



## Current Affairs - March 2018 to May 2018

Month  Type



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### Appointments

- ▶ Aashish Kapoor replaced Venkatesh Prasad in three-member All-India Junior Cricket Selection Committee.
- ▶ Abiyeh Ahmed has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Ethiopia (East Africa).
- ▶ Actor Rituparna Sen gupta is appointed as Chairperson of Shilpi Sansad, an organization that provides financial security to artistes of Bengali film industry.
- ▶ Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ▶ Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as acting chief justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- ▶ Alicia Pucheta has been appointed as South American Nation Paraguay's first woman President (Interim).
- ▶ Amar Devulapalli and Sabina Indrajit have been appointed as President and the Secretary –General of the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) respectively.
- ▶ Angela Merkel has been appointed as Chancellor of Germany for 4th Term. It ended 6 months long political uncertainty in Germany, longest time it has been without a govt in its post-war history.
- ▶ Anil Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as chairman of SAIL (Steel Authority of India).
- ▶ Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India.
- ▶ Appointments approved by ACC (Appointments Committee of Cabinet) -
  - ▶ Juthika Patankar - as Director General in National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD).
  - ▶ M. Srinivas Rao - Chief Executive Officer in National e-Governance Division (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).
  - ▶ Rakesh Kumar Gupta - Secretary in Union Public Service Commission.
  - ▶ Sameer Sharma - Director General in Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.
  - ▶ Rakesh Kumar Vats - Chairperson in National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
- ▶ Armen Sarkisian has been appointed as new president of European Nation Armenia.
- ▶ Armenia's parliament voted to appoint country's former President Serzh Sargsyanas as New prime minister of Armenia.
- ▶ BCCI appointed Ajit Singh as head of its Anti-Corruption Unit
- ▶ BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) has appointed David Wright as a Public Interest Director on its board.
- ▶ Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as vice-president of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
- ▶ Balesh Sharma has been named as CEO of Merged Entity of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular. It will be India's biggest telecom Firm. Kumar Mangalam Birla will be non-executive chairman of merged company.
- ▶ Bipin Puri appointed as Senior Col Commandant of Army Medical Corps.
- ▶ Biplab Kumar Deb is named as new Chief Minister of Tripura, by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that won clear majority in recent state assembly elections. He will replace Manik Sarkar who ruled for over 20 years.
- ▶ Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan has been named as Green Ambassador of Sikkim by State government.
- ▶ Brand Ambassadors (April 2018) -
  - ▶ Manu Bhaker (Shooter) - Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.
  - ▶ Argentine Footballer Lionel Messi - UN World Tourism Organization's ambassador to promote responsible tourism.
  - ▶ Shooter Gauri Sheoran - Haryana government's brand ambassador for its health-related programmes Including measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.

22. ▶ Cab Aggregator Uber promoted its India head Amit Jain as regional general manager for Asia Pacific region (APAC).
23. ▶ Cabinet Reshuffle -
  - ▶ Coal and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has been given Additional charge of Finance Ministry, until Arun Jaitley is on rest due to health issues.
  - ▶ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore has been given additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Independent Charge).
24. ▶ Caribbean island Nation Barbados elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from UK in 1966.
25. ▶ Carlos Alvarado has been elected as New president of Costa Rica (Central America).
26. ▶ Central government approved Senior Advocate Indu Malhotra as a Supreme Court judge. She is first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of Supreme Court, instead of being elevated from a high court.
27. ▶ Chandra Bhushan Kumar has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner.
28. ▶ Chandra Shekhar Ghosh is re-appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank for 3 years. Also, Former RBI deputy governor Harun Rasid Khan joined Bandhan Bank board.
29. ▶ Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang is re-elected for his 2nd five-year term. Note that XI Jinping was recently allowed to stay as President of China for his lifetime.
  - ▶ China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi is promoted to post of State Councillor, country's top diplomat.
  - ▶ Yi Gang has been named next governor of China's central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBOC).
30. ▶ Cricketer Rahul Dravid has been named as state election icon for Karnataka Assembly polls, to be held on 12th May 2018.
31. ▶ Debjani Ghosh has been appointed as new president of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies). Also, Rishad Premji is appointed as NASSCOM chairman for 2018-19.
32. ▶ Devraj Anbu has been appointed as new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).
33. ▶ Dilip Chenoy is appointed as New Secretary-General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
34. ▶ Dilip Tirkey has been appointed as chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation.
35. ▶ Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has been re-elected to the post for second time.
36. ▶ Facebook appointed Chris Daniels as CEO of Whatsapp after Co-founder Jan Koum resigned amid Recent Data-leak Controversies.
37. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is re-appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha (RS) following his re-election to House.
  - ▶ Leader of the House is a Rajya Sabha member who is either a cabinet minister or another nominated minister.
38. ▶ Finance Ministry appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as chairman of reconstituted Banks Board Bureau (BBB). It will have a 3 year term.
39. ▶ Former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi has been appointed as an eminent jurist in selection committee for appointment of Lokpal.
40. ▶ Former Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar has been appointed as the president of Tata Sons' global corporate affairs.
41. ▶ Former Supreme Court Judge C K Prasad is appointed as chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term.
42. ▶ Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is elected chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia, currently underway in China's Hainan province.
43. ▶ Gina Haspel became first-ever female director of USA's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Also, Larry Kudlow is appointed as next head of White House National Economic Council.
44. ▶ Giuseppe Conte has been appointed as New Prime Minister of European Nation Italy.
45. ▶ Government appointed Balram Bhargava as Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of Department of Health Research.
46. ▶ Government appointed Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu as Minister of Civil Aviation, as additional Charge.
47. ▶ Government appointed Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra to hold additional charge as Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), replacing S. Christopher who completed his term.
48. ▶ Government appointed Rajesh Ranjan as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
49. ▶ Government appointed former CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi as first Director-General (DG) of National Testing Agency (NTA), with tenure of five years.
50. ▶ Government appointed former SC Judge R K Agrawal as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
51. ▶ Government appointed non-executive chairpersons in 3 public sector banks, as first appointment of bank executives recommended by Banks Board Bureau headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
  - ▶ Dena Bank - Anjali Bansal
  - ▶ Punjab & Sind Bank - Charan Singh
  - ▶ Central Bank of India - Tapan Ray

52. ▶ Government appointed noted artist and sculptor Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. He replaced M.L. Srivastava, who was appointed Protem (Temporary) Chairman recently.
53. ▶ Government extended tenure of Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha by 1 year, till June 2019.
54. ▶ Government nominated former NCERT Director J S Rajput as India's representative to Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO.
55. ▶ Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli has been given additional charge of Madhya Pradesh, while Gujarat Governor Anandiben Patel is on leave.
56. ▶ Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy (Janata Dal (Secular)) has been appointed as New Chief Minister of Karnataka. G Parameshwara was selected as Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, and First Dalit for this post. Ramesh Kumar is selected as Assembly Speaker.
  - ▶ H D Kumaraswamy Replaced B. S. Yeddyurappa of BJP, who had to step down after staying as CM for Just 6 Days as BJP did not achieve Majority in recent assembly elections.
  - ▶ BJP - 104 Seats (112 Required for Majority), Congress - 78 Seats, JDS - 37 Seats.
  - ▶ INC and JD (S) partnered to form government, with appointment of H D Kumaraswamy as CM.
57. ▶ Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for 4 years.
58. ▶ Hockey India appointed Harendra Singh as chief coach of Indian men's hockey team, replacing Sjoerd Marijne who took back his role as coach of Women's Hockey Team.
59. ▶ Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has been appointed as new prime minister of Guinea (West Africa).
60. ▶ Indian Ambassadors Appointed in May 2018 -
  - ▶ Munu Mahawar - Sultanate of Oman.
  - ▶ S.D.Moorthy - South Sudan.
  - ▶ Pradeep Kumar Gupta - Mauritania.
  - ▶ Mahender Singh Kanyal - Suriname.
61. ▶ Indian Analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of National University of Singapore.
62. ▶ Indian Army appointed Harpal Singh as Director General Border Roads (DGBR).
63. ▶ Indian ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran has been appointed as deputy National Security Advisor. Note that Ajit Doval is current National Security Advisor.
64. ▶ Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as interim judge to civil court of New York City in USA.
65. ▶ Indian-American Susheela Jayapal has been elected as a member of Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon (Western USA State). She is first South Asian to be elected in This western US State.
66. ▶ Indian-origin Neil Basu became first Asian to be appointed as Counterterrorism Chief of Scotland Yard (London Police).
67. ▶ India's former shooter Pawan Singh appointed as Chairman of Result Timing Score Jury by International Shooting Sports Federation for ISSF World Cup in Munich.
68. ▶ Indu Bhushan is appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government's Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM). Bhushan served as Director General of East Asia Department at Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB).
69. ▶ Jagdish Mukhi has been appointed as acting governor of Manipur, in absence of Governor Najma Heptulla.
70. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Assembly appointed Kavinder Gupta as Deputy- CM of state.
71. ▶ Jim Bridenstine has been chosen as new (13th) administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) by US Senate.
72. ▶ John Bolton has been appointed as USA's New National Security Adviser.
73. ▶ Julius Maada Bio has been elected as new president of Sierra Leone (West Africa).
74. ▶ KR Nautiyal is appointed as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern) and Vijay Chafekar took charge as Coast Guard (West)'s Flag Officer.
75. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank redesignated Uday Kotak as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, from designation of executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, that he had earlier.
76. ▶ Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan is appointed as Principle Scientific Adviser to government of India.
77. ▶ Kyrgyzstan (Middle Asia) Parliament named Mukhammedkaliy Abylgazyev as new Prime Minister.
78. ▶ Lebanon's Saad Hariri has won his 3rd term as Prime Minister.
79. ▶ M L Srivastava is appointed as Protem (Temporary) chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.
80. ▶ M. Sathiyavathy has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
81. ▶ Mahathir Mohamad has been elected as new Prime Minister of Malaysia (South east Asia). It's his 2nd term as PM of Malaysia, after 1st in 1981 – 2003. Aged 92, he is currently oldest PM of any nation in world.
82. ▶ Martin Vizcarra has been appointed as President of South American Nation Peru.

83. ▶ Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez has been appointed as New President of Caribbean Nation Cuba. He is first leader outside Castro dynasty to lead Cuba, since 1959 revolution.
84. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has set up National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) as a single window source of updated data on water resources.
85. ▶ Misc Govt. Appointments -
- ▶ Surendra Nath Tripathi - Secretary in Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
  - ▶ Anil Gopishankar Mukim - Secretary in Ministry of Mines.
  - ▶ Bhupendra Singh - Chairperson in National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention.
  - ▶ Sumanta Chaudhari - Managing Director in Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium (SFAC).
  - ▶ Sailesh - Registrar General of India.
  - ▶ R Subramanyam - Secretary of Higher Education in Ministry of Human Resource Development.
  - ▶ RKS Shera - Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance at Air Headquarters.
86. ▶ Misc. Govt. Appointments and Extensions -
- ▶ New Secretaries -
    - ▶ Heera Lal Samariya - Ministry of Labour & Employment.
    - ▶ Deepak Khandekar - Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
    - ▶ Amit Khare - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
  - ▶ Extension -
    - ▶ Pawan Kumar Agarwal - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
    - ▶ N. Baijendra Kumar - CMD of National Mineral Development Corporation.
    - ▶ Usha Sharma - Director General in Archaeological Survey of India.
    - ▶ Yogendra Tripathi - CMD of Food Corporation of India.
    - ▶ Sushil Chandra - Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.
  - ▶ Pravin Agarwal - BHEL Part Time Director.
87. ▶ Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai is appointed as new chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Political Party Tehreek-e-Hurriyat.
88. ▶ Muhammetkaliy Abulgazyev has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia).
89. ▶ Myanmar's Parliament elected Win Myint as country's new President.
90. ▶ Nasirul Mulk is appointed as interim Prime Minister of Pakistan, ahead of dissolution of current government.
91. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has involved Survey of India (Established in 1767, oldest scientific department in India) to strengthen Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It involves use of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) technology for accurate data collection.
92. ▶ National People's Party (NPP) President Conrad Sangma will be new chief minister of Meghalaya. There would be no deputy chief minister for the state.
93. ▶ Neiphiu Rio has been appointed as new (9th) Chief Minister of Nagaland, replacing TR Zeliang.
- ▶ In recent Assembly elections in Nagaland, Naga Peoples Front (NPF) emerged as largest party with win over 27 seats (out of 59 seats).
94. ▶ Nepal's first woman president Bidya Devi Bhandari has been re-elected for second term as President. Nanda Bahadur Pun has been re-elected as Vice-President of Nepal for second term.
95. ▶ New Brand Ambassadors (March 2018) -
- ▶ Cricketer Virat Kohli - Uber's first Brand Ambassador in India.
  - ▶ Actress Katrina Kaif - International non-profit organisation *Educate Girls*.
  - ▶ Actor Aamir Khan - Vivo India.
96. ▶ New Brand Ambassadors (March 2018) -
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97. ▶ New Governors Appointed -
- ▶ Odisha - Ganeshi Lal, replacing Satya Pal Malik.
  - ▶ Mizoram - Kummanam Rajasekharan, replacing Nirbhay Sharma.
98. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors (April 2018) -
- ▶ Subrata Bhattacharjee - Serbia.

- ✎ Sripriya Ranganathan - South Korea (Republic of Korea).
- ✎ Ravi Thapar - Nicaragua.
- ✎ Sanjay Bhattacharya - Turkey.
- ✎ Rahul Kulshreshth - Egypt.
- ✎ Narinder Chauhan - Czech Republic
- ✎ Krishan Kumar - Norway
- ✎ Rajiv Kumar Nagpal - Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

99. ▶ Nikol Pashinyan has been appointed as prime minister of Armenia.
100. ▶ Noted German Financial Firm Deutsche Bank AG named Christian Sewing as Chief Executive officer.
101. ▶ PP Malhotra is appointed as Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC), largest uniformed youth organization in world.
102. ▶ Pradosh Kumar Rath has been named as new chairman cum managing director (CMD) of RINL (Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd).
103. ▶ R Dinesh has been elected Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)'s Southern Region for 2018-19.
104. ▶ Radhakrishnan Nair has been appointed as an Additional (Independent) Director in ICICI Bank's board.
105. ▶ Rajinder Singh is named the new President of Hockey India (HI), after Mariamma Koshy's resignation.
106. ▶ Rakesh Bharti Mittal is appointed as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2018-19, while Kotak Mahindra Bank Chief Uday Kotak is appointed as President-Designate of CII for 2018-19.
107. ▶ Rakesh Kumar Vats has been appointed as chairman of NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority).
108. ▶ Ramalingam Sudhakar is appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court (Imphal).
109. ▶ Ramesh Chand Meena has been elected as new Chairperson of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) , while Pratibha Brahma was elected as Vice Chairperson.
110. ▶ Ranbir Singh has been appointed as commander of Northern wing of Indian Army.
111. ▶ Rangarajan Raghavan has been appointed as Managing Director of Mainstream IT Firm HCL Infosystems.
112. ▶ Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company (RARC) appointed Ravindra Rao as its new Chief Executive Officer.
113. ▶ SBI Life Insurance appointed Sanjeev Nautiyal as its new Managing Director and CEO.
114. ▶ Sarah Mullally became first female Bishop of London, holding 3rd most senior position in the Church of England.
115. ▶ Satya Pal Malik, Governor of Bihar has been given additional charge of Governor of Odisha, after S.C. Jamir retired.
116. ▶ Sebastian Pinera has been appointed as new president of South American Nation Chile.
117. ▶ Shashank Manohar has been re-elected as the independent Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC).
118. ▶ Sherry Rehman became first woman Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, upper house of parliament of Pakistan.
119. ▶ Sitanshu Kar will be next head of Government's Press Information Bureau (PIB).
120. ▶ Sitanshu Ranjan Kar, took over as 27th Principal Spokesperson of Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau.
121. ▶ Social Media Platform Twitter appointed India's Parag Agrawal as its chief technology officer.
122. ▶ Sony India appointed Sunil Nayyar as its Managing Director (MD).
123. ▶ South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement agency, held its first-ever meeting in India (in Kolkata). Its member countries are India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, Pakistan & Maldives.
124. ▶ Stacey Cunningham has been appointed as First woman President of New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).
125. ▶ Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
126. ▶ Sudha Balakrishnan has been named first Chief Financial Officer of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
127. ▶ Sukhdeep Sangwan has been appointed as Director General of Indian Army Unit Assam Rifles.
128. ▶ Supreme Court appointed Jawad Rahim as acting Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
129. ▶ Suresh Kumar took charge as chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited.
130. ▶ T K Rajalakshmi elected as president of Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC).
131. ▶ Tata sons Chairman N Chandrasekran is elected as President of court of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru for 2018-21.
132. ▶ US India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India.
133. ▶ US Senate approved former CIA director Mike Pompeo as secretary of state, Replacing Rex Tillerson.
134. ▶ US Senate confirmed Gina Haspel as first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
135. ▶ USA's Rosemary DiCarlo become first woman to head United Nations Department of Political Affairs.
136. ▶ United Nations appointed Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as UN's new special envoy on Myanmar.
137. ▶ Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro won another six years term, after being re-elected.
138. ▶ Vijay Sankar has been appointed as Honorary Consul General for Denmark in Chennai.

139. ▶ Viktor Orban has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Hungary (Central Europe).
140. ▶ Vivek R Wadekar is appointed as Special Director in Enforcement Directorate (ED) under finance ministry. ED enforces Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in country.
141. ▶ Vladimir Putin sworn-in as President of Russia for 4th time, for six-year term. While, Dmitry Medvedev is appointed as Prime Minister for his 2nd term.
142. ▶ Vladimir Putin won his 4th term as Russia's President after he won 2018 Preliminary Presidential elections with 76.67 % of votes, well ahead of his nearest competitor Pavel Grudinin of Communist Party (who received 11.79 %). It gives Putin another 6 Years of Power.
143. ▶ Yuhvhir Singh Malik (Secretary in Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways) has been given additional charge as chairman of NHAI.

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## **Awards**

1. ▶ 11 National Geoscience Awards for 2017 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind on 22 geoscientists for their outstanding contributions in 9 fields of geosciences. Noted Winners are -
  - ▶ Shib Sankar Ganguli (IIT Kanpur) - Young Scientist Award 2017. Other Categories and Awards -
    - ▶ Mining Technology - Samir Kumar Pal
    - ▶ Basic Geosciences - Suryendu Dutta, Md Erfan Ali Monda
    - ▶ Applied Geology - Girish Chandra Kothiyari
    - ▶ Geophysics / Applied Geophysics - Ambrish Kumar Mahajan
    - ▶ Natural Hazard Investigations - Davuluri Srinagesh
2. ▶ 2018 Billboard Music Awards (Las Vegas (USA)) -
  - ▶ British singer - songwriter Ed Sheeran won 6 honours - Top Artist, Top Male Artist, Top Radio Songs Artist, Top Radio Song and Top Hot 100 Artist, Top Song Sales Artist.
  - ▶ Janet Jackson won BBMA Icon Award and became first African American female artist to receive this award.
  - ▶ Other Awards -
    - ▶ Top New Artist - Khalid
    - ▶ Top Female Artist - Taylor Swift
    - ▶ Top Billboard 200 Artist - Drake
    - ▶ Top Billboard 200 Album - DAMN. – Kendrick Lamar
    - ▶ Top Selling Album - Reputation – Taylor Swift
    - ▶ Top Selling Song - "Despacito" – Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber
3. ▶ 65th National Film Awards -
  - ▶ Feature Film panel was headed by filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and Non- Feature Film panel was headed by Nakul Kamte.
  - ▶ Awards -
    - ▶ Dada Saheb Phalke Award - Vinod Khanna
    - ▶ Best Films -
      - ▶ Feature Film - Village Rockstars (Assamese)
      - ▶ Children's Film - 'Mhorkya'
      - ▶ Film on Environmental Conservation - 'Irada'
      - ▶ Best Direction: Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam'
      - ▶ Feature Film on National Integration: Dhappa (Marathi)
      - ▶ Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
    - ▶ Best Director (Feature Film) - Jayaraj for Bhayanakam (Malayalam)
    - ▶ Best Director (Non-Feature Film) - Nagraj Manjule for Pavsacha Nibandh
    - ▶ Best Actress - Sridevi for 'Mom'
    - ▶ Best Actor - Riddhi Sen for 'Nagar Kirtan'
    - ▶ Special Jury Award (Feature) 'Nagarkirtan' (Bengali) directed.
    - ▶ Special Jury Award (Non-Feature) - A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings And Monday.
    - ▶ Best Lyrics - Muthurathinam
    - ▶ Best Music Direction - AR Rahman for 'Katra Veliyidayi'
    - ▶ Best Female Playback Singer - Sashaa Tirupati for 'Katra Veliyidayi'
    - ▶ Best Male Playback Singer - K.J Yesudas for song 'Poy Maranja Kalam' from 'Viswasapoorvam Mansoor'
    - ▶ Best Child Artist - Anita Das for 'Village Rockstar'



- 👉 Best Regional Films -
  - 👉 Hindi - Newton
  - 👉 Ladakh - Walking With The Wind
  - 👉 Lakshadwee - Sinjar
  - 👉 Tulu - Paddayi
  - 👉 Marathi - Kachcha Limboo
  - 👉 Malayalam - Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
  - 👉 Kannada - Hebbettu Ramakka
  - 👉 Bengali - Mayurakshi
  - 👉 Assamese - Ishu
  - 👉 Telugu - Ghazi
  - 👉 Gujarati - Dhh
  - 👉 Odiya: Hello Arsi

- 👉 Other Awards -
  - 👉 Best Editing - Rima Das for 'Village Rockstar'
  - 👉 Best Action Direction - 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
  - 👉 Best Choreography - Ganesh Acharya for 'Toilet Ek Prem Katha'
  - 👉 Best Special Effects - 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
  - 👉 Best Screenplay Original - Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
  - 👉 Best Screenplay Adapted - Bhayanakam
  - 👉 Best Cinematography - Bhayanakam
  - 👉 Indira Gandhi Award For Best Debut Film Of A Director in Feature Film Category - Jasari language movie 'Sinjar' directed by Pampally.
  - 👉 Best Debut Film of a Director in the Non Feature Film category - 'Water Baby' directed by Pia Shah
  - 👉 Best Film Critic award - Giridhar Jha
  - 👉 Special Mention Award - Sunil Mishra
  - 👉 Best Book on Cinema - *Matmagi Manipur - The first Manipuri Feature Film* authored by Bobby Wahengbam.

#### 4. ▶ 71st Cannes Film Festival 2018 -

- 👉 Australian actress Cate Blanchett was President of the Jury for Main competition.
- 👉 Winners -
  - 👉 Palme d'Or (Best Film) - Japanese film *Shoplifters*, directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda.
  - 👉 Grand Prix - *BlacKkKlansman* by Spike Lee
  - 👉 Best Director - Pawel Pawlikowski (Poland) for *Cold War*
  - 👉 Best Screenplay -
    - 👉 Alice Rohrwacher for *Happy as Lazzaro*
    - 👉 Jafar Panahi and Nader Saeivar for *3 Faces*
  - 👉 Best Actress - Samal Yeslyamova (Kazakhstan) for *Ayka*
  - 👉 Best Actor - Marcello Fonte (Italy) for *Dogman*
  - 👉 Jury Prize - Capernaum by *Nadine Labaki*
  - 👉 Special Palme d'Or - *The Image Book* by Jean-Luc Godard
- 👉 Golden Camera (Caméra d'Or) - *Girl* by Lukas Dhont
- 👉 Noted Bollywood actress Late Sridevi honoured with TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award.
- 👉 Chopard Trophy - Elizabeth Debicki and Joe Alwyn
- 👉 L'Eil d'or - *Samouni Road* by Stefano Savona
- 👉 Palm Dog -
  - 👉 Palm Dog Award - Canine cast of *Dogman*
  - 👉 Grand Jury Prize: Diamantino

#### 5. ▶ 90th Academy Awards (known as Oscars) held at Dolby Theatre in Hollywood (California (US)).

- 👉 Facts -
  - 👉 Awards were presented in 24 categories by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).
  - 👉 *The Shape of Water* won most number of awards (4), after being nominated into highest 13 categories.

🏆 Winners -

- 🏆 Best Picture - *The Shape of Water*
- 🏆 Best Actress - Frances McDormand for *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*
- 🏆 Best Actor - Gary Oldman for *Darkest Hour*
- 🏆 Best Director - Guillermo del Toro for *The Shape of Water*
- 🏆 Best Supporting Actress - Allison Janney for *I, Tonya*
- 🏆 Best Supporting Actor - Sam Rockwell for *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*
- 🏆 Best Original Song - *Remember Me* from *Coco*.
- 🏆 Best Foreign Language Film - Spanish Film *A Fantastic Woman* (Chile)
- 🏆 Best Visual Effects - *Blade Runner 2049*.
- 🏆 Best Animated Feature Film - *Coco*.
- 🏆 Best Animated Short Film - *Dear Basketball*.
- 🏆 Best Documentary (Feature) - *Icarus*
- 🏆 Best Documentary (Short Subject) - *Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405*
- 🏆 Best Live Action Short Film - *The Silent Child*

6. ▶ Actor Jackie Shroff's short film "Shunyata" won an award at Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles (USA). Also, Filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda's *Halkaa* won Grand Prix de Montreal at the gala (Canada).
7. ▶ Actress Anushka Sharma will be awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award by Mumbai-based *Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation* organisation. Note that it is different from Government of India instituted Dadasaheb Phalke Award, given during National Awards ceremony held annually.
8. ▶ Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be awarded annual Mark Twain award for American Humor from John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts.
9. ▶ Aleksandra Liashkova from Belarus won Miss Supermodel Worldwide 2018 in Gurugram (Haryana). India's Shweta Parmar was awarded Miss Congeniality.
10. ▶ Architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi became first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize, highest award in architecture. Doshi's most noted works include a low-cost housing project in Indore which accommodates 80000 people. This award is announced by Tom Pritzker of the Chicago-based Hyatt Foundation.
11. ▶ BCCI panel recommended former India women's team captain Diana Edulji for CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award. Former India opener late Pankaj Roy will also be awarded posthumously.
12. ▶ Bindeshwar Pathak (Founder of Sulabh International), has been honoured with Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development. He was among three who were conferred with this award. Nikkei Asia Prize is conferred by Nikkei Inc, a media corporation in Japan.
13. ▶ Bradley Cooper will receive 32nd annual American Cinematheque Award by The Hollywood organisation.
14. ▶ Brazilian footballer Neymar is named France's player of Year, as part of 27th UNFP (French National Professional Football Players Union) trophy Ceremony.
15. ▶ Britain's Queen Elizabeth II recognised Srishti Bakshi from India as 26th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of her exceptional service to empowering women in India. Srishti is founder of the CrossBow Miles movement.
16. ▶ Central Banking's 5th annual awards -
  - 🏆 Bank of Canada - Central Bank of the Year
  - 🏆 Other winners -
    - 🏆 Transparency - Central Bank of Ireland
    - 🏆 Reserve manager of the year - Bank of Korea
    - 🏆 Banknote and currency manager of the year - Norges Bank
    - 🏆 Economics in central banking - Alberto Cavallo and Roberto Rigobon – Billion Prices Project/PriceStats.
    - 🏆 Asset manager of the year - BlackRock
    - 🏆 Innovation in reserve management - HSBC
    - 🏆 Securities lending services provider of the year - Northern Trust
    - 🏆 Banknote and currency services provider of the year - Landqart
    - 🏆 Risk management services provider of the year - Openlink
17. ▶ Chennaiyin FC's head coach John Gregory has been presented a Special Achievement Award by England's League Managers Association (LMA) London. He became first Englishman to win Indian Super League (ISL).







18. ▶ Chhattisgarh bagged *State of the Year* Award for its progress in business and services activities in various sectors, at India Business Leader Awards (IBLA).
19. ▶ Chhattisgarh's Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Kanker district has been named best among 650 agriculture science centres in India for its initiatives like nutrition gardens and integrated farming techniques. It received *Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Award-2017*, consisting cash prize of 25 lakh and a citation certificate.
20. ▶ Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018 (Note that it is different from Government of India instituted Dadasaheb Phalke Award, given during National Awards ceremony held annually) -
  - ▶ Best actor (male) - Shahid Kapoor
  - ▶ Best actor people's choice award - Ranveer Singh
  - ▶ Entertainer of the year - Kartik Aryan
  - ▶ Best actress (critics) - Aditi Rao Hydari
  - ▶ Lifetime achievement award - Simi GREwal
  - ▶ Pride of Indian cinema - Sanjay Dutt
  - ▶ Best director - Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
  - ▶ Outstanding performance - male - Raj Kumar Rao, Rana Daggubati
  - ▶ Outstanding performance - female - Tamannahh Bhatia, Kriti Sanon
  - ▶ Best actor (male) Marathi - Vaibhav Tatwawaadi
  - ▶ Best actor (female) Marathi - Pooja Sawant
  - ▶ Best comic role: Tusshar Kapoor
  - ▶ Best lyricist - Manoj Muntashir
  - ▶ Iconic contribution towards music: Hans Raj Hans
  - ▶ Versatile singer: Rani Hazarika
  - ▶ Best performance in a short film - Divya Khosla Kumar
  - ▶ Path breaking producer of the year - Anushka Sharma and Karnesh Sharma
21. ▶ Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid popularly known as Shawkan, will be awarded United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Press Freedom Prize for 2018. He was arrested in August 2013 for covering deadly demonstration at Rabaa Al-Adawiya Square in Cairo (Egypt's capital) between security forces and supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi.
22. ▶ Electronic dance music artiste Anish Sood became first Indian artiste to win Best Electronica/Dance Single at 16th Annual Independent Music Awards (IMA) in London.
23. ▶ Fiji's Indian-origin former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry has been selected for V K Krishna Menon Award for his contribution to Indian diaspora.
24. ▶ Gujarati poet and playwright Sitanshu Yashaschandra has been chosen for 2017 Saraswati Samman (27th) for his collection of verses (poetry) titled *Vakhar*, published in 2009.
25. ▶ Health Minister J P Nadda conferred way Kayakal Awards 2017-18 to winning public health facilities for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi got the first prize of Rs. 2.5 crore under Central Government Hospitals A category. NEIGRIHMS (Shillong) adjudged winner in Group B category and got 1.5 crores.
26. ▶ Indian Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha is honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in UK's Parliament complex, under annual *Political and Public Life Awards* by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper.
27. ▶ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) won 2017 Kochon Prize for building tradition of excellence in Tuberculosis (TB) research and development. It was awarded for establishing India TB Research Consortium to accelerate R&D efforts in the country.
28. ▶ Indian activists Mirnalini Dayal and Yogesh Kumar have been selected among 20 finalists for Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018 for their contribution towards achieving gender equality. Mirnalini Dayal is chosen for her work as a campaign leader for 'Health Over Stigma', while Yogesh Kumar is shortlisted for establishing social enterprise *Even Cargo*.
29. ▶ Indian actress Simi Garewal received *UK Golden Flame Award* at Tongues of Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London.
30. ▶ Indian botanist Kamaljit Bawa received Linnean Medal in Botany from Linnean Society of London, becoming 1st Indian to receive this Honour. He was recognised for his pioneering research on evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation & non-timber forest products.
31. ▶ Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his contribution in field of social welfare.

32. ▶ Indian-American scientist Navin Vardarajan has been granted over USD 1.1 million for cancer research, for working on improving effectiveness of T-cell immunotherapy. Grant was issued by Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRI).
33. ▶ Indian-origin Harry Athwal is among 11 winners of 2018's *Pride of Birmingham's Outstanding Bravery Award*, for risking his life in order to help a fatally injured young boy in 2017 Barcelona terror attack.
34. ▶ Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta appointed by Britain's Prince Charles as official ambassador for Industrial Cadets programme designed to nurture manufacturing skills.
35. ▶ Indu Jain, chairman of Bennett, Coleman & Co, India's largest media house, received All India Management Association's (AIMA's) annual award for lifetime contribution to media.
36. ▶ Industrial Awards (April 2018)-
  - ▶ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is awarded National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in category *Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents and Commercialization*.
  - ▶ Agrochemical Firm Parijat Industries has been conferred *Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar* gold award 2017.
37. ▶ Industrial Awards (May 2018) -
  - ▶ Adarsh Credit won *Best Co-operative Society on digital platform* award in BFSI leadership Awards 2018. Adarsh Credit is first credit co-operative society in India to perform financial services digitally.
  - ▶ Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech received National Technology Award for 2018 from government's Technology Development Board for its Rotavac vaccine.
  - ▶ India's NMDC Limited won S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category, in London (UK). This is first time this award has been won by an Indian Company.
  - ▶ Jagriti Yatra, An Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London, at Asian Voice Charity Awards by due diligence platform Charity Clarity.
  - ▶ 2 case studies of IIM Calcutta received awards in 2017 European Foundation of Management Development case competition. It Includes awards for *SIMsePAY at YES BANK: Creating Value Through an UnSmart Innovation* and *Switch On Energy: Social innovation challenges at the bottom of the pyramid*.
  - ▶ NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul (founder of Caparo Group of industries) has been presented a lifetime achievement award for his contributions in promoting brand India in UK. Business Leader of Decade honour was presented to Lord Karan Bilimoria (founder of Cobra Beer).
  - ▶ Guru N Reddy has been given UK & Asia Inspirational Business Leaders Award in London (UK). He will be featured in WCRC Leaders Magazine in June 2018 issue.
  - ▶ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category, recognizing CSIR as top innovator. Clarivate Analytics – formerly IP & Science division of Thomson Reuters - recognizes most innovative companies in India according to patent-related metrics.
  - ▶ HDFC bank recognized with Champion Security Award (2nd time) at 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit, in India & South Asia category.
38. ▶ Jnanpith Awardee M T Vasudevan Nair won 2018's ONV Literary Prize, instituted in memory of iconic poet late O N V Kurup, for his contributions to Malayalam literature.
39. ▶ Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony won an international award, in best caricature category. He is among 9 winners at 13th World Press Cartoon awards in Lisbon (Portugal).
40. ▶ Kutch (Gujarat) based Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank won Banco Award for best performing cooperative bank. It also stood third in category at National level. Banco Award is given annually to top performing banks in cooperative banking sector.
41. ▶ Lalit Kala Akademi conferred awards of 1st Print Biennale India 2018 (PBI) in New Delhi. Arup Kumar Kuiti (Andhra Pradesh), Satya Narayana Gavara (Andhra Pradesh), Preya Bhagat (Uttar Pradesh), Purvi Parmar (Gujrat) and Sonal Varshneya (Uttar Pradesh) were awardees.
42. ▶ London based South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF) received Frederick Pincott Award 2017 from Indian High Commissioner to UK, Y K Sinha for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for last 18 years.
43. ▶ Madhya Pradesh is named as *Most Film Friendly State* for its efforts Including creating a well-structured web site, film friendly infrastructure, offering incentives etc. Jury was headed by Ramesh Sippy. Uttarakhand is given a Special Mention Certificate to recognize efforts made by State towards creating a film friendly environment. Awards will be conferred along with National Film Awards on May 3, 2018.
44. ▶ Malayalam film personality Sreekumaran Thampi received J.C. Daniel Award in recognition of his contributions to Malayalam film industry.
























45. ▶ Minister of IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of Andhra Pradesh Nara Lokesh received *Digital Leader of the Year* award, at Businessworld Digital India Summit Award 2018 in New Delhi.
46. ▶ Nadiya Shafi, video reporter from Srinagar received 2018's 'Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment', for her contribution to gender equality. It has been instituted in memory of Dr. Martha Farrell, an eminent activist for gender equality and women's empowerment.
47. ▶ New York based Indian Writer Mimi Mondal become first Indian to be nominated for this year's Hugo awards, for best literary works of science fiction or fantasy in best related works category.
48. ▶ Nisha Bhalla has been presented *Excellent Woman of Excellence* award at WEF (Women Economic Forum) at Annual WEF Awards.
49. ▶ Nobel Laureate Child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi and ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar have been honored by *Santokbaa Humanitarian Award*.
50. ▶ Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters named Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands as winner of Abel Prize 2018, regarded as Nobel Prize in mathematics. He will receive 6 million Norwegian kroner (\$776,000) from Norway's King Harald V.
51. ▶ Noted Actor Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured by European Union for strengthening Europe-India cultural ties.
52. ▶ Noted Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be conferred with Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with Raj Kapoor Special Contribution award. These awards are instituted by Maharashtra state government, given away at 55th Maharashtra state Marathi Film Festival.
53. ▶ Noted Indian actress Late Sridevi has been posthumously conferred with BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.
54. ▶ Noted Singer Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.
55. ▶ Noted actor Amol Palekar has been honoured with the 'Godavari Gaurav' award in Nashik (Maharashtra), by Nashik-based 'Kusumagraj Prathishthan'.
56. ▶ Noted journalist Karan Thapar has been honored with G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award for journalism.
57. ▶ Noted lyricist Javed Akhtar received *Shanti Doot* award by Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir Trust in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
58. ▶ Noted singer Asha Bhosle honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskar for contribution in the field of Indian music.
59. ▶ Olga Tokarczuk became First Author from Poland to win Man Booker International Prize, after she won 2018 title for her novel *Flights*, which charts multiple journeys in time, space and human anatomy. It was published in Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.
  - ▶ Man Booker International Prize is counterpart to Man Booker Prize for English-language novels presented by Man Group. It is open to books in any language that have been translated into English. It carries monetary award of £50,000 award which is split evenly between writer and translator.
60. ▶ PM Narendra Modi honoured Manipur's Karang as first cashless island of country. Due to efforts of administration, various processes have been digitized and automated, with more transparency. Other honours/awards -
  - ▶ Banka district administration in Bihar – Reinventing education using technology.
  - ▶ Assam's Dhemaji and Telangana's Karimnagar – best implementation of 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana'.
  - ▶ Himachal Pradesh's Kangra and Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch – Best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin).
61. ▶ Prajnesh Gunneswaran won T.K. Ramanathan award 2017-18 at by Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).
62. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards -
  - ▶ 3 Kirti Chakras -
    - ▶ Pramod kumar (posthumous)
    - ▶ Giris gurung (posthumous)
    - ▶ Preetam Singh Kunwar
  - ▶ 13 Shaurya Chakras -
    - ▶ Gosavi Kunal Munnagir (posthumous)
    - ▶ Raghubeer Singh (posthumous)
    - ▶ Kashmir singh
    - ▶ Shabir ahmed
    - ▶ Vikash jakhar
    - ▶ Riyazalam ansari
    - ▶ Deepak ale
    - ▶ Pradeep shoury arya
    - ▶ Manchu

-  Rabindra thapa
-  Narender singh
-  Akhil raj rv
-  Devendra Mehta Param
-  13 Param Vishisht Seva Medals
-  2 UttamYudhSeva Medals
-  2 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals
-  26 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals




63. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Visitor's Awards 2018, for Research in Basic and Applied Science, Humanities, Arts and Social Science.

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








64. ▶ Pulitzer Prizes 2018 (annual award for achievements in journalism, literature, and musical composition in USA) -

-  Letters, Drama & Music -
  -  Fiction - Less, by Andrew Sean Greer.
  -  Drama - Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok.
  -  History - The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis (Liveright/W.W. Norton).
  -  Biography or Autobiography - Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser
  -  Poetry - Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart.
  -  General Nonfiction - Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America by James Forman Jr
  -  Music - Kendrick Lamar
-  Journalism -
  -  Public Service - New York Times.
  -  Breaking News Reporting - Staff of The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, Calif.
  -  Investigative Reporting - The Washington Post
  -  Explanatory Reporting - The Arizona Republic and USA Today Network
  -  Local Reporting - The Cincinnati Enquirer Staff
  -  National Reporting - New York Times and Washington Post
  -  International Reporting - Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall and Manuel Mogato of Reuters
  -  Feature Writing - Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, freelance reporter, GQ
  -  Commentary - John Archibald of Alabama Media Group, Birmingham, Ala.
  -  Criticism - Jerry Saltz of New York magazine
  -  Editorial Writing - Andie Dominick of The Des Moines Register.
  -  Editorial Cartooning - Jake Halpern, freelance writer and Michael Sloan, freelance cartoonist, New York Times.
  -  Breaking News Photography - Ryan Kelly of The Daily Progress
  -  Feature Photography - Photography Staff of Reuters

65. ▶ Railways announces awards for beautification for Railway Stations -

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

66. ▶ Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman conferred DRDO Awards 2016 & 2017 to various DRDO scientists, Including -

-  V KSaraswat - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award 2017
-  Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award 2016
-  G Sathesh Reddy - Technology Leadership Award 2016
-  P Sivakumar (*Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) (Chennai) director*) -
-  YST Raju - Scientist of the Year 2016
-  S Pazhanikumar - Scientist of the Year 2017
-  Navrachna implementation programme was also launched during the event.

67. ▶ Rana Kapoor, MD and CEO of Yes Bank, has been given *India Talent Management Award 2018* by TV news channel CNBC-TV18 for fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and best practices at the bank.
68. ▶ RedInk awards for excellence in journalism, by Mumbai Press Club -
  - ▶ Lifetime achievement in journalism - British journalist William Mark Tully.
  - ▶ Journalist of the year - Faye D'Souze (Mirror Now channel).
  - ▶ Apart from these two awards, Redink awards for excellence in journalism are awarded in 13 categories to 32 journalists.
69. ▶ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (Ahmedabad) received award for Most Improved Airport in Asia Pacific region, in Airport Service Quality awards 2017 organised by Airport Council International (ACI).
70. ▶ Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor of *The Wire* won Shorenstein Journalism Award, given annually by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.
71. ▶ Singer Asha Bhosle, Writer Samaresh Majumdar, Bengali Actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, Justice (Retd.) Shyamal Kumar Sen and Footballer Subrata Bhattacharya are awardees of Banga Bhushan Award this Year, the highest civilian award of West Bengal.
72. ▶ Singer Zubeen Garg honoured with *Hero to Animals Award* from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India for his recent appeal to end animal sacrifice at Kamakhya Temple in Assam.
73. ▶ Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards 2017 -
  - ▶ Sports person of the Year - Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj.
  - ▶ Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu won best senior male and female athletes.
  - ▶ Best coach of the year - Pullela Gopichand.
  - ▶ Lifetime Achievement - Former national hockey player N Mukesh Kumar.
74. ▶ Three Indian alumni of UK universities (Saumya Saxena, Ruchi Shah and Sushant Desai), have been awarded by British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to country.
  - ▶ Saumya Saxena - *Professional Achievement Award*.
  - ▶ Ruchi Shah - *Social Impact Award*
  - ▶ Sushant Desai - *Entrepreneurial Award*
75. ▶ US-based Kathak dancer *Anindita Anaam* has been presented *Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018* at *Jayadev International Dance Festival* in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
76. ▶ USA Conferred *Academy Award for Nobel Peace* on Ketzia David Prakasam, an Indian philanthropist and social worker in Coimbatore. Ketzia is the first Indian woman to receive this award.
77. ▶ West Bengal's Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) won Central Govt's award for best Gram Panchayat in country, as per a survey conducted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district has been shortlisted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's excellence award for promoting digital payments and cashless economy.

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## **Books**

1. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917 -
  - ▶ *Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary* by Arvind Mohan
  - ▶ *Champaran Andolan 1917* edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar
  - ▶ *Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi* collected and edited by Srikant.
2. ▶ Book *Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System* written by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan has been released.
3. ▶ Book *Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker*, written by Pavan Varma.
4. ▶ Book *Fulfilling Bapu's Dreams – Prime Minister Modi's Tribute to Gandhiji* has been released.
5. ▶ Book *How to be a Human* written by Manjeet Hiraniwas (wife of Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani) has been launched.
6. ▶ Book *My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism* by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao has been released.
7. ▶ Book *Straight Talk* authored by Member of Rajya Sabha, Abhishek Manu Singh has been released.
8. ▶ Book *Winning like Sachin: Think & Succeed like Tendulkar* authored by Devendra Prabhudesai has been released.
9. ▶ Book titled *Paramveer Parwane*, written by Prabhakaran Jain has been released. It has 11 short stories / poems highlighting history of battles in which the brave soldiers sacrificed their lives and shown utmost courage.
10. ▶ Books *A Treatise on Cleanliness and Waste Management, an Introduction*, written by Rajat Bhargava have been released.
11. ▶ Cricket journalist Boria Majumdar's new book *Eleven Gods and A Billion Indians* has been released.
12. ▶ Government launched *Namaste Shalom* as a magazine on India-Israel relations, edited by Tarun Vijay.

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

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### **Committees**

1. ▶ 15th Fifteenth Finance Commission constituted a high level group consisting of eminent experts from across country in Health Sector. Randeep Guleria (Director of AIIMS Delhi) will be its Convenor (Chairman). It will evaluate existing regulatory framework in Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for enabling a balanced yet faster expansion of health sector. It will also examine best international practices for health sector and seek to benchmark our frameworks to these practices for optimizing benefits.
2. ▶ A 30 member parliamentary panel headed by Murali Manohar Joshi will study recovery of black money & performance of public sector banks.
3. ▶ A Committee headed by Justice Rajesh Bindal (Judge in Chandigarh High Court), submitted its report today on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children. Stressing upon need for mediation as the first step, Committee recommended establishing an 'Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority'.
4. ▶ A Task Force headed by Preeti Saran on *Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)* submitted its report to Home Minister Rajnath Singh. It includes Business case for coalition, Analysis of best practices of international partnerships in disaster risk and other thematic areas lead by India, Preliminary design of coalition AND Roll – out plan.
5. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) constituted 5-member working group (committee) to examine taxation aspects related to High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) who are migrating abroad to other jurisdictions. It will be headed by Pragya Sahay Saksena.
6. ▶ Finance Ministry constituted a Steering Committee under Chairmanship of Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs (Subhash Chandra Garg), to consider issues related to development of Fintech space in India.
7. ▶ GST Council constituted 2 Group of Ministers (GoM) -
  - ▶ First GoM - Will consider issues relating to incentivizing digital payments in GST regime, with Sushil Kumar Modi (Deputy CM of Bihar) as convenor.
  - ▶ Second GoM - Will consider issues relating to imposition of Cess on Sugar under GST. Himanta Biswa Sarma (Finance Minister of Assam) is its convenor.
8. ▶ Government constituted a Task Force under chairmanship of Jayant Sinha (Minister of State for Civil Aviation) for fast-tracking roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
9. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) constituted 12-member committee to review enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under Companies Act 2013. It will be headed by Manmohan Juneja.
10. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a committee under Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama to Suggest Way to Make Mathematics study easier for students.
11. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a Committee to examine entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by CBSE with a view to prevent leakages, to be headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi.
12. ▶ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted 10-member committee to regulate online portals, including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators.
13. ▶ RBI constituted an inter-departmental group to provide guidance on feasibility to introduce fiat digital currency backed by it.
  - ▶ Fiat Digital Currency (Central bank digital currency) is digital form of fiat money which is currency established as money by government regulation. As opposed to private digital tokens, fiat digital currency will be issued by central bank. Fiat Digital Currency will constitute liability of central bank, and will be in circulation in addition to widely used paper and metallic currency.
14. ▶ Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC) headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh completed its deliberations on all 273 recommendations of Punchhi Commission, completing work on Punchhi Commission Report, which is pending for eight years.
  - ▶ Government constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under Chairmanship of former Chief Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission made 273 recommendations in its seven volume report that was presented to Government on March 30, 2010.
15. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu (also Chairman of Rajya Sabha) constituted a 2-member committee to review rules of procedure and conduct of business in Rajya Sabha, headed by V.K. Agnihotri and S.R. Dhaleta as other member.

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### **Days**

1. ▶ 12th *Earth Hour* observed across world on 24 March 2018 to take a global call on climate change. To mark this, cities worldwide turned their lights off for one hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time.



2. ▶ 20th of May 2018 is first World Bee day, declared by United Nations General Assembly. First World Bee Day celebrations held in Slovenia.
3. ▶ 5 April - National Maritime Day in India. It commemorates maiden voyage of first Indian owned ship *SS Loyalty* (first ship of Scindia Steam Navigation Company) sailed from Bombay to London on 5th April 1919. 2018 theme is *Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity*.
4. ▶ Apr 07 - WHO World Health Day. 2018 theme is *Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere*.
5. ▶ Apr 1 - Establishment Day of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It was formed in 1935.
6. ▶ Apr 11 - National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD). 2018 theme is *Respectful Maternity Care*.
7. ▶ Apr 12 - International Day of Human Space Flight & World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day. On 12th April 1961, Yuri Gagarin of Soviet Union, performed first manned flight to space on a *Vostok-1* spaceship.
8. ▶ Apr 13, 2018 Marks 99th Anniversary of Jallianwallah Bagh Massacre. Troops of British Indian Army under command of Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Baishakhi pilgrims gathered There.
9. ▶ Apr 14 - Birth Anniversary of B R Ambedkar. He was Independent India's first law minister and principal architect of Constitution of India. Beginning 2018, it will be observed as Social Justice Day in India.
  - ▶ On this Occasion, Book *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp* has been released.
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi Launched several development initiatives at this occasion -
    - ▶ Inaugurated Dr Ambedkar National Memorial in New Delhi.
    - ▶ Inaugurated a Health and Wellness Centre in Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) to mark launch of Government's ambitious Health Assurance Programme – Ayushman Bharat. Under It -
      - ▶ Sub centres and primary health centres at 1.5 lakh places will be developed as Health and Wellness Centres by 2022.
      - ▶ Will provide health cover of INR 5 lakh to 10 crore households (50 Crore People). It is world's largest government-funded health care programme.
      - ▶ Per family premium will be INR 1000 - 12000 will be borne by central and state governments.
      - ▶ NHPS will replace RSBY (Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana). In RSBY, Government provided medical expenses help of up to INR 30000 to BPL Families.
    - ▶ Launched Van Dhan Yojana that aims at empowering tribal communities. It envisages a mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of value chain for MFP.
    - ▶ Launched Gram Swaraj Abhiyan that would ensure that all development initiatives launched by Government in the last four years, reach the poor and disadvantaged sections of society.
10. ▶ Apr 15 - Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh. It was formed on Apr 15, 1948.
11. ▶ Apr 18 - World Heritage Day. 2018 theme is *Heritage for Generations*. World Heritage Day was announced by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982.
12. ▶ Apr 19 - World Liver Day (WLD). 2018 theme is *Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment*.
13. ▶ Apr 21 - National Civil Services Day. On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (independent India's first home minister) addressed India's first batch of civil servants. This year observance of the day focussed on 'Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts'. It is also observed as National Secretaries day and World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID).
14. ▶ Apr 22 - World Earth Day. 2018 Theme is *End Plastic Pollution*.
15. ▶ Apr 23 - Khongjom Day observed in Manipur. It remembers martyrs of Manipur who sacrificed their lives in last battle of independence known as 'Khongjom War' against Britishers on 23rd April 1891.
16. ▶ Apr 23 - World Book and Copyright Day and World English Language Day. World Book Capital for 2018 is Athens, Greece.
17. ▶ Apr 24 - National Panchayati Raj Day. He launched Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at this occasion. This day marks passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992 that came into force on 24 April 1993. It permitted states to provide Village panchayats with necessary powers to make them function as units of self-government. First National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Apr 24 is also observed as World Lab Animals Day.
18. ▶ Apr 28 - World Day for Safety and Health at Work. 2018 theme is *Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers*.
19. ▶ Apr 29 - International Dance Day. It marks birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, creator of modern ballet.
20. ▶ Apr 30 - International Jazz Day, declared by UNESCO In 2011. Saint Petersburg (Russia) is Global Host City for International Jazz Day 2018.
21. ▶ Apr 4 - International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. 2018 Theme is *Advancing protection, Peace and Development*.
22. ▶ Apr 5 - Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian politician Babu Jagjivan Ram, observed as Samta Diwas.
23. ▶ Apr 6 - International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

24. ▶ April 10 - World Homoeopathy Day. A two-day scientific convention is being organised in New Delhi by Ministry of AYUSH on This occasion. It pays tribute to Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, founder of Homeopathy system of medicine.
25. ▶ April 17 - World Haemophilia Day. 2018 theme is *Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger*.
26. ▶ April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *Empowering Women and Girls with Autism*.
27. ▶ April 2 is Foundation day of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India). On this occasion, *Samridhi - The Virtual Assistant* and Bankability Kit (in partnership with Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank).
28. ▶ April 26 - World Intellectual Property Day. It is Celebrated to learn about role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity. Theme for 2018 is 'Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity'.
29. ▶ April 8 - International Romani Day. It marks Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people.
30. ▶ Govt. stated that birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar (14th April) will be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day'.
31. ▶ Mar 08 - International Women's Day, observed since 1908. 2018 Campaign Theme is *#PressforProgress*. On this occasion -
- ▶ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME) launched a portal for women entrepreneurs of India - ***www.udyamsakhi.org***. It is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services to make them self-reliant. It provides learning tools, incubation facility, training programs for fund raising, investor meets etc.
  - ▶ Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Ananth kumar launched *Swidha*, 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). It will be available for INR 2.50 per pad at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India.
  - ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Nari Shakti Puraskars 2017 to 30 eminent individuals and 9 distinguished institutions. It includes Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice Gita Mittal.
  - ▶ South District Police in Delhi launched an all women patrolling squad named *Knightingale*, formed to ensure safety and security of women at public places.
  - ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched *#YesIBleed* menstrual hygiene campaign.
  - ▶ Madhya Pradesh Govt. announced 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh' scheme. Under this, unmarried women of over 50 years age will be given pension.
  - ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Uttar Pradesh Government organized Swachh Shakti 2018 Women's Convention in Lucknow. In this, 8000 women sarpanches, 3000 women Swachhagrahis and women champions from across country were recognised for their outstanding contribution towards making Swachh Bharat.
  - ▶ NITI Aayog launched Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) along with WEP's theme song *Naari Shakti* composed by Kailash Kher. It is aimed at building a vibrant ecosystem for women across India to help realise their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses. Pillars on which WEP is built are Ichha Shakti, Gyaan Shakti and Karma Shakti.
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) covering all 640 districts. 10 districts were also awarded - Effective community engagement(6 districts), Enforcement of PC&PNDT Act (2 districts) and Enabling education of Girl Child (2 Districts).
  - ▶ PM Modi also launched National Nutrition Mission, as a comprehensive approach towards raising nutrition level in the country on a war footing. It will comprise mapping of various schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition, incentivizing states/UTs for meeting targets, incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools, eliminating registers used by AWWs and introducing measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). It has been set up with 3 year budget of Rs 9046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18.
32. ▶ Mar 1 - Zero Discrimination Day. It is also observed as World Civil Defence Day.
33. ▶ Mar 12 - Commonwealth Day 2018. It is observed on 2nd monday of March.
34. ▶ Mar 14 - International Pi ( $\pi$ ) Day. It is observed on 14 March (3/14 in American month/day date format) since 3, 1, and 4 are first 3 significant digits of  $\pi$ .
35. ▶ Mar 15 - World Consumer Rights Day. 2018 theme is *Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer*. On this occasion, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan launched integrated portal for consumer services at URL *jagograhakjago.gov.in*.
36. ▶ Mar 18 - Global Recycling Day.
37. ▶ Mar 20 - International Day of Happiness. 2018 theme is *Share Happiness - focusing on the importance of relationships, kindness and helping each other*.
38. ▶ Mar 20 - World sparrow day (WSD).

39. ▶ Mar 21 - UN International Day of Forests. 2018 Theme is *Forests and Sustainable Cities*.  
 On this occasion, Chhattisgarh was handed over National Water Digest Award for Water Conservation - Diversion, and increasing irrigation capacity.
40. ▶ Mar 21 - UNESCO World Poetry Day.
41. ▶ Mar 21 - World Down syndrome Day. Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that generally results in various effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health.
42. ▶ Mar 22 - World Water Day. It puts emphasis on importance of freshwater and need for sustainable management of freshwater resources. 2018 theme is *Nature for Water*. The first World Water Day was celebrated by UN on 22 March, 1993. Mar 22, 2018 is also observed as Bihar's 106 Foundation day with Theme *Centenary of Champaran Satyagraha and Elimination of Dowry and Child Marriage*.
43. ▶ Mar 23 - Observed as *Shahed Diwas* in India. It marks martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, that were executed on this day in 1931.
44. ▶ Mar 23 - World Meteorological Day.
45. ▶ Mar 24 - World Tuberculosis (TB) Day. 2018 theme is *Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world*. TB INDIA 2018 Report and National Drug Resistance Survey Report was released on this occasion, along with *NikshayAushadi Portal*. Global target to end TB is 2030, with India aiming to end it by 2025.
46. ▶ Mar 25 - International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. 2018 theme is *Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality*.
47. ▶ Mar 27 - World Theatre Day.
48. ▶ Mar 3 - World Hearing Day. 2018 Theme is *Hear the future*.
49. ▶ Mar 3 - World Wildlife Day. It marks signing of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on this day in 1973. 2018 Theme is *Big Cats: Predators under Threat*.
50. ▶ Mar 8 - World Kidney Day. It is celebrated annually throughout world on second Thursday of March.
51. ▶ Mar 21 - International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination. 2018 theme is *Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination*.
52. ▶ March 26 - Independence day of Neighbouring Nation Bangladesh.
53. ▶ May 01 - Statehood Day of Maharashtra and Gujarat. It commemorates formation of Maharashtra and Gujarat from division of the Bombay State on 1 May 1960.
54. ▶ May 02 - World Tuna Day. 2018 theme is *Smart Tuna – Smart Ocean*.
55. ▶ May 03 - World Press Freedom Day. was observed across the world on May 3, 2018 with an aim to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, defend the media from attacks and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while being on duty. The Theme for 2018 is 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'.
56. ▶ May 1 - World Asthma Day. 2018 theme is *Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease*.
57. ▶ May 1 - International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day AND May Day. 2018 Theme is *Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement*.
58. ▶ May 11 - National Technology Day. 2018 theme is *Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future*.  
 On 11th May 1998, India carried out series of nuclear tests at Pokhran. Also first indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown on this day and India also performed successful test firing of Trishul missile on same day.  
 Considering these technological advancements, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared 11th May as National Technology Day.  
 On this occasion, Atal Tinkering Marathon's Top 30 Innovations to be supported through industry partnerships were showcased. Atal Tinkering Labs of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog organized an Atal Tinkering Marathon in an effort to identify India's best student innovators. It was six month long nationwide challenge across 6 thematic areas - *clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agriculture-tech*.
59. ▶ May 12 - International Nurses Day (IND). It marks birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing. 2018 theme is *Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human Right*. On this occasion, President conferred National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel from across country.
60. ▶ May 12 - World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). 2018 theme is *Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation*.
61. ▶ May 15 - International Day of Families. 2018 theme is *Families and inclusive societies*.
62. ▶ May 16 - UNESCO International Day of Light AND International Day of Living Together in Peace.
63. ▶ May 17 - World Hypertension Day. 2018 theme is *Know Your Numbers*.

64. ▶ May 17 - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. 2018 Theme is *Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All*.
65. ▶ May 18 - International Museum Day. 2018 theme is *Museums and Hyper Communication – New Approaches and New Public*. It is also observed as AIDS Vaccination day.
66. ▶ May 20 - World Metrology Day. 2018 Theme is *Constant evolution of the International System of Units*.
67. ▶ May 21 - Anti Terrorism Day. It marks assassination of Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. It is also observed as *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development*.
68. ▶ May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity. 2018 theme is *Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity*.
- ▶ On this occasion, National Mission for Clean Ganga and World Wildlife Federation (WWF) - India jointly organised workshop *Ganga and its Bio-diversity: Developing a Road Map for Habitat and Species Conservation* in New Delhi. Also, national-level celebrations were held at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) in Hyderabad.
  - ▶ On this occasion, India Biodiversity Awards 2018 were announced in 4 categories -
    - ▶ Conservation of Wild and Domesticated Species -
      - ▶ Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve Management Committee (Arunachal Pradesh) - For Conservation of Bugun Liocichla, a critically endangered bird.
      - ▶ Lemsachenlok Organization (Nagaland)
      - ▶ Kutch Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (Gujarat) - Conservation of Kharai camel. which is unique for its ability to adapt well to both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
      - ▶ Kalden Singhi Bhutia (Sikkim) - For conservation of Tibetan sheep.
    - ▶ Sustainable Use of Biological Resources -
      - ▶ Sangham Women Farmers Group (Medak district of Telangana) - Working towards conservation of agro-biodiversity for 15 years.
      - ▶ Parvathi Nagarajan - (Tamil Nadu) - Works for environment protection, wellness and women's empowerment.
      - ▶ Raipassa Biodiversity Management Committee (Tripura) - Community depends on cultivation, collection and sale of broom grass for its livelihood. Villagers collect about 50 tonnes of broom grass per season, and sell it at Rs. 22/Kg.
    - ▶ Replicable Mechanisms for Access and Benefit Sharing
      - ▶ Best Biodiversity Management Committees -
        - ▶ Eraviperoor Grama Panchayat (Kerala) - is an excellent model of a multi-stakeholder partnership in local biodiversity conservation. BMC has rejuvenated a tributary of river Pampa, successfully recovered 13.5 acres of river bank and shown exemplary work in plastic waste management.
        - ▶ Pithorabad Grama Panchayat (Madhya Pradesh) - Sustained efforts towards the conservation and sustainable utilization of bio-resources. It conserves around 115 traditional types of paddies, 32 varieties of vegetables, and medicinal plants.
69. ▶ May 23 - World Turtle Day.
70. ▶ May 24 - Commonwealth Day.
71. ▶ May 25 - World Thyroid Day.
72. ▶ May 28 - International Day of Action for Women's Health.
73. ▶ May 29 - International Day of UN Peacekeepers. 2018 Theme is *UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice*.
74. ▶ May 30 - Goa Statehood Day. It attained full statehood on 30th May 1987 becoming India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a UT.
75. ▶ May 31 - World No Tobacco Day. 2018 thme is *Tobacco and heart disease*.
76. ▶ May 4 - International Firefighters' Day.
77. ▶ May 5 - World Cartoonist's Day.
78. ▶ May 6, 2018 - World Laughter Day 2018. It is celebrated on First Sunday of May of every year.
79. ▶ May 7, 2018 - 58th Raising day of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is also observed as World Athletics Day.
80. ▶ May 8 - World Red Cross Day. Theme of 2018 is *Memorable smiles from around the world*.
81. ▶ Utkal Diwas - April 1. It is Formation of state of Odisha as a separate province on this day in 1936. On this occasion, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated World-Class tourist amenities at Konark Sun Temple in Odisha.

1. ▶ 3rd ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project, named as INLCU L53 has been inducted into Indian Navy.
2. ▶ 4th of 8 Mark IV LCU vessels – L54, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata has been Commissioned Into Indian Navy.
3. ▶ 5th Indo-Kyrgyzstan joint training exercise ‘Khanjar V’ concluded in Mizoram.
4. ▶ 6th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and Conclave of Chiefs held in Tehran (Iran). Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited Iran on this occasion. IONS was conceived by Indian Navy in 2008.
5. ▶ Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) invited private players in Coimbatore (Tamilnadu) for building Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the next generation defence aircraft. Project will be implemented in Sulur in Coimbatore district, which may house permanent base of Tejas squadron.
6. ▶ Bilateral joint training exercise *Harimau Shakti 2018* between India and Malaysia Armies will be conducted in Hulu Langat (Malaysia) in April - May 2018.
7. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commissioned special unit called Bastariya Battalion (numbered 241) to combat Naxals activities in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. This is first such time that CRPF has raised a special battalion that includes local representation to enhance combat capabilities.
  - ▶ 241 Bastariya Battalion comprises 739 local tribal youths including 198 women combatants selected through special recruitment drive from four highly Naxal infested district in Chhattisgarh - Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.
8. ▶ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Rajasthan.
9. ▶ Coastal security exercise *Sagar Kavach* held by Indian Coast Guard along Kerala coast to strengthen and assess loopholes in coastal security mechanism.
10. ▶ Dakota DC-3 aircraft of 1940’s vintage named as ‘Parshuram’ has been again Inducted into Indian Air Force, after over 40 years of phasing out.
11. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces valued at INR 6900 crores. It Includes -
  - ▶ Thermal Imaging (TI) Night Sights for Rocket Launcher (RL) used by Army and the Force under ‘BUY(Indian) IDDM’ category, to be used by troops to facilitate accurate engagement of enemy targets complete darkness.
  - ▶ Development of Long Range Dual Band Infrared Imaging Search and Track System (IRST) for SU-30 MKI aircraft under ‘Make II’ sub category, for procurement of at least 100 IRSTs under ‘Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.
12. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved Acquisitions Worth 3687 crores. It Involves procuring DRDO’s NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at cost of INR 524 crores. DAC also approved procurement of thirteen 127 mm calibre guns for Navy, with range of 24 kilometres. These guns guns be procured from BAE Systems of USA, for over 3000 crores.
13. ▶ Defence Ministry will now fully fund education of martyrs’ children, removing earlier limit of Upto INR 10000 a month.
14. ▶ First-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea *MILES-18* began at Andaman sea with 8 countries and India Partecipating.
15. ▶ Fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IVclass, LCU L54 has been inducted into Indian Navy. Remaining 4 ships of same class are in advanced stages of construction at GRSE, Kolkata.
16. ▶ Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) delivered 2nd Sri Lanka Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (SL AOPV), as largest and most advanced ship in Sri Lankan Navy fleet. This is 4th Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) delivered in the current financial year.
17. ▶ Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform process of higher defence planning. It is expected to drive military and national security strategy, draft capability development plans and guide and accelerate defence equipment acquisitions. It will be under chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
18. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced family of a paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of 1 crore rupees.
19. ▶ INS Ganga, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, has been was decommissioned.
20. ▶ India concluded price negotiations with Russia for deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for Indian Air Force (IAF), with finalised financial component nearly Rs 40,000 crores.
  - ▶ Now, both countries are trying to find way out to evade provisions of CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), a US law that seeks to punish countries and entities engaged in transactions with defence establishment of Russia. USA announced sanctions against Russia under CAATSA for its alleged meddling in presidential election in 2016.
  - ▶ S-400 Triumf Air Defence SystemIt is long-range air defence missile system is one of most advanced long-range defence systems in world, manufactured by Almaz-Antey. It has capability to destroy incoming all airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.
21. ▶ India successfully test fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, to validate it as first Indian missile whose life has been increased from 10 to 15 years.



- ✎ BrahMos cruise missile developed by joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), named after Brahmaputra river in India and Moskva river in Russia.
  - ✎ It is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (conventional / nuclear) with top speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (thrice the speed of sound).
  - ✎ Its range was initially capped at 290 km, now increased to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.
22. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Gaganshakti 2018 as an air combat exercise along Pakistan, China borders.
  23. ▶ Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest transport aircraft C-17 Globemaster made a historic landing at Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in Arunachal Pradesh. It is strategically important as China Claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory (McMahon Line).
  24. ▶ Indian Army finalised INR 15000 crores indigenous ammunition project under which range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be produced indigenously. It aims to cut dependence on imports and create inventory to enable forces to fight 30-day war. 11 private firms will be involved and implementation will be monitored by Defence Ministry.
  25. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with HDFC Bank and Axis Bank for Defence Salary Package, as renewed version of first MoU signed 2011 and renewed in March 2015. It is tailor made to suit requirements of defence personnel.
  26. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
  27. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned interceptor boat ICGS C-437.
  28. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
  29. ▶ Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) entered Goa harbour, after completing a historic global circumnavigation voyage by an all-women crew. Crew Members of this expedition were presented Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 by Govt.
    - ✎ Titled *Navika Sagar Parikrama*, The 254 days long expedition was flagged off in Goa on September 10, 2017. 6 members are - Vartika Joshi (Skipper), Payal Gupta, Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, Aishwarya Boddapati and Shourgrakpam Vijaya Devi.
    - ✎ INSV Tarini covered over 22000 Nautical miles (Approx 40000 KMs), visiting five countries – Australia, New Zealand, Falkland Islands (UK), South Africa and Mauritius.
    - ✎ During the voyage, It met all criteria of circumnavigation -
      - ✎ Crossing the Equator twice, crossing all Longitudes, Three great capes (Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape of Good Hope).
 The expedition was covered in six legs.
  30. ▶ Indian Navy concluded 2 month long War Games on both Seaboards of India, Eastern and Western. War Game on Eastern seaboard was codenamed ENCORE (Eastern Naval Command Operational Readiness Exercise) and on Western seaboard the codename was *Exercise Paschim Lehar*.
  31. ▶ Indian Navy conducted *Prasthan*, a security exercise, off the coast of Mumbai.
  32. ▶ Indian Navy conducted multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Chakravat (cyclone) with coordination of Kerala Government off Kochi Coast.
  33. ▶ Indian Navy's INS Tarkash carried out joint training exercise with U.S. Navy's Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG) and guided-missile destroyers USS Preble, USS Halsey and USS Sampson.
  34. ▶ Indian Navy's Marine Commando (MARCO) cadre conducted 2nd Asymmetric Warfare Training Exercise 'Ekatha 2018' at Maldives. Additionally, Indian Navy ship Sumedha is conducting a joint exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance of Maldives.
  35. ▶ Indian and French Navies will conduct 16th bilateral Joint maritime exercises called *Varuna - 18* in three sea areas - Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and South Western Indian Ocean. Phase 1 has begun in Goa.
  36. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
  37. ▶ Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile, demonstrating its overall capability as an effective combat jet.
  38. ▶ Indigenously developed Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be delivered to armed forces by 2020. Rustom-II is part of Rustom line of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) indigenously designed and developed by DRDO that includes Rustom-I, Rustom-H and Rustom-C.
    - ✎ It is a long-endurance UAV that has an 20 hours approximate flight time. Its medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 feet. It can fly at around 280 km/h.
  39. ▶ Indo-Korean Joint Coast Guards Exercise *Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018* conducted off Chennai coast (Tamil Nadu).
  40. ▶ Joint Indo-Bangladesh Army Trekking Expedition to Nanda Devi started from New Delhi. Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand) east base camp is located 4300m from sea level and has a very challenging trekking route. Summit is at 7816 Metres.
  41. ▶ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU to cater to needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems, to help make India self-reliant in defence sector.



42. ▶ Ministry of Defence released draft policy on defence production, aiming to bring India among top 5 manufacturers of defence platforms.
- Objectives Include -
- ▶ Achieve turnover of INR 170000 crore and export of 35000 crores in military equipment and services by 2025.
  - ▶ Attract additional investment of nearly Rs 70,000 crore and create employment for nearly 2 to 3 million people.
43. ▶ Samvedna 2018, first multilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise of Indian Air Force (IAF) in association with South Asian Region nations held off coast of Kerala.
44. ▶ Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for first time with indigenously developed seeker. So far, *seeker's* technology in missiles was imported from Russia.
- ▶ Brahmos is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (conventional / nuclear) and has top supersonic speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (3 times speed of sound). After India's entry to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), its range was extended to 450 km.
45. ▶ Three Minesweeper ships of Indian Navy - INS Konkan, INS Cannanore and INS Cuddalore have been decommissioned.

**Top**

## **Economy**


1. ▶ 15th Finance Commission (FCC) headed by NK Singh constituted Advisory Council to advise Commission on issue or subject related to Terms of Reference (ToR) to quell (*control*) strong opposition from some states over 2011 census. It will also help commission in broadening its ambit and understanding to seek best national and international practices on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution.
2. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank launched mobile app named 'Kamao' (earn), looking to improve its business through crowd-sourcing, involving employees, customers and non-customers. Bank will encourage stakeholders to refer prospective customers, who want to open deposit accounts or get loans, on app and win rewards.
3. ▶ According to Monster Salary Index (MSI) -
  - ▶ Women in India earn 20 % lesser than men, although gender gap narrowed down by around 5 % points in 2017.
  - ▶ In India, men earned a median gross hourly salary of Rs 231, while women earned Rs 184.8.
4. ▶ Allahabad Bank received approval from Ministry of Corporate Affairs for amalgamation of its fully-owned subsidiary All Bank Finance Ltd. (ABFL) with itself. All Bank Finance offers fee-based services like debenture trusteeship, distribution of mutual fund schemes, investment advisory and portfolio management and security valuation.
5. ▶ As major relief to budding entrepreneurs, government allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed INR Rs 10 crores. Also, An angel investor picking up stakes in a startup should have minimum net worth of 2 crore or should have an average returned income of over Rs 25 lakh in preceding 3 financial years.
6. ▶ As per *Transactions 2025* by digital payments company AGS Transact, India will have INR 1 lakh crore worth of digital transactions every year, by 2025.
7. ▶ As per Commerce Ministry, India's global trade in 2017-18 stood at \$767.9 billion, 16.32 % up as compared to \$660.2 billion in 2016-17. Trade with Latin American Countries (LAC) recorded healthy growth of 19.63 % in 2017-18, most with Bolivia (\$253 million in 2016-17 to \$772.44 million in 2017-18).
8. ▶ As per London-based wireless coverage mapping Company OpenSignal, Bharti Airtel has highest 4G download speed among Indian telecom operators with speed of 9.31 MBPS, followed by Idea Cellular (7.27 mbps), Vodafone (6.98 mbps) and Reliance Jio (5.13mbps). Jio topped in terms of 4G network coverage.
9. ▶ As per Ministry of Finance, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in month of April 2018 was INR 1.034 Lakh crores, consisting Integrated GST (IGST) of 50548 crores as Biggest Component (Others are Central GST, State GST and cess). April 2018 is first ever month in which GST collection surpassed 1 lakh crore mark.
10. ▶ As per TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, State Bank of India is most-trusted bank (both public and private sector) and ICICI topped among private ones.
11. ▶ As per World Bank Global Findex Report 2017 -
  - ▶ 55 % of new bank accounts opened globally between 2014-17 are from India. India witnessed a great jump in account ownership during 2014-2017 as 80 % Indians owned a bank account in 2017, compared to only 35 % bank account holders in 2011.
12. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
13. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved \$140 Million Loan to improve Rural Connectivity in Madhya Pradesh, aimed at benefitting 1.5 Million Rural residents of 5640 Villages in Madhya Pradesh.
14. ▶ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme's subscriber crossed 1 Crore on completion of 3 years of its launch (May 9, 2015), With current number of subscribers standing at 1.10 Crores.

- ▶ APY is a guaranteed Pension Scheme that focuses on unorganised sector workers which constitute more than 85% of workforce. Under It APY, guaranteed pension of 1000 - 5000 will be given at the age of 60 years depending on contribution by subscribers.
- ▶ The Scheme has generated around 9.10 % CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) since its inception till March 2018.
- 17. ▶ Axis Bank opened a representative office in Sharjah, as third such Axis Bank office in UAE after Dubai and Abu Dhabi.
- 16. ▶ BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) became first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by US Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC). It will allow sale of securities to US investors through trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US SEC. It will ease trades by US investors in India and also enhance attractiveness of Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs) amongst US investors.
- 17. ▶ Bank Of Baroda signed agreement with CDSL Commodity Repository (CCRL), for pledge finance under repository ecosystem for accredited warehouses. It will boost confidence among bankers and other stakeholders like depositors and warehouse service providers. BOB becomes first public sector bank to become the repository participant.
- 18. ▶ Bank deposits growth fell to a five-decade low in FY 2017-18, with other savings methods such as mutual funds and insurance reduced banking competitiveness. A total deposit of 114 lakh crore was reported in the last fiscal, with growth rate of 6.7% (lowest since 1963).
- 19. ▶ Bank of India (BOI) closed down its operations of representative office in Yangon (Myanmar) from January 2018. Apart from Yangon, Bank of India is also said to have closed down its office in Botswana.
- 20. ▶ CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) extended deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linking from the current last date of 31 March 2018 to 30 June 2018.
- 21. ▶ CBDT notified A Protocol to amend existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait, for avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- 22. ▶ Cab Aggregator Ola acquired Mumbai-based end transport ticketing and commuting app *Ridlr*, to complement Ola's efforts to integrate its mobility platform with public transportation infrastructure.
- 23. ▶ Cab Aggregator Ola introduced in-trip insurance programme for all its customers, starting at just Re 1 and covering up to 500000. This will cover for loss of belongings, missed flights, and medical expenses. Ola partnered with Acko General Insurance and ICICI Lombard General Insurance for this in-trip insurance programme.
- 24. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on Apr 21, 2018 -
  - ▶ CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) Approvals -
    - ▶ Approved Restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for period 01-04-2018 to 31-03-2022 at cost of INR 7255.50 crores with Central Share of 4500 crore and States' Share of INR 2755.50 crores.
      - ▶ National Level activities will include National Plan of Technical Assistance, Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat, Incentivization of Panchayats and State component will be Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
      - ▶ State funding pattern for State Component will be 60:40 for all States, except North East and Hill States where Centre:State funding pattern will be 90:10 and For UTs, Central share will be 100%.
      - ▶ Sunset date for RGSA will be 31-03-2030.
      - ▶ RGSA will help over 2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources.
      - ▶ RGSA will strengthen Gram Sabhas to function as effective institutions with social inclusion of citizens particularly the vulnerable groups. It will establish institutional structure for capacity building of PRIs with adequate human resources and infrastructure.
      - ▶ PM Narendra Modi will Launch RGSA from Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), on 24th April (National Panchayati Raj Day).
- 25. ▶ Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance partnered with Canara Bank Subsidiary Can Fin Homes for a 3 year bancassurance tie up to sell its policies to home buyers.
- 26. ▶ Capital markets regulator SEBI raised exposure limit under exchange-traded currency derivatives trading for residents and FPIs to USD 100 million across all currency pairs involving Indian rupee, to help entities engaged in forex transactions to maintain their currency risks in a better manner.
- 27. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) constituted a task force to review Income Tax Act 1961 and to draft a new Direct Tax Law which takes into consideration the prevailing economic scenario and economic needs of contemporary India.
- 28. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released all 7 e-filing forms for taxpayers, For e-filing of the taxpayers for assessment year 2018-19. New ITR forms require the salaried taxpayers to break down their salary and for businessmen to provide their GST number and turnover.
  - ▶ ITR-1 is called 'Sahaj' and is for the salaried person earning upto Rs. 50 lakh. 3 crore taxpayers used this file for previous year.
  - ▶ ITR-2 is for the individuals and 'HUF' (Hindu Undivided Families) having income from profits and gains in business including NRIs.

- ✎ ITR-3 and ITR-4 can be filed by HUFs having income under head business and profession.
- ✎ An individual of 80 years and above or any HUF or whose income is Rs. 5 lakh and less can file for returns in ITR-1 and ITR-4.
- 29. ▶ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) scrapped export duty of 20% on raw and refined sugar to boost shipments. This will help export excess sugar output and will prevent falling prices.
  - ✎ Sugar output is estimated to be 29.5 million tonnes (MT) in 2017-18 marketing year (October-September), from 20.3 MT in previous year. While domestic demand is 24-25 million tonnes annually. Removing export duty will help export surplus sugar conveniently.
- 30. ▶ Central Bureau of Excise and Customs (CBEC) imposed a 10% duty on imports of key smartphone components such as populated printed circuit boards (PCBs), camera modules and connectors, up from 0% import duty Currently.
  - ✎ Import duties are generally imposed to discourage imports and promote local manufacturing units.
- 31. ▶ Central Government, Government of Maharashtra and World Bank signed today US\$ 420 million project to help Small and Marginal farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra, to help increase climate resilient practices in agriculture. It will benefit over 7 million people spread over an area of 3.0 million ha and cover 5,142 villages across 15 most climate vulnerable districts of region. This loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.
- 32. ▶ Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 4th quarter (January-March) Q4 of 2017-18 for FY 2017-18 -
  - ✎ GDP (at 2011-12 prices) in fourth quarter (Q4) registered growth rate of 7.7 %, compared to 5.6, 6.3 and 7.0 % respectively in first three quarters of 2017-18. Good Growth in agriculture, manufacturing and construction sectors (11.5%) contributed to overall growth.
  - ✎ GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for 2017-18 is estimated at 130.11 lakh crores, showing growth rate of 6.7 % over 2016-17.
  - ✎ At sectoral level, growth rate of GVA at constant (2011-12) prices in Q4 for agriculture & allied sectors, industry and services sectors are estimated at 4.5 %, 8.8 %, and 7.7 %.
  - ✎ Per capita income (at 2011-12 prices) during 2017-18 is estimated to be INR 86668, compared to INR 82229 for 2016-17 (growth of 5.4 %).
  - ✎ GDP at current prices for 2017-18 is estimated at 167.73 lakh crores, growth rate of 10.0 % over 2016-17.
- 33. ▶ Child rights organisation NGO Child Rights and You (CRY) received a USD 100,000 grant from global technology major Oracle for a digitally enhanced monitoring system that would potentially improve lives of underprivileged children across 19 states.
- 34. ▶ Citibank introduced a new variable interest rate mortgage product that will be linked to 90-day Treasury bills and will change every quarter. Citibank will charge a spread above 90-day Treasury bill rate based on borrower profile. Changes will be made in rates on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.
- 35. ▶ Credit rating agency Fitch kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at 'BBB-' with stable outlook. This rating is at junk bond or lowest investment grade with stable outlook. BBB- rating balances India's medium-term growth outlook and favourable external balances with weak fiscal finances and some lagging structural factors.
- 36. ▶ DCB Bank launched *DCB Remit*, a online remittance service to enable customers to send money online globally. It enables Indians to send money to 20 countries.
- 37. ▶ Delhi based Sudeva Football Club acquired Spanish league's third division club C.D Olympic Xativa, to expand its operations in Europe. Sudeva becomes First Indian football club to do so.
- 38. ▶ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science & Technology initiated National Biopharma Mission which is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), to strengthen emerging biotechnology sector in India.
  - ✎ Mission has been approved at a total cost of US\$250 million for five years with 50% funding through World Bank Loan. Legal agreement between BIRAC and IBRD (World Bank) has been signed.
- 39. ▶ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved Bharti Airtel's acquisition of Norway based Telenor India. Bharti Airtel will buy Telenor India in a no-cash deal and will take over its outstanding spectrum payments of Rs 1650 crores.
- 40. ▶ Digital Wallet Firm Paytm launched its offline payments solution - *Paytm Tap Card*, to provide seamless payments solutions for non-internet customers. This card uses Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to enable safe and convenient digital payments.
- 41. ▶ Digital payments company PayPal and Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an agreement for promotion of outbound shipments among small and medium enterprises (SMEs). PayPal will work with FIEO to educate SMEs on how to leverage global opportunities, help them receive money in a safe and timely manner with PayPal products.
- 42. ▶ Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg stated that India's economy will double to to \$5 trillion by 2025. India is currently 6th largest economy in world.
- 43. ▶ Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)'s approved 8.55% interest on PF for 2017-18, lowest since 2012-13. It provided 8.5% in 2016-17, 8.8% in 2015-16 and 8.75% in 2013-14 & 2014-15. This will be applied to all 120 offices of EPFO and all 5 crore subscribers.

 EPFO also decided to cut Administrative Charges by 15 Basis Points to .5% (from .65%), enabling over 5 lakh employers to save about Rs. 900 crore annually.

- 44. ▶ Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) rolled out *Yellow Army Savings Account* to commemorate its association with Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK). It will fetch interest rate of 6 % per annum for balance below Rs. 10 lakh and 6.5 per cent per annum for balance above Rs. 10 lakh.
- 45. ▶ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide loans worth about US \$4.5 billion to Bangladesh for financing of various social and infrastructure projects. In this regard, Exim Bank signed agreement with Bangladesh Government in October 2017 to extend this LoC facility.
- 46. ▶ FIH Mobile, subsidiary of Foxconn Technology Group (leading global contract manufacturing giant), written off an additional \$40 million of its \$200 million investment in online marketplace Snapdeal.
- 47. ▶ Facebook will launch Whatsapp Pay, a payment service for its whatsapp platform. It will be partnering with HDFC , AXIS, ICICI and SBI banks.
- 48. ▶ Fashion e-retailer Myntra acquired Witworks, a Bengaluru based technology startup, involved in developing smart wearable devices and their underlying software.
- 49. ▶ Federal Bank partnered with *Celebrus Capital* and *Fortune Wealth Management Co India* for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to Non-resident Indians (NRIs).

 RBI's Portfolio Investment Scheme enables NRIs to purchase and sell shares and convertible debentures of Indian companies on a recognized stock exchange through their NRI Savings Account with a designated bank branch. Federal Bank has so far partnered with 9 broking companies.

- 50. ▶ Finance Ministry in consultation with RBI launched first tranche of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) for current fiscal (FY 2018-19), to be sold through banks, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges. Features are-




Sl. No.	Item	Details
1	Denomination	In multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram. Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.
2	Tenor	8 years with exit option in 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> year, to be exercised on interest payment dates.
3	Maximum limit	Maximum limit shall be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fisca.
4	Payment option	Online / Offline (upto 20000) . Issue price of Gold Bonds will be INR 50 per gram less for those who subscribe online and pay digitally.
5	Interest rate	The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
6	Tax treatment	The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961). Capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted
7	Commission	Commission for distribution of bond shall be paid at the rate of 1% of the total subscription and receiving offices shall share at least 50% of commission so received with agents for the business procured through them.

- 51. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm acquired Chennai-based online ticketing platform *TicketNew*, owned by Orbgen Technologies, for approx \$40 million.
- 52. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm's subsidiary Paytm Money received approval of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to become a registered investment advisor. It will allow it to roll out investment and wealth management products to consumers across country.
- 53. ▶ Financial services platform MobiKwik launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its platform via its own Virtual payment address (VPA) handle @ikwik.
- 54. ▶ Fino Payments Bank launched several digital products, in addition to mobile banking app BPay launched in 2017. New initiatives include Unified Payments Interface (UPI), net banking, easy digi savings account and FasTag for making digital payments at toll plazas.
- 55. ▶ Fino Payments Bank will deploy multi-utility Android-based mPOS devices across 10000 banking points across nation. mPOS is a handheld device with in-built finger print scanner, card reader, camera, printer and tablet. FINO aims to reach 5 crore customers in 5 years.
- 56. ▶ First sale of world's first ever electoral bonds started from March 1, 2018 for period of 10 days at four SBI branches in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi.

- ✎ These bonds will have a life of 15 days, buyable by any citizen / entity incorporated in India. It aims to increase transparency in political funding by rooting out anonymous cash donations made to political parties that lead to generation of black money.
  - ✎ These electoral bonds can be bought for any value in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore after fulfilling all existing Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and making payments from bank account. It will not carry name of payee.
- 57. ▶ Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018 came into force as President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to Cabinet's decision to promulgate the said Ordinance.
  - ✎ It empowers authorities to attach and confiscate (जब्त करना) properties of economic offenders and deter them from evading Indian law by remaining outside India.
  - ✎ A Fugitive Economic Offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued in respect of a scheduled offence and who has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution.
  - ✎ To ensure that Courts are not over-burdened with such cases, only those cases where total value involved in such offences is 100 crore rupees or more, is within purview of this Ordinance.
  - ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind also promulgated an ordinance that provides for stringent punishment, including death penalty, for those convicted of raping girls aged below 12 years. Jammu and Kashmir state Govt. also approved Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 that provides death penalty to rapists of children below age of 12 years.
- 58. ▶ GST Council approved simplified return filing process, Including measures like -
  - ✎ One monthly Return.
  - ✎ Unidirectional Flow of invoices - Seller needs to upload unidirectional flow of invoices anytime during month. This would be valid document to avail input tax credit by buyer.
  - ✎ Simple Return design and easy IT interface.
  - ✎ No automatic reversal of credit - There will not be any automatic reversal of input tax credit from buyer's side on non-payment of tax by seller.
  - ✎ Due process for recovery and reversal will be carried out through a due process of issuing notice and order.
  - ✎ Transition - There will be a three stage transition in the new system.
    - ✎ Stage I will be the present system of filing of return GSTR 3B and GSTR 1. GSTR 2 and GSTR 3 shall continue to remain suspended.
    - ✎ In stage 2, new return will have facility to upload invoice-wise data and also for claiming input tax credit on self declaration basis.
  - ✎ Content of return and implementation - Return will be simplified by reducing amount of information required to be filled.
  - ✎ GST Council also approved to make GST Network (GSTN) a government body, with Govt. acquiring 51% stake, up from 49 % Currently.
- 59. ▶ GST Council decided to roll out e-way bill for intra-State movement in a phased manner beginning April 15, and will cover all States by June 1. Businesses will continue to file summary sales return GSTR-3B until June as the GST Council extended present system of return-filing by three months.
- 60. ▶ Gandhinagar (Gujarat) Based GIFT City signed MoU with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP), that renders consultancy services, for mutual cooperation in areas related to international financial services. It will assist domestic and international clients set up operations at GIFT-located International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- 61. ▶ Global Consultancy Firm in its report Titled *India Soars Higher* stated that India has highest growth rate amongst Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) economies.
- 62. ▶ Global Findex Report released by World Bank said that about 19 Crore Indian adults still don't have a bank account, second only to China, despite account ownership more than doubling from 35 % in 2011 to 80 % in 2017.
- 63. ▶ Government amended Income Tax rules that will now allow transgenders to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for obtaining a Permanent Account Number (PAN).
- 64. ▶ Government has made providing passport details mandatory for taking loans of 50 crore rupees and above to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.
- 65. ▶ Government issued its borrowing programme for 2018-19 and finalised borrowing calendar for first half of 2018-19.
  - ✎ For 2018-19, Gross G-Sec borrowings will be INR 6,05,539 crores. Government will borrow INR 100000s crore from NSSF (National Social Security Fund) as against budgeted amount of Rs. 75,000 crore.
  - ✎ Gross G-Sec borrowing will be only Rs. 2,88,000 crore in H1 of 2018-19.
  - ✎ Government and RBI are in final stage of discussions for increasing FPI limits from April 1, 2018.
  - ✎ Government will introduce two benchmarks during this half year - 2-year and 5-year - to meet the market demand.



 T Bill programme for first quarter is to raise Rs. 1,95,000 crores.

66. ▶ Government raised customs duty on wheat from 20 % to 30 %, to curb cheaper imports and protect domestic growers. Import duty on walnut shell has also been increased from 30 % to 100 %.
67. ▶ Government raised import tax on crude and refined palm oil to support Indian farmers. Import tax on crude palm oil has been raised to 44 % from 30 % while for refined palm oil, it has been raised to 54 % from 40 %.
68. ▶ Government reconstituted Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to include secretaries from revenue department AND Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY) and Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Currently M S Sahoo). It will make FSDC more broad-based to incorporate changes in economic regulatory framework.
69. ▶ Government will sell 76 % stake in Air India, along with subsidiary Air India Express and a 50% stake in Air India SATS (Singapore Airport Terminal Services).
70. ▶ Government's Bank Note Paper Mill India (BNPM) received environment clearance (EC) from Environment Ministry to increase production of bank note paper from 12,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) to 16,000 TPA at its Mysuru unit in Karnataka.
71. ▶ HDFC Bank and business expense management solution provider *Happay* collaborated to introduce a new prepaid card-linked Travel and Entertainment (T&E) expense management solution which will help Indian firms to efficiently manage their business travel expenditure.
72. ▶ HDFC Bank launched IRA (Interactive Robotic Assistant) 2.0, interactive humanoid at Koramangala Branch in Bengaluru, in tech partnership with Invento Makerspaces and Senseforth Technologies. It aims to enhance user experience for customers.paytm .
73. ▶ HDFC Bank signed an agreement with Government e-Marketplace (GeM) under which the bank will facilitate a host of services to the public procurement portal for Central and state government organisations. It will bring transparency and efficiency in procurement process with assured and timely payment to sellers.
74. ▶ HDFC bank launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds, in partnership with transfer agent CAMS. It aims to reach out to customers in tier 2 and 3 markets and bring them into the digital lending fold and reducing time for availability of loan through mutual funds. Ticket size of the loans will range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore at an interest rate of 10.5 -11%.
75. ▶ ICICI Bank became first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT's Global Payment Innovation, an improved cross-border payments service. It enables real-time payments tracking across correspondent banks & has a facility to track payments instructions across correspondent banks globally.
76. ▶ ICICI Bank launched instant online overdraft 'InstaOD' facility for MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) customers, enabling overdraft facility up to Rs 15 lakh in an year.
77. ▶ ICICI bank launched its innovation lab for digital business, headed by Rohan Angrish. It aims to create technology from scratch and help better digital business. The innovation fund for this project with partnered concerns is INR 100 crores.
78. ▶ IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) launched *Bharat Inclusion Initiative* to build knowledge and foster innovation and entrepreneurial activity across areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health. It will aim at channelizing \$25 million over 3-4 years.
79. ▶ IT Firm HCL acquired C3i Solutions for USD 60 million, to enhance HCL's growth in life sciences and consumer services. C3i Solutions is a wholly owned, independently operated subsidiary of Merck & Co, which is known as MSD outside US and Canada.
80. ▶ IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first Indian company to reach \$100 billion market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone. With this, TCS joined world's 100 most valued organizations and now ranks 97th.
81. ▶ Income Tax Department launched ITR-2, the third income return form for assessment year 2018-19.
  -  ITR-2 is for individuals, Hindu Undivided families (HUFs) and NRIs who have income from any sources except income from profits and gains of business or profession.
  -  Now, total 3 Income Tax Returns (ITRs) have now been activated by Income Tax Department - ITR-1 (Sahaj), ITR-4 and ITR-2.
  -  ITR-1 is primarily for salaried class of taxpayers with income up to Rs 50 lakh from salary while ITR-4 is for professionals and self-employed individuals who have opted for the presumptive income scheme.
82. ▶ India attracted US \$208.99 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) during April 2014 to December 2017 period. Sectors receiving maximum FDI include services, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, construction, trading and automobile.
83. ▶ India signed \$120 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for completion of works for double-tracking and electrification of railway tracks along high-density corridors to improve operational efficiency of Indian railways. It is tranche 3 loan of \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility for Railway Sector Investment Program approved by ADB in 2011.
84. ▶ India signed \$210 million loan agreement with World Bank for Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project. The Project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) program.



85. ▶ India signed \$500 million loan agreement with World Bank to provide additional financing for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project. Govt. will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
86. ▶ India signed USD 80 million loan agreement with Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help modernise Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and improve skills ecosystem in Himachal Pradesh.
87. ▶ India signed a Loan Agreement of US\$ 125 Million with World bank for IBRD credit for *Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project*.
88. ▶ India signed a Loan Agreement of USD 48 million with World Bank's IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) for *Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)*.
89. ▶ India signed a loan agreement worth \$ 200 million with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan), to help reduce stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by 2022. POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by PM Modi on 8th March 2018 at Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan).
90. ▶ India signed a loan agreement worth USD 21.7 Million with World Bank's IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) for Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan.
91. ▶ India's GDP Growth Forecasts (March 2018) -
- ▶ World Bank projected India's GDP growth at 7.3% in 2018 - 19 and 7.5 % in 2019-20.
  - ▶ USA Based agency Fitch projected India's economic growth to be 7.3 % in 2018-19 and 7.5 per cent in 2019-20.
92. ▶ India's Government owned Re-insurer General Insurance Corporation (GIC) will start operations at Lloyd's London office in April 2018, increasing its share of international business. *GIC Syndicate 1947* will be first Lloyd's syndicate to be backed solely by capital from an Indian reinsurance group.
93. ▶ Indian Bank introduced Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and 'Bharat QR' facility. PFMS aims to benefit government agencies for utilising payment service. *Bharat QR* is a mobile payment collection scheme to accept digital payments.
94. ▶ Indian GDP Forecasts (April 2018) -
- ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected India's GDP Growth Rate to rise to 7.3% in FY 2018 - 19 and 7.6% in 2019-20.
  - ▶ As per World Bank's South Asia Economic Focus Spring 2018 report, Indian economy has recovered from impact of demonetisation and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax regime and is projected to grow by 7.3 % in 2018 and 7.5 percent in 2019. India's growth is expected to drive South Asia's growth rate to 6.9 % in 2018 and 7.1 % in 2019. South Asia includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
  - ▶ As Per world Bank, India's GDP clocked in \$2.6 trillion, becoming 6th in World, after USA, China, Japan, Germany and UK.
  - ▶ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Predicted India's GDP to grow at 7.3-7.7% during 2018-19.
  - ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) projected India to grow at 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019.
  - ▶ Japanese financial services Firm Nomura stated that India's GDP growth will be 7.8 % in first half of 2018-19.
  - ▶ Germany's Deutsche Bank Predicted GDP growth of 7.5% for India this financial year.
95. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (May 2018) -
- ▶ According to Fitch group company BMI Research, Indian GDP Growth will be 7.3% in FY 2018-19.
  - ▶ As per Harvard University (USA), India will be fastest growing economy for coming decade and will grow at 7.9% annually, ahead of China & US.
  - ▶ Asian Development Bank Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 & 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.
  - ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report stated that India will be fastest-growing economy in 2018 with growth rate of 7.4%. It will rise to 7.8% in 2019. Report also said that China and India contribute 45% to global growth.
  - ▶ According to UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), India's economy is projected to grow 7.6% in 2018-19.
  - ▶ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) expects India's economy to grow at 7.3-7.7 % in 2018-19.
  - ▶ Moody's Investors Service report predicted India's GDP growth forecast for 2018-19 at 7.3% and 7.5% for 2019-20.
96. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired WongDoody Holding Company, a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency, for \$75 million.
97. ▶ Indian IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is named fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance.
98. ▶ Indian Oil Corporation emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for 2nd consecutive year, with profit of INR 21346 crores in 2017-18, followed by ONGC (19945 crore). Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is most profitable company for 3rd straight year (INR 36075 crores).

99. ▶ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched three 'Internet of Things' (IoT)-based customer service initiatives in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), including a sound pressure level meter and Missed Call Feedback system.
100. ▶ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed loan agreement for second line of credit (LoC) of Euro 150 million on non-sovereign basis for renewable energy financing in India. It has tenure of 15 years including grace period of 3 years.
101. ▶ Indus Towers and Bharti Infratel Ltd announced their Merger, that will create world's second-largest mobile masts company by numbers of towers, 2nd only to China Tower. It will have presence throughout India with more than 163,000 towers, worth over 14.6 Billion USD. Bharti Airtel will have a stake of 33.8 % to 37.2 % in combined entity.
102. ▶ IndusInd Bank launched a pilot project to use WhatsApp for customer service, wherein customers can save official WhatsApp number of bank and initiate conversation. Customers can avail several services including checking balance, obtain mini statements through WhatsApp.
103. ▶ IndusInd Bank received RBI's approval to buy securities services arm of IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services), for which agreement was signed In March 2017.
104. ▶ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed MoU with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for increased cooperation in effective implementation of insolvency law.
105. ▶ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India signed MOU with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs to collaborate for research and publication, advancement of knowledge, capacity building, awareness and advocacy initiatives among others.
106. ▶ Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank launched *Add on Working Capital GST* as a special financing scheme to help state industry cope with delay in reimbursement of GST under special tax relief. Under this, revolving credit facility will be extended at most competitive rate of 9 % and with minimum documentation.
107. ▶ Jana Small Finance Bank commenced operations as a small finance bank. It will initially open 19 branches in 18 states, with financial inclusion as core strategy.
108. ▶ Joint Plant Committee (Ministry of Steel) stated that India's exports of finished steel increased by 16.7% to 9.6 million tonnes in 2017-18. Additionally, Indian tea industry also reached its highest ever production of 1,325.05 million kg and export of 256.57 million kg during 2017-18.
109. ▶ Karnataka Bank will sell 8.26 % stake (from total 14 % stake) in Universal Sampo General Insurance.
110. ▶ Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) introduced *Vikas She Plus* a loan scheme for women to help them with new ventures and for expanding or modifying their existing businesses. It offers loan up to INR 2 lakhs with Repayment period of 60 months.
111. ▶ Kerala government decided to cut excise duty on fuel to effect a INR 1 per litre reduction in petrol and diesel prices, starting June 1. Kerala is first state to slash taxes on fuel after recent huge rally in prices.
112. ▶ Kerala is first south Indian state to be visited by 15th Finance Commission, headed by N K Singh. It will assess finances of Kerala and progress made in socio-economic field and other developmental factors.
113. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank launched voicebot 'Keya', first artificial intelligence-powered voicebot in Indian banking sector. *Keya* is developed on basis of a library of millions of phone-banking conversations over past three years. *Keya* is powered by Nuance (the technology behind Apple's Siri).
114. ▶ Kotak Securities Limited launched *Free Intraday Trading*, to allow traders to do intra-day trading without paying any brokerage per trade. Intraday trading refers to buying and selling a security on same day.
115. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank approved \$375 million loan to improve irrigation in Madhya Pradesh and help increase farmer's income. Total cost is \$535.1 million and rest \$160.71 million will be given by government. Estimated time of completion is September 2025, doubling irrigated to 2 million hectares land by 2025.
116. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry created Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in Department of Commerce, by amending Allocation of Business Rules 1961.
  - ▶ DGTR will be apex authority for administering trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. It will merge Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties (DGAD) AND Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS).
  - ▶ It will provide trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries. Creation of DGTR will result in savings of 49 posts to Government on account of merging DGAD and DGS. Thus, its establishment will be in line with Government's goal of "Minimum Government Maximum Governance."
117. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched FIEO GlobalLinker, a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join global community of growing businesses, developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). It is growing global network

currently comprising over 140,000 SME firms, seeking business collaboration and growth opportunities.

118. ▶ Ministry of Finance approved providing government guarantee of INR 5000 crores in current financial year for Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) bonds to be subscribed by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). It will ease flow of borrowed funds for Ministry of Railways to undertake projects.
119. ▶ Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) launched World's First Brass Futures Contracts. It is first time that a Brass Futures contract will be traded on an organised exchange anywhere in world. Availability of Brass Futures contracts will help in price discovery and will help brass merchants to hedge risk arising out of price fluctuation. Lot size of contract will be 1 metric tonne with expiries in April, May and June 2018.
120. ▶ Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) launched India's first copper options contracts, to provide physical market participants additional instrument to hedge their price risk. It has lot size of 1 tonne in three contracts expiring in June, August and November 2018.
  - ▶ Copper is third-most-consumed industrial metal, after iron and aluminium. In last few years, refined copper demand has surged in sectors like electrical, electronic products and industrial machinery.
  - ▶ Copper ore production in India was 3846 thousand tonnes in 2016-17 and demand for refined copper was 820 thousand tonnes in FY16.
  - ▶ *Options* give buyer right to buy or sell an underlined at present price on a future date. They are of two types: puts (right to sell) and calls (right to buy). Options are a better hedging instrument as compared to futures for hedgers.
  - ▶ Copper options contracts will be optimal tool for stakeholders to mitigate price risk in copper, giving copper industry greater flexibility to take on price risk.
121. ▶ Muthoot Finance tied up with Global IME Bank to expand its money remittance services between Indo Nepal Corridor. Muthoot Finance is he only NBFC to extend the money transfer services from India to Nepal.
122. ▶ NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) will raise its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to INR 80,000 crore (from 65000 Crores) in current fiscal year, to improve rural economy. Government has also raised authorised capital of NABARD by 6 times to INR 30000 Crores, to increase its lending to the rural economy.
123. ▶ NMDC and NLC India will invest over USD 26 million for setting up an R&D facility for developing innovative technologies in iron and steel making. Australian Securities Exchange, India's Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and NMDC will sign Master Project Agreement (MPA) with ECT to establish world's first Australian-designed Coldry and Matmor plant in Tamil Nadu.
124. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extended credit support of INR 14,690 crore to Rajasthan for 2017-18, under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.
125. ▶ National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX ) Group Company National E-Repository Limited (NERL) signed up ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as repository participants for pledge finance. These banks will offer pledge finance against eNWRs created on NERL's repository platform commodities stored in warehouses registered with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).
126. ▶ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) sanctioned INR 5000 crores for Rajasthan government farm loan waiver, To help waiver loans of small and marginal farmers.
127. ▶ National Stock Exchange (NSE) approved Yes Bank to be empanelled as 'Settlement Bank' for National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC). Yes Bank is already empanelled as a 'Clearing Bank' for BSE, NCDEX, MCX. Bank now will provide different services to members, including Settlement and Clearing, electronic fund transfer and 'anywhere' banking and free of cost fund transfer across all centres of NSE's members.
128. ▶ National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched its e-Gsec platform which will allow retail investors to invest in government securities. Government Securities are offered to investors through competitive and non-competitive auctions held by RBI on weekly basis.
129. ▶ National Stock Exchange's (NSEs) India Index Services & Products Ltd (IISL) launched Nifty equity savings index that will serve as benchmark for equity saving funds offered by various mutual funds. It will capture performance of portfolio having exposure to equity, equity arbitrage and debt instruments in similar way to investment philosophy of equity savings funds.
  - ▶ Its components are 30% exposure to Nifty 50 total return index, 30% exposure to equity arbitrage (long position in Nifty 50 total return index and equivalent short position in Nifty 50 futures Index), 30% exposure to Nifty short duration debt index, and 5% exposure to Nifty 1D rate index.
  - ▶ The base date for index is April 1, 2005 and base value is 1,000.
130. ▶ Online food ordering platform Swiggy and ICICI Bank partnered to roll out 2 solutions to facilitate a convenient transfer funds to Swiggy. First is a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) based solution that enables instant fund transfers and other is a facility for depositing cash at ICICI branches / ATMs.

131. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank announced to have over 10 crore KYC compliant customers.
132. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank launched a program named *AshaKiran* aimed at educating rural women about financial services.
133. ▶ Private sector's ICICI Bank introduced a 'digital form' which will help open current accounts in a few hours, to provide a faster and smoother account opening experience to customers by doing away with the hassle of arranging lengthy paper-work.
134. ▶ Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal processed record INR 71,633 crore transactions on a single day. Public Financial Management System (PFMS)It is end-to- end solution for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation and reporting. It is implemented by Controller General of Accounts and administered by Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance).
135. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched several products to mark its 124th foundation day. It also partnered with expense management app WALNUT.
136. ▶ Punjab National Bank reported net loss of Rs 13412 crores for Q4 quarter ending March 2018, as Biggest ever quarterly loss for any bank in Indian Banking History. It has been mainly due to provisions towards bad loans, and being badly hit by Nirav Modi led scam that has cost PNB INR 14357 crores, through unauthorised letters of undertaking and domestic loans.
- ▶ India's Biggest Bank State Bank of India (SBI) also reported record losses of INR 7718 crores in January-March quarter, mainly due to higher provisions for bad loans. All public sector banks have posted huge losses for concerned period due to NPA issues.
137. ▶ RBI directed all regulated entities including banks not to provide services to businesses dealing in virtual currencies like bitcoins, so as to protect consumers and check money laundering.
138. ▶ RBI dropped Axis Bank, Karur Vyasa and South Indian Bank from list of banks it has cleared to import Bullions in current financial year.
- ▶ Bullion is gold, silver, or other precious metals in the form of bars or ingots.
139. ▶ RBI imposed penalty of INR 5 crores on South Indian Bank (SIB) for non-compliance with its directions on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and treasury function.
140. ▶ RBI imposed restrictions on Mumbai-based City Co-operative Bank, limiting per account withdrawals to INR 1000. Bank will also not be able to accept fresh deposits, disburse loans or borrow funds without RBI approval.
141. ▶ RBI increased bond investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) by a percentage point in two phases, to will allow foreigners about Rs 1.4 trillion of extra play in Indian bonds by FY20.
- ▶ Limit for FPI investment in central government securities (G-secs) would be increased by 0.5 % to 5.5 % of outstanding stock of securities in 2018-19 and 6 % of outstanding stock of securities in 2019-20.
  - ▶ Also, general and long-term investors would have equal share in government bond investment limit for 2018-19. Earlier, they had an investment ratio of 25:75.
142. ▶ RBI modified norms (that were set up in 2015) for setting up International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) by banks in IFSCs, applicable to IBUs set up in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) and other IFSCs to be set up in India.
- ▶ It has been mandated for parent bank to maintain at all times minimum capital of US \$ 20 million to its IBU.
  - ▶ Parent bank will be also required to provide Letter of Comfort for extending financial assistance, in form of capital support to IBU.
143. ▶ RBI released final guidelines prescribing 100 % net stable funding ratio (NSFR) for banks aimed at maintaining adequate liquidity for more resilience.
- ▶ NSFR is a long-term liquidity measurement included in Basel III liquidity standards. It is amount of available stable funding (ASF) relative to amount of required stable funding (RSF).
  - ▶ RBI's 100 % NSFR guideline requires banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.
  - ▶ RBI notified that NSFR would be applicable for Indian banks at stand-alone as well as consolidated level. For foreign banks operating as branches in India, the framework would be applicable on stand-alone basis (i.e., for Indian operations only).
144. ▶ RBI revised Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines, making linking of Aadhaar ID to bank accounts mandatory. In amended Customer Due Diligence procedure, Aadhaar number, PAN or Form No. 60 need to be obtained from an individual who is eligible for applying for biometric ID.
145. ▶ RBI switched back to gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.
- ▶ Government had started analysing growth estimates using GVA methodology from January 2015 and had also changed the base year to 2018 from January.
  - ▶ GVA gives a picture of economic activity from producers' side, GDP model gives picture from consumers' / demand perspective.
  - ▶ In recent first bi-monthly policy of new fiscal year 2018-19, RBI left key rates unchanged, citing rising inflation worries in first half. RBI said GDP is projected to strengthen from 6.6 % in FY18 to 7.4 % in FY19. Key Policy Rates -
    - ▶ Repo rate - 6%. It is rate at which RBI lends to its clients generally against government securities.
    - ▶ Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75%. It is rate at which banks lend funds to RBI.

✍ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25%. It is rate at which scheduled banks can borrow funds overnight from RBI against government securities.

✍ Bank Rate - 6.25%. It is rate charged by central bank for lending funds to commercial banks.






✍ Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4%. It is amount of funds that banks have to keep with RBI.

✍ Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - 19.5%. It is amount that banks have to maintain a stipulated proportion of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in form of liquid assets like cash, gold and unencumbered securities etc.

146. ▶ RBI will conduct additional variable rate repo operations for longer tenors up to 31 days every Tuesday in March 2018 for INR 25000 crores each to provide additional liquidity support to banks, to provide 1 Lakh INR liquidity to banking system in March 2018.
147. ▶ RBL bank partnered with global commerce-enabling technology firm First Data to help transfer its credit card customers' data to its latest proprietary software providing end-to-end card processing services.
148. ▶ Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018 stated that Microsoft India is most attractive employer brand in India this year, followed by Amazon India.
149. ▶ Reliance Industries announced integration with music app *Saavn* for its digital music service *JioMusic*. Combined entity is valued at over \$1 billion, with JioMusic's implied valuation at \$670 million.
150. ▶ Reliance Industries owned Jio Payments Bank commenced operations as India's 6th payments bank. No details related to interest rates and other terms have been disclosed so far. Other Payments banks in India -
- ✍ Paytm Payments Bank - Interest Rate of 4 %.
  - ✍ Airtel Payments Bank - Interest rate of 5.5% in its saving account. Initially, Airtel Payment Bank was giving 7.5%.
  - ✍ Fino Payments Bank - Interest Rate of 4 %.
  - ✍ India Post Payments Bank - Different interest rate according to deposited amount -
    - ✍ Deposit upto 25,000 – 4.5%
    - ✍ Deposit upto 50,000 – 5 %
    - ✍ Upto 1,00,000 – 5.5%
  - ✍ Idea Payments Bank
151. ▶ Reliance Industries received environment clearance for expansion of its petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of Maharashtra, at cost approx 2338 crores.
152. ▶ Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) won INR 1081 crores contract from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for work in 2 units of Kudankulam project in Tamil Nadu.
153. ▶ Reliance Jio signed agreement to raise nearly INR 3250 crores as samurai term loan from Japan-based banks, with 7 year bullet maturity. This is said to be largest samurai loan (low interest loans from Japanese investors) for an Asian corporate company.
154. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed a limit of INR 5000 crores for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to go long in Interest Rate Futures (IRFs).
- ✍ An agreement to buy or sell a debt instrument at a specified future date, at a price that is fixed today, is referred to as Interest Rate Futures (IRFs). IRF is a derivative instrument based on an underlying security, which can either be a Government Bond or a Treasury Bill.
  - ✍ Currently, FPI limit for Government Securities (G-Secs) is interchangeable between investments in G-Secs and investment in IRF, with long position in IRF capped at 90% of G-Sec limit. Increasing position limit will boost market development and ensure that FPIs can access IRFs in an uninterrupted way.
155. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to buy 10000 crores INR of government bonds via open market operation (OMO), after failing to sell all debt it had offered to bidders, yielding 7.75%. Participants should submit their offers on RBI Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.
156. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by commercial banks for year (till April 2019) due to unpreparedness of banks to migrate to the new accounting system.
- ✍ RBI requested Government to amend Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as format of financial statements as prescribed under Schedule 3 of Act is not amenable to reporting financial statements under Ind-AS.
  - ✍ Ind AS is global accounting practice that lenders are mandated to adopt, on par with International Financial Reporting Standard 9.
  - ✍ Financial Entities follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) standards. Corporate entities started complying with IndAS with effect from 1 April 2016. In February 2016, RBI mandated commercial banks, barring regional rural banks to implement Ind AS from April 1, 2018.
  - ✍ RBI was asking banks to submit half-yearly returns based in Ind-AS format. Key change was need to provision accounts based on expected loss, instead of when account turns into a non-performing asset (NPA).



 Commercial banks may need up to INR 89000s crores while transiting to Ind-AS regime.

157. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put Govt Owned Dena Bank under prompt corrective action (PCA) framework, barring Dena Bank from extending loans, due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) and losses. Dena Bank is 12th Govt. Owned bank to face PCA action by RBI.
158. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed INR 3 crore penalty on IDBI Bank for not following RBI's rules on classification of loans.
159. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalty of 3 crore on Axis Bank for violation of non-performing asset (NPA) classification norms, and 2 crore on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for not complying with Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations. Another penalty of 40 lakh was put on SBI for non-compliance of its directions on detection and impounding of counterfeit notes.
160. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructed Pune based Rupee Co-op Bank of Pune to continue its banking services, under Restrictions that were first imposed on February 22 ,2103 to August 2013 and that was extended 8 times till May 2018.
161. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework aimed at maintaining the sound financial health of banks. It stipulates risk thresholds for key areas such as capital, profitability and asset quality (tracked in terms of the net Non-Performing Assets ratio). On breach of any of these thresholds, bank will be mandatorily required to take corrective measures in a timely manner.
162. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) liberalised External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy by including more sectors, to facilitate cheaper access of overseas funds to Indian companies.
  -  RBI has stipulated uniform, all-in cost ceiling of 450 basis points (bps) over benchmark rate, which, in most cases, is six-month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).
  -  RBI increased ECB Liability to Equity Ratio for ECB raised from direct foreign equity holder under automatic route to 7:1, up from 4:1 earlier. This ratio will not be applicable if total of all ECBs raised by entity is up to \$5 million or equivalent.
  -  RBI also has allowed duly regulated housing finance companies to raise ECB under all tracks.
163. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightened reporting norms for Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), under which individual can transfer up to US \$2,50,000 abroad in a year.
  -  Currently, LRS transactions are permitted by banks based on declaration made by remitter, without any verification or reliable source of information. Now, daily reporting system by Authorised Dealer (AD) banks of transactions undertaken by individuals under LRS has been placed. Banks will mandatorily report daily transactions undertaken by them under LRS.
  -  Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) was launched in February 2004 and allows all resident individuals including minors to freely remit upto US \$2,50,000 annually (revised from \$25000 Limit Initially).
164. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will roll out limited edition coins of Rs 350 denomination to mark 350th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Front face of coin shall bear Lion Capitol of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with legend "Satyamev Jayate" inscribed below.
165. ▶ Reserve Bank of India directed banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange (Authorised Dealer-I Banks) to share data with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). This requires a banking company to furnish information relating to foreign exchange transactions made or received by any person to receiving authority (DRI). DRI is top investigative agency for issues related to violation of Customs Act.
166. ▶ Reserve Bank of India has slapped monetary penalty of INR 58.9 crores on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with regulatory directions on direct sale of securities from bank's Held To Maturity (HTM) portfolio.
167. ▶ Reserve Bank of India scrapped bank guarantee instruments such as Letter of Undertaking (LoU) and Letter of Comfort (LoC), to plug loopholes in the trade finance activities of banks. It has been taken in wake of INR 14000 crores PNB fraud, which revolved around unauthorised use of LoU by bank officials.
168. ▶ Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched *View Pension Passbook* Service for pensioners on Umang App (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), to allow them view their pension passbook on mobile phones.
169. ▶ Revenue Department imposed anti-dumping duty on import of 'Ofloxacin', a pharma product used in treatment of certain infections from China, to protect domestic producers from below-cost shipments. Ofloxacin is in class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones. It is used to treat certain infections including bronchitis, pneumonia and infections of skin etc.
170. ▶ Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) will facilitate to set up 'WomenInTech (WIT) Forum in India that will work towards encouraging women to take up careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
171. ▶ SBI Card partnered with Indian Medical Association (IMA) to launch 'Doctor's SBI Card', designed to complement distinct lifestyles and needs of doctors. Among several facilities is an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh to protect doctors against professional risks and liabilities.
172. ▶ SBI and India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGCC) signed a pact to offer mortgage guarantee scheme for prospective non-salaried and self-employed home loan customers. It will help increase home loan eligibility up to 15% within the regulatory norms.
173. ▶ SBI launched its UK subsidiary, SBI (UK) Limited, with initial capital commitment of 225 million pounds. SBI became he first foreign bank in UK to ringfence (separate) its retail division from its wholesale business.



174. ▶ SBI raised its lending rates by 20 basis points to 8.15 %, as first lending revision by the bank since April 2016. SBI also recently hiked interest rates on deposits by upto 50 Basis Points.
175. ▶ SBI slashed charges for non-maintenance of Average Monthly Balance (AMB) in savings accounts by nearly 75 percent, to be effective from April 01, 2018. Charges for non-maintenance of AMB for customers -
- ▶ Metro and Urban centers - Reduced from maximum of INR 50 to 15 / month.
  - ▶ Semi-Urban / Rural - Reduced from INR 40 to 12 / month.
176. ▶ SEBI issued detailed framework for Know Your Customer (KYC) documentation of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). SEBI also stated that non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs, they can only obtain an FPI licence on condition that they limit their roles to investment advisors and do not invest their money.
177. ▶ Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed physical settlement of both stock options and stock futures. At present only cash settlement of derivatives is allowed.
178. ▶ Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) relaxed algorithm trading norms at commodity derivatives exchanges, raising limit of trading using algorithm trading process up to 100 orders per second by user from the existing limit of 20 orders per second. SEBI also decided to do away with requirement of empanelment of system auditors by exchanges for system audit of algorithmic trading.
179. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) doubled investment limit by angel funds in venture capital undertakings to INR 10 crores, to to encourage early-stage start-ups.
- ▶ Angel funds/investors, encourage entrepreneurship by financing small start-ups at a stage when they find it difficult to obtain capital from conventional sources of finance such as banks and financial institutions.
180. ▶ Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) accepted 40 out of 80 recommendations suggested by Uday Kotak Committee on Corporate Governance.
- ▶ One of major recommendations was to separate post of CEO or MD and Chairperson of the listed companies. As per SEBI, separation of posts would come into effect from April 1, 2020. Initially only for top 500 listed firms in terms of market capitalisation.
  - ▶ Major Recommendations accepted by SEBI Include -
    - ▶ Reduction in maximum number of listed entity directorships from 10 to 8 by April 01, 2019 and to 7 by April 1, 2020.
    - ▶ Mandatory disclosure of consolidated quarterly results with effect from FY 2019-20.
    - ▶ Requirement of minimum 6 directors in top 1000 listed entities by April 1, 2019 and in top 2000 listed entities by April 1, 2020.
    - ▶ At least one woman independent director in the top 500 listed entities by April1, 2019 and in top 1000 listed entities by April 1, 2020.
    - ▶ Top 100 entities to hold AGMs within 5 months after the end of FY 2018-19 i.e. by August 31, 2019.
    - ▶ Shareholder approval for Royalty payments to related party exceeding 2 percent of consolidated turnover.
181. ▶ Several Budget proposals Implemented from April 1, 2018 -
- ▶ Reintroduction of tax on long-term capital gains (LTCG) exceeding Rs 1 lakh from sale of shares.
  - ▶ Reduced corporate tax of 25 % on businesses on a turnover of up to INR 250 crores.
  - ▶ Standard deduction of Rs 40,000 in lieu of transport allowance and medical reimbursement.
  - ▶ e-Way Bill system became mandatory from April 1, 2018 for all inter-state movement of goods in India, being implemented under GST regime by GST Network (GSTN) at Portal <https://ewaybillgst.gov.in>
    - ▶ EWay Bill is an electronic way bill for movement of goods which can be generated on the eWay Bill Portal. Transport of goods of more than Rs. 50,000 (Single Invoice/bill/delivery challan) in value in a vehicle cannot be made by a registered person without an eway bill.
    - ▶ GST Council had decided to roll-out of the e-way bill starting with inter-state from April 1 and intra-state from April 15, 2018.
    - ▶ E-way bill is an electric document generated on GST Portal, which is a shared information technology (IT) infrastructure between Centre and States; and acts as evidence for movement of goods.
    - ▶ e-way can be cancelled within 24 hours of creation. The recipient can also reject the e-way Bill within validity period of e-way bill or within 72 hours of creation of e-way bill by consignor, whichever is earlier.
182. ▶ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Common Service Centres (CSC) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) signed MoU for providing financial support village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) in CSCs. SIDBI will extend financial support to VLEs of CSCs, with minimum one year of operation, under its Direct Financing Window.
- ▶ CSC SPV will approve list of VLEs, within 25 km distance of SIDBI Branch Offices. Maximum project outlay must be 3.50 lakh and term loan requirement not exceeding 2 lakh per project.

183. ▶ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed MoU with CSC e-governance Services (CSCeGS) to take Udyami Mitra portal (*Udyamimitra.in*) to underserved MSMEs. *Udyami Mitra* aims to improve accessibility of credit for MSMEs.
184. ▶ Small Industries and Development Bank of India (SIDBI) tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC) to promote micro-enterprises in 115 aspirational districts across country.
185. ▶ Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS) signed an MoU on sidelines of a major industrial mission in India in field of aerospace and defence organised by GIFAS with support of SIDM.
186. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched an alternate method of cash withdrawal for its customers, known as Cash@POS initiative. Under it, debit card holders of SBI and all other banks can withdraw cash from PoS machines installed by SBI across various merchant locations. INR 1000 can be withdrawn in Tier I and Tier II cities and INR 2000 in Tier 3 to Tier 6 cities per day per card.
187. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) will issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 11 Authorised Branches between May 1 - 10, 2018.
- ✎ Electoral Bonds can be purchased by any Indian Citizen / Organization to give donations to Political Parties.
  - ✎ Political parties that secured over 1 % of votes in last General Elections, are eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.
188. ▶ State Bank of India Tied up with Satluj Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) to invest INR 80 billion in Arun III hydropower project of Nepal, with 900 megawatts (MW) capacity.
189. ▶ State Government Budgets 2018-19 -
- ✎ Kerala -
    - ✎ INR 2000 crores package for restoration works in wake of cyclone Ockhi. Additionally, INR 900 crores investment will be made in coastal areas through Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board (KIIFB).
    - ✎ To shore up revenues, sales tax on IMFL has been increased by 200 % and beer by 100 %.
    - ✎ Allocated INR 2,500 crore to *Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE)* project that ensures housing for all.
    - ✎ 40,000 smart classes will be set up in 4,775 schools.
    - ✎ Women welfare schemes have budget of INR 1250 Crores. It Includes *She Lodges* to be set up in Kochi and *Nirbhaya Homes* for survivors of Sexual Assaults. Financial assistance for unwed mother raised to INR 2000 per month.
    - ✎ A Malayalam University will come up at Tirur.
  - ✎ Uttar Pradesh -
    - ✎ Total budgetary allocation is 4.28 lakh crores (11.4% higher than last fiscal).
    - ✎ 20 new agriculture centres to be opened, with 5500 centres to be opened to procure wheat from farmers.
    - ✎ Startup fund of Rs 250 crore has been created.
    - ✎ INR 7482 crores for cleaning Ganga and keeping it pollution free.
  - ✎ Goa
    - ✎ Goa Govt. presented 17123 crores budget for 2018-19, an increase of 6.84% over the ongoing fiscal.
  - ✎ Gujarat
    - ✎ Gujarat Deputy CM and Finance Minister Nitin Patel presented state budget 2018-19. Budget size is INR 183666 crores. New scheme named *Mukhyamantri Apprenticeship Scheme* has been announced, under which Youth will get INR 3000 per month with training.
  - ✎ Assam -
    - ✎ In Budget 2018-19, Assam Govt. proposed an insurance scheme for journalists and their families, to ensure security and protection of the journalists and their families.
    - ✎ After Andhra Pradesh, Assam is the second state to have an e-budget.
    - ✎ Pension for senior citizens, ex-gratia of INR 5 Lakh to next of kin of who lost their lives during the Bodoland agitation are among main Points.
    - ✎ Providing relief to small tea growers, State Government will deposit 25% of outstanding dues of Farmers', upto 25000 in each loan account.
    - ✎ To promote digital literacy and usage, each line Sardar (head) in tea garden will be provided with a smart phone costing approx 3000.
  - ✎ Maharashtra -
    - ✎ 13000 gram panchayats will be connected digitally under the Centre's BharatNet project.
    - ✎ Mahasamadhan, a toll-free helpline will be set up for farmers, through which, they can avail information on seeds, fertilisers and various policies.
    - ✎ A web portal will be started for providing literature on BR Ambedkar, Annabhau Sathe, Savitribai Phule.
    - ✎ State Autorickshaw Welfare Corporation will be established for the welfare of state's 20 lakh auto-rickshaw drivers.

India's first battery-operated submarine will be used for underwater tourism at Vengurla, Sindhudurg. Physically challenged people in the state will be given free mobile stalls, so they can earn their livelihood.

National Snake Venom Research Institute will be set up at Haffkine Institute, Mumbai.

Delhi -

Delhi government presented an INR 53000 Crores *green budget* aimed at controlling pollution and monitoring its impact on environment. 26 initiatives include procuring 1000 electric buses, subsidies to restaurants to replace coal tandoors with electricity- or gas-based tandoors and undertaking a joint study with University of Washington to explore possibility of using technology to ascertain source of air pollution.

26 % of budget is towards education, 12 % for health and 11 % for infrastructure development.

190. ▶ Supreme Court barred all high courts from listening to any plea related to a recent RBI circular titled *Prohibition on dealing in virtual currencies*, that prohibited dealings in virtual currencies (Bitcoin etc).
191. ▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first Indian company to reach 7 lakh crores INR market capitalisation. It is followed by Reliance Industries (5.8 Lakh crores), HDFC Bank (5.2 Lakh crores), HUL (3.4 Lakh crores) and ITC (3.3 Lakh crores).
192. ▶ Tata Steel's subsidiary Bamnival Steel Ltd (BNPL) acquired 72.65 % stake in Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL) for Approx INR 36400 crores. It will help banks recover NPAs amounting to over 36,000 crore. Tata Steel acquired 79 crore share at Rs 2 each. It was finalised under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC).
193. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) unveiled beta version of portal ([www.tariff.trai.gov.in](http://www.tariff.trai.gov.in)) to enable consumers see tariffs of different telecom service providers at single place. It aims to provide more transparency and information on multiple tariff offerings by telcos and help consumers.
194. ▶ US retail giant Walmart acquired 77% stake in India's largest online retailer Flipkart for \$16 billion. It will be India's largest acquisition and world's biggest purchase of an ecommerce company.
  - ▶ It will include \$2 billion of fresh investment, pegging value of Flipkart at \$22 billion.
  - ▶ Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal exits with approx INR 7000 Crores Cash, while other cofounder Binny Bansal will remain on board.
195. ▶ Western Railway (WR) has launched E-catering facility on 23 major stations, to enable passengers to pick a food item from wide range of menu from wide range of restaurants and food chains.
196. ▶ World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) extended \$300 mn loan to EESL to scale up energy efficiency program (2 loans for \$220 million and \$80 million).
  - ▶ India Aims to avoid lifetime greenhouse emissions of 170 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and 10GW of additional generation capacity. This would be over 50 percent of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency target of 19.6 GW.
197. ▶ YES Bank will roll out a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its 'Livelihood and Water Security' CSR initiative, aiming at sustainable agricultural practices and digital literacy.
198. ▶ Yes Bank launched *Agenda 25x25*, a framework aimed at creating a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.
  - ▶ Agenda 25X25 is geared towards ensuring that by 2025, at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.
199. ▶ Yes Bank launched *Yes GST*, an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through this, an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on annual turnover, backed by GST returns.
200. ▶ Yes Bank launched robotics based *Digital export Import* payments solution as a part of its Yes Transact Smart Trade product suite. It will help in eliminating requirement of documents submission for import and export payments.
201. ▶ Yes Bank received RBI approval to open 2 representative offices in London and Singapore.
202. ▶ e-commerce Firm Flipkart partnered online travel company MakeMyTrip to offer travel services on its platform. Services of MakeMyTrip's other brands, Goibibo and redBus, will be available to Flipkart consumers as part of deal.

**Top**

## **International**

1. ▶ JLL's annual global report 'City Momentum Index' (CMI) 2018 -
  - ▶ Indian cities dominated *short term momentum ranking*, with Hyderabad and Bengaluru are at top two positions. Pune ranked fourth, Kolkata (5th) and Delhi (8th).
2. ▶ North Korea extended its Clocks by 30 Minutes, to synchronize its time zone with that south Korea, which was pulled back 30 minutes 3 years ago. Its a major step towards unification among 2 Koreas looking for peace.

3. ▶ 11 Pacific Rim countries entered into Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership or CP TPP or TPP11 in Santiago (Chile). It is revised version of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) proposed by US, finalized after US withdrew from it.
  - ▶ TPP11 includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.
  - ▶ It will be world's third largest trade bloc after European Union (EU) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). It will come into effect 60 days after 6 of 11 member countries ratify it domestically.
4. ▶ 11th World Hindi Conference (विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलन) will be hosted by Mauritius in Port Lois in August 2018 with theme *Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti*.
5. ▶ 1st Asia Power Index Australia Based Lowy Institute -
  - ▶ Termed as *giant of the future*, India is ranked 4th out of 25 nations in Asia-Pacific region. As per Report, India trails behind in indicators of defence networks and economic relationships.
  - ▶ A country's overall power is its weighted average across eight measures of power - *economic resources, military capability, resilience, future trends, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, defence networks and cultural influence*.
  - ▶ USA, China And Japan are top 3. While Russia is at 5th Place.
6. ▶ 2018 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index (25 Nations) -
  - ▶ Top 5 - USA, Canada, Germany, UK, China.
  - ▶ India is ranked at 11th, down from 8th Position in China.
7. ▶ 2018 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
  - ▶ India ranked 138th (falling 2 positions from 136th in 2017).
  - ▶ Top 5 - Norway (1), Sweden (2), Netherlands (3), Finland (4), Switzerland (5)
  - ▶ North Korea is at Bottom (150th).
  - ▶ Neighbours - Bangladesh (146), Sri Lanka (131), Pakistan (139), Nepal (106)
8. ▶ 44 African countries from total 55 members of African Union (AU) have signed agreement to create African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), one of world's largest free trade blocs, during a summit held in Kigali (Rwanda). AfCFTA will bring together 1.2 billion people with combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than \$2 trillion from Africa.
9. ▶ *Gulf Shield* – 1 military exercise of 23 countries including Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states held in Saudi Arabia. This 1 month exercise is largest military drill in region.
10. ▶ *We Are Sikhs*, A campaign to create awareness of Sikhism and its followers in USA has won a top award for excellence in public relations programming to promote public causes. It won 2018 PRWeek US award in category of Public Cause.
11. ▶ A rare signed photo of M K Gandhi, walking alongside Madan Mohan Malaviya, was auctioned for USD 41806 in USA. It dates back to August - December 1931.
12. ▶ A three-day international conference on "Accessible Tourism" has been held in Nepal,. During this, Nepal launched first accessible trekking trail for differently abled and elders in Pokhara city. Inaugurated trek is a 1.3 kilometers section of the 14 kilometer hiking path in ridge connecting Sarangkot to Naudanda areas.
13. ▶ According to *Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18* by UNESCO -
  - ▶ India accounted for 82 out of 97 instances of Internet shutdown among South Asia between May 2017 and April 2018.
  - ▶ Pakistan witnessed 12 while Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reported just 1 instance each of internet shutdown.
14. ▶ According to *Migration and Development Brief* by World Bank, India retained top position as recipient of remittances with about \$69 billion in 2017. India was followed by China (\$64 billion), Philippines (\$33 billion), Mexico (\$31 billion), Nigeria (\$22 billion) and Egypt (\$20 billion). Global remittance grew 7% to US \$613 billion in 2017.
15. ▶ According to Chinese General Administration of Customs, India-China bilateral trade reached \$84.44 billion last year, a historic high with 18.63% year-on-year growth. This is well above previous high of \$71.18 billion registered in 2016.
16. ▶ According to International Energy Agency (IEA), global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions rose to historic high of 32.5 gigatonnes in 2017. It was due to higher energy demand and slowing of energy efficiency improvements. While, Global energy demand rose by 2.1% in 2017 to 14,050 million tonnes of oil equivalent.
17. ▶ According to Internet Security Threat Report by Symantec, India is third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats (malware / spam / ransomware) (with 5.09% global threats). USA (26.61% global threats) is most vulnerable, followed by China (10.95%) in 2017. India is 2nd most impacted by spam and bots attacks, third most impacted by network attacks, and fourth most impacted by ransomware.
18. ▶ According to Steel Users Federation of India (SUFU), India overtook Japan to become world's second largest producer of crude steel, with China at top.

19. ▶ According to US Treasury Department, India is now 12th largest overseas holder of US government securities, with India's exposure being US \$144.7 billion.
  - ✎ Overall, China is largest holder of US government securities with holdings to tune of \$1.18 trillion, followed by Japan at \$1.06 trillion. Ireland third with \$326.5 billion.
20. ▶ According to global property consultancy Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2018 -
  - ✎ Mumbai ranked 47th on *city wealth index* among 314 cities in world, while Guangzhou (China) tops the list.
21. ▶ According to report *Indian Industry's Inclusive Footprint in South Africa – Doing Business, Doing Good*, released by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) -
  - ✎ 140 Indian companies invested approx \$4 billion in South Africa, creating nearly 18000 direct employment opportunities.
22. ▶ Aditya Puri, managing director of HDFC Bank is only Indian in Barron's top 30 global CEO list 2018, Featuring for fourth consecutive year.
23. ▶ Afghanistan offered to recognise Terror Group Taliban as a legitimate political group in order to end over 16-year-long war.
24. ▶ AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review -
  - ✎ India is named 6th wealthiest country in world, with total wealth of 8,230 billion dollars.
  - ✎ USA is ranked top with total wealth of 62,584 Billion dollars, followed by China with wealth of 24,803 billion dollars and Japan (19,522 billion dollars).
25. ▶ Air India flight (AI 139) became first flight to land at Tel Aviv Airport (Israel), after passing through Saudi Arabia air space. This is first time, Saudi Arabia has allowed a commercial flight to Israel to use its airspace. Saudi Arabia's decision to permit Air India to use its airspace enabled it to take a shorter route, saving 2.10 hours of travel time.
26. ▶ Airports Council International (ACI) named Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport) and Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) for top position among airports handling over 40 million passengers annually, in its annual airport service quality (ASQ) awards. Beijing and Shanghai Pudong (China) have been ranked 2nd.
27. ▶ Airports Council International (ACI) ranked New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport as 16th in world in terms of traffic volumes. Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) ranked as busiest airport in world.
28. ▶ Andhra Pradesh ranks 51st globally in Multidimensional Poverty Index according to a household survey conducted in state, in association with University of Oxford (UK). It is first Indian state to conduct a household survey at state and district level to estimate multidimensional poverty.
29. ▶ Arab Nation Qatar announced \$50 million donation to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). India also increased aid for Palestinian refugees to \$5 million, from \$1.5 Million Initially.
30. ▶ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru temporarily left Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), amid differences over choosing secretary general of the group.
31. ▶ Arms import by India increased by 24% between 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 period as per data by International Peace Research Institute.
  - ✎ India is followed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, China, Australia, Algeria, Iraq, Pakistan and Indonesia as world top importers.
  - ✎ Largest arms suppliers to India are Russia (62%), US (15%) and Israel (11%).
32. ▶ As per Grant Thornton's quarterly global business survey -
  - ✎ India slipped to 6th position globally in business optimism index for first quarter of 2018.
  - ✎ Top five - Austria, Finland, Indonesia, Netherlands and US.
33. ▶ As per Hurun's Global Rich List 2018 -
  - ✎ India has 3rd highest number of Billionaires across world with 131 names (31 added this year). Mukesh Ambani remains India's richest person with net worth of \$26 billion.
  - ✎ China with 819 names and USA with 571 are at top 2 places.
34. ▶ As per a UN Report, Delhi will surpass Tokyo (Japan) as most populous city in world by 2028.
35. ▶ As per a World Bank Report, India's new Indirect Tax System, The goods and services tax (GST) is one of most complex with the second highest tax rate in the world (After Chile), among 115 countries which have a similar indirect tax system. Further, there are several exempted sales and exports are zero-rated, which allows exporters to claim refund for taxes paid on inputs.
36. ▶ Australia abolished its employer-sponsored 457 visa programme which was mainly used by Indians. It has been replaced with a new programme that requires higher English-language proficiency and job skills.
37. ▶ Azerbaijan inaugurated a pipeline at Sangachal Terminal, creating first direct route to transport gas from one of world's largest fields to Europe bypassing Russia. Project is worth USD 40-billion. It consists of 3 linked pipelines that will bring gas from Azerbaijani Shah Deniz 2 field across Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Adriatic Sea to southern Italy.



38. ▶ BHEL commissioned 1st unit of 110 MW of Kishanganga hydroelectric project (HEP) of NHPC in Jammu and Kashmir, Located on Jhelum Tributary Kishanganga. All three units of 340 MW project will generate 1,350 million units (MU) of clean electricity annually.
39. ▶ BHEL signed a Technology Collaboration Agreement (TCA) with South Korea's HLB Power. It is for in-house manufacturing of large size gates and dampers used in coal fired power plants that would be commissioned or retrofitted with high capacity emission control equipment.
40. ▶ BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) will launch Americas Regional Office in Brazil, to increase operational capabilities of NDB in Brazil.
41. ▶ Bangladesh Government ended quota system in government services, that sets aside jobs for some special groups. It has been done after several protests against the same.
42. ▶ Bangladesh's first communication satellite Bangabandhu-1 will be launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A. It will provide wide range of broadcast and communication services throughout Bangladesh. It is built by Thales Alenia Space, a Franco-Italian aerospace manufacturer. It is named after Bangladesh's *Father of the Nation - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*.
43. ▶ Bank of America launched new chatbot named *Erica* that can help customers check balances, remind about bills and answer bank-related questions.
44. ▶ Bilateral trade between India and China through Nathu La border (Sikkim) has resumed, located at 14,200 feet.
45. ▶ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced USD 170 million projects aimed at advancing women's economic empowerment in India, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Projects are focused on advancing gender equality, increasing job opportunities, spreading digital financial inclusion, and supporting agricultural sector and women's support groups.
46. ▶ Bisket Jatra Festival celebrated in Nepal, believed to have started during Malla dynasty and marks beginning of Nepali new year.
47. ▶ Bloomberg Billionaires List 2018 -
  - ▶ Mukesh Ambani ranked 19th Globally, 3rd in Asia and 1st in India with net worth of \$38.3 billion. Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma is ranked 14th, Followed by Tencent Founder Pony Ma (Ma Huateng).
  - ▶ Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is at top (\$126 Billion), Followed by Bill Gates (\$91 B).
48. ▶ Bolivia unveiled its 200 km long flag and 3 metre wide, claimed to be world's biggest flag. It extended between cities La Paz and Oruro. Bolivia is demanding access to Pacific Ocean, which it lost to Chile in a war in the 19th century.
49. ▶ Brazzaville declaration was signed to promote better management and conservation of world's largest tropical peatlands-Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation.
  - ▶ It was signed by Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo and Indonesia during 3rd Partners Meeting of Global Peatlands Initiative held in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo).
  - ▶ Peatlands are wetlands that contain mixture of decomposed organic material, partially submerged in layer of water, lacking oxygen. Their high carbon content makes them uniquely vulnerable to incineration if they are drained. They are globally important carbon store.
50. ▶ Britain's Royal Navy Received its first unmanned autonomous minesweeping system, capable of operating from a land or ship-based control station.
51. ▶ Caribbean Nation Dominican Republic and China established diplomatic relations, amid China's growing influence. With this, Dominican Republic has broken 77-year alliance with Taiwan.
52. ▶ Central Asian Nation Kazakhstan launched a 72-hour-long transit visa free regime for Indian citizens from 17th April 2018 to 31st December 2018.
53. ▶ Central Bank of Argentina raised interest rates by 300 basis points to fight inflationary pressures. Interest rates have been raised from 27.25 to 30.25 %, to prop up its ailing currency from sliding further against US dollar.
54. ▶ China abolished 2 term limit on Presidency, allowing Xi Jinping to remain as country's leader for life.
55. ▶ China has built world's longest cross-sea bridge with length 55 KMs, connecting Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It took 7 years to complete, is six lanes wide and comprises of 4 tunnels and 4 artificial islands. It has cost approx 20 Billion USD.
  - ▶ World's longest bridge is also in china, known as Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge, with 164.7 KM Length.
  - ▶ China also aims to deliver its domestically developed AG600 by 2022, world's largest amphibious aircraft.
56. ▶ China introduced China Science and Technology Cloud (CSTC) to provide scientists with accessible, accurate and secure data services to promote research.
57. ▶ China is constructing world's fastest wind tunnel, to help in development of spacecraft. This 265 meter-long tunnel would be used to test hypersonic aircraft that can travel up to a speed of 30,625 kph.
58. ▶ China launched 2 Beidou-3 MEO satellites (Beidou-30 and Beidou-31) as part of its third and final stage of launching its domestic Beidou (Compass) satellite navigation system. The new Twin satellites are MEO (Medium Earth Orbit) satellites, as third phase of Beidou satellite

navigation system. BeiDou is 2nd generation of Chinese homegrown navigational system seen as rival to US's Global Positioning System (GPS). It comprises total 35 satellites (including 27 MEO (21,500 km orbits), 3 IGSO and 5 GSO satellites).

59. ▶ China launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of atmosphere, including air pollution. It is first China-developed satellite that can monitor air pollution.
60. ▶ China launched a new communication satellite named *APSTAR-6C*. It will offer TV transmission, communication, Internet and multimedia services to customers in Asia-Pacific region.
61. ▶ China proposed construction of the India-Nepal-China Economic Corridor with multi-dimensional connectivity through Himalayas, during Nepalese foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali's Visit to China.
62. ▶ China will build its first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Liaoning by 2025, as part of its plans to achieve weaponry and technical developments for People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy by 2025.
  - ✎ At present, China's navy has 2 aircraft carriers running on conventional oil. French Navy's *Charles de Gaulle* is only non-US aircraft carrier powered by nuclear reactors. USA's Nimitz-class and Ford-class carrier are run by nuclear power.
63. ▶ China will launch a new meteorological satellite called Fengyun-II 09, to enhance its weather forecasting capabilities. It will be last in Fengyun-II series.
64. ▶ China will launch world's longest cross-sea bridge, connecting Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It will be 55km-long and six lanes wide.
65. ▶ China's first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier known only as "Type 001A" started sea trials. Its name is speculated to be *Shandong*, after province of same name. It is approx 315 metres long, with displacement capacity of about 55,000 tonnes (70,000 loaded).
66. ▶ Chinese e-Commerce giant Alibaba acquired Pakistan's Largest e-commerce firm *Daraz.pk* for \$150 Million.
67. ▶ Chinese space startup *OneSpace* launched its OS-X rocket, with a 30 feet long satellite named *Chongqing Liangjiang star*. It is first private Chinese firm to launch a commercial rocket.
68. ▶ Colombia Became first South American Nation to Join North Atlantic Treaty Organization as global partner. NATO reached partnership agreement with Colombia in May 2017, just after Colombia signed peace agreement with communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), ending longest civil conflict in Latin America.
69. ▶ Cyclonic Storm Sagar, the strongest tropical cyclone to ever make landfall in Somalia (East Africa), and first named cyclone of 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season. It traversed entire Gulf of Aden, affected Yemen and made landfall over northwestern Somalia.
70. ▶ Democratic Republic of Congo declared a new outbreak of Ebola in northwestern part, as 9th outbreak of Ebola since its discovery in 1976.
71. ▶ E-Commerce Major Amazon launched its first-ever debit card in North American Nation Mexico.
72. ▶ European Nation France approved making 15 years as legal age of sexual consent.
73. ▶ European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) brought into full effect, clarifying individual rights to personal data collected by companies for targeted advertising and other purposes.
  - ✎ GDPR sets new rules for how companies manage and share personal data. Though rules apply only to citizens of European Union, global nature of internet means that nearly every online service will be affected.
  - ✎ GDPR sets a higher than ever bar for obtaining personal data on the internet, higher seen before. Rules will also force companies that suffer data breaches to disclose them within 72 hours.
74. ▶ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) signed line of credit (LoC) agreement with Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) to provide US \$500 million credit facility to fund various development projects in 15-member countries of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region in western-south Africa.
  - ✎ ECOWAS is regional group of 15 West African countries. It was founded in May 1975, with signing of Treaty of Lagos. It aims to promote economic integration in all fields of activity of constituting countries.
75. ▶ Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg apologised for recent data breach controversy related to Data analytics firm *Cambridge Analytica*.
  - ✎ Cambridge Analytica (CA) is 2013 established data analytics firm, under its British parent company Strategic Communications Laboratories (SCL) Group. Main objective of CA is to come up with political campaigns and reach out to potential voters by combining data from multiple sources.
  - ✎ CA alleged assisted in Donald Trump's victory in US Presidential Elections 2016, by using unethically gathered data to manipulate voter behaviour. CA also allegedly worked with the Leave EU camp during Britain's exit from the European Union (Brexit).
  - ✎ Facebook controversy -
    - ✎ One of CA co-founders, Christopher Wylie stated that CA exploited Facebook to harvest millions of people's profiles without their permission and used information to create a psychological profile of users as well as their friends. This was then used for targeted political advertising during UK's Brexit referendum as well as during the 2016 US presidential elections.

## How -

- Facebook lets app developers seek permissions from users to use their personal data to help develop the app. CA reportedly got private data from a Cambridge researcher - Aleksandr Kogan, who created an app called 'thisisyourdigitallife' to offer personality predictions online. Though Kogan got access to the data, it was only meant to be used by him for developing the app and not be shared with others. However, he allegedly sold the data to the CA.

## Issues related to India -






- CA reportedly planned expanding its services to other nations' electoral processes, especially India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as they approach elections.
  - CA reportedly reached out to the two main political parties of the nation for a possible collaboration for the upcoming 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
  - Recently, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad delivered a sharp warning to Facebook stating that Government would take stringent action including summoning its CEO Mark Zuckerberg to India, in case of any data theft of Indians.
  - Meanwhile, both ruling party and main opposition party of India reportedly accused each other of having links with Cambridge Analytica and engaging the firm in past elections.
76. ▶ Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Bill Gates' Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnered to accelerate breakthroughs in education. It will focus on math, writing, and skills that correspond with things like memory and self-control.
77. ▶ Finnish Communication Giant Nokia acquired California (USA) based Internet of Things (IoT) start up *SpaceTime Insight*.
78. ▶ For first time in nation's history, Saudi Arabia's women participated in an all-female marathon, held in al-Ahsa. Over 1500 women participated in event.
79. ▶ For the first time, Nepal Rastra Bank (Nepal's Central Bank) permitted domestic commercial banks to borrow funds from foreign banks and financial institutions, aiming to resolve liquidity crunch prevailing in Nepal's banking system since past few months. Banks of Nepal can now borrow loans up to 25 % of their core capital for 1 - 5 years.
80. ▶ Forbes' *World's Most Powerful People 2018* List (75 People) -
- Xi Jinping (China's President) is at top for first time ever.
  - Top 5 - Chinese President XI Jinping (1), Russian President Vladimir Putin (2), US President Donald Trump (3), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (4), Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos (5).
  - 2 Indians named in list - PM Modi (9th) and Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani (32nd).
81. ▶ Forbes' billionaires List 2018 -
- Top 5 -
  - Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (\$110 Billion)
  - Microsoft founder Bill Gates (\$90 billion),
  - Warren Buffet (\$84 billion)
  - Bernard Arnault and family (\$72 billion)
  - Facebook founder-CEO Mark Zuckerberg (\$71 billion)
  - India's Mukesh Ambani (chairman of Reliance Industries) is 19th on list with worth of \$40.1 billion. Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma (aged 39 years) is youngest Indian billionaire with net worth of \$1.7 billion.
82. ▶ France announced to contribute 61.9 million dollars toward urgent humanitarian aid for Syria.
83. ▶ Global Firepower index 2017 (133 Nations) -
- India's military strength is ranked 4th, after USA, Russia and China. France is ranked 5th. Pakistan is ranked 13th.
84. ▶ Global Flight Pricing Report by Melbourne-based Rome2rio Low-cost carriers IndiGo & Air India among top 5 cheapest airlines in world in providing international connectivity, ranked 2nd and 5th position. Air Asia X is named as cheapest airline in world.
85. ▶ Global Military Expenditure Report 2017 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -
- India surpassed France to become 5th largest military spender.
  - Top five (Amount in Billion USD) - US (610), China (228), Saudi Arabia (69.4), Russia (66.3) and India (63.9).
86. ▶ Global Urban Air Pollution database released by World Health Organisation (WHO) -
- 14 Indian cities named in list of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016. These cities include Delhi, Varanasi, Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Patna, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur.
87. ▶ Global cyber security provider Kaspersky stated that India ranks 33rd worldwide in facing web-borne threats.
88. ▶ Google Launched its *Home* and *Mini Bluetooth speakers* in India priced at INR 9999 at 4499 Respectively. Google Home and Home Mini can be activated by saying 'Ok Google' and can answer user's general questions.

89. ▶ Google launched Android Things (codenamed Brillo), a variant of Android operating system for Internet of Things (IoT) devices, aiming to enable IoT machines developers to be built faster, cheaper and more secure.
- ▶ *Android Things* is aimed to be used with low-power and memory constrained Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which are usually built from different microcontroller unit (MCU) platforms.
90. ▶ Greece's first space agency named *Hellenic Space Agency* has been officially launched. It is expected to benefit the country in various sectors viz. telecommunications, defense, medical applications, environmental monitoring, agriculture, fire prevention and control.
91. ▶ Guatemala (Central America) and Paraguay (South America) moved their Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently moved its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
92. ▶ Healthcare Access and Quality Index Data for 195 countries from Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 by Lancet -
- ▶ India ranked 145th.
  - ▶ Top five - Iceland (1), Norway (2), Netherlands (3), Luxembourg (4), Finland and Australia (5th rank each)
  - ▶ Countries with lowest scores are Central African Republic (195), Somalia (194), Guinea-Bissau (193), Chad (192), and Afghanistan (191).
  - ▶ China (48th), Sri Lanka (71st), Bangladesh (133rd), Nepal (149th), Pakistan (154th).
93. ▶ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) and Indian Potash Ltd (IPL) acquired 37 % stake in JPMC (Jordan Phosphate Mines Company), Jordan's largest mining and chemical firm, for INR 900 crores.
94. ▶ IMD World Competitiveness Rankings (63 countries) -
- ▶ India rose one place to 44th. China is ranked 13th.
  - ▶ Top 5 - US (1), Hong Kong (2), Singapore (3), Netherlands (4), Switzerland (5).
95. ▶ IT firm Cognizant acquired Hedera Consulting, a Belgium-based business advisory and data analytics services company.
96. ▶ Index of Economic Freedom 2018 by Heritage Foundation -
- ▶ India ranked 130th out of 186 economies.
  - ▶ Top 5 - Hong Kong (1), Singapore (2), New Zealand (3), Switzerland (4), Australia (5)
  - ▶ Bottom 5 - North Korea (180), Venezuela (179), Cuba (178), Congo (177), Eritrea (176)
  - ▶ Neighbours - Bangladesh (128), Pakistan (131), Nepal (133), Sri Lanka (111)
97. ▶ India and Bangladesh signed agreement to set up a 129.5 km oil pipeline with capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum. Pipeline will be built from Siliguri Marketing Terminal of Numaligarah Refinery Ltd (NRL) in India to Parbaripur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). Other MoUs Included -
- ▶ Cooperation between India's Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Betar.
  - ▶ Installation of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Urdu Chair in Dhaka University.
  - ▶ Set up language labs in 500 schools in Bangladesh.
  - ▶ Trial run of first container train between India and Bangladesh flagged off from Kolkata.
98. ▶ India and Eritrea (East Africa) signed MoU on Foreign Office Consultations.
99. ▶ India and European Union (EU) signed cooperation agreement related to sharing of earth observation satellite data. Under this, EU will provide India with free, full and open access to data from Copernicus Sentinel family of satellites using high bandwidth connections from data hub to data hub. India will provide Copernicus programme and its participating states with free, full and open access to data from ISRO's earth observation satellites.
- ▶ This comprises data from land, ocean and atmospheric series of ISRO's civilian satellites (Oceansat-2, Scatsat-1, Megha-Tropiques, SARAL, INSAT-3D, INSAT-3DR) with exception of commercial high-resolution satellites data.
100. ▶ India and Finland signed agreement on tax dispute with Nokia under Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) system. This involves payment of Rs 1,600 crore, a sum that was deposited with government by Nokia in March 2018. This paves way for the sale of Nokia's Chennai (Sriperumbudu) plant, which has been shuttered since November 2014.
101. ▶ India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries.
102. ▶ India and World Expo 2020 signed participants contract for India's pavilion in World Expo 2020 (Dubai), held once in 5 years.
103. ▶ India became 3rd largest electricity producer, with Electricity production of 1,003.525 Billion Unit between April 2017 – January 2018, as per data by India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) under commerce ministry. Top 3 Producers of Electricity are - China, USA and India.
104. ▶ India dragged USA to World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Mechanism over imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium.
- ▶ In March 2018, USA imposed heavy import tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items, sparking fears of global trade war. USA levied 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico.

105. ▶ India emerged as top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within Commonwealth and is 2nd most lucrative source of investment within 53-member Commonwealth after UK.
106. ▶ India for first time started importing Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) from USA, under 20-year Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) with USA's natural gas exporter Cheniere Energy signed in December 2011. Under it, GAIL will purchase around 3.5 Million Tonne of LNG per year from Sabine Pass.
107. ▶ India for the first time agreed for most revered Buddhist relics from Sarnath to be taken to Sri Lanka for public exposition on occasion of Vesak festival. This is second time that India has taken initiative to exhibit sacred relics of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka, after first time in 2012.
108. ▶ India is named second fastest growing country for passenger traffic based on traffic forecasts during 2017-40 by Airports Council International (ACI), after Vietnam 8.5 % growth rate. India has 7.5 % and Iran has 7.3 % Passenger Growth Rate. Recently, ACI ranked Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi at 16th position in the twenty busiest airports in world list.
109. ▶ India is ranked 10th on a new Commonwealth Innovation Index, topped by UK, Singapore and Canada. Index was launched as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub on the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London (UK). Theme of CHOGM 2018 *Towards a Common Future*. India was represented by PM Narendra Modi.
  - ▶ Alongside, Malaria Summit was also held in London (United Kingdom), organized by non-profit organisation Malaria No More in conjunction AND Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
  - ▶ 53 Commonwealth Nations adapted Commonwealth Cyber Declaration at summit, to take action on cybersecurity by 2020. It also aims to tackle criminal groups and hostile state actors who pose a global threat to cybersecurity.
  - ▶ Commonwealth Nations also agreed for Britain's Prince Charles succeeding his mother Queen Elizabeth II as Head of Commonwealth.
  - ▶ India and 3 other countries (Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Malta) participated creating in USD 5 million *Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility* which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve sustainable development goals. Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of Baroda, are facility managers for this fund. 31 Commonwealth nations classified as small states can avail this facility. Before it is available to all such nations, it will be rolled out on pilot basis in Bahamas, Botswana, Brunei, Dominica, Fiji, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles.
110. ▶ India named 3rd largest solar market in world in 2017 behind China and USA, in a Mercom Communications report. India had set up record 9.6 GW of solar installations in 2017, more than double 4.3 GW installed in 2016.
111. ▶ India overtook Germany to become fourth largest automobile market, growing its Automobile by 9.5%. China topped the list followed by USA and Japan.
112. ▶ India received its first Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) cargo from United States (US) under long-term supply deal, on board GAIL's LNG ship *Meridian Spirit*.
113. ▶ India released grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal. India also released 33.10 Crore rupees to Nepal towards cost of two road packages of Birgunj-Thori Road being implemented under Postal Highway Projects.
114. ▶ India replaced Vietnam to become second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017. Currently, China stands at number one in mobile production around the world.
115. ▶ India sent Bangladesh its second relief consignment under Operation Insaniyat, on board INS Airavat, to help displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar into Bangladesh following military crackdown in violence-hit Rakhine state.
116. ▶ India signed agreement with UN to build homes 50000 Houses for Nepal's April 2015 earthquake quake victims. India will give USD 8.41 million to UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services) and USD 7.41 Million to the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) to build 50000 homes by this agreement.
117. ▶ India will become 69th member of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Membership process includes purchase of shares by India at an estimated cost of around 1 million euros.
118. ▶ India won 6 elections to United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) bodies, and won places on executive boards of four UN bodies.
  - ▶ India won elections to Executive Boards of UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UN-Women. India will serve three-year terms from January 2019 on those executive boards.
  - ▶ India was elected on UN Commission on Population and Development, Social Development, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
119. ▶ India's BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) declared 8.3 km stretch of Indo-Bangladesh border as first 'crime-free zone', stretching Gunarmath and Kalyani Border Out Posts (BOPs) in India and Puthkhali and Daulatpur BOPs in Bangladesh. Bangladesh and India shared 4156 km long international border.



120. ▶ India, Bangladesh and Russia signed MoU for cooperation in construction of 2\*1200 MWs Capacity Rooppur nuclear power plant near Dhaka (Bangladesh). It is first initiative under India-Russia nuclear deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. It will India's first atomic energy venture abroad and Bangladesh's first atomic energy project.
121. ▶ India, China and other Asian countries will Coordinate to raise voice against Asian premium charged by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- ▶ Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries. They charge approx 10% extra from Asian Nations as Asian Premium and they give 10% discount to western Nations.
  - ▶ Its a concern for India as for Oil, India is largely dependent on Imports. India sources about 86% of crude oil, 75% of natural gas and 95% of LPG from OPEC member nations.
  - ▶ OPEC is an organization of 14 oil-exporting developing nations. Its headquarters are in Vienna (Austria) and Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia (de facto leader of OPEC), Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Algeria, Angola, Libya, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, Ecuador and Venezuela. OPEC members account 43% of global oil production and 73% of world's oil reserves.
122. ▶ India, Netherlands and Sweden launched first-of-its-kind joint research programme on HIV/AIDS, aimed at harnessing complementary research strengths and diverse expertise of 3 nations to catalyze development of better tools to address epidemic of HIV.
123. ▶ India-United Kingdom (UK) Joint Team won Newton-Bhabha Fund for project on Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin. Project is aimed to assess problem of arsenic poisoning and to understand aggravation such situation in next 25 to 30 years and its influence on groundwater management practices and suggest water remedial technologies accordingly, conducted from 3 sites – Bijnor and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Nadia in West Bengal.
- ▶ Newton Bhabha Fund is provided by the British Council and aims to bring together UK and Indian scientific research and innovation sectors to find joint solutions to the challenges facing India in economic development and social welfare.
124. ▶ Indian Consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL and Saudi Aramco signed an MOU to jointly develop an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex called Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL) in Maharashtra.
- ▶ It will be capable of processing 1.2 million barrels of crude oil per day (60 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA)). Project cost is estimated at INR 3 lakh crores (USD 44 billion).
125. ▶ Indian Railways handed over eighteen 1350 HP AC/DC diesel electric locomotives to Myanmar Railways, to develop cordial relations with neighboring Nation.
126. ▶ Indian Steel Association (ISA) state that USA's move to levy steep tariff on steel imports may hit India's domestic steel market. Recently, USA proposed to impose tariffs of 25% on steel imports and 10% on imported aluminium to protect domestic steel industry from cheap imports.
127. ▶ India's Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) bagged order for executing largest hydro power project in Nepal, The 900 Megawatt Arun-3 hydro project placed by SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC). Order is worth INR 536 Crores.
128. ▶ India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) established 2nd Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in Guiyang (China), as India's second IT corridor in China (1st in Dalian) to provide Indian IT firms access to Chinese software market.
129. ▶ Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, named *Industrial and Commercial Bank Credit Suisse India Market Fund* with over \$3.6 trillion in assets (largest in world ).
- ▶ It will invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and US that are based on Indian market. It will invest in future of Indian economy and track distribution of industrial structure across Indian market.
  - ▶ This fund opens way for Chinese investors and provided good tool for low-threshold investment in India. It is also regarded as significant to boost investments in India.
130. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) signed Host Country Agreement here, to ISA a juridical personality and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose off movable and immovable properties. Under this, ISA shall have such privileges, applicable tax concessions and immunities as are necessary for ISA's Headquarter to independently discharge its function..
- ▶ ISA is headquartered in Gugugra (Haryana) with Upendra Tripathy as Interim Director General.
131. ▶ Investment Firm SoftBank signed \$930-million deal with China's energy conglomerate Golden Concord (GCL) to produce and sell solar equipment in India. GCL will have 40% stake in joint venture. The project will have a 4 gigawatt-capacity and will produce solar ingots, silicon wafers, batteries, and components.
132. ▶ Iran banned use all cryptocurrencies including bitcoin by its banks and financial institutions. Iran Govt stated that it was necessary since cryptocurrencies can be turned into a means for money-laundering and financing terrorism.
133. ▶ Iran, Turkey and Russia held a special Meet in Ankara (Turkey), aiming to speed peace process for Syria and bolster their influence in the country.

134. ▶ Iraq overtook Saudi Arabia as India's top crude oil supplier by supplying 38.9 million tonnes (MT) crude oil in the current financial year. India is 80% dependent on imports to meet its oil needs.
135. ▶ Ireland People voted to end *abortion ban*, hailed as *a quiet revolution* in a very socially conservative country. Government proposed that law should be changed to allow unrestricted access to abortions up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.
136. ▶ Israel withdrawn its bid for a non-permanent seat at UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2019-2020 term.  
 UNSC has 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members who are elected for a two-year term.
137. ▶ Japan Based Conglomerate Sony Corporation acquired London Based EMI Music Publishing, in a USD 1.9-billion deal. EMI is second-largest music publishing company by revenue. It will add over 2.1 million songs to Sony's huge list, which already owns 2.3 million copyrights.
138. ▶ Japan activated Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB), its first marine unit since World War 2. In Japan's Constitution that was formed after WW 2, it renounced the right to wage war.
139. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank overtook SBI to become India's second-most-valued Bank in terms of market capitalisation. KMB's Market cap rose to 2.23 Lakh Crores. HDFC Remains at top with 5.03 Lakh Crores Market Cap. Bandhan Bank debuted in top 50 Indian Brands with 64000 Crores Market Cap.
140. ▶ Kuwait presented draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution, proposing to set up an international protection mission for Palestinians, after recent killing of palestinians amid their anti Israel protests at Gaza Strip.
141. ▶ Maharashtra government signed MoU with British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation. British Council will expand its existing work in state, where it has trained over 100000 teachers benefitting around five million learners.
142. ▶ Malaysia Government announced abolishing Goods and Services Tax (GST) by reducing it to 0%. New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had promised to abolish 6% GST levy before his electoral victory.
143. ▶ Malaysian Government proposed 10 years in jail and Gefty fines for publishers of fake news. Under Anti-Fake News Bill, anyone who publishes fake news could face fines of up to 500000 ringgit (USD 128140), up to 10 years in jail, or both.
144. ▶ Maldives Parliament approved anti-defection bill which states that MPs elected on political party tickets will lose their seat if they leave their party, get expelled, or change parties.
145. ▶ Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE) 2018 -  
 India ranked 52 among 57 countries.  
 Ghana (46.4 %) ranks first in world with highest number of women business owners, followed by Russia (34.6 %), Uganda (33.8 %), New Zealand (33 %) and Australia (32.1 %).
146. ▶ Microsoft surpassed Google's parent company Alphabet in market capitalisation for first time in 3 years, becoming 3rd most valuable firm (at \$753 billion) after Apple (\$924 billion) and Amazon (\$783 billion).
147. ▶ Ministry of Communications launched Cool EMS Service with Japan, as a one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations. Initially available in Delhi only.
148. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will tie up with US and Finland to develop new pollution-forecast system that will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at greater resolution.  
 Currently, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), run out of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, serves as apex forecaster of pollution trends in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad. It generates likely air quality profile for a day in advance, for these cities.
149. ▶ Mumbai is named 16th among top 20 costliest cities in world, according to Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018, based on 4 major indicators - wealth, investments, lifestyle and future. Top 3 Wealthiest Cities - Guangzhou (China), Hong Kong (China), New York (USA).
150. ▶ Myanmar deferred signing agreement with India to streamline free movement of people within 16 km along the open border between two countries, citing domestic compulsions and asked for more time for the agreement to be sealed.  
 India and Myanmar share 1643 km unfenced border along Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
151. ▶ Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's human rights award conferred by US Holocaust Memorial Museum has been taken back, which they had presented to her in 2012. It was done after ongoing violence against Rohingya Muslim minority community in Rakhine state of Myanmar.
152. ▶ NASA launched GOES-S (*Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite*), an advanced weather satellite meant to safeguard Western USA, by forecasting natural calamities such as hurricanes, wildfires, floods etc. GOES-S will not only keep a watch over West Coast of USA, Alaska and Hawaii, but also over Mexico and Central America.
153. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) signed an agreement with Cab Aggregator Uber to explore Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas. UAM is a safe system for air vehicles, to move passengers and cargo within a city.

154. ▶ National Assembly of France passed a controversial immigration law. While government defended the bill as balanced, it has been criticised by rightwingers for being too soft and by leftwingers for being repressive. New law aims for better-controlled immigration, as it reduces waiting time for asylum applications by almost half to six months and makes it easier to deport those turned down as "economic" migrants.
155. ▶ National Gallery of Modern Art (New Delhi) organized an exhibition titled *To the End of Land*, in collaboration with Embassy of Israel in India, on occasion of 25 years of diplomatic relations with Israel.
156. ▶ National Highways Authority of India took its First International assignment as it signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar, to be completed in 3 years.
157. ▶ Neighbouring Nation Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency for 10 days, to curb heightening violence targeting Muslim minority, mainly in Kandy.
158. ▶ New Delhi ranked 22nd globally and 8th in Asia in TripAdvisor's top 25 travellers choice of destinations list 2018, topped by Paris (France). It is followed by London (UK), Rome (Italy), Bali (Indonesia), Crete (Greece).
159. ▶ New Zealand Govt. banned all new offshore oil exploration permits as a part of Government's plan to transition towards a carbon-neutral future. Note that existing permits cover an area of 100000 sq km and some still have decades left on their exploration rights.
160. ▶ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared that his nation would stop its nuclear tests and intercontinental missile launches and will shut down its atomic test site. This brings relief to global community as North Korea has been continuously doing Nuclear tests and aggressively enhancing its nuclear capabilities over past few years.
  - ▶ In a historic first, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un crossed border that separates 2 Koreas at demilitarized zone (DMZ) to enter South Korea, becoming first North Korean leader to step into South Korean territory since 1953.
161. ▶ Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Electricite de France (EDF) of France signed an Industrial Way Forward Agreement for implementation of six nuclear power reactor units at Jaitapur (Maharashtra) with a total capacity of about 10000 MW. Evolutionary Pressurized Reactors (EPRs) are evolutionary reactors, whose design has evolved from "KONVOI" and "N4" reactors are operational in Germany and France respectively for over 20 years.
162. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd signed MoU with IDRO Oil (a subsidiary of state-run Iranian Development and Renovation Organisation) for developing Susangerd field in Iran. OVL and IDRO Oil will jointly bid for a USD 1 billion contract for development of Susangerd oilfield in southern Iran.
163. ▶ Oklahoma will become first US State to use Nitrogen Gas for executions. Nitrogen is an odourless and tasteless gas that makes up about 78 % of air that humans breathe. However, it causes death when inhaled without any oxygen.
164. ▶ Pacific Ocean Nation Marshall Islands will become first country to recognize cryptocurrency as its legal tender and adopt transparent crypto monetary system. Its Parliament passed law to create a digital currency called *Sovereign* (symbol SOV) to raise cash and boost economy. It will be implemented with Israeli fintech startup Neema.
  - ▶ Initially, 24 million SOVs will be circulated and will be backed by Govt as a legal tender in country. SOV will be different from other cryptocurrencies because it will be officially recognized by law as legal tender and effectively backed by government.
165. ▶ Pakistan hosted its first ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) legal experts meeting in Islamabad.
166. ▶ Pakistan test fired Babur Weapon System-1 (B), enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile with range of 700 KMs.
167. ▶ Pakistan's Parliament passed a bill granting fundamental rights to transgenders and outlawing discrimination against them.
168. ▶ Palestine submitted instrument of accession to Chemical Weapons Convention to European Union (EU), world's chemical weapons watchdog.
169. ▶ Philippines formally Withdrawn from Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), mentioning that ICC was a righteous stand against those who politicise and weaponise human rights.
170. ▶ Qatar approved a draft law on regulating ownership and use of properties by foreigners. It rules that non-Qataris might own and use properties under specific conditions, applicable to land space including buildings and residential units, detachment units in residential complexes.
  - ▶ In Aug 2017, Qatar became first Arab Nation to offer permanent residency to foreigners.
171. ▶ Qatar banned products from United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt; To protect safety of consumers by stopping trafficking of goods. These 4 nations has cut all diplomatic relations with Qatar amid suspected terror financing by Qatar.
172. ▶ Qatar introduced national service for women for first time. Women aged over 18 will now be able to volunteer for national service under law, men will have to serve for a year instead of three months.
173. ▶ Quality of Living survey 2018 by Mercer -
  - ▶ Austria's capital city Vienna has been rated world's most liveable city for 9th consecutive year.

- ▶ Top 3 - Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland), Auckland (New Zealand) AND Germany's Munich tied for third place.
  - ▶ Hyderabad and Pune have been rated India's most liveable cities as they have tied for 142nd place.
  - ▶ Iraq's capital Baghdad is rated least liveable city for the tenth consecutive year.
174. ▶ Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, Human rights lawyer Indira Jaising and Architect Balkrishna Doshi are named by Fortune magazine as World's Greatest Leaders of 2018, at 24th, 20th and 43rd places respectively.
175. ▶ Renowned Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma's untitled painting of Tilottama was sold for \$795,000 (around Rs 5 crore) at Sotheby's Modern and Contemporary South Asian art auction in New York.
176. ▶ Report by global startup ecosystem map Startupblink -
- ▶ India is ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017.
  - ▶ Top 5 - United States (1st), United Kingdom (2nd), Canada (3rd), Israel (4th) and Germany (5th).
  - ▶ In Asia - Singapore (10th), China (12th), South Korea (17th), Japan (20th).
  - ▶ In Africa - South Africa (38th), Kenya (53rd), Egypt (54th), and Nigeria (57th).
177. ▶ Researchers from Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Peking University announced that Chinese civilization was born 5800 years ago and got matured 3800 years ago., after 15 years of state-funded work. First civilisation emerged in areas around Yellow, Yangtze and Western Liao rivers.
178. ▶ Russia launched world's First floating nuclear power unit into Baltic Sea, with 70-megawatt Capacity, named Akademik Lomonosov.
179. ▶ Russia successfully test fired its latest nuclear Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) RS-28 Sarmat, with Speed over Mach 20 (20 times speed of light) and Operational range over 11000 kilometres. RS-28 Sarmat is a heavy liquid-propellant ICBM capable of carrying nuclear charges. It aims to replace R-36M2 Voyevoda ICBM, which is Russia's only Strategic Missile Force since 1988. Pakistan Navy also test fired indigenously developed Submarine Launched version of Cruise Missile (SLCM) *BABUR*, with range under 500 KMs.
180. ▶ Russia tested hypersonic missile named *Kinzhal*, said to travel at 10 times speed of sound and have a range of 2,000 km.
181. ▶ SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System) platform expanded its GPI (Global Payment Innovation) Tracker system to help banks track their global transactions and keep full vigil on payments activity. From November 2018, GPI Tracker system will be included in all payment instructions carried between all 11,000 customers on SWIFT at all times. It will extend transparency and drive more banks to join service to make GPI new normal in cross-border payments.
- ▶ SWIFT GPI was launched in May 2017 to help banks to track their global transactions at all times, keeping full vigil on payments activity. It accounts for 10% of cross border payment traffic on SWIFT network.
  - ▶ SWIFT is global financial messaging service that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in secure, standardized and reliable environment.
182. ▶ Saudi Arabia approved national policy of its atomic energy programme, as it prepares to award contracts for its first nuclear power plants. Policy insists on limiting nuclear activities to peaceful purposes and calls for enhanced safety measures as well as use of best practices for radioactive waste management.
183. ▶ Saudi Arabia opened its first public movie theatre, after over 35 years of prohibition for religious reasons. A special screening of Marvel superhero film 'Black Panther' was held in Riyadh.
184. ▶ Scientists from Australian Institute of Marine Biology have developed an ultra-fine biodegradable film, some 50000 times thinner than a human hair, to prevent coral bleaching, that had spread across the Great Barrier Reef in Australia in 2016 and 2017. Shield has been designed to sit on the surface of the water above the corals rather than directly on corals to provide an effective barrier against sun.
185. ▶ Scotland become first country to introduce a minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Alcoholic products in Scotland will cost a minimum of 50 pence per unit.
186. ▶ Seychelles' govt. refused to ratify a deal signed with India to build military infrastructure on its Assumption Island, signed in 2015 during Indian PM Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles.
187. ▶ Singapore and China signed MOU to promote collaboration between companies from both countries in third-party markets along China's ambitious Belt and Road routes.
- ▶ Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) BRI is China's ambitious development strategy that aims to boost its connectivity and trade that will that will connect Asia, Africa, Middle East and Europe. It was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. It comprises two components viz. the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.
188. ▶ Singapore's Changi Airport is named world's best airport for 6th consecutive year by consultancy firm Skytrax.
- ▶ Incheon International Airport in South Korea and Haneda Airport in Japan were placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.
  - ▶ Mumbai airport (Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport) is ranked 63rd, Bangalore (Kempegowda Airport) and Delhi (Indira Gandhi Airport) are at 64th and 66th place respectively.

189. ▶ Soft Drinks Industry Levy (also known as soft drinks sugar tax / sin tax / sugar tax) came into force in United Kingdom as part of government's plan to combat obesity and sugar related disease. Drinks containing 5 grams of sugar per 100ml taxed are taxed at 18 pence per litre, and those with more than 5 grams per 100ml taxed at 24 pence per litre.
190. ▶ South Korean pop group BTS won online reader's poll for TIME 'Person of the Year 2018'. South Korean President Moon Jae-in finished 2nd with 5% votes, followed by former US President Barack Obama with 3% votes.
191. ▶ Southeastern Australian state New South Wales (NSW) announced USD 1.58 billion partnership with India to enhance Indian startup ecosystem, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors.
192. ▶ Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch officially changed name of his country to *Kingdom of eSwatini*. Its a Swazi language name that stands for 'place of the Swazi'.
193. ▶ Swedish Academy, That organizes Nobel Prize in Literature announced that, Nobel Prize in literature will not be awarded this year due to sex-abuse allegations and other issues. Swedish Academy has been in stress due to #MeToo campaign since November 2017. Academy has been alleged of sexual misconduct by husband of one of its members.
194. ▶ Syria returned to France Légion d'honneur (France's Highest Civilian Honour) presented to its President Bashar al-Assad. Syria stated that it has been done as France is a PRO-USA Nation.
195. ▶ Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC) launched its office at New Delhi, to promote trade between India and Taiwan. It will serve as a single venue that combines consulting service on trade-related issues, trading partners, suppliers, and markets for international business.
196. ▶ Technology Firm Google acquired US-based Tenor, a GIF platform for Android, iOS, and desktop. Tenor's GIF-searching functionality will be integrated into Google Images and Gboard, company's virtual keyboard.
197. ▶ Turkey launched construction of its first-ever nuclear power plant in Mersin region, with support from Russia. Cost of power plant would be around 20 billion dollars and will meet 10 % power requirements of Turkey.
198. ▶ UK-based data analytics company Cambridge Analytica announced to shut down its operations, after being caught in a massive data-harvesting scandal took away all of its customers. Approx 2 months ago, it was revealed that CA had illegally harvested data of over 87 million Facebook users and used it to manipulate voter behavior in 2016 US Presidential elections.
199. ▶ UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched UN Road Safety Trust Fund to improve road safety worldwide. The fund has potential to galvanise global efforts to address road safety situation, building on progress made and experience gained over Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. It will serve as catalyst for progress towards road safety targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
200. ▶ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in New York to review commitments of 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Considering effects of climate spreading all over the world. Earlier, Guterres appointed Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action.
201. ▶ US Department of Treasury included India in monitoring list of its major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies. This list identifies countries that are trying to artificially manage value of their currency to gain trade advantage, by keeping exchange rate low to promote cheaper exports. India is 6th addition to this watch list after China, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Switzerland.
202. ▶ US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to create a *faith-based* initiative, which would recognize vital role of faith in American life. It would ensure that faith-based organizations have equal access to government funding and equal right to exercise their beliefs.
203. ▶ US state California's economy surpassed UK to become world's fifth largest, With GDP of \$2.7 trillion, with UK and India as Next. California is only behind USA, China, Japan and Germany.
204. ▶ US state of New Jersey declared April as 'Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month' as part of its effort to promote awareness of Sikhism.
205. ▶ USA Aerospace Firm *Lockheed Martin* announced setting up of F-16 jet production unit in India, under *Make in India* initiative.
206. ▶ USA Govt. cancelled NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) programme, amid budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget. NASA's CMS Programme costing \$10 million per year was meant to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.
207. ▶ USA Prez Donald Trump declared dead the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)* program, as it protected immigrants brought to nation illegally as children.
208. ▶ USA Supreme Court restricted deportation of immigrant felons (अपराधी) by ruling that US Immigration and Nationality Act requiring deportation of immigrants convicted of certain crimes of violence is unconstitutionally vague.
209. ▶ USA Trade Representative (USTR) again placed India on 'Priority Watch List' in its annual Special 301 Report on state of intellectual property protection, along with 11 Other Nations.



- ✎ This Report identifies US trading partners that do not effectively protect IP rights or deny market access to its innovators that rely on protection of their IP rights.
  - ✎ India remains one of world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property, as India's enforcement action and policies are insufficient to curb problem.
  - ✎ Report slammed Health Ministry of India for creating uncertainty in pharmaceutical market by demanding that pharmaceutical companies provide details of how they were using granted patents.
210. ▶ USA and Israeli forces held *Juniper Cobra 2018* Joint military drill.
  211. ▶ USA and Philippine Armies held their Joint annual military exercise *Balikatan*.
  212. ▶ USA and South Korea began their joint military training exercise named 'Foil Eagle'.
  213. ▶ USA banned use of Venezuelan cryptocurrency (Petro) by its Citizens, stating that its introduction is intended to skirt US sanctions.
  214. ▶ USA based software Firm Adobe acquired Magento for USD 1.68 billion. Magento works in B2B and B2C context and will help Adobe to compete with salesforce and provide functionality in e-commerce space.
  215. ▶ USA challenged China at World Trade Organisation (WTO) over intellectual property breaches, alleging China of denying foreign patent holders (including US companies), basic patent rights that prevent Chinese entity from using technology after a licensing contract ends. US also accused China of violating WTO norms by imposing discriminatory contract terms against imported foreign technology.
  216. ▶ USA pulled out of an international nuclear deal with Iran signed in 2015 by USA and 5 other Powers (UK, Russia, France, China, Germany and European Union).
    - ✎ This could raise risk of conflict in Middle East, upset America's European allies and bring uncertainty to global oil supplies.
    - ✎ The deal eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for the country limiting its nuclear programme, seen by many as a way to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb.
    - ✎ USA Prez Trump complained that the agreement, does not address Iran's ballistic missile programme, its nuclear activities and nor its role in conflicts in Yemen and Syria. It did not prevent Iran from cheating and continuing to pursue nuclear weapons, so it needs to be vanished and Tough Economic Sanctions are being put back on Iran.
  217. ▶ USA renamed its oldest and largest strategically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). It is responsible for all US military activity in greater Pacific region. It has about 375,000 civilian and military personnel assigned, which also includes India. Renamed INDOPACOM will now extend its reach from Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean Region.
  218. ▶ USA withdrawn invitation to Chinese navy to participate in 2018 Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise, amid China's continued illegal militarisation of islands in disputed South China Sea. RIMPAC 2019 is 26th edition of this exercise. RIMPAC is world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (USA).
  219. ▶ USA's Stanford University will assist Uttar Pradesh Government to combat chronic disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
  220. ▶ USA, France and Britain launched military operation against Syria, in response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's chemical attack that killed over 60 people last week.
  221. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted a new system of entry visas, under which it will issue long-term residency visas for up to 10 years to international investors and 'exceptional talents' including professionals and students. It will attract investors and increase economic competitiveness globally. UAE also allowed foreign investors to own 100% of UAE-based businesses by end of 2018, up from 49% cap currently.
  222. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded joint military exercise *Desert Tiger 5*, in Dubai (UAE).
  223. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) approved law on Equal Wages and Salaries for men and women, to provide women with equal opportunities as partners in UAE's development.
  224. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) became first arab nation to have Nuclear Power after constuction of its \$20 billion Barakah Plant west of Abu Dhabi has been Completed, led by Korea Electric Power Corp.
  225. ▶ United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA) listed Pakistan among top three sources for money laundering, other two being Nigeria and Russia. UK is prime destination for foreign corrupt and politically exposed people (PEPs) to launder money.
  226. ▶ United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) announced Bhutan along with Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands will be recommended for graduation from least developed country (LDC) category. These four nations will be recommended to move up from ranks of poorest nations on account of increasing national earning power as well as access to better health care.
  227. ▶ United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) stated that India has seen a sharp decline in child marriages over past 10 years, with only 27 % of girls getting married before 18 years in comparison to 47 per cent a decade back.
  228. ▶ United Nations has issued an appeal for 951 million Dollars to meet the needs of nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Recently, Rohingya influx has become world's fastest-growing refugee crisis with tens of thousands fleeing by land and sea daily from

Myanmar's northern Rakhine state.

229. ▶ United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) designated 14 sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), located in China, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Sri Lanka. With this, there are now 50 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in 20 countries.

🔗 14 New GIAHS-

- 🔗 Siwa Oasis - Egypt
- 🔗 Chinampa Agriculture in World Natural and Cultural Heritage Zone - Mexico
- 🔗 Zhagana Agriculture - Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System - China
- 🔗 Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish Pond System - China
- 🔗 Osaki Kodo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture - Japan
- 🔗 Nishi-Awa Steep Slope Land Agriculture System - Japan
- 🔗 Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem in Hwagae-myeon - South Korea
- 🔗 Agricultural System of Valle Salado de Añana - Spain
- 🔗 Malaga Raisin Production System in La Axarquía - Spain
- 🔗 Cascaded Tank-Village System - Sri Lanka
- 🔗 Rice Terraces in Southern Mountainous and Hilly Areas - China
- 🔗 Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System - China
- 🔗 Traditional Wasabi Cultivation in Shizuoka - Japan
- 🔗 Barroso Agro-sylvo-pastoral System - Portugal

🔗 GIAHS in India -

- 🔗 Saffron Heritage of Kashmir (J & K)
- 🔗 Koraput Traditional Agriculture (Odisha)
- 🔗 Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System (Kerala)

230. ▶ United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced reviewing eligibility of India, Indonesia and Kazakhstan in Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) based on concerns about countries' compliance with program.

🔗 In Case of India, This review is based on concerns related to its compliance with GSP market access criterion and two petitions related to same criterion, filed by US dairy industry and US medical device industry.

🔗 Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) GSP is largest and oldest US trade preference programme introduced in 1976. It is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries. In India's case, GSP enables duty-free entry of 3,500 product lines in US markets. Total US imports under GSP in 2017 was \$21.2 billion, of which India was biggest beneficiary with \$5.6 billion.

231. ▶ Venezuelan Government led by President Nicolas Maduro decided to remove three zeros off Venezuelan currency Bolivar, to counter hyperinflation and crippling economic crisis. It is aimed to guarantee commercial activities and it will come into effect from June 4, 2018.

🔗 Government will take out of circulation current bills and put into circulation new bills, to be known as *sovereign bolivar*.

🔗 Largest bill in circulation is 100000 bolivar note, which trades for about \$0.50.

🔗 A kilo of sugar (2.2 pounds) costs around 250,000 bolivars, while average wages are approx 450000 Bolivars only.

🔗 Venezuela's new set of monetary denomination will consist of 2 coins of 1 bolivar and 2 bolivar. There will be Notes of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 bolivars.

🔗 Venezuelan government also recently launched cryptocurrency *Petro*.

232. ▶ Vietnam's Nguyen Huong Giang is named winner of *Miss International Queen* in Thailand at one of world's top beauty pageants for transgender women.

233. ▶ Washington become USA first state to enact its own net-neutrality requirements after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules designed to keep internet an even playing field. New law also requires internet providers to disclose information about their management practices, performance and commercial terms.

234. ▶ West African country Sierra Leone became first country to deploy blockchain technology in election process. Blockchain based solution used in Sierra Leone's election was developed by a Switzerland based voting technology company *Agora*.

235. ▶ World Bank (WB) agreed to provide a grant to Bangladesh for meeting the basic needs of around one million Rohingyas who fled their homeland Myanmar.

236. ▶ World Bank Group approved USD 13 billion increase in paid-in capital, as part of a series of internal reforms. It consists USD 7.5 billion paid-in capital for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and USD 5.5 billion for International Finance Commission (IFC). It also includes a USD 52.6 billion callable capital increase for IBRD.

237. ▶ World Bank approved \$55mn Loan to expand use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily, under Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project.
238. ▶ World Economic Forum's (WEF) released Report Energy Transition Index 2018 titled *Fostering Effective Energy Transition*. It ranks countries on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability
- ✏ India was ranked at 78th among 114 countries.
  - ✏ Top 5 - Sweden (1st), Norway (2nd), Switzerland (3rd), Finland (4th), Denmark (5th).
  - ✏ BRICS - Brazil (38th), Russia (70th) and China (76th).
239. ▶ World Happiness Index 2018 by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network -
- ✏ In this report, Several parameters are used to generate a happiness score of country on a scale from 1 to 10.
  - ✏ India is ranked 133rd among 156 countries, down from 122 rank last year.
  - ✏ 2018 edition, for the first time ranked happiness of foreign-born immigrants in 117 countries.
  - ✏ Top 5 Happiest - Finland (1st), Norway (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Iceland (4th), Switzerland (5th). USA ranked 18th and Britain 19th.
  - ✏ Neighbours - Pakistan (75th), Nepal (101st), Bhutan (97th), Bangladesh (115th), Sri Lanka (116th).
240. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) published its first *Essential Diagnostics List*, a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose most common diseases along with number of global priority diseases.
- ✏ It aims to address inability to access diagnostic services, keeping the away from correct treatment.
  - ✏ The list contains 113 tests, out of which 58 are for detection of a wide range of common conditions and Remaining 55 tests are for detection of *priority* diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and human papillomavirus.
  - ✏ WHO will update list on regular basis and will also issue call for applications to add categories to next edition.
  - ✏ It will provide a uniform tool useful to all countries, to test and treat health complications better and use health funds more efficiently by concentrating on truly essential tests.
241. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) invited pharmaceutical companies around world to submit proposals to manufacture affordable versions of newer medicines for treatment of drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). It requested drug makers to submit Expression of Interest (EoI) for Bedaquiline and Delamanid, two new-generation drugs, recommended for DR-TB.
242. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) launched comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans fats from global food supply by 2023. WHO calls on governments to use 'REPLACE' action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from food supply. World Health Organization (WHO) also held an emergency meeting to discuss on outbreak of Ebola in Congo (Central Africa).
243. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) validated Nepal for having eliminated trachoma, a contagious bacterial infection of eye. It makes Nepal first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat trachoma, world's leading infectious cause of blindness.
244. ▶ World Trade Organization (WTO) will set up panel to examine whether India has complied with its 2016 ruling in case against US regarding domestic content requirements (DCR) rules for solar cells and modules.
- ✏ In 2016, WTO ruled against India for favouring local manufacturers in its solar power programme, on petition filed by USA.
  - ✏ Afterwards, USA alleged that India continues to apply WTO-inconsistent measures and had approached WTO demanding action against India for non-compliance of WTO ruling in December 2017.
245. ▶ Worldwide Cost of Living report 2018 by the Economist Intelligence Unit -
- ✏ Top 5 Costliest Cities - Singapore (1st for 5th straight year), Paris (France), Zurich (Switzerland), Hong Kong, Oslo (Norway).
  - ✏ Syrian capital Damascus is world's cheapest city.
  - ✏ Indian cities of Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi and Pakistan's Karachi featured among ten cheapest locations surveyed.
246. ▶ World's biggest cruise-liner, "Symphony of the Seas", has been set sail in France, to embark on its maiden voyage in Mediterranean.
247. ▶ World's first long-distance electric bus line began service in Paris (France), presented by Flixbus. It will link Paris to France's northern city of Amiens, undertaking a 160 kilometres journey within 2 hours.
248. ▶ World's longest sandstone cave named 'Krem Puri' has been discovered in Meghalaya.
- ✏ It was discovered in 2016, but its actual length was found between 5th February and 1st March 2018.ii. It is 24583 metres long, over 6000 metres longer than world record-holder Cueva Del Saman, a sandstone cave in Edo Zulia, Venezuela.
249. ▶ Yahoo launched a group messaging app called *Squirrel*, focussed on friends, family and work groups.

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## **Meetings**

1. ▶ 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meeting held in Beijing (China). It was attended by India for the first time with Defence Minister Raksha Mantri attending on India's Behalf.

1. India agreed to participate in Its first ever Joint Peace Mission with Pakistan, as a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia to be held in September 2018 under aegis of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). It aims to enhance counter-terror cooperation among 8 SCO member countries.
2. 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meet Hosted by India in New Delhi.
3. 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) will be held in Beijing (China) in August 2018. It will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from over 10 countries.
4. 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Chicago (US) in September 2018, with theme *Sumantrite Suvikrante - think collectively, achieve valiantly*. It is organised by World Hindu Foundation to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's his toric Chicago address on September 11, 1893. Tulsi Gabbard, first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress is named as Chairperson of WHC 2018.
5. 2nd meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting held in Beijing . With Indian Delegation headed by Additional Secretary (Multilateral Diplomacy) Gitesh Sharma.
6. 34 leading global technology firms including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, Cisco, and Oracle signed Cybersecurity Tech Accord in Geneva (Switzerland) to work together on cybersecurity issues. Four Principles of Cybersecurity Tech Accord are -
  1. Protect users and customers everywhere.
  2. Oppose cyberattacks on innocent citizens and enterprises.
  3. Empower users, customers and developers to strengthen cybersecurity.
  4. Partner with each other and like-minded groups to enhance cybersecurity.
7. 3rd United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) held in New Delhi, conducted by Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with USA.
8. 4 day Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in New Delhi.
9. 4th Edition of Global Exhibition on Services held in Mumbai.
  1. In India, services sector contributes 61 % in gross value added. India's global services exports stood at 3.4 % in 2016, aimed to be 4.2 % by 2022.
  2. Champion Services Sectors scheme was also launched on the occasion. 12 identified sectors where Government wants to give focused attention for promoting their development includes *Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT&ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services*.
  3. Fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of Champion Sectors.
10. 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held an emergency summit in Istanbul (Turkey), to discuss recent Israeli violence against Palestinian protesters in Gaza Strip.
11. 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), co-organized by Ministry of Housing and Affairs, Japan's Environment Ministry, and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). Theme was *Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency- A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities*.
  1. Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was launched in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan with objective of integrating 3Rs- reduce, reuse and recycle in policy, planning and development.
12. An informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting held in New Delhi with Representatives from 50 countries attending it.
13. Canada and European Union will host the world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018 in Canada.
14. European Union and UN co-chaired a 2 day international conference in Brussels (Belgium), aiming to pump financial aid for Syrians and garner political support for UN-led intra-Syrian talks.
15. First African Land Forces Summit (ALFS) held in Abuja (Nigerian capital), hosted by US and Nigeria Armies. It brings together land force chiefs from across Africa, aimed at improving security and stability across continent.
16. First G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors held in Buenos Aires (Argentina).
17. First Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg (Germany) in September 2018, with participation of over 100 countries. Summit will combine 2 main conferences - WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope, Holinsky.
  1. India has 33GW installed capacity of wind energy, ranking 4th after China, US and Germany. Government targets 60 GW of wind energy by 2022.
18. First international conference on *Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership* held in Kathmandu (Nepal).

19. ▶ Global Logistics Summit (GLS-2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Commerce along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and World Bank Group.
20. ▶ India and France co-hosted first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit at Rashtrapati Bhavan Convention Centre in New Delhi. It was attended by 21 heads of government and several top. Its focus was to mobilise \$1 trillion of investments needed by 2030 for massive deployment of solar energy. Key Takeaways Include -
  - ✍ 10-point action plan presented by India.
  - ✍ Common risk mitigation mechanism announced by France.
  - ✍ Delhi Solar Agenda that states that countries will pursue increased share of solar energy in final energy consumption in their respective national energy mix to tackle global challenges of climate change.
  - ✍ India will give \$1.4 billion in aid to 15 other developing nations for 27 more solar projects. France will provide €700 million in loans and support by 2022 to emerging economies for solar energy projects.
  - ✍ During 1st ISA Summit, ISA Signed signed Joint financial partnership Declarations with African Development Bank (AfDb), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Green climate fund (GCF), and New Development Bank (NDB).
  - ✍ International Solar Alliance (ISA) is headquartered in Gurugram (India) and Upendra Tripathy is current Chief of ISA.
21. ▶ India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi, organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) with theme *Telling our Stories- Asia and More*.
  - ✍ Established in 1977, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in field of electronic media. It is hosted in Kualampur (Malaysia).
22. ▶ India hosted 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) in New Delhi.
23. ▶ International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini (Nepal), with theme *Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace*.
24. ▶ World Ocean Summit 2018 held in Mexico's Riviera Maya.

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## **National**

1. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on Mar 28, 2018 -
  - ✍ New Central scheme namely *Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)* will be implemented during 2018-19 and 2019-20, aimed at bringing more transparency and efficiency in distribution of foodgrains as it will improve the mechanism to identify fake/duplicate ration cards.
  - ✍ Approved restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework.
  - ✍ CCEA Approvals -
    - ✍ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved continuation of Credit Guarantee Fund for Education Loans Scheme and continuation and modification of Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme with outlay of INR 6600 crores for period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. This will provide education loans to 10 lakh students during this period. Modifications -
      - ✍ Ceiling on loan amount has been refixed at Rs. 7.5 lakhs.
      - ✍ Moratorium period would be course period + 1 year.
    - ✍ Department of School Education and Literacy's Proposal to formulate a Integrated Scheme on School Education by subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) from 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2020, with allocation of INR 75000 crores. It aims to ensure inclusive quality education from nursery to senior secondary stage, with emphasis on 2 two T's - Teacher and Technology.
    - ✍ Enhancing scope of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY). Govt will now contribute Employer's full admissible contribution for the first 3 years from the date of registration of new employee for all sectors including existing beneficiaries for their remaining period of 3 years.
      - ✍ Informal sector workers would get social safety net and there would be more job creation.
    - ✍ Continuation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) and City Compost Scheme beyond 12th Five Year plan till 2019-20, with expenditure INR 61972 crores. Subsidy on P&K fertilizers and Market Development Assistant (MDA) on City Compost will be provided on subsidy rates approved by CCEA on annual basis. Continuation of these schemes will ensure that adequate quantity of P&K is made available to farmers at statutory controlled price



- ✎ Removal of prohibition on export of all varieties of edible oils except mustard oil.
- ✎ MOUs
  - ✎ With Zambia in the field of Judicial Cooperation.
  - ✎ With Canada to establish bilateral cooperation in field of Intellectual Property (IP).
  - ✎ With United Kingdom and Northern Ireland regarding cooperation and Exchange of Information for Combating International Criminality and Tackling Serious Organised Crime.
  - ✎ With South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) for cooperation on response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region (Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). It aims at protection and preservation of marine environment in region.
- 2. ▶ To make adventure sports safer, Minister of State for Tourism (IC) K. J. Alphons launched Government's newly formed Guidelines on Adventure Tourism, formulated along with Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI). Guidelines have been framed for 15 Land Based, 7 Air Based and 7 Water Based activities which cover entire portfolio of Adventure Tourism available in India.
- 3. ▶ 105th Indian Science Congress held in Imphal (Manipur) with theme *reaching the unreached through science and technology*. ISC is being held for second time in North-East. Earlier it was held at Shillong in 2009.
  - ✎ 106th Indian Science Congress will be held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) with theme *Future India: Science and Technology*.
  - ✎ 7TH Women Science Congress, Children's Science Congress and 11th Science Communicators' Meet were also held during this event.
  - ✎ Drdo Pavilion has been Adjudged As Most Informative at 105th Indian Science Congress.
- 4. ▶ 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) in January 2019, with Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth as Chief Guest. Theme of 15th PBD will be *Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India*.
  - ✎ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated in India on 9 January, commemorating return of M K Gandhi from South Africa in Bombay on January 9, 1915.
- 5. ▶ 21st Law Commission Recommendations (headed by former SC judge B.S. Chauhan) -
  - ✎ Declare Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) a public body and bring BCCI and its all member cricket associations under Right to Information (RTI) law regime.
  - ✎ Recommendations related to Elections -
    - ✎ Holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies. simultaneous elections were held after Independence up to 1967. Dissolution of certain Assemblies in 1968 and 1969 followed by dissolution of Lok Sabha led to disruption of conduct of simultaneous elections.
    - ✎ Issuance of Notification - Statutory limit of six months for issuance of notification of general elections.
    - ✎ No-confidence motion - Parties which introduce no-confidence motion should simultaneously give a suggestion for an alternative government as no-confidence motion and premature dissolution of House is major roadblocks to simultaneous elections.
    - ✎ Anti-defection law - The rigour of 'Anti-defection Law' must be removed as exception, to prevent stalemate (गतिरोध) in Lok Sabha/Assembly in case of Hung Parliament/Assembly.
    - ✎ Mid-term elections - In case of mid-term elections, new Lok Sabha or Assembly will only serve remainder of term of previous Lok Sabha/Assembly and not a fresh term of five years.
    - ✎ Prime minister/ CMs should be elected to lead Lok Sabha/Assembly, by full house like electing speaker of Lok Sabha. This will provide stability to government and in turn to Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.
    - ✎ Centre should get Constitutional amendments, if agreed upon, to be ratified by all the States so as to avoid any challenge to them.
- 6. ▶ 2nd India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) will be held in New Delhi in October 25-27, 2018 with theme *NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS Connect, Create, innovate*. It will be organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
- 7. ▶ 51 day long 8th Theatre Olympics Concluded in Mumbai. This edition of Theatre Olympics brought together around 25,000 artists under theme "Flag of Friendship". It witnessed 450 shows from more than 30 countries performed across 17 cities.
- 8. ▶ 71 ministries and departments of central government have allotted INR 16500 crores for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in 2018-19, as per Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) 2018-19 released recently.
- 9. ▶ *Ib Setu* has been launched by Odisha Govt. It is built over Ib river in Sambalpur district as 2nd largest river Bridge in State with 2.5-km length. It establishes direct connectivity between Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar.
  - ✎ Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, also referred as Bhupen Hazarika Setu is a beam bridge and is longest River bridge in India (On Lohit River). It connects northeast states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

- ✎ New Ganga Bridge Project under construction in Bihar, will become longest bridge in India upon its completion in December 2020, with length of 9.8 kilometres.
- 10. ▶ A 25 MW power plant worth Rs 502 crore will be set up in Bandhwari village of Gurugram (Haryana) to produce electricity from waste under Integrated Solid Waste Management Scheme.
- 11. ▶ A Multi Modal Logistics Park at Balli Station near Madgaon in Goa has been inaugurated, as per MoU entered between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR). Spread over 81,300 square meters, It can handle both domestic and exim container traffic.
- 12. ▶ A Web portal ([www.praapti.in](http://www.praapti.in)) and an App namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators), has been launched by Govt. It is meant to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms. It will capture Invoicing and payment data for various long term PPAs from Generators. It will also help make transactions in the power Sector more transparent.
- 13. ▶ A recent Nipah Virus (NiV) infection has been reported in Kerala, with Its traces were found in samples of two persons who died of viral fever in Kozhikode region, and confirmed by National Institute of Virology Pune.
  - ✎ Fruit bats of Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus are natural host of this virus. Its first outbreak took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.
  - ✎ Virus is believed to spread through direct contact with infected bats, or contaminated Fruits. Human to Human transmission from other NiV-infected people is also reported.
  - ✎ Symptoms Include breathing trouble, inflammation in brain, fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation and delirium. It can be deadly too.
- 14. ▶ ASEAN India Film Festival held in New Delhi, organised by Ministry of External Affairs as part of series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations. Its tagline was 'Friendship through Films'.
- 15. ▶ According to Minister of State for Rural Development, West Bengal is the best performing State in terms of allotting jobs and utilising funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
  - ✎ WB so far spent over INR 7335 crores and generated over 28.21 crore work days under MGNREGA. West Bengal is followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) which spent INR 5981 crores and generated 22.17 crore work days during 2017-18. Goa is ranked at bottom.
- 16. ▶ According to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India's installed renewable energy capacity has risen to 70 Gigawatts (GW) and 38 GW is under implementation. Thus, India is well on way to target of 175 GW renewable energy (100GW Solar, 60 GW Wind, 10 GW Biomass and 5 GW Hydro) by 2022.
- 17. ▶ According to a report from wireless coverage mapping company OpenSignal, Patna (Bihar) topped in 4G connectivity among 20 of India's largest cities.
- 18. ▶ According to study *India's digital divide: how broadband speed splits the nation* by Ookla, Chennai has highest fixed broadband download speed among 20 largest cities of India. Top 5 Cities -
  - ✎ Chennai - 32.67 Mbps
  - ✎ Bengaluru - 31.09 Mbps
  - ✎ Hyderabad - 28.93 Mbps
  - ✎ Visakhapatnam - 26.59 Mbps
  - ✎ Delhi - 23.57 Mbps
- 19. ▶ Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed MoU with Assam government for sustainable development of human settlements at villages in Kamrup district, under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative. AAI will provide financial assistance of Rs. 4.58 crore for same. AAI also tied up with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to develop a green corridor covering 16.55 km in Varanasi.
- 20. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced construction Goa's 2nd Airport (after first at Dabolim) at Mopa, with Both Passenger and Cargo Hub Facilities. It will become functional in 2020, with annual capacity of 30 million passengers.
- 21. ▶ An MOU is signed between Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) and Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh), to introduce collaborative degree programmes including research in culinary arts. It aims to create a mechanism to promote Indian Cuisine and meet requirement of specialists in Indian Cuisine. ICI's New campus has been opened in Noida (UP).
- 22. ▶ An MoU has been signed between Government of Bihar and NTPC Limited, aiming to improve performance of Power Sector in Bihar through transfer of Barauni Thermal Power Station (720 MW) and Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam & Nabinagar Power Generating Company to NTPC. It will result in better performance of these units.
- 23. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched multi-utility vehicle NAIPUNYA RATHAM (also called World on Wheels), under Smart village Smart Ward Programme. It will look to improve digital literacy and create awareness on various government schemes. As part of it, a 20-seater bus enabled digital facilities and learning lab equipped with smart technology gadgets as well as with e-learning tools.

24. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. inaugurated Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Center (APCSOC) in Amaravati, to fight cyber security threats and offer real time intelligence sharing and threat analysis to all state government departments.
25. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. launched official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in Collector's conference in Amaravati, Aimed at implementing effective governance in Andhra Pradesh.
26. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government Initiated its *Bhu Seva* project aimed at offering integrated services related with land. Each land parcel will be given an 11 Digit Bhudhar Number, to help in easy identification of details of land parcel. Ch Vijayamohan is Mission Director of Bhu Seva Mission.
27. ▶ Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) ranked Pune (Maharashtra) at top with a score of 5.1 and Karnataka Capaital Bengaluru at bottom with a score of 3.
  - ✍ Top 5 - Pune, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar and Surat.
  - ✍ Bengaluru is at bottom, with Chandigarh as 2nd worst and Dehradun 3rd from botto in Urban governance.
28. ▶ Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been removed completely from Meghalaya. AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice.
29. ▶ Arunachal CM Pema Khandu inaugurated State's biggest solar power plant in Itanagar, with capacity of 1 MW and cost accumulated is INR 8.50 crores.
30. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill 2018 to remove Anchal Samiti, intermediate level of 3 tier panchayati raj system and set up a two-tier system in state.
  - ✍ It is being done under 73rd Amendment of Constitution that enables state having less than 20 lakh population not to have intermediate level (Arunachal has population of 13.84 lakh). 3 tier panchayati raj institutions were set up in state in 2003, 2008 and 2013.
  - ✍ Anchal Samiti (3rd Tier) is being removed to standardise use of limited financial resources and avoid delay in passing policies as they delayed at Anchal Samiti level (intermediate level).
  - ✍ In 2 tier panchayati raj system, execution of schemes will be faster as there will be direct connection between Gram Panchayats and Zilla Parishads.
31. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched LED Solar Street Lighting System in 4 Districts (*Tirap, Longding, Namsai and Tawang*), with assistance from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
32. ▶ As a landmark reform in field of Higher Education, University Grants Commission has approved UGC (Online Courses) Regulations 2018, allowing Higher Educational Institutions to offer Programmes in completely online mode.
  - ✍ It is appliaeble for disciplines in which institute has already been offering same or similar Courses at graduation level in regular mode or in Open and Distance Learning mode and from which at least one batch has been graduated and approved by statutory councils.
  - ✍ Online Programmes requiring Practical/ Laboratory Courses as a curricular requirement shall not be permitted.
  - ✍ Online learning shall have minimum four quadrants - video lectures, e- content, self-assessment and discussion forum to clarify doubts.
  - ✍ Higher Educational Institutions will be eligible to offer Online Programmes if they have been in existence for at least five years and are accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a valid minimum score of 3.26 on a 4-point scale. It should also be in top-100 in overall category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for at least 2 years in the previous 3 years.
  - ✍ Analytics of Learning Management System shall be used for ensuring the learner's participation at least for 2 hours every fortnight.
  - ✍ This initiative is a big step towards attaining the targeted GER (Gross enrolment ratio) of 30% by 2020.
33. ▶ As per a recent AAI survey, Mangalore International Airport is adjudged as cleanest in India.
34. ▶ As per data by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Madhya Pradesh has highest number of 55770 fully covered tribal habitations with safe drinking water in country followed by Odisha and Jharkhand. Under *National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)*, 10% of total allocation of funds is earmarked to be used for supply of drinking water to Scheduled Tribe (ST) dominated habitations.
35. ▶ Asia's largest tulip garden, Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is opened in Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir). 12.5 lakh tulip bulbs of 48 varieties were sown in garden by floriculture department.
36. ▶ Assam Government launched a special programme to build 1 lakh toilets across the state under Swachh Bharat Mission, named *Mission Sambavh* (Mission Possible ), under which, construction works will be completed within 10 days.
37. ▶ Assam government launched a toll-free helpline for women, to tackle recent surge in crime in state. The helpline is called Sakhi and is available at 181.
38. ▶ Assam government's new cashless health scheme, 'Atal Amrit Abhiyan' has been launched. It offers free medical care of up to Rs 2 lakh to every individual in state. It will cover 92 % of state's population with annual income below Rs 5 lakh, with INR 400 crores allocated in FY

2018-19.

39. ▶ Assembly Elections 2018 in North East States of Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland -

▶ Tripura -

▶ BJP (Bharatiya Janata party) emerged as largest party with win over 35 seats (out of 60 seats). Communist Party of India (Marxist), that ruled Tripura for 25 years (led by Manik Sarkar), won 16 seats. Vote percentage - BJP (43%), CPI (M) - 42.7%.

▶ Nagaland -

▶ Naga Peoples Front (NPF) emerged as largest party with win over 27 seats (out of 59 seats), followed by Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (16 Seats) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with 12 Seats. Vote percentage - NPF (38.8%) NDPP (25.2%) BJP (15.3%).

▶ Meghalaya -

▶ Indian National Congress (INC) emerged as largest party with win over 21 seats (out of 59 seats), followed by National People's Party (19 Seats).

40. ▶ Bengaluru Smart City is testing an intelligent traffic management solution in collaboration with Electronics City Township Authority (ELCITA) to improve traffic management in city. It aims to provide traffic information that is currently unavailable and help improve management of commuter traffic.

41. ▶ Bengaluru is named highest paying city in India, with average annual cost to company (CTC) standing at INR 11 lakh, according to Randstad Insights. Pune is 2nd at around 10 lakh, followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai with average annual CTC of INR 10 lakh and 9 lakh respectively.

▶ Bangalore also emerged as most preferred city for office expansion, according to real estate consulting firm CBRE South Asia.

42. ▶ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is setting up a LPG bottling plant in Balangir district in Odisha, capable of producing 42 lakh cylinders per year and will be operational from March 2020.

43. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched Free Wi-Fi Facility at Udwada Village, in Valsad District (Gujarat). It is Union minister Smriti Irani's selected village under Saansad Adarsh Gram scheme.

44. ▶ Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL) launched India's first cloud-based Common Integrated Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC), powered by Hewlett Packard (HP). It will enable Madhya Pradesh State administration to administer multiple city civic utilities and citizen services across seven smart cities in state through central cloud.

▶ 7 smart cities in state include Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore, Ujjain, Satna, and Sagar.

45. ▶ Bhubaneswar (Odisha) became 4th National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. New cloud-enabled National Data Centre has ability to support 35000 virtual servers. NIC hosts nearly 10,000 websites of Government.

46. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar flagged off *Krishi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath*, to create awareness among farmers about government schemes during Kharif season (2 Rathes for each district). One is 'Kharif Mahabhiyan-cum-Mahotsav Rath' that would travel to villages AND other is 'Beej (Seed)Vahan Vikas Rath' which would have Kharif seeds and pesticides for treatment of kharif crop.

47. ▶ Bihar Cabinet approved setting up of a Fisheries College at Kishanganj at a cost of Rs 40.31 crore. It also approved creation of 88 new posts in Transplant and Nephrology departments of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for starting kidney transplant facility.

48. ▶ Bihar Govt. Requested Centre for granting Special Category Status for state, stating that It will act as catalyst for private investment and will boost employment generation.

▶ Concept of SCS was introduced in 1969 by 5th Finance Commission (Chaired by Mahavir Tyagi), for status was that were disadvantaged in contrast to others, because of their inherent features and low resource base. It is discretion of central govt. to give special favours to states.

▶ Special Category States have special socio-economic, geographical problems, high cost of production with less availability of useful resources and hence low economic base for livelihood activities.

▶ National Development Council accorded Special Category Status to 11 states - 7 North-East States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura), Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

49. ▶ Buddhist Community of Itanagar celebrated silver jubilee of the Losar Festival in Arunachal Pradesh. This festival is termed as *New Year* according to their Buddhist calendar.

50. ▶ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted First Licence to Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on all India basis as per Indian Standard (IS) 646:1986. Licence is operative from April 2018, for 1 year. Liquid Chlorine is stored in metal containers and is used as gas. It is used in paper, pulp, water sterilization, textile bleaching and manufacture of chemicals.

51. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Apr 11, 2018) -

▶ General Approvals -

- Increasing pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories, from INR 80000 per month to 2.25 Lac Per Month.

- MOUs -

- With United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on return of Illegal Migrants.

- CCEA Approvals -

- Delegated powers to Finance and Petroleum Ministers to award oil and gas exploration blocks to successful bidders under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP). Under HELP, exploration blocks awarded twice in a year and currently awarding of blocks requires CCEA's approval.

- Relaxed rules for Coal India Ltd (CIL) for extraction of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) lying below coal seams in its blocks in bid to quickly boost production. Till now, CIL had to apply to oil ministry for a licence to extract coal-bed methane (CBM) from its coal blocks.

52. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Apr 25, 2018) -

- MOUs -

- With Sao Tome and Principe for Cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, Medicinal Plants.

- With World Health Organisation (WHO) for Cooperation in Public Health.

- With BRICS countries on cooperation in regulation of medical products for human use amongst medicine regulatory agencies.

- Renewal Long Term Agreements (LTAs) for supply of iron ore (lumps and fines) of grade +64% Fe content to Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea for 5 five years (till 31.3.2023) through MMTC Limited.

- Declaration of Extension in Scheduled Areas in Rajasthan under 5th Schedule of Constitution of India.

- CCEA Approvals-

- Approved increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2018-19 season, at INR 3700 per quintal (compared to 3500 in 2017-18 season).

- Approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20). Expenditure is estimated at INR 1290 crores.

53. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 01, 2018) -

- General Approvals -**

- Approved doubling investment limit from INR 7.5 lakhs to 15 lakhs and extending time limits for subscription from May 4, 2018 to Mar 31, 2020 under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY). It will enable upto Rs.10000 Pension per month for Senior Citizens.

- PMVVY is implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged over 60 years . It provides assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for 10 years.

- Approved construction of 100 bedded General Hospital at Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) Najafgarh in New Delhi at cost INR 95 Crores.

- Approved Restructuring of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) by abolition of certain posts of Joint Secretary-level and above, with cadre strength Unchanged.

- Approved Cadre review and formation of Group 'A' service of technical cadre of Petroleum & Safety Organization (PESO) in name *Indian Petroleum & Explosives Safety Service (IPESS)*, to enhance capacity of organization.

- Approved promulgation of Ordinance to amend a law for speedy disposal of commercial disputes, aimed at improving India's ranking in World Bank's ease of doing business index. It will bring down specified value of commercial dispute to INR 3 lakh from 1 crore. It also aims to bring down time taken from present 1,445 days in resolution of commercial disputes of lesser value.

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -**

- Approved upgradation of infrastructure at Chennai, Guwahati and Lucknow airports at a total cost of INR 5,082 crores. Chennai airport would get max INR 2,467 crores, while Guwahati and Lucknow airports would get INR 1,383 and 1,232 crores.

- Approved to provide financial assistance @ of Rs. 5.50 per quintal (INR 55 per Ton) of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane, in order to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, which have accumulated upto 19000 Crores INR

- Approved Umbrella Scheme *Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana* for period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Central Share of INR 33270 crores. It comprises of 11 Schemes.



- ✎ Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) - Central share of INR 7533.04 crores, MIDH aims to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector.
- ✎ National Food Security Mission (NFSM), including National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) - Central share of INR 6893.38 crores. It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement.
- ✎ National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - Central share of Rs.3980.82 crore. It aims at promoting sustainable agriculture practices best suitable to specific agro-ecology.
- ✎ Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE) - Central share of 2961.26 crores. SMAE aims to strengthen ongoing extension mechanism of State Governments, local bodies etc., achieving food and nutritional security and socio-economic empowerment of farmers.
- ✎ Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) - Central share of 920.6 crores. SMSP aims to increase production of certified seed, upgrade quality of farm saved seeds, strengthen seed multiplication chain and promote new technologies and methodologies in seed production.
- ✎ Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) - Central share of 3250 crores. SMAM aims to increase reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to regions where availability of farm power is low.
- ✎ Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ) - Central share of 1022.67 crores. SMPPQ aims to minimize loss to quality and yield of agricultural crops from ravages of insect pests, diseases, weeds, nematodes, rodents, etc.
- ✎ Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACES) - Central share of 730.58 crores. It aims to undertake agriculture census, study of cost of cultivation of principal crops, undertake research studies on agro-economic problems.
- ✎ Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC) - Central share of 1902.636 crores. It aims to provide financial assistance for improving economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances and to speed up - cooperative development in agricultural marketing.
- ✎ Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) - Central share of 3863.93 crores. ISAM aims to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure, promote innovative and latest technologies and competitive alternatives in agriculture marketing.
- ✎ National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A) - Central share of 211.06 crores. It aims to bring farmer centricity & service orientation to programmes, to enhance reach & impact of extension services and improve access of farmers to information & services.
- ✎ These sub schemes/missions were approved independently as separate scheme/mission. In 2017-18, it was decided to club all these under one umbrella scheme known as *Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana*.
- ✎ Approved Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan to 2019-20, with financial outlay of INR 14832 crores. Under this, new AIIMS are established and Government medical colleges are upgraded. It will lead to employment generation for nearly 3000 people in various faculty & non-faculty posts in each of AIIMS.
  - ✎ Under this extension, 20 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be established and 73 medical colleges will be upgraded.
- ✎ Approved renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), along with continuation during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission (Till 2020).
  - ✎ PMJVK would provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to minority communities, particularly in education, health & skill development.
  - ✎ Criteria for identification of Minority Concentration Towns have been rationalized by lowering population % criteria of Minority Communities (50 % to 25%) and fulfilment of parameters as Given -
    - ✎ Earlier Towns which were backward in terms of both in Basic Amenities and Socio-economic parameters were taken as MCTs. Now, Towns which were found backward in either or both of criteria have been taken up as MCT.
    - ✎ Area to be covered under PMJVK would be 57% more as compared to MsDP. MsDP covered 196 districts, while PMJVK will cover 308 districts.
    - ✎ Expenditure for continuation of programme as PMJVK will be INR 3972 crores.
    - ✎ It aims to address development deficits in identified minority concentration areas. Inclusion of Minority Concentration District HQs with Minority Concentration Towns having population over 25000, Minority Concentration Blocks and Cluster of Villages as per Census, 2011 data, will extend coverage.

- ✎ PMJVK would cover 5 more States/UTs - Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Goa and Pondicherry.
- ✎ Minority Concentration Areas of 61 districts out of 115 Aspirational districts have been covered under PMJVK.
- ✎ Area covered under PMJVK will have 109 MCD Hqrs., 870 MCBs and 321 MCTs.

#### ✎ MOUs and Foreign Approvals -

- ✎ Approved Mutual Recognition Agreement between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).
- ✎ Approved to accede to Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.

#### 54. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 16, 2018) -

##### ✎ Foreign MOUs -

- ✎ France - Technical Cooperation in railways.
- ✎ Morocco - legal Matters, Mining and Geology.
- ✎ Swaziland - Health and Medicine
- ✎ Colombia - Traditional Systems of Medicine.
- ✎ Suriname - Electoral management and administration
- ✎ Equatorial Guinea - Traditional Systems of Medicine
- ✎ With Brunei Darussalam for Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.

##### ✎ General Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ Establishing a **New Central University in Andhra Pradesh**, named *Central University of Andhra Pradesh*, in Jantalur Village of Ananthapur District (Andhra Pradesh). INR 450 crores are approved for first phase expenditures.
  - ✎ Cabinet approved its operationalization initially by forming a society under Societies Registration Act 1860, till amendment to Central Universities Act 2009 is enacted and to enable commencement of academic activities from 2018-19.
- ✎ Setting up a **new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Deoghar (Jharkhand)**. INR 1103 crores have been approved for it and it will be set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- ✎ **Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** at Bhopal (MP) as a Society under Societies Registration Act 1860, under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Estimated cost is Rs. 179.54 crore in first three years. NIMHR will provide rehabilitation services to persons with mental illnesses. It will have 9 Departments and will conduct 12 courses in area of mental health rehabilitation.
- ✎ Approved **strengthening of mechanism for resolution of commercial disputes** of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) -
  - ✎ New 2 tier mechanism will be put in place of existing Permanent Machinery of Arbitration (PMA) mechanism to resolve commercial disputes (excluding disputes concerning Railways, Income Tax, Custom & Excise Departments).
  - ✎ At First level, commercial disputes will be referred to a Committee comprising of Secretaries of administrative Ministries / Departments to which disputing CPSEs / Parties belong and Secretary in Deptt. of Legal Affairs. Max time at 1st Level is 3 Months.
  - ✎ If unresolved at 1st Tier, dispute will be referred to Cabinet Secretary, whose decision will be final.
- ✎ Approved **National Policy on Biofuels 2018**, to promote biofuels, that are more environment friendly and match up well with ongoing initiatives of Government like Make in India, Skill Development and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Salient features Include -
  - ✎ Salient Features -
    - ✎ Categorises of biofuels -
      - ✎ Basic Biofuels - First Generation (1G) bioethanol and biodiesel.
      - ✎ Advanced Biofuels: Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.
    - ✎ Expansion scope of raw material for ethanol production - It allows use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like broken rice, wheat, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
    - ✎ Allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

- ✎ Viability gap funding scheme indicated for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of 5000 crores in 6 years for giving special emphasis to advanced biofuels.
- ✎ Encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops.
- ✎ Expected Benefits Of Policy -
  - ✎ Reduce Import Dependency.
  - ✎ Cleaner Environment - will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and Green House Gas emissions.
  - ✎ Health benefits - Using cooking oil as a potential feedstock for biodiesel will prevent diversion of used cooking oil in the food industry.
  - ✎ Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management - One ton of such waste has potential to provide around 20% of drop in fuels.
  - ✎ Infrastructural Investment in Rural Areas - Addition of 2G bio refineries across country will spur infrastructural investment in rural areas.
  - ✎ Employment Generation - Setting up one 100klpd 2G bio refinery contributes to 1200 jobs in plant operations, village level entrepreneurs and supply chain management.
  - ✎ Additional Income to Farmers - Adopting 2G technologies for producing biofuels, agricultural residues and waste which otherwise are burnt by farmers can be converted to ethanol. Through this process farmers can fetch price for these waste.
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -
  - ✎ Approved Development of Freight Village, an Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub (IMLH), Nangal Chaudhary (Haryana), in two phases. Sanction of 1029 crore for development of Phase I has been approved. Investment of 763 crore by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).
  - ✎ Approved **enhancement of budget by 11,330 crores for Network For Spectrum (NFS) project** for laying alternate communication network for Defence Services for release of spectrum over INR 13,334 crore already approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in July 2012. Project, being implemented by BSNL, will be completed in 24 months. NFS project will boost communication capabilities of Defence Forces.
  - ✎ Approved initial Corpus of INR 5000 crores for setting up of a dedicated **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with NABARD** under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
    - ✎ Allocation of 2,000 crore and 3,000 crore will be utilised during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. NABARD will extend loan to State Governments during this period, to be paid back in 7 years (with grace period of 2 years). Lending rate will be 3% lower than cost of raising fund by NABARD.
    - ✎ Dedicated MIF will supplement efforts of Per Drop More Crop Component (PDMC) of PMKSY.
    - ✎ Fund will facilitate States to mobilise resources for their initiatives, to achieve annual target of about 2 Million ha/year during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission under Per Drop More Crop Component of PMKSY.
  - ✎ Approved extension of Delhi Metro from Noida City Centre to Sector-62 (Noida - UP) covering 6.675 KM at cost INR 1967 crore.

55. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 23, 2018) -

- ✎ MOUs -
  - ✎ Angola - Electronics and Information Technology
  - ✎ France, Morocco - Renewable Energy
  - ✎ Denmark - Food Safety Cooperation
  - ✎ Singapore - Personnel Management and Public Administration
  - ✎ Turkey - Trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey
- ✎ General Cabinet Approvals -
  - ✎ Approved a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region(NER) in Meghalaya, at cost of INR 3911 crores to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Features Include Provision of 2G+4G mobile coverage in uncovered areas and National Highways in Meghalaya. It will increase penetration of mobile connectivity in Meghalaya, resulting in equitable access of communication, information and governance.
  - ✎ Approved *Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]* supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism [LWE] of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project, with cost approx 7330 Crores. It would be used by security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas and will also

provide mobile services to residents in unconnected inhabited villages.

- ✎ Approved an ordinance to set up country's first national sports university in Imphal (Manipur), on lines of National Sports University Bill 2017 which is pending in Parliament. Proposed university is expected to bridge gap that exists in sports environment of country in various areas such as sports science, sports technology, high performance training.
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approvals (CCEA) -
  - ✎ Approved restructuring of balance sheet of Scooters India Limited Lucknow, by reducing equity of INR 85.21 crores in share capital of SIL held by Government, amid consistent accumulation of losses.
  - ✎ Approved amending Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC), giving relief to homebuyers who invested in housing projects of real estate companies that have gone bankrupt -
    - ✎ Committee of creditors voting rights of resolution plans will be limited to 66 % from earlier threshold of 75 %, to speed up the resolution process.
    - ✎ Withdrawal of insolvency application will be allowed, if 90 % of creditors agree.
    - ✎ Promoters of companies with turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will be allowed to bid. Earlier, they were barred from bidding as government feared that they will walk away with stressed assets at a discount.
- ✎ Waiving Penal Interest on Government Loans to -
  - ✎ Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) - 250.89 crores of Penal Interest to be waived, although VPT will pay outstanding Principal of INR 44.69 crores. Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) availed INR 110.41 crore of loan during 1970-71 to 1984-85. VPT could not pay interest during 1979-80 to 1989-90 due to revenue losses, accumulating huge amount of Penal Interest.
  - ✎ Paradip Port Trust (PPT) - 1076.59 crores of Penal Interest to be waived, although PPT will pay outstanding Principal of INR 387.74 crores. Paradip Port Trust (PPT) availed INR 642.69 crore of loan during 1967 to 2002. PPT could not pay start repayment on time due to revenue losses, accumulating huge amount of Penal Interest.

#### 56. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ MOU with Iran in field of Traditional Systems of Medicine, agriculture and allied sectors.
- ✎ Agreement with Iran for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ✎ MoU with Sri Lanka for promoting cooperation in field of Information Technology and Electronics.
- ✎ Approved *Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill 2018* for introduction in Parliament.
  - ✎ It brings down specified value of a commercial dispute to 3 Lakhs from the current 1 Crore. Hence, commercial disputes of a reasonable value can be decided by commercial courts. It reduce time taken (presently 1445 days) to resolve commercial disputes of lesser value and will improve India's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business.
  - ✎ It provides for establishment of Commercial Courts at district Judge level for territories over which respective High Courts have ordinary original civil jurisdiction i.e. in Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and State of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved continuing Urea Subsidy Scheme upto 2019-20 at a total estimated cost of 164935 crores and for disbursement of fertilizer subsidy.

#### 57. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ MOUS / Agreements -
  - ✎ Approved signing of Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and France. It represents major milestone in enhancing people-to-people contacts, fostering mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between two sides.
  - ✎ MoU with Hellenic on Cooperation in Renewable Energy.
  - ✎ MoU between India's Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Public Service Commission of Mauritius, for sharing expertise of both parties in area of recruitment.
  - ✎ Agreement with France to prevent illicit consumption and reduction of illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors and related offences.
- ✎ Introduction of Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2018 in Parliament -
  - ✎ It aims to encourage institutional arbitration for settlement of disputes and make India a centre of robust Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. It will amend Act of 1996 and will improve institutional arbitration by Creation of an independent body *Arbitration Council of India (ACI)* which will grade arbitral institution and accredit arbitrators by laying down norms and take steps to promote arbitration, conciliation, mediation and other ADR Mechanism.

- ✎ Release additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners wef 01-01-2018, representing increase of 2% over existing rate of 5% of Basic Pay/Pension, for a period of 14 months from January 2018 to February 2019).
  - ✎ Recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Group on Stressed Assets in Telecom Sector, Including -
    - ✎ Restructuring deferred payment liabilities of spectrum auction of telecom service providers and revising limit of the cap for spectrum holding for telecom service providers. It gives one-time opportunity to opt for higher number of instalment (max. 16 instalment) apart from currently permitted 10 instalments.
    - ✎ Revision of limits of cap for spectrum holding Based upon the recommendations of TRAI and Telecom Commission, from current limit of 25% to 35%.
  - ✎ Shifting Headquarters of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) from Chennai (Tamilnadu) to Ballabgarh (Haryana).
  - ✎ CCEA approved INR 1151 crores Central Sector Scheme for in-situ management of crop residue in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. It will promote agricultural mechanization for upto 2020 to provide cost-effective solution to farmers to deal with stubble burning.
58. ▶ Cabinet Approvals Mar 1, 2018 -
- ✎ Approved proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), as an independent regulator for auditing profession which is one of key changes brought in by Companies Act 2013. It is expected to improve investments, globalisation of business by meeting international practices, and assist in development of audit profession. NFRA will be 15 members body, consisting of Chairperson, three full-time Members and one Secretary.
  - ✎ Approved Introducing *Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018* in Parliament, to lay down measures to deter economic offenders from evading process of Indian law by remaining outside jurisdiction of Indian courts. Cases with offences valued Over 100 crores will come under purview of this Bill.
    - ✎ It is expected to re-establish rule of law with respect to the fugitive economic offenders as they would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences.
59. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on Apr 04, 2018
- ✎ MOUs -
    - ✎ With Afghanistan for cooperation in field of food safety and related areas.
    - ✎ With Iran on establishment of an expert group on trade remedy measures.
    - ✎ With Canada to foster cross-border partnerships focused on research excellence and industry-academic collaboration.
    - ✎ With UAE for Technical Co-operation in Railway Sector.
  - ✎ CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) -
    - ✎ Approved closure of Burn Standard Company Ltd (BSCL) - a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Railways. It has been decided after continued poor physical and financial performance of company for over 10 years.
      - ✎ Government will provide one-time grant of INR 417.10 crores for clearing liabilities of company. 508 employees of BSCL will benefit from Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). BSCL was incorporated in 1976 following nationalization and amalgamation of Burn and Company and Indian Standard Wagon Company Limited in 1987 under Department of Heavy Industries (DHI). It and was declared sick in the year 1995.
    - ✎ Approved Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of scheme of Updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951 in Assam at a cost of Rs. 1220 crores upto 31-12-2018. Scheme of NRC, 1951 is specific to state of Assam covering about 3.29 crore applicants.
  - ✎ Other Approvals -
    - ✎ Approved rightsizing Competition Commission of India (CCI) from One Chairperson and Six Members (totalling seven) to One Chairperson and Three Members (totalling four), by not filling the existing vacancies of two Members and one more additional vacancy, expected in September 2018. It is being done in line with Government's objective of *Minimum Government - Maximum Governance*.
60. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on Mar 21, 2018 -
- ✎ Approved launch of new Centrally Sponsored *Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)*. Scheme has benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year and will target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database. AB-NHPM will subsume on-going -Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
  - ✎ Approved second and final extension of term of Commission constituted to examine issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in Central List for upto June 2018. It was constituted under article 340 of Constitution in October 2017 and is headed by Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini.



- ✎ Approved formation of 100% owned C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.(TCIL) in USA in the state of Texas. Its initial capital will be 5 Million USD.
- ✎ Approved closure of India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) to enhance synergies in channelizing Diaspora's contributions to India's flagship programmes such as National Mission for clean Ganga and Swachh Bharat Mission.
  - ✎ IDF-OI was set in 2008 as an autonomous not-for-profit Trust, to facilitate Overseas Indian donate into social projects in India. As Foundation received only 36.80 Lakhs between December 2008 and March 2015 as donation from Indian community, it was reviewed in 2015.
  - ✎ After Review and adding Flagship programmes like National Mission for Clean Ganga and Swachh Bharat Mission etc. into mandate of IDF-OI, It received INR 10.16 crores in 3 years.
  - ✎ Now, to enhance synergies and improve efficiency, it was decided that Trust would be closed down by March 31, 2018.
- ✎ Approved North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017 with outlay of 3000 crores upto March, 2020. NEIDS is a combination of incentives covered under the earlier two schemes with a much larger outlay. Overall cap for benefits under all components of incentives will be of INR 200 crores per unit.
- ✎ Foreign Affairs -
  - ✎ Revision of the Agreement with Qatar for avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
  - ✎ MoU with Guyana on cooperation in Renewable Energy.
  - ✎ Approved opening 18 new Indian Missions in Africa by 2021. It will increase number of Resident Indian Missions in Africa from 29 to 47.
- ✎ Approved inclusion of the communities namely *Parivara* and *Talawara* as synonym of *Nayaka*, in list of STs of Karnataka.
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approvals -
  - ✎ *Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry* for 2017-18 to 2019-20, with allocation of INR 2161.68 Crores. It will be implemented by the Ministry through Central Silk Board (CSB). It will focus on multidimensional development of Sericulture sector.
  - ✎ Continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme *Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)* from 1-04-2017 to 31-03-2020. It seeks to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio of the country to 30% by 2020. Funds allocated for concerned period are 9604 Crores.
    - ✎ Funding ratio - Central and State Governments ratio of 90:10 for North-Eastern States, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, 60:40 for other States and UTs with Legislature and 100:0 for UTs without Legislature.
- 61. ▶ Central Government started a Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for 3 years from generators with commissioned projects but without Power Purchase Agreement. It will revive power demand, which has affected generators who do not have Power Purchase Agreements. Maximum allotment to a single entity has been capped at 600 MW.
- 62. ▶ Central Govt's *Saubhagya, Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana* Yojana launched in North Eastern State of Nagaland, aimed at electrifying over 90000 households across state by March 31, 2019.
- 63. ▶ Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Madhya Pradesh's Kadaknath chicken. It will ensure that no one else can use name Kadaknath Chicken while selling any other black chicken.
  - ✎ Kadaknath chicken breed is unique for its black colour due to its black-feathers. This breed of chicken is popular for its adaptability and flavourful good-tasting black meat, which is believed to have medicinal properties. 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.
- 64. ▶ Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to two more craft forms from Telangana - Adilabad dokra and Warangal Dhurries.
  - ✎ Adilabad Dokra is an ancient bell metal craft and Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug. Adilabad Dokra It is form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by Woj community native to Adilabad district.
  - ✎ Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug in which weavers create beautiful patterns and dye them using vegetable colours, which are washed in flowing water after printing process. Currently, there are more than 2000 weaving community members present in Kothawada, Warangal in spinning Dhurrie.
- 65. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched Vikas Yatra from Dantewada district aimed at spreading awareness about the development the state has witnessed during curret Govt's tenure. It will include distributing free pesticides to 5.5 lakh labourers and giving smartphones to 50 lakh families under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.

66. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government will start distributing free smartphones to over 50 lakh people across state under Sanchar Kranti Yojana (SKY), In a bid to reduce the digital divide. This will give phone connectivity to 13900 villages of Chhattisgarh.
67. ▶ Chhattisgarh will become first state to recruit transgenders in police force, To promote gender equality.
68. ▶ Chhattisgarh will soon get specialised anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther, like Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It Raised in 1989, Greyhounds is elite commando force force that specialises in anti-insurgency operations against Naxals and Maoists.
69. ▶ Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology adopted word '*AYUSH*' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes. AYUSH is acronym for five traditional systems of medicine - *Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*.
70. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed penalties upon 3 Airlines for concerted action in fixing and revising Fuel Surcharge (FSC). Jet Airways (39.81 Crores), Indigo Parent InterGlobe Aviation (9.45 Crores) and Spice Jet (5.10 Crores).
71. ▶ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) approved National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) to development *Hansa-NG*, a next generation trainer aircraft of two-seater Hansa-3 aircraft.
72. ▶ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research -National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under Ministry of Communications signed an MOU on technical knowledge sharing for establishing a nationwide Time Stamping & Time Synchronization network and traceability of Time signal to UTC NPL Time.
- ✎ Nationwide, Time Stamping & Time Synchronization network consisting of 22 numbers of Time Synchronization Centers (TSC's) will be set up by DoT with technical assistance from CSIR-NPL. This network will provide synchronizing pulse in Indian Standard Time(IST) to all Telecom & Internet Service providers in all the 22 LSA (Licensed Service Areas) in the country.
  - ✎ Purpose of synchronizing the telecom network with IST time stamp is to enable security agencies to overcome difficulty in analyzing cyber events in this era of greatly increasing network speed with advancement of telecom technology. It will also improve telecom network efficiency by reducing packet loss due to reduced slips in better synchronized digital network.
73. ▶ Dalmia Bharat Group adopted Gandikota Fort in Andhra Pradesh and Red Fort in Delhi, under government's 'Adopt A Heritage' scheme, for a period of five years.
74. ▶ Delhi Government launched *Delhi's Date with Democracy* mobile application to serve as a platform for aspiring singers and dancers in city to showcase their talent on a big stage. Sahitya Kala Parishad and Delhi Kalyan Samiti have collaborated with the Delhi Government for this initiative.
75. ▶ Delhi Metro in association with IndusInd Bank launched a dual purpose Metro Plus' debit card that will enable customers of IndusInd bank to use it for metro train rides as well as for all other regular debit card transactions.
76. ▶ Delhi government approved delivering rations in sealed packets at doorstep to 72 Lakh Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries, to address problems such as theft of ration, poor quality of supplies and shops remaining closed.
77. ▶ Delhi government will establish State Sanskrit Education Council to improve formal education of Sanskrit in Delhi.
78. ▶ Delhi government will set up *Rogi Kalyan Samitis* in each Assembly constituency and *Jan Swasthaya Samitis* in state-run dispensaries, poly clinics and mohalla clinics, to provide support to health institutions. Each such entity will receive INR 3 lakh as grand-in aid every year.
79. ▶ Delhi-NCR region began supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel), to combat the rising levels of air pollution. Delhi became first city in country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI.
80. ▶ Department of Agriculture released 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18. At 279.51 million tonnes, Record Foodgrains generation is expected in 2017-18.
81. ▶ Department of Biotechnology constituted Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) to investigate matter of illegal cultivation of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) or BG-III cotton in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra, after several complaints regarding illegal cultivation of HT cotton.
- ✎ Cultivation of HT cotton (BG-III) is not approved by country's biotech regulator, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment. HT Cotton (Herbicide-Tolerant (HT) Cotton / BG-III cotton) takes care of weeds problem at much lower cost as compared to physical labour required for weeding. It contains Round-up Ready and Round-up Flex (RRF) gene.
  - ✎ The herbicide-resistant gene in HT cotton can spread through pollen into biodiversity system leading to transformation of weeds into super weeds on large-scale. It will threaten growth and yields of all crops in future and also increase cultivation costs and lead to health hazards.
82. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion(DIPP) launched a competitive ranking framework system called *State Startup Ranking Framework 2018*, to grow a sense of competition in providing startup environment in different states(including 30 states / UTs). These states and UTs will be evaluated based on 38 parameters categorized into 7 areas and on a score of 100 they will be ranked.

83. ▶ Department of Industrial and Management Engineering of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has set up India's first Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) with help of United Kingdom Govt. It aims at providing independent advisory on matters related to power and energy sector.
- ▶ IIT-Kanpur also signed a 15-crore MoU with VTOL Aviation India to develop vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) craft prototypes, potentially to be used as flying taxis.
84. ▶ Department of Posts launched DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT OF RURAL POST OFFICE FOR A NEW INDIA (DARPAN) Project, aiming to connect all 1.29 lakh Rural Branch Post Offices, to enable them to do online Postal and Financial Transactions. Project cost is INR 1300 crores.
85. ▶ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft of new Telecom policy – *National Digital Communications Policy 2018*.
- ▶ It Calls for Universal broadband coverage, creating 40 lakh jobs in digital communications sector, enhancing contribution of digital communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017. These objectives are to be achieved by 2022. It also aims to hike India's rank in ITU's ICT development index to top 50, from 134 in 2017.
  - ▶ Improvement in regulatory framework - The policy recognises its importance for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve needs of people.
  - ▶ Rationalising spectrum regulatory regime - It recognises spectrum as key natural resource for public benefit to achieve socio-economic goals. It calls for simplifying process of obtaining permissions from various agencies, to promote efficiency.
  - ▶ National Broadband Mission - It will be established to secure universal broadband access for implementation of broadband initiatives, to be funded through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Its components include- BharatNet (10 to 10 Gbps to Gram Panchayats), GramNet (connecting key rural areas with 10 to 100 Mbps), NagarNet (establish one- million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas), JanWiFi (establishing two-million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas) and Fibre First Initiative.
  - ▶ Satellite Communication Technologies - Government would develop an ecosystem for satellite communications in India.
  - ▶ USOF's scope and modalities will be reviewed by redesigning USOF and broadening its objectives to enable universal broadband access and strengthening institutional capacity.
  - ▶ Better Quality of services.
  - ▶ Comprehensive data protection regime has been mandated for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.
86. ▶ Diu Smart City become first city in India to run 100% on renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green. Diu had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until last year.
87. ▶ Diu become only Union Territory to be fully run on solar energy. It generates 13 megawatts (MW) of electricity from solar power generating facilities daily. 3 MW is generated by rooftop solar plants and 10 MW by its other solar power plants.
88. ▶ Election Commission announced dates for Assembly elections 2018 for Southern State of Karnataka. Elections for 224 Seats will be held on May 12, 2018.
89. ▶ Election Commission of India will aunch mobile application called *Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting App*, ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha polls, to empower people to share evidence of malpractices directly with ECI. It will allow instant sharing of photos, audio and video clips related to electoral malpractices.
90. ▶ Endangered Asiatic lion, which only live in Gir Forest National Park of India, has seen its population rising to over 600 from just about 180 in 1960s. Asiatic lions separated from african lions approx 100000 years ago. Their territory is restricted to 1400 square kilometre Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat.
91. ▶ Environment Ministry notified Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018, validating phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP). MLP is non-recyclable, non-energy recoverable and has no alternate use. Other recommendations -
- ▶ Central registration system for registration of producer, importer or brand owner is to be created by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
  - ▶ Producers with presence in over 2 states need to apply for national registry CPCB, while small producers require a state-level registration with State Pollution Control Board.
  - ▶ Rule 15 has been removed, that stated explicit pricing of carry bags.
92. ▶ Environment ministry has banned plastics in all protected areas throughout India, declaring them *plastic free zones*.
93. ▶ Expert committee headed by HN Nagamohan Das, constituted by Karnataka Government to examine demand for a separate religion tag for Lingayats, has recommended *Religious Minority* status for Lingayat community. It concluded that there is enough evidence to show that Lingayat religion is different from Hindu religion.
94. ▶ FMCG Firm Patanjali tied up Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to launch Swadeshi Samridhi SIM cards.

- ✎ It can be recharged for INR 144, for which users will get unlimited calls throughout country, 2 GB data and 100 SMS daily.
  - ✎ After Roll Out, customers will get 10% discount on Patanjali products. SIM card also comes with medical insurance and life insurance covers. Medical insurance cover is for Rs 2.5 lakh, while life insurance costs Rs 5 lakh (in event of road accident).
  - ✎ Patanjali also launched a new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho' to compete with WhatsApp, with tagline *Ab Bharat Bolega*.
95. ▶ FMCG major ITC tied up with NITI Aayog to train 2 lakh farmers to increase their income and raise productivity of major crops in 25 aspirational districts across 7 states by 2022. These districts are from Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
  96. ▶ Finance Ministry approved to provide Assistance for completion of 8 Irrigation projects and 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada and drought prone areas of Maharashtra, with Estimated cost INR 13651 Crores. These projects are expected to be completed by 2022-23.
  97. ▶ First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words launched by Thaawarchand Gehlot, developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC). It aims to remove communications barriers between deaf and hearing communities as it is focused on providing more information in Indian sign language. It consists words of five categories Everyday Terms, Legal Terms, Academic Terms, Medical Terms and Technical Terms.
  98. ▶ First International Children's Film Festival of Kerala s held in Thiruvananthapuram. Chairman of organising committee is Mukesh.
  99. ▶ First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team began its operations in Phagwara (Punjab). It was 192nd POPSK in country and first one to be operated by an all-woman team.
  100. ▶ First phase of 2000 MW Capacity *Shakti Sthala* solar park inaugurated in drought-prone Pavagada region of Tumkur district (Karnataka), claimed to be world's largest solar park.
    - ✎ It is in line with Central Government's plans to enhance solar power capacity to 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2020.
    - ✎ First phase of this INR 16500 crores Project will generate 600MW power, while balance 1,400MW will be commissioned in 2nd phase by of 2018.
  101. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched *Project Dhoop* to address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD). It aims to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
  102. ▶ Forbes India released the *W-Power Trailblazers* issue 2018, featuring 25 rising women stars in business. It is 2nd edition of this report.
  103. ▶ Former footballer Bhaichung Bhutia launched his political party named "Hamro Sikkim".
  104. ▶ Four States and 1 UT (*Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh (UT)*) signed first MoU with Government's National Health Mission, for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM).
    - ✎ MOUs were signed during Ayushman Bharat Northern Region's first workshop on PMRSSM at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
    - ✎ Ayushman Bharat is Centrally Sponsored health insurance scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
      - ✎ It will target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.
      - ✎ It will provide Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover per family per year.
      - ✎ Under it, government will set up 1.5 lakh wellness centres across the country by 2022 that will leverage on comprehensive primary health care for preventive, promotive and curative care.
  105. ▶ Gadchiroli book reading event created a new Guinness world record breaking Guinness world record created in Turkey in 2017. Approx 7000 people participated in book reading event conducted at Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), organised by police authorities.
  106. ▶ General Conferences (Apr 11-20, 2018) -
    - ✎ India's Largest Defence Expedition DefExpo-18 Held in Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai (Tamilnadu). Third India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was also held alongwith. Theme of expo was *India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub*. During DEFEXPO 18 -
      - ✎ Boeing India, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Mahindra Defence Systems entered into agreement to manufacture fighter aircraft F/A-18 Super Hornet in India.
      - ✎ Mahindra Defence Systems also signed agreement with ShinMaywa Industries of Japan to manufacture amphibious aircraft ShinMaywa US-2 in India. It is only 'in-service' open sea-capable amphibian aircraft with advanced equipment suitable for rough sea operations.
    - ✎ India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) organized 2-day Consultative Workshop for Delegation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Kazakhstan in New Delhi.

- ✎ India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 held in New Delhi with theme *Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540*.
- ✎ First regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources is held in Kolkata (West Bengal), to address outstanding water resources issues.
- ✎ First meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan held in New Delhi. It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- ✎ 7th Home Expo India 2018, organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida (UP).
- ✎ Biannual Indian army commanders' conference 2018 held in New Delhi.
- ✎ 2-day Regional Conference on "Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges" held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

107. ▶ General Conferences (Apr 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✎ Election Commission a Training and Certification Programme for State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs) at New Delhi. Certification course for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) was also conducted.
- ✎ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu chaired first meeting of think tank on Framework for National Policy on E-commerce held in New Delhi.
- ✎ National Kharif Conference 2018 held in New Delhi.
- ✎ 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- ✎ First International SME Convention organised by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in New Delhi.
- ✎ 29th Road Safety Week held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Book named "Have a Safe Journey" was also released.
- ✎ 3rd Annual 5G India Congress 2018 held in New Delhi.
- ✎ 3rd meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA) held in Delhi.
- ✎ Secure India Conclave, organised by Global Counter Terrorism Council held in New Delhi.
- ✎ National Disaster Response Authority (NDMA) conducted its first ever mock exercise at Patna (Bihar), aimed at enhancing preparedness of Airport Emergency Handlers (AEHs) to respond to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) emergencies at airports.
- ✎ A Cancer Screening Mela was organized in Mizoram, by state's Health Department with Public Foundation of India and National Health Mission under initiative of Swasth Purv.
- ✎ Odisha Govt. inaugurated 'Odisha Skills 2018', state-level chapter of India Skill competition organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in Cuttack (Odisha).
- ✎ Kerala hosted India Skills Kerala 2018 in Kochi, as part of World Skills India 2018, to help youngsters to show their vocational skills. It also helped training students for World Skills Competition Kazan 2019 (Russia).

108. ▶ General Conferences (April 1-10, 2018) -

- ✎ Second lead-up Conference to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). About AIIB -
  - ✎ Headquarters - Beijing (China).
  - ✎ 64 Members and Jin Liqun is current (President).
- ✎ First meeting of the newly constituted 'NITI Forum for North East held in Agartala (Tripura) today.
- ✎ 9th US-Japan-India held trilateral meeting in New Delhi.
- ✎ 2 Assam Spring Festival held at Manas National Park, organised by Indian Weavers' Association and Swankar Mithinga Onsai Afat, an association of reformed poachers in Manas who are engaged in wildlife conservation.
- ✎ Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park- Himalayan Mega Food Park Private Ltd inaugurated at Mahuakhera Ganj in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district. State's first Mega Food Park is operational at Haridwar.
- ✎ National Convention of Swachhagrahis held at Motihari (Bihar) with theme Satyagraha se Swachhagrah, organized as part of centenary celebrations of Champaran Satyagraha.
- ✎ 34th annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) held in New Delhi.

109. ▶ General Conferences (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ 27th Technological Conference of Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA) held in Kolkata.
- ✎ Cultural Festival *Shigmotsav* organized in Goa, with Shigmo parades offering glimpses of Goan life depicted through folk dance and music performances by locals.



- ✎ 46th Know India Programme (KIP) organized by Government in New Delhi, aiming to engage and make students and young professionals of Indian Diaspora, connected with their motherland.
  - ✎ Conference on *Indian Metros: Collaborating for Excellence* held in New Delhi. During this, I-METROS, an association of all Indian Metro Rail companies was launched. It will be a forum for exchange of ideas, pooling of knowledge and sharing of experience, best practices, innovations etc.
  - ✎ Biennial event *WINGS INDIA 2018* held in Hyderabad (Telangana) with theme *India-Global Aviation Hub*. During this, International Air Transport Association (IATA) signed MoU with Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and National Aviation University (NAU) to enhance human resource availability in India's aviation industry.
  - ✎ India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) Delhi conducted a training programme on 'Capacity Development for Election Management'.
  - ✎ 29th International Yoga Festival (IYF) held at Rishikesh (Uttarakhand).
  - ✎ Event named *Vision for Future* held in New Delhi to commemorate 70 years of Indo-Russia ties.
  - ✎ Large scale Media & Entertainment Services Market - enTTech 2018 organized in Mumbai.
  - ✎ National Legislators Conference held in New Delhi with theme *We For Development*'.
  - ✎ World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018 held in Spain as world's largest international air traffic management (ATM) exhibition.
  - ✎ 4th India-Europe 29 Business Forum (IE29BF) held in New Delhi with theme *Synergising Economic Vision for Expanded Relations and Czech Republic as Focus Country*.
  - ✎ *FICCI Frames 2018* Conference held in Mumbai and released FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment Report 2018 named *Re-imagining India's M&E Sector*.
  - ✎ *End TB Summit* held in New Delhi, highlighting India's aim to be TB-Free by 2025. Member Countries of World Health Organization-Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO-SEARO) adopted 'Delhi End TB Summit Statement of Action'.
  - ✎ Executive Committee tasked with overlooking all Nutrition related activities under POSHAN Abhiyaan (*PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment*) held its first meeting in New Delhi.
  - ✎ 2018 World Conference on Tobacco or Health held in Capetown (South Africa).
110. ▶ General Conferences (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✎ IARI's Annual Krishi Unnati Mela 2018 held in Pusa (Bihar) and New Delhi. Krishi Vigyan Mela (Agriculture Science Fair) is held since 1972 and is a highly important annual event of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Objective is to create awareness among farmers about the latest agriculture-related technological developments.
  - ✎ First Indo-French Knowledge Summit for university, scientific and technology cooperation held in New Delhi.
  - ✎ National Conference on Counterfeiting and Role of Enforcement Agencies held in New Delhi, organised by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) in collaboration with European Union (EU).
  - ✎ 2 day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) held in New Delhi with theme *Challenges to Policing in 2020*.
  - ✎ First edition of *Soldierathon* held in New Delhi, as a special marathon aimed at raising funds for welfare of Indian soldiers and their families.
  - ✎ First regional conference on *Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Urban Areas – Opportunities and Challenges* held in Kolkata.
  - ✎ *Indian Images: People and Places*, a photo exhibition about India organized in Cairo (Egypt), as part of annual cultural festival *India by the Nile*.
  - ✎ Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind presented Gandhian Young Technological Innovation awards instituted by Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions [SRISTI].
  - ✎ First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction held in New Delhi.
  - ✎ 3rd National Conclave on Mines and Minerals Held in New Delhi. During This, Ministry of Mines launched Sand Mining Framework to help states deal with the sand mining issues, including demand supply deficit and illegal extraction.
    - ✎ There have been various issues in mining activities related to sand like non availability of sand, environmental degradation, high sand prices, illegalities in sand mining etc.
111. ▶ General Conferences (Mar 21 - 31, 2018)
- ✎ An International Yoga Fest held in New Delhi, as a curtain raiser for International Yoga Day (IYD) to be held on 21st June 2018.
  - ✎ First edition of Delhi Energy Dialogue (DED) 2018 organised by Ashden India Collective (AIC) in alliance with the Climate Parliament and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

- ✎ 1st meeting of Working Group on making India a USD 5 Trillion Economy held in New Delhi, chaired by Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu.
  - ✎ Rising India Summit organized by Network 18 held in New Delhi.
  - ✎ 5th *Nadi Mahotsava* held at Bandrabhan in Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh).
  - ✎ Bihar Govt. inaugurated first 'Startup hub' of Bihar in Patna.
  - ✎ First National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement held in New Delhi.
  - ✎ 5th India Maize Summit 2018 held in New Delhi, to harness the potential of maize and technological innovations.
  - ✎ 46th All India Police Science Congress held in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
  - ✎ 11th Rashtriya Rifles Biennial Conference is being conducted at Nagrota (J &K).
  - ✎ National Conference on Down Syndrome organised by National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.
  - ✎ 1st *International Print Biennale*, an International Exhibition of Graphic Prints held in New Delhi.
  - ✎ 1st National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses held in New Delhi.
  - ✎ SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 organized in New Delhi under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). It aims to provide to rural women producers a national platform and an opportunity to showcase their products and seek buyers, either individuals or bulk buyers for sale nationally/internationally.
  - ✎ Smart India Hackathon Grand Finale 2018 (Software edition) held in New Delhi. 1 lakh students from 1200 colleges participated in this world's largest Hackathon.
  - ✎ International Yachting Festival held in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), conducted by the Andhra Pradesh government.
112. ▶ General Conferences (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✎ Ministry of Finance organized 4th Regional Conference on Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure in Bengaluru. This Conference is a lead-up to the 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to be hosted by India in June 2018.
  - ✎ Women and Child Development Ministry held National Conference of 244 Districts under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) in New Delhi.
  - ✎ First meeting of National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati in New Delhi. Committee has total of 125 members, chaired by President Ram Nath Kovind.
  - ✎ Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba launched online Event Clearance System (<https://conference.mha.gov.in>) for grant of security clearance to conference/seminar/workshop organized in India.
  - ✎ 15th Finance Commission held its First Conference on Agriculture sector, In New Delhi.
    - ✎ 15th Finance Commission of India was formed in November 2017 under Nand Kishore Singh and will be operational between 2020 - 2025. Appointments Committee appointed Ashok Lahiri as Full Time Member in 15th Finance Commission, subject to condition that he steps down as non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank.
    - ✎ Currently, 14th Finance Commission is Operational (2015–2020) with former Reserve Bank of India governor Y. V. Reddy.
  - ✎ India and USA held 2nd round of India-US Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa, focussing on cooperation in Indo-Pacific region.
  - ✎ National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database Held in New Delhi, by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
  - ✎ India will organize a cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition on paintings of Tagore titled 'Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours' will be held in Giza.
  - ✎ *Vibrant North East 2018*, an event to make people aware of government's schemes was held in Guwahati (Assam).
  - ✎ Government held Kisan Kalyan Karyashala at block level all over India, under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan initiative. At the workshops, farmers from each block interacted with agriculture scientists regarding increase of farmers' income using new technologies. On this occasion, Skill India also organized an Aajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
  - ✎ First Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities held in Bhopal (MP). During this, Aence Française de Développement (AFD's) programme to fund Smart City projects was launched. Under this, Euro 100 million will be provided to 30- 80 selected projects (selected through a challenge) and Euro 6 million will be available for technical support.
  - ✎ 29th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between India and Sri Lanka held onboard INS *Sumithra* at Boundary Line off Kankesanthurai.
  - ✎ Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) organised a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' in Faridabad (Haryana).
  - ✎ Exhibition called *India and the World: A History in Nine Stories* held at National Museum auditorium in New Delhi.

- 19th TOONZ Animation Masters Summit held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), organised by Toonz Media Group.
  - Bi-annual Naval Commander's Conference held in New Delhi.
  - Star Khel Mahakumbh* held in Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh), seeking participation from youth across 5000 villages and 800 panchayats in various sports.
113. ▶ General Conferences (May 11 - 20, 2018)
- 6th US-India Aviation Summit held in Mumbai, jointly organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). During this, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Rs 945-crores 15 year deal with Harris Corporation of USA for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.
  - Customs and Department of India Posts held a first-ever Joint Conference in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
  - 2 day North east Regional Conference on *Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development* held in Guwahati (Assam).
  - Stakeholder Meeting on Samarth (*Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under Skill India Mission*) held in New Delhi. This scheme was Launched in December 2017 and aims to provide placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), by training 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) by 2020, with outlay of 1300 crores.
  - First International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), to focus on Rail Coaches and train sets, hosted by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) under Railways Ministry.
  - National Conference of Fisheries Ministers of Coastal states held in New Delhi.
  - NITI Aayog and Vision India Foundation organized Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to deepen economic relationships between France and India. 20 big French venture capital participated in event, to explore investment opportunities.
114. ▶ General Conferences (May 21 - 31, 2018) -
- A children's theatre and personality development workshop held in North Delhi, organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA).
  - Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities of Arbitration in SAARC region held in New Delhi.
  - Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar committed to provide govt financial assistance worth Rs 6 Lakh for cochlear implant of children with hearing impairment in economically weak sections of Sikkim.
  - Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram launched an exhibition cum sale event, *the PANKHA (Hand-fans)*, created by TRIFED through its artisans from all over the country at its showroom Tribes India in New Delhi.
  - Railways conducted a one day workshop "Mission Raftaar" aimed at raising average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi. Mission Raftaar aims at doubling average speed of freight trains and increasing average speed of coaching trains by 25 kmph over 5 years.
  - India and Pakistan held meeting of their coast guard officials in New Delhi.
  - Actor Akshay Kumar launched twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi, to spread awareness on issue and make cleanliness drive more effective.
  - Smart Cities India 2018 Expo held in New Delhi, with a vision to help develop attractive and safe cities.
  - 34th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring held in New Delhi. During it, Construction of new 1.5 lakh affordable houses (most in Andhra Pradesh was approved, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban). It has an investment of 7227 crores with central assistance of 2209 crores. It took number of houses under PMAY(U) to 47,52,751 houses.
  - 1st biannual IAF Commander's conference held at Air headquarters in New Delhi.
115. ▶ Goa government will launch its own app-based taxi service to few key tourist destinations of state. Taxi operators would be required to follow online queuing system, based on which a ride will be confirmed or assigned to them. It is expected to solve state's problematic tourist taxi issue that has been plaguing its tourism sector for several years.
116. ▶ Google Arts & Culture in partnership with Ministry of Tourism has unveiled 360-degree virtual reality (VR) video for global 'Incredible India' tourism campaign. As part of it, Google Arts & Culture will provide immersive 360-degree view of India's heritage, festivity and spirituality.
117. ▶ Google's philanthropic arm Google.org announced \$3 million in grants for teacher training and educational content creation in India.
- Google will also facilitate all Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh with internet access, by installing 25000 Wi-Fi hotspots by December 2018.
118. ▶ Government appointed Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.
119. ▶ Government approved creating Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation, aimed to promote high professional Investigation of Crime in State/UT Police and Central Investigating Agencies (CIAs).
- Officers from rank of Sub-Inspector to Superintendent of Police will be eligible for this honour.

- ✎ Names of awardees will be declared every year on 15th August.
  - ✎ Based on the average crime data for last three years, total 162 medals will be awarded every year, of these, 137 will be for States/UTs and 25 for CIAs viz. National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB).
120. ▶ Government approved setting up an exclusive *Brahmaputra Study Centre* at Gauhati University (Assam), with funds approx INR 28 crores. It will offer an opportunity for research in different aspects of river Brahmaputra in physics, hydrology, waterways, environment, disaster/flood management, hydro-power production etc.
  121. ▶ Government approved setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District (Jharkhand), at a cost of Rs. 120 crores in an area of 150 acres and a range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc would be manufactured. It will provide direct employment to about 6000 people and indirect employment to over 30000 people.
  122. ▶ Government banned imports of hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in livestock industry, where it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals. Government will rely on domestic production to satisfy requirements of hormone.
  123. ▶ Government declared 2018 as 'National Year of Millets' to boost cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security.
  124. ▶ Government launched GOBARDhan Yojna nationally from National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal district of Haryana. GOBAR is acronym for Galvanising Organic Bio Agro Resources. This scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste from farms and fields to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG. It will also help in keeping villages clean and generate energy while increasing income of farmers and cattle herders.
    - ✎ Central and state governments will provide funds in the ratio of 60:40, depending upon number of households in village.
    - ✎ It will be beneficial as India is home to highest cattle population in world (around 30 crores) and produces around 3 million tonnes of dung. It will encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as waste but as source of income.
  125. ▶ Government preponed national development target date for completion of PMGSY-I (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) , from 2022 to 2019. Since its inception in 2000, PMGSY provided connectivity to 152124 habitations (from 178184 eligible habitations). Target is to Provide connectivity to 166012 habitations by March 2019.
    - ✎ Construction of PMGSY roads reached record high of 134 kms per day in 2017-18 as against average of 73 kms during 2011 - 2014.
  126. ▶ Government will launch Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) 2018 aimed at engaging college youth with Swachhata work in villages in coming Summer vacation. It will be launched by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Under it, candidates will undertake 100 hours of activities including creation of sanitation infrastructure, system building, behaviour change campaigns and other IEC initiatives around nearby villages.
  127. ▶ Government will link additional 200 wholesale mandis to online trading platform eNAM (electronic National Agriculture Market) in 2018-19 and will encourage inter-mandi transactions. At present, 585 regulated mandis in 14 states are linked with the eNAM, with 73.50 lakh farmers, 53,163 commission agents and over 1 lakh traders registered on it.
    - ✎ eNAM is pan-India electronic trading portal for farm produce which aims creates unified national market for agricultural commodities by integrating existing Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets.
    - ✎ It provides single window service for all APMC related services, including commodity arrivals and prices, provision for responding to trade offers, buy and sell trade offers, among other services.
  128. ▶ Government's Film Facilitation Office will launch dedicated web portal for disseminating information on filming locations and facilities available in India for production. It will help potential production companies looking to shoot in India to obtain permissions and explore potential benefits.
  129. ▶ Government's Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme (implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) has so far distributed over 30 crore light emitting diode (LED) bulbs across country.
    - ✎ It has led to energy savings worth INR 15581 crores, increased penetration of LED in domestic market to 10% from mere 0.4% earlier.
    - ✎ It has increased India's share in global LED market to 12% from a mere 0.1%.
  130. ▶ Govt. launched *National E-Mobility Programme* aimed boosting e-mobility ecosystem including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure companies, fleet operators, service providers etc, to be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). EESL will procure electric vehicles in bulk to get economies of scale, to replace existing petrol and diesel vehicles. With 20000 Procured electric cars, India is expected to save over 5 crore litres of fuel every year, and reduction of over 5.6 lakh tonnes of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emission.
  131. ▶ Govt. launched a Mobile App (m-Awas) for allotment of Government accommodations in General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) in Delhi under the control of Directorate of Estates.
  132. ▶ Gujarat Govt. approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), as largest Solar Park in world. It would be set up in 11,000 hectares of land with an investment of INR 25000 crores.

133. ▶ Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) started *Neem Project* in Amethi District of Uttar Pradesh. Since 2015, GNFC, through its Neem Project has collected over 45,000 tonnes of neem seeds by engaging 4.5 lakh rural women in 5 states - Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.
134. ▶ Gujarat government signed an MoU with Poland government, regarding centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other regions of world.
135. ▶ Gujarat government unveiled its *Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy*, that aims to reduce state's dependence on freshwater sources like Narmada river. It will promote use of treated wastewater and will see setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) across Gujarat.
136. ▶ Gujarat government will launch free treatment scheme for road accident victims, by bearing medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of a road accident in for first 48 hours.
137. ▶ Gujarat govt. will set up a seawater desalination plant with capacity to desalinate 100 million litre water per day, near Jodiya town in Jamnagar district.
138. ▶ Gujarat police unveiled *Pocket Cop* project, which will enable quicker verification of passport applicants, and search of accused persons. Under this, smartphones with data connectivity will be given to 4,900 police personnel.
139. ▶ Guwahati became India's first railway station run by solar power, with 2352 solar modules installed with a capacity of generating 700 kwp.
140. ▶ HRD Ministry launched *Study in India* portal at URL [www.studyinindia.gov.in](http://www.studyinindia.gov.in), as a single window to cover all aspects relating to studying in India for foreign students. Students across world will now be able to pursue the education in prominent Indian Educational Institutions. Integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository (of HRD Ministry), was also launched on the occasion.
  - ▶ e-Sanad is aimed at online submission and verification of documents with ultimate object to extend contact less, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service. Using it, any type of document viz personal, educational or commercial can be authenticated and apostilled.
  - ▶ National Academic Depository (NAD) is 24X7 online store house of all academic awards viz. diplomas certificates,, degrees, mark-sheets etc. duly digitised and lodged by academic boards, institutions, eligibility assessment bodies. It ensures easy access to and retrieval of academic award and validates and guarantees its authenticity and safe storage.
141. ▶ Hardeep Singh Puri (Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs) launched Smart Imprest Cards & e- Measurement Book ( e-MB) on PFMS portal for CPWD. This will be first integrated web based module in Civil Ministries to monitor both financial progress along with physical progress captured as per schedule of various items of works.
142. ▶ Haryana Government approved an affordable housing policy *Housing for all-2018* for core areas of municipalities in state. Town and Country Planning Department would be delegating power to Urban Local Bodies Department for implementation. Key Highlights -
  - ▶ For core areas, projects would be allowed in core areas of municipal towns with an area 1 - 5 acres, while floor area ratio (FAR) should be 250 and for 2.5 to 5 acres, it should be 275.
  - ▶ Allotment rate is 4000 per sq ft in hyper potential zones, Rs 3,000 per sq ft in high potential zones, Rs 2,500 for medium potential zones and Rs 2,100 per sq ft in low potential zones.
  - ▶ Beneficiaries would be provided financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh.
143. ▶ Haryana Government launched water ATM policy to provide clean drinking water at public places to people of state. Urban residents of state Haryana can now look forward to having a water ATM every 400 metres.
144. ▶ Haryana Govt. approved Slum-In-Situ Rehabilitation Policy to provide housing facility to slum dwellers without making them relocate to other areas. Under this, total INR 1.67 lakh per dwelling unit will be provided to developer for construction of houses (1 Lakh by Central and 67000 by State Govt.).
145. ▶ Haryana Govt. will launch *Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana*, developed for safety of girl students in Haryana.
146. ▶ Haryana's first cyber police station, equipped with a digital forensic laboratory, inaugurated in Gurugram. It will have modern equipment to deal with crimes in cyber world.
147. ▶ High-speed interceptor boat ICG C-162 has been commissioned into service by Indian Coast Guard (ICG), built by Bharati Defence and Infrastructure Ltd (BDIL).
148. ▶ Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur released *Mahila Suraksha* handbook on women's safety, brought out by Shimla administration.
149. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Food, civil supplies and Consumer Affairs department launched an app for ration card holders, called ePDS (electronic public distribution system). Beneficiaries can use digital ration card in ration shops. HP government also recently started Himachal Grihni Suidha Yojna, which will provide 1 lakh women with gas cylinders and stoves free of cost.
150. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government approved setting up of a regional-cum-facilitation centre of National Medicinal Plants Board of Ministry of Ayush, in Jogindernagar town in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.



151. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government launched *Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana*, to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System. It would increase soil productivity, decrease use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals and increase water infiltration. State Govt. also Launched a week long *Polythene Hatao, Paryavaran Bachao* Campaign.
152. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government will introduce free Heli-ambulance services in order to help patients in far flung and inaccessible areas . Free Heli-ambulance services will be operated by Heli-mission Switzerland with the assistance of Lady Willingdon Hospital (Kullu District).
- ▶ State Govt. inaugurated Kanda Pattan-Sarkaghat Water Supply Scheme in Mandi district. It will benefit more than 31,000 people of region. State govt. also decreased age criteria for getting old age pension to 70 years from 80 years.
153. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Govt. launched Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) programme with an aim to promote breastfeeding, strengthening inter-personal communication through ASHA workers, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points.
154. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate' as a major tourist attraction. It was acquired by government for over 27 crores two years ago, from a Business family.
155. ▶ Hindon Elevated Road, India's longest elevated road inaugurated in Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) by UP CM Yogi Adityanath. It will make it easier to commute between Delhi and Ghaziabad, saving approx 40 minutes of travel. It is 10.5KMs long, built on 227 single pillars. It was built at a cost of about Rs 11,000 crores.
156. ▶ Home Ministry approved Central Assistance of INR 1161 Crores to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Lakshadweep (UT) and Rajasthan -
- ▶ Assam (480 Crores), Himachal Pradesh(84 Crores), Sikkim (67 Crores) were affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18.
  - ▶ Lakshadweep (2.6 Crores) was affected by cyclone Ockhi.
  - ▶ Rajasthan (526 Crores) affected by kharif drought during 2017.
157. ▶ Human Resource Development Ministry launched 2nd edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in New Delhi. Under this, students from 750 higher educational institutions from across country will adopt nearby villages and visit them to get acquainted with regular lifestyle of village people and problems faced by them. Main objective is to enable higher education institutions to work with people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable development in rural areas.
158. ▶ Human Resource Development Ministry released NIRF India Rankings 2018 of higher educational institutions -
- ▶ Top 10 (Overall) -
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology Madras
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
    - ▶ Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
    - ▶ Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
    - ▶ Anna University, Chennai
  - ▶ Top 5 Universities -
    - ▶ Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
    - ▶ Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi
    - ▶ Banaras Hindu University Varanasi
    - ▶ Anna University Chennai
    - ▶ University of Hyderabad
  - ▶ Top 5 Medical Institutes -
    - ▶ All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi
    - ▶ Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
    - ▶ Christian Medical College, Vellore
    - ▶ Kasturba Medical College, Manipal
    - ▶ King George` s Medical University, Lucknow
  - ▶ Top 5 Colleges -
    - ▶ Miranda House, Delhi University
    - ▶ St, Stephens, Delhi University
    - ▶ Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli

- ✍ Hindu College, Delhi
- ✍ Presidency College, Chennai
- ✍ Top 5 Engineering Institutes -
  - ✍ IIT Madras
  - ✍ IIT Bombay
  - ✍ IIT Delhi
  - ✍ IIT Kharagpur
  - ✍ IIT Kanpur
- ✍ Top 5 Management Institutes -
  - ✍ Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
  - ✍ Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore
  - ✍ Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta
  - ✍ Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow
  - ✍ Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode

159. ▶ Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar Minister launched *Samagra Shiksha* - an integrated Scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondary levels for first time It will treat *school* holistically as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels.
- ✍ It focuses on improving quality of education at all levels by integrating two T's – Teachers and Technology.
  - ✍ Earlier budget on 3 education schemes (SSA, RMSA and Teacher Education) was 28,000 crores in 2017-18. But, budget outlay on new scheme will be 34,000 crore in 2018-19 and 41,000 crores in 2019-20.
  - ✍ 10 Lakh schools will get library grant of 5,000 to 20,000 to strengthen libraries.
  - ✍ Every school will get sports equipment under *Samagra Shiksha* - 5000 for Primary, 10,000 for Upper Primary & up to 25,000 for SSC & HSC schools.
  - ✍ Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) will be expanded from Class 6-8 to Class 6-12 with 4385.60 crores in 2018-19 & 4553.10 crores in 2019-20.
  - ✍ *DIKSHA* - national digital platform for teachers would put high quality teaching learning resources for ready use of teachers. *Samagra Shiksha* Scheme will support 'Operation Digital Board' in all secondary schools over a period of 5 years, so as to enhance use of digital technology through smart classrooms. Digital initiatives like ShaalaKosh, Shagun, ShaalaSaarthi will be strengthened.
160. ▶ Human Resources Development ministry will set up an innovation cell to develop new ideas and encourage innovation in India.
161. ▶ IRCTC partnered with Ola Cabs, in order to provide a book taxi option in its app and website. This will offer Ola Cabs booking services to customers in IRCTC Rail Connect App and on its website.
162. ▶ ISRO signed Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), to transfer technology for manufacture of space grade Li-Ion cells.
- ✍ ISRO uses Li-Ion batteries as power sources for satellite and launch vehicle applications due to their high energy density, reliability and long cycle life.
  - ✍ This Technology Transfer will enable BHEL to produce space grade Li-Ion cells which can meet country's space programme requirements.
163. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) teamed up with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to send extreme weather alerts to people. BSNL and IMD will send area-specific alerts to users if they happen to be at place likely to experience extreme weather conditions, even if their phone numbers do not belong to that particular telecom circle.
164. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) will add 30 more doppler radars in 2 years, with 14 in northeast, 4 in Jammu and Kashmir and 3 each will be Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- ✍ Doppler radar is an observational tool used for precisely monitoring and predicting severe weather events such as hailstorms, thunder storms, cyclones and tornados.
  - ✍ It uses Doppler effect by bouncing microwave signal off desired target to produce velocity data.
  - ✍ It mainly gives information about wind velocity and precipitation. Doppler radar has radius of 250 km and helps in issuing forecasts two-three hours prior to severe weather conditions.
  - ✍ First Doppler radar in India was installed in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in 2002. There are currently 27 Doppler radars in country.
165. ▶ India launched 9th and biggest ever auction of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks, offering permits to companies for selling Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in 86 geographical areas.

Companies with net worth over 150 crore can bid for cities with a population of 50 lakh and more. Companies with 100 crore net worth can bid for cities with 20 lakh to 50 lakh population and firms with Rs 5 crore net worth can bid for cities with under 10 lakh population.

166. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) to provide quality faculty for professional coaching of Kashmir Youth.

167. ▶ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) signed MoU to provide livelihood opportunities and augment income of forest based communities, valid for 10 years.

168. ▶ Indian Government will launch a national disaster database on UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR's) insistence to implement its commitment to Sendai Framework. State authorities will mandatorily report all disaster-related losses on real time basis.

169. ▶ Indian Oil Corp (IOC) started doorstep delivery of diesel on a pilot basis in Pune and has become first company in India to provide such service after receiving clearance from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

170. ▶ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) approved animal-free tests for drug manufacturers. It replaces pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes. These guidelines will come into effect from July 1, 2018.

Pyrogen test will be replaced by bacterial endotoxin test or monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes.

It is carried out to check impurity that can cause adverse side-effects. Drug is injected into rabbit and it is closely observed for feverish symptoms.

For abnormal toxicity test, Vaccine manufacturers can apply for waiver by getting compliance certificate from National Control Laboratory.

This test is carried out to check hazardous biological contamination in vaccine formulations. In this, mice or guinea pigs are injected with vaccine. The scientists observe if there is death of any animal.

171. ▶ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) introduced billing through Point of Sale (POS) hand-held machines in trains to check overcharging by vendors, initially introduced in New Delhi -Karnataka Express on a pilot basis.

172. ▶ Indian Railways inducted three 09-3x Dynamic Tamping Express machines for improved mechanised Track Maintenance, manufactured in India under Make in India initiative with imported components. This technology is available in five countries including India.

Railways plans to induct 42 more such machines in its maintenance fleet over next 3 years.

These Machines can perform several track maintenance tasks which are currently performed manually / through several machines.

Railways has planned complete mechanisation of inspection, monitoring, relaying and maintenance of track by 2024. Induction of such new machines will further help to improve safety, reliability and economy in maintenance of tracks over Indian Railways.

173. ▶ India's first helicopter taxi service launched in Bengaluru to fly passengers from Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City, to reduce time taken to cover the distance from 2 hours to 15 minutes.

174. ▶ India's first insect museum with state-of-the-art amenities is unveiled at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University campus in Coimbatore. It will display insects preserved as specimens as also live ones depicting their different developmental stages.

175. ▶ India's first national coastal policing academy, National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) to train police forces in effectively safeguarding country's shoreline will start functioning from April 2018. It will be launched from campus of Gujarat's Fisheries Research Centre in coastal Okha town in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat.

176. ▶ India's longest Rail and Road bridge *Bogibeel bridge*, linking Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh will be inaugurated in 2018. It is 4.94 km long and stays 32 metres above waters of Brahmaputra River. At present, travel from Dibrugarh to Arunachal Pradesh by train takes over 500 km detour. This bridge will bring travel length under 100 km.

177. ▶ India's tallest national flag with 9,600 sq.ft on a 110 m flag pole unfurled in Belagavi (Karnataka).

178. ▶ Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)'s National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) project has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.

Primary objective of NCAA is to preserve cultural heritage of India available in audiovisual form through a process of digitization and making it accessible to people.

179. ▶ Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Laboratory (IBSD) Imphal has set up a floating laboratory in northeast India's largest freshwater lake, Loktak to constantly monitor its water quality and improve it.

180. ▶ International Labour Organization (ILO)'s *World Employment and Social Outlook Report* projected increase in surface temperature due to global warming will lead to around 2,59,000 job losses in India by 2030. Global temperature rise of 1.5°C by end of 21st century will result in heat stress, which will reduce total number of working hours by 2030.

It will result in 5.3% rise work loss in percentage of total hours and productivity loss equivalent to 30.8 million full-time jobs.

 Agricultural workers will be worst affected, with loss of around 64% of working hours lost by 2030 due to physical nature of their work.


181. ▶ Jackfruit (कटहल) has been named as official fruit of State of Kerala.


182. ▶ Jaipur will co-host 8th Theatre Olympics, largest international theatre festival being held for the first time in India, to be organised by National School of Drama (NSD). Theme of 51 day long festival is *Flag of Friendship*. It will cover 17 cities in India with more than 25,000 artists performing 450 shows, 600 ambience performances and 250 youth show. 30 countries participated in the festival from across the globe.

183. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cabinet approved adopting Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for horticulture crops such as apple and saffron in state. Under RWBCIS, farmers will be provided insurance coverage and financial support in event of failure of any of notified crops due to adverse weather incidences. RWBCIS will be in addition to Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

184. ▶ Karnataka Assembly Election Results 2018 -

 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as largest party by winning 104 out of 222 Seats. INC (Indian National Congress) won 78 seats and Janata Dal (Secular) won 40 Seats.

 Votes Percentage - BJP (36.2%), INC (38 %), JDS (18.3%)

 Karnataka Election witnessed maximum expenditure by candidates and parties ever, estimated at 9500 - 10500 crores.

185. ▶ Karnataka Government accepted state flag as official flag in place of an unofficial red and yellow flag currently used in state to signify local pride. New tricolour having yellow (at top), white (in middle) and red (at bottom) colorus, with state's emblem Gandaberunda (a two-headed mythological bird) in centre. Karnataka is 2nd state after J&K to have its own state flag.

186. ▶ Karnataka Govt. recognised Lingayats as a 'religious minority' and included Veerashaivas who follow Basavanna as a group within community, approving recommendations of HN Nagamohan Das Committee.

187. ▶ Karnataka Govt. unveiled healthcare scheme *Arogya Karnataka* aimed at benefitting about 1.43 crore households in state. It will provide quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to both below-poverty-line (BPL) and above-poverty-line (APL) families in state.

188. ▶ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated Samagra Resource Portal and mobile app. More than 40,000 classrooms in Kerala will be made hi-tech by June 2018, through Samagra. Samagra is designed to make sure that all learning objectives are transacted through lesson plans as specified in curriculum.

189. ▶ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched M-Kerala app, at #Future, Kerala's first-ever global digital summit held in Kochi. It will help citizens to avail nearly 100 government services using their mobile phones. Theme of the Summit was *Towards a Digital Future*.

190. ▶ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched Pravasi pension scheme, offering pension of INR 2000 a month to state's Non Resident Citizens of over 60 years age. To avail this scheme, person has to pay Rs 100 per month for 5 years.

191. ▶ Kerala Government approved setting up of *Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited*, to offer free internet to over 20 lakh poor families. A Joint Venture company will be launched by *IT Infrastructure Limited, State Electricity Board and state government* to get this task done.


192. ▶ Kerala Government will start a 'community radio' to update farmers about latest developments, as first such community radio in India. It will start broadcast from Kuttanad in Alappuzha district, known as *rice bowl of Kerala*.

193. ▶ Kerala Govt inaugurate world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The Replica of Jatayu, a character in Ramayana is 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, 65 feet tall and is positioned at top of a rock at 1000 feet above sea level.

194. ▶ Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for increasing solar power generation in state, including setting up a 15 MW solar power unit at NTPC complex in Kayamkulam.


195. ▶ Kerala's startup ecosystem congregation held at Kovalam, with name *Huddle Kerala*. It is organised by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) along with Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

196. ▶ Law ministry will file a review petition against Supreme Court's ruling on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, that puts a stop to immediate arrests in complaints filed under its provisions.

 Previously, to curb misuse of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989) and protect honest public servants, Supreme Court stated that

 An arrest is not mandatory under the SC/ST Act, and automatic arrest has been scrapped.

 SC directed that public servants can only be arrested with written permission of their appointing authority.

 Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted in 1989. It is a comprehensive law which not only defines atrocities against SCs and STs but also make several rules and regulations. One provision states that public servant (non SC/ST) neglecting his duties related to SCs/STs will be punished with imprisonment for a term of 6 months to 1 year.

197. ▶ Linguist Panchanan Mohanty from University of Hyderabad discovered 2 endangered languages Walmiki and Malhar predominantly spoken in remote regions of Odisha.

📌 Walmiki - Spoken in district of Koraput of Odisha and on bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh.

📌 Malhar - Spoken in a remote and isolated hamlet about 165 km away from Bhubaneswar. It is spoken by community consisting of about 75 speakers including children.

198. ▶ MHA created a new Division to address issues of women safety comprehensively. Punya Salila Srivastava has been posted as Joint Secretary to head this Division. It will deal with - Crimes against women, SCs&STs, Crimes against children, elderly persons, Anti-trafficking Cell, Matters relating to Prison legislation and prison Reforms, Schemes under NIRBHAYA fund, Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network System (CCTNS) and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
199. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department signed MoU with Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL) to launch *Pashu Dhan Sanjeevani – 1962* Programme. It offers range of veterinary services, available on toll-free helpline number 1962. Services include emergency treatment, artificial insemination, vaccination and deworming etc. It will be monitored through 'Bharat Sanjeevani' software.
200. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched *My MP Rojgar Portal* to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per their needs, as part of *Ham Chhu Lenge Asman* programme.
201. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Govt. increased retirement age of Madhya Pradesh government employees from 60 to 62 years.
202. ▶ Madhya Pradesh West Power Distribution Company (MPWPDC) launched *Pink Electricity Zone* to be managed by 25 women staff. They will manage the energy maintenance work of 13,000 power connections in Aranya Nagar.
203. ▶ Madras High Court became first court in south India and overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility. It will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to government through e-stamps.
204. ▶ Maharashtra Government banned use of plastic in time-bound manner, citing environmental and public health concerns. Also, Punjab Government imposed a permanent ban on Hookah bars in state, to prevent diseases caused by the use of various tobacco products.
205. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched a new scheme to help the landless labourers from the Scheduled Castes to acquire agricultural land, paying only 5 % of cost. The rest up to 8 lakh rupees will be borne by Maharashtra government. This is a modified version of Dadasaheb Gaikwad empowerment scheme for landless labourers scheme, that offered 50 % subsidy.
206. ▶ Maharashtra Government will provide Rs 3 subsidy for every litre of milk to co-operative and private producers to manufacture milk powder, aimed at encouraging production of milk powder from surplus milk. Milk producers in Maharashtra will get Minimum Support Price (MSP) of INR 27 per litre.
207. ▶ Maharashtra Govt. launched QUEST (*Quality Evaluation for Sustainable Transformation*), a centre to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on tribal development, to bring greater accountability in management of funds allocated for tribal welfare.
208. ▶ Maharashtra State Government became first state to sign a MoU with Centre's Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state's Public Works Department (PWD) officials to rate government buildings. Objective is to encourage environment friendly buildings, that are designed using environmentally responsible processes.
209. ▶ Maharashtra became first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), to check irregularities and bring in transparency.
210. ▶ Maharashtra government announced that cancer patients would be provided with free chemotherapy treatment at district hospitals, starting June 2018. It aims to ease travelling and lodging problems of cancer patients who come to Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel, which is one of the country's premier cancer treatment facilities.
211. ▶ Maharashtra government partnered with Wikipedia, to spread Marathi language and enhance its online usage. It was announcement on Marathi language day (Feb 27).
212. ▶ Maharashtra government will rename Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University after Bahinabai Chaudhari, renowned poetess of 19th century.
213. ▶ Mahindra Electric and cab service Meru announced joint electric vehicle (EV) pilot project in Hyderabad.
214. ▶ Manipur CM N.Biren Singh launched *Go to Village* mission throughout, aimed at identifying eligible beneficiaries across state and delivering government services at their doorstep. The mission has been launched in 60 villages of all 60 Assembly constituencies.
215. ▶ Manipur has become first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets. Solar panel that are fitted to the toilets absorb heat to generate power, also have efficiency to transform waste material.
216. ▶ Manipur's Shirui Lily Festival 2018 has been concluded at Ukhrul district, to spread awareness about conservation of endangered Shirui Lily.
217. ▶ Meghalaya government launched 'Mission Lakadong' to achieve a five-fold increase in production of Lakadong turmeric, an organic variety of turmeric grown in Meghalaya, to at least 50,000 metric tonne per year in 5 years. Jaintia Hills District is home to Lakadong turmeric.









218. ▶ Microsoft opened *Garage* at Microsoft India Development Centre in Hyderabad (Telangana), as a platform for Microsoft employees that encourages experimentation, working together across organisations and to discover ideas and develop prototypes, adding value to existing products.
219. ▶ Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Act 2017 has been officially notified after of President's Approval. It amends Minimum Wages Act 1948, and was passed by Delhi Assembly in August 2017.
- ✎ As per new rules, employers violating labour rules in Delhi will now face fine ranging from Rs 20000 to 50000 and jail term of one to three years.
  - ✎ Courts will be required to dispose it off within a month from the date of filing.
  - ✎ Delhi Government hiked minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers by 37 %. Minimum Wages are -
    - ✎ Unskilled worker - 13350
    - ✎ Semi-skilled - 14698
    - ✎ Skilled persons is Rs 16182 in Delhi.
220. ▶ Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated *Greentech Mega Food Park Private Ltd* as first mega food park in Rajasthan at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer, set up for 113.57 crores.
221. ▶ Minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal ([uttam.coalindia.in](http://uttam.coalindia.in)). It aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries. It provides a platform for monitoring of sampling and coal dispatches and aims to make citizens a stakeholder in coal ecosystem.
222. ▶ Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh laid foundation stone of frozen semen station in Maranga, Purnea (Bihar), being set up at a cost of Rs 64 crore under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (100% contribution from Central Government). It aims at increasing milk production through artificial insemination techniques used by CMOFED (Sudha) in Bihar.
- ✎ Rashtriya Gokul Mission was initiated in December 2014 with an aim to conserve and develop indigenous breeds.
223. ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched Intellectual Property (IP) mascot – IP Nani, at conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.
- ✎ Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson “Chhotu” aka Aditya. IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
  - ✎ National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It aims to adapt global best practices to Indian scenario. In this regard, Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) was created in 2016 under DIPP.
224. ▶ Minister of Information & Broadcasting Smriti Zubin Irani Launched a scholarship of INR 25000 in commemoration of Deen Dayal Upadhyay, for people who did exemplary work in development of journalism.
225. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Famers Welfare unveiled Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act 2018, to ensure better price to farmers and encouraging investment from agribusiness and food processing industries.
- ✎ Under contract farming, agricultural production can be carried out based on pre-harvest agreement between buyers and producers (farmers or farmer organisations). It reduces risk of fluctuating market price and demand.
  - ✎ Model Act seeks to create regulatory and policy framework for contract farming and services. It covers contract farming in agriculture crops, livestock, dairy and poultry products. It lays special emphasis on protecting interests of farmers, considering them as weaker of two parties entering into a contract.
  - ✎ It makes mandatory for covering contracted produce under crop and livestock insurance in operation. Under it, no permanent structure can be developed on farmers' land or premises.
  - ✎ It establishes Contract Farming Facilitation Group (CFFG) for promoting contract farming and services at village or panchayat at level.
226. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched seed import-export portal to facilitate export-import of seeds and planting material, for making trade process easy. Import export of seeds and planting material is controlled under Import Export Policy 2002-2007. Now, Organisations importing-exporting seeds will not be required to submit their applications in 20 copies.
227. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed MoU to conduct skill development training programmes for agriculture and allied sector, at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).
228. ▶ Ministry of Civil Aviation notified Draft Passenger Charter defining rights for air passengers, aiming to improve hassle-free air travel experience of air passengers. Salient Features --

- ✎ Passenger can cancel air ticket within 24 hours of booking it and if provided travel is to take place after 96 hours, passenger will be able to cancel ticket without any charge. Cancellation charges will be not more than sum of basic fare and fuel surcharge.
  - ✎ Airline must either offer alternative flight that departs within 2 hours of scheduled departure of flight booked originally or refund ticket cost. Full refund is to be issued If airline doesn't inform passengers about cancelled flight up to 24 hours ahead.
  - ✎ For delays communicated more than 24 hours before scheduled departure, airline must offer option of full refund of ticket cost if delay is for more than 4 hours.
  - ✎ If delay results in flight departing next day, then airline will have to offer free hotel stay. These norms will be applicable only if delay is due to fault of airline, and not caused by bad weather.
  - ✎ If delay results in a passenger missing a connecting flight, then airline will have to pay Rs.5,000 to Rs.20,000. In case of lost baggage, minimum compensation proposed is INR 3000 per kg. If baggage is delayed or damaged, airline is liable to pay Rs. 1,000 per kg.
  - ✎ If passenger doesn't receive due compensation, grievances can be filed on Ministry of Civil Aviation's AirSewa app or at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) portal.
229. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched digital initiatives of Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export to boost to India's potential for agricultural and food export.
- ✎ EIC developed three portals to reduce transaction time and cost in transparent manner.
  - ✎ Lab-one assessment portal - It will provide unified approach to all stakeholders like accreditation bodies, regulators and laboratories by bringing them together on common platform.
  - ✎ Export Alert Monitoring portal - It will monitor non-compliances raised by importing countries. It will enable monitoring of alerts and action taken by multiple organizations involved in initial certification in food safety and bio-security.
230. ▶ Ministry of Culture for the first time organised Madhavpur Mela in Madhavpur Ghed in Porbandar (Gujarat), under *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat* programme. Its purpose is to bring various parts of country especially North-East, close to each other.
231. ▶ Ministry of Culture organized 9th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*, in Tehri (Uttarakhand), also subsuming Tehri Lake Festival (where one can explore water sports) within itself.
- ✎ Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) presents rich diversity and uniqueness of Indian culture and promotes cultural inter-linkages amongst states to strengthen National integration.
  - ✎ Paired state for Uttarakhand under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix is Karnataka, giving special emphasis to Karnataka in the event.
232. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) launched Digital India Internship Scheme along with its website.
- ✎ Under this, 25 interns will be inducted for period of three months. These interns will be paid a stipend of Rs. 10, 000 per month.
  - ✎ Eligibility - Indian students from recognized universities who secured over 60% marks in last held degree. Students pursuing B.E/B.Tech or M.E/M.Tech or dual degrees can apply for internships on the portal.
  - ✎ Internship will be offered two times in year - summer Internship during May and June and winter Internship during December and January.
  - ✎ Proposed broad areas for Internship are Cyber Security, e-Governance, Digital Literacy (HRD), International Cooperation & Industrial Promotion, Hardware Industry and Digital Payments and Electronic Testing.
233. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF's) gave environmental clearance to India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project to be set up in Bodi West hills in Tamil Nadu.
- ✎ MoEF's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) showed there will be no impact of blasting on any habitation in vicinity, along with no scope for radioactivity and leaching of water.
  - ✎ INO) Project aims at building a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover of approximately 1200 meter. Its mandate is to conduct basic research on elementary particle called neutrino. Underground Observatory will provide shielding to neutrino detector from cosmic background radiation.
  - ✎ The non-accelerator based high energy and nuclear physics underground research complex will be approached by a 2-kms long tunnel. It also envisages construction of 50,000 tonne magnetised iron calorimeter detector (ICAL).
234. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors through 30 courses by 2021 for sustainable conservation of natural resources.
- ✎ GSDP-ENVIS mobile application was also launched to provide more information and applying to courses under GSDP programme.
  - ✎ GSDP was launched in 2017 by MoEFCC in partnership with National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development.
235. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) rolled out 'Gaj Yatra', an awareness campaign to protect elephants from Tura in Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Under this, elephant mascot will be taken across districts frequented by jumbo herds for generating

awareness.

236. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released draft of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) proposing multiple strategies to reduce air pollution. NCAP aims to meet prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in a stipulated time frame. However it does not mention any specific target and time frame.
237. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched *Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar* Initiative in Hyderabad (Telangana), with an aim to bring domain of foreign policy closer to people.
238. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched *Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar* engagement programme with regional media in Hyderabad, Telangana. It aims at enhancing public diplomacy outreach of MEA and its commitment to take objectives of foreign policy to people at grassroot-level.
239. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved amending regulation for admission to PG medical courses in order to expand scope of persons with disabilities getting the benefit of reservation. Now, seats reserved for people with disabilities for admission to postgraduate medical courses will be increased from 3 to 5 %.
240. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched *LaQshya* Program aimed at improving quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).
  - ▶ Under this, Quality Improvement in labour room and maternity OT will be assessed through NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards). Facilities with 70% score on NQAS will be certified as LaQshya certified facility. Facilities scoring more than 90%, 80% and 70% will be given Platinum, Gold and Silver badge accordingly.
241. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will roll out 'Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis' under National Health Mission (NHM) for prevention and control of viral hepatitis. It will have budgetary support of over 517 crores for three years. India aims to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.
242. ▶ Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has extended Phase-1 of FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid & Electric Vehicles) Scheme to provide financial support to electric and hybrid vehicles by another six months till 30 September 2018 or till launch of phase-II.
  - ▶ FAME-India scheme was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM). It aims at promoting eco-friendly vehicles in the country.
243. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) to allow foreign tourists and travellers to avail of paperless and cashless visa-related services.
244. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) relaxed six-decade-old protected area permit (PAP) regime to allow foreign tourists to access border areas of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur for 5 years effect from April 1, 2018. However, citizens from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan will still be banned from all PAP areas.
245. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched initiative for development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using massive open online course (MOOC) platform SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active – Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). Under first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified.
  - ▶ NRCs includes varied institutions under Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), in Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, State Universities, UGC's Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs), National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training (NITTTRs), IIITs, Open Universities.
246. ▶ Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) approved *Study in India* programme to attract foreign students to pursue higher education in India, with expenditure of INR 150 crores for 2018-19 and 2019-20. It aims to double India's market share of global education exports from less than 1% to 2%.
  - ▶ Under it, 100% waiver of tuition fees will be only for the top 25% students, 50% waiver of tuition fees only for the next 25% students, 25% waiver of tuition fees only for next 25% students and no waiver of tuition fee for remaining 25% of students.
247. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, aiming at promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land. It provides for integration of both energy sources (wind and solar) at AC and DC level.
  - ▶ It also provides for flexibility in share of wind and solar components in hybrid project, subject to condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be at least 25 % of rated power capacity of other resource for it to be recognised as a hybrid project.
  - ▶ Policy permits use of battery storage in hybrid project for optimising output and further reduce variability.
  - ▶ With significant capacity additions in renewables, and Hybrid Policy aiming at better utilisation of resources, it is envisaged that Hybrid Policy will open-up a new area for availability of renewable power at competitive prices.
  - ▶ A scheme for new hybrid projects under the policy is also expected shortly.

248. ▶ Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs inaugurated Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project of Government at Parliament House Annex in New Delhi. e-Vidhan project aims to digitize functioning of State Legislatures to make them paperless.
249. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in New Delhi and Telangana. Under it, gas connections will be distributed to identified beneficiary women in Delhi. PMUY was launched by PM Narendra Modi in May 2016 with tagline of *Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan*.
250. ▶ Ministry of Power partnered with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train manpower in six states for speedy implementation of its Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna (Saubhagya Scheme). States - Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. Under this, 47,000 Distribution Lineman-Multi Skills and 8,500 Technical Helpers will be trained to meet requirement of power sector projects under Saubhagya scheme.
251. ▶ Ministry of Railways has launched new user interface of its Next Generation e-Ticketing (NGeT) System on Indian Railway's (url - [www.irctc.co.in/nget](http://www.irctc.co.in/nget)).
- ▶ Using it, user can enquire trains and check availability of seats without logging in to system, saving time of users.
  - ▶ It will provide enhanced class-wise, train-wise, destination-wise, departure and arrival time wise and quota-wise filters for facilitating customer while planning their journeys.
  - ▶ It also has waitlist prediction which will allow user to get probability of wait-listed or RAC tickets getting confirmed.
  - ▶ User can find out availability for entire Advance Reservation Period (of 120 days), except for few trains in improvised page.
252. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis to promote electric vehicles. It aims at easy identification of electric vehicles for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones besides other proposed benefits like concessional toll.
- ▶ India presently has approx 1 to 1.5 lakh electric vehicles. It is projected to grow to about 5% of total vehicles in next five years.
253. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) published new draft rules to make mandatory for automobile manufacturers to provide high security registration plates (HSRP) to all new vehicles from January 1, 2019. HSRP to be fitted in all classes of motor vehicles will have tamper-proof plates with host of in-built security features and will offer increased protection against theft.
254. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed *One Nation One Tax policy* for seamless movement of commercial vehicles across country. The Group of Ministers is headed by Rajasthan transport minister Yoonus Khan.
- ▶ It will put check on people registering their vehicles in low tax states and running them in other states. It will also bring necessary relief to genuine cases requiring transfer of vehicles.
  - ▶ Uniform tax should be based on invoice price of vehicles in three slabs. 8% tax on vehicles below 10 lakhs, 10% for vehicles costing between 10 -20 lakh, and 12% for vehicles above 20 lakh. Diesel vehicles may have to pay 2% extra taxes, while electric vehicles will be given 2% discount.
255. ▶ Ministry of Tourism expanded Buddhist tourism circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to 21 more states to make it India's first trans-national tourist circuit. Earlier it was envisaged only to 7 major Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
256. ▶ Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) launched Adopt a Heritage Project. Under it, tourist amenities will be developed at selected heritage sites. Engaged Entities will be called as *Monument Mitra* and adopt sites essentially under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.
257. ▶ Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) will expand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in tribal districts, with 3000 such kendras proposed to be set up in 2 years. Initially, it will be taken up in 39 districts with over 50% tribal population and then will be expanded to other Tribal Districts.
- ▶ Van Dhan Yojana aims at mainstreaming tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to Non Timber Minor Forest Produce (MFP) at grassroots level. It also aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.
  - ▶ Through this, share of tribals in value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from 20% to around 60%.
258. ▶ Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched android based mobile application called *Tribal Diaries* for internal monitoring as connecting with officials concerned with implementation of schemes / programmes for tribal development.
259. ▶ Ministry of Tribal affairs approved establishment of first multipurpose "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh for value addition of Forest Produce, as part of Government's scheme of Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support price (MSP) and development of Value chain for MFP.
260. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation constituted Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal for adjudication of longstanding disputes between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over sharing of Mahanadi river water. It will have 3 members with A M Khanwilkar nominated as chairman. Other members are Ravi Ranjan and Indwermeet Kaur Kochar.
261. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) approved setting up additional 100 One Stop Centres (OSCs) for women affected by violence, in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

-  OSC are funded from Nirbhaya Fund. Aim is to provide women with services such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal aid and counselling, temporary stay for 5 days etc.
262. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development approved projects worth INR 2919 crores under Nirbhaya Fund for creating eight safe cities - *Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Lucknow*.
263. ▶ Mumbai police will use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance and install 'panic buttons' in order to enhance safety of women in the city, as part of INR 252 crores Safe City to be implemented in 3 years.
264. ▶ NITI Aayog and ABB India signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to government realise its vision of 'Make in India' through advanced manufacturing technologies that incorporate latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence. NITI Aayog will work with ABB across various sectors, to suggest solutions for digitalisation, incorporating Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.
265. ▶ NITI Aayog and Actor Sushant Singh Rajput collaborated to promote 2 major initiatives of NITI Aayog - promotion of BHIM and Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
266. ▶ NITI Aayog and Google signed a Statement of Intent (SOI), to work on a range of initiatives to help build AI (Artificial Intelligence) ecosystem across country.
267. ▶ NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real-time advisory to farmers in aspirational districts. Aim is to enable cooperation in the use of technology to provide insights to farmers to improve crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the overarching goal of improving farmers' incomes.
268. ▶ NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation signed inked Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop a 4 year collaboration with District Administration of 'Aspirational Districts' to support their transformation in terms of healthcare, education and nutrition.
-  Government selected 115 backward (aspirational) districts for rapid transformation by 2022 in line with Government's vision to create 'New India'.
269. ▶ NITI Aayog launched Atal New India Challenge under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with aim to bring-in innovations and technologies relevant to people. It will focus on efforts towards solving problems in core areas, to have direct impact on improving lives of citizens and generate employment.
270. ▶ NITI Aayog launched baseline ranking for the Aspirational Districts based on published data of 49 indicators across 5 developmental areas of Education, Health and Nutrition, Agriculture and Water Resources, Basic Infrastructure and Financial Inclusion and Skill Development.
-  Additionally, *Champions of Change* Dashboard (created by NITI Aayog in partnership with Government of Andhra Pradesh) for real-time data collection and monitoring will be open for public viewing from April 1, 2018. District Collectors of aspirational districts will be able to input latest available data of their respective districts through this Dashboard.
271. ▶ NITI Aayog released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)' project.
-  NITI Aayog Launched SATH program with a vision to initiate transformation in education and health sectors. SATH identifies 3 states in each of Health and Education Sectors.
-  Health - Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka, Education - Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Jharkhand.
272. ▶ NITI Aayog will build National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) to host and analyse huge amount of data which shall be helpful for citizens to understand spend patterns of government, consumption trends and success of various government policies.
273. ▶ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) signed Statement of Intent (SOI) with German tech company SAP to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across 100 Atal Tinkering Labs across India. SAP will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) in 2018 for five years to nurture science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning among secondary school children across India.
-  Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) AIM is flagship initiative to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in country. Its mandated is to create umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of country and revolutionize innovation eco-system.
274. ▶ Nasscom, Facebook and WeWork launched Design4India Studio in Bengaluru (Karnataka), as a dedicated design studio for web, mobile, augmented reality and virtual reality platforms for start-ups and designers. It aims to eliminate gap between design and technology by providing spaces for start-ups and designers to explore, innovate and build together.
275. ▶ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is creating a national registry of crimes against women, amid growing concern over incidents of sexual assaults. Records will be sourced from the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).
276. ▶ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) launched a mobile app called 'Citizen Services' on occasion of its 33rd Inception Day.
277. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed pact with Macquarie for road projects under highway monetisation drive.



278. ▶ National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issued Expression of Interest (EoI) for first offshore wind energy project of India in Gulf of Khambat off the coast of Gujarat, with 1000 MW (1 GW) capacity. MNRE is planning to install at least 5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2022.
279. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) launched *Yamuna River Front Development (RFD) project* implemented by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), named *Asita* (Another name for River Yamuna). It aims to restore, revive and rejuvenate river's floodplains and make them accessible to the people of Delhi.
280. ▶ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed MoU with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.
281. ▶ Navratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) signed MoU with Ministry of Mines, setting highest ever target of Rs 9350 crore revenue from operations for FY 2018-19, 15% higher than last year.
- ▶ It aims at production of 2.1 million tons Alumina with 100% capacity utilisation & an optimum Aluminium production target of 4.15 lakh tonnes.
282. ▶ New train between Naharlagun (Arunachal Pradesh) and Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi) named Arunachal Express has been flagged off, as 2nd direct train for Arunachal Pradesh and overall 14th for North East to connect with Delhi. Its route is 2013 kilometres long.
283. ▶ Nitin Gadkari (Minister of *Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation*) inaugurated Mormugao Port Trust and Drishti Marine's ambitious inland ferry services in Goa.
284. ▶ Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) has been honoured with 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 in Odisha.
285. ▶ North Eastern state Arunachal Pradesh has been put on air connectivity map after its first commercial flight (of Alliance Airlines) landed at Pasighat Airport (East Siang district), under UDAN scheme. Alliance Air (subsidiary of Air India), will operate flight services on Kolkata-Guwahati-Pasighat route thrice a week.
286. ▶ Northeast Frontier Railway started operating one lease Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) on fortnightly basis, connecting Northeast to West Coast, Connecting New Guwahati in Assam to Kalyan in Maharashtra with stoppages at New Jalpaiguri, Kalumna Goods Shed.
- ▶ It would enable farmers in North east to market their products like tea, betel nuts, pineapple, jute, horticulture products, cane furniture etc. at the retail markets in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Nagpur, Pune etc.
  - ▶ A single PCET can carry consignment equivalent to 52 trucks. This will ensure less Carbon Emission which will contribute for Green India & saving of foreign exchange on account of purchasing of fuel.
287. ▶ Odisha Government signed MoU with British Council for cooperation in several areas including education, skills and culture. British Council will support Odisha State governments *Mo School (My School)* initiative by contributing to development of English language skills for learners and teachers.
288. ▶ Odisha forest department launched an app to track and fight forest fires during summer.
289. ▶ Odisha government and Tata Trusts signed MoU for implementing state's decision on land rights settlement for slum dwellers in urban areas. Recently, Odisha Government discontinued evicting slum dwellers in urban areas (by treating them as encroachers), and granted them land rights.
290. ▶ Odisha government launched KHUSHI scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across state. Under this, govt. will provide free sanitary napkins to 17 lakh girls studying in Classes 6 to 12 in government and government-aided schools.
291. ▶ Odisha government launched programme named *Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas* to reach out to people in rural areas and involve themselves in developmental activities.
292. ▶ Odisha government will collaborate with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services and enhancing preparedness for management of hazards in state.
293. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) began its operations in Nagayalanka block in Krishna District (Andhra Pradesh). This Early production System (EPS) has cost 6804 crores.
294. ▶ Online hospitality service provider Airbnb signed four MoUs with North Eastern Council (NEC), the North East Tourism Development Council (NETDC), aimed at creating hospitality micro-entrepreneurs across key destinations in North East India.
295. ▶ PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Indian Yoga Association (IYA) signed MoU to Promote wellness, spiritual and cultural tourism in Krishna Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Under it, 12 destinations spread across five states have been proposed.
296. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced that April 28 will be remembered as a historic day as on this day, every single village of India was electrified, few days before deadline of May 10, 2018.
- ▶ Leisang, a village in central Manipur's Senapati district, was last one to receive electricity on April 29, 2018 under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

- ✎ Out of 18,452 villages that were without electricity in 2015, 17,181 have been electrified. Others are either uninhabited or classified as grazing reserves.
  - ✎ Still, 3.2 crore homes are still not electrified as government considers a village electrified, if it has basic electrical infrastructure; and 10 % of its places including schools, local administrative offices and health centres have power.
  - ✎ PM Modi in his speech on August 15, 2015 promised electrification all un-electrified villages within 1000 days. For this, government launched Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).
297. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway-135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE).
- ✎ It has been completed in about 500 days, as against target of 910 days with cost INR 11000 crores. PM also inaugurated first phase of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, India's first 14 lane expressway and spans from Nizamuddin Bridge to Uttar Pradesh border.
  - ✎ Several Features of Expressway Include Solar power Plants, Rainwater harvesting, Closed tolling system, Weigh-in-Motion (WIMs) equipment, Auto Challans, Intelligent Traffic management AND Green cover.
298. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid Foundation Stone of Pakal Dul Power Project in J & K -
- ✎ Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project -
    - ✎ With capacity of 330 MW, This project in Bandipora District of Jammu and Kashmir is a run of river scheme, that is designed to divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in Jhelum River basin.
    - ✎ It has been completed at cost of INR 5882 crores. Kishanganga H.E. Project will provide free power of 13 % to J & K, of approx 133 crores per year.
  - ✎ Pakal Dul -
    - ✎ With 1000 MW capacity, it will be largest Hydro Power Project in J & K on completion. To be built on Marusadar River (a right bank tributary of Chenab), It is also first storage Project in state. Its sanctioned cost is INR 8112 crores.
    - ✎ As it is a storage project, it shall improve water availability during lean season.
    - ✎ It will employ Around 3000 persons during construction and 500 persons shall be employed during operation phase.
    - ✎ J&K will get 12 % free power after 10 years of commissioning of Project.
299. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Zojila tunnel project, to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. Its Length will be 14.2 km, making it country's longest road tunnel. It will cut down time taken to cross Zojila pass from 3.5 hours to 15 minutes. It will also be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel and will be built at a cost of INR 6,809 crores.
300. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone today for 2400MW first phase of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand, as a 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and NTPC Owned Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN). PVUNL will develop it in two phases: 2,400 MW (3x800MW) in Phase-I and 1,600 MW (2x800 MW) in Phase-II.
- ✎ It will allocate 85 % of power to Jharkhand. Under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) scheme, it will ensure 24x7 power availability to households.
  - ✎ Engineering, Procurement & Construction contract of the project has been awarded to BHEL. Commissioning of first unit is envisaged in 2022.
301. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive with transport capacity of 6000 tonnes from Madhepura locomotive factory of Bihar, made with help of French company Alstom.
- ✎ India Joins Russia, China, Germany and Sweden that have successfully run over 12000 horsepower capacity electric Locomotives.
  - ✎ Alstom will deliver 800 high horsepower locomotives over 11 years to India. First five locomotives will be imported while remaining 795 will be manufactured in India.
302. ▶ POWERGRID completed Laying Over 16KM Long cables for 50,000 consumers through serpentine lanes in crowdest city of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), under Integrated power development scheme (IPDS) project.
303. ▶ Pakyong airport in Sikkim will be 100th operational airport in country, after its commissioning in June 2018. Post commissioning, Airline SpiceJet will be operating flights to Pakyong in Sikkim from Kolkata under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).
304. ▶ Passed Bills in March 2018 -
- ✎ Parliament passed Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill 2017 to empower government to fix period of maternity leave and tax-free gratuity amount.
    - ✎ It seeks to amend Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 that allows for payment of gratuity to employees in any establishment, factory, mine, oilfield, plantation, port, railways, company, or shop employing 10 or more workers. Employees are paid gratuity if they have provided at least 5 years of continuous service at time of termination.
    - ✎ Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill 2017 empowers government to notify period of maternity leave eligible for qualifying as continuous service and determine amount of gratuity available to employees. Bill removes reference to 12 weeks in Maternity

Benefit Act 1961 and empowers central government to notify maximum maternity leave. Maximum maternity leave was changed from 12 to 26 weeks by Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017. Bill removes ceiling of INR 10 lakh amount of gratuity payable to an employee and ceiling may be notified by central government.

After implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations, ceiling of tax-free gratuity amount for central government employees was increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

Lok Sabha passed Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill 2017 to further ease procedures for doing business by amending Specific Relief Act 1963.

This bill sets out remedies available to parties whose contractual or civil rights have been violated. It also provides a remedy that aims at fulfilment of an obligation or specific performance of contract rather than a general relief or compensation or damages.

Lok Sabha passed a bill (Without debate) that will exempt political parties from the scrutiny of funds they have received from abroad since 1976. It included amendment to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 that bans overseas corporations from funding political parties.

305. ▶ Patanjali Ayurved has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand (overall 13th) in TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018. Top Brand is Samsung and Top BFSI (Banking, Financial services and Insurance) is SBI.

306. ▶ Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) will set up a Gas Trading Hub / Exchange (GTHE) by October 2018, to create an Indian gas benchmark that will spark an increase in consumption of cleaner-burning fuel. Main objective is to boost consumption of natural gas in India.

307. ▶ Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) signed pact with Ministry of Power to incur capital expenditure of INR 25000 crores for current fiscal.

308. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Integrated Centre for Crisis Management (ICCM) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Mumbai. It will help respond more effectively to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies, monitoring radiological data from 504 radiation sensors across country. Other launches Include -

Multi-leaf collimator system - It enables gamma radiation to be exposed only on cancer-affected organs.

Trombay Chhattisgarh Dubraj Mutant-1 - High-yielding dwarf variety of Dubraj mutant rice.

Metal fuel pin fabrication facility - Will help increase plutonium production in fast breeder reactors.

High-power electron beam melting furnace - To be used for nuclear and strategic applications.

Integrated enriched boron tri-fluoride gas generation facility - It was developed by Heavy-water Board in Odisha. It will be used in neutron detectors.

309. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind launched three public welfare schemes in Rajasthan - Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana and loan and interest waiver scheme for SCs/STs/OBCs, sanitation workers, physically challenged -

Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana - Government will provide loans of up to Rs 50000 to members of economically backward classes (EBC) from around 50,000 families at 4 % interest rate.

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana - State government would provide loans worth up to Rs 50000 at 4 % interest rate to about 50,000 families from the scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes for self-employment.

Loan waiver scheme - State government would provide 2 lakh worth interest-free loans to people belonging to SC/ ST community and other backward classes for skill development and create employment resources.

310. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind released INR 1000 and INR 10 commemorative coins on occasion of Nabakalebar festival in Puri (Odisha), marking festival which is a symbolic recreation of sibling deities — Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra.

311. ▶ Press Council of India Chairman C.K Prasad rejected Reporters Without Borders (RWB)'s World Press Freedom Index report 2018 that was recently released and ranked India 138th among 180 Nations in terms of level of freedom for media. PCI stated that the report had *lack of clarity*.

312. ▶ Punjab CM Amarinder Singh announced several development projects worth 555 crores for up-gradation of border district of Tarn Taran.

313. ▶ Punjab Government signed MOU with Nandan Nilekani's e-Governments Foundation (e-Gov) for managing of electronic governance of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across state.

314. ▶ Punjab Government signed MoU with United Kingdom (UK) for setting up of bio-gas and bio- Compressed natural gas (CNG) plants in state. It aims to find a sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning, which is a major concern in Punjab and surrounding region.

315. ▶ Punjab government along with WWF-India will conduct first organised census of Indus Dolphins, one of world's rarest mammals. Dolphins are found only in India and Pakistan, confined to 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas River in Punjab.

316. ▶ R K Singh (Minister of Power (IC)) laid foundation stone for 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project in Uttarkashi (Uttarakhand), on Tons River (a tributary of Yamuna). It will give 265.5 Million Units of renewable energy to grid and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 0.21 Million Tons annually.
317. ▶ Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), an Indore-based unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has developed an instrument called Fluorimeter, to measure traces of uranium in water, capable of examining traces of uranium in sample of water from 0.1 PPB (Parts-per-billion) unit to 100 PPB. DAE has transferred its technology to its Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL) for mass production. It will be especially helpful in states like Punjab where uranium traces in water sources have been found to be at dangerous levels.
318. ▶ Rajasthan Government launched *Nidaan* software, for diseases monitoring and strengthening tele-medicine services in government hospitals. It will help in providing presumptive monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as trends of ailments found in specific areas.
319. ▶ Rajasthan and Haryana assemblies approved death penalty for convicts involved in rape of girls below 12 years of age.
320. ▶ Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched a mobile App and Toll-free Emergency number for Highway users.
- ✎ Sukhad Yatra mobile application is prepared by National Highways Authority of India to allow Highway users to enter road quality-related information or report any accident or pothole on highway, and several other related info.
  - ✎ Toll-free number 1033 will enable users to report an emergency condition, or highway-related feedback, across highway.
321. ▶ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari (also minister for *Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation*) inaugurated Inland ferry services in Vasco (Goa).
322. ▶ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced development of a new Expressway between Delhi and Mumbai, at a cost of 1 Lakh Crore Rupees. Minister also disclosed plans for a Chambal Expressway which would be connected to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, and is likely to benefit states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
323. ▶ SJVN Limited signed MoU with Ministry of Power, setting target of generating 9200 Million Units during 2018-19 under 'Excellent' category. SJVN looks to have Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) target of 900 crores and Turnover of 2175 crores.
324. ▶ Search engine Google is most trusted Internet brand in India as per TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, With 1.2 trillion searches per year. Google is followed by Facebook, Amazon and eBay. Biggest falls was seen by Snapdeal (fell by 142 ranks) and best trust gainer is Netflix (up 506 ranks).
325. ▶ Social network Facebook partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch Digital Literacy Programme to train women on safe use of internet and social media. Under it, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities over 1 year.
326. ▶ Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is named as Nodal Agency to set up 2.5 GW Wind-Solar hybrid Project by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, aiming to Build Hybrid Projects with Transparent Bidding Process limited from 200 MW to 500 MW, with atleast 1 project site with capacity of 50 MW. As of now, we have only 20 GW of renewable energy produced through wind-solar hybrid power projects.
- ✎ Govt aims for 175 GW Renewable energy capacity by 2022. As of now, India has over 20 GW of Solar Power And approx 354 GW of Wind power Installed Capacity.
327. ▶ SpiceJet became first airline to operate a commercial flight from Kolkata to Pakyong Airport near Gangtok in Sikkim, becoming first passenger plane to land in Sikkim. Pakyong Airport is 32 km away from Gangtok.
328. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) allowed passive euthanasia and right to give advance medical directives or 'Living Wills', stating that human beings have the right to die with dignity as part of fundamental right. Passive euthanasia is act of withdrawing medical support to dying patient who has no hope for revival or cure.
- ✎ Fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of Constitution includes right to die with dignity. Dignity is lost if man is allowed or forced to undergo pain and suffering because of unwarranted medical support.
329. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) approved *Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes-2018*, as a uniform compensation scheme for victims of sexual assault and acid attacks. It was prepared by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). It provisions Fines ranging 2 - 10 lakhs for several kinds of crimes against women.
330. ▶ Supreme Court approved Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme for smooth distribution of water among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry (UT). SC raised Karnataka's share of Cauvery water by 14.75 tmcft saying that issue of drinking water of Southern Karnataka region is of higher priority. Tamil Nadu's share is reduced, compensated by allowing TN to extract 10 tmcft more groundwater from river basin.
- ✎ Cauvery Management Scheme deals with release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, implemented by Cauvery Management Authority (CMA).

331. ▶ Supreme Court asked Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board to show documents signed by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to prove its ownership on Taj Mahal. SC Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra asked Waqf board counsel to authenticate that Shah Jahan executed a 'Waqfnama' in favour of Waqf board, a document through which a person conveys intention to donate a property to Waqf for charitable purpose.
- ✎ SC also raised a question for Waqf board that how Shah Jahan could sign a document when he was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb after war of succession at Agra Fort in 1658 and Mughal emperor died in fort itself in 1666. SC also told council that Taj Mahal and other heritage structures were built by Mughals and were taken over by Britishers after end of Mughal rule.
  - ✎ SC ruled this when he Waqf board counsel told court that Shah Jahan had himself declared Taj Mahal a Waqf property. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) filed an appeal in SC against waqf board's declaring Taj Mahal as its property.
332. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that courts can look into Parliamentary Standing Committee reports while deciding on an issue. However, parliamentary reports cannot be challenged in Courts. It will help NGOs, which frequently file PILs in the SC, to rely on Parliamentary Standing Committee reports.
333. ▶ Supreme Court struck down a legislation that allowed former Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers to continue occupying government accommodation even after demitting office, terming it as *arbitrary and discriminatory*.
334. ▶ Surat (Gujarat) become first district in country to have 100% solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHCs), with All its 52 PHCs now powered by solar system. Surat has set an example by developing villages that use sustainable forms of energy, when global warming is mounting.
335. ▶ Surat railway station (Gujarat) will be third in India to be developed as a world-class facility under Railway's station redevelopment programme, After Habibganj (Bhopal) and Gandhinagar (Gujarat), which will both be ready by 2019. It is being done Railway Ministry's 1 lakh crore station redevelopment programme.
336. ▶ Suzlon Energy commissioned S128 as largest wind turbine generator (WTG) in India, at Sanganeri (Tamil Nadu). S128 WTG is available in 2.6 MW to 2.8 MW variants.
337. ▶ Swachh Survekshan 2018 Results -
- ✎ Top 3 cleanest Cities - Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Chandigarh.
  - ✎ Stats -
    - ✎ Organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), It Assessed 4203 Urban Local Bodies, compared to 434 cities covered in 2017 and 73 cities in 2016.
    - ✎ Record 37.66 lakh citizen feedbacks were collected during Swachh Survekshan 2018.
    - ✎ In ranking cities, 35% weightage given to each of citizen feedback & service level progress, 30% weightage given to direct observation. In 2017, it was 25 % to direct observation, 30 % to citizen feedback and 45 % to service level progress.
    - ✎ Cleanest cities in various categories -
      - ✎ Big City - Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)
      - ✎ Medium City - Mysuru (Karnataka)
      - ✎ Small City - New Delhi Municipal Council
      - ✎ State Capital / UT - Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra)
338. ▶ Swedish-Swiss Firm ABB announced commissioning of India's first industrial solar microgrid in Vadodara (Gujarat). Microgrid is a localized electricity source which can function autonomously as well as by connecting and being synced with traditional centralized electrical grid (macrogrid). Microgrids with integrated battery energy storage are setup to ensure continuity of work during power outages.
339. ▶ Tamil Nadu Government launched 24-hour helpline number 14417, claiming to be the first in India, to offer information and guidance on education to students.
340. ▶ Tamil Nadu Government launched bi-lingual (*Tamil and English*) Uzhavan (farmer) mobile application in a bid to use technology for benefit of farmers. It will allow farmers to access nine types of services, including crop insurance, farm subsidies, farm equipments and related infrastructure.
341. ▶ Tamil Nadu government demanded permanent closure of controversial Vedanta Group's Sterlite Copper factory in Thoothukudi / Tuticorin, which was centre of violent protests recently that led to killing of 13 people in Police Firing. Locals had been protesting for closure of the factory for 100 days. The actions of police has been highly criticised.
- ✎ Protests intensified after Sterlite Copper recently applied for to double capacity of plant to 800,000 metric tonnes per annum.
  - ✎ Residents of nearby villages claimed that smelter caused huge level air and water pollution and is the reason behind unnaturally high cancer rates in surrounding villages.
342. ▶ Tamil Nadu government launched Amma Free Wi-Fi zones in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu, under which Wi-Fi zones will be set up in 50 spots. Users will be offered 20 minutes of free internet service per day. After that users will be charged Rs 10 per hour.






343. ▶ Tata Boeing Aerospace Ltd (TBAL) inaugurated facility to manufacture fuselages for AH-64 Apache helicopter in Hyderabad, as only global producer of fuselages for AH-64 Apache helicopter delivered by Boeing.
344. ▶ Tata Motors and Maharashtra Government signed MoU to deploy 1,000 Electric Vehicles across a range of passenger and commercial vehicles in Maharashtra. Also, Mahindra & Mahindra signed two MoUs with Maharashtra Government to advance its next phase of expansion in electric vehicles (EVs) and achieve its goal to become completely electric ready.
345. ▶ Tata Trusts signed MoU with Government to provide development support in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, covered under Transformation of aspirational districts Programme of NITI Aayog. Districts are - Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Bijapur, Bastar, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.
346. ▶ Tech firm Microsoft inked its first renewable energy deal in India for powering its new facility in Bengaluru, to be operational in June. It will see Microsoft purchase 3 megawatts of solar-powered electricity from Atria Power for its new office building in Bengaluru, meeting 80% of projected electricity needs at facility.
347. ▶ Telangana Govt. announced 2 % reservation in state government jobs for sportspersons.
348. ▶ Telangana Govt. announced setting up of a new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for government employees, giving special allowances to employees working in remote areas.
349. ▶ Telangana Govt. mandated teaching Telugu as a compulsory subject in all public and private schools of state. Telugu University and Sahitya Academy will decide the Telugu syllabus for various standards.
350. ▶ Telangana government completed rejuvenation of 18,000 tanks in Telangana under its Mission Kakatiya programme, as announced at a convention on 'Rejuvenation of Krishna river'.
351. ▶ Telangana government is setting up an INR 100-crore Apparel Super Hub in Sircilla, under an MOU with Kay Ventures.
352. ▶ Telangana government launched *T App Folio* mobile governance application for delivery of government to citizen (G2C) and business to citizen (B2C) services efficiently. Telangana is 2nd state to launch a mobile governance application in place for provision of G2C services, After Karnataka.
353. ▶ Telangana government launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support livelihood of farmers. It is first such investment support scheme for farmers to be launched by any state in India.
- ✎ Farmers will directly get financial support twice every year to maximise agricultural production. They will get support of 8,000 per acre every year (Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season) as crop investment support.
  - ✎ State government has set aside Rs 12,000 crore in 2018-19 budget exclusively for this scheme.
  - ✎ State government also announced to provide life insurance cover to all farmers in state for Rs five lakh each, from August 15, 2018 Onwards.
354. ▶ Telangana government launched Women Entrepreneurship Hub (WE-Hub), India's first state-led incubator for women entrepreneurs, to help women entrepreneurs establish their own enterprises by providing services including seed funding, mentoring, and business guidance.
355. ▶ Telangana government signed a MoU with Safran Electrical and Power SAS for establishing an aerospace unit in Telangana.
356. ▶ Telangana govt. reduced Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to 1 % from 16 %, to boost air traffic at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport located near Hyderabad.
357. ▶ Telecom Commission approved voice and data in-flight connectivity, permitting Internet and Mobile Communication on Aircraft (MCA) in Indian airspace. It is recommended to permit MCA services with minimum height restriction of 3000 meters in airspace.
358. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued *Telecommunication Interconnection (Amendment) Regulations 2018* to amend interconnect regulations, proposing certain changes in terms and conditions for operators to seek fresh call connect ports from other operators.
- ✎ Service provider can ask another operator for additional ports or Point of Interconnection (POI), when utilisation of capacity exceeds 85% over 60 day period. Time frame for provisioning of ports for initial interconnection and augmentation is to be increased to maximum 42 working days.
359. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposed open architecture-based public Wi-Fi grid to bring down the cost of internet by 90%, as Broadband proliferation across country is very important pillar of Digital India. TRAI suggested that any entity should easily be able to set up a public Wi-Fi access point.
360. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposed use of blockchain technology to check menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls / messages. Blockchain technology based norms will record all communication between subscribers and entities, capturing customer consent for information and authorised telemarketing agencies. Subscriber will be now able to revoke consent given to entities through TRAI app and other mechanism that will be provided under regulation.
361. ▶ To enable customers to check if medicine is genuine, Govt will mandate brands to print a unique 14-character code on packages. Sending this code to a number will tell if medicine is genuine.

362. ▶ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) (under Ministry of Tribal Affairs) launched E-Tribes India banners on e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Snapdeal, Paytm & GeM. It also launched TRIFED's websites- tribesindia.com / trifed.in.
363. ▶ Tripura Government announced 10% of all police force will be reserved for women, to encourage women to participate and deal more efficiently with crimes related to them.
364. ▶ Tripura Government approved INR 50 crores to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bodhjunnagar, 15 km away from Capital Agartala.
365. ▶ Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited (THCL) signed an MoU with Spicejet Merchandise Pvt Ltd, To provide pineapples to majority of country and help farmers earn profit.
366. ▶ Tripura became first North East state to launch state component of Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) in Agartala, aiming to train over 1.16 lakh youths by 2020.
367. ▶ Tripura government will set up a well-equipped crime branch under state police to deal with unlawful activities in state such as drug and narcotics peddling.
368. ▶ UIDAI unveiled beta version of 'Virtual ID', which will soon be accepted by service providers in place of Aadhaar numbers. An Aadhaar holder can generate VID from UIDAI's website is a random 16-digit number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number and biometrics. VID would give any authorised agency like a mobile company, limited details for verification purpose.
- ✎ It will do away with need of disclosing 12-digit Aadhaar number for authentication or verification purposes.
369. ▶ UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) launched Data Visualisation App to provide user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of education scenario in India, developed with technical inputs from UNICEF, NCERT and National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA).
- ✎ It uses UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education), NAS (National Assessment survey) and demographic data. It can be used as visual tool by policy makers, academia and researchers to address gaps and monitor programs in education.
370. ▶ Union Territory of Lakshadweep signed MoU under UDAY Scheme, to ensure operational turnaround of Lakshadweep's Electricity Department. Lakshadweep will receive an overall net benefit of around Rs. 8 crore through UDAY Scheme.
371. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) brought in secured digitally-signed QR Code on e-Aadhaar. It will contain photograph of Aadhaar holder in addition to demographic details.
- ✎ QR code is form of barcode label which contains machine-readable information while e-Aadhaar is electronic version of Aadhaar that can be downloaded from official UIDAI website.
372. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced updated 'QR code' for offline Aadhaar verification to strengthen its privacy measures during usage, aimed at adding an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar after recently introducing concept of virtual identification.
373. ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will set up a skill development centre for clients of Bharosa, an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad (Telangana). It aims at empowering marginalised women by imparting skills training.
374. ▶ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as world's first fully solar energy powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.
- ✎ It has 15 MWp solar power plant, comprising 46,150 solar panels laid across 45 acres. Plant generates 50,000 units of electricity daily.
375. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) has so far granted full autonomy to 62 higher educational institutions that have maintained high standards of excellence under Autonomous Colleges Regulation. These include 5 central universities, 21 state universities, 26 private universities and 10 other colleges.
- ✎ Complete autonomy will allow these institutions to start new courses, new departments, new programmes, skill courses, research parks, appoint foreign faculty, take foreign students etc.
376. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government has launched Ganga Hariteema Yojana (also known as Ganga Greenery scheme) in 27 districts of the state located on bank of river Ganga. It aims at enhancing green cover in catchment areas of river Ganga and control land erosion. Under it, tree plantation will be carried out in 1 Km areas from banks of river.
377. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government launched an anti-graft portal, aimed at taking action against any official who is involved in corruption. It was launched on occasion of 1st year completion of current government led by CM Yogi Adityanath.
378. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government ordered all government hospitals and orphanages to establish Shishu Swagat Kendra - Palna, and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that any person can leave their unwanted child without disclosing their identity. Objective is to tackle problem of abandoning infants at roadside or other places which may pose a risk of life for baby.
379. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. approved construction of an integrated sugar complex in Pilibhit and setting up a Tiger Conservation Foundation in Dudhwa.

380. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. passed Uttar Pradesh Control of Organised Crime Bill (UPCOCB), a stringent bill to curb organised crime and deal strictly with those trying to fuel terror. It seeks to curb organised crime and deal strictly with those trying to foment terror or dislodge government forcibly or through violent means.
381. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt inaugurated state's first (and India's 8th) City Gas Distribution (CGD) network at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district, comprising 500 km long pipeline and 10 CNG stations.
382. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt. Trivendra Singh Rawat launched campaign to improve standard of education in government schools of Uttarakhand. Under it, 1 model school will be opened in Almora (Kumaon) and another in Garhwal region to offer quality education to poor and underprivileged children.
383. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt. launched a campaign called "Devbhoomi dialogue", calling upon youth to look for self-employment opportunities in their chosen fields.
384. ▶ Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu rejected impeachment notice submitted by Opposition parties against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, stating that motion lacked substantial merit and was based on mere suspicion.
385. ▶ Website of Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh, topmost body for state veterinary associations has been launched at URL *www.pashuchikitsakmahasangh.in*. It is aimed to act as a Knowledge Base for Veterinarians and a Forum.
386. ▶ West Bengal government introduced a new scheme called *Rupashree*, to provide marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1500 crores. It proposes financial assistance of INR 25000 to family of girl whose annual income is up to Rs 1.5 lakh.
387. ▶ West Bengal government will apply for coveted Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention for Sunderban Reserve Forest. Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be largest protected wetland in the country. There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance.
388. ▶ World Malaria Day (WMD) is being observed every year on 25 April across the world to recognise the global efforts to control preventable vector borne disease malaria. The theme of 2018 WMD is "Ready to beat malaria"
389. ▶ World's largest Indian national flag has been unfurled in Hyderabad (Telangana), which is 122 feet in length and 183 feet in width.

**Top**

### **Persons**

1. ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
2. ▶ 25-year old Prakriti has been inducted as first direct-entry combat officer in Indo-Tibetan Border Police. ITBP is last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after government allowed it in 2016.
3. ▶ According to *World Leaders on Facebook* study by Burson Cohn & Wolfe, Indian PM Narendra Modi is most 'liked' world leader on Facebook. With 4.3 Crore Followers, he is way ahead of USA President Donald Trump (2.3 Crore Followers).
4. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) appointed Taniya Sanyal as country's first woman firefighter.
5. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government appointed shuttler Kidambi Srikanth as a Deputy Collector in Group-1 service, After he won title at Indonesian Championship in June 2017.
6. ▶ Australian Steve Plain became fastest climber to scale highest peaks on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he scaled Mount Everest. He began his mission by climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. Record was earlier held by a Polish climber who scaled in 126 days.
  -  Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai become youngest person to scale six peaks over 8000 metres when he summited Kangchenjunga (Sikkim), third highest mountain in world. He intends to become youngest person in world to scale all 14 above 8000 metre-peaks. His next is Shishapangma (8013 metres) in Nyalam County, Tibet.
  -  Also, Sangeeta Bahl became oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest, at 53 years of age.
7. ▶ British actress Millie Bobby Brown became youngest person in list of world's 100 most influential people by TIME. 4 Indians featured on this list - Virat Kohli, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Actor Deepika Padukone and Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal.
8. ▶ Former Indian pacer Venkatesh Prasad resigned as chairman of junior national selection committee.
9. ▶ India Post issued a special stamp to pay tribute to noted British theoretical physicist and Stephen Hawking, who passed away recently. 'A Brief History of Time', 'The Universe in a Nutshell', 'On the Shoulders of Giants' are some of the popular books written by Stephen Hawking.
10. ▶ Indian Express List 2018 of Top 100 Influential Indians -
  -  PM Narendra Modi retained top spot. BJP President Amit Shah is 2nd, with UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi at No. 5 as most powerful woman on list.
11. ▶ Indian-origin lawyer Person Gobind Singh Deo become first Sikh in Malaysia to be appointed as a Cabinet minister, after being allotted communications and multimedia portfolio. Another Indian-origin lawmaker M Kulasegaran has been appointed as human resource

minister.

12. ▶ Karan Johar became first Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at Madame Tussauds Museum London (UK).
13. ▶ Nepali woman Nima Jangmu Sherpa created world record by scaling 3 highest mountains in a single climbing season within 25 days - Kangchenjunga (8586 metres), Nima summited Lhotse (8516 metres) and Everest (8848 metres).
14. ▶ Obituaries (April 2018) -
  - ▶ Efrain Rios Montt - Noted military dictator of Guatemala. He was accused of a mass genocide.
  - ▶ Munin Barua - Noted Assamese film-maker.
  - ▶ Ray Wilkins - Noted England Footballer.
  - ▶ S. Nihal Singh - Noted journalist.
  - ▶ Ram Kumar - Noted painter. Hwa was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2010.
  - ▶ TVR Shenoy - Noted journalist and columnist passed. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2003.
  - ▶ Rajinder Sachar - Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice.
  - ▶ Bhimsain Khurana - Noted animation expert
  - ▶ Nabi Tajima - The world's oldest person (117 year old) from Japan. Another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, is now world's oldest person (117 Years).
  - ▶ James Ajongo - South Sudan military chief who died during a visit to Egypt.
  - ▶ Avicii - Noted Swedish dance music star.
15. ▶ Obituaries (March 2018) -
  - ▶ Davide Astori - Noted Italian international footballer.
  - ▶ Litterateur Prafulla Das -Noted Odia Litterateur.
  - ▶ Pyare Lal Wadali - Noted Sufi singer.
  - ▶ Shammi -Noted Bollywood actress.
  - ▶ Narendra Jha - Bollywood Actor.
  - ▶ John Sulston - Noted British genome scientist.
  - ▶ Stephen Hawking - Noted British theoretical physicist and cosmologist. He was well known for his work on black holes and relativity.
  - ▶ Ken Dodd - Noted British comedian.
  - ▶ Kedarnath Singh - Eminent Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee.
  - ▶ M Sukumaran - Noted Malayalam writer.
  - ▶ Sunil Sharma - Noted journalist.
  - ▶ Les Payne - Noted American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner.
  - ▶ C.V. Rajendran - Noted Tamil film director.
  - ▶ Ghulam Muhammad Mustafa - Noted Journalist.
  - ▶ V. Sriharsha - Noted Journalist.
  - ▶ Seo Minwoo - Noted South Korean pop singer.
  - ▶ R K Dorendra Singh - former Manipur Chief Minister.
16. ▶ Obituaries (May 2018) -
  - ▶ Ashok Mitra - Noted economist, served as former finance minister of West Bengal and Economic Adviser during Indira Gandhi's prime ministerial tenure.
  - ▶ Kottayam Pushpanath - Noted Malayalam novelist.
  - ▶ Keyur Bhushan - Noted freedom fighter & writer.
  - ▶ Ravinder Sharma - Noted artist and philosopher, Founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram.
  - ▶ Arun Date - Noted Marathi singer.
  - ▶ Arjun Hingorani - Noted Filmmaker.
  - ▶ Dave Michener - Noted American animator.
  - ▶ Gurukrushna Goswami - Noted Odia lyricist.
  - ▶ Rajinder Pal - Former cricketer.
  - ▶ Anne V. Coates - Noted Oscar Winning British film editor.
  - ▶ Nandram Das Bairagi (*known as Balkavi Bairagi*) - Noted Hindi film lyricist.
  - ▶ Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani - Noted Telugu novelist.
  - ▶ E C G Sudarshan - Great theoretical physicist.
    - ▶ Had been teaching at University of Texas for over 40 years.

- ✍ Has been credited with numerous contributions to field of theoretical Physics including *Optical coherence, Sudarshan-Glauber representation, V-A theory, Tachyons, Quantum Zeno effect, Open quantum system, Spin-statistics theorem, non-invariance groups, positive maps of density matrices, quantum computation among others.*
  - ✍ Was given Padma Vibhushan honour in 2007 and had several other decorations to his name.
  - ✍ David Goodall - Australia's oldest scientist. Aged 104, He opted for euthanasia in Switzerland to end his life.
  - ✍ Yamunabai Waikar - Noted Lavani singer.
  - ✍ Balakumaran - Noted Tamil writer
  - ✍ Vinod Bhatt - Noted Gujarati writer.
  - ✍ Alan Bean - Former US astronaut, who was 4th man to walk on Moon.
  - ✍ Madala Ranga Rao -Noted Telugu actor and producer
17. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna.
18. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (Mar 2018) -
- ✍ Ameenah Gurib-Fakim - President of Mauritius (Island Nation in Indian Ocean).
  - ✍ Robert Fico - Prime Minister of Slovakia (Central Europe).
  - ✍ Miro Cerar - Prime Minister of Slovenia (Central Europe).
  - ✍ Mukund Rajan - Tata Son's Chief Ethics Officer.
  - ✍ Tommy Haas - Noted German Tennis Player.
  - ✍ Kevin Pietersen - English cricketer, retired from all Formats of Game.
  - ✍ Htin Kyaw - Myanmar's President
19. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (May 2018) -
- ✍ Emmanuel Isozhe Ngondet - Prime Minister of Gabon (Central Africa).
  - ✍ AB de Villiers - South African Cricketer. Also Known as Mr. 360, He is Hailed as an All Time Great of the Game. He played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.
  - ✍ Vikas Gowda - Noted discus thrower. He is first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in Discus Throw.
20. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (April 2018) -
- ✍ Morne Morkel - South African cricketer.
  - ✍ Julio Cesar - Brazilia Footballer.
  - ✍ Aditya Ghosh - Airline IndiGo CEO. Rahul Bhatia has been named Interim CEO.
21. ▶ Pune Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross Bangla Channel (Water stretch from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh). He accomplished this by completing swim of 32.2 kilometers in 9 hours and 10 minutes.
22. ▶ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling (from Sikkim Democratic Front) became the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, surpassing Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000. Chamling became Chief Minister in December 1994 and serves till Date.
23. ▶ Three-time Oscar winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg became first director whose films have earned over \$10 billion Globally.
24. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✍ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Russia to attend *VII Moscow Conference on International Security.*
  - ✍ External Affairs Minister Susma swaraj Visited japan for 9th India-Japan Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue.
  - ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Azerbaijan to participate in Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku. On this occasion, India and Azerbaijan signed 2 MOUs for visa waiver for diplomatic, official and service passports holders and cooperation between diplomatic training institutes.
  - ✍ Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Visited South Korea. India and SK signed mutual recognition of certificate of competency of seafarers to provide Indian seafarers employment on over 500 Korean ships.
  - ✍ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited 3 African Nations - Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. It is first-ever visit by any head of state of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland.
    - ✍ Equatorial Guinea -
      - ✍ President Kovind was conferred with *Condecoracion*, highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by government of Equatorial Guinea. He was bestowed with *medal of the Gran Colar de la Independencia* by Equatorial Guinea government.
      - ✍ 3 MOUs signed - AYUSH and traditional medicine, medicinal plants, An action plan for Information and Communication Technology.
    - ✍ Swaziland -



- ✍ President Kovind inaugurated Information Technology Centre located in Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP).
- ✍ India and Swaziland signed two agreements on health and visa waiver.
- ✍ President Kovind was conferred with Order of the Lion, highest civilian honour of Swaziland.
- ✍ President Kovind announced to donate \$1 million to support Swaziland's national disaster management agency
- ✍ India will establish a Centre of Agricultural Excellence in Swaziland.
- ✍ India donated US \$1 million to support Swaziland's National Disaster Management Agency as well as food grains.

#### ✍ Zambia

- ✍ India and Zambia signed four agreements - double taxation avoidance; on mutual visa waivers for officials and diplomats, judicial cooperation and on Entrepreneurship Development Institute that India will build in Zambia.
- ✍ India will provide USD 100000 towards construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Lusaka (capital of Zambia).
- ✍ India gifted medicines and medical equipment worth USD 3 million to Zambia.

#### 25. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ Minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar Visited Southeast Asian nation Timor Leste. MoU was signed in field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to people of Timor Leste.
- ✍ P.P. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law & Justice Visited USA and Caribbean Nations St. Vincent & Grenadines, Barbados.
- ✍ Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs Visited Washington D.C. (USA) for BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting. It was held in sidelines of IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. Urjit R. Patel, RBI Governor Visited IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C on India's Behalf.
- ✍ During BRICS Finance Ministers Meet, India pressed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations to set up an independent credit rating agency.

#### ✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Sweden, United Kingdom and Germany -

##### ✍ UK Visit -

- ✍ PM attended Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.
  - ✍ India and 3 other countries (Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Malta) participated creating in USD 5 million *Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility* which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve sustainable development goals. Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of Baroda, are facility managers for this fund. 31 Commonwealth nations classified as small states can avail this facility. Before it is available to all such nations, it will be rolled out on pilot basis in Bahamas, Botswana, Brunei, Dominica, Fiji, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles.
- ✍ UK formally joined International Solar Alliance, founded by India and France. It was announced at an event called *Financing the Green Revolution*.

##### ✍ 10 MOUs Signed -

- ✍ UK-India Cyber Relationship framework aimed at having a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace
- ✍ MoU to enable United Kingdom to support India in sustainable management of water resources in Ganga river basin.
- ✍ MoU on agreement on Skill Development, vocational education and training.
- ✍ Agreement for regulation of safe nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes.
- ✍ MoU on skill development, vocational education and training to promote collaboration and capacity-building.
- ✍ MoU on cooperation in the animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors.
- ✍ MoU on exchange of information for combating international criminality and tackling serious organised crime.
- ✍ addendum covering research in humanities and social sciences has been added to 2004 Newton-Bhabha MoU.
- ✍ MoU to enable development of evidence-based guidelines for integrating Ayurvedic principles and practices with modern medicine.
- ✍ MoU to strengthen institutional cooperation in sustainable urban development and enhance cooperation in Smart Cities Mission.
- ✍ Additionally, India's NASSCOM and TechUK launched new UK-India Tech Alliance, aimed at increasing collaboration on skills and new technologies, assisting policy development and encouraging innovation and lay groundwork for roadmap which will be jointly presented in June 2018.

##### ✍ Sweden Visit -

- ✍ India and Sweden hosted India-Nordic Summit titled *India-Nordic Summit: Shared Values, Mutual Prosperity*.
  - ✍ Nordic Nations are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, including Greenland and Faroe Islands.
  - ✍ Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and North Atlantic.
- ✍ An India-Sweden Joint Action Plan was decided with target areas -
  - ✍ Innovation.
  - ✍ Trade and investment.
  - ✍ Smart Cities and Next Generation Transport.
  - ✍ Smart, sustainable and renewable energy.
  - ✍ Women's skills development and empowerment - Encourage women empowerment by skilling employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women through projects like "Kraftsamla", undertaken by Swedish and Indian actors in Pune, Maharashtra.
  - ✍ Defence
  - ✍ Space and science
  - ✍ Health and Life Sciences
- ✍ MOUs -
  - ✍ With Sweden
    - ✍ Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future.
  - ✍ With Denmark -
    - ✍ In field of Sustainable and Smart Urban Development.
    - ✍ In fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
    - ✍ On Food Safety Cooperation between
    - ✍ Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education between.
  - ✍ With Iceland -
    - ✍ Establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and University of Iceland.
  - ✍ Agreements between India and Sweden Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future between Ministry of Science and Technology of India and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.
- ✍ Germany -
  - ✍ The Visit to Germany was a brief stop over, to discuss issues of common interest and enhance co-operation.

26. ▶ Visits from India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mongolia. She co-chaired 6th round of India-Mongolia Joint Consultative Committee meeting.
- ✍ Indian Commerce Secretary Rita Teatia Visited Nepal. During this Visit, India and Nepal agreed to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018, during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in Kathmandu.
- ✍ Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited China -
  - ✍ India and China's first Informal Summit was held in Wuhan, to discuss measures for strengthening bilateral ties.
  - ✍ PM Modi gifted to Xi Jinping (Chinese Premier), specially made prints of paintings by legendary Chinese artist Xu Beihong.
  - ✍ India and China agreed to undertake joint India-China economic project in Afghanistan.
  - ✍ PM Modi laid emphasis on importance of people-to-people (P2P) contact through STRENGTH. S-Spirituality; T-Tradition, Trade and Technology; R-Relationship; E-Entertainment (Art, Movies, etc.); N-Nature conservation; G-Games; T-Tourism and H-Health and Healing.

27. ▶ Visits from India (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ India won *Best Exhibitor Award* at ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet in Germany. India was represented by Minister of State (I) for Tourism K. J. Alphons.

28. ▶ Visits from India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Johannesburg (South Africa), He attended India-South Africa business summit.
- ✍ 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in Manila (Philippines), Indian delegation was headed by Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs). Alongside, 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was

also held.

During this meet, ADB Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 & 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.

29. ▶ Visits from India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ▶ Shanghai Cooperation Organization's First Tourism Ministers' conference held in Wuhan (China). India's Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons represented India at the conference.
- ▶ External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj visited Myanmar.
- ▶ Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya (China).
- ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Nepal -
  - ▶ Nepal announced to host 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. BIMSTEC is sub-regional group of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. Nations are - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia.
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India). Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India's Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
  - ▶ PM Modi laid foundation stone of 900-megawatt Arun III Hydroelectric Power Plant in Tumlingtar area in eastern Nepal. It is expected to bring in USD 1.5 billion foreign direct investment into Nepal. Nepal granted licence to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Power Development Company, to generate power from Arun-III Hydropower Project. Project will also provide 21.9 (197 megawatts) of generated energy free of cost to Nepal.
  - ▶ India and Nepal also agreed to run a joint operation to control wildlife poaching.
- ▶ Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan Visited UAE. During this,
  - ▶ Mr. Pradhan flagged off first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern (India), as part of an agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE, under which ADNOC will store about 5.86 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Mangalore at its own cost.
- ▶ Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Sri Lanka.
- ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited South American Nations Guatemala, Peru and Panama, along with Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Jaspantsinh Sumanbahi Bhabhor.
  - ▶ Guatemala -
    - ▶ MoUs signed in fields of wildlife protection, human resource training, education and exchanges between training institutes.
    - ▶ India and Guatemala agreed to support each other's candidature for Non-Permanent Membership in United Nations Security Council. Guatemala will support India's candidature for UNSC membership for 2021-22 while India will do so for Guatemala for 2031-32.
    - ▶ Agreement signed for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in educational field.
    - ▶ Indian agreed to Guatemala's request for supplying solar panels to its airports. An MoU has been signed for training training Guatemalan English Teachers in India.
  - ▶ Panama -
    - ▶ India will set up two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation in Panama worth US \$10 million and US \$15 million each.
    - ▶ Signed agreements for exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports. An agreement on strengthening cooperation in agriculture was also signed.
    - ▶ Panama will support India's bid for -
      - ▶ Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2019-2021, for which elections will be held in October 2018.
      - ▶ Council of International Telecom Union (ITU), elections for which will be held in October – November 2018.
  - ▶ Peru -
    - ▶ Attended an event to mark 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru.
    - ▶ India and Peru signed agreement in field of Renewable Energy.
- ▶ Raksha Rajya Mantri Subhash Bhamre visited Nauru (Oceania Nation).
- ▶ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Durban (South Africa) to attend 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting.

- ✍ During this meet, Indias *Green Good Deeds* societal movement to protect environment and promote good living, was included in its official agenda in next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.
- ✍ Harsh Vardhan Also attended 26th Environment Ministers Meet Of BASIC (*Brazil, South Africa, India and China*) Nations, held in Durban.
- ✍ Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited North Korea, as first high-level visit to North Korea from India in 20 years.
- ✍ Health Minister J P Nadda visited Switzerland to attend 71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva, under theme *Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage*.
  - ✍ 71st World Health Assembly adopted resolution on Digital Health, initiated by India and co-sponsored by 20 countries. It paves way for WHO to establish global strategy on digital health, identify priority areas and engage nations to optimise their health systems in sync with global digital health agenda.
- ✍ Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Israel. He attended a conference on *Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability*.
- ✍ Minister of State for External Affairs, M.J. Akbar visited European Nations Austria and Slovak Republic. He met with President of STRATEGY (Society for Political & Strategic Studies), a leading think tank of Austria.

30. ▶ Visits from India (May 21 - 31, 2018)

- ✍ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Russia, To attend 1st India - Russia Informal Summit.
- ✍ Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare) visited Fiji (Oceania).
- ✍ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences) visited Sweden and Denmark.
  - ✍ Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Smart Grid Workshop at Copenhagen (Denmark).
  - ✍ Attended 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Malmo (Sweden) -
    - ✍ On November 30th of 2015, 20 countries launched Mission Innovation (MI) as 5 year commitment to accelerate innovation and make clean energy widely affordable and accessible worldwide.
    - ✍ India announced setting up of First International Incubator for clean energy in public-private partnership at a total investment of US \$ 5 million in Delhi. This incubator will promote entrepreneurship in clean energy and provide opportunities to innovators across MI countries to test their technologies in local market.
    - ✍ India announced research programmes emanating out of MI centric funding opportunities in smart grids and off-grid access at investment of \$ 10 million.
    - ✍ After hosting 2 international MI workshops on Smart Grids and sustainable bio-fuels, India will host MI clean energy materials Workshop in October-November, 2018 at New Delhi.
    - ✍ India announced launch of Joint Virtual Clean Energy Centre with UK, with funding £ 5 million each (signed during PM Modi's recent Visit to UK).
    - ✍ An Indo US Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre on energy storage and smart grids with a total investment of US\$ 30 million with matching share of both Governments and Consortia has been launched. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur will lead a pan-India consortia of technical institutes.
    - ✍ India also announced 3 dedicated MI funding opportunities on sustainable Bio-fuels, Carbon capture and Sunlight innovation challenge with investment of US \$ 11 million.
- ✍ Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce and Industry) Visited Cambodia to attend Inaugural session of 5th India CLMV Business Conclave, held in Phnom Penh.
- ✍ Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council held in San Sebastian (Spain).
- ✍ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare visited island nation of Tuvalu (Oceania). He handed over a cheque of A\$ 66,705 (Australian Dollar) to Government of Tuvalu as a development partnership assistance from India.
- ✍ Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba visited UK, to attend 3rd Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and UK.

31. ▶ Visits from india (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)

- ✍ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Mauritius and Madagascar.
  - ✍ Mauritius (Indian Ocean) -
    - ✍ India announced new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defence procurement by Mauritius. It offered a Multi-Purpose Offshore Patrol Vessel (MPOPV) to Mauritius to augment its security capacity.
    - ✍ Other Agreements Include -
      - ✍ Cooperation between Nalanda University in Bihar and Mauritius and establishment of an Ayurveda Chair at University of Mauritius
      - ✍ MoU between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in India and Public Service Commission of Mauritius.

- ✎ President Kovind attended 50th anniversary celebrations of independence of Mauritius.

- ✎ President Kovind inaugurated World Hindi Secretariat building in Port Louis (Mauritius).

- ✎ Madagascar (East Africa) -

- ✎ This is the first ever visit by a President or Prime Minister of India to Madagascar.

- ✎ 2 bilateral agreements were signed, on defence cooperation and aviation cooperation.

- ✎ President Kovind was conferred Grand Cross of the Second Class by President of Madagascar, as highest honour Madagascar bestows on a non-citizen.

- ✎ Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited USA.

32. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli Visited India -

- ✎ India and Nepal decided to develop inland waterways for cargo movement within Protocol to Treaty of Transit, recognizing untapped potential of inland waterways to contribute towards overall economic development of the region.

- ✎ India agreed to build strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people (P2P) contact and bulk movement of goods.

- ✎ India agreed to promote and co-operate in Agricultural development in Nepal.

- ✎ Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Dang Dinh Quy Visited India.

33. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✎ Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Morocco Visited India. On this occasion, India and Morocco signed MoU in field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration.

34. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018)

- ✎ International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach Visited India, presented a memento to Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra and boxer Vijender Singh.

35. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ President of Vietnam Tran Dai Quang Visited India. 3 MOUs were signed on this occasion -

- ✎ Economic and Trade Cooperation, Agriculture and Nuclear Energy.

- ✎ King of Jordan *Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein* visited India. 12 MOUs were signed during this visit, Including -

- ✎ Defence, Manpower, Mass Communication, Journalism, Health and Medicine, Cultural Exchange Programme, Visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders, Customs.

- ✎ Twinning Agreement between Agra and Petra (Jordan)

- ✎ MoU for setting up of a Hindi Chair at University of Jordan.

- ✎ Long term supply of Rock Phosphate and Fertilizer/NPK

- ✎ Setting up of the next generation Centre of Excellence (COE) in Jordan

- ✎ He also attended conference titled *Islamic Heritage: Promoting Understanding and Moderation*, in New Delhi.

- ✎ French President Emmanuel Macron Visited India -

- ✎ 14 Agreements were signed on this occasion -

- ✎ Co-operation MOUs include - Solar Energy, Hydrography and Maritime Cartography, Nuclear Power, Space Exploration, Urban Development, Environment, Railways, Migration and Mobility, Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications.

- ✎ Signed strategic pact providing for use of each other's military facilities including opening naval bases to warships. It will facilitate reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services between armed forces of India and France during authorised port visits, joint exercises.

- ✎ Prevention of Illicit Consumption and Reduction of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors and Related Offences

- ✎ Letter of Intent between India and France for creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum.

- ✎ France will Invest 100 Million Euros in Smart City Project Under smart city mission.

- ✎ Indian and French companies exchanged 19 contracts and agreements worth over 13 billion euros in several sectors, during Indo-French Economic Partnership (IFEP) ceremony in New Delhi.

- ✎ First ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit held in New Delhi.

- ✎ Indian PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated 101-megawatt solar power plant at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.




36. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)



-  Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO Visited India. During this, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) signed an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for co-operation in Health Sector.
- 37. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 21 - 31, 2018)
  -  German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited India.
  -  Constantino Chiwenga, Vice President Zimbabwe Visited India.
  -  Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Foreign Minister of Egypt Visited India for 7th Joint Commission Meet.
  -  China's Trade Minister Zhong Shan Visited India. China agreed to renegotiate bilateral trade and investment agreement and jointly prepared a road map to reduce massive trade imbalance in favour of China.
- 38. ▶ Visits to India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
  -  Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko Visited India. He attended 9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi. Indo-Japan Startup Hub was also inaugurated in Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB).
  -  Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dacic Visited India.
  -  Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov Visited India.
- 39. ▶ Visits to India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -
  -  Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan Visited India.
  -  Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte visited India. During his visit, Invest India (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Dutch Government launched Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink initiative, to further spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum was also inaugurated, to take forward MoU signed in June 2017.
  -  India and Netherlands also launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi, aiming to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from Netherlands.
  -  Queen Maxima of Kingdom of the Netherlands visited India, as UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.
- 40. ▶ Visits to India (May 21 - 31, 2018)
  -  Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Visited India. She jointly (with Indian PM Narendra Modi) inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Vishwa Bharti University in Santiniketan (West Bengal).

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## Science

1. ▶ 2 Indian start-ups Neewee and EFLIGHT accelerated at Airbus Bizlab India, signed their first contracts with Airbus and subsidiary NAVBLUE to implement their unique innovative ideas in aerospace.
  -  Neewee has come up with a solution called procuSense, to improve certainty in manufacturing, supply chain and procurement operations at Airbus. EFLIGHT has developed a trip support solution that provides a set of services that enables business jet pilots to optimise plans for fuel, time, route and weather.
2. ▶ 4 rare kingfisher species are spotted in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh, identified as White-throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), Pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), Black-capped kingfisher (*Halcyon pileate*) and Common kingfisher.
3. ▶ *IceCube*, a small NASA satellite has developed first global map of ice clouds. Ice clouds start as tiny particles high in atmosphere. They absorb moisture, and become heavier. This make them to fall to lower altitudes. Ice clouds affect Earth's energy budget by absorbing Sun's energy and by affecting emission of heat from Earth into space. IceCube will operate for a year, and then it will reenter Earth's atmosphere and burn up.
4. ▶ A new species of Himalayan Butterfly named *Eucyclodes gavissima* discovered in Papikonda National Park in Andhra Pradesh.
5. ▶ According to study by Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) spacecraft mission of German Aerospace Center and NASA, India has seen sharp decline in availability of freshwater, due to overuse by humans, climate change and natural cycles.
6. ▶ All India Institute of Medical Sciences Delhi (AIIMS) has set up India's first Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of small tumour-like spots in lungs.
7. ▶ American Spzce Exploration Firm SpaceX launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth's water Cycle i.e. water movement and icemelt.
  -  GRACE-FO (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On) is joint project between NASA and German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ), as as follow-on mission to GRACE mission, which mapped Earth's water and ice by measuring changes in Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.
  -  To measure Earth's gravity, 2 GRACE-FO satellites will orbit around Earth together, with one trailing behind other at distance of 220km.

8. ▶ An International team of scientists provided first proof of an exotic new state of matter, known as Rydberg polarons. It can be created, by essentially putting atoms inside other atoms.
  - ✎ *Rydberg polarons* basically involves making use of the space between electron and nucleus inside an atom, enough to fit other atoms inside. Goal was to hit it in precisely right way to boost one or more of its electrons into an orbital far from nucleus, creating an excited state called a Rydberg atom.
9. ▶ An important peptide that can be used to create a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis (tropical infectious disease) has been found by researchers from Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre. At present there is no preventive vaccine for Leptospirosis.
  - ✎ Researchers learned whole protein set of bacteria *Leptospira interrogans* by narrowing down to one effective immunogenic protein.
  - ✎ This protein was found in almost all serovars (different types within a species) of the bacteria.
10. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government notified its new state symbols, after bifurcation of undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2014 that led to formation of New State Telangana. New state symbols -
  - ✎ State bird - Rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*). Locally known as Rama Chiluka.
  - ✎ State tree - Neem (*Azadirachta indica*). Locally known Vepa Chettu.
  - ✎ State animal - Black-buck (*Antelope cervicapra*). Locally known as Krishna Jinka.
  - ✎ State flower - Jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*).
  - ✎ State symbols of Telangana - Bird - Indian Roller (It also state bird of Odisha and Karnataka), Tree: Jammi Chettu, Animal - Spotted deer. Flower - Tangidi Puvvu.
11. ▶ As per a recent study, 26 % of nitrogen on Earth comes from weathering of planet's bedrock, as against current belief that all of nitrogen on Earth available to plants comes from atmosphere. Ecosystems need nitrogen and other nutrients to absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution and there is limited amount of it available from plants and soils.
  - ✎ Geology and carbon sequestration - Rock-derived nitrogen may fuel growth of forests and grasslands, and allow them to sequester more CO<sub>2</sub> than previously thought.
  - ✎ This discovery can improve climate change projections, which rely on understanding carbon cycle. Mapping nutrient profiles in rocks for their carbon uptake potential can help drive conservation efforts. For decades, scientists recognized that more nitrogen accumulates in soils and plants than can be explained by input from atmosphere alone, but they couldn't find missing sources of Nitrogen.
12. ▶ Astronomers discovered a first of its kind carbon-rich asteroid in Kuiper Belt, designated as *2004 EW95*.
  - ✎ Kuiper belt is a circum-stellar disc in outer Solar System, extending from orbit of Neptune to approximately 50 astronomical unit (AU) from Sun.
  - ✎ 2004 EW95 seems to have formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and then would have been flung billions of kms to its current locations.
13. ▶ Astronomers from Arizona State University (USA) discovered signals from period when universe's earliest stars emerged, named *Cosmic Dawn*. It could provide insights into elusive 'dark matter', believed to form a fundamental part of our universe. A radio telescope called *Experiment to Detect the Global Epoch of Reionization Signature (EDGES)* based in Western Australian desert, was used in this research.
14. ▶ Australian scientist of Indian origin Veena Sahajwalla launched world's first microfactory that can transform components from electronic waste items into valuable materials for re-use. It uses green manufacturing technologies to turn many types of consumer waste such as glass, plastic and timber into commercial materials and products. Transformed materials from micro-factory includes metal alloys and range of micromaterials.
15. ▶ Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) developed Bhabha Kavach, a next-generation cheaper and lighter bulletproof jacket, named after Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, father of Indian nuclear programme.
  - ✎ Bhabha Kavach is made of boron carbide and carbon nanotube polymer composite and weighs just 6.6 kg, reducing weight by 50%.
  - ✎ It will cost Rs 60,000-70,000, compared to imported bulletproof jackets costing around Rs 1.5 lakh.
16. ▶ Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has developed coded drug AYUSH QOL-2C for improving quality of life in cancer patients.
17. ▶ Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) claimed that India's first cloned Assamese buffalo male calf named Sach-Gaurav is born in Hisar (Haryana).
  - ✎ Animal cloning conserves and multiplies selected superior animals of buffalo breeds. It is second cloned male buffalo produced by ICAR-CIRB after Hisar-Gaurav born in December 2015.
18. ▶ China launched relay satellite *Queqiao (Magpie Bridge)* to establish communication with its planned Chang'e-4 lunar probe (rover) that will explore dark side of moon.

- ✎ Queqiao (meaning bridge of magpies) will serve as communications relay for future Chang'e-4 rover that will explore in South Pole-Aitken Basin in moon's far side. It will be world's first communication satellite operating in halo orbit - Earth-moon Lagrange point L2, a gravitationally stable spot located 64,000 kilometers beyond lunar far side.
- ✎ Need for relay Satellite -
  - ✎ Moon is tidally locked to Earth, it always shows same face (near side) to Earth. So, relay link is necessary to communicate with spacecraft on far side, which will otherwise have to send their signals through moon's rocky bulk.
  - ✎ Under China National Space Administration (CNSA)'s Chang'e program (Chinese Lunar Exploration Program), Chang'e 1 and Chang'e 2 probes already have reached lunar orbit in 2007 and 2010 respectively. Chang'e 3 mission is in process to put lander and rover on moon's near side.
- 19. ▶ China's Unoperational and out-of-control space station, Tiangong-1 will re-enter Earth between March 31 and April 1. The space lab with a length of 10m and weight of more than 8 tonnes, is larger than most of the man-made objects that routinely re-enter Earth's atmosphere. Most parts of it will burn up on re-entry into atmosphere and hence, there is a very low risk of any part hitting a populated area.
- 20. ▶ Chinese Researchers developed a new 3D conic device that can greatly increase solar-thermal conversion efficiency, Named *Artificial Transpiration* and inspired by transpiration process of trees. It is fixed with a special 1D water path which can reduce energy loss in conduction.
  - ✎ As 10 to 50 % of sunlight is diffusive, the cone structure of the device could collect more sunlight throughout the day, compared with a flat device. It can enhance solar-thermal conversion rate to 85 percent (up from 40% Currently).
  - ✎ It will also open new possibilities to utilise solar energy in several sectors, which was discontinued due to its low conversion rate caused by losses in radiation, convection and conduction.
- 21. ▶ Cybersecurity agencies detected a new malware called *Saposhi* that can take over electronic devices and use them for Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. Saposhi is capable of taking over electronic devices and turning them into bots (device taken over by malware) which can then be used for any purpose.
- 22. ▶ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of USA approved an artificial-intelligence device called IDx-DR, that can detect diabetic eye problems, allowing doctors to diagnose the condition without need of any data or images. It uses artificial intelligence algorithm to analyse images of eye, taken with a retinal camera Topcon NW400.
- 23. ▶ Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) demanded more tests for genetically modified mustard- Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11) for *commercial cultivation*. It has called for 'field demonstrations' of GM mustard in an area of 5 acres at several locations, to study possible impact transgenic crop could have on honey bees.
  - ✎ GEAC had given final clearance for GM mustard (in May 2017). Clearance was later put on hold by Environment Ministry.
  - ✎ Even high-powered panel on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) said Genetic Engineering is 'powerful' tool for developing future crop, but for now it should be adopted only for non-food crops.
  - ✎ Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11) is transgenic mustard developed by Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at Delhi University. It is genetically modified variety of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) mustard.
- 24. ▶ ISRO successfully launched GSAT-6A Satellite, onboard Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-Fo8). This is 5th consecutive successful launch achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage. GSAT-6A is a communication satellite built to provide mobile communication services through multi beam coverage, equipped with S and C band transponders.
- 25. ▶ ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is developing environment-friendly propellant propellant blend based on hydroxylammonium nitrate (HAN) to power satellites and spacecrafts, aiming to replace conventional hydrazine fuel, Which has dominated space industry as choice of propellant for over six decades despite hazards.
  - ✎ HAN-based monopropellant formulation consists of HAN, ammonium nitrate, methanol and water. Monopropellant is chemical propulsion fuel which does not require separate oxidizer. It is used extensively in satellite thrusters for orbital correction and orientation control.
  - ✎ HAN-based monopropellant will replace conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with greener propellant for future missions. It will also ensure cost effective re-usable, recoverable, re-startable and reliable space launches of ISRO.
- 26. ▶ ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched 1425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite. IRNSS-1I is latest member of *Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)* system (also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)).
  - ✎ NAVIC is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in Indian region and 1,500 km around Indian mainland.
  - ✎ The constellation consists 7 Satellites, planned to be expanded to 11.

27. ▶ IT Firm Tech Mahindra partnered with breach avoidance platform provider *Balbix* to launch first AI (Artificial intelligence)-powered continuous threat assessment and prioritised actionable risk intelligence platform.
28. ▶ Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) developed a *Arsenic Sensor and Removal Media* device to remove arsenic content from water and make it safe for use. It is capable of sensing soluble arsenic which cannot be easily removed. It is highly sensitive as it can sense up to parts per billion (ppb) levels, compared to currently available techniques that sense parts per million (ppm).
  - ▶ Arsenic is a natural component in earth's crust, widely distributed and highly toxic in its inorganic form.
29. ▶ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (Ministry of Earth Sciences) has developed a new model that would predict how far sea water would travel after violating natural boundaries. It would be a Level-3 alert under India's Tsunami Early Warning System, which was put in place after 2004 tsunami. Level-1 tracks magnitude of a tsunami and Level-2 generates an alert about a potential tsunami and wave height.
30. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) lost contact with recently launched India's communication GSAT-6A satellite. The second orbit raising operation of GSAT-6A was successfully carried out on March 31, 2018, but during third and final firing scheduled on April 1, 2018, communication with satellite was lost. Efforts by ISRO are on to re-establish communication with the satellite.
31. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch several satellites in coming month.
  - ▶ GSAT 7A - It will enable for Indian Air Force (IAF) to interlink different ground radar stations, airbases and Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. It will be similar to Gsat-7 or Rukmini, launched in September 2013 for Indian Navy.
  - ▶ RISAT - 2A - It is an advanced remote sensing satellite and will boost India's surveillance capabilities.
32. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites to measure clear-cut location data. Currently ISRO imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium for navigation satellites.
  - ▶ It will be used on seven navigation satellites of India as part of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NaVIC. Currently 3 NAVIC satellites have 3 imported Rubidium atomic clocks.
33. ▶ Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) postponed launch of India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' from April 2018 to October-November 2018 -
  - ▶ Chandrayaan 2 is India's second mission to Moon, developed indigenously by ISRO with Orbiter, Lander and Rover configuration.
  - ▶ It is ISRO's first inter-planetary mission to land rover on any celestial body, to be launched on board Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10). Orbiter weighs around 3,290 kg and it will orbit around moon and perform objectives of remote sensing moon.
34. ▶ Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) postponed launch of India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' from April 2018 to October-November 2018.
  - ▶ It will be launched on board of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10). Chandrayaan 2 Chandrayaan 2 is India's second mission to Moon and is advanced version of previous Chandrayaan-1 mission (launched in 2008).
  - ▶ It consists of Orbiter, Lander and Rover configuration. In this mission, ISRO will for first time attempt to land a rover on moon's south pole.
35. ▶ Indian scientists formulated world's first ayurvedic drug to cure dengue, likely to be available by 2019. Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial (a medical study involving human participants) of this drug is going on in medical colleges in Karnataka.
36. ▶ Japanese scientists invented procedure to produce alcoholic beverages from wood of cherry, cedar, and birch trees. Four-kilogram cedar wood produced 3.8 litres of liquid, with 15% alcohol content.
37. ▶ NASA discovered a special kind of neutron star outside the Milky Way galaxy for first time. Neutron stars are highly dense cores of massive stars that collapse and go through a supernova explosion. It was spotted via NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile.
38. ▶ NASA partnered with space launching firm SpaceX to launch Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) to search for exoplanets using transit method. TESS is designed to carry out first spaceborne all-sky transiting exoplanet survey. It is planned to be launched in April 2018 on board of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
  - ▶ Primary objective of TESS is to survey brightest stars near Earth for transiting exoplanets over 2 years. It will use array of wide-field cameras to perform all-sky survey. It will create catalog of thousands of exoplanet candidates using transit photometry method.
39. ▶ NASA successfully conducted Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) to test supersonic parachute that will help its space exploration missions to land on Mars.
  - ▶ NASA's Mars rover mission is set to launch in 2020 to deploy six-wheeled vehicle on martian surface to study rocks on site and cache samples for eventual return to Earth. It will rely on special parachute to slow spacecraft down when it is entering Martian atmosphere at over speed of 12,000 mph (5.4 kilometers per second).

40. ▶ NASA will launch humanity's first mission Parker Solar Probe (PSP) to Sun on July 31, 2018. After launch, probe will orbit directly through solar atmosphere (the corona), closer to surface than any human-made object has ever gone.
  - ✍ It has been designed and built by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. It is named after solar astrophysicist Eugene Parker, first spacecraft of NASA to be named after living person.
  - ✍ Probe will be fitted with thermal protection system (TPS) or heat shield made of reinforced carbon-carbon composite that will allow it to survive temperatures in Sun's corona.
41. ▶ NASA will launch mission InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) to study deep interior of Mars on May 5, 2018. Rocket will also launch two mini-spacecraft called Mars Cube One (MarCO), NASA's technology experiment. InSight is stationary lander that will be first NASA mission since Apollo moon landings to place seismometer, a device that measures quakes on soil of another planet.
42. ▶ NASA will send first-ever mission named as InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) dedicated to exploring deep interior of Mars, in May 2018. It will be first NASA mission since Apollo moon landings to place seismometer, a device that measures quakes on the soil of another planet.
43. ▶ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope discovered most distant star ever seen named 'Icarus', officially named *MACS J1149+2223 Lensed Star 1*. It took nine billion years for Icarus' light to reach Earth, captured through a phenomenon called 'Gravitational Lensing' that enormously intensifies star's feeble glow.
44. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced its plan of creating a manned supersonic aircraft with no ear-shattering sonic boom. NASA will grant \$247.5 million contract to American aerospace Firm Lockheed Martin, to build the new plane called X-plane.
  - ✍ X-Plane is expected to cruise at an elevation of more than 16,700 meters, at a speed of more than 1,500 km per hour but not make a sonic boom.
  - ✍ Under NASA's plan, beginning mid-2022, It will fly X-plane over select US cities and collect data about community responses to flights.
45. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) demonstrated that Its Kilopower portable nuclear fission reactor could enable crewed missions to Moon, Mars and beyond.
  - ✍ Kilopower Reactor Using Stirling Technology (KRUSTY) experiment was conducted by NASA at in November 2017 - March 2018, established that this system can create electricity with fission power.
  - ✍ KRUSTY is a small, lightweight fission power system which is capable of providing up to 10 kilowatts of electrical power continuously for at least 10 years. This prototype uses a solid uranium-235 reactor core.
46. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph (CHES 4) from Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands, onboard a NASA Black Brant IX sounding rocket to study interstellar medium (matter between stars).
  - ✍ Space between distant stars contains drifts of vast clouds of neutral molecules and charged plasma particles called interstellar medium, which may evolve into new stars and even planets with time.
  - ✍ CHES mission will focus on these floating interstellar reservoirs or translucent clouds of gas, which provide fundamental building blocks for stars and planets.
  - ✍ CHES 4 will study interaction of stellar wind with surrounding interstellar medium to study excitation of atoms and molecules in interface region. It will enable researchers to study catalysts of galactic chemistry and raw materials for future generations of stars and planets.
47. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a new planet-hunting spacecraft onboard of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. TESS is designed to find potential planets orbiting stars close to Earth. It will identify such planets by spotting decreased brightness of stars after planet passes in front of it.
48. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch 2 new satellite missions and conduct an array of field research in 2018 to enhance understanding of Earth's ice sheets, glaciers, sea ice, snow cover and permafrost (collectively called cryosphere).
  - ✍ Changes in cryosphere have shown impact on people all around world like sea level rise affects coastlines globally and melting of snowpack affects billions of people who rely on the water.
  - ✍ Missions Include -
    - ✍ *Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO)* which would be launched by NASA along with the German Research Centre for Geosciences. Twin satellites will continue original GRACE mission's legacy of tracking fluctuations in Earth's gravity field in order to detect changes in mass, including the mass of ice sheets and aquifers.



- ✍ *Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2)*, which will use a highly advanced laser instrument to measure changing elevation of ice around the world, providing a view of the height of Earth's ice with greater detail than previously possible.
  - ✍ Together, two missions will make critical, complementary measurements of Earth's glaciers and ice sheets. GRACE-FO will also measure groundwater reserves and deep ocean currents and ICESat-2 will measure sea ice thickness and vegetation height.
49. ▶ RH-300 MKII sounding rocket developed by IRSO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has been launched from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), under Sounding Rocket Experiment (SOUREX) programme for atmospheric studies.
- ✍ Objective is to measure neutral wind in dynamo region (80-120 km) of equatorial ionosphere using indigenously developed Electron Density and Neutral Wind Probe (ENWi).
  - ✍ It will also perform cross-validation using an independent Tri Methyl Aluminium (TMA) release technique.
50. ▶ Recent National Institute of Virology (NIV) study found that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that transmits dengue and chikungunya viruses is susceptible to zika virus. It was found that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito infected with African strain MR-766 of zika virus (ZIKV) can transmit infection.
51. ▶ Researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) Bengaluru have developed silver copper telluride (AgCuTe), a novel compound that exhibits poor thermal conductivity but shows good electrical conductivity.
- ✍ AgCuTe has good thermoelectric properties and is made from silver, copper, and tellurium. It exhibits poor thermal conductivity in 25-425 degree C range but shows good electrical conductivity.
  - ✍ Due to this property, one end of 8 mm-long AgCuTe rod which is contact with waste heat remains hot while other end maintains cold temperature. This temperature difference results in generation of electrical voltage.
  - ✍ This compound shows ideal promise as thermoelectric material for converting waste heat into electricity. Its applications are in automobile, thermal, chemical and steel power plants where large quantities of heat are wasted.
52. ▶ Researchers discovered new class of antibiotics called odilorhabdins or ODLs that fights drug resistance, produced by symbiotic bacteria found in soil-dwelling nematode worms that colonise insects for food. Bacterium helps kill insect and secrete antibiotic to keep competing bacteria away.
- ✍ During research it was found that ODL act on ribosome (molecular machine that makes proteins cells needed to function) of bacterial cells. ODL like many clinically useful antibiotics, work by targeting ribosome. But ODL is unique because it binds to place on ribosome that has never been used by other known antibiotics.
53. ▶ Researchers discovered new grass-like plant species named *Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis* in Ponmudi hills within Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot (Spread across Kerala and Tamilnadu). New species of plant belongs to Cyperaceae family.
54. ▶ Researchers from Britain's University of Portsmouth and US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developed a plastic-eating enzyme. Called *Ideonella sakaiensis* 201-F6, this enzyme is able to eat polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which was patented as plastic in 1940s. It can be used to fight one of world's biggest pollution problems, called Plastic.
- ✍ Enzyme can also degrade polyethylene furandicarboxylate (PEF), a bio-based substitute for PET plastics that is being called as a replacement for glass beer bottles.
  - ✍ Though PEF plastics are bio-based, they are not biodegradable and end up as a waste.
55. ▶ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee identified 2 small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II, for their inhibitory activity to treat Chikungunya disease. Small amount of concerned solution was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in virus. Currently, there are no drugs to treat chikungunya or any vaccine to prevent it.
56. ▶ Researchers from Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that global warming is driving proliferation of *Noctiluca* algae (known as sea tinkle), a harmful algae in Arabian Sea responsible for glowing of Mumbai's beaches in dark.
- ✍ *Noctiluca* algae is parasite and occurs in patches or blooms in northern Arabian Sea. The algae compete with fish for food and choke their supply. It also excretes large amounts of ammonia, which causes massive fish mortality.
57. ▶ Researchers from Northumbria University (UK) found out mountain ranges and three vast, deep sub-glacial valleys hidden under Antarctica ice. This is first finding observed from ice penetrating radar data collected in Antarctica as part of European Space Agency PolarGAP project. Largest valley, named Foundation Trough, is over 350 kilometres long and 35 kilometres wide. Other 2 are Patuxent Trough and Offset Rift.
58. ▶ Researchers from Surat's Veer Narmad South Gujarat University discovered world's smallest land fern in Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district. New Malvi's adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum malviae* is just one centimetre in size.

59. ▶ Scientists at Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) Rajasthan invented a new laparoscope-assisted insemination technique for sheep breeding. It is minor invasive laparoscopic technique involves passing rigid fibre-optic laparoscope into abdomen through small incision.
- ✏ It resolves difficulties in freezing of semen and inability to transit tortuous reproductive tract of sheep kept as livestock. It will also help achieve up to 60% survival in birth of lambs.
60. ▶ Scientists at Northwestern University (USA) led by India's Vinod Kumar Sangwan (India), developed "Memtransistor", an electronic device that can mimic human brain, combining functions of a memristor and a transistor.
61. ▶ Scientists completed first test drive of a DNA 'unicycle' – a tiny machine made of genetic material powered by chemical energy that could perform directed movements, developed by Researchers from University of Bonn (Germany) and University of Michigan (USA). The tiny vehicle is 30 nanometers in size and Fuel is given by protein *T7 RNA polymerase*.
62. ▶ Scientists created world's smallest house – build on an area of 300 square micrometres – using a robotic system that can accurately assemble nanomaterials into tiny, desirable structures. Researchers from Femto-ST Institute in France, assembled new microrobotics system that pushes forward frontiers of optical nanotechnologies.
- ✏ With advancement, optical fibres as thin as human hair can be inserted into inaccessible locations like jet engines and blood vessels to detect radiation levels or viral molecules.
63. ▶ Scientists discovered a giant mosquito with a wingspan of 11.15 centimetres in China's Sichuan province, belonging to world's largest mosquito species *Holorusia mikado*. This species was first found in Japan and normally has wing span of 8 centimetres.
64. ▶ Scientists discovered first interstellar immigrant, an Asteroid named (514107) 2015 BZ509 (Also called Oumuamua) that has a different origin other than our solar system because it moves in a direction opposite to that of all objects in our solar system.
65. ▶ Scientists discovered hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet named K2-229b orbiting dwarf star located 260 million light years away, using NASA's Kepler 2 telescope. They employed Doppler spectroscopy technique also known as 'wobble method' to discover and characterise this faraway planet. K2-229b is almost 20% larger than Earth and 2.5 times heavier. Its day side temperature reaches over 2000 degrees Celsius.
66. ▶ Scientists discovered new frog species named *Microhyla kodial* or Mangaluru narrow-mouthed frog in a region in coastal Karnataka. It is seen only in small industrial region which was former timber dumping yards surrounded by seaport, petrochemical, chemical and refinery industries. It is small in size measuring just 2 cm long.
67. ▶ Scientists discovered new organ in human body and have named it as 'interstitium', as 80th organ in human body.
- ✏ It might be might be also the biggest organ in human body. It was discovered while doctors were investigating patient's bile duct, searching for signs of cancer. Discovery of interstitium will help to explain how cancer spreads in body and pave way for new ways to detect and treat the disease.
  - ✏ Interstitium is network of interconnected, fluid-filled spaces all over the body. It is found everywhere in human bodies, acting as shock absorber in all places where tissues are moved or subjected to force. It is made up of both flexible (elastin) and strong (collagen) connective tissue proteins, with interstitial fluid moving throughout.
  - ✏ It also acts as fluid 'highway' i.e. thoroughfares to transport critical fluids within organs and around body. It also plays important role in carrying lymph, a fluid that supports immunity and also travels through lymphatic vessels.
  - ✏ It lies beneath top layer of skin, but is also in tissue layers lining gut, lungs, blood vessels, and muscles.
68. ▶ Scientists discovered world's oldest lizard fossil, named *Megachirella wachtleri*, in Dolomites mountain range of Italy. Fossil is 240 million years old.
69. ▶ Scientists discovered world's second oldest grain of magmatic zircon (mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from Champua from Singhbhum rock sample in Odisha's Kendujhar district. It is oldest magmatic zircon on earth.
- ✏ Isotopic analysis of Singhbhum rock sample with magmatic zircon was done used Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP) at Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences. It confirmed presence of two zircon grains that aged 4240 million and 4030 million years.
  - ✏ Oldest zircon on earth was found in Jack Hill (Western Australia), which is 4400 million years old. It is metamorphosed sedimentary rock.
70. ▶ Scientists found a drug named "PLX5622" that could prevent the brain damage caused by exposure to cosmic radiation, useful to spacewalkers as Humans travelling beyond Earth's protective magnetic fields will be exposed to cosmic radiation nearly 1000 times higher than that on Earth.
71. ▶ Scientists from CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) found four bacterial strains that remove sulphur from fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. Sulphur is one of the major pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels. Bacterial strains are *Rhodococcus rhodochrous*, *Arthrobacter sulfureou*, *Gordonia rubropertinita* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*. Bio-

- desulfurization using these bacterial strains can be used on commercial scale for removal of sulphur from fossil fuels on commercial scale.
72. ▶ Scientists from China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT) developed artificial heart using rocket technology, currently being tested on animals. The artificial heart uses magnetic and fluid levitation from rocket system. This technology can reduce friction in device to increase working efficiency and extend life span of power generator. It can reduce damage to the blood and enable blood pump to work longer.
  73. ▶ Scientists from Newcastle University (UK) created world's first 3D printed human corneas that could solve problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again.
    - ✎ Cornea is outermost layer of the human eye. Its key function is to focus vision. It also barricades eyes against harmful dirt and bacteria.
    - ✎ 3D printed human corneas were produced using bio-ink solution consisting of healthy corneal stem mixed together with alginate and collagen.
  74. ▶ Scientists from Pennsylvania State University (USA) discovered signs of life in a massive cave in Italy, located about 1300 feet below ground. It may help detect life on other planets like Mars. Identification was made by researchers while exploring Frasassi Caves in central Italy. Scientists found variations in isotopic content of atoms in mineral gypsum, a weathering product of cave's formation.
    - ✎ Study stated that not all gypsum is formed by microbes, but gypsum formed by microbes will have a different ratio of isotopes in atoms. • This isotopic variation indicates that life played an active role in producing gypsum.
  75. ▶ Scientists from Tohoku University in Japan found mineral called moganite in lunar (Moon's) meteorite that points presence of abundant hidden reserves of water ice under surface of moon. The mineral discovered in a desert in northwest Africa could be potentially useful for future human exploration of moon.
    - ✎ Moganite is a crystal of silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), known to form on earth in specific circumstances in sedimentary settings from alkaline fluids.
    - ✎ Researchers believe that mineral formed on surface of moon in area called Procellarum Terrane as water was present in lunar dirt, that evaporated due to strong sunlight. But in subsurface, water remains in form of ice.
  76. ▶ Scientists from University of Minnesota (USA) discovered that chemical element ruthenium (Ru(44)) is fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature, after Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni). The discovery will help to improve sensors, devices in computer memory and logic industry or other devices using magnetic materials. It was discovered in 1844 by Russian-born scientist Karl Ernst.
  77. ▶ Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered new species of water strider named *Ptilomera nagalanda* Jehamalar and Chandra in Nagaland. It was found in river Intanki in Peren district of Nagaland. This newly discovered species belongs to *Ptilomera agriodes* genus.
  78. ▶ Scientists identified a new species of frog called *Fejervarya goemchi*, in highland plateaus of Western Ghats parts of Goa. It was identified using combination of morphology, geographic distribution range and molecular methods to distinguish from other *Fejervarya* species found in South and South-East Asia.
  79. ▶ Scientists of Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered a 400 Million Year old fossilised body piece of an extinct class of marine animal named Cystoidea or cystoids at Guizhou province (China).
  80. ▶ Sudan, the last surviving northern white male rhinoceros of the world, died in Laikipia national park of Kenya. He was 45 years old and was only surviving male northern white rhin. Now, only 2 female rhinoceros of that sub-species are living. Genetic material from Sudan was collected when he was healthy. Through advanced cellular technologies, this sub-species might be prevented from extinction.
  81. ▶ Tapanuli Orangutan, the rarest ape species on Earth, is on verge of extinction with only approx 800 members of the species alive. This species was discovered in 2017 in Sumatra (Indonesia).
  82. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light. These contact lens are soft contact lenses indicated for daily use to correct vision of people with non-diseased eyes who are nearsighted (myopic) or farsighted (hyperopic).
  83. ▶ *Uropeltis bhupathyi*, a new snake species has been discovered in the Anaikatty hills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It has been named after late herpetologist S. Bhupathy. They are non-venomous, burrowing, mostly earthworm-eating.
  84. ▶ Vodafone Germany, Nokia and Audi are jointly working to support project to implement first mobile phone network on Moon by 2019. PTScientists, a Berlin-based company, is also working on this project.
  85. ▶ Weather scientists predicted normal monsoon in June-September 2018 monsoon season as prevailing conditions as well as neutral ENSO were favourable for good monsoon rainfall.
    - ✎ India receives 89 cm of rainfall during four-month monsoon season, which is almost 75% of its annual rainfall.

- ✎ Most important favourable condition for good monsoon is near-neutral to neutral ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) in equatorial Pacific Ocean, off coast of South America.
- ✎ Moreover, La Niña conditions are present and equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is likely during March-May season, with neutral conditions to continue in second half of year.

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## Sports

1. ▶ Indian Wells Masters tennis Title (also known as BNP Paribas Open), held at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California (US) -
  - ✎ Men's Singles - Juan Martin Del Potro (Argentina) (*defeated Roger Federer (Switzerland)*)
  - ✎ Women's Singles - Naomi Osaka (Japan) (*Defeated Daria Kasatkina (Russia)*)
  - ✎ Men's Doubles - USA's John Isner AND Jack Sock
  - ✎ Women's Doubles - Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) AND Barbora Strycova (Czech Republic)
2. ▶ 'Son of Dreams' has been unveiled as official Mascot of FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 to be held in 8 Chinese Cities in August to September 2019.
3. ▶ 17th IAAF World Indoor Championships held in Birmingham (United Kingdom) -
  - ✎ 632 athletes from 144 nations participated in 26 Events.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	USA	6	10	2	18
2	Ethiopia	4	1	0	5
3	Poland	2	2	1	5
4	Great Britain & Northern Ireland	2	1	4	7
5	Authorized Neutral Athletes (ANA)	2	1	0	3

- ✎ India could not win a medal at the event. 1 Indian Athlete participated in event - Siddhant Thingalaya (Track and field athlete).
4. ▶ 2018 Asian Wrestling Championships held at Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).

✎ Medal Tally -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	7	1	6	14
2	Iran	6	2	2	10
3	Uzbekistan	4	5	6	15
4	Kazakhstan	4	2	11	17
5	Japan	3	7	8	18
6	Kyrgyzstan	2	3	6	11
7	North Korea	2	1	0	3
8	Mongolia	1	5	6	12
<b>9</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
10	South Korea	0	2	6	8
11	Qatar	0	1	0	1
12	Turkmenistan	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>118</b>

✎ India at the Event -

- ✎ India secured 9th Rank, with 8 Medals (1 Gold, 1 Silver and 6 Bronze).
  - ✎ Navjot Kaur won 1st ever gold medal for India in Asian Wrestling championships, after She defeated Imai Miyu of Japan in 65 kg freestyle. Vinesh Phogat claimed silver medal. She also became World No. 2 in 65 kg category as per the latest rankings by United World Wrestling.
  - ✎ Bronze - Bajrang Punia, Vinod Kumar Omprakash, Rajender Kumar, Harpreet Singh, Sangeeta Phogat AND Sakshi Malik.
5. ▶ 2018 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Urgench (Uzbekistan) -
    - ✎ India won 6 Medals, 5 in Youth Championships and 1 in Junior Championships (Bronze by JEREMY Lalrinnunga).
    - ✎ Medals in Youth Championships - SURAJIT Changmai (Bronze), GOGOI Sidhant (Bronze), JACOB Vanlalitluanga (Bronze), SHEULI Achinta (Silver), JEREMY Lalrinnunga (Silver).
    - ✎ India will host Asian Weightlifting Championships in 2019.

6. ▶ 2018 Badminton Asia Championships Held in Wuhan (China) -

🏸 Winners -

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Men's singles	Kento Momota (Japan)	Chen Long (China)	Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
			<b>H. S. Prannoy (India)</b>
Women's singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Chen Yufei (China)	<b>Saina Nehwal (India)</b>
			Sung Ji-hyun (South Korea)
Men's doubles	Li Junhui (China) Liu Yuchen (China)	Takeshi Kamura (Japan) Keigo Sonoda (Japan)	Huang Kaixiang (China) Wang Yili (China)
			Liu Cheng (China) Zhang Nan (China)
Women's doubles	Yuki Fukushima (Japan) Sayaka Hirota (Japan)	Misaki Matsutomo (Japan) Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)	Della Destiara Haris (Indonesia) Rizki Amelia Pradipta (Indonesia)
			Kim So-yeong (South Korea) Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)
Mixed doubles	Wang Yili (China) Huang Dongping (China)	Tontowi Ahmad (Indonesia) Liliyana Natsir (Indonesia)	Zheng Siwei (China) Huang Yaqiong (China)
			Zhang Nan (China) Li Yinhui (China)

🏆 Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	2	2	4	8
2	Japan	2	2	0	4
3	Chinese Taipei	1	0	0	1
4	Indonesia	0	1	1	2
5	<b>India</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	South Korea	0	0	2	2
7	Malaysia	0	0	1	1

7. ▶ 2018 Barcelona Open Banco Sabadell Men's Tennis Title -

🏸 Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)

🏸 Doubles - Spain's Feliciano López AND Marc López

8. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 1 (Shanghai (China)) -

🏹 India - (2 Bronze). Medalists -

🏹 Bronze for Abhishek Verma (Compound Men)

🏹 Bronze for Recurve Mixed Team (Atanu Das and Ankita Bhakat).

9. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 2 (Antalya (Turkey)) -

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

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

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

10. ▶ 2018 Kunming Open Tennis Title (China) -

🏸 Men's Singles - Prajnesh Gunneswaran (India), defeated Mohamed Safawat (Egypt)

🏸 Women's Singles - Irina Khromacheva (Russia)

🏸 Men's Doubles - Aliaksandr Bury (Belarus) AND Lloyd Harris (South Africa)

🏸 Women's Doubles - Dalila Jakupović (Slovenia) AND Irina Khromacheva (Russia)

11. ▶ 2018 Monte - Carlo Masters Men's Tennis Tournament (France) -

🏸 Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)

🏸 Doubles - USA's Bob Bryan AND Mike Bryan

12. ▶ 2018 Mutua Madrid Open Tennis Title (Spain) -

🏸 Men's Singles - Alexander Zverev (Germany)

🏸 Women's Singles - Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)

🏸 Men's Doubles - Nikola Mektić (Croatia) AND Alexander Peya (Austria)

🏸 Women's Doubles - Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) AND Elena Vesnina (Russia)

🏸 Spanish Tennis Player Rafael Nadal broke John McEnroe's 34-year record by winning his 50th consecutive set on clay at Madrid Open.





13. ▶ 2018 Porsche Women's Tennis Grand Prix (Allso Known as Stuttgart Open) -




- 🎨 Women's Singles - Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
  - 🎨 Women's Doubles - Raquel Atawo (USA) AND Anna-Lena Grönefeld (Germany)
14. ▶ 2018 Thomas Cup Badminton (30th Edition), Bangkok (Thailand) -
    - 🎨 China won the tournament, beating Japan in Final. It is 10th Thomas cup title for China.
    - 🎨 *Thomas Cup* is informally called World Team Championships for Men.
  15. ▶ 2018 Uber Cup Badminton (27th Edition), Bangkok (Thailand) -
    - 🎨 Japan won the tournament, beating Thailand in Final. It is Sixth Uber cup title for Japan.
    - 🎨 *Uber Cup* is informally called World Team Championships for Women.
  16. ▶ 99-year-old Australian swimmer smashed world record for his age group during Commonwealth Games trials in Queensland (Australia). He clocked 50 metres in 56.12 seconds.
  17. ▶ Afghan Cricketer Rashid Khan (19 years age) became youngest captain in history of international cricket, after he wa chosen to lead the T20I side.
  18. ▶ All India Football Federation (AIFF) launched *Scout-Me* application to discover future players. AIFF became first National Sports Federation to launch a mobile based scouting application to discover future players.
  19. ▶ Archery Asia Cup 2018 (Bangkok (Thailand))-
    - 🎨 India's Muskan Kirar and Promila Daimary clinched gold medals in the women's compound and recurve events respectively.
  20. ▶ Argentina Footballer Lionel Messi won European Golden Shoe for fifth time, after winning it earlier in 2010, 2012 and 2013, 2017.
    - 🎨 Additionally, Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is named he most popular athlete as he topped ESPN World Fame 100 list for 3rd straight year.
  21. ▶ Australia won 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey cup 2018 for record 10th time, defeating England in Malaysia.
  22. ▶ Australian Cricket team captain Steve Smith has been suspended and fined 100 percent of his match fee by International Cricket Council (ICC), amid a ball-tampering controversy in South Africa. Another Player Cameron Bancroft has been involved in same and was fined 75% match fee, along with 3 demerit points. Australia Cricket Team's head coach Darren Lehmann also announced his resignation.
  23. ▶ Barcelona FC became first team in 85 years to win four straight Copa del Rey Football titles after defeating Sevilla.
  24. ▶ Barcelona FC defeated Deportivo to win La Liga Football League Title (Spain) for 25th time. Barcelona also extended their league record unbeaten streak to 34 matches.
  25. ▶ Bayern Munich FC won German Footnall League called Bundesliga for 28th time, defeating Augsburg.
  26. ▶ Bengaluru FC won inaugural edition of Super Cup Football tournament in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), defeating Kolkata football giants East Bengal.
  27. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recommended Rahul Dravid for Dronacharya award, Virat Kohli's for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna honour and Sunil Gavaskar for Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.
  28. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) signed Letter of Intent (LoI) with UN Environment to promote green' cricket in India. BCCI will endeavor to reduce its environmental impact by greening its operations and engaging cricketers and fans in green initiatives.
  29. ▶ CEAT Cricket Ratings awards 2018 -
    - 🎨 International Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli
    - 🎨 International Batsman of the Year - Shikhar Dhawan
    - 🎨 International Bowler of the Year - Trent Boult (NZ)
    - 🎨 T20 Bowler of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).
    - 🎨 T20 Batsman of the Year - Colin Munro (NZ)
    - 🎨 Outstanding Innings of the Year - Harmanpreet Kaur (Indian Female Cricketer)
    - 🎨 U-19 Player of the Year - Shubman Gill
    - 🎨 Popular Choice Award - Chris Gayle (Windies)
    - 🎨 Lifetime Achievement Award - Farokh Engineer (India).
  30. ▶ Chelsea FC defeated Manchester United FC to win 2017/18 FA Cup, winning the title for 8th time. FA Cup 2017-18, was 137th edition of oldest recognised football tournament in world.
  31. ▶ Chennai Super Kings defeated Sun Risers Hyderabad to win their 3rd Indian Premier League title, equalling Mumbai Indians' record of winning number of Indian Premier League titles (3). 2018 was 11th Edition of IPL and 7th Final of CSK. They were Suspended for 2 years (2016 & 2017). Various Awards given at Closing Ceremony -

S. No	Award	Winner (Team)
1.	Man of the Match (Final)	Shane Watson (CSK)
2.	Orange Cap (Most Runs)	Kane Williamson (SRH)

3.	Purple Cap (Most Wickets)	Andrew Tye (KKIP)
4.	Emerging Player AND Stylish Player	Rishabh Pant (DD)
6.	Perfect Catch	Trent Boult (DD)
7.	Super Striker	Sunil Narine (KKR)
8.	Valuable Player	Sunil Narine (KKR)
9.	Fairplay Award	Mumbai Indians

32. ▶ Chennaiyin FC won Indian Super League Football's 4th Session after defeating Bengaluru FC by 3-2.
33. ▶ Cricket Australia banned Steve Smith and David Warner from playing for Australia for 1 year, after recent ball-tampering scandal during Cape Town Test against South Africa. Cameron Bancroft has been given a nine-month ban for executing the plan.  
 Additionally, David Warner will never be considered for any leadership position in future.
34. ▶ ESPN Multi-Sport Awards -  
 Badminton players, PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth named Sportspersons of the Year in Male and Female Categories.  
 Badminton Coach Pullela Gopichand adjudged 'best coach'.  
 Indian Women's Hockey Team got 'Team of the Year' title.
35. ▶ Egyptian Football Player forward Mohamed Salah is named Player of the Year by England's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).
36. ▶ FC Goa and Forca Goa Foundation introduced *FC Goa Soccer Schools* as a soccer programme for kids, aimed at developing football in Goa and to provide opportunity to more children to play it.
37. ▶ FIFA lifted 30 year old ban on Iraq for hosting international football matches. FIFA allowed games to be staged in Arbil, Basra and Karbala.
38. ▶ FIFA proposed staging a 'mini-World Cup' every two years, replacing Confederations Cup currently staged every four years in a year before World Cup. New event will be called 'Final 8', would feature eight teams and could commence in October or November 2021.
39. ▶ Ferrari's German Racer Sebastian Vettel won Australian Grand Prix title.

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	
3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	
5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	
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13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

40. ▶ Ferrari's German Racer Sebastian Vettel won Bahrain Grand Prix title.

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	
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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	

41. ▶ Football Delhi will launch a Pro League in October 2018 and a community league in January 2019. Earlier, Football Delhi, was known as Delhi Soccer Association.
42. ▶ Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer is appointed as Australian cricket team's new head coach for all formats, replacing Darren Lehmann, who stepped down after recent ball-tampering controversy.
43. ▶ ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 (Sydney (Australia)) -

India won total 22 Medals in the event, with 4 Individual and 5 team Gold Medals.

Medal Table -

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	9	8	8	25
2	India	9	5	8	22
3	Italy	3	1	2	6
4	Australia	1	2	0	3
5	Chinese Taipei	0	2	0	2

Gold Medals for India -

Individual - Anish Anish (25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior), Manu Bhaker (10m Air Pistol Women Junior), Muskan (25m Pistol Women Junior), Elavenil Valarivan (10m Air Rifle Women Junior).

Team - 10m Air Pistol Men Junior, 10m Air Rifle Women Junior, 10m Air Pistol Women Junior, 25m Pistol Women Junior and 10m Air Pistol Mixed.

44. ▶ Inaugural National Para Games, on lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru (Karnataka). Games will be held for age group of 16 to 40 in 10 disciplines - *para athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para powerlifting, shooting para-sport, para-swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing*.
45. ▶ India B won 45th Deodhar Cricket Trophy 2018 by defeating Karnataka in Dharamsala (Himachal Pradesh).
46. ▶ India Under-16 Football team won Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament in Hong Kong, defeating Hong Kong.

47. ▶ India won First ever IBSF Snooker Team World Cup title by defeating Pakistan in Doha (Qatar). Indian team comprised of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra.
48. ▶ India won Hero Nidhaas Cricket Tri Series by defeating Bangladesh, in Sri Lanka.
- ▶ Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) also released a book titled *A Tribute to Jagu*, On occasion of 70th independence of Sri Lanka. It was a tribute to former BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya.
49. ▶ Indian Boxer Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with *WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award*. He is current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category.
50. ▶ Indian Cricketers Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj respectively were named as Wisden's leading male cricketer and standout female cricketer of the year. England's Female Cricketers Heather Knight, Anya Shrubsole and Natalie Sciver are also named among Wisden's five cricketers of the year.
51. ▶ Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won Tal Memorial rapid chess title in Moscow (Russia), defeating Boris Gelfand of Israel.
52. ▶ Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi grabbed number one spot in 10m air pistol rankings by ISSF. He won silver in recent World Cup in Changwon (South Korea).
53. ▶ Indian tennis' Player Leander Paes became most successful doubles player in history of Davis Cup, after he won his record 43rd title along with Rohan Bopanna.
54. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) approved granting International status to all Twenty20 matches between Member Nations. It is a part of wider strategic aim of using the T20 format to globalize the game. All Member women's teams will be awarded T20I status on 1 July 2018, whilst all Member men's teams will be awarded T20I status on 1 January 2019.
55. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) restored Russia's Olympic membership following its suspension from 2018 Winter Olympics at Pyeongchang in South Korea.
56. ▶ International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 1 (Guadalajara Mexico) -
- ▶ India topped medal tally, with 4 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 bronze medals (Total 9).
  - ▶ Gold - Shahzar Rizvi (Men's 10m air pistol), Manu Bhaker (Women's 10m air pistol), Manu Bhaker And Om Prakash Mitharval (10m air pistol mixed team). Akhil Sheoran (men's 50m rifle 3 position).
  - ▶ Silver - Anjum Moudgil (Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions).
57. ▶ International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 2 (Changwon, South Korea) -
- ▶ India could win 1 Silver medal at ISSF WC Leg 2, won by Shahzar Rizvi in 10 metre men's air pistol.
  - ▶ In ISSF World Cup 2018 Leg 1 in Guadalajara (Mexico), India topped medal tally with 4 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 bronze medals (9 Medals).
  - ▶ India's Total Medal Tally in ISSF WC 2018 stands at 10 Medals, as of now. Medal Tally after Leg 2 looks like -
- | Rank | Nation        | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | China         | 6    | 4      | 2      | 12    |
| 2    | United States | 5    | 1      | 3      | 9     |
| 3    | India         | 4    | 2      | 4      | 10    |
| 4    | Russia        | 3    | 2      | 0      | 5     |
| 5    | Finland       | 2    | 0      | 1      | 3     |
58. ▶ Iraq will host West Asia Football Federation championship in Basra in November 2018, after FIFA recently lifted a three-decade ban on Iraq hosting international football.
59. ▶ Italian Open Tennis 2018 (also known as Rome Masters) -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
  - ▶ Women's Singles - Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
  - ▶ Men's Doubles - Colombia's Juan Sebastián Cabal AND Robert Farah
  - ▶ Women's Doubles Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)
60. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) appointed Cricketer Irfan Pathan as coach-cum-mentor for 2018-19 season.
61. ▶ KL Rahul has been named *Cricketer of the Year* in 6th edition of Wisden India Almanack. Shantha Rangaswamy has been inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame.
62. ▶ Kerala won their sixth Santosh Trophy Football title, defeating Bengal.
63. ▶ Kidambi Srikanth became first Indian male badminton player to attain world number 1 ranking, since Prakash Padukone in 1980s.

64. ▶ Long time Rivals North and South Korea will field a unified team for semi-finals of world Table Tennis championships to be held in Halmstad (Sweden). It was decided after a recent meet between two nations to ease up tensions.
65. ▶ Mario Abdo Benítez has been elected as New president of South American Nation Paraguay.
66. ▶ Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton won Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix 2018 -

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

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17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

67. ▶ Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018.

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

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21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

68. ▶ Miami Open Tennis 2018 (USA) -

- 🔗 Men's Singles - John Isner (USA)
- 🔗 Women's Singles - Sloane Stephens (USA)
- 🔗 Men's Doubles - Mike Bryan (USA), Bob Bryan (USA)
- 🔗 Women's Doubles - CoCo Vandeweghe (USA), Ashleigh Barty (Australia)

69. ▶ Mike Hesson (New Zealand), Belinda Clark (Australia), and Kyle Coetzer (Scotland) have been appointed to International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee.

70. ▶ Minerva Punjab FC beat Churchill Brothers FC to win their I-League Football title in Panchkula (Haryana).

71. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (May 2018) -

- 🔗 Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) conducted 3rd All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament in Kochi (Kerala).
- 🔗 India finished on top in 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo (Sri Lanka), with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (50 Medals).
- 🔗 India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished 4th in IAAF Diamond League at in Doha (Qatar). Neeraj Chopra bettered his previous national record mark of 86.48 metres, with a throw of 87.43 metres. Germany's Thomas Rohler won gold medal with throw of 91.78 metres.
- 🔗 Shooters Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar won silver in mixed event at Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting competition in in Pilsen (Czech Republic).
- 🔗 Indian judokas won 3 medals at Asian Cadet Judo Championships 2018 in Beirut (Lebanon) - Gold - Rohini S Mohite AND Thanjam Tababi Devi, Bronze - Harish.
- 🔗 Indian U-16 football team won Four-Nation Tournament held in Serbia , defeating Tajikistan. Tournament was played by India, Serbia, Tajikistan and Jordan.
- 🔗 Indian shooter Heena Sidhu won gold medal in 10-meter air pistol category of international shooting competition of Hannover (Germany).
- 🔗 Swiss Tennis Star Roger Federer became oldest world number one male tennis player for 2nd time in his career. He regained top rank after Rafael Nadal lost in Madrid Open quarter-final.
- 🔗 Bala Prasath won Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu).
- 🔗 Srinath Narayanan won LIC 3rd Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament.
- 🔗 Indian Shooter Tejaswini Sawant won gold in Munich Grand Prix (Germany).
- 🔗 Table tennis player Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu signed multi-year agreements with sports management firm IOS.
- 🔗 A mountain biking race, touted to be world's highest, at over 17,000 feet across 330 km will be held in June 2018 in North Sikkim. The themes for the race are 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Secure Himalayas'.

72. ▶ Misc. Sports Events (April 2018) -

- 🔗 17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championships held in Jammu.
- 🔗 India defeated Bangladesh to win fifth South East Asian Women Handball Championship, in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
- 🔗 India's Selena Selvakumar and Shreya Shivakumar won 2 bronze medals at 2018 Ivory Coast Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis Tournament in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).
- 🔗 8th South Asian Judo Championships held in Lalitpur (Nepal). India won 10 Gold medals and stayed on top. India won all 7 Gold medals in Women's events and men won 4 Gold medals. Next South Asian Judo Championships will be held in Bangladesh.
- 🔗 16th Federation Cup Junior National athletics championships held at Coimbatore (Tamilnadu). This meet will serve as selections trials for 18th Asian Junior Athletic Meet to be held at Gifu (Japan) in June.

- ▶ Asian Armwrestling Championships and Para Armwrestling Championships 2018 held in Kazakhstan. India's Differently-abled Indian arm wrestler Shrimant Jha won a bronze medal in 80kg senior category.
- ▶ India will host Asian Weightlifting Championship in 2019.
- ▶ India's CA Bhavani Devi won silver medal in sabre event of Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik (Iceland).
- ▶ 56th Belgrade International Boxing Championship held at Belgrade in Serbia. Indian boxers won 3 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals.

73. ▶ Misc. Sports Events (Mar 2018) -

- ▶ Ayyasamy Dharun broke men's 400m hurdles national record and qualified for Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018 (Australia). He timed 49.94 Secs for this record.
- ▶ Tejaswin Shankar broke his own national record to claim high jump gold at 22nd Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships. Shankar jumped 2.28m to beat his own previous national mark of 2.26m.
- ▶ Maharashtra women's team won interstate national tennis championship 2018 in Chhattisgarh, organised by Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association (CSTA).
- ▶ Indian para-athlete Deepa Malik won gold medal in F-53/54 category javelin event at World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai. She became Asian rank one in F-53 category.
- ▶ Bishworjit Singh and Samira Abraham won gold medals in the men's and women's categories of the senior National triathlon championship held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ▶ India's Purva Barve won women's singles (Under-19) title at Israel Junior badminton tournament 2018.
- ▶ India's Sanjivani Jadhav won bronze in women's 8km cross country race in 14th Asian Cross Country Championship at Guiyang in China.

74. ▶ Monterrey Open Women's Tennis 2018 (Mexico) -

- ▶ Women's singles - Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain)
- ▶ Women's doubles - Naomi Broady (United Kingdom) & Sara Sorribes Tormo (Spain)

75. ▶ Mumbai Football Arena will host inaugural edition of 4 nation Intercontinental Cup to be held in June 2018 and will see participation of South Africa, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei.

76. ▶ Nepal gained one-day international status for first time, after winning over Papua New Guinea during World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe. Nepal will now join three other teams - Scotland, Netherlands and UAE with temporary ODI status until 2022.

77. ▶ Odisha will host Senior National Table Tennis Championships after 12 years, as 80th Championship will be held in Cuttack.

78. ▶ Pankaj Advani won Asian Billiards Championships title by defeating B Bhaskar, in Yangon, Myanmar. India's Ameer Kamani won Asian Women's Snooker title by defeating her Thai opponent Siripaporn Nuanthakhamjan.

79. ▶ Para-swimmer Prasanta Karmakar has been suspended for 3 years by Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) due to code of conduct violations.

80. ▶ Punjab won 8th men's National hockey championships, defeating Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, in Lucknow (UP).

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

82. ▶ Red Bull's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo won Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix 2018 -

▶ 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
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11			
12	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	
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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	

83. ▶ Red Bull's Australian Racer Daniel Ricciardo won Chinese Grand Prix 2018.

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

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84. ▶ Reigning Ranji Trophy champions Vidarbha won Irani Cricket Cup beating Rest of India.

85. ▶ South Korea won 5th Women's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy, Defeating defending champions India in Donghae City (South Korea).

86. ▶ Sports Ministry granted a financial assistance (for Medical purpose) of 5 Lakh to Manipuri Fencer Kalambia Chanu, from Pandit DeenDayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportsperson (PDUNWFS).

87. ▶ Tim Paine and Aaron Finch have been appointed as Australia Cricket Team's new ODI and T20 captains respectively.

88. ▶ Wimbledon officials announced increase of £50,000 for 2018 men's and women's singles champions, to receive £2.25 million as Prize Money This year. It has boosted overall prize money total to £34 million this year.

89. ▶ Winter Paralympics 2018 (Pyeongchang, South Korea) -

569 Athletes from 49 Nations participated in 80 Events in 6 sports. No Indian para-athlete participated in these games.

Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	13	15	8	36
2	Neutral Paralympic Athletes	8	10	6	24
3	Canada	8	4	16	28
4	France	7	8	5	20
5	Germany	7	8	4	19
6	Ukraine	7	7	8	22
7	Slovakia	6	4	1	11
8	Belarus	4	4	4	12
9	Japan	3	4	3	10
10	Netherlands	3	3	1	7

90. ▶ With 69 Doping cases, India is ranked joint-sixth (with Russia) in World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)'s report of number of doping violations in 2016. India improved after being joint-third for from 2013 to 2015. Italy topped drug cases in 2016, followed by France (86), USA (76).

91. ▶ XXI (21st) Commonwealth Games 2018, Held at Gold Coast, Queensland Country (Australia) -

About -

Motto - Share the Dream.

4426 Athletes from 71 Commonwealth Nations participated in 275 Events of 19 sports.

Borobi is Official mascot of 2018 Commonwealth Games. Borobi is a blue koala, with indigenous markings on its body.

Medal Tally -

Rank	CGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	80	59	59	198
2	England	45	45	46	136
3	<b>India</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>66</b>
4	Canada	15	40	27	82
5	New Zealand	15	16	15	46
6	South Africa	13	11	13	37
7	Wales	10	12	14	36
8	Scotland	9	13	22	44
9	Nigeria	9	9	6	24
10	Cyprus	8	1	5	14

India at CWG 2018 -

PV Sindhu was flag-bearer of Indian contingent for opening ceremony.

India Finished 3rd with 66 Medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver and 20 Bronze), better than 5th Place India had in 2014 CWG Games in Glasgow (Scotland) with 64 Medals (15 G, 30 S, 19 B).

Indian Gold Medalists at CWG 2018 -

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu - **Weightlifting** Women's 48 kg

Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu - **Weightlifting** Women's 53 kg

Sathish Sivalingam - **Weightlifting** Men's 77 kg

Ragala Venkat Rahul - **Weightlifting** Men's 85 kg

Punam Yadav - **Weightlifting** Women's 69 kg

Manu Bhaker - **Shooting** Women's 10 metre air pistol

Table tennis Women's team (Manika Batra, Mouma Das, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Madhurika Patkar, Pooja Sahasrabudhe)

Jitu Rai - **Shooting** Men's 10 metre air pistol

Table tennis Men's team (Sharath Achanta, Anthony Amalraj, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, Sathiyana Gnanasekaran)

Badminton Mixed team (Pranav Chopra, Prannoy Kumar, Saina Nehwal, Ashwini Ponnappa, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Sikki Reddy, Chirag Shetty, Gadde Ruthvika, Shivani, P V Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth)

Heena Sidhu - **Shooting** Women's 25 metre pistol

Shreyasi Singh - **Shooting** Women's double trap

Rahul Aware - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 57 kg

Sushil Kumar - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 74 kg

-  Tejaswini Sawant - **Shooting** Women's 50m rifle 3 positions
-  Anish Bhanwala - **Shooting** Men's 25 metre rapid fire pistol
-  Bajrang Punia - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 65 kg
-  Mary Kom - **Boxing** Women's light flyweight 48 kg
-  Sanjeev Rajput - **Shooting** Men's 50m rifle 3 positions
-  Gaurav Solanki - **Boxing** Men's flyweight 52 kg
-  Neeraj Chopra - **Athletics** Men's javelin throw
-  Sumit Malik - **Wrestling** Men's freestyle 125 kg
-  Vinesh Phogat - **Wrestling** Women's freestyle 50 kg
-  Manika Batra - **Table tennis** Women's singles
-  Vikas Krishan Yadav - **Boxing** Men's middleweight 75 kg
-  Saina Nehwal - **Badminton** Women's singles (Beating India's P V Sindhu)

92. ▶ Zimbabwe Cricket council appointed 56 year old former Indian Cricketer Lalchand Rajput as interim head coach of Zimbabwe.
93. ▶ Zimbabwe Cricket sacked its entire coaching staff and removed Graeme Cremer as captain after their failure to qualify for the 2019 World Cup. Note that ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 Qualifier was recently held in Zimbabwe. 10 teams participated in it and it was won by Afghanistan. West Indies (WINDIES) was other finalist team. AFG and WIN qualified for ICC Cricket World cup 2019 to be held in England and Wales.

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