta (Argentina). India was represented by Minister for Electronics and IT & Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
  15. ▶ Visits from India (Oct 11 - 20, 2018) -
    - 🔗 Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited France. She participated in the 1st India-France Ministerial level annual defence dialogue in Paris.
    - 🔗 7th meeting of education ministers of member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Astana (Kazakhstan). India was represented by Minister of State (MoS) Human Resource Development Satyapal Singh.
    - 🔗 External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Tajikistan capital Dushanbe to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government Council Meeting.
    - 🔗 Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu visited Azerbaijan to attend 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC).
    - 🔗 President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Tajikistan (Central Asia). 9 MOUs were signed on the occasion, for cooperation in Political relations, Strategic research, Agriculture Renewable energy, Traditional medicine, Space technology, Youth affairs, Disaster



Management AND Culture. India also announced grant of USD 20 Million to Tajikistan for implementation of development projects of Tajikistan.

16. ▶ Visits from India (Oct 21 - 31, 2018) -

- ✍ Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama (Bahrain). India will be the chair of Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021.
- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Qatar and Kuwait.
  - ✍ India and Qatar established a joint commission to review all bilateral matters, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- ✍ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Japan -
  - ✍ Attended 13th annual bilateral summit of India –Japan -
    - ✍ Agreed for a 2+2 dialogue between our foreign ministers and defence ministers to further work towards world peace.
    - ✍ India-Japan Business Platform will be established to enhance the development of industrial corridors and industrial network in the region.
    - ✍ 6 MOUs were signed -
      - ✍ Food Safety
      - ✍ MoU between Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India and NEXI, Japan
      - ✍ MoU between CSIR India with Hiroshima University and University of Tokyo (Japan) for Research Partnership.
      - ✍ MoU between National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) India, and Shizuoka University (Japan) for Academic and Research exchanges.
      - ✍ MoU between Sports Authority of India (SAI) India and University of Tsukuba (Japan) for academic exchanges and sports cooperation.
    - ✍ Other Important Agreements -
      - ✍ Joint Venture Agreement between State Bank of India (SBI) and SBI Payment Services Pvt. Ltd and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd.
    - ✍ India and Japan signed an agreement for \$75-billion bilateral currency swap, representing increase of 50 % percent over last currency swap arrangement between the two countries. This will enable agreed amount of foreign capital being available to India for use as and when need arises.
    - ✍ Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA), submitting instrument of ratification. As of now, 70 countries have signed ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it.
  - ✍ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Indonesia.
  - ✍ Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary Visited Czech Republic for attending 11th session of India – Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC).

17. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018)

- ✍ India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul (Afghanistan). Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.
- ✍ Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting.
- ✍ Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Satya Pal Singh visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting. It was first ever meeting of Education Ministers in history of G-20.
- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Vietnam and Cambodia.
  - ✍ In Vietnam, She inaugurated 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi.
  - ✍ In Cambodia, She signed 2 MOUs - 1st MOU is on Restoration and preservation of world heritage site of an 11th century temple of Lord Shiva called 'Temple of Preah Vihear' in Cambodia's Preah Vihear. 2nd MOU is on cooperation between India's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Cambodia's National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR).
- ✍ Indian Air Force Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Myanmar and Malaysia.
- ✍ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited USA to address 2nd World Hindu Congress held in Chicago, on occasion of 125th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at Parliament of the World's Religions on Sep 11, 1893.
- ✍ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment visited Seoul (Korea), to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'.

- ✍️ Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das visited China. He invited China to participate in food processing summit, which will be organised by Jharkhand Government in November.
- ✍️ President Ram Nath Kovind Visited European Nations Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic.
  - ✍️ Cyprus -
    - ✍️ India and Cyprus have signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in field of environment.
    - ✍️ India and Cyprus agreed to revise Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) signed between India and Cyprus in 2016 to further enhance investment cross flows.
  - ✍️ Bulgaria -
    - ✍️ India and Bulgaria sign five pacts on Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, science and technology cooperation and Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University.
  - ✍️ Czech Republic -
    - ✍️ 5 Agreements signed -
      - ✍️ Cooperation between Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Czech Academy of Sciences
      - ✍️ Visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders
      - ✍️ A work plan to support Indo-Czech projects in diverse areas of science and technology.
      - ✍️ Cooperation in laser technology between ELI Beamlines and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
      - ✍️ Cooperation between Haryana Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences.

18. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍️ Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Rhode Island (USA).
- ✍️ India and Niger signed an MoU for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey (Niger). It was signed during External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Niger (Western Africa).
- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Russia for participating in 23rd meeting of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC).
- ✍️ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Russia.
- ✍️ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting in Mar del Plata (Argentina).
- ✍️ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited European Nations Serbia, Malta and Romania -
  - ✍️ Romania -
    - ✍️ Romania agreed to take lead to re-start negotiations on India-EU-BTIA (Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement)
    - ✍️ Romania will open a Consulate in Chennai
    - ✍️ India Opens Ayush Information cell in Romania
  - ✍️ Malta -
    - ✍️ 3 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed in fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training.
  - ✍️ Serbia -
    - ✍️ India and Serbia signed agreements on cooperation in plant protection and plant quarantine and on-air services. India and Serbia are observing 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

19. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✍️ Senior security officials from Iran, Russia, China, India and Afghanistan attended a meeting in Tehran (Iran). National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Visited on India's Behalf.
- ✍️ USA and India formed 'USAID-India End TB Alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis. Event was attended by Health Minister J P Nadda on India's Behalf.
  - ✍️ It includes Soumya Swaminathan (Deputy Director General of Programmes (DDP) at World Health Organisation (WHO)) and Blessina Kumar from Global Coalition of TB Activists.
  - ✍️ USAID will make initial US \$30 million commitment, subject to approval of the US Congress.
- ✍️ Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Bangladesh.

20. ▶ Visits from india (Oct 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Kazakhstan (Central Asia).
- ✍️ President Ra Nath Kovind Visited Tajikistan -
  - ✍️ Signed MoUs in various fields including political relations, strategic research, agriculture, renewable energy, traditional medicine, space technology, youth affairs, Culture and Disaster Management.
  - ✍️ Indian grant of 20 million US dollars was announced for Tajikistan to finance development projects.

Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary Visited Nigera for Regional Conclave on India-West Africa Project Partnership held in Abuja, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-EXIM Bank.

21. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 21 - 31, 2018) -

- Andrus Ansip (European Commissioner for Digital Single Market and Vice President of the European Commission) Visited India. .
- Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte Visited India. He attended India-Italy Technology Summit at New Delhi.
- Sri Lankan prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visited India, as his fifth official visit to India since taking office in 2015.
- Rajiv Gauba (Home Secretary) Visited Myanmar, to attend 22nd National Level Meeting between India and Myanmar.
- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Croatia Marija Pejcinovic Burić Visited India, with 2 agreements signed to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation.
- China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi Visited India. India and China have signed agreement on internal security cooperation, as first such agreement to be signed between the two countries.

22. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -

- Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President-elect of 73rd United Nations General Assembly visited India.

23. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -

- Itsunori Onodera, Defence Minister of Japan Visited India. He attended India-Japan Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue.

24. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -

- China's Defence Minister Wei Fenghe Visited India (New Delhi). India and China decided to work towards a new bilateral MoU on Defence Exchanges and Cooperation to replace MoU signed in 2006.
- Defence Minister of Japan, Itsunori Onodera visited India.

25. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 1 - 10, 2018) -

- Malaysia's Human Resources Minister M. Kulasegaran Visited India.
- Opposition leader of Canada, Andrew Scheer Visited India.
- President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev Visited India. 17 MOUs were signed -
  - Visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders.
  - cooperation in field of tourism, military education, sphere of Law and Justice, agriculture and allied sectors, scientific-technical and innovation fields, health and medical science, combating illicit trafficking narcotic drugs, exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, Foreign Affairs.
  - MoU between Samarkand City of Uzbekistan and Municipal Corporation of Agra (Uttar Pradesh).
  - Establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan.
  - Cooperation between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under President of Uzbekistan.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres (Portugal) Visited India.
  - Formally opened new UN House in New Delhi.
  - Participated in closing session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention. He will also meet with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan, before giving an address at the India Habitat Centre.
  - Took part in General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin Visited India -
  - Attended 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit 2018 in New Delhi.
  - Attended AIM-SIRIUS Innovation Festival 2018 in New Delhi.
  - India and Russia signed their biggest defence deal in over two decades for Five S-400 air defence systems with worth \$5.43 billion ( Rs. 40,300 crores) -
    - The S-400 regiments will be delivered starting 2020 and are likely to be deployed to cover both the Pakistani and Chinese borders.
    - China was first foreign buyer Signed a \$3 billion deal for integrating Six S-400 in 2014.
    - U.S. warned deal could attract sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) law that restricts defence purchases from Russia, Iran and North Korea.
    - S-400 Air Defence System (Previously known as the S-300 PMU-3)
      - The S-400 uses four missiles to fill its performance envelope: the very-long-range 40N6 (400 km), the long-range 48N6 (250 km), the medium-range 9M96E2 (120 km) and the short-range 9M96E (40 km).

- ✎ One S-400 can launch 160 guided missiles simultaneously, engage 80 targets at a time.(2 Missile to attack 1 target).
- ✎ It can hit aircraft, cruise missiles and even fast-moving intermediate range ballistic missiles. The S-400 has three components — the missile launchers themselves, a powerful radar and a command centre.
- ✎ The radar can track targets 600 km away. For example, S-400 systems deployed in India can track aircraft flying well outside the country's borders, which is a major threat deterrence to the enemy's air force.
- ✎ 8 MOUs signed -
  - ✎ Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MEA for the period 2019-2023
  - ✎ MoU between NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and Russian Creative school SIRIUS, to provide a platform for joint scientific and entrepreneurial efforts by youth of two nations.
  - ✎ MOU between ISRO and ROSCOSMOS on Joint Activities in field of Human Spaceflight Programme.
  - ✎ ROSCOSMOS offered ride to Indian astronaut short visit to International Space Station (ISS) on board Soyuz spacecraft for short training mission in 2022.
  - ✎ Cooperation between Railways, Nuclear Field, Transport Education, MSME, Fertilizers Sector.
- 26. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 11 - 20, 2018) -
  - ✎ Andreas Krause, Chief of German Navy visited India.
  - ✎ Augustine P. Mahiga , Foreign Minister of Tanzania Visited India. He attended 9th Session of India - Tanzania Joint Commission Meeting.
- 27. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -
  - ✎ Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister of Nepal Visited India.
- 28. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -
  - ✎ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani visited India.
  - ✎ India and Morocco signed revised Air Services Agreement, enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement. It was signed during Mohammed Sajid's Visit to India. He is Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy.
  - ✎ Mr. Mohamnmd Sajid also inaugurated India's First ever India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of Tourism.
- 29. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
  - ✎ Goa government signed agreement with Portugal in field of water supply, waste water management and sanitation for a period of 2 years. It was signed during Portugal's Minister of Environment Joao Pedro de Matos Fernandes Visiting India.
  - ✎ Sayyid Badr Saud Harib Al Busaidi, Defence Minister of Sultanate of Oman Visited India.
  - ✎ India and Morocco have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security, during Visit of Moroccan Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudyi, to India. 2 MoUs signed - Cyber Security AND Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
  - ✎ Minister for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan, Shuhrat Sadikov Visited India. 2 MoUs signed
    - ✎ Strengthening e-Governance cooperation.
    - ✎ Declaration of Intent between CDAC India and Tashkent University of Information Technologies (Uzbekistan) for cooperation in capacity building in ICT sector.
  - ✎ Queen Mother of Bhutan, Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck Visited India.

**Top**

## **Science**

1. ▶ NASA confirmed that there are frozen water deposits in darkest and coolest parts of Moon's Polar Regions, using data from India's Chandrayaan-I spacecraft.
  - ✎ Chandrayaan-I spacecraft was launched in 2008 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
  - ✎ At the southern pole of moon, most of ice is concentrated at lunar craters, while northern pole's ice is more widely and lightly spread.
  - ✎ Most of the newfound water ice lies in shadows of craters near poles, where warmest temperatures never reach above minus 156 degrees Celsius (-250 degrees Fahrenheit).
2. ▶ A new Clot buster, PEGylated Streptokinase - a Novel Biological Entity developed by CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) has been developed, to revolutionize treatment of ischemic strokes, a condition caused by a dysfunction in the supply of blood to the brain. Prevalence of stroke is much higher in India than West and about 87% of all strokes are ischemic strokes.

- CSIR-IMTECH and Epygen Biotech Mumbai signed an agreement to develop PEGylated Streptokinase for treatment of Ischemic Stroke.
- PEGylated Streptokinase (novel recombinant protein Thrombolytic molecule) is engineered for enhanced proteolytic stability and extended plasma half-life, with reduced immuno-reactivity which would have significant clinical advantages.
- ▶ A swimming pool type research reactor *Apsara-upgraded* became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.
  - Apsara*, first research reactor in Asia became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in August 1956. After providing more than five decades of dedicated service to the researchers, the reactor was shut down in 2009.
  - The Upgraded version uses plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU). By virtue of higher neutron flux, this reactor will increase indigenous production of radio-isotopes for medical application by 50 % and would also be extensively used for research in nuclear physics, material science and radiation shielding.
- ▶ According to a new study by BirdLife International, 8 avian species was declared “extinct” in this decade. It was carried out to analyse 51 Critically Endangered birds six statistical methods to assign to the IUCN Red List Category to determine which of them qualify as ‘potentially extinct’ and ‘extinct’. 5 of 8 extinctions were from the South American mainland due to deforestation resulting in habitat loss.
- ▶ Aditya-L1, India’s first mission to study solar corona, will be launched in 2019-2020, by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL).
  - Aditya – L1 will be inserted in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1), 1.5 million km from Earth. Solar corona is outer layers of the Sun.
  - Lagrangian point where attraction by Sun and Earth becomes equal. This point does not experience gravitational force. It will observe Sun’s Photosphere and Chromosphere and will also conduct additional experiments.
  - It will have 6 additional payloads -
    - Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)– to study the diagnostic parameters of solar corona and dynamics and origin of Coronal Mass Ejections.
    - Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)– to image the Solar Photosphere and Chromosphere in near Ultraviolet (200-400 nm) and measure solar irradiance variations.
    - Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) – to study the variation of solar wind properties and its distribution and spectral characteristics.
    - Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)– to understand the composition of solar wind and its energy distribution.
    - Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)– to monitor the X-ray flares to study the heating mechanism of solar corona.
    - High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HELIOS)– to observe the dynamic events in the solar corona and estimate the energy used to accelerate the particles during eruptive events.
    - Magnetometer– to measure the magnitude and nature of the Interplanetary Magnetic Field.
- ▶ American Pharmaceutical Company Abbott will introduce a high-sensitive troponin-I blood test in India, that can predict chances of a heart attack or other cardiac event months to years in advance.
  - Troponin-I test provides better predictive information for determining a person’s chances of developing future heart disease when added to current standard of care.
- ▶ As a first such mission, European and Japanese space agencies launched Bepi Colombo spacecraft, for a joint mission to Mercury, planet closest to the sun. Spacecraft will arrive at Mercury in 2025.
  - It has named after Italian scientist Giuseppe “Bepi” Colombo. During its 5.2 billion miles journey, spacecraft will several fly-bys of Earth, Venus and Mercury, to slow down enough to avoid huge gravitational pull of Sun.
- ▶ CSIR Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR) Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for “Drinking Water Disinfection System” with Trade name “Oneer™”, transferred to Bluebird Water Purifiers.
  - This system will provide safe and clean drinking water at a cost of just 2 Paise / Ltr. Community level model is of 450 LPH capacity which can be scaled up to 5000 to 1 lakh L/day.
  - Smaller unit of Oneer is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors, and small establishments.
- ▶ Germany rolled out world’s first hydrogen-powered passenger train, manufactured by French TGV-maker Alstom. These locomotives named *iLint trains* emit zero emissions, offering greener and quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines.
  - Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity by combining hydrogen with oxygen. This conversion process only emits steam and water, thus producing zero emissions.
  - Excess energy produced is stored in ion-lithium batteries on board train. Hydrogen fuel cells have advantages over batteries. Instead of recharging, they can easily be refueled like gas or diesel engine.
  - These trains can run for around 1,000 km on a single tank of hydrogen, similar to the range of diesel trains.

10. ▶ ISRO postponed Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to moon to January 3, 2019, as 2nd time the mission is postponed. Chandrayaan 2 is advanced version of Chandrayaan-1 mission (launched in 2008) which only involved orbiting around moon.
  - ✍ Chandrayaan-2 involves an orbiter, lander and rover. In this, ISRO will for first time attempt to land rover on moon's south-pole. It involves soft-landing on lunar surface and rover that will walk and analysis content on moon's surface. It will be launched on board of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10).
  - ✍ Soft-landing on moon surface will be most complex part. Only US, Russia and China have been able to soft-land spacecraft on lunar surface.
  - ✍ Space Commission also approved ISRO's proposal of naming Chandrayaan-2 lander 'Vikram' after Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme.
11. ▶ India and France have signed agreement to collaborate for ISRO's first human space mission Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022. The announcement was made 6th edition of Bengaluru Space Expo (touted to be largest space conference in Asia and held in Bengaluru).
  - ✍ ISRO and French space agency CNES will form working group to exchange expertise in fields of astronaut life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems among others.
  - ✍ During same event, ISRO displayed a space suit developed for Gaganyaan Mission 2022. It is an orange-coloured prototype space suit developed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. It can hold one oxygen cylinder, allowing an astronaut to breathe in space for 60 minutes.
  - ✍ ISRO also displayed a crew model and crew escape model, with thermal shield and temperature inside maintained at 25 degree Celsius.
  - ✍ Gaganyaan Mission astronauts will be living for five to seven days in a 400-km orbit from the Earth's surface as they would conduct micro-gravity experiments.
  - ✍ Theme for Bengaluru Space Expo 2018 was *Creating dynamism in Indian space ecosystem*.
12. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its PSLV-C42 rocket carrying two British Earth observation satellites - NovaSAR and S1-4, intended to improve UK's disaster management capabilities.
13. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s heaviest satellite so far - GSAT-11 (weighing over 5700 kg), will take off a spaceport in French Guiana on 30 November. GSAT-11 is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity with up to 14 GB per second data transfer speed.
  - ✍ ISRO will also launch incubators across India to support startups working on building newer solutions in rocketry, communication satellites and applications based on remote sensing data.
14. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) unveiled details of its first indigenous human space mission dubbed as Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022, announced by PM Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech.
  - ✍ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will outsource production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries.
  - ✍ 3 Indian astronauts will be taken to space on board Gaganyaan spacecraft by 2022, as first human space mission to be indigenously developed by ISRO.
  - ✍ India will become fourth nation in the world to send astronaut into space after US, Russia and China.
  - ✍ Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space, as part of the Soviet Union's Soyuz T-11 expedition, launched on April 2, 1984, of the Intercosmos programme.
  - ✍ Cost of Gaganyaan mission will be less than Rs 10,000 crore. Prior to actual launch, ISRO will launch two unmanned Gaganyaan missions (first in 30 months' time and then 36 months).
  - ✍ GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle will be used to launch Gaganyaan as it has necessary payload capability for mission.
  - ✍ ISRO also announced to outsource production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries.
15. ▶ India's Mars mission Mangalyaan, successfully completed four years around Mars, despite being designed to last only six months. ISRO inserted Mangalyaan into Mars' orbit in its first attempt on September 24, 2014.
  - ✍ Also, ASTROSAT, India's first multi-wavelength space observatory will complete 3 years in Earth's orbit (Launched on September 28, 2015). ASTROSAT has helped scientists confirm the presence of younger stars in globular clusters, earlier believed to contain only old stars.
16. ▶ India's biggest cyclotron facility named Cyclone-30 became operational at Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)'s Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC).
  - ✍ Cyclotron is used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care. Radiations from these isotopes are used to destroy cancer cells.

- ✎ Cyclone-30 will produce radioisotopes vital for diagnosis and treatment of cancer. It will be only cyclotron facility in country to produce Germanium 68 radioisotopes, used in diagnosis of breast cancer.
  - ✎ It will also produce Palladium 103 isotopes, which is used for the treatment of prostate cancer. In its future stages, it will also produce Iodine 123 isotopes, which can help detect thyroid cancer.
17. ▶ Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) developed India's first indigenous medical kit for protection against nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage. It has 25 items which include radioactive protectors which can absorb 80-90% of radiation, nerve gas agents, bandages that absorb radiation as well as tablets and ointments. Its important parts are -
- ✎ Prussian blue tablet - Highly effective in incorporating Radio Cesium (Cs-137) and Radio Thallium, among most feared radioisotopes in nuclear bombs that destroy human body cells.
  - ✎ Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) injection - Traps uranium in the guts and blood of victims during a nuclear accident or warfare.
  - ✎ Ca-EDTA Respiratory Fluid - Inhalation formula for chelation, or grabbing of heavy metals and radioactive elements deposited in lungs through inhalation at nuclear accident sites. It reduces the body burden of radioactivity by 30-40% in controlled conditions.
  - ✎ Radioactive Blood Mopping Dressing - Special bandage that absorbs radiation to prevent spread of radiation from radioactive patients to others.
  - ✎ Radioactive urine/biofluid collector - It can safely dispose of urine of person affected by radiation.
  - ✎ Anti-gamma ray skin ointment - Heals radiation damage on skin.
  - ✎ Amifostine injection - This conventional radiopharmaceutical that limits damage from gamma radiation.
  - ✎ Indranil 150 mg tablet.
18. ▶ NASA announced that first crewed test flight by a SpaceX rocket to ISS will take place in June 2019. SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket for launch with a Crew Dragon capsule attached on top.
19. ▶ NASA has retired Kepler space telescope after it ran out of fuel needed for further science operations, bringing end of 9.5 year mission of Kepler space telescope in which it had discovered over 2,600 intriguing exoplanets from outside our solar system some.
- ✎ It was launched in 2009 on 3.5-year mission, but operated for 9 years. It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission. It was named after German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler.
20. ▶ NASA launched its most advanced space laser, ICESat-2, a \$1-billion mission that will shoot lasers towards Earth to track changes in Earth's ice sheets, glaciers, sea ice and vegetation around the world. The preceding mission, ICESat, which lasted from 2003-2009 revealed that ice cover was disappearing from Greenland and Antarctica. The new laser will fire 10,000 times per second, whereas ICESat fired 40 times a second.
21. ▶ NASA's First asteroid sampling spacecraft OSIRIS-REx captured first images of its target asteroid Bennu (from a distance of 2.1 million KMs) and began its final approach towards it after almost two-year journey.
- ✎ OSIRIS-Rex stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer. kilometre. It was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid.
  - ✎ It is scheduled to reach asteroid in 2018 and return to Earth after collecting some of its gravels by 2023.
  - ✎ Bennu is near-Earth carbonaceous asteroid about the size of a small mountain in the Apollo group. It was discovered in September 1999 by the LINEAR Project. It is carbon-rich asteroid and believed to be the type of asteroids that may have chemical building blocks of life, along with lots of water.
22. ▶ NASA's Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager (FOXSI) took its third flight from the White Sands Missile Range in White Sands, New Mexico.
- ✎ It is first instrument built specially to image high-energy X-rays from Sun, that will capture nanoflares (miniature explosions invisible to naked eye).
  - ✎ First FOXSI flight was in 2012, during which it successfully viewed a small solar flare in progress, and its second in 2014, when it detected best evidence at the time of X-ray emission from nanoflares.
23. ▶ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, known as TESS, has spotted "hot Earth" and "super-Earth" planets in solar systems 49 and 60 light-years away, marking its first discovery since April launch. TESS is designed to build on the work of its predecessor, Kepler space telescope, which discovered over 2,500 confirmed exoplanets in 20 years and is now running out of fuel.
24. ▶ National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad (Telanagana), as India's first genetic resource bank where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.
- ✎ It is equipped with sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources that could be utilised to virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct. It will cryopreserve living cell lines, gametes and embryos of endangered wild animal species in India.

25. ▶ Researchers at Shizuoka University (Japan) developed a space elevator, a miniature version on satellites.
- ✎ 2 ultra-small cubic satellites will be used for demonstration, being released from International Space Station (ISS) and container acting like elevator car will be moved on cable connecting satellites using motor. The movement of motorised elevator box will be monitored with cameras in the satellites.
  - ✎ Space elevator is a proposed type of planet-to-space transportation system. It will permit vehicles to travel along cable from planetary surface, such as Earth's, directly into space or orbit, without use of large rockets. The idea of space elevator was first proposed in 1895 by Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.
26. ▶ Researchers from China's Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences created the world's first single-chromosome yeast, while not affecting the majority of its functions. Experiment was conducted on Brewer's yeast having 16 chromosomes and which shares its one-third genome ancestry with humans. Researchers were able to fit nearly all genetic material of Brewer's yeast into just one chromosome.
27. ▶ Researchers from City University of Hong Kong (CityU) developed world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
- ✎ 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension, where printed objects can re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time with external stimuli, such as mechanical force, temperature, or a magnetic field.
  - ✎ Existing 3D-printed ceramic precursors, which are usually difficult to deform, also hinder the production of ceramics with complex shapes. To overcome these, researchers developed a novel 'ceramic ink', a mixture of polymers and ceramic nanoparticles.
  - ✎ Applications include Printed ceramic precursors can be used in manufacturing of electronic devices. Ceramic materials have much better performance in transmitting electromagnetic signals than metallic materials.
  - ✎ The artistic nature of ceramics and their capability to form complex shapes also provide the potential for consumers to tailor-make uniquely designed ceramic mobile phone back plates.
28. ▶ Researchers from over 20 nations have first time have decoded wheat genome, with highest quality genome sequence generated to date for such wheat variety. Reference genome decoded covers 94% (14.5 Gb) of decoding of Chromosome 2A of wheat genome.
- ✎ It will help to identify genes controlling complex agronomic traits such as yield, grain quality, resistance to diseases and pests as well as tolerance to drought, heat, water logging and salinity.
  - ✎ Availability of high quality reference genome will accelerate breeding of climate-resilient wheat varieties to feed ever-increasing world population and help address global food security in decades to come.
29. ▶ Scientists at European Southern Observatory (ESO) discovered a galaxy proto-supercluster named "Hyperion", the largest and the most massive structure in early universe known so far. Hyperion was found using data from VIMOS Ultra-Deep Survey done by VIMOS instrument on European Southern Observatory's (ESO) Very Large Telescope in Chile.
- ✎ Hyperion's mass is estimated to be a million billion times that of our own Sun (nearly 1,048 Jupiters, or 333,000 Earths). v. Hyperion is located in the constellation of Sextans.
30. ▶ Scientists from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and IISc Bangalore discovered 2 new species of lizards in Western Ghats. The Lizards are: Montane forest lizard and Spiny-headed forest lizard. They were wrongly identified under genus Calotes for over 150 years.
31. ▶ USA Scientists claimed to have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.
- ✎ It is controlled wirelessly by transmitter outside body that acts much like cellphone-charging mat. It operates for about two weeks before naturally absorbing into the body.
  - ✎ During its animal test on rats with injured sciatic nerves, it was found that this bioelectronic medicine device delivers regular pulses of electricity to damaged peripheral nerves in rats after surgical repair process. This results in accelerating regrowth of nerves.
  - ✎ Researchers envision that such transient engineered technologies can replace pharmaceutical treatments for a variety of medical conditions in humans.
32. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Parker Solar Probe, a \$1.5 billion spacecraft, aimed at looking after several factors of sun which are crucial to protect Earth by unveiling mysteries of dangerous solar storms.
- ✎ It is Humanity's first-ever mission to Touch the Sun. It will fly through Sun's atmosphere as close as 3.8 million miles from its surface, much closer than any spacecraft has come before.
  - ✎ Parker Solar Probe launched aboard a Delta IV-Heavy rocket from Cape Canaveral (USA).
  - ✎ It will use Venus' gravity during seven flybys over nearly seven years to gradually bring its orbit closer to Sun. Earth's average distance to Sun is 93 million miles.
  - ✎ Why wont it Melt -
    - ✎ Parker Solar Probe will provide unprecedented observations of what drives the wide range of particles, energy and heat that course through Sun's Corona, which has temperature of approx 6000 Degrees and sends particles outward into solar system.



✍ Parker Solar Probe has can withstand extreme temperature and fluctuations, with its custom heat shield that helps protect mission it from Sun's intense light emission.

✍ The key Lies in **concept of heat versus temperature** -

✍ High temperatures do not always translate to actually heating another object. In space, temperature can be thousands of degrees without providing significant heat to a given object or feeling hot, as Temperature measures how fast particles are moving, whereas heat measures total amount of energy they transfer.

✍ Particles may be moving fast (high temperature), but if there are very few of them, they won't transfer much energy (low heat). Since space is mostly empty, there are very few particles that can transfer energy to spacecraft.

✍ Sun's Corona has an extremely high temperature but very low density, so spacecraft interacts with fewer hot particles and doesn't receive as much heat.

✍ It Means that while Parker Solar Probe will be travelling through space with temperatures of several million degrees, surface of heat shield that faces the Sun will only get heated to about 1,400 degrees Celsius. Shield uses a Thermal Protection System, (8 feet (2.4 meters) in diameter and 4.5 inches (about 115 mm) thick), allowing the other side of shield, the spacecraft body to be at comfortable 30 C.

✍ Other Facts about mission -

✍ Naming - Eugene Newman Parker is person on whose name the Mission is named. In mid 1950s, he proposed a number of concepts about how stars – including our sun – give off energy. He called this cascade of energy the solar wind.

✍ Cost is approx \$1.5 Billion USD.

✍ In its seven-year mission, Probe will make six more Venus flybys and 24 total passes by Sun, journeying steadily closer to Sun until it makes its closest approach at 3.8 million miles (6.16 million km ). It will be moving at roughly 430000 miles per hour, setting record of being the fastest human-made object ever.

✍ It is expected to transmit its first science observations in December 2018.

33. ▶ University of Chicago (USA) identified a 'zombie' gene that makes elephants nearly immune to cancer. In response to DNA damage, a tumour-suppressing protein wakes up the non-functioning gene called LIF6 to kill cancer-prone cells.

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## Sports

1. ▶ 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup 2018 (London (England)) -

✍ Netherlands won the title for record 8th time, defeating Ireland in Final by 6-0.

✍ Kitty van Male (Netherlands) was Top Goal Scooper with 8 Goals, while Netherlands' Lidewij Welten was named best player.

✍ Spain won 3rd place, defeating Australia to claim their first ever World Cup medal.

✍ India finished 8th in 16 Teams Tournament.

2. ▶ International Olympics Committee (IOC) picked its first African host of any Olympics, by awarding 2022 Youth Games Hosting to Senegal will host youth games in 3 places - Dakar, A new city of Diamniadio and coastal resort of Saly.

3. ▶ 1st North East Olympic Games 2018 held at Main Stadium Khuman Lampak Sports Complex in Imphal (Manipur) -

✍ Games included 12 disciplines: Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Judo, Karate-Do, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Wushu.

✍ Manipur crowned as the overall champions, with 159 medals (80 Gold, 48 Silver and 31 Bronze). Assam came second with 140 medals. Arunachal Pradesh finished third with 76 medals.

✍ 2nd edition of North East Olympic Games will be held in Arunachal Pradesh in 2019.

4. ▶ 2018 AIBA Youth Women's & Men's World Championships in Budapest (Hungary).

✍ 359 boxers from 65 countries participated. Mascot was Hungarian Grey bull and cow

✍ Indian Winners:

✍ Gold -Nitu (Women's Light Fly 45-48kg), Sakshi (Women's Feather 54-57kg)

✍ Silver - Anamika (Women's Fly 48-51kg), Manisha (Women's Light Welter 64kg)

✍ Bronze - Bhavesh Kattimani (Men's Fly 49-52kg), Ankit (Women's Light – 60kg), Jony (Women's Light 57-60kg), Pahwa A (Women's Middle 69-75kg), Gaidhani S (Women's Light Heavy 81kg), Yadav N (Women's Heavy +81kg)

✍ Awards:

✍ Best Men Boxer – Dzhambulats Bizhamov (Russia – 69KG)

✍ Best Women Boxer – Charlie Cavanagh (Canada – 69KG)

✍ Best Team – Team Russia



- 🇮🇳 Saina Nehwal winning bronze in Badminton, after losing to Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in women's singles semifinals.

### 🇮🇳 **Indian Gold Medalists (15 Medals) -**

#### 🇮🇳 Athletics - 7

- 🇮🇳 Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Men's shot put) - *It was India's first gold in Athletics at 2018 Asian Games.*
- 🇮🇳 Neeraj Chopra (Men's javelin throw) - *First Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold. With this, he also set up a national record.*
- 🇮🇳 Manjit Singh (Men's 800 metres)
- 🇮🇳 Arpinder Singh (Men's triple jump) - *He ended India's 48-year wait for a gold medal in men's triple jump event at Asian Games. It was an Indian medal in men's triple jump, after 36 years.*
- 🇮🇳 Swapna Barman (Women's heptathlon) - *India's first-ever Asiad gold in women's heptathlon event.*
- 🇮🇳 Jinson Johnson (Men's 1500 metres)
- 🇮🇳 M. R. Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das, Vismaya (Women's 4 x 400 m relay)

#### 🇮🇳 Boxing - 1

- 🇮🇳 Amit Panghal (Light flyweight (49 kg))

#### 🇮🇳 Bridge - 1

- 🇮🇳 Pranab Bardhan, Shibhnath Sarkar (Men's pair)

#### 🇮🇳 Rowing - 1

- 🇮🇳 Sawarn Singh Dattu, Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash, Sukhmeet Singh (Men's quadruple sculls)

#### 🇮🇳 Shooting - 2

- 🇮🇳 Saurabh Chaudhary (Men's 10 metre air pistol)
- 🇮🇳 Rahi Sarnobat (Women's 25 metre pistol) - *She became first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games.*

#### 🇮🇳 Lawn tennis - 1

- 🇮🇳 Rohan Bopa
- 🇮🇳 nna, Divij Sharan (Men's doubles)

#### 🇮🇳 Wrestling - 2

- 🇮🇳 Bajrang Punia (Men's freestyle 65 kg)
- 🇮🇳 Vinesh Phogat (Women's freestyle 50 kg)

### 🇮🇳 **India's Silver Medalists -**

#### 🇮🇳 Shooting -

- 🇮🇳 Deepak Kumar (Men's 10 metre air rifle)
- 🇮🇳 Lakshay Sheoran (Men's trap)
- 🇮🇳 Sanjeev Rajput (Men's 50 metre rifle three positions)
- 🇮🇳 Shardul Vihan (Men's double trap)

#### 🇮🇳 Kabaddi -

- 🇮🇳 Women's kabaddi (Lost to Iran).

#### 🇮🇳 Equestrian -

- 🇮🇳 Fouaad Mirza (Individual eventing)
- 🇮🇳 Team eventing

#### 🇮🇳 Athletics -

- 🇮🇳 Hima Das (Women's 400 metres)
- 🇮🇳 Muhammed Anas (Men's 400 metres)
- 🇮🇳 Dutee Chand (Women's 100 metres)
- 🇮🇳 Dharun Ayyasamy (Men's 400 metres hurdles)
- 🇮🇳 Sudha Singh (Women's 3000 metres steeplechase)
- 🇮🇳 Neena Varakil (Women's long jump)
- 🇮🇳 Jinson Johnson (Men's 800 metres)
- 🇮🇳 Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas, Hima Das, M. R. Poovamma (Mixed 4 x 400 metres relay)
- 🇮🇳 Dutee Chand (Women's 200 metres)
- 🇮🇳 Dharun Ayyasamy, Kunhu Mohammed, Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas (Men's 4 x 400 m relay)

- 🏹 Archery -
  - 🏹 Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini (Men's team compound)
  - 🏹 Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari, Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Women's team compound)
- 🏸 Badminton -
  - 🏸 P. V. Sindhu (Women's singles)
- 🥋 Kurash -
  - 🥋 Pincky Balhara (Women's 52 kg)
- 🛶 Sailing -
  - 🛶 Shweta Shervegar, Varsha Gautham (49er FX women)
- 🏑 Hockey -
  - 🏑 Women's hockey team
- 🏸 Squash -
  - 🏸 Dipika Pallikal, Joshna Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna, Sunayna Kuruvilla (Women's team)

7. ▶ 2018 China Open (Tennis) -

- 🏸 Men's Singles - Nikoloz Basilashvili (Georgia)
- 🏸 Women's Singles - Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)
- 🏸 Men's Doubles - Łukasz Kubot (Poland) AND Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
- 🏸 Women's Doubles - Czech Republic's Andrea Sestini Hlaváčková AND Barbora Strýcová

8. ▶ 2018 China Open Badminton -

- 🏸 Men's Singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
- 🏸 Women's Singles - Carolina Marín (Spain)
- 🏸 Men's Doubles - Denmark's Kim Astrup AND Anders Skaarup Rasmussen
- 🏸 Women's Doubles - Japan's Misaki Matsutomo AND Ayaka Takahashi
- 🏸 Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong

9. ▶ 2018 Cincinnati Masters Tennis 2018 (Also called Western & Southern Open) -

- 🏸 Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- 🏸 Women's Singles - Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)
- 🏸 Men's Doubles - Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) AND Bruno Soares (Brazil)
- 🏸 Women's Doubles - Lucie Hradecká (Czech Republic) AND Ekaterina Makarova (Russia)

10. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Final held in Samsun, Turkey.

- 🏹 South Korea topped the medal tally with: 3 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medals. Turkey stayed at 2nd.
- 🏹 India won 3 medals - 1 silver and 2 bronze.
  - 🏹 Silver - Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha
  - 🏹 Bronze - Abhishek Verma AND Deepika Kumari

11. ▶ 2018 Los Cabos Men's Tennis Open -

- 🏸 Singles - Fabio Fognini (Italy)
- 🏸 Doubles - Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) AND Miguel Ángel Reyes-Varela (Mexico)

12. ▶ 2018 Rogers Cup Tennis (Toronto (Canada)) -

- 🏸 Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- 🏸 Women's Singles - Simona Halep (Romania)
- 🏸 Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
- 🏸 Women's Doubles - Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

13. ▶ 2018 Shanghai Rolex Masters Men's tennis Title -

- 🏸 Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- 🏸 Doubles - Łukasz Kubot (Poland) AND Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

14. ▶ 2018 Tianjin Open Women's Tennis (China) -

- 🏸 Singles - Caroline Garcia (France)
- 🏸 Doubles - Nicole Melichar (USA) AND Květa Peschke (Czech Republic)


15. ▶ 2018 World Wrestling Championships in Budapest (Hungary)


- 🏹 Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
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Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Russia	10	1	2	13
2	Japan	5	1	4	10
3	United States	4	3	5	12
4	Turkey	1	4	4	9
5	Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5

 India at 2018 Wrestling World Championships -

 Ranked 19 (Jointly with Uzbekistan), India could Manage 2 Medals (1 Silver and 1 Bronze).


 Pooja Dhanda won a bronze medal in women's freestyle 57kg weight. Bajrang Punia won silver after he went down against Japan's Takuto Otoguro in 65kg final.

16. ▶ 2018 Youth Olympic Games (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

 It was 3rd edition of Youth Olympic Games, that began with 2010 (Singapore) and 2014 (Nanjing, China).


 3997 Athletes from 206 Nations participated in 239 Events of 32 sports.


 Mascot was *Pandi*, a young Yaguareté (A southamerican animal very similar to Jaguar).

 Next, 2022 Youth Olympic Games will be hosted by Dakar (Senegal). It will be first ever hosting of any Olympic Games by an African Nation.

 Medal Table -


Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Russia	29	18	12	59
2	China	18	9	9	36
3	Japan	15	12	12	39
-	Mixed-NOCs	13	13	13	39
4	Hungary	12	7	5	24
5	Italy	11	10	13	34


 India at 2018 Summer Youth Olympics -

 With Total 13 Medals (2 Gold, 9 Silver, 1 Bronze), India was ranked 17th. It was India's Best performance in Youth Olympics So far. India won 8 Medals in 2010 and 2 in 2014, wit No Gold in either of first two.

 Indian Medallists -

 Gold -


 Jeremy Lalrinnunga - Weightlifting (Boys 62 kg)

 Manu Bhaker - Shooting (Girls' 10 metre air pistol) (She also won a silver in International Mixed event, mixing up with Tajikistan's Behzan Fayzuallev)

 Saurabh Chaudhary - Shooting Boys (10 metre air pistol)

 Silver -

 Tushar Mane - Shooting Boys' 10 metre air rifle

 Tababi Devi - Judo Girls' 44 kg

 Mehuli Ghosh - Shooting Girls' 10 metre air rifle

 Lakshya Sen - Badminton Boys' singles

 Simran - Wrestling Girl's freestyle 43 kg

 Men's hockey team (*Lost to Malaysia*)

 Women's hockey team (*Lost to Argentina*)

 Suraj Panwar - Athletics Boys' 5 km walk

 Akash Malik - Archery Boys' individual

 Bronze -

 Praveen Chitravel - Athletics Boys' triple jump


17. ▶ 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will be held in North Korean capital Pyongyang.

18. ▶ 36th National Games will be held in Goa in March - April 2019.

19. ▶ 52nd ISSF World Shooting Championships held in Changwon (South Korea) -

 This also served as first qualification for 2020 Summer Olympics.

 India at the Games -

 In Senior - India won total 7 Medals (2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze), ranked 9th.

 In Junior - India won total 20 Medals (2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze), ranked 2nd.

India with 27 medals was overall (senior + junior) ranked 3, after China (43 medals) and South Korea (36 medals).

Shahzar Rizvi claimed India's first medal at ISSF World Cup 2018, winning 10m air pistol silver.

Indian Gold Medalists -

Senior -

50 m pistol (Om Prakash Mitharwal)

Double trap (Ankur Mittal)

Junior -

10 m air rifle (Hriday Hazarika)

10 m air pistol (Saurabh Chaudhary)

25 m pistol (Udhayveer Sidhu)

25 m standard pistol (Vijayveer Sidhu)

50 m pistol (Arjun Singh Cheema)

25 m standard pistol team (Vijayveer Sidhu, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Adarsh Singh)

25 m pistol team (Udhayveer Sidhu, Vijayveer Sidhu, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu)

50 m pistol team (Arjun Singh Cheema, Gaurav Rana, Anmol)

10 m air rifle Women team (Elavenil Valarivan, Shreya Agrawal, Manini Kaushik)

Medal table -

Senior -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	9	9	3	21
2	Russia	8	8	10	26
3	South Korea	7	5	8	20
4	Germany	6	6	3	15
5	Sweden	4	2	3	9
<b>9</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

Junior -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	11	6	5	22
<b>2</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
3	Italy	5	1	3	9
4	South Korea	4	9	3	16
5	Norway	2	0	1	3

20. ▶ A friendly Football match played between India and China in Suzhou (China), as first time in 21 years, after Nehru Cup in Kochi in 1997. Sandesh Jhingan was captain of Indian team for the Match. The game ended in a Draw at 0-0.

21. ▶ Asian Para Games 2018 (Jakarta, Indonesia)-

2762 Athletes from 43 Nations participated in 512 Events in 18 sports.

Official mascot was a Bondol eagle named Momo (short for motivation and mobility).

India ranked 9th with total 72 Medals. It was India's best ever show in Asian Para Games.

Medal Table -

Rank	NPC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China (CHN)	172	88	59	319
2	South Korea (KOR)	53	45	46	144
3	Iran (IRI)	51	42	43	136
4	Japan (JPN)	45	70	83	198
5	Indonesia (INA)	37	47	51	135
6	Uzbekistan (UZB)	35	24	18	77
7	Thailand (THA)	23	33	50	106
8	Malaysia (MAS)	17	26	25	68
<b>9</b>	<b>India (IND)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>72</b>
10	Hong Kong (HKG)	11	16	21	48






22. ▶ Badminton World Championships 2018, Held at Nanjing (China). -

India's P V Sindhu finished second best in Women;s Singles, becoming only Indian to have four world championships podium finishes.

-  Men's singles - Kento Momota (Japan), defeating China's Shi Yuqi. He became first Japanese man to win it.
-  Women's singles - Carolina Marin (Spain) won by defeating India's P V Sindhu.
-  Men's doubles - Chinese pair of Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen
-  Women's doubles - Japanese pair of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara.
-  Mixed doubles - Chinese pair of Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong.
-  Mascot of Event was *Yu Bao*.

23. ▶ CERN(world's largest physics laboratory) has discovered two new particles, as well as hints of another new particle, in high-energy proton collisions at 27-km-long Large Hadron Collider. The particles belong to the same family of protons called baryons.

24. ▶ Denmark Open Badminton 2018 -

-  Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)
-  Women's Singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei), **defeating Saina Nehwal (India)**
-  Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukumuljo
-  Women's Doubles - Japan's Yuki Fukushima AND Sayaka Hirota
-  Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong

25. ▶ FIFA took temporary control over the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) due to governance issues.

26. ▶ Ferrari's Racer Sebastian Vettel (Germany) won F1 Belgian Grand Prix -

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
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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	

27. ▶ Ferrari's Racer Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) won F1 USA Grand Prix -

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15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	Kimi Raikkonen (Finland)
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

28. ▶ For first time in history of FIFA international football team rankings, two teams are sharing top spot after World Cup 2018 semi-finalists Belgium joined World Cup winners France Jointly at top of rankings.
29. ▶ Forbes' List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes 2018 -
- 🔑 American Tennis Player Serena Williams (with earnings of \$18.1 million) is highest paid female athlete for 3rd consecutive year.
  - 🔑 Top 3 -
    - 🔑 Serena Williams (\$18.1 million) (American Tennis Player)
    - 🔑 Dane Caroline Wozniacki (\$13 million) (Danish Tennis Player)
    - 🔑 Sloane Stephens (\$11.2 million) (American tennis player)
  - 🔑 Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu ranked at 7th place with earnings of \$8.5 million.
30. ▶ Former India Cricketer Anil Kumble's Tech startup Spektacom Technologies launched the *Power Bat*, powered by Microsoft's Azure Cloud platform and its Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) services. Star India is broadcasting partner.
- 🔑 Power Bat will provide real-time data on a player's performance based on parameters like speed of the ball on impact, twist on impact and quality of the shot.
  - 🔑 In a live match, when the batsman hits the ball, data is captured in a new unit of measurement called Power Speks.
31. ▶ France Football magazine announced that, a women's Ballon d'Or will be awarded for first time in 2018, to be presented on 8 December 2018 in Paris (France).
- 🔑 Ballon d'Or is awarded annually for men since 1956.
32. ▶ Germany will host UEFA 2024 European Championship, as Germany's first major football championship hosting since World Cup 2006. 24 national teams will play in 10 German cities.
33. ▶ Great Britain won 2018 Sultan of Johor Hockey Cup, defeating India. It was hosted by Malaysia.
34. ▶ India Blue won 2017-18 Duleep Cricket Trophy by defeating India Red, in Dindigul (Tamilnadu).
35. ▶ India and Pakistan declared joint winners of Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman, after summit clash was called off due to heavy rain.
36. ▶ India defeated Bangladesh to win Unimoni Asia Cup Cricket Championship 2018, held in UAE. This was India's seventh Asia Cup Title.
37. ▶ India won South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Football Championship, held in Thimpu (Bhutan), by defeating Bangladesh.
38. ▶ Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami became first bowler in women's cricket to pick 300 international wickets. Also, Mithali Raj went past England's Charlotte Edwards as most-capped captain in women's ODIs with her 118th appearance.
39. ▶ Indian sprinter Hima Das was appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam.



- ✎ She was first Indian athlete to win gold medal in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere, Finland.
  - ✎ In 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta), she had won silver medal in 400 m final to win a silver medal. She is nicknamed 'Dhing Express' after her village in Assam.
40. ▶ Indian tennis Player Leander Paes won his second Challenger-level title of season, winning Santo Domingo Open trophy (Dominican Republic) with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.
  41. ▶ International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that Madrid (Spain) would host the first 2 new-format Davis Cup Tennis finals in 2019 and 2020. It will engage 18 countries at one place for a week at the end of tennis season. Kosmos will spend \$3 billion over 25 years on revamped 118-year-old Davis Cup.
  42. ▶ Japan Open Badminton 2018 -
    - ✎ Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)
    - ✎ Women's Singles - Carolina Marín (Spain)
    - ✎ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
    - ✎ Women's Doubles - Japan's Yuki Fukushima AND Sayaka Hirota
    - ✎ Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong
  43. ▶ Japan will host 2019 edition of 4th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays, in May 2019. This will serve as a qualifier for world championships taking place in Doha in September and October 2019.
  44. ▶ Japan won its first FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title, held in France. Japan defeated Spain in final.
    - ✎ England held 3rd place while France stayed 4th.
    - ✎ Patricia Guijarro (Spain) named as Best Player.
  45. ▶ Laver cup Tennis 2018 (Chicago, United States)-
    - ✎ Its an indoor hard court men's tennis tournament between two teams - Team Europe and Team World. It was founded in 2017.
    - ✎ Team Europe successfully defended their title, winning the tournament 13–8.
  46. ▶ Maldives won 2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup 2018, defeating India. It was hosted by Bangladesh.
  47. ▶ Manipur won 24th Senior Women's National football championships in Cuttack (Odisha). Manipur secured their 19th title win after beating Odisha.
  48. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Italian Grand Prix -

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10	British Grand Prix	8 July	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
11	German Grand Prix	22 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
12	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	

<b>19</b>			
<b>20</b>	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
<b>21</b>	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

49. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Japanese Grand Prix -  
 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar -

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Winner</b>
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<b>3</b>	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
<b>4</b>	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>5</b>	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>6</b>	Monaco Grand Prix	27 May	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
<b>7</b>	Canadian Grand Prix	10 June	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
<b>8</b>	French Grand Prix	24 June	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>9</b>	Austrian Grand Prix	1 July	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)
<b>10</b>	British Grand Prix	8 July	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
<b>11</b>	German Grand Prix	22 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>12</b>	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>13</b>	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
<b>14</b>	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>15</b>	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>16</b>	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>17</b>	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>18</b>	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
<b>19</b>	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
<b>20</b>	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
<b>21</b>	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

50. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Russian Grand Prix -  
 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar -

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>1</b>	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
<b>2</b>	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
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<b>4</b>	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>5</b>	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>6</b>	Monaco Grand Prix	27 May	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
<b>7</b>	Canadian Grand Prix	10 June	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
<b>8</b>	French Grand Prix	24 June	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>9</b>	Austrian Grand Prix	1 July	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)
<b>10</b>	British Grand Prix	8 July	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
<b>11</b>	German Grand Prix	22 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
<b>12</b>	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)







13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
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	

51. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Singapore Grand Prix -

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

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1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
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5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
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19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

52. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (August 2018) -

-  10-year-old swimmer Clark Kent Apuada (USA) has broke a record held by Noted Olympian Swimmer Michael Phelps, completing 100-meter butterfly in 1:09:38, ahead of Phelps' record that he set in 1995 (with 1:10.48 timing).
-  Kliment Kolesnikov of Russia created a world record for 50 metres backstroke swimming, as he won European Championship in Glasgow (Scotland). He recorded 24 seconds and broke previous record by 0.04 seconds.
-  Indian Chess Player Vaibhav Suri beat Prithu Gupta and won Biel Masters Chess title in Switzerland.
-  Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his first European Tour title at Fiji International.
-  Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli became fastest captain to reach 7000 international runs. Kohli also featured at top in latest ICC Test Rankings. Also, Nepalese cricketer Rohit Kumar Paudel (aged 15 years) became 4th youngest debutant in men's ODI cricket.
-  Karman Kaur Thandi became 6th Indian to rank among top 200th in WTA (Women's Tennis Association) list, after Ankita Raina, Sania Mirza, Nirupama Vaidyanathan, Shikha Uberoi and Sunitha Rao.

- 🏏 India's under-20 Football team won a game against traditionally strong Argentina team by 2-1, during COTIF Cup in Spain. Also, under-16 team football of India defeated under-16 champions team of Iraq in West Asian Football Federation Cup in Amman (Jordan).
- 🏏 India's Swastika Ghosh won bronze medal in junior girls' doubles along with Singapore's Jingyi Zhou in 2018 Hang Seng Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open, in Hong Kong.
- 🏏 Tokyo 2020 (Japan) will be first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues. It will use IC chips within identification cards to automatically verify identity of those entering over 40 sporting venues.
- 🏏 Indian-American student Avi Goel won world championship at International Geography Bee's junior varsity division held in Berlin (Germany).
- 🏏 Saudi Arabia's Mosaad Aldossary won FIFA eWorld Cup held at O2 Arena in London (Britain).
- 🏏 English cricketer James Anderson became first player to take 100 wickets at Lord's, achieving it during second Test against India.
- 🏏 Indian golfer Viraj Madappa became youngest Indian to win on Asian Tour, after winning his first title on Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- 🏏 Indian cricketer Virat Kohli stayed at top spot in list of highest run scorers in international cricket in 2018.
- 🏏 Indian cyclist Esow Alben won India's maiden medal in track cycling at world level, after he won silver medal in Men's Keirin event of UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships held in Aigle (Switzerland).
- 🏏 New Delhi will host Combined ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup to be held before 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- 🏏 14 years old Nihal Sarin became India's 53rd Chess Grandmaster after winning at Abu Dhabi Masters. Also, Vaishali R (17 years), became India's latest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) after earning her third and final WGM norm at Riga Technical University Open at Latvia.
- 🏏 India's Para Athlete Divyesh Sondagar won 2 Gold medals in World Cerebral Palsy Games in Barcelona (Spain).
- 🏏 Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Irfan set the world record for the most economical four-over bowling figures in history of T20 cricket, when he conceded just 1 run in 4 overs spell, with 23 dot balls.

53. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (September 2018) -















- 🏏 Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela became first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- 🏏 Indian shuttlers Anoushka Parikh, Saurabh Sharma AND Krishna Prasad Garaga, Dhruv Kapila won mixed doubles and men's doubles title respectively, at RSL Kharkiv International challenge in Kharkiv (Ukraine).
- 🏏 Man Kaur, 102-year-old Indian athlete won 200m race in 100-104 age group category at World Masters Athletics Championships in Spain. Last year, Man Kaur won 100m gold at World Masters Games at Auckland (New Zealand).
- 🏏 Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin (Germany), smashing previous best as he clocked 2 hours 1 minute 39 second.
- 🏏 Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Monika (48 kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81 kg) claimed gold medals at Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul (Turkey).
- 🏏 Indian boxing champion M C Mary Kom won her 3rd gold medal of 2018 in 48 kg category, while Jyoti Gulia picked up gold in 51 kg of youth category of Silesian Open boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice (Poland).
- 🏏 Medved International Wrestling tournament held in Minsk (Belarus). India's Sakshi Malik won silver in 62 kg category. India's Pooja Dhandra won a Bronze medal in 57 kg category.
- 🏏 Mahendra Singh become 2nd most capped player for India in international cricket as he played his 505th match for India, in Asia Cup 2018 against Pakistan. Dhoni overtook Rahul Dravid as 2nd most capped player for India.
- 🏏 India won silver medal after losing to Pakistan in final of Asian Team Snooker Championships, in Doha (Qatar).
- 🏏 Junior World wrestling championships held in Trnava (Slovakia), with India winning total 7 Medals (Silver - 4, Bronze - 3).
- 🏏 5th Track Asia Cup Cycling championships held in New Delhi. India topped medal tally with 6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals. It was followed by Indonesia in 2nd place and Hong Kong in third.
- 🏏 Serbia Junior and Cadet Open (table tennis) held in Belgrade (Serbia).
  - 🏏 Cadet boys singles title was won by India's Payas Jain. Junior girls also won team title.
  - 🏏 Cadet boys team event title won by India's Payas Jain and Vishwa Deenadayalan.
  - 🏏 Silver medal was won by India B team - Divyansh Srivastava and Aadarsh Om Chhetri.
- 🏏 Blind chess player Vaishali Narendra Salavkar became first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at world chess Olympiad held in Batumi (Georgia).
- 🏏 58th National Open athletics championships held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

- India's Yuvraj Wadhvani won 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title, by beating Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan. It was held in Chennai. Also, in Under 15, Arnav Sareen settled for runner-up spot.
- 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- 54. ▶ New Kabaddi Federation of India (NKFI) launched Indo International Premier Kabaddi League, to start on 26 January 2019.
  - Winner will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 1.25 crore, with Over 1000 players participating.
  - League will have 8 teams, Each team having 2 to 3 international players.
- 55. ▶ Odisha for First time will Organize 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, which will be the 14th edition of tournament. It will be organized in November - December 2018, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- 56. ▶ Odisha government launched 'Olly', official mascot of 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, aimed at raising awareness about conservation of Olive Ridley turtle. 2018 Men's Hockey WC is to be hosted at Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar) in Nov - Dec 2018.
- 57. ▶ Parijat Urja Chakra and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) organized a special campaign at Fatehgarh village of Ambala in Haryana, to create awareness about the ill effects of crop residue burning and management.
- 58. ▶ Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez signed he largest contract in the history of sports, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million with streaming service DAZN. Under it, Alvarez will participate in 11 fights starting December 2018. Previous richest contract was 13-year, \$325-million deal signed by New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton in 2014.
- 59. ▶ Red Bull's Racer Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won F1 Mexican Grand Prix -
  - With this, Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won his 5th F1 world title.

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- 60. ▶ Romanian Female tennis player Simona Halep became first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy, named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.
- 61. ▶ September 25 - Antyodaya Divas. It marks birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- 62. ▶ Sport Australia Hall of Fame announced cricketing great Richie Benaud, who died in April 2015, as 40th Legend of Australian Sport. He is third cricketer behind Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller to be given Legend status.
- 63. ▶ The Best FIFA Football Awards 2018 (London) -

-  Best FIFA Men's Player - Luka Modrić (Croatia)
  -  Best FIFA Goalkeeper - Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)
  -  Best FIFA Men's Coach - Didier Deschamps (France)
  -  Best FIFA Women's Player - Marta (Brazil)
  -  Best FIFA Women's Coach - Reynald Pedros (Lyon)
  -  FIFA Fair Play Award - Lennart (Germany), Missed an Eredivisie match to donate stem cells to a leukemia patient
  -  FIFA Puskás Award (Best Goal) - Mohamed Salah (Egypt), Plays for Liverpool FC. Won for his goal in 2017–18 Premier League.
64. ▶ Triple jumper Arpinder Singh became first Indian to win a medal in IAAF Continental Cup 2018 held in Ostrava (Czech Republic), after winning bronze. He was representing the Asia-Pacific team.
-  IAAF Continental Cup (formerly known as IAAF World Cup) is an international athletics competition. It is the only world cup contested by teams representing entire continents, rather than just those of individual countries.
  -  In 2018, first Athletics World Cup was held in London (UK). It is not related to original IAAF Continental Cup, and latter continues to be held.
65. ▶ UAE will host upcoming Asia Cup Cricket T20 Tournament 2018. 6 Asian Teams will participate in it.
66. ▶ US Open Tennis 2018 -
-  Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), defeating Juan Martín del Potro (Argentina). It was 14th Grand Slam Title for Djokovic, and his 3rd US Open title.
  -  Women's Singles - Naomi Osaka (Japan), Defeating Serena Williams (USA).
  -  Men's Doubles - USA's Mike Bryan AND Jack Sock
  -  Women's Doubles - Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND CoCo Vandeweghe (USA)
  -  Mixed Doubles - Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) AND Jamie Murray (UK)
67. ▶ Women's Boxing World Championships, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, in November 2018 in New Delhi.

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