



Current Affairs - June 2018

Month Type



- ▶ [147 Current Affairs were found in Period - June 11 - 20, 2018 for Type - All](#)

Appointments

- ▶ Bangladesh appointed Aziz Ahmed as country's new army chief for 3 years.
- ▶ Deepak Raj Joshee has been appointed as new Chief Justice of Nepal.
- ▶ Government appointed Inder Jit Singh as Secretary in Ministry of Coal.
- ▶ Indian Person Dhivya Suryadevara is appointed as CFO of General Motors, USA's largest automaker.
- ▶ Ivan Duque has been appointed as New president of South American Nation Colombia.
- ▶ N.S. Kannan is appointed as Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company. While, previous ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company CEO Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as COO (chief operating officer) of ICICI Bank.
- ▶ Noted Music composer A R Rahman named Brand Ambassador of Sikkim government.
- ▶ U.S. based ride hailing firm Uber appointed Pradeep Parameswaran as new President of India and South Asia.
- ▶ USA Researchers discovered world's first known natural manta ray nursery that allows them to observe juvenile manta ray in their habitat. Oceanic manta rays (*Mobula birostris*) are known as the gentle giants of the sea. They are large, plankton-eating rays. They can reach sizes of up to 7 metres in wingspan as adults.
- ▶ YES Bank re-appointed Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO for 3 years.

[Top](#)

Awards

- ▶ American Actor Tim Robbins, 2003 Supporting actor Oscar winning star of *Mystic River* will receive Crystal Globe for Outstanding Contribution to World Cinema at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (KVIFF) in Czech Republic.
- ▶ American activist Jane Fonda will be awarded Lumiere Award 2018 in Lyon (France). Lumiere Festival is largest international festival of classic cinema.
- ▶ Femina Miss India Beauty Pageant 2018 -
 1. Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu has been crowned Miss India World 2018 (1st Place).
 2. Meenakshi Chaudhary (Haryana) has been crowned Miss India Grand International 2018 (1st runner-up).
 3. Shreya Rao Kamavarapu (Andhra Pradesh) has been crowned Miss India United Continents 2018 (2nd runner-up).
- ▶ Irish author Mike McCormack won the \$100000 International Dublin Literary Award 2018 for his novel *Solar Bones*. The novel is written in a single sentence which comes across as really accomplished storytelling. With €100000 cash, it is world's largest prize for a single novel published in English. *Solar Bones* Novel is told by a ghost on All Souls' Day and was turned away by major publishers as too uncommercial.
- ▶ Smart Cities Awards 2018 -
 1. 9 awards in three categories - Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award announced.
 2. City award - Surat (Gujarat).
 3. Innovative Idea award - Bhopal (Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)) and Ahmedabad (Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project).
 4. Project awards - Given to innovative and successful projects in seven categories
 1. Governance - PMC Care from Pune.

2. Built Environment - Smart Place Making from Pune under
3. Social Aspects - Smart Class rooms from NDMC and Jabalpur, Smart Campus from Visakhapatnam, Lighthouse from Pune
4. Culture and Economy - B Nest Incubation Centre from Bhopal and Conservation of Rajasthan School of Arts from Jaipur
5. Urban environment - Public Bike Sharing from Bhopal, Pune, Coimbatore and Waste to Energy Plant in Jabalpur
6. Transport and Mobility - Integrated Transit Management System (TMS) from Ahmedabad and Surat
7. Water and Sanitation - Smart Water Management through SCADA from Ahmedabad

[Top](#)

Books

1. ▶ Book *Vedvigyan Alok*, written by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik has been released.
2. ▶ NABARD released book on Indian Crops named *Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops*, based on a study of 10 important crops.
3. ▶ Special booklet *80-years of Odisha Budget – A Commemorative Volume* was released by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik. Odisha annual budget increased from 1.77 crore in 1936-37 to Rs 1.2 lakh crores in 2018-19. Odisha is first state to bring out such a compilation. State government came up with a separate agricultural budget in 2016.

[Top](#)

Committees

1. ▶ Government has set up a Chief Ministers Subgroup to Coordinate Policy Approaches for Agriculture and MGNREGS with CM of Madhya Pradesh (Currently Shivraj Singh Chouhan) as Convener. Sub-Group will submit its report within 3 months.
2. ▶ Government has set up a committee headed by former Chief Statistician of India TCA Anant to bring in transparency in jobs data calculation. It look into the limitations of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES).
3. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up 10-member committee headed by Suresh Mathur (ED-IMF, IRDA), to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in country.

[Top](#)

Days

1. ▶ June 11 - Green Mizoram Day, organised every year since 1999.
2. ▶ June 12 - World Day against Child Labour. 2018 theme is 'Generation Safe & Healthy'. Campaign aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets of ending all forms of child labour by 2025 and achieving safe working environments for all workers by 2030.
3. ▶ June 13 - International Albinism Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *shining our light to the world*.
4. ▶ June 14 - World Blood Donor Day. 2018 theme is *Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life*. The 2018 host is Greece.
5. ▶ June 15 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. 2018 theme is *Moving from Awareness to Action through a Human Rights based approach*.
6. ▶ June 16 - International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR). It is also observed as International Integration Day.
7. ▶ June 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD). 2018 Theme is *Land has true value – invest in it*. Global observance of WDCD 2018 was hosted by Ecuador.
8. ▶ June 18 - World Sustainable Gastronomy Day, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2016.
9. ▶ June 19 - International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.
10. ▶ June 20 - World Refugee Day. 2018 theme is *Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees*.

[Top](#)

Defence

1. ▶ 13th Joint Military Exercise of India and Nepal, named SURYA KIRAN-XIII conducted at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

2. ▶ India will host first military exercise of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September 2018.
 1. BIMSTEC has 7 member nations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Its secretariat is in Dhaka (Bangladesh), with Nepal as current Chair from 2014 onwards.
3. ▶ Indian Army announced to observing year 2018 as *Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty*. Indian Army also drawn detailed plan to develop Jaisalmer Military Station in Rajasthan as smart facility patterned on Central Government's Smart Cities Mission.
4. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned fast patrol vessel (FPV) ICGS Rani Rashmoni, in Visakhapatnam, (Andhra Pradesh). It is fifth and last ship to be commissioned in series of fast patrol vessel (FPV) project of ICG.
5. ▶ Malabar 2018, the Trilateral Naval Exercise between India, Japan and United States held off coast of Guam in Philippine Sea. It is 22nd edition of the naval exercise.
6. ▶ Tri service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will be held in India in second half 2018.
7. ▶ USA approved sale of six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India, for approx \$930 million. Proposed sale also includes 180 Hellfire Longbow air-to-surface anti-armor missiles, 90 R-3 Hellfire II air-to-surface missiles, 200 Stinger air-to-air missiles etc. Apache attack helicopters will strengthen India's ability to defend its homeland and deter regional threats.

Top

Economy

1. ▶ 2nd tranche of Bharat-22 ETF (exchange traded fund) opened for fresh subscription, with government aiming to raise INR 6000 crores. There is also a green shoe option of Rs 2,400 crore, subject to government approval.
 1. Bharat 22 index was launched in November 2017, managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund. It's a part of the government's disinvestment programme.
 2. Bharat 22 comprises 22 stocks including those of chosen Government enterprises, spanning six sectors - basic materials (4.4%), energy (17.5%), finance (20.3%), industrials (22.6%), FMCG (15.2%) and utilities (20%).
 3. ETFs are essentially index funds that are listed and traded on stocks exchanges just like regular shares.
2. ▶ *Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)* and *TransUnion CIBIL* launched 2nd edition of MSME Pulse, a Quarterly Report on MSME Sector, providing precise data-driven insights to support policy as well as business decisions.
 1. Total commercial lending exposure in India is 54.2 lakh crores, with MSME segment constituting 12.6 lakh crores, with Y-o-Y growth of 22% and 13% respectively in Micro and SME sectors.
 2. In Large corporate segment, NPA rates increased from 15.3% (in Mar'17) to 18% (in Mar'18). However, MSME NPA rates remained stable. In Micro segment, NPA rate moved from 8.9 % (in Mar'17) to 8.8 % (in Mar'18). In SME segment, NPA hovered between 11.4% (in Mar'17) to 11.2 % (in Mar'18). Recognized NPA exposure for MSME is 81000 Crores as on Mar'18.
 3. Private Banks and NBFCs have further increased their market share in Micro and SME lending from 27.5% and 9.1% in March 2017 to 30.3% and 10.9% in March 2018. Share of PSBs fallen from 57% to 50.4% in same period.
3. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank raised INR 1000 crores from Singapore-based investment firm Temasek.
4. ▶ Accounting software solution firm Marg ERP partnered with ICICI Bank to offer an integrated payments platform to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers. This will enable ICICI Bank's current account holders to connect their bank accounts with MARG ERP software and undertake several digital transactions via RTGS, NEFT or IMPS directly from this platform, automate reconciliation of banking and accounting entries etc.
5. ▶ As per Mobile Banking Volume and Value share List compiled by SBI for 2017-18 -
 1. Value -
 1. Axis Bank (17.2%), ICICI Bank (17.1%), SBI (16.8%, down from 44.4% a year ago).
 2. Paytm, the topper in Volume category, holds only .25% of total Value of Mobile Banking Transactions.
 2. Volume -
 1. Paytm (21.87 %), SBI (19.5%), Axis Bank (12.76%), ICICI Bank (9.7%).
 2. Mobile-banking usage seen a steep jump, rising to 1871 million in FY18, from 977 million in FY17.
6. ▶ Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended 22 general managers to be elevated as executive directors at various public sector banks (PSBs). This is the first major exercise undertaken by reconstituted BBB, headed by newly appointed Chairman BP Sharma.
7. ▶ Department of Telecom (DoT) raised fresh demand of around INR 4700 crores ahead of merger deal between Vodafone India and Idea Cellular. As per DOT, Vodafone India merged all its arms into one company and these dues are related to one-time spectrum charges (OTSC).

1. The merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular will create country's largest mobile service operator with proposed name of Vodafone Idea Ltd. It will be worth over \$23 billion with a 35 % market share and a subscriber base of around 43 crores.
8. ▶ Financial Services Firm Paytm acquired Orbgen Technologies, entity that operates Chennai-based online ticketing platform TicketNew, in a bid to enhance its entertainment ticketing business.
9. ▶ Financial Services Firm Paytm acquired mobile technology startup Cube26, to help it build its consumer engagement products in areas of social and content. Cube26 works with handset manufacturers and combines its software capabilities with hardware.
10. ▶ Flipkart-owned PhonePe partnered with cab aggregator Ola that will allow riders to book rides using PhonePe's payment platform.
11. ▶ Global ratings agency Fitch revised down its outlook on ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.
 1. It downgraded ICICI Bank's 'support rating' to '3', from '2', its support rating floor to 'BB+', from 'BBB-'.
 2. Axis Bank's rating degraded to negative from stable, pointing to high proportion of NPAs.
12. ▶ Government will launch INR 500 crores Credit Enhancement Fund (CEF) in July 2018 to facilitate infrastructure investments by insurance and pension funds, as announced in Budget 2016-17. It also helps borrower to raise loans at lower interest rates. Initial corpus of INR 500 crores will be sponsored by IIFCL (India Infrastructure Finance Company).
 1. IIFCL will hold 22.5% stake in NBFC, while Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has been offered by Government to pick up 10% stake.
 2. At present, only \$110 billion is being invested in infrastructure in India, against requirement of \$200 billion, classifying India as a infrastructure deficit country.
13. ▶ ICICI Venture sold its 30% stake in hospital chain Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) to General Atlantic for INR 850 crores.
14. ▶ India's IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first listed company in India to close day's trade with market capitalisation (m cap) of over INR 7 lakh crores (over \$103 billion), as its board approved share buyback of 76,190,476 equity shares at INR 2100 per share for about 16000 crores. Buyback size was 1.99% of total paid-up equity share capital.
15. ▶ Karnataka Bank launched KBL-Deposit Only Card' that enables hassle-free cash deposit transactions at bank's 24X7 e-lobby services, specially meant for the bank's current/overdraft customers.
16. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs approved 33 % increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Middle-Income Group (MIG) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U).
 1. With revision, carpet area of a house for Middle Income Group-I (MIG-I) has been increased from 120 sqm to 160 sqm and for MIG II, area has been increased from 150 sqm to 200 sqm.
 2. New rules will be effective from January 1, 2017, date on which scheme became operational.
17. ▶ National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched a 'Tri-party Repo Market Platform' for repurchase of corporate debt security. It is a repo contract where a tri-party agent acts as an intermediary to facilitate services like collateral selection, payment and settlement, custody and management during life of transaction.
 1. This would increase demand for corporate bonds and may provide a boost to much needed liquidity in corporate bond market.
 2. Under corporate bond repo a firm / bank pledges corporate bonds with another company or lender to garner funds. The entity, who pledges, agrees to repurchase bonds at a specified price.
 3. National Stock Exchange (NSE) will offer basket repo for 1 day to 7 days. NSE would act as tri-party agent and offer an online web based, anonymous, order matching and multilateral trading platform. Settlement of repo transactions shall be guaranteed by NSCCL.
18. ▶ RBI changed eligibility conditions of priority sector lending -
 1. Previous eligibility Changed eligibility From 28 lakh (for metropolitan cities) To 35 lakh AND From 20 lakh (for other centres) To 25 lakh. These changes are valid till overall cost does not exceed 45 lakh for metropolitan and 30 lakh for other centres.
 2. Existing limit of family income of 2 lakh per annum has been changed to to 3 lakh per annum for economically weaker group and 6 lakh for low income groups.
19. ▶ RBI eased investment norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in debt, to attract more overseas flows and arrest recent fall in rupee on one hand and also lift recent fall in demand for corporate bonds.
 1. Corporate bond segment - FPIs are permitted to invest in corporate bonds with minimum residual maturity of above 1 year. The short-term investments in corporate bonds by an FPI shall not exceed 20% of total investment of that FPI in corporate bonds. residual maturity up to 1 year.

2. Government securities (G-secs) - FPIs cap on investment in Government securities (G-secs) has been increased to 30% of outstanding stock of that security, from 20% earlier. FPIs were allowed to invest in government bonds with minimum residual maturity of three years.
3. FPIs are permitted to invest in G-secs, including treasury bills (T-bills), and SDLs without any minimum residual maturity requirement. However, it will be subject to condition that short-term investments (*residual maturity up to 1 year*) by FPI under either category shall not exceed 20% of total investment of that FPI in that category. Short-term investments by an FPI may exceed 20% of total investments, only if investments are entirely made on or before April 2018, and not made after it.
20. ▶ RBI narrowed definition of relatives under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to check outflow of funds and prevent misuse of facility. Henceforth, funds under LRS can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
 1. Earlier in June 2018, RBI had made PAN mandatory for anyone using LRS for remitting money outside the country. Earlier PAN was not insisted upon for putting current account transactions of up to \$25,000.
 2. Under LRS, foreign remittances of upto USD 2,50,000 annually are allowed by resident individuals.
21. ▶ RBI released draft guidelines to make rules stricter for larger borrowers to borrow working capital from banks. It specifies a minimum level of loan component in fund based working capital finance and a mandatory Credit Conversion Factor (CCF) for undrawn portion of cash credit availed by large borrowers.
 1. Cash Credit is a facility by banks in which, a company can withdraw an amount more than what it holds to its credit against security. It poses regulatory challenges such as rollovers, diffusion of liquidity management from borrowers to banks, and hindering of smooth transmission of monetary policy.
 2. Minimum level of 'loan component' - Borrowers having aggregate fund based working capital limit of 150 crore and above, need to withdraw a minimum of 40 % of limit as loan component and remaining as cash credit, from October 1, 2018.
 3. Ground rules for sharing of cash credit and loan components will be laid down by consortium, subject to guidelines on bifurcation.
 4. Amount of Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL) will be fixed by banks, and tenure of shall not be less than seven days.
 5. Banks will have discretion to demand repayment of 'loan component' in instalments or by way of a 'bullet' repayment.
 6. Undrawn portion of cash credit / overdraft limits sanctioned will attract a credit conversion factor of 20 % from April 1, 2019.
 7. Current 40 % loan component will be revised to 60 % from April 1, 2019.
22. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted expert Group to look into existing Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) framework and suggest measures to facilitate listing of startups. Group will look into existing ITP framework and suggest measures to facilitate listing of startups.
 1. ITP framework is window on stock exchanges where e-commerce, data analytics, bio-technology and other startups can list and trade on their shares. It allows companies to list without necessarily doing an Initial Public Offer (IPO) of equity. SEBI introduced it in 2013 to facilitate listing of new age companies, but it failed to gain any traction.
 2. ITP facilitates capital raising by start-up companies which are in their early stages of growth. It provides easier entry and exit options for investors like angel investors, Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) and Private Equities (PVs) etc.
 3. It also provide better visibility and wider investor base.
23. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) constituted an expert committee to recommend suitable framework to allow direct listing of Indian companies on overseas exchanges while allowing overseas companies to list directly on Indian exchanges.
 1. Currently, Indian companies can only use depository receipts route – Global Depository Receipts (GDR) or American Depository Receipts (ADR) – to list on overseas exchanges.
 2. Similarly, foreign companies can access Indian capital markets only through Indian Depository Receipts (IDRP) for listing of equities.
 3. Sujit Prasad is convenor of the committee.
24. ▶ Swedish caller ID service Truecaller acquired Kerala-based payments startup Chillr, marking its first acquisition in India. Founded in 2014, Chillr lets users send money directly between bank accounts using mobile numbers.
25. ▶ US government arm Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has given USD 5 million loan to Grameen Impact Investments to support domestic small and medium enterprises. The financing to *Grameen Impact*, a non-banking financial company, comes through IndusInd Bank in the form of a loan guarantee agreement.
26. ▶ Yes Bank received SEBI approval for acting as custodian of securities, enabling it to play a larger role in channelising domestic and foreign investments into Indian financial market and would enhance bank's current capital market offerings.

International

1. ▶ According to FDI Report 2018 by FDI Intelligence (division of Financial Times Ltd.), USA surpassed India as top destination to attract Greenfield FDI investment (\$87.4 billion FDI).
 1. Number of greenfield FDI projects in India during year fell sharply by 21% to 637.
2. ▶ According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -
 1. Total nuclear warheads with 9 nuclear countries (*USA, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea*).
 2. Out of 14465 nuclear warheads at beginning of 2018, 3750 are actually deployed.
 3. Top Holders are -
 1. Russia - 6850
 2. USA - 6450
 3. France - 300
 4. China - 280
 5. Pakistan 140-150
 6. Britain - 215
 7. India - 130-140
 8. Israel - 80
 9. North Korea - 10-20
3. ▶ European Union Film Festival (EUFF) began in New Delhi on 18th June at the Siri Fort Auditorium, With 24 latest European films from 23 EU Member States. The festival will traverse through 11 cities in India till 31st August.
4. ▶ Greece and Republic of Macedonia reached a historic agreement to end a bitter 27-year name dispute that kept Macedonia out of international institutions such as Nato and EU.
 1. Macedonia naming dispute is a political dispute over use of name "Macedonia" between Greece and Republic of Macedonia, formerly a region within Yugoslavia.
 2. Agreement says that Republic of Macedonia will be Known as *Republic of Northern Macedonia*, ending the naming dispute.
 3. Deal reached by two countries' prime ministers is expected to be signed by their foreign ministers soon. After that, Macedonia's parliament would vote on it, and if it approved, Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov's signature would be needed.
 4. However, Macedonian President Mr. Ivanov said that he will not sign the accord to change his country's name.
5. ▶ HDFC has been ranked as 5th biggest public company globally in 'consumer financial services category' on Forbes' list. American Express topped category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is only other Indian company (at 13th place). In overall list topped by China's ICBC, HDFC took 321st place. There are a total of 58 Indian companies on the overall list of 2000 firms, with Reliance Industries (83rd) as Best in India.
6. ▶ India extended financial aid of INR 99 million (approx 10 Crores) to Nepal for construction of 2,700 shallow tube well (STWs) irrigation systems in 12 districts of southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity. It is final payment for Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project, which has seen India release total 227.6 million Nepali rupees to Nepal for implementing this project.
7. ▶ India will open four new air entry points to Nepal in eastern and western parts of country. Routes are - Kathmandu-Biratnagar-Dhaka, Kathmandu-Janakpur-Kolkata, Kathmandu-Janakpur-Patna in eastern Nepal, Kathmandu-Mahendranagar-Delhi (L626) in west.
8. ▶ Japan adopted an economic plan that will allow more foreign workers to work in country. This will help rapidly aging country to make up for its declining workforce. Under it, Japan will relax visa requirements in sectors facing severe labour shortages and will create new five-year visa category for non-professional foreign workers. Applicants for new visa status will need to pass certain skill tests and have some degree of Japanese language proficiency in order to receive new five-year visas.
9. ▶ Microsoft acquired video discussion platform Flipgrid which is used by 20 million teachers and students across world.
10. ▶ Russia launched Glonass-M positioning satellite on board of Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, as part of GLONASS network GLONASS (Russian acronym for Global Navigation Satellite System) which provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around globe, at accuracy reportedly at par with US Global Positioning System (GPS). With this, there are now total 26 Glonass satellites in orbit.

11. ▶ SAARC Development Fund (SDF) will launch social enterprise development programme (SEDP) as part of its social window, aimed at building social enterprises by using mix of grants and concessional returnable capital. It intends to fund around 80 enterprises across 8 SAARC member states (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) annually.
12. ▶ Seychelles President Danny Faure said that India-Seychelles joint project to develop naval base at Assumption Island in his country can not move forward. Seychelles will develop military facilities at the island on its own.
 1. Agreement was signed with India in 2015 to develop a naval facility at Assumption Island which would have given India strategic advantage in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), but the project had to be halted after growing political opposition in Seychelles. It was meant to India's first Naval Base project overseas and had acquired significance after China had acquired its first African naval base in Djibouti (near Horn of Africa) in November 2014.
 2. Assumption Island is a small island situated southwest of Seychelles main and largest island of Mahe. It is situated very close to Mozambique Channel from where much Indian Ocean maritime routes pass. Its location lends it strategic importance for monitoring shipping in the Mozambique Channel.
13. ▶ USA announced its withdrawal from United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), accusing it of "chronic bias" against Israel. Recently, UNHRC blamed Israel for Gaza violence, and rejected USA demand to condemn Hamas (The Palestinian Extremist Group).
14. ▶ USA imposed stiff 25% tariff on US \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods, accusing China of intellectual property (IP) theft and unfair trade practices. Tariffs will be applied in two waves, first to 818 Chinese goods worth \$34 billion and in second wave it will apply to 284 goods worth another \$16 billion. As a backfire action, China also imposed additional tariffs and duties on \$50-billion worth of American products.
 1. Also, India also imposed higher import tariffs (ranging from 20 to 50%) on 30 goods from USA, ranging from automobile components to agro products such as almonds, shrimps and chocolates. It is expected to rake in additional \$240 million to India.
15. ▶ World Bank approved \$700 million to help Bangladesh achieve its education for all vision by improving primary education sector, under Quality Learning for All Program (QLEAP). Also, Pakistan and World Bank inked agreements worth \$565 million to support projects in power and water sectors.
16. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) classified gaming addiction as mental health disorder in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD). WHO defines gaming disorder as pattern of gaming behaviour characterized by impaired control over gaming, increased priority given to gaming over other activities.

Top

Meetings

1. ▶ 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar (Punjab) in January 2019, with theme *Future India: Science & Technology*. It will be organised by Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).
2. ▶ 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018, with Theme *Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti*.
3. ▶ Most anticipated Bilateral Meeting for world peace, the USA-North Korea Meet held in Singapore.
 1. USA Prez Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un met in Singapore, after a round of negotiations and months of tensions among both parties.
 2. North Korea Pledged to give up its nuclear Program and destroy its Nuclear arsenal. It brings respite to whole world as North Korea.
4. ▶ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting held in Jurmala (Latvia). With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair NSG.

Top

National

1. ▶ 220 MW Unit-1 of Karnataka's Kaiga Generating Systems (KGS-1) has set a new record of the continuous operation of 766 days, surpassing earlier record of 765 days set by the Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) in 2014. With this, KGS-1 stands second in world among Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and fourth among all nuclear power reactors in terms of continuous operation.

2. ▶ A tripartite Concession Agreement signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), UP Jal Nigam and Triveni Engineering & Industries to develop an Integrated Sewage Infrastructure for Mathura on Hybrid Annuity-based PPP mode.
3. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Government signed MOU with Andhra Pradesh-based Smart Village Movement (SVM), To facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of state. 100 villages spread over 60 constituencies would be selected in consultation with government for SVM project.
4. ▶ As per State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures that has been released recently by Down To Earth magazine -
 1. India ranked 177 out of 180 countries in Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings 2017, India slipped from 141st place in 2016.
 2. India scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality.
 3. Through Swachh Bharat scheme, 72.1 million individual household toilets have been constructed. But funds allocated for spreading awareness on this to rural people remains unused.
 4. Central government's target of installing 175 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy by 2022, is not seeing expected progress, with only 9 % of the roof-top solar target achieved so far.
 5. There is a 146 per cent increase in forestland diversion for non-forest activities in the last one year with maximum diversions recorded in Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. Forest fires have increased by 125 per cent in just two years (2015-2017).
5. ▶ Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare) released 11th Common Review Mission (CRM) report of the National Health Mission. One of its findings stated that women bear uneven burden in family planning as they account for more than 93% of sterilisations in the country.
6. ▶ Assam government will introduce awareness programme called 'Sanskar' in all its development blocks and panchayats, after incidents triggered by superstition and ignorance including lynching of two people in Karbi Anglong district.
7. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 13, 2018) -
 1. MOUs -
 1. Joint issue of a postage stamp between Department of Posts of India and Vietnam.
 2. MoU signed between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Institut National de la Santeet de la Recherche Medicale (INSERM) of France. It aims at cooperation in areas of common interest within medical, life sciences and health research fields.
 2. General Approvals -
 1. Permitted HDFC Bank to raise additional share capital of up to a maximum of 24000 crores, over previous approved limit of 10000 crores. Provided that Composite foreign shareholding in Bank shall not exceed 74% of paid-up equity share capital.
 2. Approved continuation of 3 Year Action Plan (2017-2020) of scheme for Agricultural Education Division and ICAR Institutes with outlay of INR 2225 crores. It is aimed to generate quality human resources from the institutions of higher agricultural education. It comprises of -
 1. Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India - 2050 crores
 2. ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) - 24 crores
 3. ICAR - Central Institute of Women in Agriculture (CIWA) including All India Coordinated Research Project on Home Science (AICRP-HS) - 151 crores.
 3. Approved withdrawal of Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill 2013 (pending in Rajya Sabha). Nalanda University was established after a Joint Press Statement at 4th East Asia Summit in Thailand in October 2009. Present proposal is for withdrawing Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill 2013, which is aimed at amending certain existing provisions of Nalanda University Act 2010.
 4. Approved introduction of Dam Safety Bill 2018 in Parliament. It will help States and UTs to adopt uniform dam safety procedures which shall ensure safety of dams and safeguard benefits from such dams. The Bill provides for -
 1. Constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety which shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend regulations.
 2. Establishment of National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body which shall implement guidelines and standards for dam safety.
 3. Constitution of a State Committee on Dam Safety by State Governments.
 5. Approved nomination of Home Minister as Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC), and Minister of State (Independent Charge) in Ministry of DoNER as Vice Chairman of NEC. NEC has Governors and CMs of all 8 North

Eastern State as its members. Presently, Rajnath Singh is Home Minister and Jitendra Singh is Minister of State (IC) in Ministry of DoNER.

8. ▶ Central Water Commission (CWC) signed agreement with Google for flood forecasting and dissemination of flood related information to masses, to help crisis management agencies to better handle extreme hydrological events, under National Hydrology Project (NHP).
 1. CWC will use technological advances made by Google in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning and geo-spatial mapping for effective management of water resources.
9. ▶ Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) developed a mobile based application *utsonmobile*, with features -
 1. It enables booking of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and helps maintain user profile management and booking history.
 2. Upon registration, Railway Wallet (R-Wallet) will be created. R-Wallet can be recharged online (<https://www.utsonmobile.indianrail.gov.in>) or at any of UTS counters.
 3. No advance ticket booking is allowed (Journey date will always be current date).
 4. No need to carry hardcopy of ticket.
10. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government approved merger of *shikshakarmi* with state school education department., wef July 2018. It is expected to benefit around 1.50 lakh shikshakarmi who are currently working under Panchayats and urban local bodies. For merger, a shikshakarmi must have completed 8 years of service.
 1. Merged teachers would from now onwards be known as Teacher (LB) cadre and their management as well as control would be with School Education Department instead of Panchayat Department.
11. ▶ General Conferences (June 11 - 20, 2018) -
 1. 15th annual Asia and Oceania Region Intergovernmental Ministerial meeting on anti-doping held in Colombo.
 2. 2 day National Consultation on 'Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable' held at Pune (Maharashtra).
 3. 4th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi.
 1. Rajiv Kumar is Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and Amitabh Kant is Its CEO.
 4. Kerala government organized promotion programme *Yoga Ambassadors Tour*, as a specialized trip for yoga professionals.
 5. 1 day thematic Seminar on "Private Sector Participation and Innovation in Resource Mobilisation" hosted in Mumbai by Ministry of Finance and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) as knowledge partner.
 6. Conference on Implementation of National Pension System (NPS) by Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs) organized by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in Delhi.
 7. J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare exchanged MOUs with State Health Ministers of 20 States marking their commitment towards launch of the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) at a Health Ministers conclave in Delhi.
 1. Also, government proposed to impose penalty on insurance companies for delay in payment to hospitals for settlement of claims under its Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS). If an insurance company delays claim payment beyond 15 days, then it would have to pay a penalty of 1 % interest on claimed amount per week till it finally settles the claim.
 2. About NHPM -
 1. NHPS aims to provide a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually to 10 crore vulnerable families.
 2. Indu Bhushan is CEO of NHPM.
 8. 3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens(NCSrC) held in Delhi.
 9. IIT Kharagpur hosted Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018 – Hardware edition, in association with Ministry of HRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems and i4C.
 1. SIH2018 – Hardware edition is first of its kind innovative initiative to provide platform to young technical minds to showcase their innovations which can bring out revolutionary changes in crucial sectors like agriculture, health, clean water, waste management, automotive, smart communication.
 10. 2nd India-US colloquium on Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy was inaugurated at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO) at Dona Paula (Goa).
 11. International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) held in Kathmandu (capital of Nepal) with Theme *Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society*.
 12. 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) held in New Delhi.
 13. Workshop on Cyber Security Framework for Department of Defence organised by Ministry of Defence in New Delhi.

14. 5th National Standards Conclave with theme *Implementing the Indian National Strategy for Standardization* held in New Delhi.
12. ▶ Government approved assistance of INR 5.5 lakh per family to West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs), to benefit 5764 families of WPRs settled in Jammu and Kashmir. Full expenditure for this scheme will be borne by Central Government.
13. ▶ Handbook *Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime Against Children*, has been released by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) along with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai.
14. ▶ Haryana Government launched 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of seven social parameters - *sex ratio, education, hygiene, environment preservation, governance and social participation*. So far, Ambala topped star ranking followed by Gurugram and Karnal. .
1. Gram panchayats scoring maximum in all parameters will be recognized as Indradhanush Gram Panchayats. They will get special grants for development works from Development and Panchayats Department of State Government.
 2. Rewards -
 1. 6 stars - 20 lakh.
 2. 5 stars - 15 lakh.
 3. 4 stars - 10 lakh.
 4. Villages for achieving each parameter will be rewarded Rs 1 lakh. Villages having equal or more girl population will be given INR 50000 as bonus with their reward money. Villages which adopt Swachhta Mission will be given additional INR 50000.
 3. Various Colours -
 1. Pink star - To panchayats that make outstanding performance in improving sex ratio.
 2. Green star - For protection of environment
 3. White star - Cleanliness.
 4. Saffron star - For crime-free villages.
 5. Sky colour star - To village that will have no drop out.
 6. Golden star - For good governance.
 7. Silver star - For participation in development of villages.
15. ▶ Haryana Government approved introduction of e-auction with an amendment in policy for allotment of petrol pumps, CNG (Compressed natural gas) or PNG (Piped Natural Gas) sites to oil companies in urban areas. It aims at bringing transparency in allotment process.
16. ▶ Haryana government approved to provide monthly assistance of INR 8000 to female acid victims.
17. ▶ Haryana government increased upper age limit to enter into government service from 40 to 42 years.
18. ▶ Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College in Hamirpur. It will admit first batch of 100 students from 2018-19 academic year.
19. ▶ Indian IT industry's apex body NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) has launched 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme to increase number of women in senior levels in Information Technology (IT) industry.
20. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University (Varanasi) and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL) signed MoU to develop cloud-ready job skills by providing access to AWS Educate program and to help establish a Cloud Research Lab on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). Cloud Research Lab will provide students with opportunities to use AWS Cloud technology to pursue research initiatives that focus on AI and ML innovation for India.
21. ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare released National Health Profile (NHP) 2018 prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI). He also launched National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) - Country's first ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic, standardized and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
1. NHRR will be ultimate platform for comprehensive information of all healthcare establishments in India (Private / Government). Over 20 lakh healthcare establishments like hospitals, doctors, clinics, diagnostic labs, pharmacies and nursing homes would be enumerated under this census, capturing data on over 1,400 variables.
22. ▶ KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) created world record of distributing maximum number of bee-boxes in one day, 2330 bee-boxes were distributed among 233 beneficiaries in Zangalee Army area (Kashmir).
23. ▶ Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority launched of a 'Water Literacy'(Jala Saksharatha) campaign to create awareness about importance and optimal use of water and its conservation.

24. ▶ Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Nation. Parvati is first Blast Furnace of SAIL that was launched in February 1959 by first President of India (Dr. Rajendra Prasad). It was put down in August 2013 for total rebuilding. With rebuild, annual production capacity of furnace increased from 0.438 Million tonnes (MT) to 1.015 MT.
25. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts, aimed at providing clean drinking water. It will involve outlay of 700 crores through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget. 90% of project cost is taken care by Government and remaining 10% is contributed by beneficiary community.
1. Modernisation of 2000 water quality testing laboratories spread across country will also be taken up. INR 1000 crores will be earmarked for addressing drinking water needs of 27,544 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations of country, under National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM).
26. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation selected 10 more iconic sites under Phase III of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of Swachh Bharat Mission, launched at Mana village (Uttarakhand).
1. 10 new iconic sites are - Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Andhra Pradesh), Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana), Vidur Kuti (Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (J&K), Nagvasuki Temple (UP), Ima Keithal market (Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).
 2. SIP is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission and was launched in 2016. It was initiated as project to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of cleanliness (swachhata).
 3. Phase 1 and 2 of SIP each have 10 Iconic places listed under them.
27. ▶ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeITy) launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages in partnership with common service centres (CSCs), aiming to transform rural Internet connectivity through BharatNet. They will provide 60,000 WiFi hotspots in rural areas. Wi-Fi Choupals are in addition to broadband connectivity provided gram panchayats through optical fibre network under BharatNet.
28. ▶ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) will expand its India BPO Promotion Scheme to 1 lakh seats from current 48,000 seats. It will also set up 5th and India's largest National data centre (NDC) in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) with capacity of 5 lakh virtual servers.
1. India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) was Launched in 2014, to incentivize establishment of BPO firms and their extension to Tier II and Tier III cities.
29. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) announced that National Testing Agency (NTA) will train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers. NTA It will take over all examinations from CBSE (except 10th and 12th board examinations) from 2019 in phased manner. It will be also conducting prestigious Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to prominent engineering colleges.
30. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched National Digital Library of India (NDLI) on occasion of National Reading Day (June 17) in New Delhi. NDLI aims to make digital educational resources available to all, to empower learning.
1. NDLI (under aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)) is a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. It been developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.
31. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) declared medium (5 GW by 2022) and long-term (30 GW by 2030) targets for offshore wind power capacity addition, as a new element in already existing basket of renewable energy of country.
1. Target for offshore wind power is moderate in comparison to on-shore wind target of 60 GW and its achievement of 34 GW and solar target of 100 GW by 2022, because of challenges in installing wind power turbines in open seas.
 2. Global capacity of off-shore wind power is about 17 to 18 GW, led by UK, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands & China.
32. ▶ Mizoram government will introduce a resolution in state legislature objecting to Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016, as the amendment will legalise thousands of Buddhists (Chakmas) who have illegally entered Mizoram from Bangladesh.
1. Also, cabinet approved Sinlung Hills Council Bill 2018, signed as result of peace accord between Mizoram government and erstwhile underground Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) in April 2018.
33. ▶ Muthoot Fincorp became first major private sector player to partner with National Skill Development Corporation to train over 10,000 youth over 3 years.
34. ▶ NITI Aayog Launched a Composite Water Management Index as a tool to improve management of water resources. This index is an attempt to inspire States and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water. States are categorized as *North Eastern and Himalayan States* AND *Other States*. Outcomes of report (for 2016 - 17) -

1. In Other States, Gujarat is ranked at top in reference year (2016-17), followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
 2. In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Tripura is at top followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.
 3. In terms of incremental change (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan is at top in general States and Tripura first amongst North Eastern and Himalayan States.
35. ▶ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) selected 3,000 additional schools for establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), bringing the total number of ATL schools to 5441. Selected schools shall receive a grant of Rs 20 lakh spread over 5 years to establish Atal Tinkering Labs for nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among secondary school children across India.
 1. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in country.
 2. Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) create innovators, Atal Incubation Centres and support to Established Incubation Centres ensure that innovations are taken to market and help create enterprises around these innovations.
 36. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated several developmental projects in Chhattisgarh -
 1. Launched Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur Smart City.
 2. Launched modernized and expanded Bhilai Steel Plant.
 3. Laid foundation stone for IIT Bhilai.
 4. Inaugurated air services between Jagdalpur and Raipur.
 37. ▶ Piyush Goyal (*Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Company Affairs*) inaugurated Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLCIL)'s three 100 MW Solar Power Projects for commercial operation, situated at Thoppalaakkarai and Sethupuram in Virudhunagar District and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli District (Tamil Nadu).
 38. ▶ Punjab Government launched a mobile application named 'i-Hariyali' aimed at increasing state's green cover, under 'Mission Tandarust Punjab. It will enable users to order free plant saplings. The 'i-Hariyali' app, ' can be downloaded from the app store for free.
 39. ▶ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that Indian Railways will become a net zero-carbon emitter by 2030 with current action plans for 100% electrification and renewable strategies.
 40. ▶ Reliance Industries announced to set up India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs.
 41. ▶ Shillong (capital of Meghalaya) selected as 100th Smart City. With selection of Shillong, proposed investment in finally selected 100 cities under Smart Cities Mission would be INR 2,05,018 crores.
 42. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced SOPs for several sectors like Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and Establishment of an agency to attract foreign investment in state MSMEs. An Innovation Policy will also be launched through which government will develop entrepreneurs, in line with Tamil Nadu government's Vision 2023 document which estimates a 11 % GSDP by then.
 43. ▶ Telangana Police launched COP CONNECT' mobile application to support communication and collaboration needs of entire police department of state. This app has features of regular mobile messaging apps and is enabled for chatting, group chats, file and location sharing.
 44. ▶ Telangana Government will set up *District Child Protection Units (DCPU)* in all 31 districts to protect the children from child abuse, child labour and to implement the child rights in all districts.
 45. ▶ Tripura government launched GPS (Global Positioning System) and wireless based 24x7 "mobile policing" service to control crime, mainly against women. Under Mobile policing, Police will reach the spot within a few minutes to tackle the situation.
 46. ▶ World's first of its kind International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF) launched at Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), as joint venture of International Committee of Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Gujarat Forensic Science University. It would promote best practices in forensics.
 47. ▶ World's tallest girder rail bridge (141 Metres Height) is being built near Noney (Manipur), as part of 111-km-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad gauge railway project in Manipur. First section involves construction of 84 kms of railway line connecting Jiribam to Tupul which is on verge of completion. 2nd section of 27 kms connecting Tupul to Imphal is expected to be completed by 2019.

Top

Persons

1. ▶ Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos becomes the richest man in the world with a net worth of USD 141.9 Billion according to Forbes world's billionaire list.

2. ▶ Visits from India (June 11 - 20, 2018) -

1. Nitin Gadkari (Minister for *Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation* and *Road Transport & Highways and Shipping*) visited Tajikistan (Central Asia) to represent India in high-level Conference on *International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028*.
2. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Visited OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Forum in Vienna (Austria).
 1. OPEC is an intergovernmental organization of 15 nations, headquartered since 1965 in Vienna (Austria). 15 OPEC members account for 44 % of global oil production and 81.5 % of world's proven oil reserves.
3. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Vietnam -
 1. She inaugurated first Representative Office of Navratna Defence Public Sector Unit Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Hanoi (Vietnam).
4. Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu visited USA.
5. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis visited USA -
 1. He met World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva at Washington DC and asked for World Bank's assistance for Rural transformation through sustainable livelihood in 10,000 villages and A multimodal transport corridor in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
 2. Ford Motor Company submitted a proposal of 50 million USD for setting up a Centre of Excellence for integrated mobility in Maharashtra.
 3. Maharashtra government and Canada's Quebec province signed a pact to increase economic cooperation.
6. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited European Nations Italy, France, Luxembourg and Belgium.
 1. India will construct a war memorial at Villers Guislain in France as tribute to Indian soldiers who died in World War I.
 2. 2018 marks 20th year of India's Diplomatic relations with France and 70th year of India's Diplomatic relations with Luxembourg.
 3. It was First ever official visit by an India Minister of External Affairs to Luxembourg.
7. President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Greece, Suriname and Cuba -
 1. Greece -
 1. He attended Greece-India Business Forum in Greek Capital Athens.
 2. Stated that India is on its way to become a 5 trillion USD Economy by 2025.
 3. MOUs -
 1. Cooperation in Fields of Standardization.
 2. Cooperation in Diplomatic Training and.
 3. Programme of Cultural Cooperation for 2018-2020.
 2. Suriname -
 1. India announced \$51 Million aid to Suriname for several developmental Projects -
 1. 20 Million USD for setting up a solar project to provide clean energy to a cluster of 49 villages in Suriname.
 2. 27.5 Million USD to support a power transmission project in PikinSaronarea
 3. 3.5 Million Dollars 3.5 million for maintenance of Chetak helicopters.
 4. India - Suriname MOUs -
 1. To establish a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Suriname.
 2. MoUs in fields of elections, diplomatic academies partnership, employment for spouse of diplomats.
3. ▶ Visits to India (June 11 - 20, 2018) -
 1. United Kingdom Minister of State for Countering Extremism and Minister for Equalities, Baroness Williams of Trafford Visited India.

[Top](#)

Science

1. ▶ Antarctica has Reportedly lost about 3 trillion tonnes of sea ice since 1992 contributing to a global sea-level rise of 7.6 mm. Antarctica has enough ice to raise seas by 58 metres if it ever all melted.
2. ▶ ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) will transfer its own in-house lithium ion (Li ion) cell technology to successful Indian industries and start-ups on non-exclusive basis in automobiles for INR 1 crore. It aims to accelerate development of

indigenous electric vehicle (EV) industry and reduce dependence of imported lithium ion cell technology.

1. Transfer of ISRO's technology will help in establishing production facilities in country that can produce cells of varying size, capacity, energy density and power density catering to entire spectrum of power storage requirements of electric vehicles (EVs).
3. ▶ Two new species of cricket frogs named Kalinga and Krishnan discovered in the Odisha (Eastern Ghats) and Karnataka (Western Ghats) Respectively. The other species has been named Krishnan. Kalinga has been named after ancient kingdom of Kalinga. The other species from Karnataka has been named after eminent biologist, Dr. K Subramanian Krishnan.
4. ▶ World's largest iceberg (B-15), which broke away from Antarctica's Ross ice shelf 18 years ago, is nearing its end, as per NASA observation. It measured about 296 kilometres long and 37 kilometres wide when it first broke away in March 2000. As in May 2018, B-15Z measured just 18 km long and 9 km wide.

[Top](#)

Sports

1. ▶ 2018 Mercedes Cup Men's Tennis (Stuttgart, Germany) -
 1. Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland), defeating Milos Raonic (Canada)
 2. Doubles - Germany 's Philipp Petzschner AND Tim Pütz
2. ▶ American fighter Ronda Rousey will become first female MMA fighter to be inducted into Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Fame.
3. ▶ Brooks Koepka (USA) won US Open Golf 2018 by defeating Tommy Fleetwood, becoming first player in 3 decades to successfully defend his title.
4. ▶ Commonwealth Games gold medallist weightlifter Sanjita Chanu and tennis player Yuki Bhambri have been dropped from Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme, amid positive dope sample test results.
5. ▶ India Women Cricketer Smriti Mandhana became first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League (women's cricket super league in England).
6. ▶ Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan became first Indian to score a century before lunch on first day of a test match, against Afghanistan. He is 6th batsman in world to achieve this feat.
7. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its Future Tours Programme (FTP) for 2018-2023, which includes World Test Championship and a 13-team ODI league. ICC World Test Championship will be held in July of 2019 to June 2021. Test championship will involve 9 teams playing 3 home and 3 away series.
8. ▶ New Zealand Cricketer Amelia Kerr created a world record in women's ODI cricket by scoring an unbeaten 232 runs (145 Balls) in a match against Ireland in Dublin.
9. ▶ USA, Mexico and Canada chosen as hosts of 2026 FIFA Football World Cup.
 1. 2026 FIFA World Cup will be 23rd FIFA World Cup. It will be jointly hosted by 16 cities in USA (60 Matches), Canada (10 Matches) and Mexico (10 Matches). 2026 World Cup will also see the tournament expanded from 32 to 48 teams.
 2. 2022 FIFA World Cup will be hosted by Qatar, with 32 teams participating.

[Top](#)

[Read Important Ones](#)