



Current Affairs - December 2018

Month Type



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Appointments

- ▶ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been appointed as President of Mexico for 6 years.
- ▶ Atul Sahai has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PSU New India Assurance.
- ▶ Bank of Maharashtra appoints AS Rajeev as MD and CEO.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Government appointed Krishnamurthy Subramanian as new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for 3 years, replacing Arvind Subramanian.
- ▶ Government appointed A. N. Jha as New Finance Secretary.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) appointed Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO.
- ▶ James Quincey appointed as 14th chairman of Beverages Major Coca-Cola, succeeding Muhtar Kent.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Misc. Appointments (December 2018) -
 1. National Healthcare Foundation NATHEALTH appointed Siddhartha Bhattacharya as Secretary-General.
 2. Yes Bank appointed former IRDAI chief T.S. Vijayan as an additional director (Independent).
 3. Indian-origin Shamila Batohi appointed as South Africa's first female chief prosecutor.
 4. Heather Nauert - New US Ambassador to United Nations.
 5. Mark Milley - Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of USA (senior most military officer in USA and principal military advisor to President).
 6. Government appointed Lalit Kumar as new government nominee on private sector ICICI Bank Board.
- ▶ SWIFT India, local unit of SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) appointed former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya as its Chairperson.
- ▶ Shalindra Kumar appointed as Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Awards

- ▶ Actress Janhvi Kapoor will be awarded 'Arets Stjerneskudd' rising talent of year honor by Norwegian Consulate General in Mumbai.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Croatia's Footballer Luca Modrich 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 Mbappe won Trophee Kopa (best young player under 21 years age) at Ballon d'Or ceremony.

4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ Goa's Prathamesh Maulingkar became first Asian/Indian to win Mister Supranational title, after he won 2018 edition in a competition held in Poland.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ Industrial Awards (December 2018)
 1. *Outstanding Case Writer* award presented to ICFAI Business School by UK- Based *The Case Centre*.
 2. 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.
 3. IIT Kharagpur won DSCI Excellence Award 2018 by Data Security Council of India (DSCI), for its contributions in Cyber Security education.
 4. Sundaram Finance MD T T Srinivasaraghavan presented the lifetime achievement award at Trinity Arts Festival in Chennai.
 5. 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.
8. ▶ 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).
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018 announced for 24 languages. It contains prize money of 1 Lakh INR. Awardees -
 1. Assamese - Sananta Tanti (Poetry)
 2. Bengali - Sanjib Chattopadhyay (Story)
 3. Bodo - Rituraj Basumatary (Short Stories)
 4. Dogri - Inderjeet Kesar (Novel)
 5. English - Anees Safim (Novel)
 6. Gujarati - Sharifa Vijiwala (Essay)
 7. Hindi - Chitra Mudgal (Novel)
 8. Kannada - K G Nagarajappa (Literary Criticism)
 9. Kashmiri - Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq (Short Stories)
 10. Konkani - Paresh Narendra Kamat (Poetry)
 11. Maithili - Bina Thakur (Short Stories)
 12. Malayalam - S Rameshan Nair (Poetry)
 13. Manipuri - Budhichandra Heisnamba (Short Stories)
 14. Marathi - Ma. Su. Patil (Literary Criticism)
 15. Nepali - Lok Nath Upadhyay Chapagain (Short Stories)
 16. Odia - Dasarathi das (Literary Criticism)
 17. Punjabi - Mohanjit (Poetry)
 18. Rajasthani - Rajesh Kumar Vyas (Poetry)
 19. Sanskrit - Rama Kant Shukla (Poetry)
 20. Santhali - Shyam Sundar Besra (Novel)
 21. Sindhi - Khimam U Mulani (Poetry)
 22. Tamil - S Ramkrishnan (Novel)
 23. Telugu - Kolakaluri Enoch (Essay)
 24. Urdu - Aahman Abbas (Novel)

12. ▶ 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.

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Books

1. ▶ Book *Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double aafat*, authored by Swaraj India President Yogendra Yadav has been released.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ Books *The Republican Ethic* and *Loktantra Ke Swar* have been launched, containing Selected Speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind.

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Committees

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed U C Dhyani as head of 3 member committee to oversee rejuvenation work of Ganga River.

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Days

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ Dec 04 - Indian Navy day.
 1. 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.
 2. The Day marks Navy's offensive actions during 1971 war with Pakistan.
4. ▶ Dec 07 - Armed Forces Flag Day, observed Since 1949. December 1 - 7 is observed as Armed Forces week.
5. ▶ Dec 09 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD).
6. ▶ Dec 1 - Nagaland Statehood Day, formed on December 1, 1963.
 1. On this occasion, Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Nagaland, with single helpline number 112 for all emergency services.
 2. Hornbill Festival was also inaugurated on the occasion.
 3. Nagaland is first North-Eastern State and 2nd State in India to launch Pan-India single emergency number '112' under ERSS, after Himachal Pradesh.
 4. 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.
7. ▶ Dec 1 - World AIDS Day, being observed since 1988.
8. ▶ 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*.
9. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2018 theme is *Be the Solution to Soil Pollution*.
 1. 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.
10. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day.
11. ▶ December 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. It is also called International Volunteer Day.

Defence

1. ▶ India and Japan Conducted Joint First Air Force exercise called SHINYUU Maitri-18, at Air Force Station Agra.
2. ▶ 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).
3. ▶ 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'.
4. ▶ Long range surface-to-surface Nuclear Capable Ballistic missile Agni V successfully test fired.
 1. It has strike range of 5000 km.
 2. It was 7th successful trail of Agni V. It is capable of carrying 1.5 tonnes of nuclear warheads.
5. ▶ 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.

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Economy

1. ▶ 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%).
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (December 2018) -
 1. Crisil has cut India's growth forecast for current fiscal (2018-19), by 10 basis points to 7.4 %.
 2. 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%.
11. ▶ Indian IT Firm HCL will acquire seven IBM products by mid-2019 for \$1.8 billion, as HCL's biggest ever acquisition so far.
12. ▶ Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) released revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for years 2005 - 06 to 2011 - 12.
 1. 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.

2. 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	

3. 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.

13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)'s 5th bi-monthly Statement -
 1. Policy Repo Rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5 %.
 2. GDP growth projection for 2018-19 is retained at 7.4 %.
 3. RBI decided to reduce SLR from existing 19.5% to 18.0% in six quarterly instalments beginning January 2019.
 4. Monetary Policy Rates are -
 1. Repo Rate - 6.50 %
 2. Reverse Repo - 6.25 %
 3. Bank Rate - 6.75 %
 4. CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 5. 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)
 6. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.75 %
15. ▶ RBI approved merger of SBM (Mauritius) India with Its Indian Subsidiary SBM Bank (India).
16. ▶ RBI imposed fine of Rs 1 crore on Indian Bank for violating cyber security norms.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ RBI will implement its Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) norms from April 1, 2020.
 1. 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.
 2. NSFR is defined as amount of available stable funding relative to amount of required stable funding.
21. ▶ 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 -
 1. Do away with requirement of at least 50 % of pre-issue capital held by qualified institutional investors.
 2. 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.

3. Reduce minimum application size for share offers to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 10 lakh earlier to attract more investors to the new platform
4. 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.
5. Retains provisions for lock-in period of entire pre-issue capital
6. 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.
7. Fixing minimum offer size at Rs 10 crore.

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International

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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).
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ As per Oxford Economics report, top 10 fastest growing cities in the world from 2019 to 2035 are in India -
 1. 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.
 2. 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*.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ As per WHO's Global Nutrition Report 2018, India has highest number of 'stunted' children in world (nearly third of global count).
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
7. ▶ As per index compiled by Arton Capital, Top three most powerful passports are - UAE (1), Singapore (2), Germany (3).
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ As per report by Global Carbon Project, 2017's top 4 emitters were China (27%), US (15%), European Union (10%) and India (7%).
10. ▶ 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.
 1. Strategy 2030 is ADB's long-term plan to respond effectively to Asia and Pacific region's changing needs.
11. ▶ Bahrain's Economic Development Board signed MoU with Maharashtra Government to provide a framework for Co-operation, to promote FinTech in respective markets.
12. ▶ 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.

13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ Export-Import Bank of India extended a credit facility of USD 500 million to Tanzania (East Africa) for water supply projects in country.
15. ▶ Forbes World's 100 Most Powerful Women of 2018 -
 1. 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).
 2. Top 5 in List -
 1. Angela Merkel (German Chancellor)
 2. Theresa May (UK Prime Minister)
 3. Christine Lagarde (IMF Chief)
 4. Mary Barra (CEO of General Motors USA)
 5. Abigail Johnson (CEO of Fidelity Investments USA)
16. ▶ 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).
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
 1. 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.
20. ▶ 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).
 1. 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.
 2. Botswana and Russia will serve as Vice-Chair during 2019-2020.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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).
25. ▶ Panama became first Latin American country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
26. ▶ Qatar announced to leave Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019 and focus more on production of natural gas.
 1. 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.

27. ▶ 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.
 1. First MOU between Swedish firm Spowdi and EMVEE for setting up local assembly unit in Bangalore
 2. 2nd MoU between Swedish Neutral and Tata Power DDL for setting up pilot for earth fault protection in Delhi.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ Telangana government and British Council signed MoU to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
30. ▶ 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*.
31. ▶ 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.
 1. To combat terrorism, UN created UN counter-terrorism implementation task force in 2005, which consists of 38 international entities.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) Govt. increased representation of Emirati women in Federal National Council to 50 % (from 22.5 % currently), to enforce women empowerment.

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Meetings

1. ▶ 175th Meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies (OPEC) Conference & 5th OPEC and Non OPEC Ministerial Meeting held in Vienna (Austria).
 1. Qatar announced to withdraw its OPEC membership with effect from January 1, 2019,
 2. Next OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting will convene in Vienna, Austria in April, 2019.
2. ▶ 2018 G20 Summit held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) -
 1. 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*.
 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended on India's Behalf.
 1. 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).
 2. Mr Modi Announced that India will host G20 Summit In 2022, 75th year of Indian Independence.
 3. 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.
 3. 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.
3. ▶ 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).
 1. During the event, An Agreement between India and Peru (South America) has been signed, for Co-operation in Customs Matters.
4. ▶ 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.

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National

1. ▶ 2018 Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Election Results (90 Seats) -

1. Indian National Congress (INC) emerged largest Party with 68 Seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 2nd with 15 Seats.
2. In terms of Votes, INC got 43 % votes while BJP got 33%.
2. ▶ 2018 Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Election Results (230 Seats) -
 1. Indian National Congress (INC) emerged largest Party with 114 Seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 2nd with 109 Seats.
 2. In terms of Votes, BJP got 41 % votes while INC got 40.9%.
3. ▶ 2018 Mizoram Legislative Assembly Election Results (40 Seats) -
 1. Mizo National Front emerged largest Party with 26 Seats.
 2. In terms of Votes, MNF got 37.6 % votes while INC got 30.2%.
4. ▶ 2018 Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Election Results (200 Seats)-
 1. Indian National Congress (INC) emerged largest Party with 99 Seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 2nd with 73 Seats.
 2. In terms of Votes, INC got 39.3 % votes while BJP got 38.8%.
5. ▶ 2018 Telangana Legislative Assembly Election Results (119 Seats) -
 1. Telangana Rashtra Samithi emerged largest Party with 88 Seats. INC 2nd with 19 Seats.
 2. In terms of Votes, TRS got 46.9 % votes while INC got 28.4%.
6. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Dec 06, 2018) -
 1. MOUs -
 1. Japan - Environmental Cooperation.
 2. USA - Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Earth Sciences.
 3. Apprvd Revised Model MOU between Financial Intelligence Unit(FIU) – India (FIU-Ind) with its counterpart foreign Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) for exchange of information.
 4. France - energy efficiency / energy conservation.
 5. Algeria - Space Sciences, Technologies and Applications.
 6. Armenia - Joint issue of postage stamp
 7. Japan - Postal, Healthcare and Wellness.
 8. Tajkistan, Uzbekistan, Morocco - Peaceful uses of Space Technology for Development.
 9. Russia - Joint Activities under Human Spaceflight Programme.
 10. Zimbabwe - geology, mining and mineral resources.
 2. General Approvals -
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. Approved implementation of Shahpurkandi Dam Project on river Ravi in Punjab, to be completed by June 2022.
 1. On completion, Irrigation Potential of 5,000 ha in Punjab and 32,173 ha in J&K would be created.
 2. 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.
 3. Balance cost of works component of ShahpurKandi Dam project is Rs. 1973 crores. Out of this, 485 Crores would be provided as Central Assistance.
 4. 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.
 1. 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.
 2. 4 focused areas along which mission implementation will proceed - Technology Development. HRD & Skill Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Start-ups Ecosystem Development AND International Collaborations.

3. 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.

3. CCEA Approvals -

1. 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.
2. Approved streamlining National Pension System (NPS) -
 1. Enhancement of contribution by Central Government for its employees covered under NPS Tier-I from 10% to 14%.
 2. Providing freedom of choice for selection of Pension Funds and pattern of investment to central government employees. .
 3. Tax exemption limit for lump sum withdrawal on exit has been enhanced to 60%. Entire withdrawal will now be exempt from income tax.
 4. Contribution by Government employees under Tier-II of NPS will now be covered under Section 80 C for deduction up to 1.50 lakh.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ 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).
12. ▶ Forbes India Celebrity 100 list -
 1. Top 5 Most Earning Celebrities - Salman Khan (1), Virat Kohli (2), Akshay Kumar (3), Deepika Padukone (4), M S Dhoni (5)
13. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -
 1. 1st India Indonesia Business forum (IIBF) was held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 2. Indian Owl Festival, India's first owl fest, held at Pingori village in Pune (Maharashtra).
 3. Conference on partnership between European Union and India for Cultural Heritage Conservation held in New Delhi.
 4. Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018 held in Ranchi (Jharkhand), with participation of 7 countries.
 5. 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.
 6. 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.
 7. 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India 2018 held in Chandigarh.
 8. 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.
 9. 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*'.
 10. 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.

11. Annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit held in Goa with theme 'Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.'
12. Military Literature Festival (MLF) 2018 held in Chandigarh.
13. 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.
14. ▶ Government Launched *Digital Sky* platform, for managing flying of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (known as drones) across Country.
 1. In August 2018, Govt released Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) to enable safe flying of RPAS in India.
 2. Digital Sky Platform will implement 'no permission, no take-off' (NPNT) system of software-based self-enforcement to minimize deviations from CAR.
 3. 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.
 4. Payments for Unmanned Aerial Operator's Permit (UAOP) and Unique Identification Numbers (UIN) will be accepted through the Bharat Kosh (bharatkosh.gov.in) portal.
 5. 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.
15. ▶ Government included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhnad, 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ India's first international indigenous film festival will be held in February 2019 in Odisha, as an initiative of activist film collective 'Video Republic'.
19. ▶ Kerala became first state to have 4 international airports, with inauguration of Kannur airport. other three international airports are AT Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut.
20. ▶ Kolkata-Patna became India's 2nd Inland Water Transport (IWT) origin-destination pair for containerised cargo movement on National Waterway-1.
 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.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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.

27. ▶ 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.
 1. First stage will invite ideas for use cases of multi-party computation in areas such as Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Urbanization, Financial Inclusion.
 2. 2nd stage will call for these ideas to be matured and developed, with a focus on privacy preserving AI and distributed computing.
 3. Winners will share in a prize pool worth USD \$50,000.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
 1. 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ Tamil Nadu government launched a 24-hour toll-free helpline '181' for women facing domestic violence and sexual harassment.

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Persons

1. ▶ Obituaries (Dec 2018) -
 1. George H .W. Bush - Former USA President.
 2. Arun Kumar Shaw - Swimmer (Seven-time former national champion).
 3. Jagdish Thakkar - Senior journalist and Public Relations Officer (PRO) in PM office.
 4. Lyudmila Alexeyeva - Noted Russian rights activist and former Soviet dissident.
2. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (December 2018) -
 1. Gautam Gambhir - Indian cricketer.
 2. Paul Polman - Resigned as CEO of Unilever (consumer goods firm).
 3. 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.
 4. Upendra Kushwaha - Resigned as Minister of State in Ministry of Human Resource Development.
 5. 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.
 6. Dharmesh Mehta - Resigned as MD & CEO of Axis Capital. Salil Pitale and Chirag Negandhi appointed as Joint MD and Co-CEO of the entity.
3. ▶ 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'.

4. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -
 1. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited USA.
 2. 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.
 3. Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Japan.
5. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -
 1. Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of Mozambique (East Africa), Jose Condungua Antonio Pacheco Visited India.
 2. Foreign Minister of Romania, Teodor Melescanu visited India.
 3. Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid visited India.
 4. 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.

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Science

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
4. ▶ 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.

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Sports

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ Indian Premier League franchise Delhi Daredevils renamed as Delhi Capitals ahead of the 2019 Indian Premier League season.
3. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (December 2018) -
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. Australian Golfer Minjee Lee became first woman to win prestigious Greg Norman Medal as best Australian golfer.
 4. 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, Pascalia Chepkogei from Kenya stood first with timing of 2 hour 50 minutes 27 seconds.
 5. 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.
 6. International Olympic Committee IOC has set up an advisory committee on human rights chaired by Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein. Human rights standards will be included in Olympic host-city contracts beginning with 2024 Olympic in Paris.
 7. Senior National Wrestling Championships held at Nandini Nagar in Gonda (Uttar Pradesh).
 8. 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.

9. 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.
 10. 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.
 11. 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.
 12. Madhya Pradesh's Ajay Rohera slammed highest first-class score world record on debut, with unbeaten 267 score against Hyderabad in Ranji Trophy Match.
 13. First event of the US Kids Golf India Tour was held Classic Golf & Country Club in Gurugram(Haryana).
 14. 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) Shotgun organized by National Rifle Association of India at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
4. ▶ Tata Open Badminton 2018 (Mumbai) -
 1. Men's Singles - Lakshya Sen (India)
 2. Women's Singles - Ashmita Chaliha (India)
 3. Men's Doubles - Arjun M.R., B. Sumeeth Reddy (India)
 4. Women's Doubles - Ng Wing Yung, Yeung Nga Ting (Hong Kong)
 5. Mixed Doubles - Nipitphon Phuangphuapet, Savitree Amitrapai (Thailand)
 5. ▶ 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.
 1. Grade A offers assistance of 30 lakh rupees and includes Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat along and Pooja Dhanda.
 2. Grade B contract offers assistance of 20 lakh rupees and includes Sushil Kumar and Sakshi Malik.
 3. Grade C offers support of 10 lakh rupees and features Sandeep Tomar, Sajjan Bhanwal, Ritu Phogat, and Divya Kakran.
 4. Grade D offers support of 5 lakhs and includes Rahul Aware, Naveen, Sachin Rathi, and Anshu Malik.

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