



## Current Affairs - July 2018

Month  Type



- **189** Current Affairs were found in Period **July 1 - 10, 2018** for Type - **All**

### Appointments

- ▶ Adarsh Kumar Goel has been appointed as new Chairperson of National Green Tribunal. Also, L. Narasimha Reddy is appointed as Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).
- ▶ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been elected as New President of North American nation Mexico.
- ▶ Brand Ambassadors (July 2018) -
  1. Vidya Balan (Actress) - Muthoot Pappachan Group.
- ▶ Democratic National Committee (DNC) of USA appointed Indian American Seema Nanda as its new CEO, making her first Indian American to be appointed as operational head of a major American political party.
- ▶ Dhanlaxmi Bank appointed T Latha as Managing Director & CEO.
- ▶ Girish Pillai has been appointed as New Member (Traffic) in Railway Board.
- ▶ Government appointed L Narasimha Reddy as Chancellor of University of Hyderabad (UoH).
- ▶ Indian-American Uttam Dhillon took charge as Acting Director of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) of USA.
- ▶ José Eladio Alcain of Uruguay has been appointed as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
  1. UNMOGIP was established by UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution and started its operations in 1949.
  2. India has maintained that UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after Shimla (Accord) Agreement and consequent establishment of Line of Control (LoC) in 1971. In Shimla Agreement, India and Pakistan agreed to change ceasefire line to LoC and held that they will resolve their disputes bilaterally without third party interference.
  3. In 2014, India asked UNMOGIP to wind up its work in Kashmir and in 2017, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reiterated that UNMOGIP does not have mandate to monitor situation in Kashmir.
- ▶ Manoj Kumar Pingua has been appointed as the acting MD of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
- ▶ P K Srivastava is appointed as Director General and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board.
- ▶ Payments Council of India (PCI) appointed Vishwas Patel as its new Chairman.
- ▶ Rajat Sharma has been elected as President of Delhi & District Cricket Association.
- ▶ Sandeep Sancheti is appointed as President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- ▶ Saraswati Prasad appointed as chairman and managing director of steel PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- ▶ T.C.A. Raghavan is appointed as new Director General of ICWA (Indian Council of World Affairs).
- ▶ Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan will be appointed as Chief Justice of Hyderabad High Court.
- ▶ UK Government appointed Jeremy Hunt as new Foreign Secretary, to replace Boris Johnson who resigned in protest against government's plans for a *semi-Brexit*.
- ▶ Uday Kumar Varma has been appointed a member of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).
- ▶ United India Insurance Company appointed K B Vijay Srinivas as its Director and General Manager.

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### Awards

- ▶ Industrial Awards (July 2018) -

1. Ravi Mehrotra (Chairman of Foresight Group International) received lifetime achievement award at Seatrade 30th Anniversary Award Ceremony in Landmark (London).
2. ▶ Milan Shankar Tare, a fisherman of Palghar district, Maharashtra, is selected for 2018 National Maritime Search and Rescue Award. He saved lives of 12 people from a sinking fishing boat named Shivneri in May 2018.
3. ▶ Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon received National Kalidas Samman for visual arts from Madhya Pradesh government.
4. ▶ Sri Lanka-born Canadian Author Michael Ondaatje's bestselling novel 'The English Patient' is announced as he winner of Golden Man Booker Prize in London. The prize was instituted as part of celebrations to mark Booker's having completed 50 years.

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### **Books**

1. ▶ Book *Two Classical Plays from India*, English translation of Hindi plays written by DP Sinha has been released.

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### **Committees**

1. ▶ GST panel under Sushil Kumar Modi (*Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister*) recommended that there shall be no additional tax incentives for digital transactions for a year, claiming that it is not an appropriate moment to incentivise digital payments as it will have revenue implications.
2. ▶ Government has set up a 13-member committee for Sub-National Accounts to be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia. Its aim is to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation.

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### **Days**

1. ▶ July 06 - World Zoonoses Day. Zoonoses are diseases transmitted to Humans from Animals.
2. ▶ July 1 - Doctors Day in India.
  1. It honours legendary physician and 2nd Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years. He was honoured with highest civilian award *Bharat Ratna* in February 1961.
3. ▶ July 1 - GST (Goods and Services Tax) Day. Govt. Launched GST regime on July 1, 2017. It replaced all indirect taxes in India with a single GST, with 4 Components - CGST, IGST, SGST and UTGST. GST has 5 Tax Slabs - 0%, 5 %, 12%, 18 % and 28 %.
4. ▶ July 2 is observed as World UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) day and World Sports Journalists Day.
5. ▶ July 4 - American Independence Day. USA Attained independence from UK in 1776.

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### **Defence**

1. ▶ 6 global aircraft manufacturers have responded Indian Air Force's (IAF) Request for Information (RFI) to supply 110 fighter aircrafts to replace its ageing fleet of MiG-21s and MiG-27s. Out of bids received, *Lockheed Martin F-16 and SAAB Gripen are single-engine fighters*, while *Dassault Rafale, Boeing F-18, Eurofighter Typhoon and United Aircraft Corporation MiG-35 are twin-engine fighters*.
2. ▶ Defence Ministry approved construction of 17 new baffle firing ranges at various Military establishments across country, to facilitate firing from 300 to 500 meters. These will be in addition to 60 similar firing ranges existing all over the country.
3. ▶ Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron (The Flying Daggers) of Indian Air Force (IAF) formally commenced operations from Sullur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu. Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL). It is pegged as world's lightest supersonic fighter.
4. ▶ L&T Defence inaugurated 2nd production line for BRAHMOS Transport Launch Canister (TLC) at Ranoli (Gujarat), To cater to serial production requirements of BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile System.

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### **Economy**

1. ▶ Banks Board Bureau (BBB) recommended 15 executive directors to be elevated as managing directors (MD) at various public sector banks (PSBs). BBB is headed by B P Sharma.
2. ▶ As per Prime Database Investment Bankers League table for FY 2017-18, IIFL is India's top investment bank for equity issuances by private sector companies. IIFL Holdings Ltd was formerly known as India Infoline Limited.
3. ▶ Asian Development Bank approved lining project of Son canal in Shahabad – Bhojpur region of Bihar, to help agri-sector in this region. Cost of this project is USD 503 million (Rs 3272.49 crore) out of which USD 352 million is being provided by ADB.
4. ▶ Astrosat, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory, captured images of a special galaxy cluster that is more than 800 million light years away from Earth. Named Abell 2256, it is made of 3 separate clusters of galaxies that are all merging with one another to eventually form a single massive cluster in future.
5. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) signed agreement with Bombay Metal Exchange (BME) for growth of commodity derivatives markets in non-ferrous metals complex. BSE and BME will work jointly on initiatives to deepen understanding of commodity market among stakeholders.
6. ▶ CSC SPV, a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & IT signed agreement with HDFC Bank to enable its three lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) managing Common Services Centers operate as Banking Correspondents of HDFC Bank. HDFC Bank will also support CSC SPV in converting 1000 identified villages into Digi Gaon (Digital Villages) this year.
7. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxation extended deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linking from June 30 2018, to March 31, 2019, as 5th time extension in deadline for individuals to link their PAN with their Aadhaar. Over 16.65 crore PANs out of 33 crore were linked with Aadhaar till March 2019.
8. ▶ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has developed mobile app 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers. It will allow customers to verify their bill if any GST amount mentioned is of genuinely registered person or not.
9. ▶ China, UAE, Cyprus and significantly, Mauritius, along with 21 other countries have been tagged as "high-risk jurisdictions" by global banks acting as custodians for foreign funds which comprise the largest group of investors in Indian stock market.
10. ▶ Finance Ministry approved Sunil Mehta Committee's suggestions of a 5-pronged strategy to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPA), in report titled *Sashakt*. 5 pronged strategy includes SME resolution approach, Bank-led resolution approach, AMC/AIF led resolution approach, NCLT/IBC approach AND Asset-trading platform.
  1. Highlights nine guiding principles aimed at the operational turnaround of the banking sector in a manner that will create jobs and enhance the value of public sector banks.
  2. Resolution of bad assets below Rs 50 crore to be done within 90 days.
  3. Resolution of consortium loans between Rs 50-500 crore to be done within 180 days, using a BLRA (Bank Led Resolution approach).
  4. Loans above Rs 500 crores will be dealt via AMC/AIF-led resolution process.
  5. Recommendations included creating platforms where banks can trade in bunched loan assets.
  6. Committee suggested setting up of an AMC with an equity contribution from banks, foreign funds and infrastructure funds such as the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF). AMC could be set up under an existing Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) like Arcil Ltd which is already promoted by banks.
11. ▶ Finance Ministry announced to keep interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for July-September quarter. Interest rates are (in %)
  1. 5 yr Senior citizen Savings Scheme (paid quarterly) - 8.3
    1. Meant for people above 60 years of age. Only one deposit, not exceeding Rs. 15 lakh, is allowed in this scheme. It is payable from date of deposit of March 31/ September 30/ December 31 in first instance and thereafter, interest is payable on March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31.
  2. Savings Deposits - 4
  3. Public Provident Fund (PPF) - 7.6
    1. A long-term investment option that offers benefits of EEE on income tax. EEE means that PPF returns are exempt from income tax, maturity amount is tax-free and main investment qualifies for a deduction under section 80C of Income Tax Act. Interest on PPF accounts is compounded yearly.
  4. National Savings Certificate (NSC) - 7.6
    1. NSC certificates can be purchased from post offices, with tenure of 5 to 10 years. NSCs offer benefits under Section 80C of Income Tax Act. Interest is compounded annually but paid on maturity.
  5. Kisan Vikas Patra - 7.3

1. A Long-term savings plan that can be purchased from post offices. It can be encashed after 2.5 years. Interest is compounded annually. Amount invested doubles in 118 months.
6. Sukanya Samriddhi Account - 8.1
  1. A legal guardian/ natural guardian, on behalf of a girl child, can open this account in post offices or banks. This account matures in 21 years after deposit of money for 15 years. This scheme gives a triple income tax benefit (no tax on amount invested, amount earned as interest and amount withdrawn). It is compounded and calculated on a yearly basis.
7. Term Deposit (1-5 years) - 6.6-7.4
8. 5 year Recurring Deposit - 6.9
12. ▶ Foreign direct investment in India grew at 5 year lowest rate of 3% in 2017-18 (total FDI USD 44.85 billion). Compared to FDI Growth of 8.67% in 2016-17, 29% in 2015-16 and 27% in 2014-15.
13. ▶ HDFC Bank left past Russia's Sberbank to become most valuable bank in emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is \$78.4 billion against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion.
  1. Chinese banks are leading in emerging market, with Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping with market cap of \$273.4 billion.
  2. Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is most valuable with a market cap of \$353 billion, followed by Bank of America at \$282 billion.
  3. four banks from India that rank among world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.
14. ▶ ICAT (International Centre for Automotive Technology) gave first BS-VI certification for a heavy duty engine model for Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.
  1. Pro-active approach from the Government has made India leap from conventional BS-IV to directly adopt BS-VI emission norms as next level for regulatory framework in India.
  2. ICAT is one of prime testing agencies recognized by Government as one of accredited 'Type Approval and Homologation' agencies.
15. ▶ ICICI Bank's mortgage loan portfolio crossed INR 1.5-trillion milestone, making it largest private player in this segment. It is targeting to grow it to Rs 2 trillion by FY20.
16. ▶ Income Tax Department has launched an 'instant' Aadhaar-based PAN (Permanent Account Number) allotment service for individuals, who requires unique identification number for the first time.
17. ▶ India became world's 6th biggest economy, pushing France into 7th place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.
  1. India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to \$2.597 trillion at end of last year, against \$2.582 trillion for France.
  2. Top 10 Economies are (Trillion USD) - USA (19.39), China (12.24), Japan (4.87), Germany (3.68), UK (2.62), India (2.59), France (2.58), Brazil (2.07), Italy (1.93), Canada (1.65)
  3. In terms of Per Capita Income, India has \$1940 Annual Per Capita Income.
18. ▶ India will provide tariff concessions on 3,142 products to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) members, from July 2018, as per results of fourth round of negotiations under APTA. With this, coverage of preferences of total tariff lines for each member will come of 10,677 tariff lines (up from 4,270 items at conclusion of 3rd Round).
  1. APTA is an initiative under United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of Asia Pacific Region.
19. ▶ India's National Stock Exchange signed agreement with USA's Nasdaq for a suitable platform and technology backbone to effectively tap post-trade delivery capabilities.
  1. Earlier, NSE's current clearing and settlement system operated by National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL). Under new agreement, Nasdaq will deliver a customised real-time clearing, risk management and settlement technology to NSE.
20. ▶ IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (JV of Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and Legal and General (UK)) tied up with *Oxygen Services India Pvt. Ltd.*, to establish distribution of its insurance products at Oxygen retail outlets.
21. ▶ Indian Rupee (INR) has been ranked as one of the 10 best-performing currencies, taking into account its performance since May 2014, when Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government came into power. Although all emerging market currencies have lost value to dollar, rupees slide is relatively controlled compared with peers.
22. ▶ Karnataka Budget 2018 - 19, Presented by new CM H. D. Kumaraswamy (Janata Dal) -
  1. Announced a partial farm loan waiver of over 34000 crores, which will benefit those farmers whose borrowings are less than Rs 2 lakhs. Farmers who repaid loan within time will be credited the repaid loan amount or 25000 whichever is less.

2. Several Taxes have been hiked, to make up for expenses due to the loan waiver -
  1. Tax on Petrol hiked from 30 to 32 %, resulting in hike of INR 1.14 per litre in Petrol Prices.
  2. Tax on Diesel hiked from 19 to 21 %, resulting in hike of INR 1.12 per litre in Diesel Prices.
  3. Additional INR 1000 Crores Excise revenue targeted by hiking taxes by 4% in all 18 different slabs of Liquor.
  4. Tax on electricity hiked from 6 to 9 %.
23. ▶ Maharashtra government allocated inr 15 crores for implementation of a pension scheme for senior journalists, called Acharya Balshastrri Jambhekar Sanman Yojana.
24. ▶ Manappuram Finance accriured 85.39 % stake in Indian School Finance (ISFC), for over 212 crores. ISFC lends to educational institutions like private schools, vocational colleges and institutes, coaching centres etc. to build infrastructure.
25. ▶ Mobile infrastructure company Bharti Infratel got Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval for merging its operations with Indus Towers, valued at 71500 crores. It will create one of largest mobile tower entities worldwide with 1.63 lakh towers in all 22 telecom circles.
26. ▶ RBI allowed Bank of China to operate in India, becoming 2nd Chinese bank to operate in India, after Industrial & Commercial Bank of China that began Indian Operations in Jan 2018. UK's Standard Chartered has highest, 100 branches in India as of now, among all foreign banks in India.
27. ▶ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) MD Mukesh Ambani launched its fiber to the home (FTTH) broadband service - *JioGigaFiber* and Jio phone 2 (Priced 2999).
  1. JioGigaFiber is Reliance Industries' foray into broadband market of country. It will be rolled out from Aug 15, 2018 and will offer Minimum 100 MBPS speed. It is expected to bring competition in broadband sector which does not have many big players.
  2. Reliance Industries is India's Most profitable and largest Tax Payer in private sector (Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax), paying 9844 crores in FY18 as Tax.
  3. Shareholders of Reliance Industries also approved Mukesh Ambani as Chairman and Managing Director for another 5 years.
28. ▶ Reserve Bank of India cancelled licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar (Rajasthan), due to irregularities in functioning.
29. ▶ Several Indian public and private banks started new AI technologies, to improve operational efficiency.
  1. SBI -
    1. SBI Intelligent Assistant (SIA) - A smart chat assistant that efficiently resolves queries of NRI customers .
    2. Innovation Centre - Will explore AI Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to make banking process more efficient.
    3. Credit card issuer SBI Card also launched ELA' (Electronic Live Assistant), a virtual assistant for customer support and services.
  2. Bank of Baroda -
    1. Baroda Brainy - artificial intelligence robot.
    2. Digital Lab - hi-tech digital branch equipped with advanced gadgets.
  3. Allahabad Bank -
    1. emPower app - App will have Chatbot and artificial intelligence based e-commerce payments.
30. ▶ Tata Steel and German steel giant Thyssenkrupp will set up a 50:50 joint venture, to be called as *Thyssenkrup Tata Steel BV*. It will be second-largest steelmaker in European steel sector after Lakshmi Mittal's Arcelor Mittal.
31. ▶ United Bank of India today will raise up to Rs. 1,500 crore by issuing equity shares in one or more tranches, amid rise in NPAs and Losses.
32. ▶ World Bank group member International Finance Corporation (IFC) invested \$100 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (M&M), To give financial assistance to small and medium enterprises.
33. ▶ Yes Bank received SEBI approval to start mutual fund business, named Yes Asset Management (India) Limited (YAMIL). It will have its Headquarters in Mumbai.

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### **International**

1. ▶ According to British aviation intelligence firm OAG, Mumbai is fifth-least punctual airport in world in terms of on-time performance out of 513 airports. Japan Nagoya Komaki airport was ranked best with 94.5% on-time performance during 12-month period.

2. ▶ According to International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) 'Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017' report -
  1. India with 11.4 million hectares (mh) has world's 5th largest area cultivated under genetically modified (GM) crops in 2017. India's entire GM crop area is under single crop BT Cotton incorporating genes from Bacillus thuringiensis or Bt soil bacterium coding for resistance against heliothis bollworm insect pests.
  2. USA has highest area under transgenic crops (75 mh), followed by Brazil (50.2 mh), Argentina (23.6 mh) and Canada (13.1 mh).
  3. In 2017, farmers planted 189.8 mh under transgenic crops, as against 1.7 mh in 1996, when transgenic crops were grown commercially for first time.
  4. Highest share in world's total 189.8 mh GM crop area in 2017 is of soyabean (94.1 mh), followed by maize (59.7 mh), cotton (24.1 mh).
3. ▶ China approved USD 1 billion grant to Pakistan, just after Pakistan has been placed in Financial Action Task Force FATF 'grey list', which may hamper Pakistan's Economy and make receiving foreign funds tougher.
4. ▶ Chinese tech firm Baidu partnered with Softbank's public-transportation subsidiary SB Drive to launch a self-driving bus service in Japan next year.
5. ▶ European Parliament rejected a controversial European Union copyright law proposal that was proposed by Beatles legend Paul McCartney against creators of Wikipedia.
  1. It proposed to put more responsibility on websites to check for copyright infringements and forced platforms to pay for linking to news.
  2. Wikipedia went down on July 4 in Poland, Spain and Italy, in protest against the Draft law.
  3. The two highly contested parts of the law are -
    1. Article 11 -
      1. Required online platforms to pay publishers a fee if they link to their news content. It proposed to protect newspapers and other outlets from internet giants like Google and Facebook using their material without payment.
      2. However, article failed to clearly define what constitutes a link and hence, could be manipulated by governments to curb freedom of speech on Internet.
    2. Article 13 -
      1. Proposed greater responsibility on websites to enforce copyright laws. It would make online platforms legally liable for copyrighted material put on the web by users.
      2. It means that social media sites and other websites would check every piece of content uploaded including texts, images, sounds or code. It is too expensive for most companies.
      3. Article has been most controversial and it faced most resistance from critics.
6. ▶ Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg overtook Warren Buffett as world's third-richest person, with \$81 Billion Net Worth. He is now only behind Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (\$141 Billion) and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (\$93 Billion).
7. ▶ Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018, by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) -
  1. India ranked 57th, improving from its last year rank of 60.
  2. Top 6 - Switzerland (1), Netherlands (2), Sweden (3), United Kingdom (4), Singapore (5), USA (6)
  3. Neighbours - China (17), Bangladesh (116), Pakistan (109), Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (108)
8. ▶ High-level talks between USA and North Korea held during U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Visit to North Korea. Its aim was to make sure North Korea completely discontinues its Nuclear Programme, as decided during a recent high voltage meet US Prez Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong un In Singapore in June 2018.
9. ▶ India and China signed an agreement for reduction of tariffs on Chinese imports of Indian medicines, particularly cancer drugs. China also agreed to increase imports of Indian medicines.
  1. India and China had both slashed import tariffs for a range of products with effect from July 1, following the fourth round of negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), which also includes Bangladesh, Laos, South Korea and Sri Lanka.
  2. Under APTA, China reduced tariffs on 8549 items, while India agreed to do the same for 3142 products.
  3. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named Bangkok Agreement, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It is the oldest preferential trade agreement among the developing countries in Asia-Pacific region.

10. ▶ India become 69th shareholder of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
  1. European Bank is headquartered in London (UK). President is Suma Chakrabarti (Indian Origin).
11. ▶ India moved up 15 places to 73rd in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017, while UK remains on top. UK accounted for over 27% (403 billion francs) of total foreign money while India accounted for 0.07%. The money held by Indians rose 50% to 1.01 billion francs (INR 7000 crores).
12. ▶ India signed joint venture with Sri Lanka Government to operate loss-making Mattala international airport in southern Sri Lanka, named after former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.
13. ▶ Israel government enacted a new law which will financially penalize Palestinian Authority for paying stipends to Palestinians killed or jailed by Israel. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly demanded to stop Palestinians from paying stipends to prisoners and their families.
14. ▶ Over 100 Swedish intellectuals joined formed *The New Academy*, as a new prize-giving body to award a new literature prize as 2018's Nobel Literature Prize has been postponed. Swedish Academy that selects Nobel laureates, had postponed 2018's Nobel Literature Prize due to sexual assault allegations. This was the first time in almost 70 years that Nobel literature award has been postponed.
15. ▶ Pakistan launched 2 indigenously built satellites named PRSS1 and PAK-TES-1A, from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China. PRSS-1 is a Earth observational and optical satellite. PAK-TES-1A is a research satellite.
16. ▶ Russia will build 2 nuclear power units in China, to be operational by 2026 and 2027 respectively. Russia's Rosatom and China's National Energy Administration signed a deal to build the two 1,200-megawatt units at Tianwan nuclear power plant. Russia has built 35 nuclear power units around the world under intergovernmental agreements.
17. ▶ UK launched new UKRI Science, Research and Academia scheme for overseas scientists and researchers, including Indians, to enhance growth of UK's research sector. It invites researchers and academics to come to UK for up to 2 years. It is being added to the already existing Tier 5 (Temporary Worker Government Authorised Exchange) visa route.
18. ▶ UN Member states approved a 6.69 billion US Dollar budget for 13 peacekeeping operations for 2018-19. It is 2nd year in a row, that UN has made significant cuts to overall peacekeeping budget.
  1. Missions include -
    1. MINUJUSTH (UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti)
    2. MINUSCA (Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Central African Republic)
    3. MINURSO (Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara)
    4. MONUSCO (Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo)
    5. UNIFIL (Interim Force in Lebanon).
  2. United States is biggest contributor to UN, paying 22% of \$5.4 billion core budget and 28.5% of US \$7.9 billion peacekeeping budget. China is other top contributor with 10.3% followed by Japan with 9.7 %.
19. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the first time approved the use of Epidiolex, an oral solution made from marijuana, for treatment of seizures related to 2 rare and severe forms of epilepsy. Epidiolex is a plant-derived oral solution of cannabidiol (CBD), the main ingredient of marijuana that does not cause intoxication or a euphoric high.
20. ▶ United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2427 aimed at providing legal framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout conflict cycle. It strongly condemns recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts.
21. ▶ World's first all-digital art museum opened at MORI Building Digital Art Museum in Japan's Tokyo. It features around 50 kaleidoscopic installations triggered by motion sensors, which are projected across every surface of 100,000-square-foot exhibit space with help of lights.

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## Meetings

1. ▶ 16th Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA16) held in New Delhi.
  1. India aims to achieve 175 GW of installed capacity of renewable energy generation by 2022.
  2. WGIA is an initiative of Japan, to improve quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories of Asian countries by building capacities through training and exchange of experience. 15 countries are WGIA members.
2. ▶ 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting completed in Bahrain's capital Manama, with 19 new sites inscribed to World Heritage List. New Addition to List are -
  1. Cultural -

1. **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (India)**
  2. Aasivissuit – Nipisat, Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea (Denmark)
  3. Al-Ahsa Oasis, an evolving Cultural Landscape (Saudi Arabia)
  4. Ancient City of Qalhat (Oman)
  5. Archaeological Border complex of Hedeby and the Danevirke (Germany)
  6. Caliphate City of Medina Azahara (Spain)
  7. Göbekli Tepe (Turkey)
  8. Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region (Japan)
  9. Ivrea, industrial city of the 20th century (Italy)
  10. Naumburg Cathedral (Germany)
  11. Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea (Republic of Korea)
  12. Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Islamic Republic of Iran)
  13. Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya)
2. Natural sites -
    1. Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains (South Africa)
    2. Chaîne des Puys - Limagne fault tectonic arena (France)
    3. Fanjingshan (China)
  3. Mixed sites -
    1. Chiribiquete National Park – “The Maloca of the Jaguar” (Colombia)
    2. Pimachiowin Aki (Canada)
    3. Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley: originary habitat of Mesoamerica (Mexico)
3. ▶ 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intersessional ministerial meeting held in Tokyo (Japan). It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) or comprehensive regional economic integration agreement between 10-ASEAN countries and its six FTA partners (Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea).
  4. ▶ International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)'s 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology will be hosted by India in Navi Mumbai in October 2018. Focal theme is *25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 : with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods*.
  5. ▶ NITI Aayog will organize *MOVE: Global Mobility Summit* in New Delhi in September, 2018, to help drive Government’s goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth and also speed up India’s transition to a clean energy economy.

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## **National**

1. ▶ Government declared 6 educational ‘Institutions of Eminence’ , out of 114 applications (74 from public sector & 40 from private sector) -
  1. Public Sector - Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore Karnataka, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
  2. Private Sector - Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation), Pune under Green Field Category, Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences Pilani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka).
  3. Each ‘Public Institution’ selected as ‘Institution of Eminence’ will get financial assistance up to 1000 Crore over 5 years, to help them become World Class Educational Institutions.
  4. To achieve top world ranking Institutions shall be provided with
    1. Greater autonomy to admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students
    2. Recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength
    3. Offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes and
    4. Enter academic collaboration with top 500 in world ranking Institutions without permission of UGC
    5. Freedom to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction
    6. Flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree
2. ▶ 4-day annual Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival *Behdienkhlam* held in Jowai (Meghalaya).

3. ▶ According to recently released language data of Census 2011, Hindi is most spoken in India with it being mother tongue of 43.63% Indians, followed by Bengali. Marathi replaced Telugu as 3rd most spoken language in nation. Sanskrit is least spoken in India(Sanskrit by approx 25000 people).
  1. More than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongue.
  2. There are 121 languages which are spoken by 10,000 or more people in India.
4. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport, with cost of 1200 crores to be spent over 12 years. Its focus will be on pursuing inter-disciplinary solutions to improve the civil aviation sector. CARO will find indigenous solutions to meet challenges posed by growing air traffic and for enhancing safety and efficiency of aircraft operations.
5. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched 60 Anna Canteens across state in first phase to provide subsidised food to urban poor. They will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner at Rs 5 a meal, to be run by Akshaya Patra Foundation. State Government plans to set up 203 Anna Canteens.
  1. Other States having subsidised food canteens - Amma canteens (Tamil Nadu (1st)).Tamilnadu Inspired other states - Rajasthan (Annapurna Rasoi Yojana), Madhya Pradesh (Deendayal canteens), Delhi (Aam Aadmi canteens), Aahar (Odisha), Indira Canteens (Karnataka).
6. ▶ Ayushman Bharat Yojana under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh from August 15 this year. Under it, annual health security cover worth Rs 5 lakh will be provided to each family. Expenditure for implementation of yojana is INR 1200 per family.
7. ▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) is setting up a joint venture (JV) in India with Zorya Mashproekt, to overhaul turbines in India. The navy will soon have 34 warships driven by Zorya turbines, with four turbines per vessel, adding up to 136 in-service turbines. A turbine is overhauled after running 30,000 hours. This is costly and time-consuming process as it involves sending turbine back to Ukraine.
8. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) aunched its first Internet telephony service Wings, to be on complete roll out from August 1, 2018. It also launched prepaid initiative in its landline offerings and a rent free landline connection for existing subscribers
  1. To use Internet telephony through Wings, customer needs to install soft app on any of its smart devices, having internet to make and receive calls from anywhere in India and abroad with any party (mobile/landline). Through wings, customer can make or receive calls by using internet service of any operator.
  2. This service will use mobile numbering scheme, provided using IP based access network of IMS NGN Core switches to allow users to make and receive calls over the Internet via their landline or mobile phone.
9. ▶ Bhitarkanika national park in Odisha became largest habitat of endangered estuarine crocodiles in India with a record number of 101 nesting sites.
10. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (July 4, 2018) -
  1. MOUs -
    1. With United Kingdom - Law & Justice and to set up a Joint Consultative Committee.
  2. General Approvals -
    1. Approved creation of 1 post each of Vice-Chairperson and Member in National Commission for Safai Karmacharis.
    2. Approved renaming Agartala Airport in Tripura as *Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport*, Agartala.
      1. Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore, who ascended throne of the erstwhile Tripura Princely State in 1923, was an enlightened ruler. Agartala Airport was constructed in 1942 on land donated by Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore.
    3. Approved continuance of 8 existing schemes of Ministry of Home Affairs upto March 2020 for relief and rehabilitation of migrants and repatriates under the Umbrella scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates", with financial implication of 3183 crores for 2017-18 to 2019-20. Schemes are -
      1. Central Assistance for one-time settlement of displaced families from Pak Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and Chhamb settled in Jammu & Kashmir.
      2. Rehabilitation Package and up-gradation of infrastructure of Bangladeshi Enclaves and Cooch Behar District after transfer of enclaves between India and Bangladesh under Land Boundary Agreement.
      3. Relief assistance to Sri Lankan refugees staying in camps in Tamil Nadu and Odisha.
      4. Grant-in-Aid to Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for five years for administrative and social welfare expenses of Tibetan settlements.

5. Grant-in-Aid to Government of Tripura for maintenance of Brus lodged in relief camps of Tripura.
  6. Rehabilitation of Bru/Reang families from Tripura to Mizoram.
  7. Grant of enhanced relief of Rs. 5.00 lakh per deceased person, who died during 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots.
  8. Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims/Family of Victims of Terrorist/Communal/LWE Violence and Cross Border Firing and Mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory'.
4. Approved DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018, aimed at expanding application of DNA-based forensic technologies to strengthen justice delivery system of country.
1. By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, Bill ensures that with proposed expanded use of this technology in country, there is also assurance that DNA test results are reliable and data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.
5. Approved India's accession to WIPO Copyright Treaty, 1996 and WIPO Performers and Phonograms Treaty, 1996 which extends coverage of copyright to the internet and digital environment. These treaties will help India to enable creative right-holders enjoy fruit of their labour, through international copyright system that can be used to secure return on investment made in producing and distributing creative works.
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -
1. Approved expanding scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to 10000 crores and asking it to mobilise 100000 crores for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022. CCEA also approved infusing additional Government equity of 5,000 crore (in addition to 1,000 crore already provided) in HEFA. This would enable addressing the needs of all educational institutions with differing financial capacity in an inclusive manner
  2. Approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all 14 kharif crops for 2018-19 Season, ensuring minimum 50 % profit for farmers. Crops are - Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maize, Arhar(Tur), Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Sunflower Seed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed and Cotton. It will cost INR 15000 Crores to the Government.

1. Updated MSPs for Kharif Crops are -

1. Crop	Earlier MSP	New MSP	% Rise
Paddy	1550	1750	12.90
Jowar	1700	2430	42.94
Bajra	1425	1950	36.84
Ragi	1900	2897	<b>52.47 (Most Increase)</b>
Maize	1425	1700	19.30
Arhar(Tur) -	5450	5675	4.13
Moong	5575	6975	25.11
Urad	5400	5600	3.70
Groundnut	4450	4890	9.89
Sunflower Seed	4100	5388	31.42
Soyabean	3050	3399	11.44
Sesamum	5300	6249	17.91
Nigerseed	4050	5877	45.11
Cotton	4020	5150	28.11

2. Several Farmer Friendly Initiatives taken by govt. are -

1. Premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low - 2 % of sum insured for all kharif crops, 1.5% for all rabi crops and 5 % for commercial and horticulture crops. Government launched Mobile App *Crop Insurance*, to help farmers to find out details about insurance cover available in their area and to calculate insurance premium for notified crops
2. Government launched a scheme to develop a pan India electronic trading platform under 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) aiming to integrate 585 regulated markets with common e-market platform in order to facilitate better price discovery and ensure remunerative prices to farmers.
3. Government formulated a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 to provide farmers market options beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards.
4. Soil Health Cards are being issued to farmers, renewed every 2 years. SHC provides information on fertility status of soil and a soil test based advisory on use of fertilizers. Over 15 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed.

5. Under Paramparagat KrishiVikasYojana (PKVY), Government is promoting organic farming and development of potential market for organic products.
  6. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana is being implemented to extend coverage of irrigation 'HarKhetkoPani' and improving water use efficiency 'Per Drop More Crop ' in a focused manner.
  7. Government is focusing on improving productivity of crops such as rice, wheat, coarse grains and pulses under National Food Security Mission.
  8. A dedicated online interface e-KrishiSamvad provides direct and effective solutions to problems faced by farmers.
  9. Government is encouraging formation of Farmer Producer Organisations. Budget for 2018-19 has extended a favourable taxation treatment to Farmer Producers Organisations (FPQs) for helping farmers aggregate their needs of inputs, farm services, processing and sale operations.
  10. Government has set up a buffer stock of pulses and domestic procurement of pulses is also being done under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), mainly to protect consumers. It aims to ensure that farmers should get full benefit of increased MSPs. For this, it is essential that if price of agriculture produce market is less than MSP, Government should purchase either at MSP or work in a manner to provide MSP for farmers through some other mechanism.
  11. A handbook for women farmers 'Farm Women Friendly Hand Book' containing special provisions and package of assistance which women farmers can claim under various ongoing Schemes has been brought out.
  12. With above measures taken, Government has set a target to double the farmers' Income by 2022.
3. Approved extension of scheme of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for upto 2019-20. It will enable RRBs to maintain minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9 %.
    1. 56 RRBs are functioning in the country. As on 31st March, 2017, credit given by RRBs is 2,28,599 crores.
    2. Scheme of Recapitalization of RRBs started in FY 2010-11 and was extended twice in 2012-13 and 2015-16. Amount of 342.80 crores will be utilized to provide recapitalization support to RRBs whose CRAR is below 9%.
    3. First regional rural bank was 'Prathama Bank' that was established on 2nd October, 1975 in Moradabad (UP). RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with capital shared in proportion of 50%, 15% and 35% respectively.
11. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force launched 'Madadgaar Helpline', a distress helpline for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with helpline number 14411.
  12. ▶ Centre and state governments of Tripura and Mizoram signed agreement for repatriation of thousands of people belonging to Bru community from Tripura to Mizoram. Over 3200 people living in refugee camps in Jampui Hills of Tripura for two decades are being replaced to Mizoram before October 2018.
  13. ▶ Commerce ministry approved a proposal of HCL Technologies to establish a new IT special economic zone (SEZ) in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), with investment of Rs 408 crores.
  14. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) launched an Online Guidance System for determining notifiability of merger & acquisitions (combinations) in terms of Competition Act 2002, named as *Do It Yourself (DIY): A notifiability check for mergers & acquisitions under the Competition Act 2002*.
  15. ▶ Country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru (Karnataka). As per a report, Bengaluru ranked third after Mumbai and Delhi and generates nearly 92,000 tonnes of e-waste annually.
  16. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released final rankings of States in Ease of Doing Business.
    1. Top 5 - Andhra Pradesh (1), Telangana (2), Haryana (3), Jharkhand (4), Gujarat (5).
    2. DIPP (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in collaboration with World Bank conducted an annual reform exercise for all States / UTs under Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). It aims to improve delivery of various Government services in an efficient manner.
    3. DIPP for first time introduced taking feedback to ensure that reforms have actually reached ground level. 78 reforms out of 372 were identified for survey. More than 5,000 private sector users in 23 States and UTs shared their experience.
  17. ▶ Election Commission of India launched a mobile app called *Cvigil*, for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections. It will be operational only where elections are announced, beginning from coming elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan. Vigilant citizen has to take a picture / video of upto 2 minutes duration of scene of violations of model code.

18. ▶ Environment Ministry has set noise standards for all airports across country, excluding defence aircrafts. Civil airports with over 50000 aircraft movements per year should not exceed noise levels beyond 75 dB(A) during daytime (till 10pm) and 65 dBA during night. All other airports should not exceed levels beyond 65 dBA during day and 60 dBA during night.
19. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched national campaign 'The Eat Right Movement' to improve public health and combat lifestyle diseases. FSSAI also launched Eat Right tool kit and Safe and Nutritious Food at Workplace campaign.
20. ▶ General Conferences (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
  1. National Workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in New Delhi.
  2. Election Commission organized a two-day "National Consultation on Accessible Elections," in New Delhi.
  3. A conference of Ministers for Power, New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories held in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
  4. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare held special meet on *Marine Fisheries - Mariculture in India* in Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu).
  5. 2 Day National Level Consultations on Accessible Elections held in New Delhi. During This, Election Commission Announced several Measures to improve Participation of Persons With Disabilities in Election Process. It Includes Issuing Electoral Photo Identity Cards with Braille Features for Visually Impaired, Auxiliary Polling Stations to be Established, Mobile APP to be Developed by ECI for PWD.
  6. 9th and final meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations concluded in Kathmandu (Nepal).
  7. 9th Heads of Mission Conference held in New Delhi, with theme *Unprecedented Outreach: Unparalleled Outcomes*.
  8. Govt. Aims to link 22000 rural markets with Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) by 2020, as announced at *AgriVikas 2018* conclave on agriculture and allied sectors in Bhubaneswar (Odisha). It will enable farmers sale directly to potential buyers.
  9. Exhibition titled *Arth - art for earth* held at IGNC (New Delhi). IGNC introduced 5 PG diploma courses and 6 new Certificate Courses in art and culture and related subjects.
    1. PG Diploma -
      1. Cultural Informatics, Preventive Conservation, Buddhist Studies, Digital Library and Data Management, Manuscriptology and Palaeography
    2. Certificate Courses -
      1. Academic Integrity and Research Ethics, Open Access for Library and Information Science Professionals, Open Access for Researchers, Digital Library and Information Management, Research Methodology, Cinema Studies and Cultural Documentation.
  10. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) organized 2 day International Round Table Conference at New Delhi, identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India, taking cue from best practices followed in advanced countries.
  11. 22nd International Conference on Non-Ferrous Minerals and Metals 2018 held at Ranchi (Jharkhand). During this meet, Tapan Kumar Chand, (CMD of NALCO), received Knowledge Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.
  12. First meeting of Task Force on e-commerce held in New Delhi. Task Force was formed under chairmanship of Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation). It is divided into nine sub-groups.
  13. 2nd meeting of joint working group on tourism cooperation between India and Nepal concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal.
  14. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is organized 2 day International Round Table Conference in New Delhi, called *Data for New India*. Objective is to identify innovative ideas for improving statistical system in India.
  15. 67th plenary meeting of North Eastern Council (NEC) held in Shillong (Meghalaya).
  16. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated *Dharohar Bhawan*, new Headquarters building of Archaeological Survey of India, in New Delhi.
  17. India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) organized a Capacity Development programme for Media Officials from Bhutan, in New Delhi.
  18. Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Ananth kumar laid foundation stone of new (32nd) Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) Building at Dehradun (Uttarakhand). He also allocated 40 crores for establishing a plastic park in Uttarakhand, to generate employment for over 5000 people.

21. ▶ Gorakhpur administration in Uttar Pradesh launched a smart phone application named *Stop JE/AES* to combat encephalitis. Encephalitis claims lives of several children every year in eastern Uttar Pradesh.
22. ▶ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan'--a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. He also launched PURNA (*Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls*) project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18.
23. ▶ Hardeep S Puri (*Minister of State (I/C) of Housing and Urban Affairs*) launched India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) and Internship (ISCI) program, to provide youth an opportunity to experience aspects of Urban planning and governance. Smart Cities Digital Payments Awards 2018 were also launched.
  1. India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) Program is designed to provide valuable experience to the youth interested in smart cities specifically, and urban renewal sector in general and will bring in new ideas to implement solutions for key urban problems.
  2. India Smart Cities Internship (ISCI) Program - MOHUA will engage students pursuing Higher education as Interns to help implementation of Smart City Projects in various States/Cities. Internship will be on unpaid basis for 6 to 12 weeks. They will be given an Experience Certificate at successful completion of program.
  3. The Smart Cities Digital Payments Awards 2018 - *100 days Challenge in 100 Smart Cities* aims to promote ease of living for India's urban residents. Objective of these awards is to guide and reward Smart Cities for promoting digital payments and carrying out innovative payment initiatives.
24. ▶ Himachal Pradesh adjudged as top performer under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) in country.
25. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government banned use of plastic polythene and thermocol cutlery across state, which was announced by state govt on World Environment Day on June 5, 2018.
26. ▶ Indian IT industry apex body NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) opened Centre of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (CoE-DSAI) in Bengaluru (Karnataka). to nurture innovation in emerging disruptive technologies such as AI and to leverage the power of data science.
  1. NASSCOM also signed MoU with NITI Aayog to collaboratively foster applied research, accelerating adoption and ethics, privacy and security.
27. ▶ India's first taxi ambulance services launched in Delhi, a service by a Gurugram-based startup Wagon Cab. Cabs are equipped with medical supplies and medically trained drivers.
28. ▶ Indigenously manufactured semi high-speed train called *Train 2018*, code-named Train 18 will be rolled out in September 2018, built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai, It is capable of running at a speed of 160 km per hour. It will be self-propelled on electric traction like metro trains, along with Wi-Fi and infotainment and several other facilities.
29. ▶ Jharkhand Government announced to develop country's first Khadi mall.
30. ▶ Kerala Government declared Kozhikode and Malappuram districts free from Nipah virus infection, as no positive case of the infection was reported till completion of double incubation period of virus.
31. ▶ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched its, in-house developed, single-umbrella e-marketing system named Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS). The system can be accessed from anywhere in the country for the sale and purchase of Khadi and Village Industries products.
32. ▶ Law Commission of India (LCI) in its 276th Report *Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India*, recommended that gambling and betting on sports be allowed as regulated activities.
  1. It recommended number of changes in law for regulating betting for making it taxable under direct and indirect tax regimes and used as source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).
  2. It recommended linking Aadhar or PAN card of individual indulging in betting and gambling and making transaction cashless to regulate illegal activities such as money laundering.
  3. FDI in casino and online gaming industry will bring substantial amounts of investment to those states that decide to permit casinos, propelling growth of tourism, while also enabling such states to generate higher revenue and employment opportunities.
  4. 21st Law commission of India is led by former SC Justice Balbir Sinsh Chauhan, constituted effect from 1st September, 2015. It has a three-year term, ending on 31st August, 2018.
33. ▶ Lok Sabha MPs will be allowed to ask a maximum of five questions in the house per day from upcoming Monsoon Session, down from earlier 10 permitted questions.
34. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families. Under it, Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per

month (maximum).

35. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a seven-member expert panel to prepare guidelines for surrogacy centres in state.
36. ▶ Meghalaya Govt. released policy document of 5 year jackfruit mission, during state's jackfruit festival. It aims to generate employment opportunities for over 80,000 farmers, costing approx 80 Crores INR.
37. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) declared 438 sq.km. area around Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in Nilgiris as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ), to prohibit human activities near the reserve, which was declared a tiger habitat in 2007. It is a critical part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve spread over 5,500 sq. km.
38. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will upgrade National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) to secure government data and control access to it, to prevent leaking of sensitive information.
  1. NISPG has been prepared by MHA, based on experience of existing security standards and frameworks and global best practices and experience of implementation in wake of expanding information security threat scenario.
39. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will launch Global Housing Construction Technology Challenge as part of technology sub-mission of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U). It aims to accelerate PMAY-U's target of providing 'housing for all', as it is moving very slower than its rural counterpart.
  1. Through this, MoHUA will invite ideas for innovative technologies for mass housing projects that can help build houses faster, cheaper and of better quality with sustainable green materials. Winning technologies will be used for construction under PMAY (U).
  2. Also, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced that over 51 lakh houses have been approved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in the 3 years of its implementation. Out of Which, 28 lakhs houses are already in various stages of construction and 8 lakh completed. PMAY(U) aims provide affordable houses to all poor in urban areas by 2022. Its objective is to construct 2 crore houses across nation.
40. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA) launched *Technology Challenge: Identifying solutions for cleaning of Sewerage Systems and Septic Tanks*, to promote suitable techniques for cleaning sewers and septic tanks and eliminate need for human entry. It will be conducted for two categories each for cleaning of sewerage and septic tanks to eliminate need for human entry.
41. ▶ NITI Aayog Approved Bue Print for National health Stack, a Digital Healthcare Infrastructure To Implement Centre's Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
  1. National Health Stack will facilitate collection of comprehensive healthcare data across the country. It Includes assigning a Digital Health ID for every Indian Citizen, Which will enable privileged medical institutions to access Person's Health Data.
  2. Ayushman Bharat aims to provide a coverage of INR 5 Lakh per family annually and benefit more than 10 crore poor families. NITI Aayog has invited comments from stakeholders on consultation paper, by August 1, 2018.
42. ▶ National Security Guard (NSG) became first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of railway warrant. With this, NSG personnel don't have to carry railway warrants as Buying tickets through railway warrant system is a lengthy process.
43. ▶ Nissan Motors signed MoU with Government of Kerala to establish a new global center for its digital operations in India.
44. ▶ Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam became first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) in India to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'. Legatrix is cloud-based compliance management system, to effectively manage legal and regulatory compliances through monitoring control at different levels.
45. ▶ Odisha's government decided to increase the inter-caste marriage incentive from 1 lakh to INR 2.5 lakh. They can withdraw amount only after 3 years of marriage.
46. ▶ Piyush Goyal (Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs ) launched the Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application 'Khan Prahari' developed by CMPDI (a Subsidiary of CIL).
  1. Basic objective of CMSMS is reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities. CMSMS is a web based GIS application through which location of sites for unauthorised mining can be detected. It will use satellite data to detect changes by which unauthorised mining activity extending beyond allotted lease area can be detected.
  2. Complaints originating from coal mines allotted to Coal India will go to Coal India Offices and those originating from coal blocks not allotted to Coal India will go straight to State Government Officers and for each complaint the alert will also go to DM and SP of district.
  3. System also uses information provided by responsible citizens using smartphones using the mobile application "Khan Prahari".
  4. Its Uniqueness is that it uses satellite data as well as public input to capture information on unauthorised coal mining activities and also take appropriate action on them with due transparency.

47. ▶ RPG Group Owned Tyre major CEAT signed MoU with Tamil Nadu State government to invest 4000 crores in a greenfield plant in Sriperumbudur near Chennai to boost State's tyre manufacturing capacity.
48. ▶ Railways introduced Double Stack Dwarf Container Services, flagging off from Western Railway's Rajkot railway station on its maiden commercial run. Despite being smaller in size, dwarf containers can hold a capacity of 30,500 kgs.
49. ▶ Rajasthan government approved 1 % reservation for 5 communities - Gadia Lohar, Banjara, Gujjar, Raika and Gadariya.
50. ▶ Rajasthan government launched Annapurna Dudh Yojana, to provide milk thrice a week to 62 lakh students in government schools and madrassas. While students till Class 5 will get 150 ml, students in Class 6-8 will get 200 ml.
51. ▶ Sambalpur railway division (Odisha) of East Coast Railway Zone has set a record by constructing 6 limited height subways (LHS) at one go, in a single block of four and half hours, as first of its kind launch in Indian Railways. It eliminated all unmanned Level Crossing Gates over Sambalpur Division.
52. ▶ Supreme Court Bench (A.K. Sikri and Ashok Bhushan) ruled for the 3rd time that Chief Justice of India (CJI, currently Dipak Misra) is *Master of Roster*. CJI is an individual judge and not powerful collective of five senior-most judges of Supreme Court called the 'Collegium'. CJI has exclusive authority to allocate cases to fellow judges and is spokesperson of the court.
  1. Judgment was based on petition filed by former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan for considering expression CJI should be read as meaning Collegium for purpose of allocation of cases. Petition mentioned that to have collegium of SC judges collectively to allocate cases rather than leave entire power in hands of CJI in his administrative capacity as 'Master of Roster'.
53. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that private hospitals in Delhi, which were given land on concessional rate, must provide free treatment to certain percentage of poor patients. It is mandatory for private hospitals, built on land allocated by government on concessional rates, to provide 10 % treatment to In Patient Department (IPD) and 25 % to Out Patient Department (OPD) for free.
54. ▶ Supreme Court stated that Lieutenant Governor does not have independent decision-making powers in UTs, and is bound to act on the aid and advice of Democratically Elected Council of Ministers.
55. ▶ Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao laid foundation stone for Gattu irrigation project in Jogulamba Gadwal district, Telangana, with cost approx 554-crores.
56. ▶ Telangana Government signed MoU with Singapore-based engineering & consulting firm Surbana Jurong for preparing roadmap for Genome Valley 2.0, an upgraded version of life sciences and biotechnology industrial cluster state's capital Hyderabad.
  1. Genome Valley is India's first organized pharma-biotech cluster for life sciences R&D activities and largest life sciences destination in Asia, being home to over 200 companies employing 10,000 people.
57. ▶ Telangana government allotted 200 acres to 3 women entrepreneurs' associations in Telangana. 50 acres has been allotted to FLO at Sultanpur. 30 acres has been allotted to Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE) at Toopran, and 120 acres to Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP).
58. ▶ To cut costs incurred by state over travel expenses of ministers and bureaucrats, West Bengal Govt. announced *one person, one car* policy.
59. ▶ Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) announced that Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) (Main) and National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) will now be held twice a year and over multiple days. Both exams will be conducted by newly formed National Testing Agency (NTA), which will also conduct National Eligibility Test (NET). It will provide more flexibility to aspirants.
60. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will set up 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. For This, UNESCO signed agreement with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB).
61. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government announced a new Defence Manufacturing policy named 'UP Defence Aerospace Unit and Employment Generating Policy 2018'. Under this -
  1. Entrepreneurs will be given land under plug and play formula investment of INR 50000 crore in 5 years. This would generate 2.5 lakh jobs.
  2. Six districts — Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow – will be notified for the Defence manufacturing hub, with focus on Bundelkhand region.
  3. There will be 2 categories of investment - mega anchor project worth over Rs 1000 crore which will include companies willing to build aircraft, tanks, choppers and anchor units which could invest 200 - 400 crores in several regions.
  4. Government also approved proposal to get bank loan of INR 12000 crores from PNB for construction of Purvanchal Expressway.
  5. It also approved construction of civil airports at Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad and Shravasti under Regional Air Connectivity policy.

6. Government also approved asset settlement of UP Mining Development Corporation.
62. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government granted Status of Revenue Village to three villages inhabited by the Tongia Scheduled Tribe in and around forests in Saharanpur district under Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA). Villages are - Kaluwala, Sodhinagar and Bhagwatpur.
1. Granting of Revenue Status to villages means that these villages will now come under revenue department instead of forest department.
63. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. issued an order to ban use of plastic in state from July 15, 2018, in line with central govt's plan to end use of single-use plastic products by 2022. This will be 3rd Plastic ban in UP since 2015.
64. ▶ Uttarakhand High Court declared entire animal kingdom (all animals, including avian and aquatic species) as legal entities with rights, duties and liabilities of living person.
1. HC was hearing PIL by Narayan Dutt Bhatt, filed in 2014 where petitioner had sought directions to restrict movement of horse carts (tongas) between India and Nepal through Banbasa in Champawat district of Uttarakhand. However, HC enlarged scope of petition in larger public interest to promote protection and welfare of animals.
  2. HC directed State Government that no animal, including horses moving between India and Nepal, carries excess weight. It also banned use of any sharp equipment throughout state to avoid bruises, swelling, abrasions or severe pain to animals.
  3. It also directed all veterinary doctors across state to mandatorily treat animals brought to them.
65. ▶ West Bengal Governmet signed MOU with British Council, to promote cultural, educational and skill development exchanges between UK and west Bengal, on occasion of British Council's 70th anniversary in India.

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### **Persons**

1. ▶ Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif has been sentenced to 7 years in jail and and son-in-law captain (retired) Safdar awarded 1 year jail term, along with fine of £8 million on Mr. Sharif and £2 million on Ms. Maryam (His Daughter).
2. ▶ Indian Navy's Abhilash Tomy will be Asia's only attendant in Golden Globe Race (GGR) that commenced from Les Sables d'Olonne harbour in France. Participants are required to sail around the world, single-handed and non-stop. Boat technology newer than 1968 is not permitted, hence use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc is forbidden.
  1. GGR is conducted by Sir Robin Knox Johnston of UK to commemorate 50 years since world's first solo non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968 onboard Indian built boat, Suhaili.
3. ▶ Obituaries (July 2018) -
  1. JG Nadkarni - Ex Indian Navy chief.
  2. M.M. Jacob - former Meghalaya Governor.
  3. Kabutari Devi - Noted Kumaoni folk singer.
  4. Kavi Kumar Azad - Actor.
  5. J N Sadhu - Noted Journalist .
4. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (July 2018) -
  1. David Davis - Brexit Secretary (UK).
  2. Tushar Arothe - Indian Women's Cricket Team Coach.
5. ▶ Satyarup Siddhanta become 2nd Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado (6893 m), highest volcano in world on Argentina-Chile border.
6. ▶ VD Dogra became first serving Indian Army officer and only General across world to have completed a gruelling 'Iron Man' competition held in Austria. It consists 3 consecutive events - 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km cycling and 42.2 km of running (a full marathon), to be completed within 17 hours. Actor Milind Soman was first Indian to complete this challenge, in 2015.
  1. Also, Anju Khosla (52 years age) became oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon.
7. ▶ Visits From India (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
  1. Kiren Rijij, Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 (AMCDRR 2018) held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), with theme *Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development*.
  2. Union Minister of State for HRD, Satya Pal Singh attended 6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town (South Africa). In this meeting of BRICS, India was allotted key theme of 'Digitization in Education'.
  3. Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad visited UK. An MoU for enhancing bilateral cooperation in legal affairs was signed, for promoting greater co-operation between judicial and legal professionals in both

countries.

4. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan visited Switzerland for attending 3rd Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) meet in Geneva, orgnized by UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).
  5. Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Upendra Kushwaha visited Oceanic Nation Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), as first ever ministerial visit from India to RMI. India committed to extend grant of USD 300,000 for a Water and Sanitation Project Proposal of Aur Atoll in RMI.
8. ▶ Visits to India (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
1. Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of Kenya Visited India.
  2. Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dasho Tshering Tobgay visited India.
  3. Bernard Makuza, President of Senate of Rwanda (East Africa) Visited India.
    1. Rajya Sabha, for first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a MOU with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue, when it signed MoU with Upper House of Rwanda's Parliament (Senate).
    2. Vice president (currently Venkaiah Naidu) is Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
  4. South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited India. He was accompanied with Korean Science and Technology Minister Yiu Young Min and Kim Hyun-chong, Korean Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy.
    1. He, Jointly with Indian PM Narenra Modi inaugurated New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida (Uttar Pradesh). With investment of INR 5000 Crores, it is largest Mobile Phone Manufacturing facility in world in terms of number of units produced. It will create 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually. Samsung provides 70,000 direct and indirect jobs in India.
    2. 4th India-Korea Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee Meeting held in Delhi. To increase bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030, India and South Korea signed 11 MoUs, including agreement to discuss upgrade of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Signed MoUs -
      1. Joint Statement on Early Harvest Package of the Upgraded Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
      2. Trade Remedies.
      3. Establishment of Future Strategy Group
      4. Programme of Cooperation 2018-21
      5. MoU between Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and South Korean National Research Council for Science & Technology.
      6. MoU on cooperation between Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Korea Railroad Research Institute (KRRRI).
      7. Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bioeconomy.
      8. ICT and Telecommunications.
      9. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
      10. Princess Suriratna (Queen Hur Hwang-ok) Memorial Project - A legendary Princess of Ayodhya, who went to Korea in AD 48 and married King Kim-Suro.
      11. MOU Between Government of Gujarat and Korea Trade Promotion Agency (KOTRA).
    3. Agreed to jointly establish 2 additional India-Korea Joint Network Centres in areas among 'Cyber Physical System- Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things focused on agriculture, energy, water and transportation and 'Semiconductor Electronics'.
    4. A financing arrangement of 10 billion USD has been set by South Korea for infrastructure development in India.
    5. India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre was Inaugurated, at National Small Industries Corporation premises in New Delhi.

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## Science

1. ▶ German Researchers created world's first rhino embryos in a test tube to save near-extinct northern white rhinos, which has only two females alive globally. For this, team fertilised southern white rhinos' eggs with dead northern white rhinos' sperm.
2. ▶ ISRO conducted its first PAT (pad abort test), through Crew Escape System that provides an escape mechanism for astronauts if the launch operation is aborted. Once deployed, India will become 4th nation (after USA, Russia and China), to have human space

flight programmes.

1. Only Indian to ever travel to space was fighter pilot Rakesh Sharma who flew aboard Soyuz T-11, a spacecraft of the former USSR in 1984. India currently does not have a human space flight programme.
3. ▶ ISRO will launch Centauri I satellite later this year, which is a 10-kg nano-satellite made by Indian IOT startup Fleet Space Technologies.
4. ▶ India's first biofortified sorghum (jowar) named Parbhani Shakti containing higher iron and zinc than regular sorghum was formally launched, named Parbhani Shakti (ICSR 14001), developed by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT). It was released for cultivation by Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Maharashtra.
5. ▶ NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mission to get closest to Sun than ever by any human-made object has got its revolutionary heat shield "Thermal Protection System or TPS" permanently attached to spacecraft.
  1. Parker Solar Probe will be launched in August 2018, after been in making for 60 years. Spacecraft's orbit will carry it to within 4 million miles of Sun's surface with the help of its heat shield, and will collect data about the inner workings of the corona.
  2. Heat shield's diameter is 8 feet and weighs 72.5 KG.
  3. As Probe approaches Sun, temperatures on heat shield will reach around 1,371 degrees Celsius. But, spacecraft and its instruments will be maintained at a relatively comfortable temperature of nearly 29.4 degrees Celsius.
  4. Sun-facing side of heat shield is sprayed with a specially formulated white coating to reflect most of Sun's energy away.
  5. Parker Solar Probe will travel at a speed of 69,2018 km per hour at its closest approach to Sun.
6. ▶ National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) added 4 species (*Northern River Terrapin*, *Clouded Leopard*, *Arabian Sea Humpback Whale* and *Red Panda*) into Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species.
  1. Northern River Terrapin - Species of riverine turtle found in rivers that flow in Eastern India.
  2. Clouded Leopard - Found in Himalayan foothills. It is threatened due to habitat loss, poaching for its skin and is also as a live pet trade.
  3. Arabian Sea Humpback Whale - Migrates from Oman coast through Arabian sea, along Indian coasts till Sri Lankan coast.
  4. Red Panda - Closely associated with montane forests with dense bamboo-thicket. It is found in Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.
7. ▶ Researchers discovered seven new wasp species belonging to the genus *Clistopyga* from Peru, Venezuela and Colombia. Most notable among is *Clistopyga crassicaudata*, named after its distinctly thickened ovipositor, a tube-like organ present in many insects that helps in laying eggs and also in injecting venom.

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## **Sports**

1. ▶ 12th Malaysia Open Badminton title -
  1. Men's Singles - Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
  2. Women's Singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
  3. Men's Doubles - Japan's Takeshi Kamura AND Keigo Sonoda
  4. Women's Doubles - Japan's Misaki Matsutomo AND Ayaka Takahashi
  5. Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong
2. ▶ Australia defeated India to win 37th (their 15th title) and last Men's Hockey Champions Trophy tournament, in Breda (Netherlands). It will be replaced by Hockey Pro League (HPL) in 2019.
3. ▶ Australian Cricketer Aaron Finch scored highest ever individual score in T20 Internationals, scoring 172 runs in 76 balls against Zimbabwe.
4. ▶ India won Kabaddi Masters Dubai tournament in Dubai (UAE), Beating Iran in Final.
5. ▶ India's gymnast Dipa Karmakar won gold medal in vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin (Turkey).
6. ▶ Indian Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni reached milestone of playing 500 international matches, playing 497 international matches for India and 3 matches for Asia. He is ninth player to achieve this, apart from two more Indians - Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. Also, Rohit Sharma became first Indian to hit 3 centuries in T20I cricket, after he recently hit one against England.
7. ▶ Indian squash player Dipika Pallikal has been appointed as Asia's representative in Athletes Advisory Commission of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

8. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted former Rahul Dravid (India), Ricky Ponting (Australia) and English Female cricketer Claire Taylor into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. Dravid became 5th Indian to be named in Hall of Fame, after Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar and Anil Kumble.
9. ▶ July 07 - International Day of Cooperatives (IDC). 2018 theme is *Sustainable societies through cooperation*. It is also known as World Chocolate Day.
10. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (July 2018) -
1. India's Bajrang Punia won Gold in 65kg Category in United World Wrestling's Tbilisi Grand Prix (Georgia Capital), defeating Iranian wrestler Mehran Nasiri. Also, India's Deepak Punia won bronze medal in 86kg category, defeating Turkey's Osman Gocen.
11. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (July 2018) -
1. NADA gave 4 year suspension to shot putter Inderjeet Singh for testing positive for anabolic steroids in a dope test before 2016 Rio Olympics.
12. ▶ Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen won Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix 2018 -

1. 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	
11	German Grand Prix	22 July	
12	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	
13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

13. ▶ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore stated that name of Sports Authority of India will be changed to Sports India.
14. ▶ US defeated Belgium in 4th Quidditch World Cup 2018 final to win their 3rd title, Hosted by Italy. Quidditch is a game mentioned in JK Rowling's Harry Potter books.