



Current Affairs - October to December 2018

Month Type



- [1364 Current Affairs were found in Last Three Months for Type - All](#)

Appointments

- ▶ 85-year-old Paul Biya won Cameroon (Central Africa) presidential elections for seventh time. First elected as the President in 1982, Biya is sub-Saharan Africa's oldest leader.
- ▶ A.M. Naik has been appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- ▶ Adel Abdul Mahdi Appointed as new Prime Minister of Iraq.
- ▶ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been appointed as President of Mexico for 6 years.
- ▶ Andry Rajoelina won presidential elections of Madagascar (East Africa).
- ▶ Arun Kumar appointed as Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ▶ Arvind Saxena has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ▶ Asim Kumar Roy appointed Lokayukta of West Bengal for 3 years.
- ▶ Atul Sahai has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PSU New India Assurance.
- ▶ B V P Rao elected as President of Archery Association of India(AAI).
- ▶ Bank for International Settlements (BIS) appointed Siddharth Tiwari as Chief Representative for Asia and Pacific.
- ▶ Bank of Maharashtra appoints AS Rajeev as MD and CEO.
- ▶ C A Kuttappa appointed as India's chief boxing coach.
- ▶ D. V. Sadananda Gowda has been given additional charge of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, in addition to his existing portfolio of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- ▶ Finance Ministry appointed CBDT member Akhilesh Ranjan as Convenor of Task Force that is drafting New Direct Tax Legislation (Law). It was constituted in November 2017 to review Income-tax Act 1961 and to draft new direct tax law in consonance with economic needs.
- ▶ Former Indian diplomat Preeti Saran has been elected unopposed to an Asia Pacific seat on United Nation's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).
- ▶ Gafur Rakhimov (Uzbekistan) elected as President of International Boxing Association (AIBA).
- ▶ Government appointed UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey as new revenue secretary, succeeding Hasmukh Adhia. Also, Sumanta Chaudhuri is appointed as new Coal Secretary.
- ▶ Government appointed Krishnamurthy Subramanian as new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for 3 years, replacing Arvind Subramanian.
- ▶ Government Appointed R N Ravi as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs). He will be 3rd deputy NSA to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval after former Rajinder Khanna and Pankaj Saran.
- ▶ Government appointed A. N. Jha as New Finance Secretary.
- ▶ Government appointed Arti Chhabra Srivastava as first full-time Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of SEBI for 3 years.
- ▶ Government appointed Ashok Kumar Gupta as Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI), replacing Sudhir Mital.
 - ▶ Competition commission was established in October 2003 and became fully functional in May 2009.
 - ▶ It consists of Chairperson and 2 - 6 Members. Presently, Chairperson and four Members are in position.
- ▶ Government appointed Brijendra Pal Singh as President of FTII Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council.
- ▶ Government appointed K Dash, Akhilesh Ranjan and Neena Kumar as new members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
 - ▶ Current Chairperson of CBDT is Sushil Chandra.
- ▶ Government appointed M Nageswara Rao as interim Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ▶ Government appointed Nageswara Rao Guntur as Chairperson of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

28. ▶ Government appointed Pranab K. Das as Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), replacing S. Ramesh.
29. ▶ Government appointed Pravin Srivastava as Chief statistician of India (CSI), replacing TCA Anant.
30. ▶ Government appointed Rakesh Sharma as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of IDBI Bank.
31. ▶ Government appointed Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), which will function as an independent regulator for auditing profession.
32. ▶ Government appointed S. S. Deswal as Director General in Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He will also hold additional charge of post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
33. ▶ Government appointed Sanjay Kumar Mishra as Interim Director of the financial probe agency Enforcement Directorate (ED) for three months.
34. ▶ Government appointed Sanjay Kumar Mishra as full-time Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED), for 2 years.
35. ▶ Government appointed Shaktikanta Das as new (25th) Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for 3 years term. This appointment is made after Urjit Patel Resigned as RBI Governor recently. Mr. Patel is First RBI governor to resign before completion of term, which was to end in September 2019.
36. ▶ Government appointed Shekhar Mande as Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary in Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
37. ▶ Government appointed Sudhir Bhargava as New Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), along with four new information commissioners - Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, Vanaja N Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta and Suresh Chandra.
38. ▶ Government appointed Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General of India (*second-highest ranking law officer of government*) till June 2020.
 - ▶ Attorney General for India is Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. Currently the post is held by K. K. Venugopal.
39. ▶ Government appointed Vijay Kumar Dev as Chief Secretary of Delhi.
40. ▶ Govind Mathur appointed as the acting chief justice of Allahabad High Court.
41. ▶ Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as Ambassador of India to USA, replacing Navtej Sarna.
42. ▶ India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA) appointed Rajesh Ram Mishra as its new President.
43. ▶ India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi elected as Vice-Chair of United Nations (UN) Panel of Auditors. CAG of UK was also appointed as Chair of Panel for another term (2019).
44. ▶ India's Raninder Singh become first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Also, Pawan Singh become first Indian to be elected one of 7 member's of Judges Committee of International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
45. ▶ India's Srinivasan Swamy appointed as chairman and world president of International Advertising Association (IAA) for 2 years.
46. ▶ India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath appointed as Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will resign as Economic Adviser to Kerala CM.
47. ▶ Indian American Neil Chatterjee is appointed as chairman of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
48. ▶ Indian National Congress announced that Bhupesh Baghel will be new chief minister of Chhattisgarh and Ashok Gehlot will be New Chief Minister of Rajasthan, after Congress won recent assembly elections 2018 in both states. All New CMs of 5 States who recent went for state assembly elections -
 - ▶ Madhya Pradesh - Kamal Nath (Indian National Congress)
 - ▶ Rajasthan - Ashok Gehlot (Indian National Congress), Sachin Pilot (Deputy CM)
 - ▶ Telangana - K Chandrasekhar Rao (President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)). Its his 2nd consecutive term as CM.
 - ▶ Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel (Indian National Congress)
 - ▶ Mizoram - Zoramthanga (Mizo National Front (MNF)), Tawnluia (Deputy CM)
49. ▶ International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) appointed Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO.
50. ▶ International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) elected South Korea's Kim Jong-yang as its next president.
51. ▶ Iraq's parliament elected Kurdish politician Barham Salih as new president.
52. ▶ Jair Bolsonaro won Brazil's presidential elections, securing over 55 % votes.
53. ▶ Jalaj Srivastava has been appointed the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
54. ▶ James Quincey appointed as 14th chairman of Beverages Major Coca-Cola, succeeding Muhtar Kent.
55. ▶ Justice Surya Kant appointed as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
56. ▶ Kirthiga Reddy (former Facebook India Chief) joined Japanese Investment Giant SoftBank as its first venture partner at its \$100 billion Vision Fund. She is first women on board of Softbank.

57. ▶ Lotay Tshering is set to become new Prime Minister of Bhutan, after his party Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) won majority in National Assembly.
58. ▶ Maeen Abdulmalik has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Yemen (Middle East).
59. ▶ Mahesh Y Reddy appointed as its Secretary General of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).
60. ▶ Michael D Higgins re-elected as President of Ireland for his 2nd term, receiving 56 % of votes.
61. ▶ Misc. Appointments (December 2018) -
- ▶ National Healthcare Foundation NATHEALTH appointed Siddhartha Bhattacharya as Secretary-General.
 - ▶ Yes Bank appointed former IRDAI chief T.S. Vijayan as an additional director (Independent).
 - ▶ Indian-origin Shamila Batohi appointed as South Africa's first female chief prosecutor.
 - ▶ Heather Nauert - New US Ambassador to United Nations.
 - ▶ Mark Milley - Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of USA (senior most military officer in USA and principal military advisor to President).
 - ▶ Government appointed Lalit Kumar as new government nominee on private sector ICICI Bank Board.
 - ▶ Bharat Bhushan Vyas - Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
 - ▶ Anil Srivastava - Re-designated as Principal Adviser in NITI Aayog.
 - ▶ Ashok Kumar Singh - Appointed as Secretary in National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).
 - ▶ Ashley Giles appointed as managing director of England's cricket team.
 - ▶ Justice Tarun Agarwala appointed as Securities Appellate Tribunal presiding officer.
 - ▶ T.C. Barupal appointed new Ambassador of India to Republic of Guinea (West Africa).
 - ▶ Andreas Goss - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel B.V., proposed joint venture (JV) between Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp (Germany based industrial engineering and steel production Firm).
 - ▶ Madhavi Divan Appointed as ASG (Additional Solicitor General) in Supreme Court.
 - ▶ Solicitor General of India is subordinate to Attorney General of India. He is 2nd law officer of the country and assists Attorney General. Solicitor General is assisted by 4 Additional Solicitors Generals.
 - ▶ Current solicitor general of India is Tushar Mehta.
 - ▶ Current Attorney General of India is K. K. Venugopal.
 - ▶ Ashok Kumar appointed as Ambassador of India to Djibouti (East Africa).
 - ▶ M Nageswara Rao - Appointed as Additional Director in CBI.
 - ▶ Mohinder Pratap Singh appointed as Ambassador of India to Mongolia.
 - ▶ Infosys appointed Nilanjan Roy as its chief financial officer.
 - ▶ Sangeeta Verma appointed as a member of Competition Commission of India (CCI). Current chairperson of CCI is Ashok Kumar Gupta.
 - ▶ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Secretary General Rajeev Mehta elected as President of South Asian Fencing Federation (SAFF).
 - ▶ Rajeev Sachdeva appointed as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) (DCIDS).
 - ▶ FedEx Express (U.S. multinational courier delivery giant) named Indian-American Rajesh Subramaniam as President & CEO.
 - ▶ Y.K. Sailas Thangal appointed as New Indian ambassador to Liberia.
 - ▶ Ambika Prasad Panda appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).
 - ▶ Riva Ganguly Das appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
 - ▶ Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd appointed Bijay Kumar as its deputy managing director.
 - ▶ Rahul Chhabra appointed as next Ambassador of India to Somalia.
62. ▶ Misc. Appointments (Nov 2018) -
- ▶ MSG Menon appointed as Director General (Wks & Cer) of IAF.
 - ▶ P S Rajeshwar appointed as 12th Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman, COSC.
 - ▶ Vishvesh Chaube appointed as new Member (Engineering) in Railway Board.
 - ▶ Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi appointed as Judges in Supreme Court.
 - ▶ Sanctioned strength of Supreme court judges is 31. Current strength is 28.
 - ▶ Sanjay Kumar Verma appointed as next Ambassador of India to Japan.
 - ▶ Dinkar Asthana appointed as next Ambassador of India to Lao People's Democratic Republic.
 - ▶ Nina Tshering La appointed as next Ambassador of India to Democratic Republic of Congo
 - ▶ Gaddam Dharmendra appointed as India's Ambassador to Iran.
 - ▶ American multinational investment bank Citigroup appointed John Dugan as its new chairman.

- ✚ Electric carmaker Tesla appointed Robyn Denholm as Chairman, after Elon Musk resigned from Post.
- ✚ Indian-American Sikh businessman Harry Singh Sidhu been elected as Mayor of Anaheim city in California (US).
- ✚ Lok Sabha Secretary General Snehlata Shrivastava got one-year extension in her tenure.
- ✚ Apple appointed Ashish Chowdhary as its India operation head.
- ✚ Abhay Kumar appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Madagascar.
- ✚ Abhay Thakur appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Nigeria.
- ✚ Stephen Barclay has been appointed as new Brexit Secretary by British Prime Minister Theresa May.
- ✚ Ministry of Woman and Child Development (WCD) nominated three members to National Commission for Women (NCW) - Chandramukhi Devi, Soso Shaiza, and Kamlesh Gautam. New appointments now leave two positions vacant in NCW. Rekha Sharma is current chairperson of NCW.
- ✚ Ms Nina Tshering La appointed next Ambassador of India to Republic of Congo (Central Africa).
- ✚ Google appointed Kerala-born former Oracle product chief Thomas Kurian as head of its cloud division.
- ✚ Hospitality chain OYO Hotels appointed Aditya Ghosh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its India and South Asia operations.
- ✚ Messaging Platform WhatsApp appointed Abhijit Bose as its India head.
- ✚ State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) appointed Sidharth Rath as its Managing Director (MD) for India Operations.
- ✚ LG Electronics appointed Brian Kwon as new president for its Mobile Business.
- ✚ Earl Eddings named as Chairman of Cricket Australia (CA).

63. ▶ Misc. Appointments (October 2018) -

- ✚ HDFC Bank appointed Vinay Razdan as its chief human resources officer (CHRO).
- ✚ Global Direct Selling Firm Amway appointed Milind Pant as its First Global CEO.
- ✚ Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya Joined private equity firm ChrysCapital Advisors LLP as an advisor. It Firm Wipro also appointed Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director.
- ✚ Government granted a year's extension to Bank of Baroda's Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, PS Jayakumar.
- ✚ Suchitra Durai - New Indian Ambassador to Kingdom of Thailand.
- ✚ Nimesh Shah elected as chairperson of industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- ✚ Paris Sain-Germain striker Neymar has been appointed as the permanent captain of Brazil's national team. Brazil's head coach Tite scrapped captaincy rotation policy of the team to give Neymar the permanent position.
- ✚ Amit Dev - Director General Air (OPS).
- ✚ VR Chaudhari - Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.
- ✚ Raghunath Nambiar - Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Air Command.
- ✚ Harjit Singh Arora - Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief South Western Air Command.
- ✚ Sunil Bhaskaran - MD & CEO of AirAsia India (Joint venture of Tata Sons and Malaysia's AirAsia Group).
- ✚ Financial Firm BankBazaar appointed former RBI Deputy Governor S S Mundra as an advisor.
- ✚ Suresh Nambath has been appointed as Editor of *The Hindu*.
- ✚ Satish Kumar Gupta - Paytm Payments Bank MD & CEO.
- ✚ Saurabh Kumar - India's ambassador to Myanmar.
- ✚ Cricket Australia (CA) re-appointed David Peever as Chairman.
- ✚ Rohini Bopanna - Appointed as Global Hockey Regulator FIH International's Technical Official.
- ✚ RBI approved re-appointment of Aditya Puri as Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Bank for two years.

64. ▶ Mizo National Front (MNF) President Zoramthanga sworn-in as new Chief Minister of Mizoram, after his party won recent state assembly elections 2018.




65. ▶ Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad elected as new President of Hockey India (HI).

66. ▶ National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye is appointed chairman of working committee and director on board by international industry body – World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

67. ▶ New Chief Justices of 4 High Courts Appointed -

- ✚ Sanjay Karol - Tripura
- ✚ Amreshwar Pratap Sahi - Bihar
- ✚ SK Seth - Madhya Pradesh
- ✚ Govind Mathur - Uttar Pradesh

68. ▶ P.V Bharathi is appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of PSB Corporation Bank.

69. ▶ Pankaj Sharma appointed as ambassador and India's permanent representative to United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, replacing Amandeep Gill.
70. ▶ Patrick Shanahan appointed as acting Defence Secretary of USA, replacing Jim Mattis who resigned recently.
71. ▶ Pranoy Kumar Musahary has been appointed as chairperson of Meghalaya's first Lokayukta.
72. ▶ President Ramnath Kovind appointed Madan Bhimarao Lokur as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA).
73. ▶ President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), K Chandrasekhar Rao, sworn-in as Chief Minister of Telangana for 2nd consecutive term, after his party won recent state assembly elections 2018.
74. ▶ Priyank Kanoongo appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
75. ▶ Punjab government banned sale of weedicide glyphosatem which is cancer causing, According to Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh. Systemic herbicide is a group 2A cancer causing material and has potential to damage the human DNA. Punjab is 4th State after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to regulate sale of herbicide.
76. ▶ RBL Bank appointed Vikas Muttoo as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its subsidiary Swadhaar Finserve.
77. ▶ Ramon Laguarta took charge as chief executive officer (CEO) of PepsiCo. He succeeded India-born Indra Nooyi, who remained PepsiCo CEO for for 12 years.
78. ▶ Ramphal Pawar has been appointed as Director in NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau).
79. ▶ Ranil Wickremesinghe appointd as Prime minister of Sri Lanka by President Maithripala Sirisena, bringing an end to the weeks-long political crisis in country.
-  Mr.Wickremesinghe was removed as Prime minister in October and was replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa who resigned after failing to garner a majority in Parliament.
80. ▶ SWIFT India, local unit of SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) appointed former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya as its Chairperson.
81. ▶ Sahle-Work Zewde is appointed as first-ever female President of Ethiopia (East Africa).
82. ▶ Sajjan Jindal (JSW Steel CMD) elected as treasurer of World Steel Association (WSA), during its general assembly in Toyko (Japan). Tata Steel MD T V Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief L N Mittal are appointed as members, while Andre Johannpeter elected as Chairman.
83. ▶ Salome Zurabishvili to become First woman to be appointed as President of Georgia, after she won Georgia's presidential elections.
84. ▶ Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as ICICI Bank's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, After Chanda Kochhar resigned from the post.
85. ▶ Sandip Somany has been appointed as President of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) for 2018-19. While, Uday Shankar is appointed as is Vice President of FICCI.
86. ▶ Sanjay Verma is appointed as India's new Ambassador to Spain.
87. ▶ Shalindra Kumar appointed as Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir.
88. ▶ Sheikh Hasina won her 3rd consecutive term and fourth overall, as Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
89. ▶ Sprinter Hima Das appointed as first ever youth ambassador of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India. She was the first Indian athlete to win gold medal in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere (Finland). In 2018 Asian Games, she won silver medal in 400 m.
90. ▶ Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena removed Ranil Wickremesinghe as prime minister of Sri Lanka, amid Political Turmoil because of Differences between President Sirisena and PM Vikramasinghe. Mahinda Rajapaksha is appointed as new Prime Minister.
91. ▶ Sunil Arora appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner of India, replacing OP Rawat.
-  Election commission of India contains 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners. 1 Seat of Election commissioner is held by Ashok Lavasa and Other is currently vacant.
92. ▶ Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi recommended names of 5 Chief Justices to High Courts of -
-  Bombay - NH Patil
 -  Calcutta - DK Gupta
 -  Uttarakhand - Ramesh Ranganathan
 -  Gauhati - AS Bopanna
 -  Sikkim - Vijai Kumar Bist
93. ▶ Tanzanian biologist Joyce Msuya appointed as acting Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), after resignation of Erik Solheim.
94. ▶ UNICEF appointed India's Ravi Venkatesan as its special representative of young people, to provide strategic guidance and support UNICEF globally.





95. ▶ US President Donald Trump nominated Indian-American woman to head the nuclear energy division at USA's Department of energy. Her appointment is now pending Senate approval.
96. ▶ United Nations children's agency UNICEF appointed 14 year old Millie Bobby Brown as its youngest ever goodwill ambassador.
 - ▶ Also, Singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as first 'Youth Advocate' of north eastern region by UNICEF to fight for child rights.
97. ▶ Vineet Nayyar has been appointed as Vice-chairman and Managing Director (MD) of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).
98. ▶ Voreqe Bainimarama re-appointed as Prime Minister of Fiji (Oceanic Nation).
99. ▶ WV Raman appointed as coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
100. ▶ World Gold Council appointed David Tait as its next CEO.
101. ▶ Yes Bank named Brahm Dutt as bank's non-executive interim chairman, after Ashok Chawla resigned last month.

Top

Awards

1. ▶ *Invest India* initiative of Government won top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in renewable energy sector in India. It was announced in Geneva (Switzerland) at inauguration of World Investment Forum organised by UN Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
2. ▶ 2018 Seoul Peace Prize has been conferred on Indian PM Narendra Modi, for his dedication to improving international cooperation, raising global economic growth, accelerating the Human Development of people of India.
 - ▶ Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul (South Korea).
3. ▶ 23rd International Film Festival of Kerala held at Nishagandhi Auditorium (Kanakakunnu) -
 - ▶ Crow Pheasant Award (Suvarna Chakoram) – Iranian film *The Dark Room*
 - ▶ The Silver Crow Pheasant Award (Rajatha Chakoram) for best Director – Lijo Jose Pellissery
 - ▶ Audience Poll Award for Best Film – Malayalam Film *Ee. Ma.Yau*
 - ▶ FIPRESCI Award – Zakariya's Sudani from Nigeria
 - ▶ Special Jury Mention Award – *The Silence*
4. ▶ 7 individuals have been given 2018 US Presidential Medal of Freedom (United States' highest civilian award), Including three posthumous recipients-
 - ▶ Elvis Presley (Music)
 - ▶ Babe Ruth (Baseball)
 - ▶ Antonin Scalia (SC Judge)
 - ▶ Miriam Adelson (Philanthropist)
 - ▶ Football Hall of Famers Roger Staubach and Alan Page.
 - ▶ Orrin G Hatch.
5. ▶ A. N. Patil named as recipient of Kuncha Kala Tapasvi Lifetime Achievement Award, by Chitrakala Shilpi D.V. Halbhavi National Memorial Trust (Karnataka).
6. ▶ ATP World Tour Tennis Awards 2018 -
 - ▶ Player of the Year - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - ▶ Doubles Team of the Year - Oliver Marach (Austria) AND Mate Pavić (Croatia)
 - ▶ Most Improved Player - Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
 - ▶ Newcomer of the Year - Alex de Minaur (Australia)
 - ▶ Comeback Player of the Year - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - ▶ Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
 - ▶ ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favorite - Roger Federer (Switzerland) - Record 16th Consecutive Time
7. ▶ Actress Janhvi Kapoor will be awarded 'Arets Stjerneskudd' rising talent of year honor by Norwegian Consulate General in Mumbai.
8. ▶ Actress Sonam Kapoor named by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) as India's Person of the Year 2018.
9. ▶ Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan will receive first World Agriculture Prize instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), to be presented by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.
 - ▶ During Same Event, ICFA Global Agriculture Leadership Awards were presented (given annually since 2008). Notable Winners are -
 - ▶ International Leadership Award - Ruby Rabbinge (Netherlands)
 - ▶ Lifetime Achievement Award - K H Gharda

 Best States -

-  Fisheries - Jharkhand
-  Animal Husbandry - Bihar
-  Horticulture - Nagaland
-  Agriculture - Gujarat

10. ▶ Anna Burns became First Northern Irish author to win 2018 Man Booker Prize (Fiction), after she won it for her novel *Milkman*. 'Milkman' tells story of a young girl's affair with an older man. Award consists cash prize of £50,000 (~\$65,000).

 Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK.

11. ▶ Arshdeep Singh (Punjab) won Wildlife Photographer of Year award in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum. He won the award for the picture titled 'Pipe Owls', which showed two spotted owlets sitting inside an old waste-pipe in Punjab Kapurthala.

 At the same occasion, Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten won Wildlife Photographer of Year award, for his photo of critically endangered golden snub-nosed monkeys in China, titled 'The Golden Couple'.

12. ▶ Ashis Mukherjee, faculty member in Tezpur University won Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018), for his consistent high level of inspiring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.

13. ▶ Asian Academy Creative Awards (AAA's) 2018 (held in Singapore). Notable winners are -

Category	Show	Winner
Best entertainment host/presenter	Bigg Boss	Salman Khan (<i>India</i>)
Best direction (fiction)	Netflix's original series Sacred Games	Anurag Kashyap (<i>India</i>)
Best actress	Critical Eleven	Adinia Wirasti of Indonesia
Best Actor	The Hunter	Yu Hweiwei of China
Best Supporting Actor	Kenapa Harus Bule	Michael Kho of Indonesia
Best Supporting Actress	Roseki	Candy Yang of Taiwan


14. ▶ Athletics Federation of India will be awarded FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018, in category of Best National Sports Federation (NSF).

15. ▶ Author Amitav Ghosh honoured with 54th Jnanpith Award for 2018, an award for outstanding contribution to literature. Selection committee was chaired by novelist Pratibha Ray.

16. ▶ Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal became first Indian to receive ESCP Europe's highest honour 'Doctor Honoris Causa' for his innovative entrepreneurship and philanthropy in education.



17. ▶ Breakthrough Prize Foundation announced recipients of 2019 Breakthrough Prize, known as the "Oscars of Science,".

 Each prize is \$3 million and presented in the fields of Life Sciences (up to four per year), Fundamental Physics (one per year) and Mathematics (one per year). Awardees are -



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

18. ▶ Catriona Gray of Philippines crowned as Miss Universe 2018, with pageant held in Bangkok (Thailand).

-  1st Runner-Up - Tamaryn Green (South Africa)
-  2nd Runner-Up - Sthefany Gutiérrez (Venezuela)

19. ▶ Croatia's Footballer Luca Modrić won Ballon d'Or, prestigious honor of football. He was instrumental in Croatia's historic run to FIFA World Cup final (defeated by France). In past decade, the noted award has been rotating between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Women's Ballon d'Or was won by Norway's Ada Hegerberg, as inaugural edition of Women's Ballon d'Or. France's Kylian Mbappé won Trophee Kopa (best young player under 21 years age) at Ballon d'Or ceremony.

20. ▶ Delhi Minister Imran Hussain received 'Hero to Animals Award' by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India banning life threatening forms of manja throughout National Capital Territory of Delhi.

21. ▶ Divya Patidar Joshi from Madhya Pradesh won Mrs. India 2018 title.
22. ▶ Eight parliamentarians honoured by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu under Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2018 -
 - ▶ Lifetime achievement - Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar and Murli Manohar Joshi
 - ▶ Best Parliamentarian - Ghulam Nabi Azad AND Nishikant Dubey
 - ▶ Best debut woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha) - Hema Malini
 - ▶ Best woman parliamentarian Lok Sabha - Rama Devi
 - ▶ Best woman parliamentarian in Rajya Sabha - Kanimozhi
 - ▶ Best debut woman parliamentarian (Rajya Sabha) - Chhaya Verma
23. ▶ European Parliament awarded Sakharov human rights prize to jailed Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov (with 50,000 euro cash), for an “exceptional contribution” to human rights around world.
24. ▶ European Union selected Department of European Studies (DES) of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) for prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE) Award.
 - ▶ It became only Centre of Excellence in European Studies in India.
 - ▶ It grants close to one lakh euros for various activities planned for 3 years.
 - ▶ Earlier, MAHE had been titled as an Institute of Eminence by Government of India.
25. ▶ Former Indian Cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi honoured with Dr.M.A.Chidambaram Birth Centenary Award in Chennai, instituted by MAC Charities in memory of the former BCCI president M.A.Chidambaram.
26. ▶ Former PM Manmohan Singh received South Indian Education Society (SIES) Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award as part of Kanchi Mahaswami festival.
27. ▶ Goa's Prathamesh Maulingkar became first Asian/Indian to win Mister Supernational title, after he won 2018 edition in a competition held in Poland.
28. ▶ Government will confer Prime Minister's Shram Awards 2017 to 40 workers employed in Public Sector Undertakings. This year, no nomination was found suitable for prestigious Shram Ratna Award. 3 nominations for Shram Bhushan Award, 12 for Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana and 16 for Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards have been selected.
29. ▶ Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde has been honored with New Academy Prize in Literature, an alternative award formed in protest to Nobel Literature Prize.
 - ▶ Note That Right Livelihood Awards are also promoted as Alternative Nobel Awards, Presented annually in Stockholm (Sweden).
2018 Winners are -
 - ▶ Thelma Aldana, Iván Velásquez (Guatemala)
 - ▶ Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
 - ▶ Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani, Walid Abu al-Chair (Saudi Arabia)
 - ▶ Tony Rinaudo (Australia)
30. ▶ Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja won 18th Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title, in Prague (Czech Republic). She is first Indian to have won any title at Miss Deaf World Pageant.
31. ▶ In Asia Pacific Screen Award (APSA) 2018 (Brisbane (Australia)) -
 - ▶ Best Performance by an Actor (Male) won to India's Nawazuddin Siddiqui for Manto.
 - ▶ Nandita Das, director of Manto received International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award for achievement in film in Asia Pacific region.
32. ▶ India won Awards in 2 Categories at Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) International Innovations Awards (IIA) - (announced annually since 1998).
 - ▶ India's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions) is a member of CAPAM.
 - ▶ Initiative named *Unnayan Banka* - Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District (Bihar) has been awarded under Category “Innovation Incubation”. Its an initiative which envisages “Quality education for all’ using latest technologies.
 - ▶ Another initiative entitled “Unified Agriculture Markets” of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has also been selected under the Category ‘Innovation in Public Service Management’. It has also been awarded overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards 2018.
33. ▶ India's Saroj Suman Gulati (Director of Blue Bells Schools) conferred with Global Education Leaders Award 2018 by UAE.
34. ▶ Indian Actor Anupam Kher honoured with ‘Distinguished Fellow Award’ in Boston (USA), at 3rd India Global Summit held at MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston.

35. ▶ Indian American Producer Ashok Amritraj honoured with French Knight of the National Order of Merit. He is former CEO of National Geographic Films and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador.
36. ▶ Indian Navy's Vijay Varma and P Rajkumar honoured at 7th 'Asian of The Year' awards acknowledging their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during devastating floods in Kerala.
37. ▶ Indian Women Cricketer Smriti Mandhana won Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2018, also adjudged as ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year. Noted Awardees are -
- ▶ Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year - Smriti Mandhana (India)
 - ▶ ICC Women's ODI Player of Year - Smriti Mandhana (India)
 - ▶ ICC Women's T20I Player of the Year - Alyssa Healy (Australia)
 - ▶ ICC Women's Emerging Player of the Year - Sophie Ecclestone (England)
38. ▶ Indian freelance journalist Swati Chaturvedi won 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage. She is author of *I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP Digital Army*.
39. ▶ Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma became first Indian to win Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of Year award, after finishing tied 41st at season-ending DP World Tour Championship event in Dubai.
40. ▶ Indian-American Minal Patel Davis honoured with USA Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking', for her extraordinary contribution towards combating human trafficking. She is special advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.
41. ▶ Indian-American Shree Saini crowned Miss India Worldwide 2018 at annual global pageant held in New Jersey (USA), Organised by New York-based India Festival Committee (IFC). Sakshi Sinha from Australia declared as first runner-up.
42. ▶ Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in world to achieve this.
- ▶ Deming Prize bestowed on Indus Towers for distinctive performance improvements through application of Total Quality Management (TQM) practices. Indus Towers is 29th Indian company to win this award.
43. ▶ Industrial Awards (December 2018)
- ▶ *Outstanding Case Writer* award presented to ICFAI Business School by UK- Based *The Case Centre*.
 - ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance, for its critical role in installing about 73 GW renewable energy capacity in country. India ranks 4 in in wind energy capacity and 5th in solar & total renewable energy.
 - ▶ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has been conferred Skoch Golden Jubilee Challenger Award at 55th Skoch Summit in New Delhi.
 - ▶ Chief Minister of West Bengal has been awarded the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award for 2017.
 - ▶ IIT Kharagpur won DSCI Excellence Award 2018 by Data Security Council of India (DSCI), for its contributions in Cyber Security education.
 - ▶ Sundaram Finance MD T T Srinivasaraghavan presented the lifetime achievement award at Trinity Arts Festival in Chennai.
 - ▶ IIT Mandi Professor Rajanish Giri has been given Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018 for his proposed innovative idea on Zika virus Capsid Folding and inhibitor discovery.
 - ▶ Tata Steel declared as winner of Prime Minister's Trophy for 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant' for 2016-17, as 4th consecutive year for Tata Steel being honored with this award.
 - ▶ Jharkhand selected for "Krishi Karman" award in rice category from Ministry of Agriculture. Award to be given away in February next year carries a cash prize of Rs 2 crores.
 - ▶ Energy efficient pumps maker CRI pumps won National Energy Conservation Award 2018 in pumps category for fourth time. While, Indian Railways won 17 awards, as highest number of awards bagged by a single organisation.
 - ▶ Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation awarded Best Capital City in Solid Waste Management in Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings.
44. ▶ Industrial Awards (November 2018) -
- ▶ Punjab Police won Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) good practice award for the development of Digital Criminal Intelligence Gazette and generation of State Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) reports.
 - ▶ Manipal Academy of Higher Education won silver in International Green Apple Award for environmental best practice 2018, in London.
 - ▶ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) won Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award.
 - ▶ Tamil Nadu won Best State Award in cadaveric organ donation from National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) under Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It has been awarded for 4th consecutive year. It was given during 9th Indian

Organ Donation Day observance in Delhi (Nov 27).

45. ▶ Industrial Awards (October 2018) -

- ▶ Tapan Kumar Chand, (CMD of NALCO) has been conferred with *NIPM Ratna Award* in 37th NIPM Annual National Conference NATCON-2018 at Pune.
- ▶ Entrepreneur from Gujrat, Chiranjiv Patel won *BW 40 under 40* award in BW Business World's 2nd edition of 40 Under 40 Summit and awards held in Gurugram.
- ▶ Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) won *ISSA Good Practice Award* for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).
 - ▶ ESIC was honored in recognition of its measures taken for extension of coverage Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE), reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas and raising wage limit for coverage under ESI Act, etc.
- ▶ PSU Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) received *Top Challengers Award 2018* for excellent performance during 2017-18 and Best Seller in Crawler Equipment- Dozers and Rigid Dump Truck segment for mining sectors.

46. ▶ Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced winners of Infosys Prize 2018 in 6 different categories -

- ▶ Engineering and Computer Science - Navakanta Bhat (IISc Bangalore), for his work on novel biosensors.
- ▶ Humanities - Kavita Singh (School of Arts & Aesthetics at JNU), for her illuminating study of Mughal, Rajput and Deccan art.
- ▶ Life Sciences - Roop Mallik (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)), for his work on molecular motor proteins.
- ▶ Mathematical Sciences - Nalini Anantharaman (University of Strasbourg in France), for her work related to 'Quantum Chaos.'
- ▶ Physical Sciences - SK Satheesh (IISc Bangalore), for his work in field of climate change.
- ▶ Social Sciences: Sendhil Mullainathan (University of Chicago (US)), for his work in behavioural economics.

47. ▶ International James Dyson award 2018 won by Nicolas Orellana of Chile and Yaseen Noorani from Kenya, for their innovative design 'Urban wind turbine' called O-Wind Turbine. It would help cities to harness energy to produce electricity and was inspired from NASA's Mars Tumbleweed Rover.

48. ▶ Journalist N Ram (Hindu Group of Publications Chairman) chosen for Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by Press Council of India (PCI). It will be presented on November 16, on National Press Day. Other Winners are -

- ▶ Rural Journalism - Ruby Sarkar
- ▶ Developmental Reporting - VS Rajesh

49. ▶ Journalist Namrata Ahuja from *The Week magazine* received Intellectual Property India (IPI) Journalism Excellence award 2018, for her exclusive story on Nagaland underground camps.

50. ▶ Kenyan distance runner Eliud Kipchoge and Colombian long and triple jumper Caterine Ibarguen named male and female world athletes of the year by IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations).

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





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







52. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government conferred its annual Tansen Samman upon eminent Sitar Player Manju Mehta.

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

54. ▶ Manika Batra became first Indian table tennis player to be honored with 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' award at ITTF Star Awards in Incheon (South Korea). Other Awardees at event are -


- ▶ Star Point - Xu Xin (China)

-  Female Para Table Tennis star - Kelly van Zon (Netherlands)
-  Male Para Table Tennis star - Jordi Morales (Spain)
-  Star Coach - Massimo Costantini (Italy)
-  Female Table Tennis Star - Ding Ning (China)
-  Male Table Tennis Star - Fan Zhendong (China)

55. ▶ Manipur CM N Biren Singh has been conferred 'Champions of Change' award by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, for his good governance practices.
56. ▶ Manipur Government honored Noted Boxer MC Mary Kom with title "Meethoileima" (par excellence queen).
57. ▶ Marathi actor Jayant Sawarkar will be awarded Maharashtra government's Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement award in the field of theatre. Also, Tabla artist Vinayak Thorat will be awarded Sangeet Acharya Annasaheb Kirloskar Lifetime Achievement. Both awards consist of cash prizes of Rs 5 lakh.
58. ▶ Mathematician and Super 30 founder Anand Kumar honoured with education award global education award in Dubai, by Malabar Gold & Diamonds.
59. ▶ Mexican government honoured Indian academician Shyama Prasad Ganguly with "Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca" (Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico. He was awarded for disseminating Spanish language and Mexican culture to strengthen Mexico-India cultural relations. He is first Indian Academician to get this award.
60. ▶ Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon won coveted Miss World 2018 crown at an event in Sanya (China). Thailand's Nicolene Pichapa Limsukan declared runner-up. Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar (India) presented crown to the new winner. India's Anukreethy Vas made it to top 30.
61. ▶ Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa won Miss Grand International 2018 title at 6th edition of the beauty pageant in Yangon (Myanmar). Femina Miss Grand India 2018 Meenakshi Chaudhary named 1st runner-up.
62. ▶ Mohammed Rafi Awards instituted by NGO Spandan Arts bestowed upon late music composer Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar and playback singer Usha Timothy.
63. ▶ Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
64. ▶ National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) SCOPUS Young Scientist Awards 2018 -
-  This year 5 categories were introduced - Agriculture, Plant sciences and rural development, Women in science, Environmentally sound sustainable development, Biomedical research and healthcare and innovation in engineering and physical sciences. The prize includes citation, trophy and INR 75000. Winners are -
 -  Agriculture, Plant Sciences and Rural Development - Jitender Giri (National Institute of Plant Genome Research)
 -  Biomedical Research and Healthcare - Maddika Subba Reddy (CDFD)
 -  Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development - Vimal Chandra Srivastava (IIT Roorkee)
 -  Innovation in Engineering and Physical Sciences - Ajay S. Karakoti (Ahmedabad University)
 -  Women in Science - Zhumur Ghosh (Bose Institute Kolkata).

65. ▶ Nobel Prizes 2018 -

 2018 Winners -

 Trade	Winners	Description
Physiology or Medicine	James P Allison (USA) and Tasaku Honjo (Japan)	For discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation
Physics	Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada)	For groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics
Chemistry	(a) one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) (b) other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK)	(a) For directed evolution of enzymes (b) For phage display of peptides and antibodies
Peace	Denis Mukwege (Congo) and Nadia Murad (Iraq)	For efforts to end use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. <i>Both these winners are also nominated for 2018's 'Mother Teresa Memorial Award.'</i>
Economic Sciences	(a) William D. Nordhaus (USA) (b) Paul M. Romer (USA)	(a) For integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis (b) For integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis
Literature	<i>No Winners announced due to Sexual assault allegations. Postponed to 2019.</i>	

 Facts About Nobel prizes -

- ✍ In 2018, it was for first time in 70 years of Nobel Prizes, that no *Literature Prize* was given. It was announced by Swedish Academy after a recent sexual assault scandal. It has now been postponed to 2019.
- ✍ Background -
 - ✍ Will of Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel established five Nobel prizes in 1895 - Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine, first awarded in 1901.
 - ✍ In 1968, Sweden's central bank Sveriges Riksbank established the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, which, although not being a Nobel Prize, has become informally known as *Nobel Prize in Economics*.
- ✍ Physics -
 - ✍ Granted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
 - ✍ 2 women have been awarded Physics Prize so far.
 - ✍ Youngest - Australian-British physicist Lawrence Bragg (25 years age), awarded in 1915 together with his father.
 - ✍ India's C. V. Raman was awarded Physics Nobel in 1930, For his work on scattering of light and for discovery of effect named after him.
- ✍ Chemistry
 - ✍ Granted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
 - ✍ 4 women have been awarded the Chemistry Prize so far.
 - ✍ 1 person, Frederick Sanger, has been awarded the Chemistry Prize twice, in 1958 and in 1980.
 - ✍ Youngest - France's Frédéric Joliot (35 years age), awarded in 1935.
- ✍ Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences
 - ✍ Granted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
 - ✍ 1 woman has been awarded Prize in Economic Sciences so far, Elinor Ostrom, in 2009.
 - ✍ Youngest - USA's Kenneth J. Arrow (51 years age), awarded in 1972.
 - ✍ India's Amartya Sen was given Economic studies Nobel in 1998. For his contributions to welfare economics.
- ✍ Physiology or Medicine -
 - ✍ Granted by Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute awards.
 - ✍ 12 women have been awarded Medicine Prize so far.
 - ✍ Youngest - Canada's Frederick G. Banting (32 years age), awarded in 1923 for discovery of insulin.
- ✍ Literature -
 - ✍ Granted by Swedish Academy.
 - ✍ 14 women have been awarded Literature Prize so far.
 - ✍ Youngest - UK's Rudyard Kipling (41 years age), known for Jungle Book.
 - ✍ Rabindranath Tagore, Only Indian to receive Nobel Literature Prize so far (in 1913). He is also first Indian Nobel Laureate.
- ✍ Peace -
 - ✍ Granted by Norwegian Nobel Committee.
 - ✍ 16 women have been awarded Nobel Peace Prize so far.
 - ✍ Peace Prize Laureate Le Duc Tho (Vietnamese) declined his Nobel Peace Prize in 1973. He was awarded jointly with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, for negotiating Vietnam peace accord.
 - ✍ Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan is youngest to win Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, at the age of 17.
 - ✍ 2 Indian Person have been given Nobel Peace Prize so far. Mother Teresa (1979), Kailash Satyarthi (2014).
- ✍ Indian Nobel Laureates -
 - ✍ Rabindranath Tagore in 1913 (Literature)
 - ✍ C.V. Raman in 1930 (Physics)
 - ✍ Mother Teresa in 1979 (Peace)
 - ✍ Amartya Sen in 1998 (Economic Studies)
 - ✍ Kailash Satyarthi in 2014 (Peace)

66. ▶ Noted Actor Amitabh Bachchan has been awarded 3rd third Sayaji Ratna Award, established by Baroda Management Association in memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.

67. ▶ Noted Amputee Athlete Arunima Sinha awarded an honorary doctorate by University of Strathclyde of United Kingdom in Glasgow (Scotland). She has been awarded for her inspirational achievements in mountaineering. In 2013, she became world's first woman amputee

to climb Mount Everest.

68. ▶ Noted Indian Origin French scholar Jawahar Lal Sarin presented with France's highest civilian honour Chevalier de la Lgion d'Honneur, for his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting French language. He is president of Alliance française de Delhi's governing body.
69. ▶ Noted Malayalam novelist M Mukundan selected for Kerala government's highest literary award 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram' for this year.
70. ▶ Noted jurist Fali S. Nariman has been awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration. He is internationally recognised jurist on international arbitration. He has been awarded Padma Bhushan (1991), Padma Vibhushan (2007) and Gruber Prize for Justice (2002).
71. ▶ Noted music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famously known as Khayyam won 2018 Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement, by Maharashtra Govt.
72. ▶ Novak Djokovic (Serbia) and Simona Halep (Romania) named as 2018 International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions by International Tennis Federation (ITF). It is Djokovic's 6th honour and Halep's first time with this honour.
73. ▶ Odia hockey player Lilima Minz selected for Ekalavya Puraskar 2018 by Karnataka based by IMPaCT, social wing of IMFA. It comprises of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation. 2 other sportswomen felicitated - Weight lifter Jhili Dalabehera and Badminton player Rutuparna Panda.
74. ▶ Pakistani Nobel Peace Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai honored by 2018 Gleitsman Award from Harvard's Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA) for her work promoting girls' education. It provides \$125,000 monetary Prize.
75. ▶ Pakistani Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University's 2018 Gleitsman Award award for her work in promoting girls' education. It provides 125,000 US dollars for activism that has improved quality of life around world.
76. ▶ Prema Gopalan has been honored with 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award (SEOY) 2018, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship and rural livelihood. She is the founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP).
77. ▶ Rachana Catholic Chamber of Commerce and Industry selected 5 eminent people for Rachana Awards 2018 -
 - ▶ Aloysius Richard Lobo - Rachana NRI of the Year
 - ▶ Lawrence Pinto - Rachana Agriculturist of the Year
 - ▶ Ronald Castelino - Rachana Entrepreneur of the Year
 - ▶ Faye D'Souza - Rachana Professional of the Year
 - ▶ Maria Jyothi AC - Rachana Woman of the Year
78. ▶ Renowned flutist Pandit Keshav Ginde selected as recipient of 2018 Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Classical Music, by Maharashtra Government.
79. ▶ Restoration of an aristocratic house project from partial ruin state in Ladakh undertaken by LAMO (Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation) Center won 2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for Cultural Heritage conservation in Award of Distinction category.
 - ▶ Its recovery establishes precedent for conserving non-monumental urban fabric of Leh Old Town.
 - ▶ Other Category awardees -
 - ▶ Award of Excellence - Give to restoration project of early 20th-century Shijo-cho Ofune-hoko Float Machiya in Japan.
 - ▶ Award of Distinction - LAMO Center, Ladakh, India
 - ▶ Award of Merit - 5 Martin Place, Sydney (Australia); Aijing Zhuang, Fujian (China); Commercial Bank of Honjo Warehouse, Saitama (Japan).
80. ▶ Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won World Health Summit Startup award 2018 for invention of Manovue, world's first intelligent personal assisting system for visually impaired.
81. ▶ Russian Human rights activist Oyub Titiev became 6th Receptient of Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel prize, consisting 60,000-euro (\$67,000) cash prize, for his struggle defending human rights in troubled Russian Caucasus republic.
82. ▶ Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018 announced for 24 languages. It contains prize money of 1 Lakh INR. Awardees -
 - ▶ Assamese - Sananta Tanti (Poetry)
 - ▶ Bengali - Sanjib Chattopadhyay (Story)
 - ▶ Bodo - Rituraj Basumatary (Short Stories)
 - ▶ Dogri - Inderjeet Kesar (Novel)
 - ▶ English - Anees Safim (Novel)
 - ▶ Gujarati - Sharifa Vijiwala (Essay)
 - ▶ Hindi - Chitra Mudgal (Novel)
 - ▶ Kannada - K G Nagarajappa (Literary Criticism)
 - ▶ Kashmiri - Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq (Short Stories)

- 📖 Konkani - Paresh Narendra Kamat (Poetry)
- 📖 Maithili - Bina Thakur (Short Stories)
- 📖 Malayalam - S Rameshan Nair (Poetry)
- 📖 Manipuri - Budhichandra Heisnamba (Short Stories)
- 📖 Marathi - Ma. Su. Patil (Literary Criticism)
- 📖 Nepali - Lok Nath Upadhyay Chapagain (Short Stories)
- 📖 Odia - Dasarathi das (Literary Criticism)
- 📖 Punjabi - Mohanjit (Poetry)
- 📖 Rajasthani - Rajesh Kumar Vyas (Poetry)
- 📖 Sanskrit - Rama Kant Shukla (Poetry)
- 📖 Santhali - Shyam Sundar Besra (Novel)
- 📖 Sindhi - Khimam U Mulani (Poetry)
- 📖 Tamil - S Ramkrishnan (Novel)
- 📖 Telugu - Kolakaluri Enoch (Essay)
- 📖 Urdu - Aahman Abbas (Novel)

83. ▶ Samay Godika won 4th *Breakthrough Junior Challenge* 2018 global science video competition. He had submitted a video in the life sciences category on circadian rhythms. He will receive \$400,000 (nearly Rs. 2.92 crore) in educational prizes.
84. ▶ Sanjay Kumar (Founder Geospatial Media & Communications) has been conferred 'Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador' Award at United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress at Deqing city (China). Theme was *The Geospatial Way to a Better World*.
85. ▶ Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan has been presented with *Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement* for his contribution to Indian classical music.
86. ▶ Sascha Bajin (coach of Naomi Osaka (Japan)) became first-ever recipient of Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award.
87. ▶ Scottish artist and film maker Charlotte Prodger won 2018 Turner Award, Britain's prestigious contemporary art award, for her 33-minute film called 'BRIDGIT', that explores queer identity, which was shot in an iPhone. She would receive £25,000 as prize.
88. ▶ Sikkim has been awarded UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award (Gold Prize) for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state. Sikkim beat out 51 other nominees from around the world for the award. Policies from Brazil, Denmark and Quito (Ecuador) were jointly Silver Awardees.
89. ▶ Singers Shaan and Arijit Singh honored with *Sangeet Maha Samman* award by West Bengal government at inaugural session of Bengal music and folk culture festival in Kolkata.
90. ▶ Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon won International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission Grant Award for his contribution to sports development. Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.
91. ▶ Star Screen Awards 2018 Winners -
- 📖 Best Actor - Ranveer Singh for Padmaavat
 - 📖 Best Actress - Alia Bhatt for Raazi
 - 📖 Best Director - Sriram Raghavan for Andhadhun
 - 📖 Best Film - Stree
 - 📖 Best Actor in Supporting Role (Male) - Pankaj Tripathi for Stree
 - 📖 Best Actor in Supporting Role (Female) - Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
 - 📖 Lifetime Achievement - Shabana Azmi
 - 📖 Best Music - Amit Trivedi for Manmarziyaan
 - 📖 Best Male Playback singer - Arijit Singh for Ae Watan from Raazi
 - 📖 Best Lyrics - Gulzar for Ae Watan from Raazi
 - 📖 Best Female Singer - Harshdeep Kaur for Dilbaro from Raazi
92. ▶ Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana announced Grammy-winning Hindustani classical music instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt as recipient of annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Bhatt is known for his Grammy award winning album "A Meeting by the River" with Ry Cooder.
93. ▶ UASG (Universal Acceptance Steering Group) conferred "Universal Acceptance Thought Leader award" on Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje for providing Rajmail email service for citizens of Rajasthan in local script.
94. ▶ UN 2018 UN Human Rights Prize -

- ▶ Rebeca Gyumi – activist for the rights of women and girls (Tanzania)
 - ▶ Asma Jahangir (posthumously) – human rights lawyer (Pakistan).
 - ▶ Joênia Wapichana (Joênia Batista de Carvalho) – activist for the rights of indigenous communities (Brazil)
 - ▶ Front Line Defenders – organization advocating and working for the protection of human rights defenders (Ireland)
95. ▶ UNESCO/Emir Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities -
 - ▶ Bangladeshi disabilities' advocate Vashkar Bhattacharjee honored in Individual and Chinese Tencent (China) awarded in Organization Category. They will be presented with awards at UNESCO Headquarters on International Day of Persons with disabilities (3 December).
 96. ▶ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) conferred 2018 Nansen Refugee Award to South Sudanese surgeon Dr. Evan Atar Adaha, for his 20-year medical service to refugees of Sudan and South Sudan.
 97. ▶ US-based Indian writer Sujatha Gidla won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India".
 98. ▶ United Nation Environment awarded India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) India with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards 2018 for excellent work done by Bureau in combating transboundary environmental crime.
 - ▶ WCCB is honored in Innovation category, for adopting enforcement techniques that have dramatically increased enforcement of transboundary environmental crimes in India. It also developed Wildlife Crime Database Management System to get real time data, to better analyze trends in crime and devise effective measures to prevent and detect wildlife crimes across India.
 99. ▶ Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh selected as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.
 100. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu presented 'Ramineni Awards 2018' in Andhra Pradesh -
 - ▶ Ramineni Foundation's outstanding person award was presented to badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, carrying prize money of Rs 2 lakh. Special awards carry Rs 1 lakh each.
 101. ▶ Wipro Chairman Azim Premji bestowed with highest French civilian distinction, Knight of the Legion of Honour.
 102. ▶ Wipro chairman Azim Premji won Lifetime Achievement award in Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018. Also, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) named Best Company and Vivek Chaand Sehgal of Motherson Sumi named Entrepreneur of the Year.
 103. ▶ World Konkani Centre honored writer and journalist H M Pernal with 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for 2018, for 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani.
 104. ▶ Wrestler and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Rahul Aware received Best Sportsperson of Year award at the annual Sports Journalists' Association of Mumbai (JSAM) awards.

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Books

1. ▶ *A Great Association-Glimpses into the Life of Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha*, book authored by Swami Nirvisheshananda Tirtha has been released. Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha is renowned saint of Narayanashrama Tapovanam (Kerala).
2. ▶ A new book on Maharana Pratap named 'Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior' authored by historian Rima Hooja has been released.
3. ▶ Actress Manisha Koirala unveiled her book 'Healed', her personal story of a battle against ovarian cancer.
4. ▶ Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi released a book named 'Lalu-Leela', as Sushil Modi's second book after 'Beech Samar Mein'.
5. ▶ Biography of late Industrialist Anumolu Ramakrishna titled 'Building a Legacy' has been released, written by V. Pattabhi Ram and R. Mohan.
6. ▶ Book *A Rural Manifesto – Realising India's Future through her Villages*, authored by Varun Gandhi has been released.
7. ▶ Book *Changing India* written by Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been released.
8. ▶ Book *Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From* written by Tony Joseph has been released. It talks about migration of First Indians also known as 'Aryans' who arrived here 65000 years ago.
9. ▶ Book *Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government*, edited by Bibek Debroy, Anirban Ganguly and Shri Kishore Desai has been released.
10. ▶ Book *Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double aafat*, authored by Swaraj India President Yogendra Yadav has been released.
11. ▶ Book *Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy*, written by Former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Arvind Subramanian has been released.
12. ▶ Book *Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War* written by Rajesh Bhat has been released.
13. ▶ Book *THE VELEVT GLOVES* written by Balakrishna Kamath has been released.
14. ▶ Book *Yoga and Mindfulness*, written by Mansi Gulati has been released.

15. ▶ Book authored by Manish Tewari *Fables of Fractured Times* has been released.
16. ▶ Book authored by father-son duo Vinay Thakur and Amogh Thakur named *Architecture of Justice: A pictorial walk-through of the supreme court and High courts of India* has been launched.
17. ▶ Book on self-styled godman Asaram Babu titled '*God of Sin: The Cult, The Clout and Downfall of Asaram Babu*', has been released. It is Authored by Ushinor Majumdar.
18. ▶ Book 'Prince, Patron and Patriarch Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala', co-authored by Maharaja's grandson Sukhjot Singh, and Cynthia Frederick, has been released.
19. ▶ Books *The Republican Ethic* and *Loktantra Ke Swar* have been launched, containing Selected Speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind.
20. ▶ Congress leader Shashi Tharoor introduced his new book *The Paradoxical Prime Minister*, Stating it as *floccinaucinihilipilification*, which Means *action or habit of estimating something as worthless*.
21. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released a curated coffee table book titled *The Illustrated History of Indian Hockey: A Saga of Triumph, Pain and Dreams*.
22. ▶ Noted Late Space Scientist Stephen Hawking's final Book, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions* has been Launched. It tackles issues from existence of God to the potential for time travel.
23. ▶ Noted Musician A.R. Rahman's biography *Notes of a Dream*, Written by Krishna Trilok has been released.
24. ▶ Noted cricket statistician Vijayan Bala's new book *Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections* has been released. Its a compilation of interviews of eminent sports persons he has conducted since 1971.
25. ▶ Novel *Don't Tell The Governor*, authored by Ravi Subramanian has been released.
26. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released book titled *Timeless Laxman*, based on noted cartoonist RK Laxman, containing his work over the years. It has been written by R K Laxman's daughter-in-law Usha Srinivas Laxman.
27. ▶ book "Feisty At Fifty" authored by Sudha Menon has been released.
28. ▶ 'The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India', co-authored by Karunya Keshav and Siddhant Pathak has been released.

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Committees

1. ▶ 9-member group has been constituted with Shivaji B Zaware as convener, to enquire and list ongoing issues with Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS).
2. ▶ A Panel of governors constituted by President Ram Nath Kovind submitted its report named *Approach to Agriculture : A Holistic Overview*, on approach to agriculture for doubling farmer's income. It was headed by Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik.
3. ▶ A parliamentary panel has been formed to examine functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears. It will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
4. ▶ A single-member DS Hooda panel, set up by Defence Ministry and National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) has recommended creation of new specialised units for information warfare in areas where counter-insurgency operations are being conducted. Mr Hooda oversaw surgical strikes conducted across Line of Control (LoC) in 2016.
5. ▶ Baba Kalyani led committee tasked to study existing SEZ policy of India submitted its report to Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu.
6. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) created a 12 member committee headed by S K Dash for a fresh cadre review and restructuring of Income Tax Department.
7. ▶ Committee chaired by Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha released its recommendations for stressed thermal power projects, focusing on 34 thermal power stations of capacity 40 gigawatt (GW), entirely fuelled by coal and lignite. Problems arose when after 12th Five Year Plan, 99 GW capacity of plants were added against a requirement of 88GW which led to overabundance and lower productivity.
8. ▶ Corporate affairs ministry set up a 10-member panel to check on the discounts offered by online retailers. It will be headed by Injeti Srinivas (Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)).
9. ▶ Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at workplace. It will be chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. With 3 other Union Ministers as Members.
10. ▶ Government constituted a Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to vet recommendations of a high-level panel on stressed power projects, which was headed by Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha and submitted its report in November 2018.
11. ▶ Government constituted a panel to select managing directors of public sector insurance companies, to be headed by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) chairman B P Sharma.
12. ▶ Government constituted committee to look at selling as many as 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

13. ▶ Government will soon appoint a committee to oversee the implementation of recommendations of the Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) committee headed by Ashok Dalwai.
 - 📌 DFI Committee was formed in 2016, headed by Ashok Dalwai, to suggest ways to reform agricultural ecosystem, so that farmers' income can be doubled by 2022.
14. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) formed a panel to examine claims in installments, headed by Suresh Mathur. Panel look in to feasibility of proposal of general and health insurance companies for payment of claims in installments as against lump sum payments.
15. ▶ Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) formed a new industry expert committee to develop and promote an augmented reality/virtual reality (AR/VR) ecosystem in India, chaired by Namrita Mahindro (Mahindra Group).
16. ▶ Logistics Development Committee under Chairmanship of Bibek Debroy (Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister) submitted its report about key challenges in logistics development and associated commerce and suggest policy reforms for ease of doing trade in India. Reform agenda comprises of a number of specific policy actions covering entire logistics value chain.
17. ▶ Minister for Women and Child Development has set up a four-member committee to examine all #MeToo campaign cases, which has become popular recently with various sexual assault allegations on several famous names.
18. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development constituted a committee under Vinod K. Paul, for deciding parameters and operational modalities for Conditional Cash Transfer to be carried out in few blocks of two districts each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
19. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed U C Dhyani as head of 3 member committee to oversee rejuvenation work of Ganga River.
20. ▶ National Green Tribunal formed committee to conduct an inspection and submit report about the waste dumping issue at the Polavaram dam in Andhra Pradesh, headed by NGT Chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel.
21. ▶ Odisha government constituted a 3-member inter-ministerial committee to address issues raised by farmers, headed by state Finance Minister Shashi Bhusan Behera.
22. ▶ RBI has set up an expert committee headed by its former governor Bimal Jalan, to suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government. Former RBI deputy governor Rakesh Mohan is committee's vice chairman.
23. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) has set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in non-science disciplines, amid high share of poor quality research articles published in India. CARE will be headed by UGC Vice Chairman (Currently Bhushan Patwardhan).

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Days

1. ▶ Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) Ministry celebrated first Naturopathy Day on Nov 18, 2018, with aim of promoting drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering diet and lifestyle.
2. ▶ Dec 02 - International Day for Abolition of Slavery. It marks adaptation of resolution '*Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Prostitution of Others*' by UN GA on 2 December 1949. It is also observed as Computer Literacy Day.
3. ▶ Dec 03 - International day of Persons with Disabilities. 2018 theme is *Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*. Dec 3 also Birth Anniversary of Dr Rajendra Prasad, first President of India.
4. ▶ Dec 04 - Indian Navy day.
 - 📌 On this occasion, Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba released a book titled 'Blue Waters Ahoy!' – chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10. Book has been authored by Vice Admiral Retd. Anup Singh.
 - 📌 The Day marks Navy's offensive actions during 1971 war with Pakistan.
5. ▶ Dec 07 - Armed Forces Flag Day, observed Since 1949. December 1 - 7 is observed as Armed Forces week.
6. ▶ Dec 09 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD).
7. ▶ Dec 1 - Nagaland Statehood Day, formed on December 1, 1963.
 - 📌 On this occasion, Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Nagaland, with single helpline number 112 for all emergency services.
 - 📌 Hornbill Festival was also inaugurated on the occasion.
 - 📌 Nagaland is first North-Eastern State and 2nd State in India to launch Pan-India single emergency number '112' under ERSS, after Himachal Pradesh.
 - 📌 Govt also integrated a special women safety feature in India 112 app, called *SHOUT*, to get immediate assistance from police and volunteers, when need arises.
8. ▶ Dec 1 - World AIDS Day, being observed since 1988.

9. ▶ Dec 10 - Human Rights Day. On this day in 1948, UN General Assembly adopted Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2018 theme is *Stand Up For Human Rights*.
10. ▶ Dec 11 - International Mountain Day, established by UN General Assembly in 2003. 2018 theme is *Mountains Matter*. Dec 11 is also formation day of UN Body UNICEF.
11. ▶ Dec 12 - International Universal Health Coverage Day, proclaimed In 2017 by UN. 2018 theme is *Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action*. Dec 12 is also noted as International Day of Neutrality after, adopted by UN General Assembly in 2017.
12. ▶ Dec 14 - National Energy Conservation Day in India.
 - ▶ On this occasion, Ministry of Power launched ECO Niwas Samhita 2018 , an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings launched Implementation of this Code expected to save 125 Billion Units of electricity per year by 2030, which is equivalent to 100 million ton of CO₂ emission.
 - ▶ Initially, Part-I of Code is launched that prescribes minimum standards for building envelope designs with purpose of designing energy efficient residential buildings.
 - ▶ It is estimated that energy demand in the building sector will rise from around 350 billion units in 2018 to approximately 1000 billion units by 2030.
 - ▶ On this occasion, 26 industrial units got National Energy Conservation Awards for excellent performance in energy efficiency.
13. ▶ Dec 15 is observed as International Tea Day. On this occasion, Indian Tea Association (ITA) signed MoU with China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA).
14. ▶ Dec 16 - Observed as Vijay Diwas in India, marking India's military victory over Pakistan in 1971 during war for independence of Bangladesh. War resulted in unconditional surrender of 93000 Pakistan Army Soldiers and subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.
15. ▶ Dec 18 - International Migrants Day. 2018 theme is *Migration with Dignity*. It is also noted as UN World Arabic Language Day.
16. ▶ Dec 18 - Minorities Rights Day in India.
17. ▶ Dec 19 is Liberation Day of Goa. It marks state's getting independence from 450-years of Portuguese rule on this day in 1961. Operation Vijay was completed by Indian Forces liberating Territories of Goa, Daman and Diu and the Anjadiv Island and from Portuguese rule.
18. ▶ Dec 20 - International Human Solidarity Day.
19. ▶ Dec 22 - National Mathematics Day in India, marking birth anniversary of Noted Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. It is observed Since 2011.
 - ▶ Sh. Ramanujan was born in 1887. He compiled nearly 3,900 results, mostly identities and equations, on his own without any assistance.
 - ▶ Number 1729 is famously known as the Hardy-Ramanujan number.
20. ▶ Dec 23 - National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) in India. It honours former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, who did substantial work for upliftment of farmers.
 - ▶ On This Occasion, Jharkhand Govt. announced INR 2250 crores scheme called *Mukhya Mantri Krishi Yojana*, to help around 22.76 lakh medium and marginal farmers to double their income by 2022.
21. ▶ Dec 24 - National Consumer Day in India, with 2018 theme *Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints*.
 - ▶ On this day in 1986, Consumer Protection Act 1986 received assent of the president.
22. ▶ Dec 25 - Birth Anniversary of Former PM and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is observed as Good Governance Day in India, since 2014.
 - ▶ Sadaiv Atal, Samadhi of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee was dedicated to Nation in New Delhi.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin worth Rs 100 in honour of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The years 1924 and 2018 are inscribed below Vajpayee's portrait to mark year of his birth and death respectively.
23. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2018 theme is *Be the Solution to Soil Pollution*.
 - ▶ On this Occasion, Rattan Lal (*Indian Origin American Professor at Ohio State University*) won Glinka World Soil Prize 2018 in Rome headquarters of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), for his contribution to sustainable soil management. Glinka World Soil Prize is named after Russian scientist Konstantin D. Glinka, considered as highest honour in soil science profession.
24. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day.
25. ▶ December 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. It is also called International Volunteer Day.
26. ▶ Disarmament Week observed across Globe from Oct 24 - 30, 2018.
27. ▶ Government observed 75th anniversary of formation of Azad Hind Government, led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Founded on 21st October, 1943 was inspired by Neta ji Subhash Chandra Bose who was leader of Azad Hind Government and also Head of State of this

Provisional Indian Government-in-exile.

28. ▶ National Wildlife Week observed October 2 to 8, since 1952
29. ▶ Nov 01 - Foundation day of seven Indian states - Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. UTs of Lakshwadeep, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar also celebrate their formation day on November 1.
30. ▶ Nov 02 - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.
31. ▶ Nov 07 - National Cancer Awareness Day.
 - ✎ On this occasion, Book written by Murali Mohan Chunthar, 'Arivu' has been released. It explains about Mouth Cancer and its prevention.
32. ▶ Nov 09 - National Legal Services Day (NLSD). It was started by Supreme Court of India in 1995 to support weaker sections of society.
33. ▶ Nov 10 - World Science Day for Peace and Development. 2018 theme is *Science, a Human Right*.
34. ▶ Nov 11 - National Education Day in India. It commemorates birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, freedom fighter and first Education Minister of independent India.
35. ▶ Nov 12 - Public Service Broadcasting Day in India. It commemorate first and last visit of M K Gandhi to All India Radio Studio (AIR), New Delhi in 1947. Nov 12 is also observed as World Pneumonia Day.
36. ▶ Nov 12 to 18 - World Antibiotic Awareness Week . Nov 18 is also observed as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.
37. ▶ Nov 14 - Children's Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of first Prime Minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru.
 - ✎ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNICEF India announced UNICEF – Atal Tinkering Labs Young Champions Awards, presented to top six most innovative solutions from across country, shortlisted through Atal Tinkering Marathon.
38. ▶ Nov 14 - World Diabetes Day. 2018 theme is *The Family and Diabetes*.
39. ▶ Nov 15 - Jharkhand Statehood day. It was formed on this day in 2000. It is also observed as World Philosophy Day.
40. ▶ Nov 16 - International Day for Tolerance. Declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of dangers of intolerance.
 - ✎ On This Day, World Tolerance Summit (WTS) 2018 held in Dubai (UAE) with theme *Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration*.
41. ▶ Nov 16 - National Press Day (NPD). This was the day on which Press Council of India (PCI) started functioning.
42. ▶ Nov 17 - International Students' Day.
 - ✎ Originally commemorates Nazi storming of Czech universities in 1939 and subsequent killing and sending of students to concentration camps.
 - ✎ Note that *World Students' Day* is observed annually on Oct 15, marking birth anniversary of Former Indian President and Noted Missile Scientist A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. In 2015, United Nations declared 15 October as *World Students' Day*.
 - ✎ *World Teachers' Day* is held annually on October 5. Established in 1994, it commemorates signing of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.
 - ✎ National Teachers' Day in India is observed annually on September 05, on Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and 2nd President of India (1962-1967).
43. ▶ Nov 19 - International Men's Day.
44. ▶ Nov 19 - National Integration Day in India, marking Birth Anniversary of Former PM Indira Gandhi.
 - ✎ On this occasion, Govt announced that Delhi-based environment think-tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) will be awarded Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2018, for its steadfast advocacy of measures to combat environmental deterioration and for its success in influencing public policies and programmes.
45. ▶ Nov 19 - World Toilet Day.
 - ✎ On Occaion of World Toilet Day, Sulabh International introduced India's first sewer cleaning machine to end unsafe manual scavenging.
46. ▶ Nov 20 - Africa Industrialization Day (AID). 2018 theme is 'Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa'.
47. ▶ Nov 20 - Universal Children's Day. It was established in 1954 by UN. Note that India's National Children's Day is observed on Nov 14, marking birth anniversary of first Prime Minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru.
48. ▶ Nov 21 - World Fisheries day.
49. ▶ Nov 21 - World Television Day.
50. ▶ Nov 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. 2018 theme is *Orange the World: #HearMeToo*. It marks launch of 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10 December 2018, International Human Rights Day.
51. ▶ Nov 26 - Indian Constitution Day. On this day in 1949, constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950. On 19th November 2015, Government of India declared November 26th as Constitution Day.

52. ▶ Nov 26 - National Milk Day. It marks birth anniversary of Varghese Kurien, founder of dairy firm Amul. He is also known as Milk Man of India.
53. ▶ Nov 29 - UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
54. ▶ Nov 5 - World Tsunami Awareness Day.
55. ▶ Nov 5, 2018 - Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). On this occasion, Ministry organized a “National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda” in New Delhi.
56. ▶ Nov 8 - International Day of Radiology.
57. ▶ Nov 9 - Legal Service Day in India, started by Supreme Court in 1995 to offer help and support to weaker and poor group of sections of people. Nov 9 is also known as Uttarakhand Statehood Day. State was formed on Nov 09, 2000.
58. ▶ Oct 01 - International Coffee Day. 2018 theme is *Women in Coffee*. Oct 1 is also observed as World Vegetarian Day.
59. ▶ Oct 01 - International Day of Older Persons. 2018 theme is *Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions*. On this occasion, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred *Vayoshreshtha Samman-2018* on eminent senior citizens and institutions.
60. ▶ Oct 01 - World Habitat Day. 2018 theme is *Municipal Solid Waste Management*.
61. ▶ Oct 02, 2018. 150th Birth Anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Its also observed as UN International Non Violence Day, since 2007.
- ▶ Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ Earlier, On Sep 15 of 2018, PM Modi launched mega countrywide campaign- Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot (Gujarat). He also launched Mjukuva Solar Energy Cooperative Group in Gujarat, created with assistance of National Dairy development Board.
 - ▶ On this occasion, Odisha government launched its own State Food Security Scheme (SFSS). Under this, 18.32 lakh poor and eligible people will receive 5 kg of rice at rate of Rupee 1 per kg. This is in response to the failure of the central government’s approval against the state’s request to include 25 lakh people under NFSA.
 - ▶ 6 US lawmakers (Including 6 Indian Americans) moved a resolution in US House of Representatives to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi for his contribution towards promotion of peace and non-violence.
 - ▶ On this occasion, SIDBI launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog. Campaign would run from Oct 3 - 8, 2018 across India. Objectives include -
 - ▶ Inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise
 - ▶ Impart trainings through digital medium, to create business opportunities for CSC VLEs (Village level entrepreneurs).
 - ▶ On this occasion, world’s largest dome inaugurated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)’s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus in Pune (Maharashtra). It has diameter of 160 feet, overtaking earlier record holding Vatican Dome having diameter of 139.6 feet . It stands 263 feet tall with bell hanging from centre and has prayer hall with area of around 30,000 sq ft.
 - ▶ On this occasion, National Khadi Festival 2018 began in Mumbai, organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote Khadi products.
 - ▶ Ministry of Railways was named the best department for its contribution to “Swachhta Pakhwada” under the “Swachhta Hi Seva” category of awards.
 - ▶ Assam Govt.launched Universal Pension scheme in the state. Under it, pension will be given to all BPL and APL ration card holders over 60 years of age.
 - ▶ 50 lakh rupees has sanctioned to filmmaker Rima Das whose movie Village Rockstar has been nominated for Oscars.
 - ▶ Small tea growers exempted from levy of cess amounting to 10 paise per kilogram.
 - ▶ Approved amendment in Assam GST Act by which GST registration has been relaxed from 10 lakh rupees annual turnover to 20 lakh rupees annual turnover.
 - ▶ Sports University Bill introduced to set up a sports university at Chabua named after Aniruddha Dev.
62. ▶ Oct 04 - World Animal Day.It marks *feast day* of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.
63. ▶ Oct 09 - World Post Day. It marks anniversary of establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in Swiss Capital, Bern. 2018 theme is *Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?.* Oct 9 - 15 is also observed as Postal Week in India.
64. ▶ Oct 1 - World Vegetarian Day.
65. ▶ Oct 10 - World Mental Health Day. 2018 Theme is ‘Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World’. On this Occasion, Britain Govt appointed Jackie Doyle-Price as Nation's First suicide-prevention minister, as part of a national effort to reduce number of people who take their own lives.
66. ▶ Oct 11 - International Day of the Girl Child. 2018 theme was *With Her: A Skilled Girl Force*.

67. ▶ Oct 11 - World Obesity Day. 2018 theme is *It's time to End Weight Stigma*. It is also named as World Sight Day.
68. ▶ Oct 12 - World Egg Day. It is also named as World Arthritis Day.
69. ▶ Oct 13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR). 2018 theme is *Reducing Disaster Economic Losses*.
- ✎ On This occasion, United Nations report titled 'Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017' was released. As per the report -
 - ✎ India suffered \$79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years.
 - ✎ Greatest economic losses was experienced by United States at \$944.8 billion followed by China (\$492.2 billion), Japan (\$376.3 billion), India (\$79.5 billion), Puerto Rico (\$71.7 billion), France (\$48.3 billion).
 - ✎ Floods (43.4%) followed by storms (28.2%) are the two most frequently occurring disasters.
70. ▶ Oct 13 - World Migratory Bird Day. 2018 theme is *Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation*.
71. ▶ Oct 14 - World Standards day.
72. ▶ Oct 15 - International Day of Rural Women. 2018 theme is *Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*. It is observed as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas in India.
73. ▶ Oct 15 - World Students' Day. In 2010, UN declared 15 October as World Students' Day, commemorating birth anniversary of Late APJ Abdul Kalam, scientist and former President of India.
74. ▶ Oct 16 - World Food Day. 2018 Theme is *Our actions are our future – A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible*.
- ✎ On this occasion, Government launched national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra', to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy. Under it, pan-India cycle rally is being organized to create consumer awareness about eating safe and nutritious food for becoming healthy and combating food adulteration.
 - ✎ On this occasion, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated a two-day Agri-startup and Entrepreneurship event in New Delhi.
 - ✎ On This Occasion, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee launched 'Khadya Sathi' Food security scheme.
75. ▶ Oct 17 - UN International Day for Eradication of Poverty. 2018 theme is *Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity*.
76. ▶ Oct 20 - National Solidarity day. On October 20, 1962, China started the attacks on India and the Sino-Indian War started.
77. ▶ Oct 20 - World Osteoporosis Day. Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become weak and brittle and increases the risk of a broken bone.
78. ▶ Oct 21 - Police Commemoration Day, observed in memory of policemen killed at Hot Springs in Ladakh by Chinese troops on this date in 1959. On this occasion, National Police Memorial was dedicated to nation by PM Narendra Modi, in Chanakyapuri (New Delhi).
- ✎ On this Occasion, PM also announced an annual award in name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces for commendable contributions in disaster relief operations.
79. ▶ Oct 22 - International Stuttering Awareness Day.
80. ▶ Oct 24 - 2nd World Diplomats Day. It began in 2017.
81. ▶ Oct 24 - United Nations Day. It marks enactment of UN Charter on this day in 1945. 2018 theme is *Traditions of Peace and Non-violence*. It is also observed as World Development Information Day, established in 1972.
- ✎ 2018 UN Day Concert held at UN Headquarters in New York (US). Theme of this year's concert, which is sponsored by Permanent Mission of India to UN, is *Traditions of Peace and Non-violence*.
 - ✎ Oct 24 is also observed as World Polio Day.
82. ▶ Oct 27- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. 2018 theme is "Your Story is Moving".
83. ▶ Oct 28 - International Animation Day.
84. ▶ Oct 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
- ✎ It was introduced by Government of India in 2014, marking Birth Anniversary of Legendary Leader and 1st Deputy PM of India, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.
 - ✎ On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial in Gujarat's Narmada district. Called the Statue of Unity, the bronze sculpture is the world's tallest statue measuring 600 feet (182m). It has overtook China's Spring Temple Buddha (153m) and USA's Statue of Liberty (93m). It was constructed in 33 months at 2,989 crores.
 - ✎ On this occasion, Home Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off 'Run for Unity' from Major Dhyan Chand Stadium (New Delhi). PM Narendra Modi also unveiled the 'Wall of Unity', a wall created with the earth samples collected from various states across country.
85. ▶ Oct 31 - World Cities Day. 2018 Sub-theme is *Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities*.
86. ▶ Oct 5 - World Teachers' Day. 2018 marks 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) that recognizes education as a key fundamental right. 2018 theme is *The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher*.

- ▶ Note that In India, National Teachers Day is held on Sep 5. It marks Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (2nd President of India).
- 87. ▶ Oct 8, 2018 - 86th Indian Air Force Day. It was officially established on October 8, 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire and the prefix Royal was added in 1945 in recognition of its services during World War II.
 - ▶ On this occasion, IAF launched 'MedWatch' mobile health app to provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics. It is first of its kind mobile health app built by any of the three armed forces.
- 88. ▶ On 26 November 2018, India marked 10th anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks by Pakistani Terrorists. US Announced a reward of \$5 million for those who will help to find the people involved in Attacks.
- 89. ▶ Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) observed during November 19 - 25, 2018 -
 - ▶ November 19 - National Integration Day.
 - ▶ November 20 - Welfare of Minorities Day.
 - ▶ November 21 - Linguistic Harmony Day.
 - ▶ November 22 - Weaker Sections Day.
 - ▶ November 23 - Cultural Unity Day.
 - ▶ November 24 - Women's Day.
 - ▶ November 25 - Conservation Day.
- 90. ▶ Winter solstice 2018 took place on December 21, as time of the year when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun. Winter Solstice happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere. It marks shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere.

Top

Defence

1. ▶ 4th Edition of India-USA Joint Air Force Exercise *Cope India-18* conducted at Kalaikunda and Panagarh Air Force bases in West Bengal.
2. ▶ 10th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held in Kochi (Kerala), to discuss maritime issues pertaining to cooperative capacity-building to deal with common security concerns in region. The theme for this year's seminar was "IONS as Catalyst for SAGAR". SAGAR stands for 'Security and Growth for All in Region.
3. ▶ 10th edition of Russia and India Joint Navy Exercise INDRA NAVY 2018 conducted off Visakhapatnam coast.
4. ▶ 11 Days Joint India Russia Army Exercise *Indra 2018* began at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Uttar Pradesh.
5. ▶ 1st India-United States tri-services exercise will take place in 2019 in India, including all services of both countries (also talks are on to include special forces).
6. ▶ 25th edition of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) held in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
7. ▶ 2nd India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) Joint Naval Exercise held in Belawan (Indonesia). Ships and aircraft from both countries undertook patrolling on respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary Line.
8. ▶ 3rd Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) held in Indian Ocean, after a gap of 5 years.
9. ▶ 6th edition IBSAMAR (joint Navy Exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies) began at Simons Town (South Africa).
10. ▶ About Rafale Fighter Jets Deal -
 - ▶ India in September 2016 signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with France to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets (Manufactured by Dassault Aviation), for €7.8 billion. Under the deal, it was decided that India will pay 15 per cent in advance.
 - ▶ Earlier deal -
 - ▶ In June 2001, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft. In January 2012, IAF announced Rafale as preferred bidder and contract negotiations began.
 - ▶ It was proposed that 18 Rafales would be supplied to the IAF by 2015, while remaining 108 would be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in India under transfer of technology agreements.
 - ▶ Deal stalled due to a lack of agreement on various terms of RFP compliance and cost-related issues.
 - ▶ Current Controversy is that India's main opposition party raised an issue over Dassault partnering with Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence, a private company instead of state-owned HAL. However, Both French government and Dassault stated that it was Dassault's decision to choose Reliance Defence instead of HAL.
11. ▶ Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and Sashastra Seema Bal partnered to provide security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife.
12. ▶ Fast patrol vessels of Indian Coast guard, Amrit Kaur and Kamla Devi (named after freedom fighters) have been launched.
13. ▶ First indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet to Indian Air Force, by 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) in Nashik (Maharashtra). Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twin-jet multi-role air superiority aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi.

14. ▶ Government reconstituted Security Policy Group (SPG) to assist National Security Council (NSC) in Nation's security Operations. SPG will be 16-member body chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
15. ▶ ICGS Varuna (Indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited) launched for service in Indian Coast Guard.
16. ▶ IN LCU L55 has been commissioned into Indian Navy, as 5th ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class. It is indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata.
17. ▶ India - UK Joint Naval Exercise KONKAN 18 began in Goa, to last till Dec 06, 2018.
18. ▶ India Russia Joint Airforce Exercise Aviaindra held in Jodhpur (Rajasthan), as 2nd edition of this exercise.
19. ▶ India and China will resume their annual bilateral military exercise 'Hand-in-Hand' in December 2018, which has been upheld since 2016.
20. ▶ India and Indonesia Joint Bilateral Exercise '*Samudra Shakti*' Held in Indonesia, participated by INS Rana on India's Behalf.
21. ▶ India and Japan Conducted Joint First Air Force exercise called SHINYUU Maitri-18, at Air Force Station Agra.
22. ▶ India and Japan held their first ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018', in Vairengte (Mizoram).
23. ▶ India and Japan will hold first ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018 at in Vairengte (Mizoram), During November 1 - 14, 2018. Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment.
24. ▶ India and Russia signed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two Talvar-class missile frigates in Goa for Indian Navy. MOU was signed between defence PSU Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defence major Rosoboron.
25. ▶ India and US Army Joint Exercise named Vajra Prahar 2018 began at Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR) in Bikaner (Rajasthan).
26. ▶ India and US agreed to elevate their bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to trilateral format by including Japan. Next edition of this exercise is scheduled to be held in December 2018. The three countries already are conducting trilateral naval war games under expanded Malabar naval exercise.
27. ▶ India signed \$950 million contract with Russia for two upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates. The 4,000-ton Krivak III vessels will also accommodate two multirole helicopters and will be used for anti-submarine and airborne early warning missions.
28. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) concluded exercise codenamed CROSS BOW 18 at Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh.
29. ▶ Indian Air Force's ASTE (Aircraft & Systems Testing Establishment) flew India's first military flight using blended bio-jet fuel on the An-32 transport aircraft. This fuel is made from Jatropha oil sourced from Chattisgarh Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA) and then processed at CSIR-IIP Dehradun. IAF intends to fly An-32 transport aircraft using biojet fuel on 26 January 2019, in Republic Day flypast.
30. ▶ Indian Army completed indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile's First night trial. Its a surface-to-surface missile, with strike range of 350 km.
31. ▶ Indian Army has dedicated 2018 to welfare of Disabled Soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty.
32. ▶ Indian Army inducted three major globally combat proven artillery gun system - M777 A2 ultra light howitzers (ULH), K-9 Vajra-tracked self-propelled guns (South Korea) and Composite Gun Towing Vehicle (Ashok Leyland -India) at Deolali Field Firing Range in Maharashtra, as first artillery gun systems to be inducted by Indian Army in three decades.
 - ▶ Last inducted was Bofors artillery gun system procured from Sweden in early 1980s.
33. ▶ Indian Army picked Russia's Igla-S missile system as choice for its multibillion dollar contract for man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS).
 - ▶ Russia's Rosoboronexport, with bid Around \$1.47 billion, emerged lowest bidder for Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) deal. Other bidders were MBDA of France (bid of \$3.68 billion) and SAAB of Sweden (bid of \$2.6 billion).
 - ▶ It is designed for use against visible aerial targets at short range such as tactical aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAVs), cruise missile, head-on or receding, in presence of natural (background) clutter and countermeasures. As per requirements of Indian Army, it will have maximum range of 6km, altitude of 3km along with all-weather capability.
34. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled 'Clean Sea- 2018' at sea off Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar (A&B) Islands).
35. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched new Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) ICGS Varaha, as 4th in series of 98 MOPVs designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
36. ▶ Indian Coast Guard launched an exercise along serene sea waters of Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Odisha to protect endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles, named 'Operation Oliva'.
37. ▶ Indian Coast Guards deployed two new hovercrafts to enhance its surveillance capabilities and to protect against any filtration bids from Pakistan Side in contentious area around Sir Creek in Gujarat. Sir Creek (Kutch district) is a disputed area between India and Pakistan.
38. ▶ Indian Navy commissioned naval hospital ship INHS Sandhani at Naval station Karanja in Raigad district of Maharashtra.

39. ▶ Indian Navy completed refitting of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam and formally handed it over to Maldives. It was originally commissioned as INS Tillanchang in March 2001, and was subsequently gifted to Maldives by India in April 2006.
40. ▶ Indian Navy inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea. It will be based in Mumbai and will enhance Navy's operational capabilities.
- ▶ With this, India joined select list of international navies (United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore UK, Sweden and Australia) with ability to search, locate and provide assistance to downed or disaster-struck or distressed submarines at high sea.
41. ▶ Indian Navy will conduct its flagship annual Western Seaboard coastal defence exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) from January to March 2019. As part of TROPEX, Navy will conduct coastal defence exercise 'Exercise Sea Vigil'.
42. ▶ Indian Navy's first flyaway Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System inducted at Naval Dockyard Mumbai.
- ▶ New Submarine rescue system was needed as traditional methods of search and rescue at sea are ineffective for a disabled submarine.
 - ▶ Indian Navy's Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System considered to be the most advanced system currently in operation globally, which is capable of undertaking rescue from a disabled Submarine upto 650 m depth.
43. ▶ India's first indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant completed its first deterrence patrol, completing its first long-range mission with live nuclear-tipped missiles.
- ▶ During deterrence patrol, a nuclear submarine carries nuclear missiles on board, where command and control protocols for its operations are fully tested by its crew.
 - ▶ With this, India completed its survivable nuclear triad by adding maritime strike capability to land and air-based delivery platforms for nuclear weapons. It makes India sixth country — after US, Russia, UK, France and China — to have fully operational nuclear triad.
 - ▶ INS Arihant is India's first indigenously developed nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. It was launched in 2009 and its nuclear reactor went critical in 2013 and it was commissioned in 2016.
44. ▶ Indo China Joint Military Exercise Hand-in-Hand held at Chengdu (China), as 7th edition of this exercise.
45. ▶ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) received additional \$777 million contract to supply LRSAM air and missile defence systems to seven ships in Indian navy, in a contract with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL). LRSAM is part of Barak 8 family, and is an air and missile defence system.
46. ▶ Joint exercise of India and Vietnam, named *Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018* began off Chennai coast.
47. ▶ Long range surface-to-surface Nuclear Capable Ballistic missile Agni V successfully test fired.
- ▶ It has strike range of 5000 km.
 - ▶ It was 7th successful trail of Agni V. It is capable of carrying 1.5 tonnes of nuclear warheads.
48. ▶ Maharashtra cabinet approved conversion of Indian Navy's longest-serving aircraft carrier INS Viraat, into India's first-ever moored maritime museum-cum-marine adventure centre. It was decommissioned in 2017.
49. ▶ Ministry of Defence awarded contract for construction of 4 Survey Vessels for Indian Navy to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Limited Kolkata, with order value of 2435 crores.
- ▶ First ship is to be delivered within 36 months and remaining within an interval of six months for each vessel.
 - ▶ These Survey Vessels (Large) shall be 110 metre long with deep displacement of 3,300 tonnes.
50. ▶ PSU BEML bagged contract for INR 3015 crores for Mumbai Metro Corridor, including manufacturing of 378 Metro cars (63 Metro trains of 6 cars each) for Mumbai Metro Corridor 2A, 2B & 7.
51. ▶ Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti', which aims to provide a boost Intellectual Property Rights culture in indigenous defence industry and inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
52. ▶ Supreme Court gave clean chit to Central government for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter Jets from Dassault Aviation (France), stating nothing wrong found in purchase of 36 fighter jet instead of 126 from France.
- ▶ Dassault Rafale won MMRCA competition in January 2012 to supply 126 Jet aircraft with additional 63 aircraft to Indian Air Force. First 18 aircrafts were to be supplied by Dassault and remaining were to be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
 - ▶ Dassault refused to ensure quality of aircraft produced by HAL. In 2014, price of deal increased to \$30 billion. This created price issue and deal couldn't be signed.
 - ▶ Thereafter, New central government confirmed the deal for 36 multirole fighter aircraft of 58000 crores from France's Dassault Aviation.
53. ▶ Tri-service exercise 'Madad 2018' conducted at sea off Goa and Karwar coasts in a move aimed at fine-tuning joint war-fighting capabilities and enhancing operational synergy.

Economy

1. ▶ India signed a Loan Agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Japanese Official Development Assistance loan for construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I) of Yen 29.442 Billion (INR 1817 crores). It aims to improve stability of power supply in West Bengal.
2. ▶ Amazon partnered with Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) to encourage Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to sell products online through e-commerce.
3. ▶ 10th Edition Of Agriculture Census Data For 2015-16 Released By Agriculture Ministry -
 - ▶ Female operational land holders increased from 12.79% in 2010-11 to 13.87% in 2015-16.
 - ▶ By the number of people tilling the land, Uttar Pradesh topped the chart followed by Bihar and Maharashtra.
 - ▶ In terms of total operated area: Rajasthan comes first followed by Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
 - ▶ Among the states, the highest increase in number of operational holdings is topped by Madhya Pradesh followed by Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Nagaland.
 - ▶ Goa witnessed the sharpest fall and Manipur had the lowest in number of operational holdings.
 - ▶ The average size of agriculture landholding declined to 1.08 hectare in 2015-16 from 1.15 hectare in 2010-11.
 - ▶ The average size of farm holding was the highest in Nagaland at 5.06 hectares and the lowest in Kerala at 0.18 hectare.
4. ▶ 31st GST Council Meeting held in New Delhi. Key Highlights are
 - ▶ Approved Creation of a Centralised Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (AAAR) to conflicting decisions by several State Appellate Advance Ruling Authorities on the same issue.
 - ▶ GST rates on 23 goods and services have been reduced.
 - ▶ 7 Goods and 1 Service went out of 28% tax slab. Among Goods, Notable was *Parts and accessories for carriages for disabled persons*, on which GST was reduced from 28% to 5%. Among Services, GST rate on cinema tickets above INR 100 reduced from 28% to 18% and on cinema tickets upto 100 from 18% to 12%.
 - ▶ Services supplied by banks to Basic Saving Bank Deposit (BSBD) account holders under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) shall be exempted.
5. ▶ A Special RBI board meeting discussed over several contentious issues including -
 - ▶ No change in BASEL norms, deadline pushed back by a year for last tranche. RBI agreed to extend transition period for implementing last tranche of 0.625% under Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) by 1 year (up to March 31, 2020).
 - ▶ Restructuring of stressed standard assets of MSME borrowers with aggregate credit facilities of up to Rs 25 crore, subject to conditions of ensuring financial stability.
 - ▶ Prompt Corrective Actions (PCA) framework on banks will be examined by RBI's Board for Financial Supervision.
 - ▶ RBI will set up a high-powered committee to examine issues related to surplus capital of 9.69 lakh crores with RBI.
6. ▶ According to 2017-18 annual report of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) sanctioned Mudra loans under PMMY, grew faster than banks in FY 2018.
 - ▶ NBFCs sanctioned approximately Rs 27,000 crore of Mudra loans, 396% More than Previous Year. Target for NBFCs was 9050 Crores this fiscal.
 - ▶ While, Public Sector Banks sanctioned 92,492.68 crores worth of MUDRA Loans in this period, annual growth of 29%. AU Small Finance Bank was the top lender among Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and the State Bank of India (SBI) was top lender among state-run banks.
7. ▶ According to Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops with maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM) of 10.35 lakh crores. It is followed by Delhi having Rs 2.35 lakh crore and Karnataka having Rs 1.76 lakh crores.
8. ▶ According to research firm CRISIL, compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of security-service small and medium enterprises (SMEs) would be at 18-20% over next 2 years.
9. ▶ Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched *ENSURE- National Livestock Mission-EDEG* Portal developed by NABARD.
 - ▶ Government Launched National Livestock Mission for sustainable development of livestock sector. Under Mission's component called Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG), subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs etc. goes directly to beneficiary's account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
 - ▶ ENSURE Portal is developed to make the process simpler and more transparent (URL <https://ensure.nabard.org>), so that information related to beneficiary and processing of application can be made readily available.

10. ▶ An ATM for deposit and withdrawal of money for cryptocurrencies has been installed in Bengaluru's Kemp Fort Mall by virtual currency exchange Unocoin, as India's First Such. Users can deposit money to buy currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum using an OTP received on their registered numbers.
11. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Govt launched two farmer welfare schemes - Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY) and the Chief Ministers Krishi Samuh Yojana (CMKSY).
 - ▶ CMSKY would subsume 3 programmes - CM's Employment Generation Scheme, CM's Agri-Mechanization Programme and the CM's Flagship Programme on Tea and Rubber.
 - ▶ CMKSY aims at empowering farmers through cooperative approach, by providing them timely support and marketing intervention for better price realization and income.
12. ▶ As per Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18 -
 - ▶ Top 5 Most Profitable PSUs - Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC, NTPC Coal India and Power Grid Corporation.
 - ▶ Top 10 profitable CPSEs accounted for 61.83 % of total profit earned by all 184 profitable CPSEs.
 - ▶ BSNL, Air India and MTNL incurred highest losses for 2nd consecutive year, with 52.15 % of total loss incurred by CPSEs in 2017-18.
 - ▶ There were 339 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) in 2017-18, out of which 257 was in operation. Remaining 82 of CPSEs are under construction.
13. ▶ As per RBI Data, Banks swas a significant improvement in recovery of stressed assets in FY 2018, helped by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and amendments in Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interests (SARFAESI) Act. In FY 2018, banks recovered INR 40400 crore worth of bad loans as against INR 38500 crores recovered in FY17.
 - ▶ Also, As per RBIs *Trends & Progress of Banking in 2017-18* report, system-wide Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of banks rose to 11.2 % or at Rs 10.39 trillion in FY18 from 9.3 % a year ago.
 - ▶ Share of public sector banks stood at 8.95 trillion (14.6 %), where as Private sector banks' NPA ratio is much lower at 4.7 %.
14. ▶ Assam state assembly passed an amendment in Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act 2018 -
 - ▶ GST registration for companies having up to 20 lakh rupees(earlier Rs. 10 lakh) turnover per annum has been exempted.
 - ▶ limit of turnover from Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1.5 crorehas been increased for businesses to be eligible for filing one per cent composite tax.
15. ▶ Bangalore's Kempegowda International Airport chosen L&T Construction to construct its Terminal-2 (T2) at approx 3036 crores. It will augment capacity of airport by 25 million passengers per annum.
16. ▶ Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) closed its 51 branches across country (out of its approx 1900 branches) as part of cost-cutting measures, as first such measure initiated by any PSB.
17. ▶ Beijing based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a \$400 million loan for a Water Sanitation Project in Andhra Pradesh. India is second largest shareholder of Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (7.5 % Stake of India) after China (26.06%).
18. ▶ Bharti Airtel acquired artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services.
19. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became first Indian stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts, with launch of contracts in popular commodities like gold (1kg) and silver (30kg). SEBI recently allowed BSE and NSE to launch commodity derivatives trading under unified exchange regime wherein stock exchanges will be allowed to offer trading in commodities derivatives.
20. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange decided to discontinue ties with S&P Dow Jones, that manages benchmark Sensex, planning to develop inhouse indices.
 - ▶ Joint venture among two called *Asia Index* was launched in 2013, to provide array of indices enabling global and domestic investors to participate in South Asia economies.
 - ▶ BSE will not renew its agreement with S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC which expires on December 31, 2018 and it is looking to develop indices through its own team.
 - ▶ S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies and it is world's largest global resource for index-based concepts, data and research. BSE is Asia's oldest stock exchange and is home to iconic Sensex index – a leading indicator of Indian equity market performance.
21. ▶ Brokerage Firm ICICI Securities (ISec) launched 'eATM' instant fund credit feature to enable real-time payments in bank accounts upon selling stocks in Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). This is available to retail investors who can get payment against sale of stocks in BSE instantly, compared to earlier waiting time of T+2 days.
22. ▶ CRISIL upgraded AU Small Finance Bank's Long Term Debt Instruments Rating to CRISIL AA– with Stable Outlook from previous CRISIL A+. Now, AU Bank's long-term instruments have got a rating of AA- from all four rating agencies including CARE Ratings, India Ratings and ICRA Ratings.
23. ▶ CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) partnered with German science and technology firm Merck, to establish a 'High End Skill Development Centre' in CSIR-IMTECH Chandigarh. Equipped It will help accelerate healthcare research and train Indian

students and researchers in latest life science technologies and make them industry ready.

24. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released Direct Taxes Data updated up to FY 2017-18 and income-distribution data for AY 2016-17 and AY 2017-18.
 - ▶ Constant growth in direct tax-GDP ratio over 3 years and ratio of 5.98% in FY 2017-18 is the best DT-GDP ratio in last 10 years.
 - ▶ Growth of over 80% in number of returns filed in last four financial year, from 3.79 crore in FY 2013-14 to 6.85 crore in FY 2017-18.
 - ▶ For AY 2014-15, corresponding to FY 2013-14 (base year), return filers declared gross income of 26.92 lakh crores, which has increased by 67% to Rs.44.88 lakh crore for AY 2017-18.
 - ▶ 88,649 taxpayers disclosed income above 1 crore in AY 2014-15, which increased to 1,40,139 for AY 2017-18 (growth of 60%).
 - ▶ Individual taxpayers disclosing income above Rs. 1 crore increased during the period under reference from 48,416 to 81,344, which translates into a growth of 68%.
25. ▶ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has added 2 new currencies (Korean Won (WON) and Turkish Lira (TRY)) into list of currencies whose Rate of Exchange it notifies for purpose of conversion of foreign exchange to Indian Rupees (INR) and vice versa for assessment of imports & exports. Now, number of currencies in list has gone up to 22.
 - ▶ South Korea and Turkey are both Important Trade partners for India as Trade between India-South Korea grew to \$16.36 Billion during 2017-18 from \$12.59 Billion in 2016-17 and India - Turkey trade stood at US \$ 7.2 Billion during 2017-18.
 - ▶ This Inclusion of 2 new currencies will facilitate trade & business by easing process of conversion of these currencies into INR and vice versa. It will also help exporters claim benefits of Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) easily, as rates of TKY and WON will be readily available on realization date of remittances.
26. ▶ Chola MS General Insurance and IndusInd Bank Ltd renewed their decade old corporate agency arrangement for a period of 5 years.
27. ▶ Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for MIG Scheme has been extended by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs by another 12 months i.e.till 31-03-2020.
 - ▶ CLSS for MIG scheme, launched originally for 12 months till 31-12-2017, covered Beneficiaries of MIG seeking housing loans for construction of houses from Banks, Housing Finance Companies etc.
 - ▶ Dwelling unit carpet area was revised to 'upto 120 Sq.m' and upto '150 Sq.m' for MIG I and MIG II respectively in November 2017 and further enhanced to 'upto 160 Sq.m' and 'upto 200 Sq.m' for MIG I and MIG II respectively in June 2018.
28. ▶ Credit Rating Agency Fitch affirmed India's "Long term Foreign-currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR)" at 'BBB-'with a stable outlook, keeping India's Credit rating unchanged for 12th year in a row.
 - ▶ Fitch Ratings is one of big three credit agencies, Other two being Moody's and Standard & Poor's.Fitch last upgraded India's Sovereign rating from 'BB+' to 'BBB-'with stable outlook in 2006.
 - ▶ Fitch expects India's economy to grow with a growth rate of 7.8 in fiscal year ending on 31 March 2019 and 7.3 in FY20 and FY21.
 - ▶ Fitch expected current-account deficit to widen to 3 % in FY2018-19 and 3.1 % in FY2019-20 from 1.9 % in FY2017-18.
29. ▶ Current account deficit (CAD) widened to 2.9% of GDP for July-September quarter due to higher trade deficit compared with 1.1% during same period of previous year. CAD for Previous (April-June) quarter was 2.4% of GDP or \$15.9 billion.
30. ▶ Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has put imports of gold dore in restricted category. Now, importer will need a license to import this commodity. Gold dore is semi-pure alloy of gold and silver which is refined for further purification. Proportions of silver and gold can vary widely. Refined gold bars are manufactured from gold dore bar.
31. ▶ ESAF small finance bank received RBI approval to operate as a scheduled bank, making it 5th scheduled bank from Kerala.
32. ▶ FMCG Firm Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) approved merger with GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSKCH India) through an-all equity deal, valuing GlaxoSmithKline at INR 31700 crores.
33. ▶ Finance Ministry increased interest rates for non-governmental provident funds, gratuity and superannuation to 8 % from existing 7.6 %, Also hiking interest rates for small savings schemes by 40 basis points. Changes are effective from October to December 2018.
34. ▶ Financial Firm MobiKwik launched an instant loan approval and disbursal product called 'Boost', which will enable disbursal of loans upto 60000 within 90 seconds.
35. ▶ Financial Frm Paytm became leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments with over 33% of overall market share, with over 137 million UPI transactions in September 2018.
36. ▶ Financial products marketplace *Paisabazaar.com* launched an industry-first feature that will help loan applicants choose their most-suited lender on its platform, Named 'Chance of Approval', made using last four years lending data.
37. ▶ Finnish mobile maker Nokia and Indian IT services firm Infosys partnered to work in AI and machine learning driven solutions, to drive digital transformation in various sectors.
38. ▶ Fitch ratings affirmed IDBI Bank's long-term issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BB+' and its viability rating (VR) at 'ccc'. It reflects expectation of a moderate probability of extraordinary state support given the bank's market position and linkages to state.

39. ▶ Flipkart signed pact with Bajaj Allianz to provide insurance to customers buying smartphones from its platform. Customers who buy the plan will be offered either a cash payout, or a free pickup, service and drop facility if their devices get damaged or stolen. Minimum insurance price for scheme is 99 for a year.
40. ▶ Foreign Bank State Bank of Mauritius' India operations was hit by cyber fraud of USD 14 million. SBM got RBI approval to operate as a subsidiary in India in August 2018.
41. ▶ Global Payments service PayPal launched its first merchant-focused App in India called PayPal for Business. It will help small/medium merchants and freelancers conduct their domestic and cross border business.
42. ▶ Global financial Firm OBOPAY launched a new generation pre-payment instrument called- OBOPAY Card-in partnership with Federal Bank and Mastercard. It aims to be one-stop solution that facilitates easy disbursements and payments by enterprises.
43. ▶ Governemnt Launched a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) named *PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access*, developed by Allahabad Bank as Nodal bank.
44. ▶ Government and RBI opened Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19 (Series III) for subscription, with issue price 3183 per gram. There is also discount of 50 per gram for online payment.

It is centralised electronic platform for quicker processing of loans under DAY-NULM. It aims to connect directly with beneficiaries and ensure there is greater efficiency in delivery of services.

Earlier in October 2018, Governemnt had issued schedule for issuing Sovereign Gold Bonds every month from October 2018 to February 2019, through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, NSE and BSE.

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

Features of Bond -

Item	Details
Eligibility	Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
Denomination	Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
Tenor	Tenor will be for 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th and 7th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
Minimum size	Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.
Maximum limit	4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March).
Issue / Redemption price	Price will be fixed in INR on basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for last 3 working days of week preceding subscription period (50 per gram less for online payments)
Payment option	Cash payment (upto a maximum of ` 20,000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.
Interest rate	The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
Collateral	Can be used as collateral for loans. Loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by RBI.
Tax treatment	Interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per provision of Income Tax Act 1961. Capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted.
SLR eligibility	Bonds acquired by banks shall be counted towards Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
Commission	Commission for distribution of bond shall be paid at rate of 1 Rupee per 100 Rupees of total subscription received. Receiving offices shall share at least paise 50 per hundred Rupees of commission so received with agents.

45. ▶ Government approved a special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector, involving implementation of Central Sector Scheme - Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP) with expenditure of 2600 Crores for 2017-20.
- To boost leather industry in Tamil Nadu under IFLADP, 4 projects with outlay of 107 crores are approved - Upgradation of Tala Trichy Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Trichy, Pallavaram CETP at Nagalkeni Chrompet, and SIDCO Phase-I CEPT at Ranipet and Perundurai leather industries Eco Security Pvt. Ltd. at Erode.
- DIPP also approved mega leather cluster at Bantala in West Bengal.
46. ▶ Government approved selling 100 % stake in Air India's ground-handling company Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL), the only Profitable Subsidiary of Air India. AIATSL posted profit of over 33 crores INR last year.
47. ▶ Government conferred status of Miniratna : Category - I on PSU National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), a schedule 'B' CPSE under Ministry of Water Resources. It is making continuous profit since 2009-10.

48. ▶ Government moved proposal in Parliament for enhanced bank recapitalisation outlay from 65,000 crore to 1,06,000 crores in current financial year, to strengthen PSU Banks. The enhanced provision is aimed at -
- ▶ Meeting regulatory capital norms
 - ▶ Providing capital to better-performing PCA Banks to achieve 9% Capital to Risk-weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR); 1.875% Capital Conservation Buffer and 6% Net NPA threshold, facilitating them to come out of PCA
 - ▶ Facilitating non-PCA banks that are in breach of some PCA thresholds to not be in breach
49. ▶ Government notified sale of electoral bond by SBI through its 29 authorized branches from 1-11-2018 to 10-11-2018.
- ▶ Electoral Bond is just like a promissory note that will be payable to bearer on demand and free of interest, aimed at Transparent political funding.
 - ▶ A party registered under the Representation of People's act, 1951 and securing not less than one percent of the votes polled in the preceding election is entitled to receive the electoral bonds.
 - ▶ Electoral Bonds are valid for fifteen calendar days from date of issue.
 - ▶ Bonds are issued in multiples of 1000, 10000, 1 lakh, 10 lakh, 1 crore. Cash donation has been capped at Rs. 2000 and beyond that donations are via electoral bonds.
50. ▶ Government of India signed \$310 million World Bank Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.
- ▶ Project is part of India's Power for All program launched in 2014. It envisages addition of over 4.5 GW generation capacities by 2022 (including a significant share of 1.5 GW from solar energy).
51. ▶ Government reduced excise duty on jet fuel to 11 % from current 14 % in order to help the aviation industry that has been affected by high fuel prices.
52. ▶ Government will issue Sovereign Gold Bonds every month from October 2018 to February 2019 as per Given schedule, through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, NSE and BSE.

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SLR eligibility	Bonds acquired by banks shall be counted towards Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
Commission	Commission for distribution of bond shall be paid at rate of 1 Rupee per 100 Rupees of total subscription received. Receiving offices shall share at least paise 50 per hundred Rupees of commission so received with agents.

53. ▶ Government's gross direct tax collection rose 16.7% to Rs 5.47 lakh crore in first six months of Current FY 2018-19. Government issued refunds of Rs 1.03 lakh crore in the first six months, 30.4% higher than the amount returned during same period last year.
54. ▶ Govt. Owned Bank of India closed down its operations at New Jersey in Channel Islands (USA), soon after it recently closed down its operations in Yangon, Botswana and Dubai.
55. ▶ Govt. approved additional assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) of 1146 crores to Tamil Nadu, which was affected by cyclone 'Gaja' recently. The deciding High Level Committee (HLC) was chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

56. ▶ Gujarat Govt. approved 50-crore rupees to Science & Technology Innovation (STI) Fund for assistance in research and development, first such fund in India for high-end technology and innovation. Assistance up to Rs. 50-lakh will be provided to UGC and AICTE recognized central and state universities and colleges, for up to 3 years.
57. ▶ HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company signed bancassurance tie up with Federal Bank, to enable distribution of HDFC ERGO's insurance offerings to Bank's customers.
58. ▶ HDFC Group overtook Tata Group to become India's largest business house in terms of market value. Combined market capitalisation of five listed companies from HDFC Group stood at 10.4 lakh crores, as per Bloomberg data. This is higher than 10.38 lakh crore market value of 25 listed companies of Tata Group.
59. ▶ ICICI Bank partnered with 'Amazon Pay' to launch a co-branded credit card. This will make online shopping more affordable and provide the best value to Amazon Pay customers.
60. ▶ IDFC Bank completed its merged with non-banking financial company Capital First, making a new entity called *IDFC First Bank*, with loan asset book of 1.03 lakh crores. V Vaidyanathan is appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of new entity.
61. ▶ IDFC bank will change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd', after amalgamation with non-banking financial company Capital First.
62. ▶ IRDA approved micro-insurance policies (sum assured of 50000 or less) disbursal through point-of-sales (PoS), to promote insurance coverage among economically vulnerable sections.
63. ▶ IT Industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) launched its Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at Gurugram (Haryana). It will provide platform to best minds from industry, academia, start-ups and government to drive culture of collaboration and co-creation to find solutions to accelerate India's economic development.
 - ▶ NASSCOM also stated that Indian BPM industry is largest in world, generating revenue close to \$32.5 billion and an employee strength of 1.2 million. It now holds more than a 37% share in global sourcing and is witnessing a 1.7x revenue growth.
64. ▶ In a first for India, HSBC Holdings Plc executed a trade finance transaction using blockchain for an export by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to US-based Tricon Energy. Blockchain-enabled letter of credit (LC) transaction reduced time taken for such deals (from 7-10 days to under a day).
65. ▶ India Signed \$110 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance upgrade of 2800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in State of Madhya Pradesh under Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY). It is part of \$500 million Second Rural Connectivity investment Program for India approved by ADB in December 2017.
66. ▶ India and Japan signed agreement for official development assistance loan for Yen 105 billion (INR 6666 crores approx) for 3 Projects -
 - ▶ Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) (I) for JPY 75 billion
 - ▶ Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals in India for JPY 15 billion
 - ▶ Project for Dairy Development for JPY 15 billion
67. ▶ India signed \$ 100 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expand Sewerage and Drainage Coverage in Kolkata (West Bengal).
68. ▶ India signed \$105 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB), for transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower to the state and the national grid. The tranche 3 loan is part of the \$350 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for Himachal Pradesh Clean Energy Transmission Investment Program approved by ADB Board in September 2011.
69. ▶ India signed \$150 Million Loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for continued improvements to road connectivity and efficiency of International Trade Corridor in West Bengal and North-Eastern Region of India.
70. ▶ India signed \$169 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB), as First Tranche of a \$500 million multi-tranche financing to develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in Tamil Nadu.
71. ▶ India signed \$200 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.
72. ▶ India signed \$240 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of state of West Bengal.
73. ▶ India signed \$300 million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB), to support lending by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).
74. ▶ India signed \$31 million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to build-up State Tourism Industry and boost visitor arrivals in Tamilnadu.
75. ▶ India signed \$60 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue financing riverbank protection works and community-based flood risk management activities in flood-prone areas along Brahmaputra River in Assam. This Tranche 2 loan is part of

\$120 million financing facility for Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program approved by ADB in October 2010.

76. ▶ India signed \$75 million loan with Asian Development Bank to provide 24 x7 water supply in Karnataka's four coastal towns of Kundapura, Mangalore Puttur and Udupi and improve sanitation infrastructure for Mangalore town, as tranche 2 loan agreement of Karnataka Integrated Urban Water Management Investment Program.
77. ▶ India signed \$85 million loan with Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB), to improve skill development eco-system in Odisha and establish an advanced skill training center named *World Skill Center (WSC)* in state capital Bhubaneswar.
78. ▶ India signed World Bank loan agreement of \$172.20 million, for enhancing agricultural productivity, and climate resilience of marginalized farmers in Andhra Pradesh, named *Andhra Pradesh Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (APIIATP)*.
79. ▶ India's Gross Domestic Product(GDP) Growth Data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) for 2nd quarter (July-September) of 2018-19 -
 - ▶ At Constant Prices (2011-2012), GDP rose to 33.98 lakh crores, from 31.72 lakh crores in Q2 of 2017-18, showing a growth rate of 7.1 % in Q2 2018-19. It is less as compared to 8.2 % Growth of GDP in Q1 of 2018-19.
80. ▶ Indian Fertiliser major IFFCO ranked as the biggest cooperative in world by 'World Cooperative Monitor' report 2018, by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).
 - ▶ IFFCO has nearly 36,000 member co-operatives and a turnover of nearly USD 3 billion (FY 2017-18). It has retained this position from 2016.
81. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (December 2018) -
 - ▶ Crisil has cut India's growth forecast for current fiscal (2018-19), by 10 basis points to 7.4 %.
 - ▶ Fitch Ratings, in its report- Global Economic Outlook, slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 % for current fiscal, lower than RBI's projection of 7.4%.
 - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) retained India's growth forecast at 7.3% for current fiscal (2018-19) and 7.6% in following financial year (2019-20).
 - ▶ ICICI Bank projected Indian GDP to grow at 7.2% in 2018-19 and 7.4 % in FY 2019-20.
82. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (Nov 2018) -
 - ▶ As per Moody's - Indian economy will expand 7.4 % in 2018-19, but the growth will slow down to 7.3 % in 2019-20.
 - ▶ Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) released its Economic Outlook 2018 report, which predicted GDP growth to decline marginally to 7.3% in 2019 and 7.4% in 2020 from 7.5% in 2018.
83. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (October 2018) -
 - ▶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) predicted GDP growth of India for 2018 to be at 7%.
 - ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) retained its India growth forecast for current year at 7.3% in FY19 and 7.4% in FY20, in IMF's World Economic Outlook (WTO) Report. With this, India will retain tag of fastest growing Major Economy.
 - ▶ In 2017, India had clocked a 6.7 per cent growth rate. China was the fastest growing economy in 2017 as it was ahead of India by 0.2 percentage points.
 - ▶ In China, growth is projected to moderate from 6.9 % in 2017 to 6.6 % in 2018 and 6.2 % in 2019.
 - ▶ International growth projections for both this year and next are downgraded to 3.7 %.
 - ▶ Growth rate of US for 2018 is 2.9 % and that of 2019 has been powered to 2.5 %.
84. ▶ Indian IT Firm HCL will acquire seven IBM products by mid-2019 for \$1.8 billion, as HCL's biggest ever acquisition so far.
85. ▶ India's fiscal deficit in first eight months of FY2018-19 rose to Rs 7.17 lakh crore, being 115% of budgeted target for current FY, breaching target of Rs 6.24 lakh crore set by government - Fiscal Deficit is difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government. It gives indication about total borrowings required.
86. ▶ IndusInd Bank launched first interactive Credit Card in India with buttons called Nexxt Credit Card, created in partnership with Pittsburgh USA headquartered Dynamics Inc. This interactive Credit Card provides customers with flexibility of three payment options at Point of Sale (POS) terminal – Credit, Converting Transactions into EMIs with 4 tenure options (6, 12, 18 & 24 months) or using accumulated Reward Points.
87. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) stated that customers would be covered under standalone compulsory personal accident (CPA) from January 1, 2019. IRDAI introduced standalone PA cover where a single PA cover can be taken for multiple vehicles.
 - ▶ In September 2018, IRDAI raised minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to 15 lakh from 1 lakh for an annual premium of 750.

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89. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir State Govt. bought J & K bank under purview of Right to Information (RTI) act, to strengthen better corporate governance. It will now be treated as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU). It is only state government promoted bank in country, with state government holding 59.3 %.
90. ▶ Jana Small Finance Bank launched Jana bankable Debit Card, in association with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), designed for cricket fans and offers several related deals.
91. ▶ Japanese electronics company 'CASIO' launched world's first Goods and Services Tax (GST) calculator in India for simplify GST calculations for tax payers, with 2 variants MJ-120GST and MJ-12GST.
92. ▶ Karnataka Bank has launched a special campaign for opening current account and savings accounts (CASA), named *KBL SB - TASC*, a specialized product for Trusts/Associates/Societies/Clubs.
93. ▶ Karnataka CM H.D. Kumaraswamy launched Badavara Bandhu scheme, which includes mobile banks to disburse interest-free loans to street vendors and small traders. Under this, small traders will get loans of up to Rs.10,000 without any interest and collateral.
94. ▶ Karnataka government launched an initiative called 'DataCity' in Bengaluru, jointly organised by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and French utility company Suez. It will be a 7-month innovative programme that will enable corporates to identify the relevant innovative start-ups.
95. ▶ Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) will issue masala bonds worth Rs. 5,000 crore to mobilise funds for various development works, with appointment of Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings for rating its masala bonds issue. The bonds will be listed in London and Singapore stock exchanges.
- ▶ Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency. It is debt instruments used by corporates to raise money from foreign investors in local currency.
96. ▶ Kirloskar group received licence from RBI to launch non-banking finance company (NBFC) business with name Kirloskar Capital, headed by Vimal Bhandari. Company will invest Rs 1,000 crore in proposed NBFC.
97. ▶ Life insurer PNB Metlife launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'.
98. ▶ Mahindra Mutual Fund (subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited) launched new open ended equity scheme called 'Mahindra Rural Bharat and Consumption Yojana', to provide investors an opportunity to participate in India growth story predominantly in Rural India.
99. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched facility for completely online incorporation of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). LLP Rules have been amended and came into effect from 02nd October 2018 -
- ▶ Introduction of a Web Service titled 'RUN-LLP (Reserve Unique Name – Limited Liability Partnership)' replacing the erstwhile Form 1 (Application for reservation or change of name).
 - ▶ Introduction of a new integrated Form christened FiLLiP (Form for incorporation of Limited Liability Partnership) replacing the erstwhile Form 2 (Incorporation document and subscriber's statement) combining therein 3 services i.e.,
 - ▶ Name reservation.
 - ▶ Allotment of Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN/DIN).
 - ▶ Note -
 - ▶ In January 2016, Central Registry Centre (CRC) was established for online incorporation of companies and reserving unique names. Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically (SPICe) and Reserve Unique Name (RUN) were launched.
 - ▶ Now, PAN and TAN are issued on near real time basis by integrating online process with department of Income Tax. DIN is also allotted to the individuals at time of their appointment as Director in Company.
 - ▶ Every week, over 2700 are incorporated through online company incorporation system.
100. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued draft 'National Policy on Electronics 2018' (NPE 2018) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector of India.
- ▶ Sets ambitious target of creating \$400 billion electronics manufacturing industry by 2025.
 - ▶ Aims to double the target of mobile phone production from 500 million units in 2019 to 1 billion by 2025.

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

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

101. ▶ Ministry of Finance clarified that autonomy for Central Bank, within framework of RBI Act, is an essential and accepted governance requirement. This clarification came after rumours about government’s decision to invoke never-before-used powers by invoking *Section 7 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934*, allowing Govt. to issue directions to RBI Governor on matters of public interest such as liquidity for NBFCs, capital requirement for weak banks and lending to SMEs.

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley recently during meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), blamed RBI for failing to stop a lending spree during 2008-2014 that left banks with USD 150 billion of bad debt.

- Rift between Central Government and RBI grew after RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said that undermining a central bank’s independence could be “*potentially catastrophic*”.

102. ▶ Ministry of Finance increased outlay for first phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (FAME India) scheme, to 895 crores (Up by 100 Crores). It aims to promote mass adoption of electric vehicles. Implementation of first phase has been extended four times by 6 months each, latest being till March 2019.

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

104. ▶ Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) released revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for years 2005 - 06 to 2011 - 12.

- Modifying data of past years using 2011-12 as base year instead of 2004-05, Central Statistics Office (CSO) lowered GDP growth rate under UPA Government.

- GDP Data and Changes from 2004-05 Onwards -

Assesment Year	GDP Growth with Base Year 2011 - 12 (New Base year)	GDP Growth with Base Year 2004 - 05 (Old Base year for Assesment years 2005 - 06 to 2010 - 11)
2005 - 06	7.9	9.3
2006 - 07	8.1	9.3
2007 - 08	7.7	9.8
2008 - 09	3.1	3.9
2009 - 10	7.9	8.5
2010 - 11	8.5	10.3
2011 - 12	5.2	6.6
2012 - 13	5.5	
2013 - 14	6.4	
2014 - 15	7.4	
2015 - 16	8.2	
2016 - 17	7.1	
2017 - 18	6.7	

- Base year is periodically revised to uncover the structural changes that have taken place in economy over time and to depict a better picture of economy through Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expenditure etc.

105. ▶ Moody’s Investors Service stated that profitability of Indian banks is “distinctively weak” compared to other BRICS nations.

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

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

106. ▶ NABARD signed MoU with Delhi-based Ayurvet Research Foundation (ARF) to facilitate several collaborative initiatives for integrated agricultural and rural development of Haryana.

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

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

- These compare current price-earnings ratio (P/E) or price-book ratio (P/B) with historical P/E or P/B ratio of Nifty 50 in previous seven years. Maximum allocation to equity is 80 % and minimum allocation is 65 %.
109. ▶ National Housing Bank (NHB increased Refinance limit of Housing Finance Companies in current year (July 2018-June 2019) to 30000 crores up from 24000 crores. Its a credit flow to Housing Finance Companies & other Institutions.
- ▶ NHB is Principal Agency to promote Housing Finance Institutions (currently 97), and to provide financial support to eligible institutions.
110. ▶ National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance (IDFC-IFL), an infrastructure debt fund. This acquisition is first investment from NIIF strategic fund. IDFs are investment vehicles for channelling investment into India's infrastructure sector.
111. ▶ National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will make an investment of 660 crores in HDFC real estate investment platform HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate – 2 (H-CARE 2). H-CARE 2 has a wider platform targeting affordable and mid-income residential projects in India and will play a significant role in progressing towards government's flagship programme, *Housing for All by 2022*.
112. ▶ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile app NSE goBID and web based platform for retail investors to buy government securities. It will allow investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91, 182 and 364 days and government bonds from one year to almost 40 years.
113. ▶ Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL & BPCL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited signed an MOU for collaboration in LPG services, under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY).
114. ▶ Online fashion retailers Myntra and Jabong will merge as one, with Myntra CEO Ananth Narayanan as Head of Merged Unit. They will however, continue to operate as separate brands. Flipkart acquired Myntra in 2014 and Myntra acquired Jabong in 2016.
115. ▶ PSU NBCC (India) Limited signed agreement with Health Ministry to acquire Govt stake in other PSU Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC), for INR 285 crores. HSCC provides consultancy services in healthcare and other social sectors in India and abroad.
116. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched unveiled 12 key initiatives for Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector -
- ▶ Launched 59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs, for availing pre approved loans upto 1 crores.
- ▶ 2 % interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans. For exporters who receive loans in pre-shipment and post-shipment period, increase in interest rebate from 3 to 5 % was announced.
- ▶ Companies with turnover over 500 crores must compulsorily be brought on Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS). It will enable entrepreneurs to access credit from banks, based on their upcoming receivables, to resolve problems of cash cycle.
- ▶ Public sector companies have now been asked to compulsorily procure 25 % (up from 20 %) of their total purchases, from MSMEs.
- ▶ Out of 25 % procurement mandated from MSMEs, 3 % must now be reserved for women entrepreneurs.
- ▶ PSUs of Government must now compulsorily be a part of Public procurement platform GeM (Government e-Marketplace).
- ▶ Stating that Tool rooms across country are a vital part of product design. 20 hubs will be formed across country, and 100 spokes in form of tool rooms will be established.
- ▶ 8th announcement is related to pharma companies. Clusters will be formed of pharma MSMEs. 70 % cost of establishing these clusters will be borne by the Union Government.
- ▶ 9th announcement is on simplification of government procedures. Return under 8 labour laws and 10 Union regulations must now be filed only once a year.
- ▶ 10th announcement is that now establishments to be visited by an Inspector will be decided through a computerised random allotment.
- ▶ 11th announcement is that under air pollution and water pollution laws, now both these have been merged as a single consent. Return will be accepted through self-certification.
- ▶ As 12th announcement, An Ordinance has been brought, under which, for minor violations under Companies Act, entrepreneur will no longer have to approach the Courts, but can correct them through simple procedures.
117. ▶ Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) made it mandatory for medium and large enterprises in key sectors to set aside funds for research and development.
- ▶ It said that R&D investment in India has been stagnant for 20 years at 0.6-0.7% of GDP, with that by private sector at 0.35%
- ▶ An Advanced Mission Mode Innovation and Research (ADMIRE) is proposed to be launched by line ministries to provide direct R&D grants to industry on a 50-50 model through competitive bidding.
- ▶ Ministries have been mandated to allocate at least 2% of their budgets as research and innovation grants related to priority concerns.
118. ▶ Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of Public sector banks gone up from 46.04 on March 2015 to 66.85% in September 2018, reflecting improvement in their financial health. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) gives an indication of the provision made against bad loans from the





profit generated. Higher the PCR, lower is unexposed part of bad debts.

119. ▶ Punjab Govt. decided to merge 20 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) with Punjab State Cooperative Bank (PSCB), to strengthen state's rural credit system and facilitate farmers taking credit from cooperative banks.
120. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh government launched a special card called PNB Rupay card, for Kumbh Mela 2019, aimed at convenient and hassle-free transactions for over 12 crore devotees.
121. ▶ RBI Fined Fino Payments Bank with 1 Crore INR, for violating Norms for Payments Banks. Fino PB was asked to stop all account opening activities after RBI found out that there were few accounts with the bank with deposits in excess of Rs 1 lakh, which is against criteria of a payments bank.
122. ▶ RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) issued its fourth bi-monthly statement. It decided to keep policy repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5 %. GDP growth projection for 2018-19 is retained at 7.4 %. Current Monetary Policy Rates are -
 - ▶ Repo Rate - 6.50 %
 - ▶ Reverse Repo - 6.25 %
 - ▶ Bank Rate - 6.75 %
 - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - ▶ SLR (Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 %
 - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.75 %
123. ▶ RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)'s 5th bi-monthly Statement -
 - ▶ Policy Repo Rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5 %.
 - ▶ GDP growth projection for 2018-19 is retained at 7.4 %.
 - ▶ RBI decided to reduce SLR from existing 19.5% to 18.0% in six quarterly instalments beginning January 2019.
 - ▶ Monetary Policy Rates are -
 - ▶ Repo Rate - 6.50 %
 - ▶ Reverse Repo - 6.25 %
 - ▶ Bank Rate - 6.75 %
 - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - ▶ SLR (Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 % (RBI decided to reduce SLR from existing 19.5% to 18.0% in six quarterly instalments beginning January 2019)
 - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.75 %
124. ▶ RBI allowed Bandhan Bank to open as many as 40 new branches by end of 2018, releasing restriction that was put on Bandhan bank 3 months back.
 - ▶ RBI barred bank from opening new branches in September after It failed to bring down main shareholder's stake to below 40 % as mandated in licensing norms for universal banks.
 - ▶ Bandhan Financial Services (BFSL) the promoter of Bandhan Bank, currently holds 82.28 % stake in bank.
125. ▶ RBI allowed Fino Payments Bank to open new accounts, After 5 months of staying barred.
126. ▶ RBI allowed banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued by systemically important non-deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFC-ND-SIs) registered with RBI and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) registered with National Housing Bank.
 - ▶ This shall be done by maintaining exposure limit of the bank within the aggregate PCE exposure limit of 20 %. This will help for affordable housing finance and lower rated retail NBFCs by easing fund-raising by the NBFCs from the debt market.
127. ▶ RBI allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital from overseas (relaxing policy on borrowing up to 10 billion USD). RBI has allowed state-owned oil companies to raise ECB (External Commercial Borrowings) of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.
128. ▶ RBI announced more measures to increase liquidity flows to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). RBI permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit, to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements. Also,
 - ▶ RBI allowed banks to avail up to 15% of holdings under statutory liquidity reserves to meet liquidity coverage ratio norms.
 - ▶ RBI cancelled Certificate of Registration of 31 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
 - ▶ RBI approved license for Germany based Kreditech, to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) for digital lending business and app-based financing.
129. ▶ RBI approved Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to use a INR 1000-crore corpus for funding microlenders, kept by SIDBI for some other purposes. SIDBI recently sought RBI's approval for using it for microfinance sector.
130. ▶ RBI approved merger of SBM (Mauritius) India with Its Indian Subsidiary SBM Bank (India).

131. ▶ RBI approved proposal of Kerala government for the formation of Kerala Bank, decided by special task force headed by M S Sriram. Bank will be formed by consolidating State Cooperative Bank and 14 district cooperatives, with net deposit amount of INR 65000 Crores. Unification will be completed by March 2019.
132. ▶ RBI canceled certificate of registrations of 31 NBFCs for unspecified reasons. It also canceled the certificate of registrations of 17 NBFCs following a request by them for it. 27 of 31 companies which lost licenses are from Bengal.
133. ▶ RBI decided to have a rule-based dynamic limit for outstanding stock of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) at 6.5% of GDP at current market prices.
134. ▶ RBI extended relaxation offered to banks for offering liquidity support to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) until March 31st 2019.
 - ▶ To facilitate banks to lend to NBFCs / Housing Finance Corporations (HFCs), RBI allowed banks to use government securities equivalent to their outstanding credit for non-bank lenders (NBFC and HFC), in addition to outstanding credit they had, to comply with requirements of liquidity coverage index (LCR).
 - ▶ Highly liquid assets that banks and financial institutions hold to meet their short-term obligations is known as LCR.
135. ▶ RBI imposed fine of 6.1 crores fine on Deutsche Bank (3.1 Crores) and Jammu and Kashmir Bank (3 Crores), for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, KYC/AML norms etc.
136. ▶ RBI imposed fine of Rs 1 crore on Indian Bank for violating cyber security norms.
137. ▶ RBI initiated setting up wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers, by inviting expression of interest (EOI) for developing PCR from companies with turnover of over 100 crore in last three years.
 - ▶ PCR is digital registry of authenticated granular credit information. It will work as financial information infrastructure providing access to various stakeholders and enrich the existing credit information ecosystem.
138. ▶ RBI injected INR 12000 crores into system through purchase of government bonds, under Open Market Operations. Purchase of government securities maturing will bear interest rate of - 8.27 % in 2020, 8.15 % in 2022, 7.35 % in 2024, 8.15 % in 2026 and 7.61 % in 2030.
139. ▶ RBI introduced 'Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions' to provide cost-free mechanism to redress grievances of customers related to digital transactions. Scheme will be notified by end of January 2019.
140. ▶ RBI issued guidelines for enhancing credit discipline of large borrowers by allowing a minimum of 40% of working capital to be drawn. Large borrowers with working capital of over 150 crores can draw a minimum loan component of 40% of capital. This will be effective from April 1, 2019. Also, 40 % loan component will be revised to 60 %, from July 2019.
141. ▶ RBI issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control.
 - ▶ As per norms, ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments. ETP Operator' shall mean an entity authorised by RBI to operate an ETP under these Directions.
 - ▶ An entity seeking authorisation as an ETP operator should possess and maintain a minimum net-worth of Rs 5 crore at all times.
142. ▶ RBI launched a Survey on India's startup sector (SISS) to create a profile of the startup sector in India consisting of dimensions relating to turnover, profitability and workforce, To understand problems faced by startup sector.
143. ▶ RBI launched a 'Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals', to capture payment habits of individuals in six cities Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Guwahati. Sigma Research & Consulting Pvt Ltd has been engaged to conduct fieldwork of survey.
144. ▶ RBI liberalised norms governing external commercial borrowings (ECBs) for infrastructure creation.
 - ▶ RBI reduced minimum average maturity required for the ECBs in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers to three years from earlier five years.
 - ▶ It also has reduced average maturity requirement for mandatory hedging to five years from earlier ten years.
145. ▶ RBI made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code mandatory for all market transactions regulated by RBI. LEI is a 20-character unique identity code assigned to entities who are parties to a financial transaction. It excludes individuals and transactions undertaken on recognised stock exchanges. It aims to improve risk management by bettering accuracy of financial data.
146. ▶ RBI proposed a flexible route for FPIs to invest in debt markets, called: voluntary retention route (VRR). Under this, a FPI will be required to invest a minimum of 67% of committed portfolio size (CPS) within 1 month.
 - ▶ Under VRR-Govt, foreign portfolio investors will be eligible to invest in any government security, including treasury bills.
 - ▶ Under VRR-Corp, FPIs may invest in corporate debt instruments, including commercial papers.
 - ▶ FPIs under VRR would be eligible for participating in repo for liquidity only if their amount doesn't exceed 10% of their investment under VRR.
147. ▶ RBI reduce mandatory hedge coverage from 100 to 70 % for external commercial borrowings (ECBs) by eligible borrowers for a maturity period between 3 and 5 years.






148. ▶ RBI shortlisted 6 major IT firms to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) for capturing details of all borrowers and willful defaulters. Shortlisted Firms are TCS, Wipro, IBM India, Capgemini Technology Services India, Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India, and Mindtree Ltd.
- ▶ PCR is a digital registry of authenticated granular credit information and will work as a financial information infrastructure providing access to various stakeholders and enrich existing credit information ecosystem.
 - ▶ It would be mandatory for reporting for all material events for each loan to Public Credit Registry.
149. ▶ RBI will establish an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019, to take load off the increasing number of complaints currently being handled by banking ombudsman.
150. ▶ RBI will implement its Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) norms from April 1, 2020.
- ▶ NSFR norms were issued after Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) proposed certain reforms to strengthen global capital and liquidity regulations, after global crises since 2007, to promote more resilient banking sector.
 - ▶ NSFR is defined as amount of available stable funding relative to amount of required stable funding.
151. ▶ RBI will inject 40000 crores into system in November 2018, through open market operation (OMO), amid festive season demand for funds.
152. ▶ Recently released SBI Ecowrap report stated that Rupee depreciation did not help trade benefit, with incremental trade deficit of \$4 billion in the first half of current fiscal year. Industries like petroleum, NBFCs, power, telecommunication and automobile were heavily borrowing through automatic route and contributing to over 71% of total borrowing.
153. ▶ Reliance Health Insurance (subsidiary of Reliance Capital) received final approval from IRDAI for its new health insurance business. Ravi Viswanath has been appointed as CEO of new health insurance company.
154. ▶ Reliance signed strategic investment partnership with Den Networks and Hathway Cable and Datacom, to accelerate Jio GigaFiber rollout to 50 million homes across 1,100 cities. RIL will invest 2045 crores for 66% stake in Den and 2940 crores for a 51.3% stake in Hathway Cable and Datacom Limited (Hathway).
155. ▶ Russia successfully tested a new hypersonic missile dubbed “Avangard,” with speeds of more than 30,000 kilometres per hour. It can fly at 20 times speed of sound and could manoeuvre up and down, to breach defence systems.
156. ▶ SBI Capital Markets subsidiary SBICAP Ventures launched two funds for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and affordable housing sectors. SME fund is expecting to raise 400 crores while affordable housing fund looking at raising 350 crores.
157. ▶ SBI halved ATM withdrawal limit from 40000 to 20000 per day, for debit cards of ‘Classic’ and ‘Maestro’ platforms. It aims to reduce number of fraudulent transactions and promote cashless transactions.
158. ▶ SBI launched its wealth business services by opening “SBI Wealth Hub” at Lalbagh branch in Mangalore (Karnataka), becoming first PSU bank to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.
159. ▶ SEBI allowed foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market of stock exchanges for hedging their exposures.
- ▶ Earlier, foreign entities were not permitted to directly participate in Indian commodity derivatives market, even if they imported or exported various commodities from and to India.
 - ▶ Foreign entities participating in Indian commodity markets shall be known as eligible foreign entities (EFEs). They will be eligible for all commodity derivatives (except contracts defined as sensitive commodity).
 - ▶ All eligible EFEs are mandated to have actual exposure to Indian physical commodity markets with minimum net worth requirement of \$500,000.
 - ▶ It will increase liquidity, especially in commodities like guar gum, guar seed, mustard seeds and cardamom that are not traded in other international exchanges. It will also expand participation of foreign entities in metals commodities.
160. ▶ SEBI approved several relaxations for start-ups in sectors like e-commerce, data analytics and bio-technology to raise funds and list them on stock exchanges. Changes include renaming the 'Institutional Trading Platform' (ITP) of start-ups' listings as 'Innovators Growth Platform'. Other Changes include -
- ▶ Do away with requirement of at least 50 % of pre-issue capital held by qualified institutional investors.
 - ▶ Do away with a cap of 25 percent holding for any person. It will ensure that investors are able to invest more than 25 percent in a start-up.
 - ▶ Reduce minimum application size for share offers to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 10 lakh earlier to attract more investors to the new platform
 - ▶ Do away with allocation of 75 % of net offer to institutional investors and remaining 25 % to non-institutional investors. There should be no minimum reservation for any specific category of investors.
 - ▶ Retains provisions for lock-in period of entire pre-issue capital
 - ▶ SEBI proposed to reduce time period from 3 years to 1 year for the company listed on the start-up platform to main board of stock exchange.

 Fixing minimum offer size at Rs 10 crore.

161. ▶ SEBI released updated rules for re-classification of a promoter as a public investor, as suggested by panel on corporate governance led by Uday Kotak. An outgoing promoter will have to give up special rights as well as control over affairs of listed firm and He cannot hold over 10 % stake. Only compliant listed entities are eligible to apply for re-classification, those who have 25 % minimum public shareholding requirement.
162. ▶ SEBI tightened disclosure standards for credit rating agencies (CRAs) while assigning ratings to debt instruments, asking to analyse deterioration in liquidity conditions of issuer, while monitoring its repayment schedules and taking into account any asset-liability mismatches.
 -  Currently there are 6 credit rating agencies in India which are registered under SEBI - CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, SMERA, Fitch India, ONICRA.
163. ▶ Singapore based Mapletree Investments acquired Chennai's SP Infocity for 2500 crores, which is jointly owned by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Shapoorji Pallonji Investment Advisors.
164. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) and Hitachi Payment Services India signed agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.
165. ▶ Sunil Mehta, the chairman of a bankers' panel working on the faster resolution of stressed assets in public sector banks, announced that an asset management company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans has been formed and will be called as Sashakt India Asset Management.
166. ▶ TCS displaced Accenture as world's largest IT firm servicing banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector. TCS got \$2.07 billion in business from sector in July-September period as compared to Accenture's \$2.01 billion in June-August period.
167. ▶ Tamil Nadu Govt. received SEBI approval to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.
168. ▶ To Further promote digital transactions, RBI released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) (mobile wallets). It elaborate on requirements for achieving interoperability for mobile wallets and cards, and norms for customer protection and grievance redressal.
 -  Interoperability will be achieved in phased manner i.e. initially inter-operability of PPIs issued in form of wallets through UPI, and later between wallets and bank accounts through UPI, and interoperability for PPIs issued in form of cards through card networks.
 -  It will be facilitated to all KYC-compliant PPI accounts and entire acceptance infrastructure. In case where PPIs are issued in form of cards, then cards will be affiliated to authorised card networks.
 -  Card networks are also allowed to onboard PPI issuers to join their network. Non-bank PPI issuers are permitted to participate as members/associate members of authorised card networks.
169. ▶ To check Rising Fuel prices, Government has cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2.50. Government and oil companies will absorb the price cut by INR 1.50 and 1 respectively. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley also urged state governments to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on fuel by another INR 2.50.
170. ▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank became first small finance bank in India to offer personal loan facility for salaried professionals.
171. ▶ WhatsApp partnered with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to train small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs on using WhatsApp to connect with customers and growing their businesses.
172. ▶ World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) approved investment of \$ 100 million in India Resurgence Fund (IRF), a joint venture of Piramal Enterprise Limited and Bain Capital.

Top

International

1. ▶ World Trade Organization (WTO) approved constitution of panels to review complaints against US decision to put tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminium.
 -  WTO Dispute Settlement Body will create separate panels for complaints by European Union, China, Canada, Mexico, Norway and Russia, after US stated it would not agree to a single panel to hear all of them.
 -  DSB also agreed for a panel which will review *certain Chinese measures pertaining to the protection of intellectual property rights* as demanded by US.
2. ▶ 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI), prepared by global NGOs Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).
 -  Level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide fell to 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000.
 -  India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.
 -  15 countries with 2018 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1–15. These are - Belarus, Cuba, Estonia, Kuwait, Latvia, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Chile, Lithuania,

Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Bottom 5 - Central African Republic (119), Chad (118), Yemen (117), Madagascar (116), Zambia (115)

Neighbours - Bangladesh (86), China (25), Nepal (72), Pakistan (106), Sri Lanka (67)

3. ▶ 26 countries and 11 international organisations committed to Changsha Declaration at the end of a forum on international development cooperation in Changsha, China. It focuses on agricultural and rural development, eliminate poverty and hunger.
4. ▶ A web-based tool to monitor spread of fake news on social media platforms has been developed by Researchers from University of Michigan (USA). It uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient and will supposedly draw data from two external entities namely NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Check.
5. ▶ According global capital markets data provider Dealogic, India is now getting more FDI than China for first time in two decades. In 2018, India saw more than \$38 billion of inbound deals compared with China's \$32 billion.
6. ▶ According to Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India faces grave danger to soil biodiversity -
 - ▶ Atlas was released as part of WWF's biennial Living Planet Report (LPR) 2018. The key aspect of this year's report was threat to soil biodiversity and pollinators, the two key drivers of biodiversity.
 - ▶ Soil Biodiversity -
 - ▶ Soil biodiversity is total community from genes to species, and varies depending on environment. The immense diversity in soil allows for great variety of ecosystem services that benefit species that inhabit it.
 - ▶ India was coloured red on atlas and is among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk
 - ▶ Pollinators -
 - ▶ 150 million bee colonies were needed to meet pollination requirements of about 50 million hectares of agricultural land in India, only 1.2 million colonies were present. Pollination is process by which plant pollen is transferred from male reproductive organs to female reproductive organs to form seeds.
7. ▶ According to Global Wage Report 2018-19 by International Labour Organization (ILO), Titled *What Lies behind Gender pay gaps*, women are paid most unequally in India, compared to men. This gap in wages, known as gender wage gap is highest in India, among 73 countries studied in report. On average, women are paid 34% less than men in India, compared to Global gender wage gap of 16%.
8. ▶ According to Standard Chartered study-'The Emerging Affluent Study 2018- Climbing the Prosperity Ladder', India is Asia's most investment savvy economy.
9. ▶ According to report by United Nation's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), patents granted by India increased by 50% in 2017, from 8,248 in 2016 to 12,387 in 2017. Globally, 1.4 million patents were granted in 2017. China led with 4,20,144 granted patents and was followed by US with 3,18,829.
10. ▶ According to research firm Canalys, India overtaken US to become second largest smartphone market in the July-September 2018 quarter. India saw shipment of 40.4 million units during third quarter and was second to China where 100.6 million smartphones. USA was at 40 million units.
11. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) partnered with US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to develop a roadmap for modernisation of its air traffic services (air traffic management (ATM) and communication, navigation and surveillance (CNS).
12. ▶ American Express became first foreign payments company allowed to build a network in China, with a 50:50 joint venture with Chinese fintech firm LianLian to set up the payment network.
13. ▶ American Space Exploration Firm SpaceX launched U.S. Air Force's newest 'GPS III' satellite, to replace aging GPS 2R spacecraft launched in 1997. The solar-powered spacecraft, dubbed "Vespucci," is company's first official "National Security Space" mission. Vespucci's nickname honours Italian cartographer and explorer Amerigo Vespucci, after whom North and South America were named.
14. ▶ As per A World bank Report, India retained its position as world's top recipient of remittances in 2018, with Indians abroad sending \$80 billion back home. India is followed by China (\$67 billion), Mexico and Philippines (\$34 billion each) and Egypt (\$26 billion).
15. ▶ As per Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia surpassed Qatar to become world's leading exporter of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for the first time. Australia exported 6.55 million tonnes of LNG in November 2018 compared to Qatar's 6.27 million tonnes. LNG is Australia's third-largest export commodity behind coal and iron ore.
16. ▶ As per Global Nutriiton Report 2018 -
 - ▶ With 4.6 Crore stunted children, India tops the list. It is followed by Nigeria (1.4 crore) and Pakistan (1.07 Crore). Stunting Means low height for age, which is caused by long-term insufficient nutrient-intake and frequent infections.
17. ▶ As per International Air Transport Association (IATA), India will become world's 3rd largest aviation market by 2024. India is presently at 7th place.

18. ▶ As per International Monetary Fund, global debt reached an all-time high of 184 trillion US dollars with USA, China and Japan accounted for over half of it. On average, world's debt exceeds 86,000 USD dollars per person, which is over 2.5 times average income per-capita.
19. ▶ As per Mercom Communications India - second largest solar market with installed capacity of 4.9 GW of solar power. China is at top of list.
20. ▶ As per Oxford Economics report, top 10 fastest growing cities in the world from 2019 to 2035 are in India -
 - ▶ Surat, a diamond processing and trading center in Gujarat will see fastest expansion through 2035. Agra and Bangalore gets 2nd and 3rd spot respectively. Hyderabad is in the fourth place, followed by Nagpur, Tirupur, Rajkot, Tiruchirappalli, Chennai and Vijayawada.
 - ▶ In *Africa* - Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam is fastest City, while top spot in *Europe* is held by Armenian capital of Yerevan, San Jose a proxy for Silicon Valley will be best performer in *North America*.
21. ▶ As per UN World Meteorological Organization, Global temperatures will rise between 3-5 degrees Celsius by 2100, far overshooting a global target of limiting this increase to 2 degree Celsius.
22. ▶ As per WHO's Global Nutrition Report 2018, India has highest number of 'stunted' children in world (nearly third of global count).
 - ▶ Globally, Stunting (*low height for age*) among children aged under five has fallen from 32.6 per cent in 2000 to 22.2 per cent in 2017.
 - ▶ About 46.6 million children in India suffer from stunting due to poor nutrition intake in long term and repeated infections. India also tops in number of *Wasted* children (*Low Weight for height*), amounting 25.5 million.
 - ▶ In creating this report, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) used district-level aggregate data from 2015-2016 National and Family Health Survey (NFHS) in India along with data from UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group.
23. ▶ As per World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Living Planet Report 2018, Humanity has wiped out 60% of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians between 1970 and 2014. Vast consumption of food and resources by global population is destroying the web of life.
24. ▶ As per a Report named *Humanity at Risk – Global Terror Threat Indicant (GTTI)* by Oxford University and Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) -
 - ▶ Pakistan registered highest number of terrorist bases and safe havens, possesses three times more threat to humanity than Syria.
 - ▶ Among Terror Groups , Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Afghan Taliban pose maximum threat to the international security.
25. ▶ As per a UN Report, Ozone layer that shields life from cancer-causing solar rays is recovering at a rate of 1 - 3 per decade, reversing years of dangerous depletion caused by the release of harmful chemicals. It may get fully healed by 2061.
 - ▶ Montreal Protocol, which was signed in 1987, has been termed as Most Successful environmental agreement ever. It was an International agreement for banning industrial gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which harm Ozone Layer.
26. ▶ As per index compiled by Arton Capital, Top three most powerful passports are - UAE (1), Singapore (2), Germany (3).
27. ▶ As per report by Bain & Company, India has fastest growing online retail market among top global economies, with compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 53% for the period 2013 to 2017.
28. ▶ As per report by Global Carbon Project, 2017's top 4 emitters were China (27%), US (15%), European Union (10%) and India (7%).
29. ▶ As per report by *'Which? Travel'*, Iceland is safest country to visit, while India is the fourth dangerous. UAE and Singapore are 2nd & 3rd respectively.
 - ▶ South Africa is least safe, owing to high risk of crime, health and terrorism. Turkey was second most dangerous, Thailand is 3rd least safe and India is 4th least safe.
30. ▶ As per the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report, FDI inflows to South and South-West Asia decreased by 6% in 2017 (USD 63 billion), due to drop in foreign funding flow to countries like India and Turkey.
31. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed arrangement with World Bank to enact a single framework to make co-financed projects more efficient. ADB's first Alternative Procurement Arrangement (APA) with World Bank will allow procedures on co-financed projects to follow a single procurement framework, in line with ADB's Strategy 2030.
 - ▶ Strategy 2030 is ADB's long-term plan to respond effectively to Asia and Pacific region's changing needs.
32. ▶ Asian Economic Integration Report 2018 presented by Asian Development Bank, with focus on progress in cooperation and migration.
 - ▶ India hosts highest number of outward international migrants in 2017, followed by China and Bangladesh. About one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.
 - ▶ FDI in Asian region remain stable with 517.5 billion in 2017.
 - ▶ This year in the report there was a special chapter "Toward Optimal Provision of Regional Public Goods in Asia and the Pacific". It stressed on that optimal provision of Regional public goods can be a solution for development challenges in era of economic interdependence.

33. ▶ Australia become first country world to recognise *orphanage trafficking* as a form of modern slavery. Children from smaller countries are recruited in orphanages in West for purpose of profit through foreign aid.
34. ▶ Australia declined signing UN Global Compact for Migration (agreed upon in July 2018), saying that it would undermine its existing immigration policies.
- ✎ According to Australian government, nation's immigration policy already promotes safe, orderly and regular migration. Government feels that adopting it would risk encouraging illegal entry to Australia and reverse hard-won successes in combating people-smuggling trade. Australia's harsh immigration policy detains asylum-seekers who try to reach the country by boat on remote Pacific islands.
 - ✎ US has already rejected this UN pact.
35. ▶ Australia formally recognized West Jerusalem as capital of Israel, becoming one of few countries to do so (Including USA). However, it will not move its embassy from Tel Aviv until a peace settlement is reached.
36. ▶ Bahrain's Economic Development Board signed MoU with Maharashtra Government to provide a framework for Co-operation, to promote FinTech in respective markets.
37. ▶ Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid approved controversial Digital Security Bill 2018, combining colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions such as arrests without warrant. It aims to deal harshly with cybercrimes, including hurting religious sentiment, spreading negative propaganda against 1971 Liberation War and Bangabandhu (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman).
- ✎ It also covers illegal activities in e-transactions and spreading defamatory data under its ambit. It provides for 7 - 14 years imprisonment and monetary fines of 25 lakh - 1 crore Taka
 - ✎ Law faced widespread vocal opposition from rights groups and journalists that it could endanger freedom of speech— especially on social media. The law has also drawn opposition internationally including from USA.
38. ▶ Based on Data by American Community Survey, Telugu is the fastest growing language in USA, with number of US residents speaking Telugu rose by 86 % between 2010 and 2017. Telugu However, is outside top 20 of most widely-spoken languages other than English in USA.
39. ▶ BlackBerry acquired Cylance, an artificial intelligence and cybersecurity company for \$1.4 billion.
40. ▶ Canada agreed to sign a trade deal with USA and Mexico, revamping North American Free Trade Agreement. New deal has been named as *United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)*.
- ✎ USMCA modernises what was covered by NAFTA by adding provisions on digital trade and intellectual property.
 - ✎ It would allow US farmers greater access to Canada's dairy market and address concerns about potential US auto tariffs. The pact will come up for review every six years.
 - ✎ Canada will export 2.6 million vehicles to USA, after 25 % global autos tariffs imposed by US on national security grounds. Deal, however, failed to resolve U.S. tariffs on Canada's steel and aluminum exports.
 - ✎ Background -
 - ✎ USA President Trump threatened to end 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement into a bilateral pact with Mexico and tax Canadian vehicle exports to USA if Canada failed to sign deal before September 30 midnight deadline. Canada, USA's 2nd largest trading partner, was left out when the US and Mexico had reached a preliminary deal in late August to revamp NAFTA.
41. ▶ Canada legalised possession and use of recreational cannabis (also called Marijuana), becoming 2nd country to do so After Uruguay.
42. ▶ Central Asian Nation Kazakhstan opened a consulate in Gujarat to enhance development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Kazakhstan and India.
43. ▶ Central Asian Nation Turkmenistan launched its first messaging app BizBarde. ex-Soviet Nation Turkmenistan has blocked Western social services including Twitter, Facebook and Whatsapp.
44. ▶ Central Asian Nation Tajikistan inaugurated a USD 3.9 billion hydro-electric power plant, a mega project that will eliminate domestic energy shortages and will enable exporting electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is Built on Vakhsh River and expected to reach height of 335 metres, becoming world's tallest hydro-electric dam.
45. ▶ Central Indonesia's Mount Soputan volcano erupted with ash going upto 7.5 km high in sky.
- ✎ Indonesia is highly prone to earthquakes and volcanoes as it is located on *the Pacific Ring of Fire*, a major area in Pacific Ocean, spread approx 25000 miles. 75% of world's volcanoes are located in this region.
46. ▶ China and Myanmar signed an agreement to build a port in Myanmar's Kyaukpyu town along the Bay of Bengal. China will fund 70% of the project, while the remaining 30% will be funded by Myanmar.
- ✎ China has been in India's Vicinity as it has helped build port in Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka and Chittagong port in Bangladesh.

47. ▶ China and Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) started off their first joint maritime exercises in Zhanjiang (China), to ease regional tensions linked to rival claims in South China Sea.
48. ▶ China completed deployment of its indigenously developed BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) constellation with successful launch of 2 more satellites. They will work with 17 other BDS-3 satellites already in space. BDS will be 4th global satellite navigation system after GPS (USA), Russia's GLONASS and European Union's Galileo.
 - ▶ BDS will become global in 2020 with over 30 satellites.
 - ▶ India is also building its navigational system called Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC (7 Satellites).
49. ▶ China launched 6 Yunhai-2 atmospheric environment research satellites and a test communication satellite of Hongyan constellation into orbit. Yunhai-2 satellites will study environment and first test satellite of Hongyan constellation will be used to verify function of mobile communications in low earth orbit (LEO).
50. ▶ China launched first High Orbit Satellite of BeiDou-3 Navigation system, placed 36000 km above Earth. It will follow the Earth's rotation, in a geostationary orbit, and will view the same point on Earth continuously.
51. ▶ China launched its first communication satellite to offer broadband internet services to users worldwide, as CASIC's (China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation) first satellite under Hongyun project. It aims to rival companies which have similar plans for providing Internet services worldwide.
 - ▶ Hongyun Project began in September 2016. Under this, China plans to give broadband internet connectivity to users globally by building a space-based communications network.
 - ▶ CASIC will be placing than 150 Hongyun satellites on orbits about 1,000 km above ground around 2023.
 - ▶ OneWeb, a USA Firm, will launch 648 low-Earth orbit microsattellites by end of 2019 to provide broadband services.
52. ▶ China launched its Centispace-1-s1 satellite, on a Kuaizhou-1A low-cost solid-fuel carrier rocket.
53. ▶ China launched two remote sensing satellites belonging to the Yaogan-32 family by a Long March-2C rocket.
54. ▶ China tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes, called Feihong-98 (FH-98). It has Max takeoff weight of 5.25 tonnes, capacity of 1.5 tonnes and 15 cubic metres, a flight height of 4,500 metres, speed of 180 KMPH, and a maximum range of 1200 kms.
 - ▶ China is also planning to put a 'moon' of its own in the night sky by 2020, to replace conventional street lamps and save electricity.
 - ▶ Chengdu city in southwestern Sichuan province of China is developing illumination satellites, which will shine along with the real moon but will be eight times brighter.
 - ▶ These satellites will have a reflective coating which can reflect sunlight towards Earth similar to the moon. Placed only 500km above Earth, light reflected from the man-made moon will be more luminous than actual moon.
55. ▶ China will sell 48 Wing Loong II high-end armed drones to Pakistan, as largest export deal for drones to date to any country.
 - ▶ Wing Loong II is a high-end reconnaissance, strike and multi-role endurance unmanned aerial system, capable of being fitted with air-to-surface weapons. It can carry payload up to 480kg (1,060lbs), including 12 laser guided missiles or YJ-9E anti-ship missiles. It can fly at maximum altitude of 9,000 metres (29,500 feet).
56. ▶ China's first private research university officially inaugurated in Zhejiang Province's Hangzhou city. Autonomy for top educational institutions has been a long-standing demand of Chinese academic community, as China's higher education bodies are mostly govt owned.
 - ▶ Chinese Govt also announced to scrap setting population target in future, and give people more freedom with respect to childbirth. China wants to ease restrictions on family planning to combat ageing population.
57. ▶ China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) started offering global navigation services, to rival America's Global Positioning System (GPS). Pakistan became first foreign nation to use BeiDou system.
 - ▶ BeiDou is 4th global navigation system after US's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.
 - ▶ India's Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) (named NAVIC) is a regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning services covering region extending 1500 km around India. Plans are to expand NavIC system by increasing number of satellites from 7 to 11.
58. ▶ China's first home-grown amphibious aircraft AG600 (code-named Kunlong) successfully carried out its first take-off and landing on water, claimed as world's largest amphibious aircraft. It can carry 50 people and can stay airborne for 12 hours, with operational range of 4,500-km.
59. ▶ Chinese President Xi Jinping officially opened world's longest sea-crossing bridge.
 - ▶ The \$20-billion bridge, which spans 55 kilometres, connects Hong Kong and Macau to the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai.
 - ▶ Bridge is designed to withstand earthquakes and typhoons, built using 400,000 tonnes of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.


It includes dual three-lane, oversea stretch (22.9 km) and undersea tunnel (6.7 km) which reaches depth of 44 m. The rest 25.4 km of the bridge runs over land. The two ends of tunnel of bridge are connected to two artificial islands. Bridge contains 400,000 tonnes of steel.








Its total cost was 120 billion yuan (\$17.3 billion).

60. ▶ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed MOU with UN Environment for coherent implementation of environmental dimension of sustainable development. The major activity planned by CII and UN Environment under this MoU includes #Un-plastic Initiative. It will begin with 'Call to Action' which will include commitments by industry to take action to curb plastic pollution.
61. ▶ Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched Dubai Audio Library, the largest Arabic audio library in world. It targets seven million visually impaired people in Arab world. Library will provide 300,000 books in Arabic and over 10000 volunteers will convert Arabic books into digital format and upload them.
62. ▶ Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the Moscow (Russia) for cooperation in fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.
63. ▶ Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018) joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russia held in Pakistan, as 3rd addition of this joint military drill.
64. ▶ European Central Bank launched TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS), a new system aimed at letting banks settle payments instantly across Europe, helping them compete with global tech giants like Paypal. It will let people and companies in Europe transfer euros instantly.
65. ▶ European Commission became first major economy to target achieving climate neutrality by 2050, as scientists suggest worldwide in order to avoid catastrophic global warming.
66. ▶ European Parliament approved a free trade agreement between Japan and EU, covering 63.5 crore people and almost 33% of world's economy, known as world's largest free trade agreement. EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement will remove duties on almost all agricultural and industrial products as well as open up service sector and procurement, eliminating all non-tariff barriers for trade.
67. ▶ European Union (EU) established India's first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Department of European Studies (DES) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in New Delhi. It comes with grant of €1,00,000 to pursue India-EU interdisciplinary studies in culture, literature, education and society. This is for fifth time MAHE has been awarded grants under Erasmus+Jean Monnet initiative.
68. ▶ Export-Import Bank of India extended a credit facility of USD 500 million to Tanzania (East Africa) for water supply projects in country.
69. ▶ First Franco-Chinese satellite launched into orbit to study ocean surface winds and waves, aboard a Long March 2C carrier rocket.
70. ▶ Forbes World's 100 Most Powerful Women of 2018 -
 - 4 Indians in the list - Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL Enterprises CEO), Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (CMD of Biocon Limited and chairperson of IIM Bangalore), Shobhana Bhartia (Chairperson and Editorial Director of Hindustan Times Group) & Priyanka Chopra (Actress).
 - Top 5 in List -
 - Angela Merkel (German Chancellor)
 - Theresa May (UK Prime Minister)
 - Christine Lagarde (IMF Chief)
 - Mary Barra (CEO of General Motors USA)
 - Abigail Johnson (CEO of Fidelity Investments USA)
71. ▶ Former PM HD Deve Gowda (*11th PM from June 1, 1996 to April 21, 1997*) conferred with Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti Award on occasion of Valmiki Jayanti (Oct 24), for his contribution to welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities. Award will be given by Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy.
72. ▶ Four Indian-origin women named in Forbes among America's top 50 female technology moguls. These Include Padmasree Warrior (Cisco), Komal Mangtani (Uber), Neha Narkhede - (streaming platform Confluent), Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan (identity-management Firm Drawbrige).
73. ▶ French Govt. declared state of "social and economic" emergency amid the ongoing 'yellow vest' protests. Macron announced monthly increase in the minimum wage by €100, cancellation of taxes on overtime labour.
74. ▶ French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, first ever such line in Africa. \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011 by the king and Nicolas Sarkozy, then president of France. Known as LGV, it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of up to 320 kph (199 mph).
75. ▶ From January 2019, Indian tourists travelling to Bhutan via road will need either a voter ID or a valid passport to enter the country, while accompanying children can also travel with a birth certificate. Visitors will now get entry permits instead of identification slips.

76. ▶ German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that she will step down as Chancellor in 2021. She would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union(CDU).
77. ▶ Germany and UK with support from World Bank, launched a new Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF), To support vulnerable countries to climate and disaster shocks.
- ▶ This fund will consist of an initial corpus of \$150 million. It will be built on the work of several existing programs including InsuResilience Climate Risk Financing and Insurance Program MDTF established by BMZ, DFID and World Bank, Centre for Global Disaster Protection established by DFID and World Bank, and InsuResilience Solutions Fund jointly established by BMZ and KFW.
 - ▶ Funding includes Insurance premium financing, Risk financing investments, Risk financing mechanisms that promote parallel improvements in countries for crisis response and recovery AND Technical assistance and capacity building where this is not yet covered by other programs.
78. ▶ Germany called for France to give up its permanent seat at United Nations Security Council and turn it into a seat for European Union (EU). It would allow EU to speak *with one voice* at UNSC.
79. ▶ Global Competitiveness Report 2018 by World Economic Forum (WEF) -
- ▶ India - Ranked 58th, Bettering 2017 Rank by 5 Places.
 - ▶ Top 5 - USA (1), Singapore (2), Germany (3), Switzerland (4), Japan (5)
 - ▶ Bottom 5 - Chad (140), Yemen (139), Haiti (138), Angola (137), Burundi (136)
 - ▶ Neighbours - Bangladesh (103), Sri Lanka (85), Pakistan (107), Nepal (109)
80. ▶ Global Passport Index 2018 by *Passportindex.org* -
- ▶ Most Powerful Passport is of Singapore, along with Germany. India is ranked 66th in List.
 - ▶ Note that Recent Henley Passport Index 2018 ranked Indian passport at 81st Place, with Japan at top.
81. ▶ Google confirmed it will shut down its messaging app Allo in March 2019 after 2.5 years of debut. Recently, Google also announced that it will shut down its social media platform Google+ over next 10 months.
82. ▶ Google will shut down its social network Google+ for consumer use over next 10 months after a bug exposed personal data of up to 5 lakh users. Google+ currently has “low usage and engagement” and that 90% of Google+ user sessions last less than 5 seconds. Company plans to keep it alive enterprise customers who use it to facilitate conversation among co-workers.
83. ▶ Government launched information fusion centre (IFC) to boost maritime security and Information exchange in Indian Ocean Region(IOR), set up by Indian Navy at Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram (Haryana).
- ▶ IFC-IOR will share information on “white shipping”, or commercial shipping with the countries in the region to improve maritime security and tackling piracy and terrorism in Indian Ocean. Those countries will be served that have White Shipping Information Exchange agreements with India. (21 countries so far).
 - ▶ IFC will generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline of India by linking all coastal radar chains.
 - ▶ India also recently signed ascension agreement to Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN), that will allow information exchange on movement of commercial ships on high seas. T-RMN agreement is being steered by Italy.
84. ▶ Government of Burundi (East Africa) declared Gitega as country’s new political capital, replacing Bujumbura, that will from now on serve as economic capital of the country.
85. ▶ Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved more than \$1 billion new investments for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change, during a meeting of GCF in Manama (Bahrain).
- ▶ Funding was approved for projects linked to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and Middle East and protection for coastal communities in India.
 - ▶ About GCF -
 - ▶ GCF is UN-backed fund considered as key vehicle for climate-related development programs, guided by principles of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It aims to help developing countries to finance clean energy projects other mitigation efforts, practices and adaptation to counter climate change.
 - ▶ It was formally established by UNFCCC decision in Durban, South Africa in December 2011.
86. ▶ Henley Passport Index 2018.
- ▶ Indian passport secured 81st rank with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations.
 - ▶ Top 5 - Japan (1), Singapore (2), Germany (3), France (4), South Korea (5)
87. ▶ IIT Kharagpur and University of Auckland (New Zealand) signed a pact to foster academic exchange and research collaboration, faculty exchange and visiting/adjunct appointments, student mobility. Its first strategic partnership of University of Auckland with a higher educational institution in India.
88. ▶ IMD World Talent Rankings 2017 -

 India Ranked 53rd, down by 2 places compared to last Year.

 Top 5 - Switzerland (1), Denmark (2), Norway (3), Austria (4), Netherlands (5)

89. ▶ India Based construction major Larsen & Toubro is only Indian firm to be featured among top 25 companies in Forbes' global 2000 best employers list (ranked 22).
-  Among top 100, there are 4 Indian firms - Mahindra & Mahindra (55), Grasim Industries (59) and HDFC (91). Also, Total 24 domestic companies in overall list.
-  Top 3 - Alphabet (1), Microsoft (2), Apple.
90. ▶ India and Bangladesh several agreements for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity, Including an agreement to use Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India. An addendum to 'Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between two countries' has also been signed for the inclusion of Dhubri in India and Pangaon in Bangladesh as new Ports.
91. ▶ India and China launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats. Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Vinay Kumar hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will travel to India for 1st India-China joint training programme for Afghan diplomats, under Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan.
92. ▶ India and China signed protocol to amend Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, by allowing exchange of information.
93. ▶ India and Myanmar signed MoU for appointment of private port operator for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project.
-  Sittwe port in Myanmar will connect India's landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram. It will also provide alternate route to Kolkata.
-  It is also significant in implementation of India's Act East Policy as it will boost connectivity and will contribute to job creation in whole region, particularly in Myanmar's strife-torn Rakhine and Chin States.
-  It will significantly lower cost and distance of movement from Kolkata to Mizoram and beyond. It will also reduce dependency on only route narrow strip dubbed as Chicken's Neck in West Bengal, sandwiched between Bhutan and Bangladesh.
94. ▶ India and Sri Lanka signed 2 MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Srilankan rupees.
-  Also, Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium built with Indian grant assistance of 30 crore Sri Lankan rupees in Sri Lanka was dedicated to the people.
95. ▶ India and UK will collaborate for research on different aspects of Ganga delta region and Bay of Bengal, announced duuring a programme launched by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
96. ▶ India announced contributions of \$13.36 million (over ₹97.2 crore) for various United Nations (UN) agencies and development activities at the 2018 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. 19 countries pledged a total of \$425.69 million at the conference.
97. ▶ India donated 3 lakh Dollars for a peacekeeping initiative at UN, under 'Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Programme'.
98. ▶ India elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for 4-year term (2019-2022), during ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai (UAE).
99. ▶ India elected to United Nations' Human Rights Council for a period of three years, by securing 188 votes in Asia-Pacific category (highest vote among all candidates).
100. ▶ India extended ban on import of milk products from China for 4 months, upto 23rd April 2019. Ban was imposed due to concerns about presence of melamine in some of milk consignments from China. Melamine is toxic non-edible chemical used for making plastics and fertilisers.
-  India is largest producer and consumer of milk.
101. ▶ India launched humanitarian operation Samudra Maitri to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia, dispatching two aircraft C-130J and C-17 and three naval ships carrying relief material and personnel to Indonesia.
102. ▶ India lost one spot to rank as 9th most valuable nation brand in world, according to UK-based consultancy Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2018 report. However, India's brand value increased by 5% to \$2,159 billion. US topped the list with a brand value of \$25,899 billion.
103. ▶ India participated in China's 1st International Import Expo (CIIE) at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai. Aims is to reduce he over USD 51 billion trade deficit with neighboring nation. It is considered to be the world's first import-themed national-level expo.
104. ▶ India ranked 12th in world in terms of web-borne threats, according to report by global cybersecurity company Kaspersky Labs. 32.8 % of users were attacked by web-borne threats in India.

105. ▶ India ranked 28th among 73 countries in 2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR) by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- - ▶ India jumped 8 positions in this ranking from 36th in 2011.
 - ▶ Norway has topped 2018 GEAR list scoring 89.7 points in seven categories.
106. ▶ India ranked 5th among 206 countries in 2018 *Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status* Report by Canadian Cancer Society. In India, 85% of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings.
- ▶ Top 5 - Timor-Leste (92.5%), Nepal (90%), Vanuatu (90%), New Zealand (87.5%) and India held 5th rank jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85% warnings.
107. ▶ India signed an agreement with Iran to make Oil Import payments in Indian rupees. MoU was signed after US letting India and seven other nations to keep buying Iranian oil despite sanctions were imposed on Iran in November.
- ▶ Earlier India paid Iran in Euros using European banking channels. Under the 180-day USA exemption, India is allowed to import a maximum of 300,000 barrels a day of crude oil. This compares to an average daily import of about 560,000 barrels this year.
108. ▶ India signed ascension pact to 30-member Trans-Regional Maritime Network that will give it an access to information on ships passing through Indian Ocean Region. India already has bilateral White Shipping Agreements with 36 countries.
109. ▶ India will Chair Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) from 1st January 2019, after being handed Chairmanship by European Union during KPCS Plenary 2018 held in Brussels (Belgium).
- ▶ Kimberley Process is Joint interational initiative to stem flow of 'conflict diamonds', rough diamonds used by rebel groups to finance wars against legitimate governments. At present, KPCS has 54 members representing 81 countries including EU with 28 members.
 - ▶ Botswana and Russia will serve as Vice-Chair during 2019-2020.
110. ▶ India's Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) partnered with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (USA), to become a member of NIAID TB Portals program.
111. ▶ India-China Film Festival held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, to deepen cultural understanding between two countries.
112. ▶ Indian IT industry apex body Nasscom partnershiped with Hiroshima government for co-creating a Japan-India IT Corridor in Hiroshima. Through this partnership, India would be getting a gate way to the cutting-edge manufacturing technology of Japan. Indian companies on software side can help Japanese manufacturing companies adopt digital transformation and create innovative product and solutions lines.
113. ▶ Indian Pavilion inaugurated at Videocittà 2018 event in Rome Film Festival (Italy),with India as partner country for the event.
- ▶ "Mere Pyaare Prime Minister" was only Asian film screened at 13th Rome Film Festival.
114. ▶ Indian Short Film *Period. End of Sentence* made it Oscar shortlist in Documentary Short Subject category. Its about women in India fighting against deeply rooted stigma of menstruation and delving upon work of real-life 'Pad Man' Arunachalam Muruganantham. India's entry for the Foreign Language Film Category, Village Rockstars is out of Oscar race.
115. ▶ Indian Short film Finding Beauty in Garbage won best short documentary award at Asia South East Short Film Festival recently held at Phnom Penh in Cambodia. Its based on issues surrounding mountains of garbage in Dibrugarh town of Assam.
116. ▶ Indian Stock market overtook Germany to become world's seventh largest stock market.
117. ▶ Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) signed MoU in with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore the possibility of storing ADNOC crude oil at ISPRL's underground oil storage facility at Padur in Karnataka, which has a 2.5 million tonne capacity.
- ▶ ADNOC is only foreign oil and gas company so far, to invest by way of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves program.
 - ▶ It has been announced a few days after cabinet Approved filling of Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Padur (Karnataka) by overseas National Oil Companies (NOCs).
118. ▶ Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list, ranked 12th. List has been topped by Tricia Griffith (CEO of US Insurance Company Progressive).
119. ▶ India's national accreditation body National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) secured equivalence for its accreditation programme for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) Certification Bodies in Asia- Pacific region, by signing Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC).
- ▶ Now, Any industry carrying ISO 45001 certificate with NABCB logo will be recognized in Asia Pacific region. It will benefit Indian Industry as it is exporting products to various countries in Asia Pacific region.
 - ▶ Now, NABCB can facilitate export of Indian goods into the world market by attesting that these are certified as per international standards by competent certifying bodies.
 - ▶ NABCB is 3rd accreditation body in Asia Pacific Region to become internationally equivalent in the region, after accreditation bodies of Hong Kong and Mexico.

- ▶ MLA with PAC would now facilitate signing MLA with International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to secure full international equivalence.
- 120. ▶ India's non-life insurance penetration risen marginally to 0.9 % of GDP (\$ 27 billion), but still remains among highest underinsurance levels globally, as per a report by Lloyd's. It was .7 % for India in 2012.
 - ▶ India's insurance gap accounts for 17 % of the total global insurance gap (\$162.5 billion).
 - ▶ Globally, India has seventh-largest insurance gap, with top spot held by Bangladesh (in Terms of % of GDP). In absolute terms, China has biggest insurance gap of \$ 76.4 billion.
 - ▶ Netherlands remains the country with the highest insurance penetration at 7.7 per cent, followed by South Korea (5 %).
- 121. ▶ Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report -
 - ▶ Apple displaced Google to become top brand in the world in 2018. Apple's brand value grew 16 % to \$214.5 billion. It also became first company in US to hit the \$1 trillion market cap.
 - ▶ Amazon achieved 56% growth to become third top brand globally.
 - ▶ Facebook fell to 9th place, amid data breach controversies.
- 122. ▶ International Energy Agency (IEA) report *World Energy Outlook 2018* stated that natural gas will overtake coal as world's second largest energy source after oil by 2030, expected due to a drive to cut air pollution and rise in liquefied natural gas (LNG) use.
 - ▶ Global gas demand would increase by 1.6 % a year to 2040 and would be 45 % higher by then than present. Electricity demand will grow 2.1 % a year and will account for a quarter of energy used by 2040.
 - ▶ CO2 emissions would rise by 10 % to 36 gigatonnes in 2040, mostly driven by growth in oil and gas.
- 123. ▶ International Energy Agency report *World Energy Outlook* stated that India will overtake the U.S. to become world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030. China will remain the biggest emitter.
- 124. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization collectively launched report "Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth" report, seeking liberalisation of global service sector, asserting that barriers to these services trade currently is roughly as high as those to trade in goods about a half century ago.
 - ▶ Services comprise some two-thirds of global GDP and employment, Yet facing lags due to limited opening of service sectors to foreign competition. Full services trade liberalisation can raise manufacturing productivity by average of 22%.
 - ▶ Services comprise significant shares of value added of all sectors in economy, yet Only quarter of global trade is traded as services. The trade in services sector has potential of contributing particularly strongly to productivity growth and economic growth overall.
 - ▶ Prolonged slowdown in pace of trade reform is leading to widespread trade distortions and putting at risk strength of global economic recovery, despite recent rebound in trade.
- 125. ▶ Ireland parliament passed a landmark legislation to make abortion legal in country. Note that in 2012, an Indian dentist died in Ireland, from blood poisoning in 2012 when doctors refused her repeated requests to abort the foetus.
- 126. ▶ Israel became a full member of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international body set up to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other threats to international financial system.
- 127. ▶ Italy's Mount Etna volcano erupted with triggering over 130 earthquakes of up to 4.3 in magnitude.
 - ▶ Mount Etna is Europe's highest and most active volcano outside Caucasus. It lies above convergent plate margin between African Plate and Eurasian Plate.
- 128. ▶ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries launched United Arab Emirates' (UAE) first locally made satellite KhalifaSat into orbit. The Japanese rocket also carried an IBUKI-2 greenhouse gas observation satellite for Japan.
- 129. ▶ Japan announced to withdraw from International Whaling Commission (IWC) and resume commercial whaling in its territorial waters next year, after 30 years.
- 130. ▶ Japan approved a new law allowing foreigners into country from April 2019, to ease labour shortages. Workers in first category will be allowed in for five years if they have a certain level of skill and some proficiency in Japanese and Workers with a higher level of skills would qualify for the second visa category and would eventually be allowed to apply for residency.
- 131. ▶ Japan joined joint exercise 'Kamandag'(venom) with US and Filipino troops in Philippines for first time since World War II. Its first time Japanese armoured military vehicles were used on foreign soil since 1945.
- 132. ▶ Japan's Hayabusa2 probe launched French-German Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout, or MASCOT, towards asteroid Ryugu's surface.
- 133. ▶ Joint military exercise *Iron Magic 19* between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) held near Dubai.
- 134. ▶ Kerala state government signed MoU with Airbus BizLab to open a state-of-the-art innovation center. Bizlab is a part of Airbus' innovative strategy to bring together start-ups and Airbus intrapreneurs to work for transformation of their innovative ideas into valuable businesses.

135. ▶ Kereru, a native green and bronze wood pigeon, known to fall from trees after consuming rotten berries, named 2018 bird of the year in New Zealand.
136. ▶ Kochi Corporation and Vilnius (Lithuania) signed MoU as part of European Union (EU) project 'International Urban Cooperation'.
137. ▶ Luxembourg became first country to make all public transport free, implementing it from 2020. It is aimed at addressing environmental issues and problem of traffic congestion.
138. ▶ Malaysia Government abolished death penalty, following strong domestic opposition for it.
139. ▶ Maldives Govt. approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from 53-nation grouping.
140. ▶ Members of European Parliament approved banning single-use plastics, to curb marine pollution. The ban is likely to take effect by 2021.
141. ▶ MoU signed between Department of Biotechnology and Cancer Research UK for India-UK Cancer Research Initiative, as a collaborative 5-year bilateral research initiative. Both CRUK and DBT will invest £5m each in this 5-year pilot, and seek investment from potential partners. It was launched at Inaugural Researchers' Summit held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ David Hunter of University of Oxford and CS Pramesh of Tata Memorial Hospital will serve respectively as Chair and Co-chair of India-UK Cancer Research Initiative's Advisory Panel.
142. ▶ More than 30 countries announced establishment of African Carnivore Initiative, to save 4 carnivores species - (Panthera leo), Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus), Leopard (Panthera pardus), and African Wild Dog (Lycaon pictus).
 - ▶ It is unique collaboration between only two global treaties whose mandate is to conserve endangered species - Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
143. ▶ Morocco launched its second earth observation satellite named Mohammed VI-B on board of Arianespace Vega rocket. It will be placed at same orbit as its twin satellite Mohammed 6-A, the first Moroccan satellite launched in November 2017. It completes Morocco's two-satellite constellation for Earth observation.
144. ▶ NASA's first OSIRIS-REx (*Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer*) mission designed to visit asteroid and return sample of its dust back to Earth reached its destination, Bennu, two years after its launch. It will study the asteroid for 1.5 years. It is NASA's first asteroid sampling mission i.e. it will survey surface, collect sample and deliver it safely back to Earth.
145. ▶ NSE signed a pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to SMEs, to fuel growth of such SMEs in state by increasing awareness along with government on opportunities to raise capital, SME exchange guidelines, listing processes, compliance with listing etc.
146. ▶ Nagaland government signed 5 year MoU with e-Governance Academy of Estonia to provide advisory and technical knowledge for setting up of e-Governance Academy of Nagaland (e-GAN).
147. ▶ Named *Little India Gate*, first-of-its-kind structure in Indonesia recognizing contribution of Indian community in development of Medan city, has been unveiled.
148. ▶ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) signed a MoU with the Dubai Internet City (DIC) to help small and medium-sized Indian enterprises expand their operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
149. ▶ Nepal banned Indian currency above Rs 100 (Including New Indian notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations). It can affect Indian tourist and Nepali people working in India, who carry currency in Nepal for transaction.
150. ▶ Nepal government launched a Social Security Scheme for formal sector workers, Including People of all ages and categories. It will be contribution based and will cover medical facilities, motherhood, accident and physical incapacity security.
151. ▶ Nepal imposed a monthly limit on the amount of Indian currency its citizen can spend in India. Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) stated that a Nepali citizen would be unable to spend more than INR 1 lakh per month while paying for goods and services in India.
 - ▶ Recently, Nepal banned Indian currency above Rs 100 (Including New Indian notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations).
152. ▶ Netherlands (Northwestern Europe) has built 5 artificial islands to bring wildlife back, in Markermeer, one of Europe's largest freshwater lakes.
153. ▶ Nevada became first US state with a majority female legislature, with Women holding 32 of 63 seats in state's legislature.
154. ▶ New Zealand government announced phasing out single-use plastic shopping bags from July 2019, applicable for plastic up to 70 microns in thickness.
155. ▶ Ohio first US state to accept payment of taxes by businesses in Bitcoin. Businesses can pay 23 different taxes with Bitcoin.
156. ▶ Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has officially added word 'Idiocracy' in it, among 1400 new words, senses, and phrases added to latest update.
157. ▶ PM Narendra Modi conferred with United Nation's Champions of the Earth Award 2018 by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New Delhi. He is among the six winners who received this award. Other Awardees are -
 - ▶ French President Emmanuel Macron.

- ✎ India's Cochin International Airport - Awarded in Entrepreneurial Vision category. It is world's first fully solar-powered airport.
 - ✎ Joan Carling - Awarded lifetime achievement award as a prominent defender of environmental and indigenous rights.
 - ✎ Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods - Jointly recognised in Science and Innovation category.
 - ✎ China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme - Awarded in inspiration and action category.
158. ▶ Pakistan cabinet approved issuance of first-ever renminbi-denominated 'Panda Bonds' to raise loans from China's capital markets, as country moved a step forward to give Chinese currency status at par with US dollar.
159. ▶ Pakistan test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1300 kilometres.
160. ▶ Pakistan will launch its first manned mission in 2022, same year that India has planned to launch its own manned space mission Gaganyaan. It will be attempted by Pakistan with China's help.
161. ▶ Panama became first Latin American country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
162. ▶ Paytm launched QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan, Named *PayPay*, in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation. It is built around its QRtech, which is deployed in India to allow customers to make offline payments.
163. ▶ Philips selected 19 start-up companies for its first global start-up collaboration programme named 'AI in Healthcare for Radiology, Ultrasound and Oncology'. It will be conducted at Philips' innovation hubs in Bengaluru, Cambridge (US), Eindhoven (Netherlands) and Shanghai (China).
164. ▶ QS Asia University Ranking 2018 -
- ✎ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay) has topped the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings from India followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Madras.
 - ✎ Eight Indian universities have figured among the top 100 in the list of Asia's top 50 universities.
 - ✎ There are 75 universities from India in the top 500 Asia list.
 - ✎ National University of Singapore is ranked as Asia's best university, followed by University of Hong Kong, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Tsinghua University (China) and Peking University (China).
165. ▶ Qatar announced to leave Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019 and focus more on production of natural gas.
- ✎ Qatar became first Gulf country to leave OPEC bloc of oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia. Qatar is world's largest exporter of liquified natural gas (LPG) and 17th largest producer of crude oil. It also only holds around 2% of world's global oil reserves.
166. ▶ Queensland became 5th Australian state to legalise abortion, allowing termination of pregnancy up to 22 weeks gestation, and thereafter with approval of doctors.
167. ▶ RTI rating by Access Info Europe and the Centre for Law and Democracy , created by Transparency International -
- ✎ India ranked at 6th position out of 123 countries, after a downfall of 4 positions from the previous year. India got a score of 128 out of 150. It noted that India doesn't provide protection for whistleblowers.
 - ✎ In India, total RTIs filed in 2017 were: 66.6 lakh, out of which, 4.8 lakh were rejected. Total number of second appeals were 18.5 lakh and total penalty imposed by CIC is 1.9 crore.
 - ✎ Top 5 - Afghanistan, Mexico, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Slovenia. Austria Ranked Lowest.
168. ▶ Russia successfully launched a Soyuz-2.1B rocket for first time since failure of a similar rocket aborted a manned take-off to the International Space Station (ISS), on Oct 11.
169. ▶ Russia's Akademik Lomonosov, world's first floating nuclear power plant (FNPP) become operational. For power generation, it has been fitted with two modified KLT-40 naval propulsion nuclear reactors (each of 35 MW capacity) together providing up to 70 MW of electricity and 300 MW of heat. It is named after Russian Academician Mikhail Lomonosov.
170. ▶ Russia's space corporation (Roscosmos) will venture into Internet of things (IoT) with launch of new satellite system named 'Marathon', as part of Its planned space constellation to be completed by 2026.
171. ▶ SBI signed MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for development of human resources of NBI. SBI will impart education, training and development to facilitate transformation of NBI's HR department.
172. ▶ Saudi Arabia agreed to provide \$3 billion in foreign currency support for a year to Pakistan to help address Pakistan's balance of payment crisis. It also agreed to provide a one-year deferred payment facility for import of oil, worth up to \$3 billion.
173. ▶ Saudi Arabia and UAE announced USD 500 million in aid Yemen, the war torn Arab Nation.
174. ▶ Saudi Arabia banned Israeli Muslims from visiting Mecca for Hajj pilgrimage. Earlier, Israeli Muslims visited Mecca by going to Jordan where they got temporary Jordanian passports that allowed them to travel to Saudi Arabia, as Israel and Saudi don't have diplomatic ties. Saudi will no longer accept temporary Jordanian passports.

175. ▶ Scotland mandated a curriculum that will teach about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights at all public schools, being first such move in world.
176. ▶ Singapore ranked most sustainable city in Asia, and fourth in world, according to the Asia Sustainable Cities Index 2018 by Arcadis.
177. ▶ Slovenia became first North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Country with female Army Chief, after appointment of Alenka Ermenc as Head of its Army.
178. ▶ South East Asian Nation Indonesia hit by giant Tsunami waves, causing large scale losses.
- ✎ Tsunami waves are different from normal sea waves as Normal waves are generated due to wind and gravitational pull of Moon / Sun.
 - ✎ Tsunami is generated by an abrupt movement on the ocean floor due to triggering points like Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, underwater explosions, landslides, glacier calving or meteorite impacts.
 - ✎ Tsunami which Indonesia witnessed on 22nd December was due to collapse in west-southwest flank of Anak Krakatau volcano.
179. ▶ South Korea and USA resumed their battalion-level marine exercises “Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP)”, in Pohang (South Korea).
180. ▶ Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena announced to lift suspension of parliament as international pressure mounted on him to open legislature and resolve a leadership struggle.
- ✎ Recently, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena removed Ranil Wickremesinghe as prime minister of Sri Lanka, amid Political Turmoil because of Differences between President Sirisena and PM Vikramasinghe. Mahinda Rajapaksha was appointed as new Prime Minister.
181. ▶ Sweden and India signed 2 MoUs in Renewable Energy sector to enhance technology and bring in power efficiency, during inauguration of ‘Sustainability by Sweden – Showroom India’ under Sweden India Nobel Memorial Programme.
- ✎ First MOU between Swedish firm Spowdi and EMVEE for setting up local assembly unit in Bangalore
 - ✎ 2nd MoU between Swedish Neutral and Tata Power DDL for setting up pilot for earth fault protection in Delhi.
182. ▶ Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) announced that Russia has emerged as world's second-largest arms producer after USA. Russia surpassed Britain for the 2nd spot. Report also said that 4 Indian PSUs ranked among top 100 arms producers globally - Indian Ordnance Factories (37th), Hindustan Aeronautics (38th), Bharat Electronics (64th), Bharat Dynamics (94th).
183. ▶ TIME magazine named 'The Guardians', a group of journalists, as its 'Person of the Year 2018'. Group includes Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, marking it first time that TIME has chosen a deceased person as 'Person of the Year'. Others are Filipina journalist Maria Ressa, Reuters' jailed journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and US newspaper Capital Gazette.
184. ▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018, according to data from US Department of Labour.
- ✎ H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals. London-headquartered Ernst and Young emerged as top employer to have received the certification.
185. ▶ Telangana government and British Council signed MoU to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
186. ▶ Thailand became first Southeast Asian nation to legalise use of marijuana and kratom for medical use and research.
- ✎ Also, Israel’s parliament (Knesset) approved exporting of medical marijuana, making Israel 3rd country after Netherlands and Canada, to take its medical cannabis global.
187. ▶ Times Higher Education *Global University Employability Rankings 2018* -
- ✎ India's IISc Bangalore (28), IIT Delhi (58) and IIM Ahmedabad (144) have made it to Top 150 Universities list.
 - ✎ Top 5 -
 - ✎ Harvard University (USA)
 - ✎ California Institute of Technology (USA)
 - ✎ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
 - ✎ University of Cambridge (UK)
 - ✎ Stanford University (USA)
188. ▶ Trident Juncture 18 (TRJE18) NATO-led military exercise to be held in Norway in October and November 2018, as largest of its kind in Norway since 1980s. 50,000 participants from 31 nations will take part, including 10,000 vehicles, 250 aircraft and 65 vessels.
189. ▶ UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan declared 2019 as Year of Tolerance, an extension of the Year of Zayed which has run in 2018. In 2016, UAE introduced first post of Minister of State for Tolerance and launched National Tolerance Programme.
190. ▶ UK India Business Council released its report named *Beyond the Top 200-Effective International Collaboration for Indian Higher Education*, -

- By 2030 India will have the largest number of people in the world of college-going age - 140 million. Currently there are 736 universities in India educating 28.6 million students. India will need another 1,500 institutions by 2030 to accommodate huge influx of students.
191. ▶ UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) fined Facebook a maximum amount of around \$645,000 allowed under country's law, over Cambridge Analytica scandal. ICO said the data of around 1 million UK users had been put at risk by Facebook.
- ▶ UK government also allowed Women to apply for all roles in military services.
192. ▶ UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index -
- ▶ India ranked 147th among 157 countries, describing country's poor commitment to reducing inequality.
- ▶ Top 5 - Denmark (1), Germany (2), Finland (3), Australia (4), Norway (5).
- ▶ Bottom 5 - Nigeria (157), Uzbekistan (156), Haiti (155), Chad (154), Sierra Leone (153).
- ▶ Neighbours - Bhutan (152), Bangladesh (148), Nepal (139), Pakistan (137), Sri Lanka (102), China (81)
193. ▶ UK's Cambridge Dictionary named "nomophobia" as inaugural People's Word of the Year (2018). It means *fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it*.
194. ▶ UN General Assembly adopted a framework to strengthen international response to global refugee crisis, with USA and Hungary only nations to have voted in against the Global Compact on Refugees.
195. ▶ UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on sexual harassment, first of its kind at UN. It serves as a normative framework on work against sexual harassment, urging nations to condemn violence against women, and pursue a policy of eliminating it.
196. ▶ UN General Assembly adopted two Russian Resolutions on International Information Security (IIS), aimed at achieving inclusive and transparent UN negotiations process on security in use of information and communication technologies. Resolutions are *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security* and *Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes*.
197. ▶ UN along with 39 international entities signed a framework to deal with terrorism and promote peace and sustainable growth, To deal with Terrorism. It is also termed as Global compact. United Nations office of counter terrorism will serve as Secretariat of Global Compact. The event was held at Marrakesh, Morocco.
- ▶ To combat terrorism, UN created UN counter-terrorism implementation task force in 2005, which consists of 38 international entities.
198. ▶ UN will launch a project on creating an "inventory" of art forms, craftsmanship and other intangible cultural heritage of the country. A total of 13 intangible cultural heritage elements from India have been inscribed till date on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
199. ▶ UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023. FAO also approved India's membership to Executive Board of UN World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021.
200. ▶ UNESCO added six new elements into its list of *intangible heritages* -
- ▶ Chidaoba - Georgia's traditional wrestling.
- ▶ Hurling - Field game from Ireland. It dates back 2,000 years
- ▶ Reggae - Jamaican music originating from marginalized groups.
- ▶ Raiho-shin - Japanese rituals used to admonish laziness and teach children good behavior.
- ▶ As-Samer - consists mainly of dancing and singing and practiced across many areas of Jordan.
- ▶ Spring festive rites of Kazakhstan's horse breeders - Marks beginning of a new annual horse-breeding cycle.
201. ▶ US Based Merriam-Webster declared 'Justice' as its 2018 Word Of The Year.
- ▶ Earlier, 'Toxic' was chosen as 'Word of the Year 2018' by Oxford Dictionaries. Also, Dictionary.com chosen *misinformation* as its word of the year.
202. ▶ US Central Bank Federal Reserve has raised key interest rates to a range of 2.25 to 2.5 %, as 4th such raise this year, reaching highest point since 2008. It would result in increased borrowing costs for individuals and businesses.
203. ▶ US International Trade Commission ruled against putting an anti-dumping duty on the import of a synthetic fluoropolymer from India and China. Fluoropolymer is a key ingredient in the non-stick coating for pans and other cookware.
- ▶ Without the orders, PTFE imports from India would have been subject to an anti-dumping duty of 22.78 %.
204. ▶ US Senate approved ending US military support for Saudi-led coalition in Yemen's civil war.
205. ▶ US regulator Federation of Aviation Administration (FAA) retained highest aviation safety ranking for India, at 'Category 1', based on an audit of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
206. ▶ US, Mexico and Canada signed new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which will replace North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). USMCA will govern over a trillion dollars worth of trade between three countries.

207. ▶ US-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies or HyperloopTT launched first full-scale transportation capsule to be operational in 2019, named *Quintero One*. Its a 32-metre 5 tonne capsule, made a specially made dual-layer smart composite material called “Vibranium”.
- ✍ It can move at speeds of more than 750 miles (1,200 kilometers) per hour and has a capacity to hold 30 to 40 passengers.
 - ✍ In May 2018, Andhra Pradesh signed Mou with HyperloopTT to set up Hyperloop transportation system connecting Anantapur, Amaravati, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, as part of 700-800-km-long integrated public transit system.
 - ✍ Maharashtra government too signed pact with Richard Branson-led Virgin Group to build Mumbai-Pune Hyperloop.
 - ✍ HyperloopTT would build the first Hyperloop system in China in the Guizhou province.
208. ▶ USA Space Exploration Firm SpaceX launched 64 small satellites, including Including India’s ExseedSAT-1, as SpaceX’s largest-ever “rideshare” mission on a twice-reused Falcon 9 rocket.
209. ▶ USA based IT Firm IBM acquired software Firm Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash and debt deal, as IBM’s biggest ever acquisition so far. It will become a unit of IBM’s Hybrid Cloud division.
210. ▶ USA exempted India from imposition of certain sanctions for development of strategically-located Chabahar port in Iran, along with construction of railway line connecting it with landlocked Afghanistan. This exception relates to reconstruction assistance and economic development for Afghanistan. These activities are vital for ongoing support of Afghanistan’s growth and humanitarian relief.
- ✍ US has imposed toughest ever sanctions on defiant Iran aimed at altering the Iranian regime’s “behaviour”. It covered Iran’s banking and energy sectors and reinstate penalties for countries and companies in Europe, Asia and elsewhere that do not halt Iranian oil imports.
 - ✍ However, eight countries — India, China, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey — were temporarily allowed to continue buying Iranian oil as they showed significant reduction in oil purchase from Iran.
211. ▶ USA merged its Consulate General with its new embassy in Israel into single diplomatic mission in Jerusalem, as part of US’s global efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. Earlier in May 2018, US moved its Israeli Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- ✍ US will establish new Palestinian Affairs Unit inside embassy in Jerusalem to continue reporting, outreach and programming in West Bank and Gaza as well as with Palestinians in Jerusalem.
212. ▶ USA pulled out of 1955 Treaty of Amity with Iran, After International Court of Justice (ICJ) told US to lift sanctions on Iran which are linked to humanitarian goods and civil aviation. Iran took US to ICJ arguing that it violated terms of the treaty by imposing sanctions following withdrawal from 2015 nuclear deal.
213. ▶ USA will pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.
- ✍ INF was crucial Cold War-era treaty banning development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with range of 500-5,000 km, signed in December 1987 between USA and USSR.
 - ✍ It was central to ending arms race between two superpowers during cold war and protected America’s NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks. It was designed to provide measure of some strategic stability on continent of Europe.
 - ✍ USA alleged that Russia has violated treaty and has been violating it for many years. This violation comes after Russia’s alleged development and deployment of Novator 9M729 missile (also known as SSC-8), that could strike Europe at short notice.
 - ✍ It will allow US new nuclear weapon options in Pacific, to counter China’s growing influence and may also trigger new Arms race between USA & Russia.
214. ▶ Ukraine approved ending two-decade-old treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between Ukraine and Russia. Treaty will be terminated on April 1, 2019 amid rising tensions between two countries.
215. ▶ Ukraine began series of large-scale air force exercises with USA and other NATO countries, named *Clear Sky 2018*.
216. ▶ Ukraine’s parliament imposed martial law for 30 days in country to counter differences with Russia, after a weekend naval confrontation off disputed Crimean Peninsula in which Russia fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels.
217. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) Govt. increased representation of Emirati women in Federal National Council to 50 % (from 22.5 % currently), to enforce women empowerment.
218. ▶ United Arab Emirates resumed its diplomatic services at its embassy in Syria, after six years of suspension, amid syrian civil war.
219. ▶ United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) reiterated India’s status as polio-free country, after some oral polio vaccine vials being found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus.
- ✍ They also asserted that all vaccines provided under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) are safe and urged people to get their children vaccinated.
 - ✍ India was certified polio-free in March 2014 and it still continues to remain vigilant against all three types of polioviruses. Last polio case due to wild poliovirus in country was detected on 13 January 2011.

220. ▶ United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released special report on global warming in Incheon (South Korea), with contributions from 91 authors from 40 countries. It will be key scientific input in upcoming Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018.
- ▶ It shows how half degree of warming makes big difference, adversely impacting global population and overall ecosystem.
 - ▶ It is possible to meet new warming target, with nations taking rapid transitions over 10 to 20 years and reach net zero around 2050, 25 years earlier than planned under earlier 2-degree goal.
 - ▶ It lists four pathways to curb global warming and through which the 1.5 degree target can be achieved. Also, Varying amounts between 100 to 1000 gigatons (billion tonnes) of CO₂ needs to be removed from atmosphere in these four pathways.
 - ▶ Advantages of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees celsius -
 - ▶ By 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5 degrees compared with 2 degrees Celsius.
 - ▶ Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5 degrees, compared with at least once per decade with 2 degrees Celsius.
 - ▶ Coral reefs will decline by 70-90% with global warming of 1.5 degrees, whereas virtually all (over 99%) would be lost with 2 degrees Celsius.
 - ▶ Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and increase further with 2 degrees Celsius.
221. ▶ United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued special stamps with Diyas lamps (special event sheet) to commemorate India Hindu festival of Diwali, in denomination of US \$1.15.
222. ▶ United Nations Security Council lifted sanctions against Eritrea, after nine years of imposition. The Security Council had imposed an arms embargo, asset freeze and a travel ban on Eritrea, amidst claims that the northeast African nation, supported al-Shabab militants in Somalia.
223. ▶ United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed strategic partnership to support efforts eliminate hunger globally by 2030. Alibaba Cloud will work with WFP to develop digital “World Hunger Map”, to monitor global hunger and operations to end scourge by 2030, one of UN’s key Sustainable Development goals.
224. ▶ United Nations selected Uttar Pradesh Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative, in *University City* category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as only invitee from India.
225. ▶ Uzbekistan named 2019 as *Year of Active Investment and Social Development*, after proposed investments from India to boost its economy.
226. ▶ Western Pacific nation Palau became first country to ban many kinds of sunscreen, to protect its coral reefs from chemicals that cause significant damage.
227. ▶ With a lifespan of roughly 10 years, China’s Tiangong space station (also known as Heavenly Palace) will become replacement of International Space Station, which will retire in 2024. Three astronauts will be permanently stationed in 60-tonne orbiting lab, which will enable crew to conduct biological and microgravity research.
- ▶ ISS is a collaboration between US, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan. It has been in operation since 1998.
228. ▶ World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report 2018 (16th Edition) -
- ▶ India saw a surge of 23 places with 77th rank in current report. In Previous report, India was ranked 100th. Overall, India has improved by 57 places in 2 years, compared to 130 in 2016 and 77 in 2018.
 - ▶ Top 10 - New Zealand (1), Singapore (2), Denmark (3), Hong Kong (4), South Korea (5), Georgia (6), Norway (7), USA (8), UK (9), Macedonia (10).
 - ▶ Bottom 5 - Somalia (190), Eritrea (189), Venezuela (188), Yemen (187), Libya (186)
 - ▶ Neighbours - China (46), Pakistan (136), Bangladesh (176), Nepal (110), Sri Lanka (100)
229. ▶ World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe, aimed at funding rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.
- ▶ Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas. IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments.
230. ▶ World Bank announced concessional loan worth USD 195 million to Nepal to reform country’s financial and energy sectors.
231. ▶ World Bank announced funding of up to \$1 billion for the Indonesian government to supplement relief and reconstruction efforts in wake of the earthquake and tsunami that hit the country last month.
232. ▶ World Bank approved US\$155.7 million loan to Nepal to build and maintain bridges, and improve food security of vulnerable households and communities.
233. ▶ World Bank released its East Asia and Pacific economy update October 2018 edition.

- ✎ Countries of the East Asia and Pacific region will grow at 6.3 per cent in 2018 mainly due to China's moderate growth, down from 6.6 % growth of region in 2017.
- 234. ▶ World Bank report titled *In the Dark: How Much Do Power Sector Distortions Cost South Asia*. As per the report -
 - ✎ Efficiency gap in India's power sector costs the Indian economy 4% every year (\$86 billion in 2016 FY).
 - ✎ Rural household's income in India can be increased by \$9.4 billion and business losses worth USD 22.7 billion can be eliminated with 24 hours access to power supply. In 2016, around 20% of electricity generated was lost during transmission and distribution, as highest loss rate in world.
 - ✎ The consumption of groundwater in India has increased by 700% from 1950 to 2014.
 - ✎ Reliable access to electricity will have positive impact on Gender Equality by increasing women's employment and girls' study time. It will lead to lower use of kerosene lamps which would improve environment. Energy prices should be rationalised to reflect actual cost of supply.
- 235. ▶ World Economic Forum Gender Gap Index 2018 -
 - ✎ India ranked at 108th position, same rank as 2017.
 - ✎ Top 10 - Iceland (1), Norway (2), Sweden (3), Finland (4), Nicaragua (5).
- 236. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) launched first global guidelines on sanitation and health, aimed at securing health and wellbeing for everyone, everywhere by considering sanitation as fundamental foundation of human health and development. By adopting these, countries can significantly reduce diarrhoeal deaths due to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene.
- 237. ▶ World Trade Organization has set up a panel to look into the India-US export-subsidy dispute, on request of the US to examine the allegations on India's export incentive measures.
 - ✎ US has challenged India's export subsidy programmes such as Merchandise Exports from India Scheme in the WTO, stating that these initiatives were harming its companies.
 - ✎ According to US, all WTO members, including India, are required to provide subsidies consistent with provisions of WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.
- 238. ▶ World malaria report by World Health Organisation (WHO) states that India is the only country to have achieved a substantial decrease in malaria cases in 2017, out of 11 highest burden countries throughout world. India accounted for 4 % of global malaria cases in 2017.
- 239. ▶ World's Most Innovative University Report, by Reuters news agency rankings -
 - ✎ It was first published in 2015, since then there has been no mention of any Indian university in the list.
 - ✎ In top 100, 48 universities are from North America, 23 from Asia, 27 from Europe and 2 from Middle East. US dominated with 46 universities among top 100.
 - ✎ Top 10 -
 - ✎ Stanford University (US)
 - ✎ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
 - ✎ Harvard University (US)
 - ✎ University of Pennsylvania (US)
 - ✎ University of Washington(US)
 - ✎ University of Texas System(US)
 - ✎ KU Leuven (Belgium)
 - ✎ Imperial College London (United Kingdom)
 - ✎ University of North Carolina (US)
 - ✎ Vanderbilt University (US)
- 240. ▶ World's first ever underground luxury hotel named - *The InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland* opened in Songjiang (China). It houses 18 storeys with 16 of them below the ground.
- 241. ▶ World's largest airport terminal *under one roof* with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers will be opened in Istanbul (Turkey), Dubbed as phase-1A of project Istanbul New Airport. It will have a capacity to handle 90 million passenger per year, making it largest such facility in world.
- 242. ▶ 'Toxic' has been chosen as the 'Word of the Year 2018' by Oxford Dictionaries, Stating that it had become a "descriptor for year's most talked about topics". While, Dictionary.com chosen *misinformation* as its word of the year.

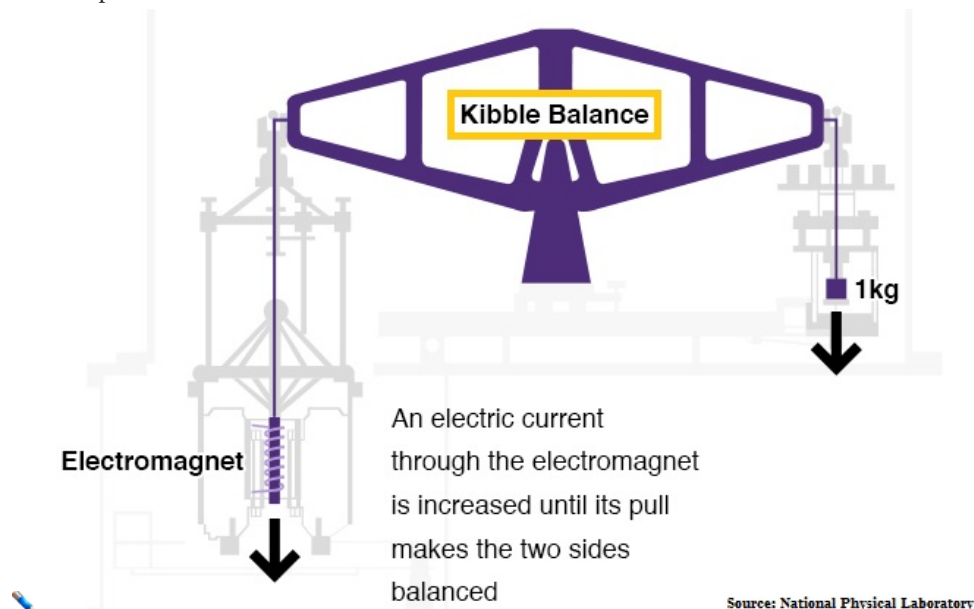
1. ▶ India and Australia held their 2nd edition of '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra.
2. ▶ 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave Held in New Delhi, with theme *Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy*.
 - ✍ Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that Kaiga Atomic Power Station (Karnataka) unit has set world record among PHWR for operating uninterrupted for 895 days.
 - ✍ Cabinet also recently approved construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
3. ▶ 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus held in Singapore. Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited on India's Behalf.
4. ▶ 175th Meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies (OPEC) Conference & 5th OPEC and Non OPEC Ministerial Meeting held in Vienna (Austria).
 - ✍ Qatar announced to withdraw its OPEC membership with effect from January 1, 2019,
 - ✍ Next OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting will convene in Vienna, Austria in April, 2019.
5. ▶ 2018 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group held in Bali Nusa Dua (Indonesia). Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs) Attended the meets. G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting was also held on the sidelines of IMF /World Bank annual meets in Bali.
6. ▶ 2018 G20 Summit held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) -
 - ✍ It was 13th meeting of Group of Twenty (G20) Nations, and first to be hosted in South America. Theme of this year's summit was *Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development*.
 - ✍ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended on India's Behalf.
 - ✍ South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be chief guest at India's 70th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2019. Mr Ramaphosa was invited to be chief guest by PM Narendra Modi during G20 summit in Buenos Aires (Argentina).
 - ✍ Mr Modi Announced that India will host G20 Summit In 2022, 75th year of Indian Independence.
 - ✍ During the G20 Summit, PM Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for 2nd Russia-India-China 'RIC' Trilateral Summit at leaders' level after 12 years.
 - ✍ G20 includes Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, UK, US and EU.
7. ▶ 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Katowice (Poland). Main Objective of COP 24 is to finalise guidelines for implementation of Paris Agreement adopted in 2016, to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius.
 - ✍ India at COP 24 -
 - ✍ On Behalf of India, it was attended by Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.
 - ✍ India has ambitious goal of generating 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, with achievement of 72 GW renewable energy by 2018.
 - ✍ During COP-24, India has set up a Pavilion to create awareness about India's positive climate actions in various sectors of economy, themed as *One World One Sun One Grid*.
 - ✍ NABARD signed loan agreement worth USD 100 mn with Green Climate Fund (GCF) to boost rooftop solar power capacity projects through private sector participation. Total corpus of project is USD 250 mn, to be executed by Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd.
 - ✍ Uttar Pradesh based startup HelpUsGreen honored by UN for its works to clean River Ganga by recycling tonnes of floral waste. UN presented the award to 14 other countries along with India at Nations Climate Action award ceremony during UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24).
 - ✍ HelpusGreen collects floral waste daily from the temples. These flowers are then recycled to produce charcoal free incense, organic vermicompost and biodegradable packaging material through Flowercycling technology. It cycled 11060 metric tonnes of temple waste, through women working with startup.
 - ✍ Over 800 million metric tonnes of flowers are used in temples and these flowers are thrown into Ganga river.
 - ✍ Other Facts About COP 24 -
 - ✍ World Bank unveiled US \$200 billion in climate action investment for 2021 to 2025 to fight impact of climate change, comprising of approx 100 billion direct finance from World Bank.
 - ✍ Climate Change Performance Index 2019 was released on the sidelines of COP24 UN Summit in Katowice. The index was produced by the New Climate Institute, Climate Action Network and Germanwatch.
 - ✍ No countries were in top three ranks because none did well in all categories assessed.

- ✎ Sweden topped the list with 4th rank, followed by Morocco in 5th position.
- ✎ European Union as a whole rose from 21st to 16th place. But Germany fell from 22nd to 27th because of its reliance on lignite coal, a big source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✎ Bottom ranked - Saudi Arabia (60), USA(59), Iran (58), Korea (57), Chinese Taipei (56),Australia (55),Canada (54),Russian Federation (52),Turkey (50),Japan (49).
- ✎ India ranked 11th. China ranked 33. Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar were not assessed.
- ✎ World Bank released report named *Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) 2018* . Number of countries with strong policy frameworks for sustainable energy more than tripled,from 17 to 59 in 8 years till 2017.
- ✎ RISE 2018 charts global progress on sustainable energy policies and shows that policies matter – they are a leading indicator and building block of the world’s transition to sustainable energy.
- ✎ *Katowice package*, the rulebook for implementation of 2015 Paris climate agreement, was signed during this conference.
- ✎ One of key components is a detailed transparency framework to promote trust among nations. It sets out how countries will provide information about Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✎ Sets a way to decide on ambitious funding targets from 2025 onwards from current commitment to mobilise USD 100 billion per year as of 2020 in support of climate action in developing countries.
- ✎ Nations agreed to collectively assess effectiveness of climate action in 2023, and finalised procedure to monitor and report progress on the development and transfer of technology.
- ✎ Countries can now establish the national systems that are needed for implementing Paris Agreement by 2020.
- ✎ Main issues still need to be resolved such as use of cooperative approaches, and sustainable development mechanism. Resolution of these issues would allow countries to meet a part of their domestic mitigation goals through use of *market mechanisms*.
- ✎ These negotiations will be taken up at UN climate change conference, COP25, set to take place in Chile in November 2019.

✎ About -

- ✎ UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is international environmental treaty negotiated at Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. It is parent treaty of 1997 Kyoto Protocol which was ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties.
 - ✎ Objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHGs) concentrations at a level, to prevent dangerous human interference with climate system.
 - ✎ Conference of Parties (COP)COP is supreme decision-making body of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At COP, all parties review implementation of Convention and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of Convention.
8. ▶ 26th meeting of General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) held in Versailles (France). It was notable as members voted for redefinition of 130 years old *Le grand K – the SI unit of kg* in terms of the fundamental Planck’s constant(h). New definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019.
- ✎ CGPM comprises 60 countries including India and 42 Associate Members.
 - ✎ Out of five draft resolutions, revision of International System of Units and the definition of timescales are important. Definition of seven base units namely, second, metre, kilogram, ampere, Kelvin, mole and candela has been changed from being linked to artefacts to being based on the fundamental constants on nature.
 - ✎ Definition of **kilogram** changed from being mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to Planck constant which is a physical constant. Definition of **metre** changed to link it to the speed of light. Similarly, there is a change in the definition of time also. Units are expected to be stable in the long term, internally self-consistent and practically realisable.
 - ✎ International prototype of kilogram (IPK) is kept at BIPM, Paris and serves as international standard of kilogram. It is made of 90% platinum and 10% iridium and is a cylinder of 39 mm diameter and 39 mm height.
 - ✎ Replicas of IPK are made of the same material and used at BIPM as reference or working standards and national prototype of kilogram (NPK), kept at different National Metrology Institutes (NMIs).
 - ✎ Having an artifact as the world standard for a measurement unit has two fundamental problems
 - ✎ It can change value over time but, without any way of knowing how it changes, as it’s a standard.

- ✎ It is difficult to bring every mass-measurement device to France every time it needs calibration. Thus, national standards labs have their own kilogram standards that they periodically bring to France for comparison against Prototype. NPK-57, kept at CSIR- National Physical Laboratory (India), is sent periodically to BIPM for calibration. Precise measurements help country in production of international quality products.
- ✎ As per New Definition, The kilogram is defined by taking fixed numerical value of the Planck constant h to be $6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34}$ when expressed in the unit $J\ s$, which is equal to $kg\ m^2\ s^{-1}$, where the meter and the second are defined in terms of c and $\Delta\nu$.
- ✎ When it comes into force on May 20, 2019 (World Metrology Day), new kilogram definition will do away with comparisons to International Prototype. It will enable the national labs to create their own standard for the kilogram because it will be reproducible. Process for realising a kilogram will rely on a tool called *Kibble balance*.
- ✎ Kibble balance is a self-calibrating electromechanical balance and provides measurements of mass, traceable in terms of electrical parameters and provides linkage of macroscopic mass to Planck constant(h). Nations Including UK, USA, Canada, Germany Have successfully developed Kibble balance for 1 kg with an uncertainty of measurement in order of 10^{-8} . NPL India is looking forward for development of 1 kg Kibble balance.
- ✎ Pictorial Representation of Kibble Balance -



- ✎ Tool uses coils and magnets wherein current in the coil exerts a known force and that current can be measured to sufficient accuracy. Current can be used to derive an upward force from which the mass of an unknown object can be compared. When the forces are equal, mass of unknown object can be measured. Voltage and current measurements are based on Planck's Constant.
9. ▶ 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), organised by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research. Its a forum for discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion (reaction that powers Sun and stars) as a source of energy.
 10. ▶ 2nd India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). Theme was "New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate".
 11. ▶ 2nd International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and World Bank.
 - ✎ Awards were given to four pathbreaking innovations in clean energy and energy efficiency as part of #InnovateToINSPIRE, a first-of-its-kind energy innovation challenge.
 - ✎ To support investments in new, innovative and scalable business models, EESL and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement for a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of USD 13 million to establish an Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF).
 - ✎ During INSPIRE 2018, EESL and GAIL signed MoU to develop natural gas based cogeneration and trigeneration projects in Commercial & Industrial Sectors in India.
 12. ▶ 2nd conference on Primary Health Care held in Astana (Kazakhstan), by Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF. It commemorates 40 years of Alma Ata Declaration on Primary health care (Alma Ata Declaration was adopted at international conference on

primary health care held in Kazakhstan in 1978). Theme is *The future of Primary Health Care*.

13. ▶ 32nd world conference of World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) held at Gurugram, (Haryana), as first Hosting of a WUWM conference by India. Theme is *The Wholesale Markets in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities*.
14. ▶ 33rd ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nations) Summit held in Singapore, with theme *Resilient and Innovative*. Other related summits including East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) and ASEAN plus summits also to be held along with.
 - ▶ India's Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended RCEP member countries meet in Singapore.
 - ▶ Also, Officials from 4 countries (Quad) – Australia, India, Japan and the United States also held their third “Quadrilateral” meeting in Singapore.
15. ▶ 3rd ‘MahaBiz 2018’ International Business Conference held in Dubai, (UAE), as a bridge for business opportunities between Maharashtra and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
16. ▶ 42nd Indian Social Science Congress held at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), with theme *Human Future in Digital Era*.
17. ▶ 5th World Internet Conference (WIC) held in Wuzhen (China), to bring out mutual learning, cooperation and sharing in digital fields space.
 - ▶ During this event, Xinhua, China’s state-run press agency, unveiled world’s first artificial intelligence (AI) anchor that can read news in English and Chinese. They have been developed by Xinhua and Chinese search engine *Sogou*.
18. ▶ 80th Session of Policy Commission Meeting of World Customs Organization (WCO) held in Mumbai (Maharashtra), organised by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs(CBIC).
 - ▶ During the event, An Agreement between India and Peru (South America) has been signed, for Co-operation in Customs Matters.
19. ▶ *2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030* held in New Delhi.
20. ▶ *Indian Ocean: Defining our Future* Conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), aimed at exploring strongest challenges in Indian Ocean region.
21. ▶ Asia Pacific Summit 2018 held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with Theme *Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values*. It was organised by South Korea-based Universal Peace Federation.
22. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit 2018 held in Papua New Guinea.
 - ▶ APEC is an inter-governmental forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies. India is not a member of APEC, although it has expressed its interest for Inclusion in APEC.
23. ▶ First Assembly of International Solar Alliance held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi). 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors’ Meet and Expo) were also held alongside. Antonio Guterres (Secretary General of United Nations), was present on this occasion.
 - ▶ ISA Is headquartered in Gurugram (Haryana), with Upendra Triathy as its curret chief.
24. ▶ First ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) was launched in New Delhi to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.
25. ▶ Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi, with theme *Connecting Farmers to Market*.
26. ▶ India hosted 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as partner country, in New Delhi.
27. ▶ India will host 4th edition of Global Partners' Forum in December 2018 in New Delhi, to will unite over 100 countries' representatives to discuss issues, strategies and solutions to women's, children's and adolescents' health.
28. ▶ Indus Food-II tradeshow will be held in Greater Noida (UP) in January 2019, organized by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI). Indusfood-II is an export focused annual F&B (Food and Beverage) trade fair. It will exhibit India’s best food, beverages and agri products to global buyers.
29. ▶ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) held at Bangaram Island in Lakshadweep, with theme *Reef for Life*.
30. ▶ Meeting of BASIC countries organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in New Delhi. BASIC group consists of Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
31. ▶ National Children’s Science Congress 2018 held at SOA (Deemed to be university) in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), as 26th edition of National Science Congress. Theme of 26th National Children’s Science Congress is *Science, Technology and Innovation for a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation*.
32. ▶ South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure held in New Delhi, organised by NITI Aayog in partnership with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

33. ▶ UNESCO MGIEP(Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh will hold TECH 2018, an international conference to showcase role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from "transmissive pedagogies" to "transformative pedagogies" to create peaceful and sustainable societies. It will be held in November 2018 at Novotel in Vizag (Andhra Pradesh).
34. ▶ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Brussels (Belgium) to attend 12th ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) Summit 2018. Theme of Summit is *Global Partners for Global Challenges*.

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1. ▶ A new generation Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) with underslung equipments and some advanced features from Train 18 is launched by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai. It is capable of running at around 130 kilometres an hour.
2. ▶ Health and Family Welfare Ministry did soft launch of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states, first such initiative to monitor public health surveillance. It will provide near-real-time data to for detecting outbreaks, reducing morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in populations and better health systems.
3. ▶ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) signed 2 MoUs with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), to launch the programme "PRAKRITI" with objective to promote awareness about forests and environment.
 - ▶ Through this collaboration, knowledge will be imparted to students/teachers of NVS and KVS on environment, forest, environmental services and contemporary areas of forestry research by way of lectures and interactive sessions by scientists of ICFRE institutes.
 - ▶ MoUs are signed for period of 10 years are expected to make youth sensitive about issues of environment and forests and help them to become responsible citizens.
4. ▶ 14th edition of *Jashn e Bachpan* a theatre festival for children held in New Delhi, organised by National School of Drama's (NSD) Theatre in Education (TIE) Company.
5. ▶ 17.86 KM long Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake to Shiv Vihar section of Delhi Metro Pink Line has been flagged off, taking Delhi Metro to league of top metro networks with operational length over 300 km (like London, Beijing, Shanghai and New York). Delhi Metro Network has now become 314 kilometres long with 229 metro stations.
6. ▶ 2018 Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Election Results (90 Seats) -
 - ▶ Indian National Congress (INC) emerged largest Party with 68 Seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 2nd with 15 Seats.
 - ▶ In terms of Votes, INC got 43 % votes while BJP got 33%.
7. ▶ 2018 Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Election Results (230 Seats) -
 - ▶ Indian National Congress (INC) emerged largest Party with 114 Seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 2nd with 109 Seats.
 - ▶ In terms of Votes, BJP got 41 % votes while INC got 40.9%.
 - ▶ INC Leader Kamal Nath is set to be appointed as Next chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, replacing BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
8. ▶ 2018 Mizoram Legislative Assembly Election Results (40 Seats) -
 - ▶ Mizo National Front emerged largest Party with 26 Seats.
 - ▶ In terms of Votes, MNF got 37.6 % votes while INC got 30.2%.
9. ▶ 2018 Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Election Results (200 Seats)-
 - ▶ Indian National Congress (INC) emerged largest Party with 99 Seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 2nd with 73 Seats.
 - ▶ In terms of Votes, INC got 39.3 % votes while BJP got 38.8%.
10. ▶ 2018 Telangana Legislative Assembly Election Results (119 Seats) -
 - ▶ Telangana Rashtra Samithi emerged largest Party with 88 Seats. INC 2nd with 19 Seats.
 - ▶ In terms of Votes, TRS got 46.9 % votes while INC got 28.4%.
11. ▶ 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival hosted in Shillong (Meghalaya), as world's only autumn cherry blossom festival.
12. ▶ 2st India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit held in New Delhi, organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
13. ▶ 3-day AdventureNext 2018 event, concluded in Madhya Pradesh, organised by *The Adventure Travel Trade Association* as first-of-its-kind in India & Asia, with theme *Pulse of Tomorrow*. Major partner was Jharkhand Tourism.
14. ▶ 38th India International Trade Fair Concluded at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi). Uttarakhand was adjudged Best State and Himachal Pradesh 2nd, for their pavilions showcasing potential to boost tourism and promotion of local products. Theme of IITF 2018 was *Entrepreneurs of Rural India*.
15. ▶ 3rd edition of Women Transforming India Awards organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. NITI Aayog also launched upgraded portal of Women Entrepreneurship Platform. 2018 theme is – *Women and Entrepreneurship* and 15 winners have been selected.
16. ▶ 4 day international dance festival titled "Udbhav Utsav" held in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh).

17. ▶ 49th International Film Festival of India held in Goa, showcasing 212 films from over 68 countries.
 - ▶ While Israel is focus country, Jharkhand is the focus state this year. Theme is *New India*.
 - ▶ Awards -
 - ▶ Israeli Director Dan Wolman was honoured with lifetime achievement award.
 - ▶ Script writer Salim Khan honoured with IFFI 2018 Special Award for his lifetime contribution to cinema.
 - ▶ Best film (Golden Peacock) award - Donbass (Ukrainian movie) directed by Sergei Loznitsa.
 - ▶ Best director (Silver Peacock) award - Lijo Jose Pellissery (Malayalam film-India).
 - ▶ Best Actor (Male) Award - Chemban Vinod for his role in 'Ee.Ma.Yau' (Malayalam-India)
 - ▶ Best Actor (Female) Award - Anastasiia Pustovit for her role in 'When the Trees Fall' (Ukrainian)
 - ▶ Centenary Award for Best Debut Feature Film of Director - Alberto Monteras II for 'Respeto' (Filipino)
 - ▶ ICFT –UNESCO Gandhi Medal: 'Walking with the Wind' directed by Praveen Morchhale
18. ▶ 4th International Film Festival of Shimla "IFFS 2018" concluded in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). Best Feature Film award was given to *Sinjar* by Sandeep Pampally.
19. ▶ 4th edition of Kochi-Muziris biennale began at Fort Kochi (Kerala), as first Biennale in world in which participation of women accounts for half of participating artists. 108-day long event will showcase 94 artists, with Theme *Possibilities for a Non- Alienated Life*.
 - ▶ Contemporary artists Bose Krisnamachari and Riyaz Komu proposed state government the idea of Biennale on the lines of Venice Biennale.
20. ▶ 55th SKOCH Summit held in Constitution Club of India (New Delhi), hosted by socio-economic issues think tank *SKOCH group*. Various Awardees in this year's SKOCH Summit -
 - ▶ Skoch Golden Jubilee Challenger Award - Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu
 - ▶ Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award - Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal won 31 SKOCH awards for its performance in different fields)
 - ▶ Skoch IT minister of the Year - Nara Lokesh
 - ▶ Skoch Governance Person of the Year - K T Rama Rao
21. ▶ 6th India International Silk Fair (IISF) held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, organised by Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC).
 - ▶ India is 2nd largest producer of silk after China.
22. ▶ NITI Aayog released Baseline Report of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index*, stating Indian progress towards 2030 SDG targets.
 - ▶ *SDG India Index* is developed in collaboration with Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute and United Nations.
 - ▶ SDG India Index tracks progress of all States / UTs on 62 Priority Indicators selected by NITI Aayog, guided by MoSPI's National Indicator Framework comprising 306 indicators. *Index* spans 13 out of 17 SDGs. Progress on SDGs 12, 13 & 14 could not be measured as relevant State/UT level data were not available and SDG 17 was left out as it focuses on international partnerships.
 - ▶ Classification Criteria based on *SDG India Index* Score is as -
 - ▶ Aspirant (0-49) - Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
 - ▶ Performer (50-64) - Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi and Lakshadweep
 - ▶ Front Runner (65-99) - Himachal Pradesh (Top State), Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh (Top UT) and Puducherry
 - ▶ Achiever (100) - *Not Available*
23. ▶ Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated 2nd Mega Food Park in Maharashtra, named Paithan Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd, in Wahegaon and Dhangaon village in Paithan Taluka of Aurangabad district. State's first Park was inaugurated on 1st of March 2018 in Satara district. Paithan Mega Food Park Park has been set up in 102 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 124.52 crore.
24. ▶ NITI Aayog constituted 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region. It will review and implement identified action points based on Reports of five Working Groups, constituted by NITI Aayog. Himalayan State Regional Council will be chaired by the Dr VK Saraswat (Member in NITI Aayog).
25. ▶ A postal stamp dedicated to Nabin Chandra Das, inventor of Rosogolla launched during Bagbazar-O-Rosogolla Utsob in West Bengal, marking 150th year of its invention.
 - ▶ Tussle between Bengal and Odisha over originship of Rosogolla started in 2015. GI authorities ruled in the favour of West Bengal. Odisha has now applied to get GI tag for a variant of Rosogolla, the Odishara Rosogolla.

26. ▶ According to National Health Agency, Gujarat emerged as top performer under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, after 2 months its launch. Around 76,000 hospital admissions have been cleared in Gujarat since September 23, Tamil Nadu ranked second and Chhattisgarh third.
27. ▶ According to National bureau of economic research (NBER)'s first analysis of status of mobility in urban India, using Google maps, Bangalore tops as most congested city with Mumbai ranked 2nd. other top 5 - Delhi (3rd) , Chennai (4th) and Kolkata (5th).
28. ▶ According to Teen Age Girls (TAG) Report, which compares the performance of each State based on the status of their teenage girls -
 - ✎ Kerala topped the charts, followed by Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh. Top three cities - Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.
 - ✎ This is India's first report on what it means to be a teenage girl in India, Compiled by Naandi Foundation with support from Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
29. ▶ According to a World Health Organization report, India is world's most depressed country, closely followed by China and USA. Also according to the 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) implemented by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, every 6th Indian needs mental health help.
30. ▶ According to a study named 'Ease of Moving Index' by Ola Mobility Institute, Kolkata topped among all metro cities in public transport. Patna and Bhubaneswar topped list for growing and emerging cities.
31. ▶ Actor Kamal Haasan (Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) founder) launched a women safety app named 'Raudram'.
32. ▶ Ahead of Kumbh Mela 2019, Uttar Pradesh Government will rename Allahabad district as Prayagraj.
33. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) cancelled UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) licence of low-cost carrier Air Odisha for seven airports for poor and irregular services. Airports are — Jharsuguda, Raipur, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Jagdalpur and Visakhapatnam.
34. ▶ Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra has been registered as Geographical Indication (GI).
 - ✎ GI is an indication used on products with a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. GI products can benefit the rural economy in remote areas, by supplementing the incomes of artisans, farmers, weavers and craftsmen.
 - ✎ King of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.
35. ▶ An MoU signed between Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and BSE Institute Ltd., for facilitating Skill Development Training to target group of NBCFDC. BSE Institute is a promoter of Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) Sector Skill Council of India under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
36. ▶ Andaman & Nicobar Islands have 10 % of India's fauna species and hosts 1067 endemic faunal species found nowhere else. It was stated in Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)'s report *Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones: Islands of India*. Total area of A&N Islands (comprises of 572 islands) is about 8250 sq. km has around 11000 species.
37. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched Bhuseva and Bhudaar web portal through which people can view land records online. Bhudaar is 11 digit unique identification code to be assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban property. Unique Bhudaar ID will start with 28 and if it is government land, 28 is followed by 00. Bhudaar card can be generated by land owner or property owner from Bhuseva web portal.
38. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. building India's first 'Justice City' within its new capital Amaravati, to provide state-of-the-art ecosystem built on latest technology for supporting judicial system in state.
39. ▶ Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal governments have withdrawn their "general consent" to the CBI to conduct raids and investigations. CBI would now need permission from the respective state governments to carry out any sort of investigation in these states, except those ordered by courts and against central government officials.
40. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government finalised its new emblem for official use, five years after state's bifurcation in 2014. Inspired by Amaravati School of Art, it consists of "Dhamma Chakka" - "the Wheel of Law". Representation is -



41. ▶ Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
42. ▶ Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, inaugurated at Mumbai by minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari. Named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre and Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg.
43. ▶ Annual Sangai Festival celebrated in northeastern state of Manipur, as grandest festival of state named after state animal Sangai, the critically endangered brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
44. ▶ Annual river festival named Dwijing held on the bank of River Aie at Chirang district in Assam.
45. ▶ As per 6th edition & 2019 version of India Skills Report, Andhra Pradesh topped list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana.
46. ▶ As per Govt, 8 States have achieved 100% saturation in household electrification under Saubhagya -Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, J&K, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal. Till now, 15 States have 100 % household electrification.
 - ▶ Saubhagya – 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' was launched in September 2017 with the objective to electrify all remaining households in country
 - ▶ Aim is to ensure 24x7 access to electricity for all by 31st March 2019.
47. ▶ As per survey by World Bank, student dropout rate in Nagaland's upper primary (VI-VIII) and secondary (IX-X) class stood at 17.7 % and 35.1 % respectively. It is highest in India and four times above the national average.
48. ▶ Assam Government become first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in tea gardens of state -
 - ▶ INR 12000 will be given to pregnant women in 4 instalments - 2000 in 1st trimester, 4000 in 2nd trimester, 3000 for institutional delivery and 3000 for registration of child's birth. Women will also get maternity leaves, ranging 3 months before delivery to 3 months after delivery.
49. ▶ Assam celebrated its 3rd Bihu festival known as 'Kati Bihu' festival across state. Name of the other 2 Bihu festivals is: Rongali and Bohagi Bihu.
50. ▶ Assam government announced three schemes for the welfare of farmers. -
 - ▶ Assam Farmers' Credit Subsidy Scheme (AFCSS) - Under it, 25% of amount of Farmer Loans will be reimbursed by state government, upto 25000.
 - ▶ Assam Farmers' Interest Relief Scheme (AFIRS) - Currently, 3% of 7% interest against farm loan is paid by Central government and remaining 4% is required to be paid by farmers. Under AFIRS, State government will pay remaining 4% loan.
 - ▶ Assam Farmers' Incentive Scheme (AFIS) - Government would focus on bringing back defaulting farmers into banking system. Government will give INR 10000 to a farmer to help him repay loan.
51. ▶ Atal Ayushman Yojana launched in Uttarakhand, enabling every household to avail medical treatment of up to 5 lakh rupees annually.
52. ▶ Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu starrer *Andhadhun* as top Indian movie of 2018 by global film and TV website IMDb.
53. ▶ BSNL signed MOU with Nokia Solutions and Networks to leverage Industry 4.0 for manufacturing excellence at Nokia's factory in Oragadam, near Chennai. It will now leverage Industry 4.0 solutions such as Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR), connected Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, and the Internet of Things to enhance operations and increase productivity.
54. ▶ Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh, known for its hand-woven carpets, has been granted export 'excellence tag' for product category 'Carpets and other floor Coverings' by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). Carpet makers of the city will now get financial assistance from government to procure modern machines, improve export infrastructure, and organize fairs and exhibitions.
55. ▶ Bihar Government approved redevelopment of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) into world's largest 5462-bed hospital, at cost 5540 crores.
56. ▶ Bihar Government approved to pay INR 25000 to every girl graduating in 2018 and onwards, irrespective of the pass division, community or region.
57. ▶ Bihar's Shahi litchi got Geographical Indication (GI) tag, making it an exclusive brand. Shahi litchi is famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma, is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and neighbouring districts including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur and

Begusarai.

58. ▶ Bills passed in Winter Session 2018-2019 -

- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, known as Triple Talaq Bill. It would replace the ordinance passed in September 2018. It makes all types of declaration of triple talaq to be void and illegal. Declaration of Triple Talaq would be a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine.
 - ✎ Cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without a warrant.
 - ✎ A Muslim Women against whom the triple talaq is pronounced is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children and the amount of the allowance will be determined by Magistrate.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, banning commercial surrogacy and allowing only altruistic surrogacy. It protects rights of the surrogate mother and child born from surrogacy and promotes ethical surrogacy.
 - ✎ Surrogacy is defined as an agreement between a couple who cannot conceive and a surrogate mother to carry their child.
 - ✎ The bill is applicable to all Indian states, except Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ✎ Bill provides for constitution of National Surrogacy board and State Surrogacy board for regulation of surrogacy process.
 - ✎ It bars couple who already have children, to go for surrogacy.
 - ✎ Women can only surrogate once in her lifetime and her age should be in between 25 to 35 years.
 - ✎ Couple who intend for surrogacy should be aged between 23 to 50 years and married for at least 5 years.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016, which seeks to empower the transgender community in the country by providing them a separate identity.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Consumer Protection Bill 2018 -
 - ✎ It aims to protect consumers' interests through a redressal mechanism that would ensure timely and effective settlement of disputes.
 - ✎ It seeks to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to protect consumer rights and look into the issues related to false or misleading ads. It calls for strict punishment and fines for misleading advertisements and food adulteration.
 - ✎ District Commissions will have mandate to hear complaints having claim worth one crore rupees. In the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 this limit was 20 lakh rupees. Limit of Commissions' at State level enhanced from 1 to 15 crore rupees. Complaints above 15 crore rupees worth of claim will be settled by National Commission.

59. ▶ CSIR has developed Less Polluting Firecrackers named – safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR), which are environment friendly and are 15-20 % cheaper than conventional ones. E-crackers also being developed with products like E-Ladi, E-Anar, E-cracker.

60. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Dec 06, 2018) -

- ✎ MOUs -
 - ✎ Japan - Environmental Cooperation.
 - ✎ USA - Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Earth Sciences.
 - ✎ Approved Revised Model MOU between Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) – India (FIU-Ind) with its counterpart foreign Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) for exchange of information.
 - ✎ France - energy efficiency / energy conservation.
 - ✎ Algeria - Space Sciences, Technologies and Applications.
 - ✎ Armenia - Joint issue of postage stamp
 - ✎ Japan - Postal, Healthcare and Wellness.
 - ✎ Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Morocco - Peaceful uses of Space Technology for Development.
 - ✎ Russia - Joint Activities under Human Spaceflight Programme.
 - ✎ Zimbabwe - geology, mining and mineral resources.
- ✎ General Approvals -
 - ✎ Approved Amendment of Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act 1951. Proposed amendment ensures representation of the Opposition Party in Trust. It will empower Government to terminate and replace a Trustee to participate in functioning of Trust or for any other reason.
 - ✎ Approved Agriculture Export Policy 2018, along with establishment of Monitoring Framework at Centre, to oversee implementation of Agriculture Export Policy. It aims to double farmers' income by 2022 by doubling agricultural exports from present US\$ 30+ Billion to ~US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion later. Its Elements have been organised in two categories – Strategic and Operational.
 - ✎ Approved implementation of Shahpurkandi Dam Project on river Ravi in Punjab, to be completed by June 2022.

- ✍ On completion, Irrigation Potential of 5,000 ha in Punjab and 32,173 ha in J&K would be created.
- ✍ Some of water of River Ravi at present is going waste through the Madhopur Headworks downstream to Pakistan whereas there is water requirement in Punjab and J&K. Implementation of the project would minimise such wastage of water.
- ✍ Balance cost of works component of ShahpurKandi Dam project is Rs. 1973 crores. Out of this, 485 Crores would be provided as Central Assistance.
- ✍ Approved launching National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to be implemented by Department of Science & Technology at a total outlay of INR 3660 crores for 5 years.
 - ✍ It addresses increasing technological requirements of society. It would develop and bring Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) and associated technologies within reach in country and adoption of CPS technologies to address National / Regional issues.
 - ✍ 4 focused areas along which mission implementation will proceed - Technology Development. HRD & Skill Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Start-ups Ecosystem Development AND International Collaborations.
 - ✍ It aims at establishment of 15 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), 6 Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and 4 Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP). These Hubs & TTRPs will connect to entities in developing solutions at reputed academic, R&D and other organizations across country in a hub and spoke model.
- ✍ CCEA Approvals -
 - ✍ Approved sale of Government's existing 52.63% stake in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to Power Finance Corporation (PFC), to achieve integration across Power Chain and have enhanced capability to support energy access and efficiency by improved capability to finance power sector. REC and PFC are Central PSEs under Ministry of Power.
 - ✍ Approved streamlining National Pension System (NPS) -
 - ✍ Enhancement of contribution by Central Government for its employees covered under NPS Tier-I from 10% to 14%.
 - ✍ Providing freedom of choice for selection of Pension Funds and pattern of investment to central government employees.
 - ✍ Tax exemption limit for lump sum withdrawal on exit has been enhanced to 60%. Entire withdrawal will now be exempt from income tax.
 - ✍ Contribution by Government employees under Tier-II of NPS will now be covered under Section 80 C for deduction up to 1.50 lakh.

61. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Dec 17, 2018)-

- ✍ MOUs -
 - ✍ France - New and renewable energy.
 - ✍ Afghanistan - Human resource development.
 - ✍ Approved Joint Issue of Postage Stamps by India and South Africa on theme *125th Year of Mahatma Gandhi's Pietermaritzburg Station Incident & Birth Centenary of Nelson Mandela*.
 - ✍ Australia - Disability Sector.
- ✍ General Approvals -
 - ✍ Approved establishment of 2 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Madurai (Tamil Nadu) at cost of 1264 crores and Bibinagar (Telangana) at cost of 1028 crores, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- ✍ CCEA Approvals -
 - ✍ Approved proposal of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to release deposit free LPG connections to poor families, who have not been considered earlier for release of LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), for their names not covered in any of Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) list OR Seven identified categories (*SC/STs households, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Gramin), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest dwellers, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, people residing in Islands / river islands*).
 - ✍ PMUY was launched on 1st May, 2016 through which deposit free LPG connections are released with the cash assistance of Rs 1600 per connection by Government. Interest free loan are available to purchase stove and refill by Oil Marketing Companies.
 - ✍ Over 5.86 crore LPG connections are released so far under PMUY, against target of 8 crore.
 - ✍ Approved construction of a 5.634 km long new 4 - lane bridge across river Ganga, just 38 meters on upstream side of existing MG Setu on NH-19 at Patna in Bihar, with cost of 2926 croreS. It is to be completed by January 2023. Total Project is 14.5 km long and passes through Patna, Saran and Vaishali districts of Bihar.

- ✎ Approved setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. CCEA approved cost of 2242 crores during 2018-19 and 2019-20 for rolling out revamped scheme.
 - ✎ There will be an Autonomous Society under Ministry of Tribal Affairs similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to run EMRSs.
 - ✎ Upgradation of already sanctioned EMRSs with unit cost subject to a maximum of 5 crore per school.
 - ✎ Setting up sports facilities in 163 tribal dominated districts at a unit cost of 5 crore each to be constructed by 2022.
 - ✎ Facts -
 - ✎ 102 of such blocks are already having EMRSs. Thus, 462 new EMRSs will be established in these blocks across country.
 - ✎ Increase in construction cost of EMRS from current 12 crore to 20 crore to improve construction quality.
 - ✎ Recurring cost to be enhanced to 109000 per student per year from existing 61500 per student per year from 2019-20.

62. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Dec 28, 2018) -

✎ General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved Submission of India's second Biennial Update Report (BUR) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change towards fulfilment of reporting obligation under Convention.
 - ✎ BUR contains five major components - National Circumstances, National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Mitigation Actions, Finance, Technology and Capacity Building Needs and Support Received and Domestic Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) arrangements.
- ✎ Approved draft National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill 2018, that seeks to replace existing regulator Central Council for Homoeopathy (CCH) with a new body to ensure transparency. It includes constitution of a National Commission with three autonomous boards entrusted with conducting overall education of Ayurveda.
- ✎ Approved National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCIM) Bill 2018, to replace existing regulator (Central Council for Indian Medicine). National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine aims to promote transparency and accountability. It provides for constitution of a National Commission with four autonomous boards.
 - ✎ Board of Ayurveda would be responsible for overseeing the overall education of Ayurveda.
 - ✎ Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowaigpa will be responsible for overseeing the overall education of Unani, Siddha and Sowaigpa.
 - ✎ The bill provides for two common boards, Board of Assessment and Rating and Board of Ethics and Registration.
- ✎ Approved proposal for Amendment in Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, to make punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children, including death Penalty.
 - ✎ Section-4, Section-5 and Section-6 are proposed to be amended to provide option of stringent punishment, including death penalty, for aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime on a child.
 - ✎ Amendments are also proposed in section-9 to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters.
 - ✎ Section-14 and 15 are proposed to be amended to address menace of child pornography.
- ✎ Approved Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2018, which was last reviewed and issued in 2011. It will lead to enhanced activities in coastal regions while conserving the coastal environment. Features Include -
 - ✎ Allowing Floor Space Index (FSI) or Floor Area Ratio (FAR) as per current norms in CRZ areas, which was frozen as per 1991 Development Control Regulation (DCR) levels in As per CRZ 2011 Notification
 - ✎ Densely populated rural areas to be afforded greater opportunity for development
 - ✎ Tourism infrastructure for basic amenities to be promoted.
 - ✎ Procedure for CRZ clearances has been streamlined.
 - ✎ A No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 meters has been stipulated for all Islands.
 - ✎ All Ecologically Sensitive Areas have been accorded special importance
 - ✎ Pollution abatement has been accorded special focus
 - ✎ Defence and strategic projects have been accorded necessary dispensation.
- ✎ Approved Gaganyaan Programme with demonstration of Indian Human Spaceflight capability to low earth orbit for a mission duration ranging from one orbital period to a maximum of seven days. A human rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry orbital module which will sustain a 3-member crew for the mission. Total fund requirement for Gaganyaan Programme is within 10000 crores.

MOUs -

- ✎ Cuba and South Korea in area of Biotechnology.
- ✎ Approved Framework Agreement with Sao Tome & Principe (Central Africa) on Cooperation in Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ Approved listing 7 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) on Stock Exchange through Initial Public Offering (IPO) / Further Public Offer (FPO) -
 - ✎ Telecommunication Consultants (India) Ltd. [TCIL] - IPO
 - ✎ RailTel Corporation India Ltd. - IPO
 - ✎ National Seed Corporation India Ltd. (NSC) - IPO
 - ✎ Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC) - IPO
 - ✎ Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited [WAPCOS Ltd.] - IPO
 - ✎ FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals (India) Limited [FAGMIL] - IPO
 - ✎ Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) - FPO
- ✎ Approved increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of "Milling Copra" to 9521 per quintal for 2019 season (Hike of INR 2000 per quintal).
- ✎ Increased export incentives granted for Onions under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) from existing 5% to 10%, to benefit farmers.

63. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Nov 01, 2018) -

MOUs -

- ✎ Morocco - Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- ✎ Russia - MoU for cooperation in transport education and MoC with Russian Railways for technical cooperation in railways.
- ✎ South Korea - Cooperation in Tourism.

General Approvals -

- ✎ Approved promulgation ordinance to amend Companies Act 2013, aimed at declogging National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs) and decriminalise minor offences by companies. It will transfer 90% of the cases to regional directors under Ministry of Corporate Affairs from NCLTs. It will retain status of all non-compoundable offences since they are serious in nature.
- ✎ Approved renaming Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha as Veer Surendra Sai Airport.
- ✎ Approved moving a Resolution in first Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) for opening up ISA membership to all United Nations Member Nations. It will make ISA inclusive, where all member countries that members of UN could become members.

64. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Nov 08, 2018) -

General Approvals -

- ✎ In-principle approval for leasing out six airports of AAI - Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for management under Public Private Partnership (PPP) through Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).
- ✎ Apprised of India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP) under International Energy Agency (IEA). AMF TCP works under International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status since 30th March, 2017.
 - ✎ Aim is to facilitate market introduction of Advanced motor fuels/ Alternate fuels with an aim to bring down emissions and achieve higher fuel efficiency in transport sector.
- ✎ Approved filling of Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Padur (Karnataka) by overseas National Oil Companies (NOCs). The SPR facility at Padur is an underground rock cavern with a total capacity of 2.5 million metric tonnes (MMT). The filling of the SPR under PPP model is being undertaken to reduce budgetary support of Government of India.
 - ✎ Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL) has constructed and commissioned underground rock caverns for storage of total 5.33 MMT of crude oil at three locations namely Vishakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT).
- ✎ Approved setting up a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh, in Relli village of Vizianagaram District. 420 crores INR Funds for first phase expenditure have been approved.
- ✎ Defence Ministry enhanced Financial Powers of Vice Chiefs of Tri-Services by Five Times, with enhanced ceiling of 500 Crores.

MOUs -

- ✍ Morocco - Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters. Also Approved Extradition Agreement with Morocco.
- ✍ Italy - for continuing training and education in the fields of Labour and Employment.
- ✍ CCEA Approvals -
 - ✍ Approved strategic disinvestment of 100% Government of India's shares in DCIL to consortium of four ports namely, Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Paradeep Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust. Presently the Government of India holds 73.44% shares in Dredging Corporation of India Limited.

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

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

✍ MOUs -

- ✍ Russia - Road Transport, MSME.

✍ CCEA Approvals -

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

66. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Oct 10, 2018)

✍ General Approvals -

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

✍ MOUs -

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

✍ CCEA Approvals -

- ✍ Approved closure of Biecco Lawrie Limited (BLL) including giving Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to its employees.

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

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

✍️ General Approvals -

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

✍️ MOUs -

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

✍️ CCEA Approvals -

- ✍️ Creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), with size 7522 crores, comprising 5,266 crores to be raised by Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs), 1316 crores beneficiaries contribution and 939 crores budgetary support from Government. NABARD, National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and Banks shall be NLEs.
 - ✍️ It aims to achieve fish production of 15 million tonnes by 2020 and 20 million tonnes by 2022-23, up from current production of 11.4 million tonnes.
- ✍️ Increase in supervisory visit charges for ASHA Facilitators from 250 per visit to 300 per visit for 2018-2019 to 2019- 2020. ASHA Facilitator will undertake about 20 supervisory visits per month.
- ✍️ New Railway Between Bahraich and Khalilabad in Uttar Pradesh, to serve 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh including 4 aspirational districts (Bahraich, Balrampur, Shravasti and Siddharth Nagar) and Sant Kabirnagar. It will cost approx 4939 crores and will be completed by 2024-25.

68. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Nov 22, 2018) -

✍️ General Approvals -

- ✍️ Approved setting up of Medical College at Silvassa in UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, with yearly intake of 150 students.
- ✍️ Extended term of Commission to examine issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central List for six months, till 31st May 2019, as fourth extension to commission for submission for its politically crucial report on creating quotas within quotas.
 - ✍️ Government had constituted 5 member Commission under article 340 of Constitution in October 2017, headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice G. Rohini. Its report is expected to recommend earmarking sub-quotas for the extremely backward classes within the OBCs.
 - ✍️ Commission is formed under Article 340 of Constitution which was also used to establish landmark Mandal Commission (set up in 1979) more than two decades ago which recommended 27% reservation for socially and educationally

backward classes in higher education and government jobs.

- ✎ Approved Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill 2018 for regulation and standardisation of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals. It provides for setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India and corresponding State Allied and Healthcare Councils which will play role of a standard-setter and facilitator for professions of Allied and Healthcare.
- ✎ Approved development of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab to international border with Pakistan. Kartarpur is located in Shakargarh in Narowal district of Punjab province of Pakistan. Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism and its first guru had spent over 18 years of his life here.

✎ MOUs -

- ✎ Tajikistan - Youth Matters
- ✎ Uzbekistan - Science, Technology and Innovation.
- ✎ MoU between Atal Innovation Mission India and Fund "Talent and Success" Russia for promotion of science & technology, strong foundation to the collaborative work through exchange of students, teachers, researchers and scientists.
- ✎ Mauritius - Consumer Protection and Legal Metrology

✎ CCEA Approvals -

- ✎ Approved to expand scope of mandatory packaging norms under Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act 1987 -
 - ✎ 100% of food grains and 20% of sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.
 - ✎ Initially 10% of indents of jute bags for packing foodgrains would be placed through reverse auction on Gem portal, to gradually usher in a regime of price discovery.
 - ✎ This will give a fillip to development of jute sector, increasing quality and productivity of raw jute, diversification of jute sector and also boosting and sustaining demand for jute product.
- ✎ Approved continuation of 9 sub-schemes of *Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)* during 2017-2020 at cost of 1450 crores. CCEA also approved establishment of National Facility for Airborne Research (NFAR) with a financial commitment of Rs 130 crore during 2020-21 and beyond.
 - ✎ It will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services, ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services.

69. ▶ Central Government launch Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) scheme to promote research in Social Sciences.

- ✎ Government support would be funding of 414 crore on 1500 projects for policy themes in the social sciences at cost of 20-25 Lakh per project.
- ✎ 11 Thematic Areas - State and Democracy Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society Employment, Skills and Rural transformation Governance, Innovation and Public Policy Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy Agriculture and Rural Development Health and Environment Science and Education Social Media and Technology Politics, Law and Economics.
- ✎ Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency.

70. ▶ Central Ground Water Authority (Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) notified revised guidelines for ground water extraction, to be effective from June 1, 2019.

- ✎ One of noted features of revised guidelines is introduction of Water Conservation Fee (WCF), fee charged on extraction of ground water. It will vary betwe areas, and may progressively increase from safe to over-exploited areas and from low to high water consuming industries.
- ✎ Mandatory water audit by industries abstracting ground water 500 m³/day or more in safe and semi-critical area and 200 m³/day or more in critical and over-exploited assessment units. Mandatory roof top rain water harvesting except for specified industries.
- ✎ Ground water extraction in India is primarily for irrigation in agricultural activities, aprox 228 Billion Cubic Meters, which amounts to 90 % of annual ground water extraction.

71. ▶ Central Information Commission (CIC) brought Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act, after concluded that characteristics of BCCI fulfil required conditions of Section 2(h) of RTI Act.

72. ▶ Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) signed MoU with US-based Research Institute for Fragrant Materials (RIFM) for improving quality of fragrant oils, during annual conference of International Fragrance Association (IFA) in Paris (France).

- ✎ It will standardize fragrant material produced in India and bring it to an international level. It will give impetus to aroma mission of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) which aims at enhancing production of fragrant materials.

73. ▶ Central Railways developed an in-house robot named 'USTAAD' - 'Undergear Surveillance Through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid', to checks for safety in under gear parts of train coaches.

- ✎ Also, Central Railways' Nagpur division introduced technology called Automated Train Examination System (ATES) for enhancement of train safety, developed by Konkan Railway. It eliminates mechanical examination of parts of trains, to uplift

efficiency and safety

74. ▶ Civil aviation ministry and Airports Authority of India (AAI) launched an official mobile app for the global aviation summit to be held in Mumbai in January 2019. App is named *GAS 2019*.
75. ▶ Coal India and NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) will jointly set up 5000 MW of power generation capacity of which 3000 MW would be solar powered while the rest 2000 MW would be coal-fuelled.
 - ▶ Coal India has been tasked to become a net zero emission energy company by the ministry of coal, a move which requires it to generate 3,000 MW of solar power.
76. ▶ Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu released a report on Industrial Park Rating System, prepared by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP). It will be a useful tool for policymakers and investors and database includes 3000 parks and all industrial parks will be rated on - Internal infrastructure, External infrastructure, Business services and facilities AND Environment and safety management.
77. ▶ Country's first music museum will be set up in Thiruvaiyaru, birthplace of Saint Tyagaraja, one of Trinities of Carnatic music. Other two Trinities are Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.
78. ▶ Cyclonic Storm Phethai stuck Andhra Pradesh with winds upto 100 KMPH. It is 6th cyclone of 2018 North Indian Ocean Cyclone season. Previous ones being Sagar, Mekunu, Luban, Titli and Gaza.
79. ▶ Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated long awaited Delhi's Signature Bridge, the first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge in India, constructed at expenditure of 1518 crores. The 675-metre bridge aims to reduce travel time and traffic congestion between the north-eastern and northern parts of Delhi.
 - ▶ It was first approved in 1997 after school bus fell off the narrow Wazirabad Bridge into the Yamuna, killing 22 children.
80. ▶ Delhi Government launched a dedicated Open Transit Data portal (*otd.delhi.gov.in*), to spot locations of cluster buses at intervals of 10 seconds, developed by IIIT-Delhi. Delhi became first city in the country to open up transit data of city buses.
81. ▶ Delhi Govt. launched 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana', which will offer free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits. 1100 senior citizens from every constituency of Delhi will be able to avail this facility at one go. Total 77000 pilgrims will be able to avail this facility every year.
82. ▶ Delhi High Court banned online sale of medicines by e-pharmacists across country, till proper regulations are set in place.
83. ▶ Delhi Police became first police force in country to digitise all malkhanas across every police station in state under e-malkhana project.
 - ▶ Malkhanas are rooms for keeping seized arms and ammunition.
84. ▶ Delhi Police entered Limca Book of Records for training 208125 women and girls in 989 self-defence programme in 2017. Self-defence programme of Delhi Police was started in 2002. Delhi Police have set a target to train around 3.5 lakh women in 2019.
85. ▶ Delhi Police launched an e-learning portal 'Nipun' to impart training and provide up to date information to police officers, designed under project CLAP "The Collaborative Learning and Partnership". It will have online courses and resources on law, standing orders, investigation checklists, forms for case files, latest High Court and Supreme Court rulings.
86. ▶ Delhi government and Indian Railways launched a scheme to give free tourism package for senior citizens travelling to 5 religious circuits, named *Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana*. Under it, 1100 senior citizens from all Delhi constituencies will be able to avail the offer. State government will bear expenses of 77,000 pilgrims every year.
87. ▶ Delhi government launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges. Fellows will be assigned to work with ministers or senior officials and will be paid remuneration of Rs 1.25 lakh per month (75,000 per month to Associate Fellows).
88. ▶ Delhi government launched a 10-day special inspection drive named- "Operation Minimum Wage", to check implementation of minimum wage rules set by state government. Violation would be checked as per Minimum Wages Act 2017 and labourers can lodge a complaint by calling 155214.
89. ▶ Delhi government launched a common mobility card called 'One', with a tagline of 'One Delhi One Ride'. It would enable access to Metro and bus services with a single card at a 10 % discount. Further provision of coverage of auto-rickshaws, taxis and other modes would be inducted soon.
90. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) announced results of first ever States' Start-up Ranking 2018 (exercise began in January 2016). On the basis of performance, States are recognised in several categories -
 - ▶ Best Performer - Gujarat
 - ▶ Top Performers - Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, and Rajasthan
 - ▶ Leaders - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana
 - ▶ Aspiring Leaders - Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal
 - ▶ Emerging States - Assam, Delhi, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand
 - ▶ Beginners - Chandigarh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim, and Tripura

91. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) developed a new online portal for Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) and Industrial Licence (IL), at <https://services.dipp.gov.in>.
92. ▶ Department of Telecom (DoT) exempted wireless devices that operate in low frequency range like bluetooth, wireless chargers, internet-of-things (IoT) products, medical devices etc. from licensing requirement. It is aimed at facilitating ease of doing business for adoption of new technologies like IoT, machine-to-machine (M2M) communications.
93. ▶ Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) launched SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) as an innovative initiative to make available Compressed Bio-Gas CBG in market for use in automotive fuels.
 - ▶ Under it, with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) to set up CBG production plants, by 31st March, 2019.
 - ▶ Government is keen to set up 5000 CBG plants in next 5 years. Government will incur 75,000 Crore capital expenditure for setting up infrastructure for City Gas distribution network.
 - ▶ SATAT initiative promises efficient municipal solid waste management and tackling problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.
94. ▶ Doordarshan TV Channel DD Kisan launched a first-of-its-kind reality show 'Mahila Kisan Awards', To be telecast from 17th December. It will include two women farmers from across country, talking about their achievements in each episode. Judges will score these contestants based on their assessment. 5 contestants will reach finals and 1 will be declared winner.
95. ▶ Election Commission announced Schedule for General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana (To be held in November - December 2018).
96. ▶ Employees' State Insurance Corporation decided to allow Non-IPs (Non Insured Persons) to avail medical services from underutilised ESIC Hospitals. Non insured persons would now be able to avail medical services at subsidised cost of Rs 10 for OPD Consultation, at 25 % of CGHS package rates for admitted patients and to provide medicines on actual rate.
97. ▶ Environment Ministry launched *Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali* campaign, which was initiated in 2017-18, aiming to minimize bursting of crackers. This campaign is now merged with "Green Good Deed" movement, initiated as a social mobilization for protection of environment.
98. ▶ First India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC) entrepreneurial technology hub launched in Bengaluru (Karnataka), to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from two countries.
99. ▶ First Swadesh Darshan Project in Nagaland has been inaugurated, named *Development of Tribal Circuit: Peren-Kohima-Wokha Project*. It was sanctioned by Tourism Ministry in November 2015 for INR 97 Crores. Ministry has sanctioned another project in Nagaland "Development of Tribal circuit: Mokokchung-Tuensang-Mon" for 99.67 crores.
100. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched media campaign "Heart Attack Rewind", calling for elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in food supply. It will support FSSAI's target of eliminating trans-fat in India by 2022, a year ahead of global target by World Health Organization (WHO).
101. ▶ Forbes India Celebrity 100 list -
 - ▶ Top 5 Most Earning Celebrities - Salman Khan (1), Virat Kohli (2), Akshay Kumar (3), Deepika Padukone (4), M S Dhoni (5)
102. ▶ Foundation stone for India's largest Dry Dock laid at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala, aimed at raising India's share in global shipbuilding to 2 % (.66 % currently).
 - ▶ Currently, Cochin Shipyard has two dry docks. New Dry Dock is being constructed at a cost of 1799 crores. It will be 310 m long, 75m wide, with a depth of 13 m and draught of 9.5m.
103. ▶ Foundation stone for Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited laid at Baulasingha village in Bargarh ditrict of Odisha.
 - ▶ The Bio-refinery, the first of its kind to be set up, will have a capacity to produce 3 crore litres of fuel grade Ethanol annually using Rice straw as feedstock. Ethanol produced from this plant will be blended with Petrol. The cost is around 100 Crores.
 - ▶ India has surplus biomass availability of about 120-160 MMT annually which if converted, has potential to yield 3000 crore litres of ethanol. National Biofuel Policy of India 2018 targets 20% Ethanol blending to Petrol by 2030. However, due to non-availability of Ethanol, current Ethanol blending in Petrol is about 3 to 4%.
 - ▶ Setting up of 2G Ethanol plants will help achieve target of Ethanol blending in Petrol. Bargarh Bio-Refinery will utilize about 2 lakh tonnes of Rice straw annually as feedstock which will be sourced from nearby locations.
104. ▶ Foundation stone of Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants (IHAMP) laid in Bhaderwah in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir. It will provide research in medicinal plants and promote cultivation of medicinal plants.
105. ▶ Four peaks of Himalayan range near Gangotri glacier have been named after Former PM Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

106. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ 1st India Indonesia Business forum (IIBF) was held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✎ Indian Owl Festival, India's first owl fest, held at Pingori village in Pune (Maharashtra).
- ✎ Conference on partnership between European Union and India for Cultural Heritage Conservation held in New Delhi.
- ✎ Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018 held in Ranchi (Jharkhand), with participation of 7 countries.
- ✎ National Mission for Clean Ganga organised a two-day international workshop on 'Developing a Ganga Museum Concept: Exchanging Experiences and Ideas between India and Europe' in Delhi.
- ✎ India Water Impact Summit 2018 organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (Ganga) in New Delhi. During this, Govt. announced sanction of 254 projects worth over 24 thousand crore rupees under National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- ✎ 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India 2018 held in Chandigarh.
- ✎ Minister for Electronics & IT, Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a National Challenge for Youths, *Ideate for India - Creative Solutions using Technology* in New Delhi. It aims to give school students across the country a platform to become solution creators for problems they see around them and their communities.
- ✎ 1st International Conference under aegis of National Hydrology Project (Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) at Indian School of Business Mohali with theme '*Sustainable Water Management*'.
- ✎ Conference on 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code – A New Paradigm for Stressed Assets' organised in New York (USA), addressed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley through Video Conferencing.
- ✎ Annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit held in Goa with theme 'Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.'
- ✎ Military Literature Festival (MLF) 2018 held in Chandigarh.
- ✎ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh laid Foundation stone of Pusa Kisan Haat in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) in New Delhi. It will allow farmers to sell their agricultural products, along with other farmer friendly facilities.

107. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✎ 39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit held in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). Next (40th) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit will be held in UAE.
- ✎ 4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices held in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). To boost medical device sector, Govt. announced setting up of a National Medical Devices Promotion Council under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ✎ 4th edition of Partners' Forum held in New Delhi, hosted by government of India in association with Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and child Health (PMNCH). It aims to explore findings of 12 success factors case studies which shows how the countries are working towards improvement of women's and children health.
- ✎ Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (I/C), Giriraj Singh inaugurated a Multi-Disciplinary Training Centre (MTDC) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) named Samadhan at Rajghat (New Delhi).
- ✎ All India Institute of Ayurveda New Delhi organized a National conference 'AYUSHCHARYA' on Dinacharya (Daily Regimen) and Ritucharya (Seasonal Regimen) for public health promotion.

108. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 21 - 31, 2018) -

- ✎ To commemorate 200th Birth Anniversary of Sikh philosopher, reformer and freedom fighter, Sri Satguru Ram Singhji, an International Seminar held in New Delhi.
- ✎ World Herbal Forest Project inaugurated as a collaboration of Patanjali and Haryana Government, at Morni Hill, near Chandigarh. It is aimed at developing a forest of medicinal plants which will provide a boost to Ayurvedic industry. About 25 different varieties of plants found in the country will be housed in this forest.
- ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Centre of Excellence Genetic Blood Disorders at Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences in Karimnagar (Telangana).
- ✎ Sahitya Kala Parishad, Department of Art, Culture and Languages (Delhi Government) organized 6th edition of Yuva Natya Samaroh at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi.
- ✎ 15th edition Global SME Business Summit organised by Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Government e-marketplace in New Delhi.
- ✎ First meeting of Follow-up Committee for implementation of the Trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran held in the port city of Chabahar in Iran.
 - ✎ India Ports Global Limited Company has opened its office and took over operations at the Shaheed Behesti port at Chabahar.

- ✍ A Joint workshop between ICRC and CUNPK on “Integrated Protection on Civilians (IPOC)” in UN peacekeeping operations conducted at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
 - ✍ International Gita Festival 2018 organised in Kurukshetra in Haryana, as 3rd edition of the event. Mauritius is partner country and Gujarat is partner state.
 - ✍ 12th edition of annual Global Healthcare Summit held in Mumbai, jointly organized by American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO).
 - ✍ India submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), during 13th National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Submission of national reports is a mandatory obligation on Parties to international treaties, including CBD.
 - ✍ NR6 provides an update of progress in achievement of 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) developed under Convention process in line with the 20 global Aichi biodiversity targets.
 - ✍ 3 state level campaign on “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” organized in Maharashtra, Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli to spread awareness among people to save and educate girls.
109. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 11 - 20, 2018) -
- ✍ 1st Indo-Japan Business Council- KONNICHIIWA PUNE Festival held in Pune (Maharashtra).
 - ✍ 2 day annual meeting of World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Future Councils held in Dubai (UAE).
 - ✍ 6th Indian Social Work Congress held in New Delhi, with theme *Human Development and Social Inclusion: Imperatives for Social Work Education and Practice*.
 - ✍ Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) 2018 held in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) hosted a conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018 in New Delhi.
 - ✍ 2 day Global Cooling Innovation Summit Held in New Delhi -
 - ✍ During the Summit, Global Cooling Prize was launched as an international competition to incentivize development of a residential cooling technology that will have at least five times lesser climate impact than the standard Room Air Conditioning (RAC).
 - ✍ Prize is supported by Government of India and will be administered by leading research institutes Including Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), Conservation X Labs, Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) and CEPT University.
 - ✍ A winning technology could prevent up to 100 gigatons (GT) of CO₂-equivalent emissions by 2050, and put the world on a pathway to mitigate up to 0.5° C of warming by 2100.
 - ✍ Over US\$3 million will be awarded in prize money over 2 year competition. Up to 10 short-listed competing technologies will be awarded up to US\$200,000 each in intermediate prizes to support design of their innovative residential cooling technology.
 - ✍ Winning technology will be awarded at least US\$1 million to support its incubation and early-stage commercialization.
 - ✍ Risk is that There are currently 1.2 billion room air conditioning units in service around world, estimated to rise to 4.5 billion by 2050. India alone will see over 1 billion air conditioning deployed by 2050.
 - ✍ 26th Conference of Central and States Statistical Organizations at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, with theme *Quality Assurance in Official Statistics*.
 - ✍ Twitter India launched #PowerOf18 campaign aimed at encouraging youth to contribute in public debates and participate in civic engagement for 2019 general elections.
 - ✍ Inaugural session of General Assembly of Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC) held in New Delhi. NEDAC was set up in 1991 by United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
 - ✍ 8th National Conference of Women in Police held in Ranchi (Jharkhand).
 - ✍ Election Commission has set up ‘Sangwari’ polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh to encourage women voters to vote in Assembly elections.
 - ✍ Delhi government announced “Jashn-e-Virasat-e-Urdu”, a festival to celebrate Urdu culture and its heritage.
 - ✍ 4 day regional meeting of World Customs Organisation (WCO) held in Jaipur (Rajasthan).
 - ✍ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organised a seminar on “International Standards and the Fourth Industrial Revolution” in New Delhi to celebrate the World Standards Day 2018 (October 14).
 - ✍ India and China held 9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue in Beijing (China), attended by Defence secretary Sanjay Mitra.
 - ✍ 38th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2018 inaugurated at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi today, to last till Nov 27, 2018.

110. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✍ 3rd India-Singapore Defence Minister dialogue(DMD) held in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- ✍ 24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF 2018) held in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✍ 4th annual “Aadi Mahotsav”, a National Tribal Festival organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in at Dilli Haat (Delhi).
- ✍ 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad (Telangana), with theme *Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action*.
- ✍ 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine started in Kathmandu (Nepal), with theme *Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas*.
- ✍ 2nd India-UAE Strategic Conclave held in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
- ✍ Government decided to set up domestic Gold council in India to promote the growth of the sector and boost exports of jewellery. It was announced during 2nd India Gold and Jewellery Summit in New Delhi.
- ✍ PM Narendra Modi laid Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Projects in 65 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 129 Districts under 9th CGD Bidding Round, awarded by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- ✍ 1st offshore wind investment conference held in New Delhi, During which European Investment Bank (EIB) and State Bank of India (SBI) agreed to cooperate on financing renewable energy and wind energy projects across India. EIB also approved a new line of credit worth USD 100 million to Yes Bank to boost private investment in clean energy projects.
- ✍ Uttar Pradesh Government launched Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign to develop leadership capacities in women and make them vocal for their rights.
- ✍ National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- “Hausla 2018” of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was held in New Delhi. Theme for event is “Child Safety”.
- ✍ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched logo and brochure of Logix India 2019 in New Delhi, Major Logistics sector event scheduled to take place in New Delhi from 31st January to 2nd February 2019.
- ✍ South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference held in New Delhi, organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) to mark beginning of celebration of 150th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi.
- ✍ 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave held in New Delhi as part of commemoration of Constitution Day.
 - ✍ Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) and Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi signed MoU to enhance research activities and policy formulation aimed at Socio-economic Transformation and Sustainable Development.
- ✍ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar unveiled 70-foot tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district of state, as 2nd tallest statue of Buddha in India.
- ✍ 7th ‘International Tourism Mart’ was held in Agartala (capital of Tripura), with theme *Adventure Tourism*.

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

- ✍ Workshop on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' held in New Delhi by NITI Aayog in collaboration with ICC International Court of Arbitration.
- ✍ 2-day First ever Regional Conference on ‘Women in Detention and Access to Justice’ held at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
- ✍ First Uttarakhand Investors Summit held in Dehradun, attracting investments over 125000 Crores.
- ✍ Exhibition “Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti” held at IGNCA (New Delhi).
- ✍ *India Chem 2018*, 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference held in Mumbai, as largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India.
- ✍ PM Narendra Modi has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana, sculpted by renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar.
- ✍ International Conference on Technological Advancements in Railway and Metro Projects (IC-TRAM 2018) held in New Delhi.
- ✍ Women Health for Women Empowerment Conference held in Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✍ Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region held in Guwahati (Assam).
- ✍ 14th Hospitality India and Explore the World Annual International Travel Awards 2018 held in New Delhi. Nepal won tourism award. Also, Chandragiri Hills Limited of Nepal got the best tourism destination of Nepal award in hospitality and tourism sector.
- ✍ Actor Ruhaan Rajput received the Mid-day Young Achiever Icons Award for 2018 recently in Mumbai, in film and television category for his work in industry in short time.

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

- ✍ 6th UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force meeting held in Mumbai. During this, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu announced setting up of a special UAE desk to facilitate investments and resolve any business issues between two nations.

- ✎ 8th European Congress on SMEs held in Katowice, Poland, with theme *Science- Business-Self Government TOGETHER FOR ECONOMY*.
 - ✎ Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai. It measured 20×30 feet and stood 350 feet.
 - ✎ 46th world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair held at India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida (UP). It has played a vital role in increasing exports of handicrafts from country and has special importance for handicrafts sector.
 - ✎ Turkey will host a summit for Turkey, France, Germany and Russia in Istanbul, to discuss conflict in Syria and efforts for a lasting solution to end war in Syria.
 - ✎ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has released 12th Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018, prepared by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) since 2005.
 - ✎ inaugural 'Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration' organised by NITI Aayog and ICC International Court of Arbitration in New Delhi.
 - ✎ 6th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) held in Singapore. C. R. Chaudhary (*Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*) Visited On India's Behalf.
 - ✎ India and Japan held their 2nd edition of 'Japan-India Act East Forum' in New Delhi.
 - ✎ Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan Launched air quality early warning system for Delhi.
 - ✎ 6th India International Silk Fair (IISF) HELD in New Delhi. India is 2nd largest producer of silk in world, providing gainful employment to around 8 million artisans and weavers in rural areas.
113. ▶ General Conferences (Oct 21 - 31, 2018) -
- ✎ 4th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM-2019) will be organised in Mumbai in January - February 2019, to be organised jointly by Government of Maharashtra, Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS), IIT Bombay & TISS Mumbai. WCDM 2019 will be largest assembly on disaster management outside UN system.
 - ✎ 5th National Summit on "Good & Replicable Practices & Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India" held at Kaziranga (Assam).
 - ✎ 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA, the largest show on the "Organic Sector" in India, held at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi), with theme *Enhancing export of organic products trade from India – strategies and synergies*.
 - ✎ 6th North East festival and 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival organized in New Delhi.
 - ✎ 20th Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2018 held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Dubai (UAE).
 - ✎ 5th Edition of 'Women of India National Organic Festival' held in New Delhi.
 - ✎ *Krishi Kumbh 2018* held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), to pave way for new technology to be imbibed and better opportunities to created in the agriculture sector.
 - ✎ 36th Indian Carpets Expo held at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), to augment efforts of the handicrafts and small and medium industries.
 - ✎ 3-day Sagar Discourse 2 conference held in Panaji (Goa), organized by Forum for Integrated National Security.
 - ✎ Conclave on Capital Goods for Steel Sector, manufacture in India, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Bhubaneswar (Odisha). 38 pacts worth \$5 billion were signed among 20 technology providers, to boost manufacturing of capital goods for iron and steel industry.
 - ✎ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign aimed to reduce adverse environmental conditions after Diwali celebrations due to excessive bursting of crackers. It is merged with "Green Good Deed" movement that has been initiated as social mobilization for conservation and protection of environment.
 - ✎ First trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran (Iran). Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Economic Relations) TS Tirumurti.
 - ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated International Arya Mahasammelan 2018 in Delhi.
 - ✎ NITI Aayog organized 4th NITI Lecture Series at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, with theme *AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth*.
 - ✎ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised a seminar on Gandhian thoughts and Swachhta to make India a Swachh Bharat by 2019 - 150 the birthday celebration of M K Gandhi.
 - ✎ 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF 2018) began in Assam, with theme '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' Focus region of GIFF 2018 is the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.
 - ✎ *Childrens Film Bonanza* concluded at Naharlagun (Arunachal Pradesh), organized by Children's Film Society of India (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting).

114. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ▶ Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records. On this occasion, over 3 lakh clay lamps were illuminated at Ram Ki Paidi on Chhoti Diwali as part of Deepotsava.
- ▶ Indo-French Conclave held in Nagpur (Maharashtra), in which French and Indian firms signed 12 agreements worth 200 million euro.
- ▶ Seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Aviation Engineering and Logistics' (AVIAMAT-2018) concluded at Air Force Auditorium in New Delhi.
- ▶ Indian Air Force has organised a two day seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Aviation Engineering and Logistics' (AVIAMAT-2018) at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi.
- ▶ First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland).
- ▶ Preparatory meeting of *Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue- 2019* held in new Delhi. Main exercise is scheduled for February 2019 in Delhi.
- ▶ 2 day Gyan Kumbh held at Patanjali Yogpeeth in Haridwar (Uttarakhand).
- ▶ India-UAE Partnership Summit (UPS) 2018 was held in Dubai (UAE). It aimed to identify the investment areas, projects, funding needs and helped to raise investments to funds vital infrastructure projects.
- ▶ 1st 'Annual Senior Care Conclave – Igniting Industry for India's Ageing Sector' held at the Indian Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
- ▶ 13th Indo-Myanmar Regional Border Committee Meet concluded at Mantripukhari Garrison in north Imphal (Manipur).

115. ▶ Goa government banned import of fish into state for six months, amid uncertainty about the presence of formalin in imported fish in Goa.

116. ▶ Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service inaugurated in Gujarat, under Sagarmala programme of Ministry of Shipping.

- ▶ In a successful trial run, 12 loaded trucks were transported by Ro- Pax ferry from Dahej to Gogha across the Gulf of Cambay, via sea route.
- ▶ Land route is a 294 km or 8 hour drive, while Ro-Pax service reduces this to just 31 km through sea route by crossing Gulf in Cambay, taking just 1.5 hours.
- ▶ This is an important development for diamond and textiles traders & workers in Surat to travel via coastal shipping and save the travel time by almost half.
- ▶ Fully operational Ro Pax service with carrying capacity of 100 vehicles and 500 passengers is now opened
- ▶ Total cost of project is estimated to be 615 Crores, of which 117 Crore is funded by Central Government under Sagarmala programme.



▶ Pictorial Representation -

117. ▶ Google's Next Billion Users (NBU) team announced national roll-out of its Neighbourly app in Delhi and Bangalore. It will help people by sourcing local information from their neighbors about their neighbourhood in an easier way. It offers services in 8 vernacular languages and is a targeted app with a geographic radius between 1 to 5 km.

118. ▶ Government Launched *Digital Sky* platform, for managing flying of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (known as drones) across Country.


- ▶ In August 2018, Govt released Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) to enable safe flying of RPAS in India.
- ▶ Digital Sky Platform will implement 'no permission, no take-off' (NPNT) system of software-based self-enforcement to minimize deviations from CAR.
- ▶ Nano drones in India can start flying legally from Dec 1, 2018. For micro and above categories, operators and pilots are required to register on Digital Sky Portal.
- ▶ Payments for Unmanned Aerial Operator's Permit (UAOP) and Unique Identification Numbers (UIN) will be accepted through the Bharat Kosh (bharatkosh.gov.in) portal.
- ▶ Flying in 'green zones' will require only intimation of time and location of flights. Permissions will be required for flying in 'yellow zones' and flights will not be allowed in the 'red zones'. Location of zones will be announced soon.


119. ▶ Government allowed foreign tourists to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions, overpowering its earlier order that made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of their arrival. However, citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan will require Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit.
120. ▶ Government announced recipients of Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 -
- ▶ 2014 - Manipuri dancer Rajkumar Singhajit Singh
 - ▶ 2015 - Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh)
 - ▶ 2016 - Ram Vanji Sutar (Noted sculptor).
 - ▶ Tagore Award -
 - ▶ First Tagore Award was conferred on Noted Sitar Maestro Pt. Ravi Shankar, in 2012. 2nd was conferred on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013. It carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft item.
121. ▶ Government approved 3 proposals under Nirbhaya Fund including setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs). It was proposal forwarded by Department of Justice under Ministry of Law and Justice) to dispose off pending cases of rape and POCSO Act across country. It will have total financial outlay of Rs 767.25 crores.
122. ▶ Government approved constitution of new boards of Governors for 20 IIMs as per IIM Act 2017, to give them complete autonomy and ensure a quality expansion of higher education. This will pave way for complete control of the institutions by reputed academicians and alumni.
123. ▶ Government banned Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for its unsocial activities during its violent campaign for secession of Punjab. KLF is 40th organisation to be proscribed under UAPA law.
- ▶ KLF came into existence in 1986 with objective of establishing an independent Khalistan by secession of Punjab from India through violent means.
124. ▶ Government included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttrakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD), meant to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in country. Number of sites under PRASAD has now reached to 41 in 25 states.
125. ▶ Government launched Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskaar annual awards to recognise exemplary work done in field of disaster management. 3 institutions and individuals will be given the award annually with cash rewards between 5 - 51 lakh. For 2019, award would be announced on January 23, birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
126. ▶ Government launched an air pollution prediction system for Delhi, making it easier to alert general public about air quality 48 hours in advance. It is called *Air Quality Early Warning System*.
127. ▶ Government launched initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages, as part of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* programme. It will continue till December 21, 2018.
128. ▶ Government notified Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules 2018, allowing phone calls and internet on flights and ship voyage within India's territory. Airlines and shipping companies operating in India can provide in-flight and maritime voice and data services by partnering with an Indian telecom company, using satellites.
- ▶ Both domestic and foreign satellites can be used for providing IFMC (in-flight and maritime connectivity) services by a telco after permission of Department of Space.
 - ▶ The in-flight and maritime connectivity services will only be activated once aircraft reaches a minimum height of 3,000m in Indian airspace. Objective is to avoid any interference with terrestrial mobile networks.
 - ▶ Licences for IFMC will be granted for an annual fee of Rs. 1 for a period of 10 years.
129. ▶ Government observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 29th Oct-3rd Nov 2018, with 2018 Theme *Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India*.
130. ▶ Government renamed Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island in Andaman and Nicobar as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively.
131. ▶ Government revised Minimum Support Price of 23 items of Minor Forest Produce items and introduced MSP for 17 new MFP items. Items whose MSP has been revised include those Minor Forest Produce items which have been covered under the scheme since its inception in 2013-14.
132. ▶ Government will build a stadium of international standard for differently-abled persons in Meghalaya, expected to be completed by 2022, at an estimated cost of over 200 crores.
- ▶ Meghalaya Govt also launched flagship scheme "Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries", to enable self-sufficiency in fish production.
133. ▶ Government will introduce a bill in Winter Session in December 2018, to speed up inter-state river water dispute resolution among states and manage affairs of 13 river basins across country. Named River Basin Management Bill 2018, it will replace River Board Act 1956 which


is only advisory in nature.


 Authorities will be set up for river basins of Ganga, Indus, Godavari, Mahanadi, Mahi, Narmada, Pennar, Cauvery, Krishna, Tapi, Subarnrekha, Brahmani-Baitarini and Brahmaputra- Barak-inter-state rivers of north-east.


134. ▶ Government will set up first-of-its-kind institute of Inter-Faith Studies in Punjab to promote brotherhood and diversity, as part of year-long activities to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of first Sikh Guru and founder of Sikh religion Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

 Government constituted National Implementation Committee (NIC) under Chairmanship of Home Minister Rajnath Singh to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.
135. ▶ Government's think tank NITI Aayog signed agreement with Microsoft India to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare and promote adoption of local languages. This will help NITI Aayog to move beyond pilots and understand how to scale AI implementation in sectors characterized by preponderance of public goods.
136. ▶ Govt. laid foundation stone for proposed Museum on Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Estate in New Delhi.

 Teen Murti Estate has a total area of 25.50 acres out of which, Nehru Memorial Museum Building occupies around 2 acres only. Government decided to set up *Museum on Prime Ministers of India* in remaining area of Teen Murti Estate.
137. ▶ Govt. launched upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app, for superior user experience with enhanced functionalities. Improvements include secure sign-up with social media, support chatbot, improved grievance management and detailed flight schedule.

 Ministry of Civil Aviation launched AirSewa portal and app, to address passengers issues issues like flight delays, problem in refunds, long queues, inadequate facilities at airports and complaints of lost baggage.
138. ▶ Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US \$43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India's coastal communities. This project will focus on selected vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha states. It will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions – over 3.5 million tonnes of CO₂ will be absorbed through restored ecosystems.

 It is part of Green Climate Fund (GCF)'s recently approved over \$1 billion new investments for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change, during a meeting in Manama (Bahrain).
139. ▶ Gujarat Forest Department started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly canine distemper virus (CDV) and protozoa infections, The virus blamed for death of as many as 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary in less than month.

 Asiatic lions are believed to have split from African Lions 100,000 years ago. Gir sanctuary is the only wild population of Asiatic lions in world, having over 523 Asiatic Lions.
140. ▶ Gujarat government launched a Rs 351-crore project for conservation of the Gir lions, after Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) outbreak that claimed 23 Asiatic lions in Gir National park in Saurashtra. It will also include an emergency ambulance van similar to 108 emergency services.
141. ▶ HDFC ERGO General Insurance has set up a remote sensing lab for crop insurance, to help in early detection of information and alert the farmers. The lab will work accurately for assessing the risks of the insurers and will also be able to give early warnings about the losses.
142. ▶ HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched Ministry of Human Resource Development's Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) Program. Innovation cell is established at AICTE to systematically foster culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across country. Purpose is to encourage young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.
143. ▶ Haryana Government introduced *Pashu Sanjeevani Sewa* scheme to provide free of cost health care services to livestock in the state through mobile veterinary clinics. Livestock farmers would be able to avail service 24×7 after giving a call on toll free No.1962.
144. ▶ Haryana Government launched a mobile app named as 'Shiksha Setu', aiming to help students and bring transparency in Education administration. It will contain information about attendance, fee, online admission and scholarships in all the Haryana government colleges.
145. ▶ Haryana Government launched an anti-terrorist force (ATF) 'Kavach, to deal with security challenges. For this, Haryana police recruits will be trained by National Security Guard (NSG).
146. ▶ Haryana Govt. renamed Child Care Institutes in state as Jagannath Ashrams, stating that since all Child Care Institutions have a similar goal of all-round development of children, it would be appropriate to give a single name to all.
147. ▶ Haryana launched first-of-its-kind National Autism Intervention Research Centre in Gurugram, in association with Behaviour Momentum India.
148. ▶ Himachal Pradesh assembly adopted a resolution to declare cow as the "rashtra mata" or 'mother of the nation', to boost cow protection efforts in State.
149. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government approved implementing Sashakt Mahila Yojna in state with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organization and socio-economic development.
150. ▶ Historic Bali Yatra festival held in Cuttack (Odisha), as largest trade fair in Orissa.

151. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Himachal Pradesh, making Himachal Pradesh first state to launch pan-India single emergency number '112' under ERSS. The single emergency services number (112) will connect to Police, Fire, Health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in State, obviating need to remember multiple helpline numbers.
152. ▶ Home Ministry declared Nagaland as *disturbed area* for six more months till June-end under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA).
153. ▶ Home Ministry suggested filling up civil posts in UT of Chandigarh in ratio of 60:40 between Punjab and Haryana. It also suggested to make it optional for Sikh women to wear a helmet while riding 2 Wheeler.
154. ▶ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced Swachh Campus rankings -
 - ▶ Cleanest Government universities -
 - ▶ Maharashi Dayanand University, Haryana
 - ▶ Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab
 - ▶ Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi
 - ▶ Cleanest residential campus of private universities - Symbiosis International University, Pune
 - ▶ Cleanest non-residential campus of private universities - IITM University, Raipur
 - ▶ Cleanest technical institutions -
 - ▶ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore
 - ▶ IIT Guwahati
 - ▶ Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University in Bhubhaneshwar
 - ▶ IIIT Delhi.
155. ▶ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched web portal of Scheme *Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)*, at url www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in.
 - ▶ SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in world. Under this, 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years.
 - ▶ Government in August 2018 had sanctioned SPARC scheme at total cost of 418 Crores for implementation up to 31-3-2020 and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement it.
156. ▶ Hyderabad Police Launched 'Bharosa' centre to support women and children afflicted by violence. It would ensure speedy justice to women in distress and has facilities to record statements of children in POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) cases.
157. ▶ IIM Calcutta Innovation Park and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) signed MoU for energising start-up ecosystem in East and Northeast India. It will offer platform for market linkage for start-ups and promote their products especially from northeastern region which need greater attention.
158. ▶ IIT Kharagpur Researchers have devised decision support system (DCS) to help maximise LPG connections in BPL (below poverty line) households under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, as first such analysis of national level energy policy. Its a computer program that helps in making sound rational decisions using mathematical programming and operation research techniques.
159. ▶ IIT-Kharagpur named national coordinating institute of Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
160. ▶ IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance, by supporting State government on various data science and ICT-related challenges.
161. ▶ INS Cuddalore, a Pondicherry-class vessel that was decommissioned in March 2018, will be sent to the seabed at a depth of 26m about 7km off Puducherry coast to create India's first underwater museum.
162. ▶ IRCTC launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot *Ask Disha*, aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users' queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.
163. ▶ IT Industry Body National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) partnered with IIT-Madras to provide re-skilling/upskilling of four million people on digital skills.
164. ▶ India Autism Centre (IAC), in association with state government, will build a world-class autism township near Kolkata. Children and adults suffering from Autism (developmental disorder) can receive treatment and boarding facilities. It is expected to come up at Sirakol in South 24 Parganas.
165. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) developed technology called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach' to assess rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain. It can generate scenario to help take decisions to release water or not from reservoirs after heavy downpour.

166. ▶ India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) opened at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad, Built by Adani Group and Israel-based Elbit Systems. It will develop Hermes 900 medium altitude long-endurance UAVs.
167. ▶ India's WAPCOS and Austria based Doppelmayr signed MOU for providing end-to-end solutions for passenger ropeway projects. Doppelmayr are world's largest ropeway manufacturers with cutting-edge ropeway technologies.
168. ▶ India's first engine-less train, "Train 18", developed by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has been unveiled. It is first long-distance train, without a separate locomotive (engine). It is capable of running at a speed of up to 160 kmph.
169. ▶ IndiaSkills 2018, 2nd edition of India's biggest skill competition held at Aerocity Ground in New Delhi. some of awardees in 46 trades will participate in 45th WorldSkills Competition at Kazan (Russia) in 2019.
170. ▶ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) approved registration of record 15 new breeds of livestock and poultry in 2018. Newly registered breeds include -
- ▶ 2 cattle breeds – Ladakhi (J&K) and Konkan Kapila (Maharashtra & Goa)
 - ▶ 3 buffalo breeds – Luit (Assam & Manipur), Bargur (Tamil Nadu), Chhattisgarhi (Chhattisgarh);
 - ▶ 1 sheep breed – Panchali (Gujarat)
 - ▶ 6 goat breeds – Kahmi (Gujarat), Rohilkhand (UP), Assam Hill (Assam & Meghalaya), Bidri (Karnataka), Nandidurga (Karnataka), Bhakarwadi (J&K)
 - ▶ 1 pig breed – Ghurrah (UP)
 - ▶ 1 donkey breed – Halari (Gujarat)
 - ▶ 1 chicken breed – Uttara (Uttarakhand).
171. ▶ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines to advise hospitals in setting up Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes (AMSP) to ensure judicious use of antibiotics. AMSP is hospital-based programmes dedicated to improving antibiotic use.
172. ▶ Indian Ports Association (IPA) launched a new Port Community System 'PCS 1x', as a cloud based new generation technology, with user-friendly interface to increase ease of doing business. URL for portal is www.indianpcs.gov.in. Various Services offered by PCS1x platform will reduce up to 2 days in a life of transaction.
173. ▶ Indian Railways announced elimination of all Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge. There were 3479 Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge routes of which, 3402 UMLCs have been eliminated in last 7 months. 12 Zonal Railways have been freed from UMLC on Broad Gauge route.
174. ▶ Indian Railways launched its Project 'Utkrishi' to upgrade 140 rakes of Mail/Express trains in first phase, enhancing and upgrading several passenger friendly facilities.
175. ▶ Indian Railways unveiled 'eDrishti' software that will help Railways keep track of punctuality of trains and earnings etc. It has been developed by Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS).
176. ▶ Indian Railways will build India's first vertical-lift bridge to connect Rameswaram to mainland India, allowing ships to pass without any hindrance. It would replace 104-year-old Pamban bridge, to be ready by 2023.
- ▶ New Vertical Bridge will have a 63-metre stretch which will lift up while remaining parallel to the deck to allow access to the ships.
 - ▶ Pamban Bridge was first sea bridge of India and was the longest sea bridge in India until the Bandra-Worli Sea Link was opened in 2010.
177. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed MoU with Central University of Jammu (CUJ) for setting up Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in University. Another MoU was signed between CUJ and Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO), To create awareness about space research and to motivate young minds to take up research related to space.
178. ▶ Indian postal services honoured Udaipur-based non-profit organisation Narayan Seva Sansthan, by launching their rs 5 postal stamps.
179. ▶ India's first National Environment Survey (NES) will begin in January 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 UTs. The earliest first set of complete green data from this survey will be available in 2020.
- ▶ It will be carried out by MoEFCC through Environmental Information System (ENVIS). It will be done through grid-based approach, using grids measuring 9x9 km to collect comprehensive data on various environmental parameters.
 - ▶ Green data from this survey will provide important tool in hands of policy-makers for decision making at all levels – district, state and national. skilled manpower required for survey will be provided from persons skilled and trained under MoEFCC's Green Skill Development Programme.
180. ▶ India's first agri and food business online learning platform launched at SR Innovation Exchange (SRiX) Campus at Warangal (Telangana). It is an Indo-UK collaborative initiative and a technology business incubator under the Department of Science and Technology.
181. ▶ India's first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public at the Pushpa Gujral Science City, in Kapurthala (Punjab).

182. ▶ India's first indigenously designed locomotive-less (engine less) train known as Train 18, breached 180 kmph speed limit during test run in Kota-Sawai Madhopur section. Once made operational, it will become country's fastest train. It is capable of touching 200 kmph, replacing 30-year-old Shatabdi Express. It is developed by Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in just 18 months.
183. ▶ India's first international indigenous film festival will be held in February 2019 in Odisha, as an initiative of activist film collective 'Video Republic'.
184. ▶ India's first specialized hospital for elephants was formally opened Churmura village in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh, promoted by Wildlife SOS which had established first elephant conservation and care centre in 2010. It is designed to treat injured, sick or geriatric elephants.
185. ▶ India's largest Cancer Institute named National Cancer Institute (NCI) opened in Jhajjar (Haryana), to be formally inaugurated in January 2019 for public services. It will be headed by G.K. Rath. NCI is built at cost of Rs 2035 crores, and will act as nodal institution for all cancer-related activities in India.
186. ▶ India's longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam, connecting Dhubri (Assam) to Fulbarani (Meghalaya). At present, India's largest river bridge is Dhola-Sadia bridge, its length is 9.15 kilometers. It will be completed by 2026-27 and will be public-funded work, with loan from Japanese Finance Agency (JICA).
187. ▶ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has set sail a container cargo belonging to food and beverage giant PepsiCo (India) from Kolkata to Varanasi on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). It is India's first container movement on inland vessel post-independence.
188. ▶ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will start a new Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facility in collaboration with Assam Government to provide much-needed connectivity for Majuli Island. It will cut down circuitous road route of 423 KMs that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli Island via Tezpur Road Bridge, by limiting distance to only 12.7 KM.
- ▶ Majuli is one of the biggest riverine islands in the world located on river Brahmaputra and faces serious challenges of connectivity. It has 144 villages with a population of over 1,50,000. Currently, there are only four road bridges across river Brahmaputra - at Jogighopa, Guwahati, Tezpur and Sadiya for connectivity between southern and northern parts of Assam.
 - ▶ Earlier, IWAI started a similar Ro-Ro service between Dhubri and Hatsingimari which reduced the travel distance by 190 KMs.
189. ▶ Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) submitted its 2nd Report on Cross Border Insolvency to Arun Jaitley, which was constituted by Ministry of Corporate Affairs to recommend amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India 2016,
- ▶ ILC recommended adoption of UNCITRAL Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency 1997, for it provides for a comprehensive framework to deal with cross border insolvency issues.
 - ▶ UNCITRAL Model Law has till now been adopted in 44 countries and forms part of international best practices in dealing with cross border insolvency issues. The model law gives precedence to domestic proceedings and protection of public interest.
190. ▶ International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) launched Certification with high security features in order to prevent use of forged certificates, as first such initiative by any automotive certification agency in India for enhancing security of CMVR certificates which includes Type Approval Certificates (TAC) and Conformity of Production (COP) Certificates for vehicles, engines and components.
- ▶ With new high security features it will become difficult to forge or counterfeit the ICAT certificate.
 - ▶ ICAT is premier certification agency authorized by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) for providing testing and certification services to vehicle and component manufacturers within India and abroad.
191. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved State Assembly with immediate effect, after both rival alliances put their claim to form government.
192. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir assembly passed law to ban sexual extortion of woman in offices and became first Indian state to amend law on Sextortion.
- ▶ New law amended section 154, 161 and schedule of Criminal Procedure Code and Section 53 of Evidence Act to bring Sextortion as a similar offence prescribed under RPC. New Section E has been added to Section 354 of Ranbir Penal Code that makes sexual harassment a criminal offence with 3 years of imprisonment.
 - ▶ Ranbir Penal Code - Indian Penal code is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and in place of IPC, a similar criminal law Ranbir Penal Code applies in . It was introduced by Ranbir Singh during Dogra Dynasty and it came in effect from 1932. Provision of code was prepared by Thomas Babington Macaulay.
193. ▶ Jangalmahal festival organised in Kolkata (WB), to promote tribal art and culture.
194. ▶ Jharkhand government announced to provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers and a separate electric feeder for them for agriculture purpose by 2019/2021.
195. ▶ Kaiga Atomic Power Station in Karnataka has set a new world record, with one of its units operating uninterrupted for more than 940 days. This is a record for all kinds of nuclear power-generating units, including advanced gas-based reactors globally.

196. ▶ Karnataka Government launched Samruddhi, 800-crore entrepreneurship and skill development scheme, for economically and socially underprivileged youth of small towns. It aims to train youth from SC and ST communities through private organisations in retail management and franchise opportunities.
197. ▶ Karnataka Government unveiled 'Unnati Scheme' to help entrepreneurs from SC/ST Communities. Under it, State Govt. will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.
198. ▶ Kerala Govt. launched 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state. Farmers belonging to general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.
199. ▶ Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) rolled out– KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform, to train teachers, students and general public. KOOL has been designed in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) model.
200. ▶ Kerala became first state to have 4 international airports, with inauguration of Kannur airport. other three international airports are AT Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut.
201. ▶ Kerala government commenced a scheme to offer free education and vocational training to the children of fishermen who died or went missing in 2017 Ockhi cyclonic storm.
202. ▶ Kerala will become first state to have 100% penetration of LPG, becoming first smoke-free state.
203. ▶ Kingdom of Netherlands will be Partner Country in 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019.
204. ▶ Kolkata-Patna became India's 2nd Inland Water Transport (IWT) origin-destination pair for containerised cargo movement on National Waterway-1.
 - ▶ Ministry of Shipping is developing NW-1 (River Ganga) under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) from Haldia to Varanasi (1390 Km) with assistance of World Bank, at estimated cost of INR 5369 crores.
205. ▶ Lieutenant governors (LGs) and administrators of UTs have been empowered by central government to designate civil courts as special courts to adjudicate contracts relating to infrastructure projects. State government, in consultation with high court, can designate civil courts as special courts within local limits of area to exercise jurisdiction.
206. ▶ Lonar Lake, an ancient circular lake created by a meteorite strike, in Maharashtra and St. Mary's Island, a hexagonal mosaic of basaltic rocks in an island off Udipi will be made global geoparks by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
 - ▶ St. Mary's Island which was declared a national geo-heritage site in 1975 is estimated to be an 88-million-year-old.
 - ▶ Lonar crater became a geo-heritage site in 1979. It is around 50,000 years old.
207. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced creation of Niwari as its 52nd district, carved out of Tikamgarh district. It will include tehsils of *Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur*.
208. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced setting up of a new Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department), to be set up by merging several existing departments.
209. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government declared Kuno wildlife sanctuary as a national park, in compliance with condition imposed by Supreme Court for 'translocation of Asiatic lions from Gir in Gujarat.'
210. ▶ Madras High Court banned online drug sale in Tamilnadu. It said the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was enacted during the colonial era and much before advent of online trade. There is no provision in it that permits the online sale of drugs and medicines.
211. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched World Bank assisted State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project to transform rural Maharashtra. SMART Project aims to create and support value chains in post-harvest segments of agriculture, facilitate agribusiness investment, stimulate SMEs within value chain. It will be implemented in 10,000 villages of state.
212. ▶ Maharashtra Govt. launched 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools' for students in rural areas.
213. ▶ Maharashtra government allowed citizens to inspect records in district-level offices and local bodies throughout state under Right To Information (RTI) for 2 hours every Monday (3 pm to 5 pm). It aims to bring transparency in functioning of government and reduce RTI applications. People can directly go to the offices and inspect the records.
214. ▶ Maharashtra government approved INR 4089 crores for Tembhu lift irrigation scheme in Tembhu village of Satara district. The perennially drought prone areas of Satara, Solapur and Sangli districts will get benefit by this scheme.
215. ▶ Maharashtra government approved assistance of Rs 1,610 crore for the Tarli Irrigation Project in the Satara district. Project consists of 8 lift irrigation schemes on Tarli river.
216. ▶ Maharashtra government approved hyperloop project between Pune and Mumbai as a public infrastructure project. This Fresh approval will ensure more competition and easier land acquisition for this ultra-high speed project, which aims to bring travel time between Pune and Mumbai down to 25 minutes.
 - ▶ Bidding will be held under 'Swiss challenge' method, which allows the government to invite global firms to bid for the project and challenge original proponents of endeavour, Virgin Hyperloop One.

217. ▶ Maharashtra launched website and app Maha madat to analyze drought situation, to help in accurate analysis of drought-like situation in villages of state. Drought can be declared if a region does not receive rain for a span of 21 days.
218. ▶ Maharashtra legislative assembly passed Maratha Reservation Bill, approving 16 % reservation for Maratha community in education and jobs in state. Bill will now be sent to the state's upper house, legislative council (Vidhan Parishad). State legislature will create a new category called SEBC (socially and educationally backward class) in order to give reservation to Marathas.
219. ▶ Mammals of India (MaOI) model of repository on Indian mammals, by National Centers for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Bangalore -
- ▶ It is a first of its kind repository of Mammals in India, as an online portal that aim is to develop individual pages for all Indian mammals covering all related information.
 - ▶ The website *mammalsofindia.org* provides facility for common citizen to upload photographic observations about mammals.
 - ▶ MaOI is an initiative under Biodiversity Atlas project (a species-based bioinformatics platform).
 - ▶ There are about 426 species of mammals known from India, which is about 8.86% of the world species.
220. ▶ Manipur Assembly passed bill named *The Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Bill 2018*, which recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence if it results in death of a person.
221. ▶ Meghalaya Government announced 378 crores INR investment in 2nd phase of State's flagship aquaculture mission aimed at cutting down fish imports into hill State. Mission named Aqua Mission 2.0 was announced at 5th state aqua festival held in Shillong at U Soso Tham auditorium premises.
222. ▶ Meghalaya Govt. launched Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme(MHIS-IV) in convergence with that of Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme. It targets to cover over 8 lakh households offering over 2300 medical and surgical packages and up to Rs 5 lakh per family, functional from February 2019. It covers all citizens in state while Ayushman Bharat(Centre's Scheme) targets bottom 40 % of lower income families.
223. ▶ Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat, located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat. State's 2nd mega food park is sanctioned in Mehsana.
224. ▶ Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment and Forests & Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan inaugurated newly constructed International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOocean) Complex in the INCOIS (Hyderabad).
- ▶ UNESCO Category 2 Centre established as a training facility at INCOIS will give an opportunity to Nations bordering Indian Ocean and small island nations in Pacific to benefit from expertise of INCOIS in areas of ocean science and management.
 - ▶ UNESCO approved offer of Government of India to establish ITCOocean as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre in November 2017, Aimed at assist Member Nations of IOC/UNESCO in areas of ocean science and management.
225. ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu released the policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called "Digi Yatra".
- ▶ It aims to develop standards for digital processing of passengers at airport to ensure uniform implementation and passenger experience across airports. DigiYatra Central Platform will be operational by February 2019, starting from Bangalore & Hyderabad Airports.
226. ▶ Minister of State (IC) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh laid foundation stone of new Science Centre, the "Technology Facility Centre" (TFC) in Jorhat (Assam), in premises of CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST).
227. ▶ Minister of State (IC) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh launched iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) developed by Department of Personnel and Training (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions). It will augment existing training mechanism with online module-based training coupled with certification. This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis.
228. ▶ Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju distributed cheques worth 37.73 Crores to villagers of West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh. Over 56 years after India's war with China, for land acquired by Army to set up its bases, bunkers and barracks.
229. ▶ Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, Vijay Goel, inaugurated Online Assurances Monitoring System (OAMS), To create transparency in assurance process in Parliamentary affairs.
230. ▶ Minister of State for Power and Renewable Energy RK Singh launched award scheme under Saubhagya Scheme (known as Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana). It will felicitate the power distribution companies (DISCOMs) for achieving 100 % household electrification. There will be two quantum of award -
- ▶ Under first quantum of award, 1st DISCOM / Power Department that achieves 100 % household electrification by end of November 2018 would be provided cash award of Rs 50 Lakh.
 - ▶ 2nd quantum of award includes cash award of Rs 100 crore as grant to concerned DISCOM to be spent in distribution infrastructure development in their area of operation.

231. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will launch new index to rank states on 'ease of doing agri-business', to incentivise states for various reform measures undertaken by them. It will broadly rank states on six major reform parameters related to the farming sector and have a total score of 100. These six parameters include -
- ▶ Marketing reforms (weightage of 25)
 - ▶ Reducing cost of inputs (20)
 - ▶ Governance and land reforms (20)
 - ▶ Risk mitigation (15)
 - ▶ Increasing production and productivity (10)
 - ▶ Investment in agriculture (10)
232. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in Country. It provides recommendations on five broad themes – policy, institutions and capacity, technology, community engagement and data and information.
- ▶ People are main driver of fires in India and forest fires are distributed close to people and infrastructure. But over longer term, shifts in climate caused by anthropogenic global warming may further alter India's forest landscape and fire regime.
 - ▶ India's monsoons are largely responsible for seasonal nature of forest fires in country. Forest fires peak during dry months of March or April before arrival of monsoon.
 - ▶ Forest fires in Northeast are concentrated in smaller area that is subject to repeat burning. Peak fire season is most concentrated (shortest) in Northeast and Northern state of Bihar. Fires in other regions, particularly districts in Central and Southern India are more expansive.
 - ▶ According to National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), fires affecting forests have significant ecological value. Between 2006 and 2015, NRSC scientists forest fires were detected in just under half (281 of 614) of protected areas in India.
 - ▶ Report is significant in light of recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report that explores possibilities of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius to prevent catastrophic impacts due to unchecked temperature rise.
233. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched *Asiatic Lion Conservation Project*, to protect world's last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem. Its budget for 3 years is approx INR 98 Crore.
- ▶ Asiatic lions once ranged from Persia (Iran) to Palamau in Eastern India, were almost driven to extinction by indiscriminate hunting and habitat loss. Single population of less than 50 lions persisted in Gir forests of Gujarat by late 1890's. With efforts of Indian Government, number of Asiatic lions increased to over 500.
234. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA). Bhure Lal will continue to be Chairman of reconstituted 20 Member EPCA.
- ▶ EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region, notified in 1998 under Environment Protection Act 1986. It is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels.
 - ▶ In November 2017, EPCA enforced several measures, including ban on brick kilns, closure of Badarpur thermal power plant, hot mix plants and stone crushers, and construction activities in NCR.
235. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched India for Humanity initiative, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi. It will feature year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning globe. MEA has collaborated with renowned charitable organisation Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS).
236. ▶ Ministry of Finance ruled that sessions courts in 34 States / UTs, will act as special courts for trial of offences under the benami transaction law.. It was consulted with CJI, under Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act 1988 for trial of offences punishable under provision of the Act.
- ▶ In case of NCT of Delhi, courts of additional session's judge in each district have been designated as the special court.
 - ▶ Every endeavour should be made by special court to conclude the trial within six months from date of filing of complaint.
 - ▶ Benami transaction refers to transactions made in a fictitious name, or the owner is not aware of the ownership of the property, or the person paying for the property is not traceable.
237. ▶ Ministry of Finance will release Rs 75 commemorative coin on occasion of 75th anniversary of hoisting of Tricolour for first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Cellular Jail, Port Blair on December 30, 1943. 35-gram coin will be composed of 50% silver, 40% copper, and 5% each of nickel and zinc.
- ▶ Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on this day hoisted Tricolor for first time on free Indian soil at Cellular Jail of Port Blair.
 - ▶ It was much before India attained Independence in 1947. He announced freedom of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (making it first Indian Territory) from British rule and renamed them as "Shaheed-dweep" and "Swaraj-dweep".

- Island was liberated from British rule by Japan which captured it during World War – II. Major General Arcot Doraiswamy Loganadan of Indian National Army (INA) was made Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
238. ▶ Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) approved operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens. It was announced in Budget speech 2018-19 with outlay of 500 crores, to stabilize supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops. Measures Include -
- ▶ Short term Price Stabilisation Measures - NAFED will be Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation measures. MoFPI will provide 50% of the subsidy on two components -
 - ▶ Transportation of Tomato Onion Potato (TOP) Crops from production to storage;
 - ▶ Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for TOP Crops.
 - ▶ Long Term Integrated value chain development projects -
 - ▶ Capacity Building of FPOs & their consortium
 - ▶ Quality production
 - ▶ Post-harvest processing facilities
 - ▶ Agri-Logistics
 - ▶ Marketing / Consumption Points
 - ▶ Creation and Management of e-platform for demand and supply management of TOP Crops.
 - ▶ Eligible Organisations for assistance under the scheme will be required to submit online application on SAMPADA portal of ministry (<https://sampada.gov.in/>).
239. ▶ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare notified 4 medical devices including blood pressure monitors, nebulisers, digital thermometers and glucometers as drugs under Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) will regulate import, manufacture and sale of these devices from January 2020, ensuring their quality and performance.
240. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched Twitter account @CyberDost to spread awareness about cybercrimes and normal precautions to be taken.
241. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) sanctioned 5 new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force (RAF), to be stationed at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Hajipur (Bihar), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Nuh (Haryana). Total number of RAF battalions in the country has gone up to 15.
242. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs clarified that members of Gorkha community living in Assam are Not Foreigners and Belong to State, amid questions arising about the same after recently released National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam that left out 40 Lakh People.
243. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs released 113.36 crores to 6 Border States under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) to improve the condition of people living in these isolated locations. States - Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. With this, so far, Home Ministry has released total 637.98 crores during 2018-19 to states having International Border.
244. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy prepared a draft of new Scheme called Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS) incorporating various guidelines Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS), as a consolidation of relevant National and International Standards (IS/IEC/IEEE), and various best practices from other countries to ensure quality of wind energy projects.
- ▶ IWTCS is aimed at assisting and facilitating Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), End Users -Utilities, State Nodal Authorities (SNAs), Developers, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), Owners, Authorities, Investors and Insurers, Certification Bodies and Testing Laboratories.
 - ▶ Type Certification of wind turbines plays an active role in ensuring that wind turbines in India meet the requirements of requisite IS/IEC/IECRE standards in vogue.
245. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has set up state-of-the-art National Data Repository which is database of all geo-scientific data of hydrocarbon resources in country. It will provide ready access to interested companies. Its main objective is to provide reliable exploration and production data for India with provisions for seamless access and online data management.
246. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways launched Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi, as a Public-private partnership (PPP) initiative in collaboration with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE). It attempts to bring structured training program for young, first-time drivers as they apply for learner's license.
247. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways mandated that all new public service vehicles except auto rickshaws and e-Rickshaws, registered on and after 1st January 2019 to be equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking (VLT)with emergency buttons. Objective: To ensure safety of passengers especially women.
248. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, to rule that All new vehicles will be sold pre-fitted with High Security Registration Plates – HSRP from the 1st April, 2019. It is likely to improve the coverage of HSRP on vehicles, while ensuring its quality by the vehicle manufacturers.

249. ▶ Ministry of Shipping approved development of INR 156 crore freight village in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), adjoining Inland Waterways Terminal on River Ganga. It will serve as a cargo hub, and a centre for aggregation and value addition.
250. ▶ Ministry of Tourism inaugurated 2 important projects as part of Development of North East Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Arunachal Pradesh -
- ▶ Bhalukpong- Bomdila – Tawang Project : Sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism in March 2015.
 - ▶ Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project - It was sanctioned in December 2015.
251. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) announced that government will pay employers salaries for first seven of 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 month, amid complaints that many companies were reluctant to hire pregnant women after maternity leave was extended from 12 to 26 weeks and some were even firing women employees.
- ▶ It covers both government as well as private sector.
 - ▶ Government had increased maternity leave for pregnant women was extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks in 2017 after Parliament had passed Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill 2016.
252. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development linked sexual harassment complaints portal 'She-Box' with all Central Ministries, Departments and 653 districts across 33 states and UTs. It will help in quick and more accurate redressal of complaints.
253. ▶ MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development) signed MOU with Automaker Maruti Suzuki for training rural youth for skill development, by providing training to atleast 5000 candidates in 2 years with assured employment, under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).
254. ▶ MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development) signed MOU with Maruti Suzuki India Ltd for training rural youth for skill development, to provide training to over 5000 candidates in two years with assured placement to the rural youth of our country
255. ▶ NITI Aayog and IBM launched a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). It will see 38 students receive a two-week paid training in areas like artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, cybersecurity, cloud computing and blockchain.
- ▶ 14 Selected teachers from ATIs will also be trained by IBM volunteers and mentors to become innovation coaches.
256. ▶ NITI Aayog launched model guidelines for Public-Private partnership in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Under these, private partner will invest in upgrading, building and deploying human resources. They will be responsible for operational management and service delivery. Newly issued guidelines will help streamline private participation and encourage world-class infrastructure and patient care in the health sector.
257. ▶ NITI Aayog partnered with Perlin (Singapore-based AI start up) to launch 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon', to further expand the idea of *Artificial Intelligence, AI for All*. It aims to develop solutions that deliver twin benefit of efficient computing to address the infrastructure challenges, while also not compromising on privacy of data for training AI algorithms. Hackathon will be run two stages in Jan and Mar 2019.
- ▶ First stage will invite ideas for use cases of multi-party computation in areas such as Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Urbanization, Financial Inclusion.
 - ▶ 2nd stage will call for these ideas to be matured and developed, with a focus on privacy preserving AI and distributed computing.
 - ▶ Winners will share in a prize pool worth USD \$50,000.
258. ▶ NITI Aayog released 2nd Delta ranking for Aspirational Districts, measuring progress made by them between June - October 2018 across six developmental areas - *Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure* -
- ▶ Most Improved (June - October 2018 Period) -
 - ▶ Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu)
 - ▶ Nuapada (Odisha)
 - ▶ Siddharthnagar (Uttar Pradesh)
 - ▶ Aurangabad (Bihar)
 - ▶ Koraput (Odisha)
 - ▶ Least Improved (June - October 2018 Period) -
 - ▶ Pakur (Jharkhand) - Rank 111
 - ▶ Hailakandi (Assam) - Rank 110
 - ▶ Chatra (Jharkhand) - Rank 109
259. ▶ NITI Aayog unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India, which defines clear objectives for 2022-23, titled '*Strategy for New India @75*'. Focus of Strategy document is to further improve policy environment in which private investors and other stakeholders














can contribute their fullest towards achieving the goals set out for New India 2022 and propel India towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2030. Document has been disaggregated under four sections - Drivers, Infrastructure, Inclusion and Governance.

260. ▶ Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio launched GPS Mapping of Government Schools and Personnel Location System in Kohima, to help in digitization of records of all government schools.
261. ▶ National Commission for Women (NCW) launched dedicated e-mail address (ncw.metoo@gmail.com) to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace. On receiving complaint, NCW will take forward complaints of sexual harassment at workplace received so that appropriate action may be taken.
262. ▶ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) launched a youth-friendly scheme 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' for attracting them to cooperative business ventures. It will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by NCDC.
 - ▶ Funding for project will be up to 80% of project cost for special categories as against 70% for others.
 - ▶ It envisages 2% less than applicable rate of interest on term loan for project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.
263. ▶ National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna (Bihar), as Asia's first Dolphin research centre.
 - ▶ Gangetic river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is one of four freshwater dolphin species in world. The other three are found in Yangtze river, Indus river in Pakistan and Amazon river.
264. ▶ National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) signed MoU for transfer of three acres of land for the construction of storage facility for films and film material, at FTII Kothrud campus in Pune.
265. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned all mining activities within 10 km of the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, following a plea challenging environmental clearance granted to 24 mines within 10 km radius. Supreme Court in 2006 had prohibited mining within 1 km of national parks and sanctuaries.
266. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) has put INR 5 crore penalty on West Bengal Govt for its failure to comply with orders to improve air quality of Kolkata and Howrah.
267. ▶ National Green Tribunal dismissed Tamilnadu government's order of May 2018 to permanently shut down Vedanta's Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi. Recently, the Tamil Nadu government has announced to approach the Supreme Court challenging the National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s order allowing the reopening of .
 - ▶ Thoothukudi Sterlite Plant is largest copper smelter plant in India, operated by Vedanta group. It started operation in 1998 till 2018 when the plant was shut on the orders of Tamil Nadu government in May 2018, after various violent protests from locals demanding the entire shutdown of operational smelting plants.
 - ▶ This plant is long-opposed by local residents for polluting their environment as well as causing a range of health problems and has been subject to several closures, on grounds of violating environmental norms.
268. ▶ National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. It was set up on October 12, 1993. NHRC also released special silver jubilee logo and commissioned documentary titled 'NHRC: 25 years, Billion Hopes'.
269. ▶ National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) launched a toll-free number 14433 and a facility to file complaints through Common Service Center (CSC). People can now send their complaints related to human rights violation through both the free number and CSCs.
270. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) to launch a month-long rafting expedition of a team of 40 members which will be led by Bachendri Pal (*first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest*). It will conclude in Patna in Bihar.
271. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga laid down limits of ecological flow of the river Ganga for first time, to enable hydropower projects to modify their operations along river.
 - ▶ Upper stretches (origin to Haridwar) will have to maintain 20% of average flow of preceding 10-days between November and March which are dry seasons, 25% during October, April and May, which are the lean seasons, 30% during monsoon months of June-September.
 - ▶ In main stem from Haridwar to Unnao, minimum flow of various barrages have been specified.
272. ▶ National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group formed to identify cases of monogenic diabetes across country, supported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC).
273. ▶ National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) signed MoU with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide skill training and jobs in construction sector for 2.5 lakh poor people. It will strengthen skill trainings in construction sector for urban poor under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission.

274. ▶ Nepal celebrated festival of Fulpati, observed on 7th day of Dashain festival. Tradition is to bring nine types of Fulpati into home on seventh day of Navaratri.
275. ▶ New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) launched quick response (QR)-enabled fridge magnets for digital payment of bills. The magnets are personalised and each customer will have unique QR Code mapped to their consumer account number, powered by SignCatch. Consumers can stick these magnets on their refrigerators at home and use their smartphones to scan QR Code on magnet to pay their bills instantly.
276. ▶ New State government of Rajasthan abolished condition of a minimum educational qualification to contest local body elections, which was put in place in 2015 by previous Government.
- ▶ Candidates were Required to have passed Class X for contesting municipal elections, Class VIII for contesting panchayat polls for the post of a sarpanch, and Class X for contesting zila parishad or panchayat samiti elections.
277. ▶ Nongkrem dance festival annual event celebrated in Khasi Hills in Shillong (Meghalaya). It is performed by members of Hima Khyrim, a sub-tribe of the indigenous Khasi tribe.
278. ▶ North Central Railways (NCR) launched two mobile apps, NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summerised Tracking Application) and Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) for its employees and passengers, respectively, for locating assets and stations.
279. ▶ Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program" in Namrup (Assam). 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project, scaling it to 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka.
- ▶ It aims at reducing import of crude and an effort to provide clean, import substitute, cost effective and pollution free cooking medium.
 - ▶ Safe handling cannister based cooking stoves are from Swedish Technology and through a Technology transfer a large-scale cooking stove manufacturing plant will come up in India in next 18 months, producing 10 lakh Cookstoves and 1 Crore Cannisters per year.
 - ▶ This Cooking medium can directly substitute LPG, Kerosene, Wood, Charcoal and any other fuel for cooking. The gaseous form, Methanol - DME, can be blended in 20% ratio with LPG.
 - ▶ It is a much more cost effective and environment friendly solution for domestic cooking needs.
280. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Nirman Kusuma* programme for providing financial assistance to children of construction workers for their technical education in state. It aims to help fulfil dreams of construction workers' children by providing financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- ▶ Under it, ITI student is entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600 and diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum. Besides this, State government also -
 - ▶ Increased financial assistance for girl students by 20%.
 - ▶ Doubled death benefits for the construction workers, to 2 lakh now. Accidental benefit for construction workers' also doubled to 4 lakh.
281. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Peoples Empowerment - Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiatives (PEETHA)* initiative, as part of 3T initiative of Technology, Transparency and Team Work model. PEETHA is a sub-scheme of the Odisha government's flagship Ama Gaon Ama Bikash Yojana.
282. ▶ Odisha Government launched Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Policy 2018, aimed at forwarding process of industrialization through promotion of aerospace and defence manufacturing enterprises and generate employment. Key Features -
- ▶ Proposes to extend subsidy upto 50% of cost of land, building, plant and machinery to special purpose vehicle (SPV) for setting up first state-of-the-art Aerospace and Defence Park in state.
 - ▶ Sets ceiling of 50 crore for Common Facility Centre, 30 crore for Technology Innovation Centre and 25 crore for Testing Centre to be established with private participation.
 - ▶ It allows interest subsidy allowed up to a limit of Rs. 10 Crore per annum and Rs. 5 crore per annum for first three OEMs setting up manufacturing units in state based on investment of over 500 Crore and between 100 - 500 crores respectively. This provision is designed to attract key players to set up units in state.
283. ▶ Odisha Government launched Saura Jalnidhi scheme to encourage use of solar energy in irrigation by farmers. Under this, farmers will be given 90% subsidy and 5,000 solar pumps. It will provide irrigation benefits in 2,500 acres. For this, state government has made a provision of 27.18 crore in 2017-18.
284. ▶ Odisha Government launched an automatic public address system to warn citizens about cyclone and tsunami, as first such technology in field of Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) in India. It has been implemented under the assistance of World Bank with a cost of 82 crores.

- 122 towers have been installed along 480 km long coastline, to produce sirens during emergency. Sound from towers can be heard in communities within 1.5 km. Button will be pressed from state emergency centre in Bhubaneswar during an emergency situation.
- Six coastal districts named Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri and Ganjam have been covered under the system.
- 285. ▶ Odisha Govt. announced INR 10000 crores Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme to empower small, marginal & landless farmers as well as landless labourers. It would cover 92% (over 30 lakh) of cultivators, loanee and non-loanee, share-croppers & landless labourers.
- 286. ▶ Odisha forest department will add another olive ridley mass nesting site to its wildlife map, after preparing beach at Bahuda river mouth in Ganjam district, to lure endangered turtles to come over for mass nesting next year.
 - Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are main Olive Ridley Nesting sites in Odisha.
 - Olive Ridley turtle is smallest and most abundant of all sea turtle found in world, known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach each year to lay eggs.
- 287. ▶ Odisha government announced a new Biotechnology Policy 2018 to attract investments in sector, at concluding day of Make in Odisha Conclave in Bhubaneswar.
- 288. ▶ Odisha government launched initiative named 'Mo Bus' services in Bhubaneswar, ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup to be hosted in city in Nov - Dec 2018. Also, Tata Steel announced as an official partner of men's hockey World Cup 2018.
 - State govt also launched 'Bhubaneswar Me Wi-Fi' project to make Bhubaneswar a fully Wi-Fi enabled city before Hockey World Cup 2018.
- 289. ▶ Odisha government released lexicons of 21 tribal languages for multilingual education (MLE) purposes for elementary schools in tribal dominated districts. It aims to bring back tribal languages in circulation and prevent them from vanishing.
- 290. ▶ Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) will get Geographical Indications (GI) tag, famous for its healing properties. It is main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal. It is also used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.
- 291. ▶ Old World Theatre festival will be organized by India Habitat Centre, recognized by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity". It will showcase 15 plays on a pan-Indian constellation of original scripts from Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, and Kerala.
- 292. ▶ Ongoing CBI Controversy -
 - Government on October 23, 2018 removed CBI Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana from their posts. Government and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) cited that Verma was not cooperating with CVC's inquiry into allegations made by Asthana against him.
 - Alok Verma approached Supreme Court after his removal from post of CBI Director, claiming that it was in violation of Section 4B of Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946, which grants CBI Director a secure term of 2 years. SC will now examine the issue. Meanwhile, M Nageshwar Rao is appointed as CBI Director by Govt.
 - Rakesh Asthana Removal -
 - On October 15, CBI booked Asthana for alleged corruption following the FIR registered against him for alleged extortion of over 3 crores from Sathish Babu Sana in a case against meat exporter Moin Qureshi, who is accused of taking money from several people for getting favours from senior government functionaries.
 - Timeline -
 - August 24 - CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana writes to Cabinet Secretary, informing him that Alok Verma took Rs 2 crore bribe from businessman Sathish Babu Sana
 - September 14 - Asthana informs CBI that Verma has issued orders to remove him from IRCTC and INX Media cases
 - September 20 - Special Investigation Team headed by Aasthana proposes to interrogate Sathish Babu Sana
 - October 3 - Sana appears before CBI
 - October 15 - CBI booked Asthana and Sana for alleged corruption. Alok Verma filed a case against Rakesh Asthana, accusing him of taking Rs 3 crore as bribe from Sana. Sana accepted that he agreed to pay Rs 5 crore to Asthana as bribe to give clean chit to Moin Qureshi.
 - October 19 - Asthana removed from Special Investigation Team
 - October 21 - PM Modi summons Alok Verma
 - October 22 - CBI raids its own office and arrests DSP Devender Kumar in connection with allegations against Asthana
 - October 23 - Central Vigilance Commission divested Alok Verma and Rakesh Asthana of their CBI posts
 - October 23 - Asthana approached Delhi High Court to get CBI's FIR against him quashed
 - October 24 - Alok Verma moved SC against his removal and pressed for an urgent hearing

293. ▶ PM Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018. As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 6786 villages were covered. top ranked States / Districts -
- ▶ States - Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra
 - ▶ Districts - Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana), Pedapalli (Telangana)
 - ▶ States with maximum citizen participation - Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra
 - ▶ Districts with maximum citizens' participation - Nashik (Maharashtra), Solapur, (Maharashtra), Chittorgarh (Rajasthan)
294. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Bogibeel Bridge as India's longest rail-road bridge with length of 4.94 km.
- ▶ Former PM HD Deve Gowda laid foundation stone for Bogibeel bridge in January 1997, work started in April 2002 by Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - ▶ Its India's only fully welded bridge and for first time European codes and welding standards were adhered to. It has lifespan of over 120 years.
 - ▶ It connects southern bank of Brahmaputra River in Assam's Dibrugarh district with Silapathar in Dhemaji district, bordering Arunachal Pradesh. It is constructed at a cost of Rs 5,900 crores and it is Asia's second-longest railroad bridge.
 - ▶ It is referred to as "Lifeline of Assam", and is an important asset for entire north-eastern region.
 - ▶ Benefits include reducing travel time from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh to four hours and eliminate a detour of over 170 km via Tinsukia. It also reduces train travel time between Delhi and Dibrugarh by about three hours.
295. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Inland Multi-Modal Terminal Port on river Ganga at Ramnagar in Varanasi and received first container cargo belonging to PepsiCo. It is first of four Multi-Modal Terminals being constructed on National Waterways-I (NW1) on River Ganga as part of World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- ▶ The other three terminals are under construction at Sahibganj, Haldia and Gazipur.
 - ▶ It will enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1500-2,000 DWT on river Ganga.
 - ▶ JMVP was approved in January 2017 for capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1, at cost INR 5369 crores. IWAI in February 2018 had signed project agreement with World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project, for \$375 million.
296. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (IRRI SARC) in Varanasi, as 6th campus of IRRI SARC. IRRI SARC will educate scientists and agriculture leaders about latest technologies and innovations for sustainable farming.
297. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar section of the Western Peripheral Expressway. He also inaugurated 3.2-kilometer long Escorts Mujesar-Ballabhgarh corridor of the Delhi Metro.
- ▶ Western Peripheral Expressway also known as KMP expressway is expected to divert more than 50 thousand heavy vehicles away from Delhi. 136-kilometer long six-lane expressway has been built at a cost of over 6400 crore rupees.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi also laid foundation of India's first Skill Development University, named Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University, in Palwal (Haryana).
298. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched *Grand Challenge* on resolving seven identified Ease of Doing Business (EODB) problems with use of cutting edge technologies Including Such as Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence.
- ▶ Aim is to Bring India in Top 50 countries in Ease of Doing Business Index of World Bank. Note that in World Bank's Doing Business Report (DBR, 2019) released on October 31, India recorded a jump of 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017 to be placed at 77th rank among 190 countries.
 - ▶ Top Innovative ideas will be rewarded with 1/2/3 Lakh INR.
 - ▶ Platform for the Grand Challenge is the Startup India Portal.
299. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched *Main Nahin Hum* Portal and App, on theme "Self4Society". It will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform. It is also expected to generate wider participation of interested people who are motivated to work for the benefit of society.
300. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released commemorative stamp on Maharaja Suheldev, who is said to have defeated and killed Ghaznavid general Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud at Bahraich, in early 11th century.
301. ▶ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin' initiative In Odisha, to improve accessibility to basic sanitary pads and create employment opportunity to women.
- ▶ In February 2018, Odisha government had launched 'Khushi' scheme, to provide free sanitary napkins in government schools.
302. ▶ Pharma company Lupin launched India's First chatbot named 'ANYA' to provide medically verified information for health-related queries.
303. ▶ Power Ministry mandated use of smart prepaid electricity meters in the country beginning April 2019, to be completed in 3 years. This would help in reduction in AT&C losses, better health of DISCOMs, ease of bill payments and doing away with paper bills.

-  Ministry of Road Transport and Highways mandated fitting of high security registration plates (HSRP) for all vehicles from April 2019. An HSRP is a chromium-based hologram on number plates, making it easier to track in case of stolen vehicle.
304. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind approved bill seeking punishment for sexual offenders, cyber criminals and traditional unlawful acts like bootlegging and dacoity in Telangana state. This will replace 1986 Act that had jurisdiction for the undivided Andhra Pradesh but not for Telangana.
305. ▶ President approved Assam's The Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill 2017, to allow companies to retrench (lay off) up to 300 employees without seeking prior approval of government. It will replace the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. Compensation to a retrenched labourer will be 60 days' salary instead of present 15 days' and no government permission will be required.
306. ▶ President's rule has been imposed in Jammu and Kashmir, after a span of 22 years, after President Ram Nath Kovind signing a proclamation to implement recommendation of state Governor Satya Pal Malik for the same
307. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced annual Sardar Patel Award for National Integration, to be given annually for outstanding efforts to further national integration.
308. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched several developmental initiatives in Odisha, worth over INR 14500 crores, as part of Mission Purbodaya : a prosperous East for building a new India -
-  Released a commemorative stamp and coin on Paika Rebellion. The Paika Rebellion (Paika Bidroha) was fought against British rule, in Odisha in 1817. It is noted as First ever armed conflict as part of Indian Freedom movement. A Chair on Paika Rebellion has been set up in Utkal University Bhubaneswar.
 -  Inaugurated Lalitgiri Museum, a famous Buddhist centre of archaeological importance, comprising Stupa, Viharas (monasteries) and images of Lord Buddha.
 -  Dedicated IIT Bhubaneswar campus and inaugurated new ESIC Hospital at Bhubaneswar.
 -  Laid foundation of Paradip-Hyderabad Pipeline Product Project by IOCL and Bokaro-Angul section of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Gas Pipeline Project by GAIL.
309. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to mark 75th anniversary of hoisting of Tricolour on Indian soil by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
-  On December 30 in 1943, Indian tricolour was hoisted at Cellular Jail in Port Blair for first time by legendary freedom fighter Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. It was before India attained Independence, declaring island as the free territory from British rule.
 -  Central Government released Rs 75 coin to commemorate this historic event.
 -  On this occasion, Govt. renamed Ross Island as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep and Havelock Island renamed as Swaraj Dweep.
310. ▶ Pune District court became first court in India to allow e-payments of court fee, judicial deposits, fines and penalties, the facility which will be eventually available across all courtrooms in country to bring transparency to cash transactions.
311. ▶ Punjab Assembly passed a resolution for seeking 30% reservation for women in Parliament and State legislative assembly.
312. ▶ Punjab Govt. launched 3 apps to prevent crop residue burning, To check and create awareness about environmental effects of crop residue burning. Apps are i-Khet Machine, e-PEHaL and e-Prevent.
313. ▶ Punjab becomes third state after Maharashtra and Gujarat to ban hookah bars or lounges.
314. ▶ Punjab government signed four MoUs with Israeli institutions to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in state.
315. ▶ QS Quacquarelli Symonds released "QS India University Rankings 2019" as first standalone ranking of India's higher education institutions - Top 5 universities in QS India University Rankings 2019 -
-  Indian Institute Of Technology Bombay
 -  Indian Institute Of Science Bangalore
 -  Indian Institute Of Technology Madras
 -  Indian Institute Of Technology Delhi
 -  Indian Institute Of Technology Kharagpur
316. ▶ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal laid foundation stone of 2 key railway projects in Chhattisgarh, Including INR 6000 Crores and 295 km Long Katghora-Mungeli-Kawardha-Dongargarh line. It would accelerate the growth of mineral rich region and bring prosperity.
317. ▶ Railways Minister Piyush Goyal dedicated India's first railway university to Nation in Vadodara (Gujarat), as 3rd such institution in world after Russia and China, named as National Rail and Transportation Institution (NRTI). Chairman of Railways Board Ashok Lohani is named Vice Chancellor of University.
318. ▶ Railways launched UTSONMOBILE mobile app, introduced Unreserved Mobile Ticketing to promote Cashless transactions, Contact less ticketing and Customer convenience. It will enable booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways. It will remove need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing tickets.

- It involves registration and booking ticket through this application within ticketing area and outside Geo-fenced area (geofenced area is station premises and train route within which ticket cannot be booked. Ticketing area is outside geofenced area as defined in application).
- 319. ▶ Railways will Build first station inside a tunnel, at Keylong, at a height of 3,000 metres, on strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line in Himachal Pradesh.
 - It will be part of world's highest rail network at 5,360 metres height. 465-km railway line will have 30 stations and is estimated to cost 83,360 crores.
- 320. ▶ Railways' National Rail Museum (NRM) signed MoU with Madame Tussauds Wax Museum to foster tourism in Delhi NCR region, as first ever public-private museum collaboration. Under this, discount of 35 percent will be offered on ticket prices to National Rail Museum visitors when they visit Madame Tussauds Museum Delhi.
- 321. ▶ Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia has termed 'Titli', severe cyclonic storm that struck Odisha in October 2018 as 'rarest cyclone'. Its rarity lies in terms of its characteristics such as recurvature after landfall, retaining its destructive potential after landfall and recurvature away from coastal areas for more than two days.
- 322. ▶ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) designed India's first indigenous microprocessor called 'Shakti'.
 - Microprocessors are brain of all computing and electronic devices and are used to operate larger high-speed systems and supercomputers.
 - It will reduce dependency on imported microchips especially in communication and defence sectors and thus eliminate risk of cyber-attacks. It can be used in mobile computing, wireless and networking systems.
 - IIT M researchers are now conducting research on 'Parashakti', an advanced microprocessor for supercomputers, to be ready by December 2018. It will have its applications in desktops and 32 such interconnected microprocessors may be used in supercomputers.
 - IIT Madras also developed portable solar-powered cold storage device with 500 kg capacity for storing vegetables and fruits. It will help farmers store their produce for sufficient time so that it does not get spoilt before it is sold, preventing wastage of agricultural produce.
- 323. ▶ Rural Development Ministry's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) signed MoU with Delhi University's Lady Irwin College for establishing ROSHNI - Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action.
- 324. ▶ Sanjay Leela Bhansali Directed *Padmaavat* has been officially selected for Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2018.
- 325. ▶ Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State (Ministry of Human Resource Development) launched two new initiatives - Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT).
 - LEAP is a three weeks Flagship leadership development training programme (2 weeks domestic and 1 week foreign training) for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions. objective is to prepare second tier academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in future. Implementation will be through 15 NIRF top ranked Indian Institutions. Foreign Universities identified for training are -
 - University of Michigan, NTU Singapore, Harvard University, Purdue University (USA), University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania / Stanford, Monash University, London School of Economics/ Oxford University University of Cambridge and University of Virginia, USA.
 - ARPIT is a unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using MOOCs platform SWAYAM. 75 discipline-specific institutions have been identified and notified as National Resource Centres (NRCs) in first phase, tasked to prepare online training material.
 - Course is a 40 hour module with 20 hours of video content and 20 hours of non-video content. Faculties who successfully complete online refresher course will be certified. The courses will remain open from 1st November, 2018 to 28th February, 2019.
 - ARPIT will be an ongoing exercise so that every year NRCs will continuously develop new refresher module in their earmarked discipline each year. NRCs will revolutionize professional development of faculty by catering to massive numbers by leveraging ICT and online technology platform of SWAYAM.
- 326. ▶ Satyajit Ray directed *Pathar Panchali* included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films, as only Indian film in list. It was released in 1955.
- 327. ▶ Severe Cyclone Storm Gaja affected Tamilnadu and UT of Puducherry, causing heavy rainfalls and losses.
- 328. ▶ Severe Cyclone Titli caused heavy losses in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, with winds above 150 KMPH.
- 329. ▶ Seychelles (East Africa) launched world's first Sovereign Blue Bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. It raised USD 15 million and demonstrates potential to harness capital markets for financing sustainable use of marine

resources.

330. ▶ Shi Yomi became 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh, created by bifurcating West Siang district with its headquarters at Tato. 2 more districts Pakke-Kesang and Lepa Rada will be formally inaugurated in state.
- ▶ In August 2018, State assembly passed Arunachal Pradesh Re-Organisation of Districts (Amendment) Bill 2018 for creation of three new districts, Pakke-Kesang, Lepa Rada and Shi Yomi.
331. ▶ Shipping and Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone for development work of Ghagra River as National Waterway-40 at Basti in Uttar Pradesh, as part of Sagarmala Programme.
- ▶ Waterway will stretch from Manjhighat at Ganga-Gaghra river confluence to Faizabad or Ayodhya along Gaghra River for 354 kms.
 - ▶ It was declared as National Waterway (NW)-40 during the year 2016.
 - ▶ Together with National Waterway-1 (on river Ganga), NW-40 will be a major transport modal choice for cargo and passenger movement.
332. ▶ Shri Ramayana Express, a special tourist train to run on Ramayana circuit to cover major spots related to Hindu epic flagged off from Safdarjung Railway Station (New Delhi). It will have 2 travel components - one each in India and Sri Lanka. It will cover important destinations of Ramayana circuit such as Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Janakpur, Varanasi, Prayag, Shringverpur, Chitrakoot, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram.
- ▶ Fare for 16-day trip at 15,120 per person. Sri Lanka leg of the tour will be charged separately as passengers opting for Sri Lanka leg of Ramayana Yatra package can take flight to Colombo from Chennai.
333. ▶ Shripad Naik (Minister of state for Ayush) laid foundation stone for All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy at Dhargal (North Goa). It will also boost tourism in Goa by offering various short-term courses on yoga and naturopathy. This was a part of 2-day International Conference on Yoga for Public Health that held at Kala Academy (Panjim).
334. ▶ Silao Khaja, the Traditional delicacy of Nalanda district of Bihar, has been granted GI tag by Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai). Silao Khaja is a crisp, multi-layered dough sheeted sweet, made up of wheat-flour, sugar, maida, ghee, cardamon and aniseeds as ingredients.
335. ▶ Southern Railway became Unmanned Level Crossing (UMLC) Free Zone, by elimination of all 1054 UMLCs by providing alternate routes like provision of subways, the road under bridges etc.
336. ▶ Special Centre for Disaster Research (SCDR) at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) signed pact with Skymet Weather Services Pvt. Limited, to help obtain weather data for undertaking cutting-edge research in the field of hydro-meteorological disasters risk mitigation.
337. ▶ State government of Arunachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation, to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of state.
338. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) introduced witness protection regime, amid several incidents of witnesses turning hostile due to no security given to them. Witness Protection Scheme 2018 will come into effect immediately across all States, to stay a law till Parliament enacted suitable legislation.
339. ▶ Supreme Court directed states to start implementing draft witness protection scheme framed by Centre in consultation with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). It was stated in response to plea made by Attorney General KK Venugopal that finalized draft scheme would be made into a law soon, but till then court should direct the states to start implementing it.
340. ▶ Supreme Court fixed December 15, 2018 as the deadline for filing of claims and objections by individuals excluded from the first draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) of Assam, published on July 30, 2018.
341. ▶ Supreme Court gave its nod for a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh, which will start functioning from January 1 next year. It will be 25th High Court in the country and will temporarily function from a makeshift building till permanent structure is built in Justice City complex in Andhra's de-facto capital Amaravati.
342. ▶ Supreme Court prohibited plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in the Delhi-NCR, to deal with critical air pollution situation in Delhi-NCR.
343. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020.
- ▶ Bharat stage emission standards were instituted by Government to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles. BS-IV norms were in force across country since April 2017
 - ▶ In 2016, Government decided to switch over to BS-VI grade fuel directly from BS-IV skipping BS-V.
344. ▶ Tamil Nadu Govt announced 3 % sub-quota in recruitments for sports persons, up from 2 % Earlier.
345. ▶ Tamil Nadu created a national record by opening over 16 lakh postal savings accounts under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. Also, over 1500 post offices out of total 6717 in Tamil Nadu have migrated to Digital Advancement of Rural Post Offices in New India (Darpan) system.

346. ▶ Tamil Nadu government distributed 200 NavIC- powered satellite-enabled communication devices developed by ISRO to 80 fishing boat groups in Tamil Nadu. These gadgets will help fishermen to get cyclone and weather updates on a real-time basis. Alerts received can be read on NavIC App.
- ▶ NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is touted to be Indian version of USA's merican GPS (Global Positioning System), consisting of 8 satellites. NavIC provides accurate real-time position, navigation and timing services over India and region extending 1,500 km around Indian borders.
347. ▶ Tamil Nadu government hiked health insurance cover under Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) from 2 to Rs 5 lakh. Through this, state would cover 1027 medical procedures for most of those who earn less than 72,000 per annum.
348. ▶ Tamil Nadu government launched a 24-hour toll-free helpline '181' for women facing domestic violence and sexual harassment.
349. ▶ Tata Trust and The Global Fund backed Indian Health Fund (IHF) has chosen four innovators for early detection of tuberculosis (TB), malaria to effectively tackle these eradicate diseases. Three selected innovators are related to TB and one to malaria. Government has set a target of eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030.
350. ▶ Tea Board of India will launch an app aimed at guiding small growers, whose share in total tea production is increasing. Name of the app is Chai Sahay (tea help). It aims to establish two-way communication between manufacturer and customers.
351. ▶ Telangana's MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre entered Guinness Book of World Records 'for organising the largest men's Health Awareness programme on prostate cancer on a single day.'
352. ▶ Textiles Ministry will release 7.8 crore rupees for construction of a textile tourism complex in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
353. ▶ Tourism Ministry handed over an MOU to Resbird Technologies under 'Adopt a Heritage' project for development of a mobile audio guide application for five iconic sites - Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Kaziranga (Assam), Colva Beach (Goa), Kumarakom (Kerala), Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).
354. ▶ Tribal Baduga community in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu celebrated their annual Heddaiyamman festival.
355. ▶ Tripura government will purchase 26 % equity shares of the Palatana gas thermal power project from the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS). Its a 726.6 mw gas-based thermal power project, run by ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC). It was started in 2014 as a joint venture between ONGC, IDFC, IL&FS and Tripura government.
356. ▶ UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) offered to collaborate with Telangana for South-South Cooperation in development of seed sector in African countries.
357. ▶ UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions.
358. ▶ Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath made three announcements -
- ▶ Faizabad district will be renamed as Ayodhya.
 - ▶ New airport named after Lord Rama and medical college named after King Dasharatha will be opened in district.
359. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved constituting Bundelkhand Development Board (BDB) and Purvanchal Development Board (PDB). Cabinet also approved setting up of the UP Traders Welfare Board to address problems faced by traders in state with regards to the GST.
360. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government announced creation of an umbrella university named after former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. University would be the controlling authority of all medical and dental colleges and nursing institutions in state.
361. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government has approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively. Government justified name changes are merely restoring older names and correcting historical distortions.
362. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt approved construction of a 221-metre long statue of Lord Ram in Ayodhya. Height of statue would be 151 metres, its overhead umbrella would be 20 metres while pedestal would be 50 metres. It will be world's tallest statue, taking over 181 Metres tall Statue of Unity, of Indian statesman and independence activist Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
363. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government initiated One District, One Product scheme to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts of state. It aims to revive Rich traditional heritages of state by reviving them through modernization and publicisation.
364. ▶ Uttarakhand High Court directed state government to provide reservation to transgenders in educational institutions and public appointments, for welfare of transgender persons in state.
365. ▶ Uttarakhand government approved renaming Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport after late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
366. ▶ West Bengal Assembly passed West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill 2018 to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal. It will end uncertainty for people residing in those enclaves, giving them full-fledged status as citizens of India. It will result in creation of 13 'mouzas' (administrative district), while rest area will be amalgamated with existing 31 'mouzas'.
- ▶ Bangladesh and India exchanged total of 162 enclaves in August 2015 as per historic 1974 Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), ending one of world's most-complex border disputes.
 - ▶ In Cooch Behar, 111 Indian enclaves became part of Bangladesh territory and 51 Bangladesh enclaves joined India.

367. ▶ West Bengal Govt. approval for an online system for mutation of property, to ease property mutation and check illegal practices. State Cabinet also approved a proposal by Flipkart to set up a logistic hub at Haringhata in Nadia district, at investment of Rs INR 991 crores.
368. ▶ West Bengal Govt. will set up development boards for Matua and Namasudra communities, for social representation and welfare of the 2 communities present in large numbers in state.
369. ▶ West Bengal assembly approved renaming West Bengal Green University as Rani Rashmoni Green University, in commemoration of Rani Rashmoni's 225th Birth anniversary.
370. ▶ Winter session of Lok Sabha will be held between Dec 11 - Jan 08, 2019. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh had recommended convening Winter session of Parliament between this period.
371. ▶ Women and Child Development Ministry launched online marketing portal named: "Mahila-E-Haat" for promoting women farmers and entrepreneurs. It will serve as an e-platform to promote achievements of women farmers. It was launched during 5th *Women of India National Organic Festival 2018* in New Delhi.
372. ▶ World Bank released World Development Report 2019, with Theme *The Changing Nature of Work*. As part of report, World Bank launched a Human Capital Project (HCP), claimed to be a program of advocacy, measurement, and analytical work to raise awareness and increase demand for interventions to build human capital.
- ✎ There are three components of HCP - Human capital measurement metric called Human Capital Index (HCI), a programme of measurement and research to inform policy action, and a programme of support for country strategies to accelerate investment in human capital.
 - ✎ Human Capital index (HCI) -
 - ✎ HCI is constructed for 157 countries. It measures amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. HCI has three components -
 - ✎ Survival, as measured by under-5 mortality rates.
 - ✎ Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School
 - ✎ Health environment using two proxies of *adult survival rates* and *rate of stunting for children under age 5*.
 - ✎ How World Bank's HCI is different from UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) -
 - ✎ HCI uses survival rates and stunting rate instead of life expectancy as measure of health, and quality-adjusted learning instead of merely years of schooling as measure of education.
 - ✎ Two significant changes from HDI are exclusion of income component and introduction of quality adjustment in learning. Exclusion of income element and introduction of quality adjustment makes HCI far less representative of Human Capital Development than Index claims it to be.
 - ✎ Observations of 1st HCI Report -
 - ✎ For 56% of world's population, HCI is below 0.50, for 92% it is at or below 0.75. Hence only 8% of the population can expect to be 75% as productive as they could be.
 - ✎ Advanced economies such as North America and Europe mostly have HCI value of above 0.75, while South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa have lowest HCI.
 - ✎ Top 5 - Singapore (1), South Korea (2), Japan (3), Hong Kong (4), Finland (5)
 - ✎ Bottom 5 - Chad (157), South Sudan (156), Niger (155), Mali (154), Liberia (153)
 - ✎ Neighbours - China (46), Bangladesh (106), Pakistan (134), Sri Lanka (74), Nepal (102)
 - ✎ Report in Context of India -
 - ✎ HCI for India is estimated at 0.44, **ranked 115th**.
 - ✎ There has been improvement in HCI components in India over last five years.
 - ✎ Probability of Survival to Age 5 is 96 %.
 - ✎ In India, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete 10.2 years of school by her 18th birthday.
 - ✎ Harmonized Test Scores: Students in India score 355 on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
 - ✎ Across India, 83 per cent of 15-year olds will survive until age 60.
 - ✎ In India, HCI for girls is marginally higher than for boys.
 - ✎ Further, India finds the report Insignificant as -
 - ✎ Quality adjusted learning has been measured in case of India by using the data as old as 2009.
 - ✎ Purpose of Index is to create political incentive for increased spending on health and education. Unfortunately, indicators used are so slow moving that none can really be excited about setting out programme of Index improvement.

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

Including -

🔗 *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan*

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

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

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

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

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

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

374. ▶ government notified 10 Central Agencies giving them power to intercept, monitor and decrypt all data contained in any computer system in India. The Agencies are *Intelligence Bureau, Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, CBI, National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Research and Analysis Wing, Directorate of Signal Intelligence (in Jammu & Kashmir, the North-East and Assam) and the Delhi Police*.

🔗 Section 69 of Information Technology Act 2000 provides for interception and monitoring along with decryption for cyber-crime investigations. This notification by government caused opposition in Parliament.

🔗 Government clarified that it has not given *blanket power* to any agency to intercept information from any computer and they have to strictly adhere to existing rules and stick to the book while carrying out such action.

[Top](#)

Persons

1. ▶ Obituaries (Dec 2018) -

🔗 George H .W. Bush - Former USA President.

🔗 Arun Kumar Shaw - Swimmer (Seven-time former national champion).

🔗 Jagdish Thakkar - Senior journalist and Public Relations Officer (PRO) in PM office.

🔗 Lyudmila Alexeyeva - Noted Russian rights activist and former Soviet dissident.

🔗 Mushirul Hasan - Noted Historian. He has extensively written on India's Partition.

🔗 Thoppil Ajayan - National award winning Malayalam film director.

🔗 Nancy Wilson - 3 times Grammy award winner american jazz singer.

🔗 Pandit Arun Bhaduri - Noted classical singer. She is named as one of masters of Bengali songs and bhajans.

🔗 Tulsi Giri - Former Nepalese Prime Minister.

🔗 Tulsi Ramsay - Filmmaker. He is noted for directing old Bollywood Horror flicks.

🔗 Sulagitti Narasamma - Padma Shri awardee Noted Social worker.

🔗 Dipali Borthakur - Noted Assamese singer, also known as the "Nightingale of Assam".

🔗 Prabhanjan - Noted Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner.

🔗 Dwijen Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra Sangeet singer.

🔗 Jai Narain Prasad Nishad - Former Union Minister, served as Minister of state, Environment and Forests (IC) during 1996-97.

🔗 Hamidi Kashmiri - Noted Urdu Literateur.

🔗 Mrinal Sen - Noted filmmaker.

🔗 Lawrence Gilman Roberts - American Scientist, known for development of ARPANET, called early Internet.

🔗 Norman Gimbel - the Oscar and Grammy-winning American lyricist.

🔗 Nirendranath Chakraborty - Noted Bengali poet.

🔗 Shehu Shagari - 2nd President of Nigeria.

2. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 21 - 30, 2018) -


















🔗 Hu Wei, Vice Minister of General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) Visited India. A protocol on Hygiene and Inspection requirements for the export of Fish Meal and Fish Oil from India to China was signed, enabling India to commence export of fish





meal and fish oil to China.

 Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu visited India.


















 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon (Central Africa), Regis Immongault Visited India.

 Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid Visited India.













3. ▶ 3 Indian-Americans named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in US. They are Divya Nag, Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande.
4. ▶ Amnesty International took away its highest honour, the 'Ambassador of Conscience' award, from Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, over her indifference to atrocities committed by the Myanmar military against and increasing intolerance of freedom of expression.
5. ▶ Chagari Praveen Kumar is appointed as acting Chief Justice of Andhra High Court. Andhra HC is newly created and 25th High Court in India.
6. ▶ Colin O'Brady (USA) became first person to complete a solo journey across Antarctica, unaided and unsupported, after finishing a two-month expedition.
7. ▶ Controversial Candidate Brett Kavanaugh Sworn In as a US Supreme Court Judge After Senate Confirmation.
8. ▶ Former Indian cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu (Bhutan). The basic aim of challenge was to identify innovative solutions to promote practice of hand washing with soap.
9. ▶ Govt. released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Rajkumar Shukla, who drew attention of M K Gandhi to plight of peasants suffering under an oppressive system established by European indigo planters in Champaran (Bihar). He made great contribution in launch of Champaran Satyagraha in 1917.
10. ▶ India's Aadi Sai Vijaykaran won Junior Debate Championship at World Scholar's Cup at Yale University (USA), becoming first Indian to do so.
11. ▶ Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe - second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea (4367 metres). Satya now scaled 5 of 7 volcanic summits. He will now set out to summit Mt Wilhelm (highest mountain of Papua New Guinea with height 4509 Metres).
12. ▶ Kerala government approved Compensation worth 50 Lakh for Former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan, in compliance with a September 14 Supreme Court order, that required awarding the compensation to him for being falsely implicated in 1994 espionage case.
13. ▶ Maharashtra's 20-year-old cyclist Vedangi Kulkarni completed 29,000-km distance required to qualify as bicycling across globe in 159 days. She reached Kolkata after pedalling up to 300 km a day in 14 countries across 159 days.
14. ▶ Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became first person from whom honorary Canadian citizenship has been taken back, for her role in gross human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims. The honour was bestowed on Suu Kyi in 2007.
15. ▶ Obituaries (November 2018) -
 -  Stan Lee - Noted American comic book writer. He was Marvel Comics' primary creative leader.
 -  Lalan Sarang - Noted Marathi actress.
 -  M.P. Awati - 1971 War Hero. He commanded a naval unit of Eastern Fleet that led to destruction of an enemy submarine.
 -  K P S Srivastava - Noted Journalist.
 -  Vinod Agrawal - Noted Bhajan singer.
 -  Anant Kumar - Serving Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. After his demise, DV Sadananda Gowda got additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Narendra Singh Tomar was assigned Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
 -  Roshan Lal Sethi - Noted Sports journalist.
 -  Chitta Jena - Noted Odia singer.
 -  Banamali Maharana - Noted Odissi percussionist. He was known for expertise in Mardala Instrument.
 -  Kuldip Singh Chandpuri - Noted war veteran of 1971. He led India in famous battle of Longewala in Rajasthan in which just 120 Indian men defeated over 2000 Troops strong contingent of Pakistani Army.
 -  TS Kanaka - Asia's first woman neurosurgeon, and third woman neurosurgeon in world.
 -  Alyque Padamsee - Padma Shri awardee Indian Theatre Personality and Ad Film Maker.
 -  Ustad Imrat Khan - Classical Singer. He was noted for sitar and surbahar expertise.
 -  Sandeep Michael - Former Indian hockey player.
 -  William Goldman - Oscar-winning American screenwriter author.
 -  MH Ambareesh - Kannada actor and former union minister.
 -  Fahmida Riaz - India-born Pakistani poet and human rights activist.

-  C. K. Jaffer Sharief - Former Union Railway Minister.
-  Mohammed Aziz - Playback Singer.
-  Bernardo Bertolucci - Oscar Winning Italian filmmaker.
-  Iravatham Mahadevan - leading scholar on Indus Valley and Tamil Brahmi scripts.













16. ▶ Obituaries (October 2018) -

-  Otis Rush - Noted Chicago blues guitarist (USA).
-  Balabhaskar - Noted violinist.
-  Thampi Kannanthanam - Noted Veteran Malayalam film personality.
-  Will Vinton - Oscar-winning American animator.
-  Natwar Thakkar - Noted Eminent Gandhian social worker from Nagaland.
-  Montserrat Caballé - Noted Spanish Opera singer.
-  Pradip Chowdhury - Noted journalist and former News Editor of Press Trust of India (PTI).
-  M N Paloor - Noted Malayalam poet.
-  G.D. Agarwal - Environmentalist. He was on a fast for last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga.
-  Annapurna Devi - Noted musician. She was daughter and disciple of Noted sarod player Allauddin Khan, and married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.
-  Kishour Giri - Assamese singer and music director.
-  Paul Allen - co-founder of Microsoft.
-  N D Tiwari - Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
-  Osamu Shimomura - Japanese-born Marine biologist. He won Chemistry Nobel Prize in 2008, for discovery of a jellyfish protein that contributed to cancer studies.
-  Madan Lal Khurana - Former Delhi Chief Minister
-  Qazi Abdus Sattar - Urdu writer. He won Padma Shri in 1974 and was first recipient of Ghalib Academy Award in 1978.
-  Yeshwant Deo - Noted Marathi musician.

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

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

18. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired in November 2018 -

-  Azhar Ali - Pakistani Cricketer.
-  John Hastings - Australian cricketer.
-  Ambati Rayudu - Retired from First Class Cricket, including Ranji Trophy, to focus on limited-overs cricket.
-  Former Australia captain Mark Taylor resigned from Cricket Australia board.
-  Jeff Sessions - United States Attorney General.
-  Binny Bansal - Flipkart co-founder.
-  Ashok Chawla - Chairman of Yes Bank.
-  Joe Cole - England Footballer.
-  Munaf Patel - Indian Cricketer.
-  Isobel Joyce and Cecelia Joyce - Ireland Female Cricketers.
-  Erik Solheim - UN's environment chief.
-  Didier Drogba - Ivorian Footballer.
-  R. Chandrashekar - Yes Bank independent director.

19. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (December 2018) -

- ✍ Gautam Gambhir - Indian cricketer.
- ✍ Paul Polman - Resigned as CEO of Unilever (consumer goods firm).
- ✍ Urjit Patel - Resigned as Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Mr. Patel is First RBI governor to resign before completion of term, which was to end in September 2019.
- ✍ Upendra Kushwaha - Resigned as Minister of State in Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ✍ Ananth Narayanan - Resigned as CEO of Fashion e-tailer Myntra, with his position set to be abolished. Flipkart's Amar Nagaram appointed as head of Myntra.
- ✍ Dharmesh Mehta - Resigned as MD & CEO of Axis Capital. Salil Pitale and Chirag Negandhi appointed as Joint MD and Co-CEO of the entity.
- ✍ Surjit S Bhalla - resigned as Member of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. Council is headed by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy.
- ✍ Charles Michel - Resigned as Belgian Prime Minister.
- ✍ Anup Kumar - Indian Kabaddi player and former World Cup-winning captain.

20. ▶ Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani named as richest Indian for 11th consecutive year with a net worth of USD 47.3 Billion, according to Forbes magazine. He is also year's biggest gainer, adding USD 9.3 billion to his wealth. Wipro Chairman Azim Premji retained 2nd spot, followed by Arcelor Mittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal at 3rd place.

21. ▶ The city of Paris will take back Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary freedom of Paris award, over her failure to speak out against a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims. She has already been stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship and her Amnesty International's 'Ambassador of Conscience Award'.

22. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Vietnam and Australia.
 - ✍ Vietnam - 4 cooperation agreements signed -
 - ✍ Cooperation in Ministries of Communications.
 - ✍ Cooperation among Department of Foreign Affairs.
 - ✍ Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in Hanoi and New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.
 - ✍ Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
 - ✍ Australia - 5 Cooperation Agreement signed -
 - ✍ Welfare of Differently abled persons, bilateral investment, scientific collaboration and innovation.
 - ✍ Agreement between Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University Guntur and University of Western Australia Perth for cooperation in agricultural research and education.
 - ✍ Joint PhD agreement between Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Brisbane.
- ✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Singapore -
 - ✍ He attended 33rd ASEAN Summit, 13th East Asia Summit, 16th ASEAN-India Summit and 2nd RCEP Summit. Also, Officials from 4 countries (Quad) – Australia, India, Japan and the United States also held their third "Quadrilateral" meeting in Singapore.
 - ✍ He attended 3rd Singapore Fintech Festival and launched Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform through which ASEAN financial institutions, innovators and users would connect with Indian users. APIX aims to connect companies to financial institutions globally and become a banking solution for two billion people without bank accounts worldwide.
 - ✍ He invited South African president Cyril Ramaphosa to be chief guest at 2019 Republic Day parade of India.
- ✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Maldives, to attend swearing in ceremony of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih as new President of Maldives.

23. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 21-30, 2018)

- ✍ First India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held at St. Petersburg in Russia. Indian side was led by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- ✍ Nitin Gadkari (Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) Visited Nigeria for Attending Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi. Kenya hosted conference with Canada and Japan as co-hosts.
- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Laos.
- ✍ Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited Russia.

24. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited USA.
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited UAE for 12th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation. During this meet, India and UAE signed an agreement on Currency Swap worth INR 3500 crores, along with MOU for Development Cooperation in Africa.
 - Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Japan.
25. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Tanzania and Kenya.
 - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited USA, focusing around US-India Defence partnership.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind visited Myanmar.
 - He dedicated - India assisted project 'Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research & Education' (CARE) - to the people of Myanmar.
 - 2 MOUs signed -
 - MOU on training of Myanmar judicial officers in India.
 - MOU to enhance cooperation in science and technology.
 - Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Visited Saudi Arabia. India and Saudi Arabia signed bilateral annual Haj 2019 agreement.
26. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 1 - 10, 2018) -
- 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting held in Durban (South Africa), attended by VK Singh (Minister of State for External Affairs) on India's Behalf. Bangladesh was appointed as Vice Chairman of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for 2019-21 and eventually as Chairman for 2021-23. 'Be the Legacy' internship programme announced to be launched on July 18, 2019, 101st birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
 - Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited African Nations Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi -
 - Botswana -
 - An MoU was signed for waiving Visa for Diplomatic Passport holders.
 - Botswana decided to join India based International Solar Alliance.
 - Zimbabwe -
 - India announced \$310 million loan to Zimbabwe to finance a rehabilitation project for a thermal power plant that would entail upgrading the station and extending its lifespan. A fund of \$2.9 million will also be extended to upgrade the Indo-Zim Technology Centre, which India had gifted to the African country.
 - India and Zimbabwe signed six signed agreements, including on mining, Information and communications technology (ICT), visa waiver and traditional medicine.
 - Malawi -
 - India and Malawi have signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful
 - India will also extend a new Line of credit of 215 million US dollars to Malawi for 18 water projects.
 - Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited France to represent India at events commemorating centenary of signing of the armistice ending World War I. He inaugurated first India-bult war memorial in northern France, to pay tribute Indian soldiers who sacrificed lives during World War I.
27. ▶ Visits from India (Oct 11 - 20, 2018) -
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited France. She participated in the 1st India-France Ministerial level annual defence dialogue in Paris.
 - 7th meeting of education ministers of member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Astana (Kazakhstan). India was represented by Minister of State (MoS) Human Resource Development Satyapal Singh.
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Tajikistan capital Dushanbe to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government Council Meeting.
 - Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu visited Azerbaijan to attend 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC).
 - President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Tajikistan (Central Asia). 9 MOUs were signed on the occasion, for cooperation in Political relations, Strategic research, Agriculture Renewable energy, Traditional medicine, Space technology, Youth affairs, Disaster Management AND Culture. India also announced grant of USD 20 Million to Tajikistan for implementation of development projects of Tajikistan.

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

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

29. ▶ Visits from India (Oct 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Kazakhstan (Central Asia).
- ✍ President Ra Nath Kovind Visited Tajikistan -
 - ✍ Signed MoUs in various fields including political relations, strategic research, agriculture, renewable energy, traditional medicine, space technology, youth affairs, Culture and Disaster Management.
 - ✍ Indian grant of 20 million US dollars was announced for Tajikistan to finance development projects.
- ✍ Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary Visited Nigeria for Regional Conclave on India-West Africa Project Partnership held in Abuja, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-EXIM Bank.

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

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

31. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of Mozambique (East Africa), Jose Condungua Antonio Pacheco Visited India.

- Foreign Minister of Romania, Teodor Melescanu visited India.
- Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid visited India.
- Chairman of 'Duma' of Russian Parliament (Counterpart of India's Lok Sabha), Vyacheslav Volodin Visited India. He attended 5th Meeting of India-Russia Parliamentary Commission in New Delhi.

32. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2018) -

- Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea, Ms. Kang Kyung-wha Visited India, for 9th India-Korea Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi. India and South Korea agreed to raise bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars by 2030.
- Minister of Trade of Turkey, Rushar Pekcan Visited India.
- Nepal Minister for General Administration and Federal Affairs, Lal Babu Pandit Visited India.
- Thailand Navy Chief Luechai Ruddit Visited India.
- Patrick Matibini, Speaker of National Assembly of Zambia visited India. Zambia approved its membership of India led International Solar Alliance.
- Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark, Anders Samuelsen Visited India.
- Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Visited India.
 - India signed mega supercomputer *Bull Sequana* deal with France, to procure supercomputers worth INR 4,500 crores into India. Contract will last for 3 years for developing Bull Sequana (high-performance supercomputers), with computing power of over 10 petaflops.
- Achmad Taufiqorrochman, Chief of Indonesia Coast Guard (called BAKAMLA) visited India, for 6th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi.
- Maldives President Ibrahim Solih Visited India -
 - India announced a \$1.4 billion package for Maldives, to meet its capital requirements.
 - 4 agreements signed - Facilitation of Visa Arrangements, Cultural Cooperation, Mutual Cooperation to Improve Ecosystem for Agribusiness AND Cooperation in field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics.
 - Maldives announced to re-join the Commonwealth AND joining Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) family.
- Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visited India for 18th meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC), held in New Delhi.
- Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea, Kang Kyung-wha visited India for attending 9th India-ROK Joint Commission meeting, held in New Delhi.

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

- Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lotay Tshering Visited India.
 - India announced to contribute INR 4500 crores to Bhutan for 12th five-year plan.
 - 2018 also marks 50th (Golden Jubilee year) of establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.
 - 2018 also marks 50th (Golden Jubilee year) of establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.
- Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China Visited India, to attend first-ever meeting of India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, held in New Delhi.

34. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 1 - 10, 2018) -

- Mrs. Kim Jung-sook, First Lady of South Korea Visited India -
 - She was Chief Guest at Deepotsav event being organized by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and ceremony of new Memorial of Queen Suriratna (Heo Hwang-ok) in Ayodhya. Ayodhya and Korea have a deep historical connection through the legendary Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya, who traveled to Korea in 48 CE and married Korean King Suro.
 - MOU signed for cooperation in sports and Tourism.

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

- Minister for Public Service & Good Governance, Law & Justice of Tanzania, Haroun Ali Suleiman Visited India.
- 9th Session of India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) held in New Delhi. Kosmosbek Cholpon Baev, Health Minister of Kyrgyzstan Visited India.
- India and Morocco have signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, during India visit of Morocco Minister of Justice, Mohamed Aujjar.

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

- Malaysia's Human Resources Minister M. Kulasegaran Visited India.
- Opposition leader of Canada, Andrew Scheer Visited India.
- President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev Visited India. 17 MOUs were signed -

- ✍️ Visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders.
- ✍️ cooperation in field of tourism, military education, sphere of Law and Justice, agriculture and allied sectors, scientific-technical and innovation fields, health and medical science, combating illicit trafficking narcotic drugs, exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, Foreign Affairs.
- ✍️ MoU between Samarkand City of Uzbekistan and Municipal Corporation of Agra (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✍️ Establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan.
- ✍️ Cooperation between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under President of Uzbekistan.
- ✍️ UN Secretary-General António Guterres (Portugal) Visited India.
 - ✍️ Formally opened new UN House in New Delhi.
 - ✍️ Participated in closing session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention. He will also meet with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan, before giving an address at the India Habitat Centre.
 - ✍️ Took part in General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.
- ✍️ Russian President Vladimir Putin Visited India -
 - ✍️ Attended 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit 2018 in New Delhi.
 - ✍️ Attended AIM-SIRIUS Innovation Festival 2018 in New Delhi.
 - ✍️ India and Russia signed their biggest defence deal in over two decades for Five S-400 air defence systems with worth \$5.43 billion (Rs. 40,300 crores) -
 - ✍️ The S-400 regiments will be delivered starting 2020 and are likely to be deployed to cover both the Pakistani and Chinese borders.
 - ✍️ China was first foreign buyer Signed a \$3 billion deal for integrating Six S-400 in 2014.
 - ✍️ U.S. warned deal could attract sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) law that restricts defence purchases from Russia, Iran and North Korea.
 - ✍️ S-400 Air Defence System (Previously known as the S-300 PMU-3)
 - ✍️ The S-400 uses four missiles to fill its performance envelope: the very-long-range 40N6 (400 km), the long-range 48N6 (250 km), the medium-range 9M96E2 (120 km) and the short-range 9M96E (40 km).
 - ✍️ One S-400 can launch 160 guided missiles simultaneously, engage 80 targets at a time.(2 Missile to attack 1 target).
 - ✍️ It can hit aircraft, cruise missiles and even fast-moving intermediate range ballistic missiles. The S-400 has three components — the missile launchers themselves, a powerful radar and a command centre.
 - ✍️ The radar can track targets 600 km away. For example, S-400 systems deployed in India can track aircraft flying well outside the country's borders, which is a major threat deterrence to the enemy's air force.
 - ✍️ 8 MOUs signed -
 - ✍️ Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MEA for the period 2019-2023
 - ✍️ MoU between NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and Russian Creative school SIRIUS, to provide a platform for joint scientific and entrepreneurial efforts by youth of two nations.
 - ✍️ MOU between ISRO and ROSCOSMOS on Joint Activities in field of Human Spaceflight Programme.
 - ✍️ ROSCOSMOS offered ride to Indian astronaut short visit to International Space Station (ISS) on board Soyuz spacecraft for short training mission in 2022.
 - ✍️ Cooperation between Railways, Nuclear Field, Transport Education, MSME, Fertilizers Sector.

37. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍️ Andreas Krause, Chief of German Navy visited India.
- ✍️ Augustine P. Mahiga , Foreign Minister of Tanzania Visited India. He attended 9th Session of India - Tanzania Joint Commission Meeting.

Top

Science

1. ▶ 0.7 m GROWTH-India telescope at Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle (Ladakh) made its first observation. GROWTH-India is a part of multi-country collaborative initiative known as Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen (GROWTH), to observe transient events in Universe.

2. ▶ 4 new species of Indian horned frogs discovered from Himalayan regions of Northeast India, by team of researchers that comprised S D Biju, famously known as the 'Frogman of India'.
 - 🔧 Scientists have named them as Himalayan horned frog (*Megophrys himalayana*), Garo white-lipped horned frog (*Megophrys oreocrypta*); Yellow spotted white-lipped horned frog (*Megophrys flavipunctata*) and Giant Himalayan horned frog (*Megophrys periosa*).
3. ▶ GSAT-29 communication satellite successfully launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MarkIII (GSLV MkIII-D2) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
 - 🔧 GSAT-29 satellite weighed 3423-kg.
 - 🔧 GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
4. ▶ A new deep-sea shark species named Pygmy false catshark discovered in northern Indian Ocean, as first such discovery in India since Mangalore hound shark in 2011. Scientific name of species is *Planonasmus indicus* – 'planus' meaning flat and 'nasus' meaning nose.
5. ▶ As a first such mission, European and Japanese space agencies launched Bepi Colombo spacecraft, for a joint mission to Mercury, planet closest to the sun. Spacecraft will arrive at Mercury in 2025.
 - 🔧 It has named after Italian scientist Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo. During its 5.2 billion miles journey, spacecraft will several fly-bys of Earth, Venus and Mercury, to slow down enough to avoid huge gravitational pull of Sun.
6. ▶ As per a study published in journal Royal Society Open Science, Dracula ant possesses fastest animal movement on record, With speeds of up to 90 metres per second / 200 miles per hour.
7. ▶ CSIR Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR) Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" with Trade name "Oneer™", transferred to Bluebird Water Purifiers.
 - 🔧 This system will provide safe and clean drinking water at a cost of just 2 Paise / Ltr. Community level model is of 450 LPH capacity which can be scaled up to 5000 to 1 lakh L/day.
 - 🔧 Smaller unit of Oneer is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors, and small establishments.
8. ▶ China has built an 'artificial sun' that reaches 6 times temperature of Sun's core of 15 million °C. Scientists from China's Institute of Plasma Physics announced that plasma in their Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) also called 'artificial sun', reached 100 million °C, temperature required to perform nuclear fusion on Earth.
9. ▶ China launched Chang'e 4, first-ever spacecraft that will attempt landing on far side of Moon, which always shows the same face to Earth as it's close enough to be locked by planet's gravitational field.
10. ▶ German firm BigRep produced the world's first fully functioning e-motorbike NERA using a 3D printer. NERA has features like airless tires, embedded electronics, and forkless steering.
11. ▶ IIT Hyderabad Researchers developed smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk. This could be done by using an indicator paper that changes colour according to acidity which further can be incorporated with algorithms on a smartphone to accurately detect colour change.
12. ▶ India launched its latest communication satellite, GSAT-7A aboard Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F11) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
 - 🔧 GSAT-7A is 39th Indian communication satellite of ISRO to provide services to the users in Ku-band over Indian region. It weighs 2250 KG.
 - 🔧 GSAT-7A satellite is the heaviest satellite (2250 kgs) with an indigenously developed cryogenic stage that has been launched by GSLV.
13. ▶ India will launch 2 Satellite Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) As a part of its proposed manned space mission, to improve data relay and communication links with its remote sensing/earth observation satellites.
 - 🔧 IDRSS will reduce the dependence on the ground stations in tracking satellites. Communication and data transfer would be in real time as remote sensing satellites can relay data gathered to IDRSS satellites which in turn can transmit them to the ground.
 - 🔧 IDRSS will be like a hub as it can receive commands from the ground stations and in turn relay the same to other satellites.
14. ▶ Indian American Mahum Siddiqi won inaugural "Digital Transformation Hackathon" at Cornell University in USA, for designing a device which can detect actual level of pain of a patient during a diagnosis.
15. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) issued announcement of opportunity (AO) to international space scientists to propose their scientific payloads to be carried on its mission to Venus planned for 2023.
16. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Launched its heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite GSAT-11, from Spaceport in French Guiana (South America), on board Launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-246. It also carried South Korea's GEO-KOMPSAT-2A satellite.

- ✎ The 5,854-kg GSAT-11 will provide high data rate connectivity to users of Indian mainland and islands through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band. It will boost broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible areas in India.
 - ✎ GSAT-11 was launched from French Guiana as its heaviest satellite of ISRO (5.86 ton) and cannot be carried by ISRO's GSLV Mk – III which has capacity to lift only up to four-ton class payloads.
17. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C43) launched 31 satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
- ✎ It Included India's Hyper-Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) and 30 foreign satellites. HysIS is an earth observation satellite built around ISRO's Mini Satellite2 (IMS-2) bus weighing about 380kg. The mission life of the satellite is five years. Primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth's surface in both visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
 - ✎ Foreign Satellites belonged to Australia (1), Canada (1), Columbia (1), Finland (1), Malaysia (1), Netherlands (1), Spain (1) and USA (23). Satellites from Australia, Columbia, Malaysia and Spain were flown aboard PSLV for the first time.
 - ✎ In December 2018, ISRO has 2 more planned launches - GSAT 11 from French Guiana and GSAT 7A from Sriharikota. Next year, ISRO will have its long expected second mission to moon, Chandrayaan – II. GSAT-11 is being launched from French Guiana as its heaviest satellite of ISRO (5.86 ton) and cannot be carried by GSLV Mk – III which has the capacity to lift only up to four-ton class payloads.
18. ▶ Most-distant object ever observed in our solar system known as 2018 VG18 and nicknamed "Farout," has been discovered by American scientists. It is the first to be observed at a distance of more than 100 AU (astronomical units) which almost 120AU or 11 billion miles from the sun.
19. ▶ NASA announced that first crewed test flight by a SpaceX rocket to ISS will take place in June 2019. SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket for launch with a Crew Dragon capsule attached on top.
20. ▶ NASA has retired Kepler space telescope after it ran out of fuel needed for further science operations, bringing end of 9.5 year mission of Kepler space telescope in which it had discovered over 2,600 intriguing exoplanets from outside our solar system some.
- ✎ It was launched in 2009 on 3.5-year mission, but operated for 9 years. It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission. It was named after German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler.
21. ▶ NASA launched VISIONS-2 (*Visualizing Ion Outflow via Neutral Atom Sensing-2*) rocket to get a closer look at how earth's atmosphere is leaking into space. It has several applications including predicting which planets might be habitable.
22. ▶ NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Parker Solar Probe, the first mission to touch the Sun, successfully completed a flyby of Venus at a distance of 2,415 km during its first gravity assist from Venus.
- ✎ Remaining 6 Venus gravity assists will happen during 7-year mission.
 - ✎ Parker Solar Probe was launched on August 12, 2018, on a 7-year journey to study the Sun's outer atmosphere and its impacts on space weather.
23. ▶ NASA's InSight spacecraft landed on Mars after 7 months of Launch, 458-million-kilometre journey, and a 6.5-minute intense parachute descent through MARS atmosphere. It marks 8th successful MARS Landing for NASA.
24. ▶ NASA's new Mars lander InSight has set up its first instrument on planet Mars, a quake monitor (seismometer) that will listen for quakes and wobbles. It is first time that a scientific instrument has ever been placed on another planet's surface. InSight will also put a wind cover over the seismometer next month and initiate a new experiment.
25. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Voyager 2 probe is on its way outside the influence of the Sun and it could be close to interstellar space. It was launched on August 21, 1977. Voyager 2 could be 2nd space probe to reach interstellar space after Voyager 1 which crossed into interstellar space in 2014.
26. ▶ Scientists at European Southern Observatory (ESO) discovered a galaxy proto-supercluster named "Hyperion", the largest and the most massive structure in early universe known so far. Hyperion was found using data from VIMOS Ultra-Deep Survey done by VIMOS instrument on European Southern Observatory's (ESO) Very Large Telescope in Chile.
- ✎ Hyperion's mass is estimated to be a million billion times that of our own Sun (nearly 1,048 Jupiters, or 333,000 Earths). v. Hyperion is located in the constellation of Sextans.
27. ▶ Scientists at Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (Canada) developed a new camera called the T-CUP, touted as world's fastest camera. It can capture 10 trillion frames per second. It can freeze time to see light in extremely slow motion.
28. ▶ Scientists at Rice University (US) developed tiny spheres that can catch and destroy bisphenol A (BPA), a synthetic chemical used to make plastics that often contaminates water. This new material helps in overcoming two significant technological barriers for photocatalytic water treatment.
- ✎ BPA is used to coat insides of food cans, bottle tops and water supply lines. BPA that seeps into food and drink is considered safe in low doses, but prolonged exposure is suspected of affecting the health of children and contributing to high blood pressure.

29. ▶ Scientists discovered fossilized remains of a piranha-like species believed to be the earliest known example of a flesh-eating fish, found in South Germany. It lived about 150 million years ago.
30. ▶ Scientists from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and IISc Bangalore discovered 2 new species of lizards in Western Ghats. The Lizards are: Montane forest lizard and Spiny-headed forest lizard. They were wrongly identified under genus Calotes for over 150 years.
31. ▶ Scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US) have built and flown first-ever silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines, called Ion Drive. It weighs about 5 pounds with five-meter wingspan. It was flown at distance of 60 meters, repeated 10 times. It is first-ever plane having no moving parts in propulsion system.
 - ✍ It is powered by ionic wind or electrodynamic thrust, a silent but mighty flow of ions that is produced aboard plane. It can generate enough thrust to propel plane over sustained, steady flight.
32. ▶ USA Scientists claimed to have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.
 - ✍ It is controlled wirelessly by transmitter outside body that acts much like cellphone-charging mat. It operates for about two weeks before naturally absorbing into the body.
 - ✍ During its animal test on rats with injured sciatic nerves, it was found that this bioelectronic medicine device delivers regular pulses of electricity to damaged peripheral nerves in rats after surgical repair process. This results in accelerating regrowth of nerves.
 - ✍ Researchers envision that such transient engineered technologies can replace pharmaceutical treatments for a variety of medical conditions in humans.
33. ▶ USA based MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) scientists have developed a method to mass produce robots the size of a cell named "Syncells" (synthetic cells), to be used to monitor interior of an oil or gas pipeline, or to detect disease in bloodstream. A process called "autoperforation" directs the fracture lines to produce miniscule pockets of a predictable size and shape.
34. ▶ World's first medical imaging scanner "Explorer" that can capture a 3D picture of the whole human body at once in 20-30 seconds, has started functioning. It has been developed by University of California (USA).
35. ▶ World's first robot citizen Sophia has been granted world's first robot visa for a world tour on behalf of her Hong Kong-based developer Hanson Robotics. She was issued electronic visa upon her arrival at Azerbaijan Baku International Airport. Sofia is in Azerbaijan for a tech conference, where she is a keynote speaker.
36. ▶ World's largest supercomputer Spiking Neural Network Architecture (SpiNNaker) machine designed to work in same way as human brain was switched on for first time, built at University of Manchester in UK. It can model more biological neurons in real time than any other machine on planet. It is capable of completing more than 200 million million actions per second, with each of its chips having 100 million transistors.
 - ✍ It is unique as it mimics the massively parallel communication architecture of brain, sending billions of small amounts of information simultaneously to thousands of different destinations. It has massive potential for neurological breakthroughs in science such as pharmaceutical testing.
37. ▶ World's oldest plant virus dating back 1,000 years named Zea mays chrysovirus 1(ZMCV1) has been discovered at a Native American archeological site. The previous oldest was found about 750 years ago.

Top

Sports

1. ▶ International Olympics Committee (IOC) picked its first African host of any Olympics, by awarding 2022 Youth Games Hosting to Senegal will host youth games in 3 places - Dakar, A new city of Diamniadio and coastal resort of Saly.
2. ▶ 1st North East Olympic Games 2018 held at Main Stadium Khuman Lampak Sports Complex in Imphal (Manipur) -
 - ✍ Games included 12 disciplines: Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Judo, Karate-Do, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Wushu.
 - ✍ Manipur crowned as the overall champions, with 159 medals (80 Gold, 48 Silver and 31 Bronze). Assam came second with 140 medals. Arunachal Pradesh finished third with 76 medals.
 - ✍ 2nd edition of North East Olympic Games will be held in Arunachal Pradesh in 2019.
3. ▶ 2018 ATP Shenzhen Open Men's (Tennis) in Shenzhen (China) -
 - ✍ Singles - Yoshihito Nishioka (Japan)
 - ✍ Doubles - Ben McLachlan (Japan) and Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom)
4. ▶ 2018 China Open (Tennis) -
 - ✍ Men's Singles - Nikoloz Basilashvili (Georgia)
 - ✍ Women's Singles - Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)

 Men's Doubles - Łukasz Kubot (Poland) AND Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

 Women's Doubles - Czech Republic's Andrea Sestini Hlaváčková AND Barbora Strýcová

5. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Final held in Samsun, Turkey.

 South Korea topped the medal tally with: 3 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medals. Turkey stayed at 2nd.

 India won 3 medals - 1 silver and 2 bronze.


 Silver - Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha


 Bronze - Abhishek Verma AND Deepika Kumari


6. ▶ 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup -


 It was 14th edition of the tournament, hosted by India at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

 16 teams participated in the event.

 Belgium won the Title, as their first Hockey World Cup title. They defeated Netherlands in Final. Australia were ranked at Third place.

 India ranked 6th and were eliminated in Quarter finals, after a defeat by Netherlands.

 Arthur Van Doren (Belgium) was named as Best Player of tournament. Australia's Blake Govers and Belgium's Alexander Hendrickx scored most number of goals (7).

 Team of Spain was given Fair Play award.

 Mascot was Turtle 'Olly', representing Olive Ridley turtles which are an endangered species.

7. ▶ 2018 Rolex Paris Masters Tennis Title -

 Singles - Karen Khachanov (Russia)

 Doubles - Rajeev Ram (USA) AND Marcel Granollers (Spain)

8. ▶ 2018 Shanghai Rolex Masters Men's tennis Title -

 Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

 Doubles - Łukasz Kubot (Poland) AND Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

9. ▶ 2018 Tianjin Open Women's Tennis (China) -


 Singles - Caroline Garcia (France)

 Doubles - Nicole Melichar (USA) AND Květa Peschke (Czech Republic)


10. ▶ 2018 World Wrestling Championships in Budapest (Hungary)

 Medal Table -

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

 India at 2018 Wrestling World Championships -

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


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

11. ▶ 2018 Youth Olympic Games (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

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

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

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

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

 Medal Table -


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


 India at 2018 Summer Youth Olympics -

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

 Indian Medallists -


 Gold -

 Jeremy Lalrinnunga - Weightlifting (Boys 62 kg)

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

 Saurabh Chaudhary - Shooting Boys (10 metre air pistol)


 Silver -

 Tushar Mane - Shooting Boys' 10 metre air rifle

 Tababi Devi - Judo Girls' 44 kg

 Mehuli Ghosh - Shooting Girls' 10 metre air rifle

 Lakshya Sen - Badminton Boys' singles

 Simran - Wrestling Girl's freestyle 43 kg

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

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

 Suraj Panwar - Athletics Boys' 5 km walk

 Akash Malik - Archery Boys' individual

 Bronze -

 Praveen Chitravel - Athletics Boys' triple jump

12. ▶ 34th National Junior Athletics Championships 2018 held in Ranchi (Jharkhand).

13. ▶ 36th National Games will be held in Goa in March - April 2019.

14. ▶ 8th Asian Shotgun Championship held in Kuwait. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won gold medal by setting world record score in men's skeet final. He became first Indian skeet shooter to win continental or world level event.

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

16. ▶ Alexander Zverev (Germany) won ATP World Tour finals in London, defeating Novak Djokovic (Serbia). He became first player to beat both Djokovic and Federer in same ATP Finals.


17. ▶ Argentina Footballer Lionel Messi named La Liga Player of the Year for 6th time. England player Bobby Robson received FIFA's fair play award, while presidential award for contributions to football and society went to Jordan's Queen Rania.

18. ▶ Asian Cricket Council (ACC) approved Pakistan as hosts of 2020 Asia cup.

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

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

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

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

 Medal Table -

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

20. ▶ Australia won ICC Women's World Twenty20 Cricket title, defeating England . This is Australia's 4th title win at Women's World T20 in 6 editions of the tournament. West Indies hosted the event.

21. ▶ Cricket Australia (CA) and Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) rebranded Allan Border Medal to Australian Cricket Awards from 2019 onwards.

22. ▶ Croatia defeated France to 2018 Davis Cup Tennis Tournament, as 2nd title for Croatia.
23. ▶ Czech Republic won 2018 Fed Cup Tennis Trophy for 6th time in eight years, defeating defending champion USA.
24. ▶ Denmark Open Badminton 2018 -
- 🎨 Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)
 - 🎨 Women's Singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei), **defeating Saina Nehwal (India)**
 - 🎨 Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - 🎨 Women's Doubles - Japan's Yuki Fukushima AND Sayaka Hirota
 - 🎨 Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong
25. ▶ Ferrari's Racer Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) won F1 USA Grand Prix -
- 🎨 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar -

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

26. ▶ Former Australian Cricketer Ricky Ponting formally inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
27. ▶ Former India Cricketer Anil Kumble's Tech startup Spektacom Technologies launched the *Power Bat*, powered by Microsoft's Azure Cloud platform and its Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) services. Star India is broadcasting partner.
- 🎨 Power Bat will provide real-time data on a player's performance based on parameters like speed of the ball on impact, twist on impact and quality of the shot.
 - 🎨 In a live match, when the batsman hits the ball, data is captured in a new unit of measurement called Power Speks.
28. ▶ Former Indian cricketer Rahul Dravid formally inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, as 5th Indian to receive this honour. The other four Indians are Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Anil Kumble.
29. ▶ Fuzhou China Badminton Open 2018 -
- 🎨 Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)
 - 🎨 Women's Singles - Chen Yufei (China)
 - 🎨 Men's Doubles - Marcus Fernaldi Gideon Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)
 - 🎨 Women's Doubles - Lee So-hee, Shin Seung-chan (South Korea)
30. ▶ Great Britain won 2018 Sultan of Johor Hockey Cup, defeating India. It was hosted by Malaysia.

31. ▶ Hong Kong Badminton Open 2018 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Son Wan-ho (South Korea)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - Japan's Yuki Fukushima AND Sayaka Hirota
 - ▶ Mixed Doubles - Japan's Yuta Watanabe AND Arisa Higashino
32. ▶ Hungarian capital Budapest confirmed as host city of 2023 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships. Upcoming hosts are - Qatar in 2019 and Eugene (USA) in 2021.
33. ▶ India and 6 other members of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) pulled out of Saudi Arabia led-South West Asian Football Federation (SWAFF). Other are Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.
34. ▶ India and Pakistan declared joint winners of Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman, after summit clash was called off due to heavy rain.
35. ▶ India defeated Sri Lanka to win their 6th Under-19 Asia Cup Cricket title.
36. ▶ Indian Premier League franchise Delhi Daredevils renamed as Delhi Capitals ahead of the 2019 Indian Premier League season.
37. ▶ Indian Snooker Player Pankaj Advani won Asian Snooker Tour by defeating Ju Reti of China.
38. ▶ Indian tennis Player Leander Paes won his second Challenger-level title of season, winning Santo Domingo Open trophy (Dominican Republic) with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.
39. ▶ India's Ankit Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi won doubles title at Taipei Open Women's Tennis 2018. In final, they defeated Russian pair of Olga Doroshina and Natela Dzalamidze. This marks first WTA title for an Indian since Sania Mirza, success came on WTA Tour and Grand Slam stage.
- ▶ In Singles, Thailand's Luksika Kumkhum won by defeating Sabine Lisicki (Germany).
40. ▶ India's Badminton Player Lakshya Sen won bronze medal in BWF World junior badminton championship at Markham (Canada). He was defeated by Thailand's Vitidsarn.
- ▶ Boys' Singles title was won by Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand), while Girls' Singles title won by Goh Jin Wei (Malaysia).
41. ▶ India's Sameer Verma won Syed Modi India Grand Prix Gold badminton title 2018 in men's singles category, held In Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). He defeated China's Lu Guangzu. Women's singles title won by China's Han Yue, defeating India's Saina Nehwal.
42. ▶ India's junior shooters won total 11 medals (4 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze), at 11th Asian Air Gun championships held in Kuwait City (Kuwait).
43. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) renamed ICC World T20 as ICC T20 World Cup. Next edition of events in 2020 in Australia will be known as ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 and ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020.
44. ▶ International Cricket Council released updated version of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) System along with the new ICC Code of Conduct and ICC Playing Conditions. These came into effect from 30 September, with an ODI between South Africa and Zimbabwe.
45. ▶ Japan will host 2019 edition of 4th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays, in May 2019. This will serve as a qualifier for world championships taking place in Doha in September and October 2019.
46. ▶ Manipur won 24th Senior Women's National football championships in Cuttack (Odisha). Manipur secured their 19th title win after beating Odisha.
47. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won Abu Dhabi Grand Prix -
- ▶ Also, Lewis Hamilton (UK) earlier won F1 Season 2018, as his 5th F1 world 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	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
6	Monaco Grand Prix	27 May	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
7	Canadian Grand Prix	10 June	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
8	French Grand Prix	24 June	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
9	Austrian Grand Prix	1 July	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)

10	British Grand Prix	8 July	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
11	German Grand Prix	22 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
12	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	Kimi Raikkonen (Finland)
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	Lewis Hamilton (UK)

48. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won Brazilian Grand Prix -

 Also, Lewis Hamilton (UK) earlier won F1 Season 2018, as his 5th F1 world title.

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar -

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1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
6	Monaco Grand Prix	27 May	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
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17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	Kimi Raikkonen (Finland)
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

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

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar -

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1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)

3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
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15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

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

 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar -

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
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18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	

51. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (December 2018) -

- 🏆 Commonwealth Senior Fencing Championships held in Canberra (Australia). India won 3 medals (2 gold and 1 bronze). Medal tally topped by England with 6 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze.
- 🏆 Ullas Narayan became first ever Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by clinching a bronze in 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei.
- 🏆 Australian Golfer Minjee Lee became first woman to win prestigious Greg Norman Medal as best Australian golfer.
- 🏆 Atlawim Debebe of Ethiopia won Men's Full Marathon Title in Pune International Marathon 2018, with timing of 2 hours 17 minutes 17 seconds. In women's Full Marathon, Pascalina Chepkogei from Kenya stood first with timing of 2 hour 50 minutes 27 seconds.
- 🏆 Indian Olympic Association (IOA) submitted formal expression of interest to bid for 2032 Olympics, with Mumbai and Delhi as top two options under consideration. Bidding process will start in 2022 and host city will be decided by 2025.
- 🏆 International Olympic Committee IOC has set up an advisory committee on human rights chaired by Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini. Human rights standards will be included in Olympic host-city contracts beginning with 2024 Olympic in Paris.
- 🏆 Senior National Wrestling Championships held at Nandini Nagar in Gonda (Uttar Pradesh).
- 🏆 9th Admirals Cup Sailing Regatta (2018) held at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala (INA) Kerala. tonight. Team Italy won it with Team Singapore staying 2nd. Host country (Indian Naval Academy) finished 4th.
- 🏆 2nd Edition of Khelo India school games will begin from January 9, 2019 in Pune (Maharashtra). It will allow participants to compete in two categories, (Under 17) and (Under 21). Now, these games will be known as Khelo India Youth Games, also allowing students from colleges and Universities to compete.
- 🏆 Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah became fastest bowler to take 200 Test wickets (in 33 Test matches), Breaking an 82-year-old record held by Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett who did it in 36 Tests.
- 🏆 Golfer Shubhankar Sharma won 2018 Asian Tour Order of Merit champion Title, becoming 5th overall and youngest Indian to top Asian Tour money list in a particular season.
- 🏆 Madhya Pradesh's Ajay Rohera slammed highest first-class score world record on debut, with unbeaten 267 score against Hyderabad in Ranji Trophy Match.
- 🏆 First event of the US Kids Golf India Tour was held Classic Golf & Country Club in Gurugram(Haryana).
- 🏆 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSSC) Shotgun organized by National Rifle Association of India at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- 🏆 SAIL won 115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament, defeating Army XI.
- 🏆 American professional basketball team Golden State Warriors named 2018 Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year. Other Winners of 2018 Sports Illustrated Awards. WWE Player John Cena received Muhammad Ali Legacy Award.
- 🏆 21st Usha National Athletics Sports Championships held in New Delhi.
- 🏆 Joshna Chinappa won National Squash Women's Singles title as her 16th National title.
- 🏆 37th Senior National Rowing Championships held in Pune.
- 🏆 Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli became second fastest player to score 25 Test Centuries, only behind former Australian legend Sir Don Bradman.
- 🏆 Belgium ranked at number one position in end-of-the-year FIFA global Football team rankings, 1 point ahead of current World Champions France.
- 🏆 Lewis Hamilton (UK) has been awarded with Drivers' Driver of the Year after claiming 5th F1 World Drivers' Championship, becoming 3rd racer to secure 5th world title.
- 🏆 Croatia Footballer Luka Modric named Balkan Athlete of the Year, becoming only 2nd soccer player to win this title.
- 🏆 3rd women's national boxing championships held in Vijayanagara (Karnataka).
- 🏆 Indian bowler Jasprit Bumrah became highest wicket-taker in international cricket in 2018, picking 78 wickets in 2018.
- 🏆 Cricketer Dale Steyn became highest wicket-taker for South Africa in Test cricket, overtaking Shaun Pollack.
- 🏆 American alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin became youngest woman to win 50 World Cup ski races with victory in slalom in French Alps.
- 🏆 Wrestler Bala Rafiq Shaikh won Maharashtra Kesari Wrestling Championship 2018, by defeating Abhijeet Katke.
- 🏆 Indian Junior Golfers won 11 medals, including 4 Gold at US Kids Golf World Championship.









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

- 🏆 Indian Cricketer Rohit Sharma became 1st to score 4 T20I Centuries, after his knock against West Indies.
- 🏆 Badminton Player Subhankar Dey won SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany, defeating Rajiv Ouseph of Britain.

- 🏸 Simone Biles (US) became first gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals, by winning her 13th gold medal at world gymnastics championships in Doha (Qatar).
- 🏏 Newly-built Ekana International Stadium of Lucknow renamed after former PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to be known as *Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium*.
- 🏏 Qatar will host 23rd World Corporate Games 2019, for corporations around world to showcase their competitive prowess through sports. This is the first time the World Corporate Games will be held in Middle East.
- 🏏 India won bronze medal in the SAFF U-15 Football Championship at Nepal.
- 🏏 India entered into Division B final of FIBA U-18 women's Asian championship held at Bengaluru, defeating Hong Kong. India is to face Kazakhstan for its promotion to Division A.
- 🏏 Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia achieved number one rank in world in 65kg category, with 96 points in UWW list.
- 🏏 Harmanpreet Kaur became first ever Indian female Cricketer to hit a hundred in T20I cricket, achieving it against New Zealand in Women's World T20 2018 in West Indies.
- 🏏 Thailand's Luksika Kumkhum won first WTA Tennis title in L&T Mumbai Open in Mumbai. In Doubles, Natela Dzalamidze and Veronika Kudermetova of Russia won the title.
- 🏏 All India Football Federation (AIFF) and State government of Odisha signed MoU, to host National team camps and become home of I-League side Indian Arrows.
- 🏏 India U-19 cricketer Saurabh Netravalkar has been appointed captain of United States national cricket team.
- 🏏 62nd National Shotgun championship held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- 🏏 India's Pankaj Advani won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in 150-up format, defeating Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar in final.
- 🏏 Kashmiri student Aabid Hamid won gold medal at World Kick Boxing Championships in Argentina.
- 🏏 Indian Chess Maestro Viswanathan Anand won inaugural Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Tournament in Kolkata.
- 🏏 59th edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament held in New Delhi, won by Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) by defeating Amini School (Afghanistan).
- 🏏 Indian gymnasts Prins Aris and Rejilesh Suribabu won two bronze medals in Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup In Baku (Azerbaijan).
- 🏏 Indian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar won bronze medal in vault event in Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Cottbus (Germany).
- 🏏 Known as *Oscars of sports*, Laureus World Sports Awards 2019 will be held in Monaco on February 18, 2019.
- 🏏 47 years old Indian Cricketer Pravin Tambe became first player to pick up a hat-trick in history of cricket's newest format T-10 League. Playing for Sindhis, He achieved this against Kerala Knights.
- 🏏 62nd National Shooting Championships Held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- 🏏 Cricket Administrator BCCI Increased Ban duration for Age Related Frauds, from 1 to 2 years.
- 🏏 Abhinav Bindra (India's Olympic gold medal-winning shooter) became first Indian to be honoured with Blue Cross by International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Blue Cross is the highest laurel for shooters given by ISSF.
- 🏏 India's Manav Thakkar won bronze medal in U-21 Men's singles category in International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Belgosstrakh Belarus Open in Minsk (Belarus).

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

- 🏏 Prithvi Shaw became youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut (aged 18 years), scoring against Windies in Rajkot. He also became youngest Indian to win the Man of the Series award in Test cricket history.
- 🏏 Virat Kohli became quickest batsman to reach 24 Test cricket centuries after great Australian Sir Donald Bradman.
- 🏏 India's Keerthana Pandian won girls' title in IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships, in St Petersburg (Russia).
- 🏏 India's Squash player Vikram Malhotra won in Texas Open Squash Championship (USA), defeating Daniel Mekbib of Czech Republic.
- 🏏 Indian pair of Meghana Reddy and Tasnim Mir won Under-15 girls doubles title in Badminton Asia Junior Under-17 and Under-15 championships, at Mandalay (Myanmar). India won total 5 medals in championships - 1 gold and 4 bronze.
- 🏏 Deborah Herold won gold in elite women's 40 kilometre competition at Saksham Pedal Delhi, India's Premier Cyclothon. Shreedhar Savanur won gold medal in men's 50 kilometres.
- 🏏 Bajrang Punia became first Indian wrestler to get seeded at the World Championship that will be held in Budapest (Hungary). In 65kg category of men's freestyle event, Bajrang Punia has been seeded third.
- 🏏 Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo became first player to score 400 goals across the top-five European football leagues.
- 🏏 Marc Marquez (Spain) won his 7th World Title and fifth Premier Class Title, after he won Japanese Moto Grand Prix.
- 🏏 Virat Kohli became Fastest Cricketer to score 10000 ODI Runs, taking just 205 innings. Previous best was Sachin Tendulkar (259 Innings).

-  Indian Navy won 14th PMC Bank all-India Guru Tegh Bahadur Gold Cup hockey tournament, in Mumbai.
-  Wheelchair Badminton Player Sanjeev Kumar won two gold medals and a bronze medal at the Denmark Open in Odense.
-  India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore to win 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.
-  Indian golfer Khalin Joshi won Panasonic Open India title, becoming 7th Indian to win Panasonic Open India title in its last 8 editions.
-  Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee won a silver medal in under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open. Also, India's Anthony Amalraj and Sanil Shetty won bronze medal in men's doubles.
-  FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) enhanced prize money for the women's World Cup with 2019 tournament in France in June - July. Overall contribution will be \$50 million for the 24 participating nations. It includes doubling prize money from \$15 to \$30 million.
-  Kenyan distance runner Abraham Kiptum has set new new world best time of 58 mins 18 sec for half-marathon, at Valencia Half Marathon in Spain.
-  India's Vishal Rajveer Shah won gold and Raegan Alburquerque won silver in 2018 Egypt Junior & Cadet Open table tennis tournament.

- 54. ▶ Mumbai defeated Delhi to win Vijay Hazare Cricket Trophy.
- 55. ▶ Netherlands won its seventh Women's Hockey Champions Trophy, held in Changzhou (China), defeating Australia.
- 56. ▶ Norway's Magnus Carlsen retained his title as World Chess Champion beating US opponent Fabiano Caruana, at World Chess Championships in London (UK).
- 57. ▶ Noted Boxer MC Mary Kom named as brand ambassador of 10th Women's World Championships to be held in New Delhi in November 2018.
- 58. ▶ Odisha government launched 'Olly', official mascot of 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, aimed at raising awareness about conservation of Olive Ridley turtle. 2018 Men's Hockey WC is to be hosted at Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar) in Nov - Dec 2018.
- 59. ▶ PV Sindhu became first Indian Badminton Player to win BWF World Tour Finals tournament in Guangzhou (China), the season-ending Tournament. She defeated Nozomi Okuhara (Japan). Total Prize of Championship is USD 1500000. Winners of BWF World Tour 2018 -

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Shi Yuqi (China)	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	P. V. Sindhu (India)	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen (China)	Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe (Japan)
Women's Doubles	Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)	Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Wang Yili and Huang Dongping (China)	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)

- 60. ▶ Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez signed he largest contract in the history of sports, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million with streaming service DAZN. Under it, Alvarez will participate in 11 fights starting December 2018. Previous richest contract was 13-year, \$325-million deal signed by New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton in 2014.

- 61. ▶ Red Bull's Racer Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won F1 Mexican Grand Prix -

 With this, Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won his 5th F1 world title.

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62. ▶ Romanian Female tennis player Simona Halep became first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy, named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.
63. ▶ Spain's Real Madrid won Club Football World Cup for 3rd consecutive year (and its 4th in total), by beating Abu Dhabi side Al Ain in final.
64. ▶ Sport Australia Hall of Fame announced cricketering great Richie Benaud, who died in April 2015, as 40th Legend of Australian Sport. He is third cricketer behind Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller to be given Legend status.
65. ▶ Swiss tennis Player Roger Federer won his 99th career title after winning the Basel Open. Federer is now 10 titles short of all-time record holder Jimmy Connors, who leads with 109 titles.

66. ▶ Tata Open Badminton 2018 (Mumbai) -

- 🔧 Men's Singles - Lakshya Sen (India)
- 🔧 Women's Singles - Ashmita Chaliha (India)
- 🔧 Men's Doubles - Arjun M.R., B. Sumeeth Reddy (India)
- 🔧 Women's Doubles - Ng Wing Yung, Yeung Nga Ting (Hong Kong)
- 🔧 Mixed Doubles - Nipitphon Phuangphupet, Savitree Amitrapai (Thailand)

67. ▶ Wasim Jaffer became first cricketer to score 11000 runs in Domestic Cricket Tournament Ranji Trophy.

68. ▶ Women's World Boxing Championships 2018 Held in New Delhi, as 10th edition of the tournament.

- 🔧 277 Players from 62 nations participated.

- 🔧 Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China (CHN)	4	1	0	5
2	Chinese Taipei (TPE)	2	0	0	2
3	India (IND)	1	1	2	4
4	North Korea (PRK)	1	0	2	3
5	Germany (GER)	1	0	1	2

- 🔧 Indian Medallists -

- 🔧 Gold -

- 🔧 Mary Kom became India's only six-time world boxing champion after defeating Hanna Okhota of Ukraine.

- 🔧 Silver -

- 🔧 Sonia Chahal won silver medal after losing to Germany's OG Wahner in 57-kg category.

- 🔧 Bronze -

- 🔧 Simranjit Kaur (64kg)

- 🔧 Lovlina Borgohain (69kg)

69. ▶ Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) rolled out its contracts system for Wrestlers, to be reviewed after one year. Wrestlers are placed in four Grades. WFI is only Indian Olympic Association-affiliated National Sports Federation to offer contracts to its athletes and only second sports federation in India after BCCI.

- 🔧 Grade A offers assistance of 30 lakh rupees and includes Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat along and Pooja Dhanda.

- 🔧 Grade B contract offers assistance of 20 lakh rupees and includes Sushil Kumar and Sakshi Malik.

- 🔧 Grade C offers support of 10 lakh rupees and features Sandeep Tomar, Sajjan Bhanwal, Ritu Phogat, and Divya Kakran.

 Grade D offers support of 5 lakhs and includes Rahul Aware, Naveen, Sachin Rathi, and Anshu Malik.

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