



## Current Affairs - June 2018

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### Appointments

- ▶ Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been appointed as Egyptian President for second 4 year term.
- ▶ Airline GoAir appointed Cornelis Vrieswijk as its new CEO.
- ▶ Arvind Saxena has been appointed as acting chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ▶ Bandhan Bank appointed former RBI deputy governor Harun Rashid Khan as non- executive part time chairman, for 3 years.
- ▶ Ethnic Indian lawyer Tommy Thomas is appointed as Malaysia's new attorney general (Top Lawyer of Nation).
- ▶ Football Club FC Pune City appointed Brazilian Marcos Paqueta as head coach.
- ▶ Government appointed IDBI Bank's MD & CEO Mahesh Kumar Jain as a Deputy Governor of RBI. The post was vacant after SS Mundra retired in July 2017. Other RBI Deputy Governors are BP Kanungo, N S Vishwanathan and Viral Acharya. Urijit Patel is current RBI Governor.
  1. Also, former RBI deputy governor R Gandhi joined board of Electronic Payment Services (EPS) as independent director.
- ▶ Indian Origin Person Nikesh Arora (former SoftBank Group Corp president) is appointed as CEO and Chairman of Cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks.
- ▶ Jordan's King Abdullah II appointed Omar Razzaz as new prime minister of Middle east Nation.
- ▶ K Alagesan has been appointed as Chairman and MD of PSU ITI Limited and M Venkatesh took charge as MD & CEO of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL).
- ▶ Law Ministry appointed Krishna Murari as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- ▶ New Indian Ambassadors (June 2018) -
  1. Rudrendra Tandon - 10 Member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Nations).
  2. Madhu Sethi - Cuba
  3. Tsewang Namgyal - Lithuania
  4. Ravindra Prasad Jaiswal - Eritrea
- ▶ Pedro Sanchez has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Spain. It also ended 7 month direct rule by Spanish government in Spain's Catalonia region. Pedro was appointed as Spanish PM after former PM Mariano Rajoy was toppled by a corruption scandal, becoming first leader in Spain's modern democracy to lose a vote of no confidence in Parliament.
- ▶ Pippa Harris has been selected as the Chairman of British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA).
- ▶ S Ramesh has been appointed as New Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), succeeding Vanaja N. Sarna.
- ▶ Sharad Kumar has been appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in Central Vigilance Commission.
- ▶ Suranjan Gupta appointed as Executive Director and Secretary of PSU EEPC India.
- ▶ United Nations General Assembly elected Ecuador's Foreign Minister *Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces* as its next president for 73rd Session. Maria is 4th woman (and 1st Latin American) to be appointed UNGA President in its 73-year history.
- ▶ Vijay Mahajan is selected as Secretary and CEO of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and Director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS).
- ▶ West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi has been given additional charge of Tripura Governor, during absence of Tathagata Roy due to leave.
- ▶ World Economic Forum (WEF) appointed India's Sarita Nayyar as a member to its Managing board.

## Awards

1. ▶ 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction, previously known as Orange prize and Bailey's prize, has been won by British-Pakistani author Kamila Shamsie for her novel *Home Fire*.
2. ▶ BCCI Awards 2018 -
  1. Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award – Pankaj Roy
  2. BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award For Women – Diana Edulji (she declined the award as she is part of the Committee of Administrators which is currently overseeing the work of the board)
  3. BCCI Special Award – Abbas Ali Baig and Naren Tamhane
  4. Polly Umrigar Award – Virat Kohli (4th Polly Umrigar Title for Kohli, stands for International cricketer of the year)
  5. Best International Cricketer - Women – Harmanpreet Kaur
  6. Best Performance In BCCI Domestic Tournaments – Cricket Association of Bengal
  7. Other Awards
    1. Lala Amarnath Award For The Best All-rounder In Ranji Trophy – Parvez Rasool
    2. Lala Amarnath Award For The Best All-rounder In Domestic Limited-overs Competitions – Krunal Pandya
    3. Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Scorer In The Ranji Trophy – Priyank K Panchal
    4. Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Wicket-taker In The Ranji Trophy – Shahbaz Nadeem
    5. Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy – Best Woman Cricketer (Sr Domestic) – Punam Raut
    6. Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy – Best Woman Cricketer (Jr Domestic) – Jemimah Rodrigues
    7. Best Umpire In Domestic Cricket – Anil Dandekar
3. ▶ China awarded its first highest state honour Friendship Medal to Russian President Vladimir Putin, since the medal was established in 2015. Friendship Medal is conferred by China on foreigner who made outstanding contributions in promoting cooperation between China and world, and in maintaining world peace.
4. ▶ Industrial Awards (June 2018) -
  1. HDFC Bank recognized with Champion Security Award at 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit in Singapore, in South Asia category.
  2. Corporation Bank won under category *Best Expectation Management (Mid Cap)* for 2017-18, in awards instituted by Investor Relations Society India.
  3. Chennai-based startup Calzy 3 won Apple Design award 2018, along with 9 other startups from different countries. Calzy 3 is a customisable calculator that uses iOS technologies such as Drag & Drop to share results in other apps to help users perform day to day mathematical calculations.
  4. SVC Co-operative Bank received National Payments Excellence Award 2017 by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as highest recognition in banking industry for exceptional performance in payments system.
5. ▶ Noted actor Anupam Kher will be honored with Lifetime Achievement honour at upcoming International Indian Film Academy awards ceremony in Bangkok (Thailand).

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## Committees

1. ▶ Culture Ministry formed three high-powered panels that will work to set up a unique museum on Theme *Prime Ministers of India* in New Delhi. It will tell the story of all prime ministers of country. Formed Committees and their tasks are -
  1. Content Committee and Project implementation committees headed by Shakti Sinha.
  2. Swapan Dasgupta Committee - Will vet content for curation for museum
2. ▶ Government constituted a group to study Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India (implemented from 01st April, 2000), to be headed by Bharat Forge Chairman Baba Kalyani. Group will evaluate SEZ policy, suggest measures to cater to needs of exporters in present economic scenario and make SEZ policy WTO compatible, suggest course correction in SEZ policy.
3. ▶ Government has set up an executive committee under PM Narendra Modi to *spread M K Gandhi's legacy* among people at national & international level.

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## Days

1. ▶ 4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. June 4, 2018 also marks 29th anniversary of Tiananmen Square protests of China. In 1989, Chinese troops violently retook Tiananmen Square in Beijing from pro-democracy protesters. It killed over 200 citizens, being biggest Massacre in Modern Chinese History.
2. ▶ June 01 - World Milk Day. India is leading Milk Producer in world with 23.69% increase during 2014-2018 and Annual increase of 6.3%. India's Milk production was 165.5 Million Tonnes in FY 2016-17. Also On June 1 2018, India's first superfast train, Deccan Queen express from Mumbai to Pune marked 88 years of service.
3. ▶ June 1 - Global Day of Parents. It was Announced by UNICEF in 2012.
4. ▶ June 2 - Telangana Statehood Day. It was formed in 2014, after Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.
5. ▶ June 3 - First UN World Bicycle Day. It aims to encourage a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.
6. ▶ June 5 - World Environment Day. 2018 Theme is *Beat Plastic Pollution*. On this Occasion -
  1. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed MOU to set up a resource efficiency cell, aim to focus on waste management and resource efficiency by enabling coordinated thinking among various ministries. It would focus on system based use of materials, products and processes in India. Effective collection, recycling and use of bio-degradable plastic can reduce emission of Green House Gases (GHG).
  2. A thematic knowledge conference on "Plastic Pollution and Management" was organized at "Vigyan Bhawan" in New Delhi.
  3. Environment Minister (IC) Mahesh Sharma Issued a Pledge Titled *Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution*, aiming to make 500-meter area around Taj Mahal litter free and phase out single use plastic.
  4. Uttarakhand Government announced to completely prohibit use of polythene or plastic from July 31, 2018.
  5. Tamil Nadu Govt also announced that state would ban use of plastic from 2019.
  6. June 5 is also observed as *International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*
7. ▶ June 8 - World Oceans Day. 2018 theme is *Peventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean*. June 8 is also observed as World Brain Tumor Day.

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## Defence

1. ▶ India and Indonesia Navies Participated in their 31st Joint Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT).
2. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces worth INR 5500 crores. It includes -
  1. 12 High Power Radars for Indian Air Force, to provide long range medium and high altitude cover with capability to detect and track high speed targets following parabolic trajectories.
  2. Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) will be procured for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Indian Army from Indian Shipyard. These vessels offer great advantage over conventional boats and crafts as they have ability to travel at very high speeds over shallow water, sand banks, mud flats and swamps which are non-navigable by boats.
3. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out maiden test OF new surface-to-air missile (yet to get formal name) powered by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion Technology. It also successfully demonstrated technology of nozzle less booster for first time in country.
  1. SFDR technology is jointly developed by India and Russia. It will help both India's surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles to perform better and enhance their strike range, making them more lethal.
  2. SFDR and Conventional Missiles are different as conventional missiles have limitations against maneuvering targets, as terminal stage of conventional missiles cannot provide enough energy to maintain their speed in order to hit targets. SFDR removes this drawback by exceptionally enhancing endgame maneuverability of missile at terminal stage when its seeker is locked onto target.
4. ▶ Government will raise 5 Indian Reserve Police (IRP) battalions in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), to provide jobs to local youths and enhance security. These battalions will have over 5000 personnel, with 60% posts reserved for people from border areas of J&K. Besides, two female battalions comprising 1,000 women personnel will also be created.
  1. At present, there are 144 IRBs in various states. 4 IRBs each are being raised in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and 12 in Maoist-hit states.

5. ▶ India successfully test fired long range ballistic missile Agni 5, with operational range over 5000 KMs. Upgraded version of Pinaka rocket was also test fired, with range 40 - 70 KMs. Earlier Pinaka version was an unguided one.
6. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned interceptor ship ICGS C 439 at Mumbai.
7. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Sunayna has been directed to evacuate 38 Indians stranded on Yemeni island of Socotra in aftermath of cyclone Mekenu, under Operation Nistaar. Evacuated Indians were embarked onboard and immediately provided with appropriate care.
8. ▶ India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun Dhanush passed its final test and is ready for induction into Army.
  1. Indian Army has so far not inducted any new artillery guns since Bofors guns. It has placed an initial order for 114 Dhanush guns and is expected to order another 400 more.
  2. Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) Kolkata. It is upgraded version of Swedish 155-mm Bofors howitzers, which India procured in mid-1980s. It has strike range of 40 kilometres (11 km more than imported Bofors).

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### **Economy**

1. ▶ Commerce ministry approved 16 projects under TIES (Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme), to develop infrastructure for promoting exports. TIES was launched in 2016, with outlay of INR 600 crores. TIES has been launched for three years to 2020.
2. ▶ According to a new report by UN, Foreign Direct Investment to India decreased to 40 billion dollars last year from 44 billion dollars in 2016. Also, outflows from India have more than doubled in 2017-18.
  1. However, According to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)'s Recent Report - FDI in India increased to US \$61.96 billion in 2017-18, from \$60 billion Last year.
3. ▶ After success of India's largest Merger of SBI Associate Banks with SBI, government is planning another mega merger of Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, Oriental Bank and Central Bank of India. These banks has combined loss of INR 21646 crores last year. It will create India's second largest bank after SBI with a combined asset of INR 16.58 trillion.
4. ▶ As per accounts of Government of India (Provisional/Unaudited) for FY 2017-18 -
  1. Government received inr 15,51,004 crores, comprising 1242662 crores Tax Revenue, 192523 crores Non Tax Revenue and 115819 crores of Non Debt Capital Receipts (Recovery of Loans and Disinvestment of PSUs)
  2. Expenditure incurred by Government is INR 2142667 crores, out of which 1878963 crores on Revenue Account and 263704 crores on Capital Account. 529243 crores is spent on Interest Payments (approx 25% of total spends).
5. ▶ Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) approved revised cost (3466 Crores) and Extended Time Period (June 2020) for World Bank funded Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP). DRIP is a state sector scheme with central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams.
  1. Participating States / Agencies are Damodar Valley Corporation, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and Central Water Commission.
6. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched an Online Analytical Tool to facilitate closer monitoring of utilisation of foreign contributions, allowing to take evidence-based decisions regarding compliance of provisions of FCRA, 2010. Its dashboard will be integrated with the bank accounts of FCRA-registered entities through the Public Financial Management System for updation of transactional data on a real-time basis.
7. ▶ IDFC Bank received RBI's approval for merger of Capital First, Capital First Home Finance and Capital First Securities with Itself.
8. ▶ Income Tax Department launched New Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, to get people's participation in Department's efforts to unearth black money and reduce tax evasion.
  1. Under this, a person can get reward up to 1 crores for giving specific information in prescribed manner to Income Tax Department about benami transactions and properties, which are actionable under Benami Property Transactions Act 1988, as amended by Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2016. Identity of persons giving information will not be disclosed.
  2. Giving details about undisclosed black money stashed abroad could fetch the informer up to INR 5 crores.
9. ▶ India GDP Growth Forecasts (June 2018) -
  1. World Bank forecasted growth rate of 7.3 % for India in 2017-18 and 7.5 % for next two years, making it fastest growing country.

10. ▶ India's fiscal deficit in FY 2017-18 stood at 3.53% of GDP (in line with revised estimates). India revised its fiscal deficit target in February 2018 to 3.5% of GDP from 3.2% projected earlier. In FY 2018-19, aim is to trim deficit to 3.3% of GDP. Shortfall for 2017-18 was 5.9 trillion (6 Lakh Crores INR).
11. ▶ Karur Vysya Bank signed bancassurance tie up with Aditya Birla Health and Birla Sunlife Insurance To provide insurance services to its customers.
12. ▶ Maharashtra government will provide financial grant of 1,000 rupees per quintal to farmers whose tur and gram could not be purchased by administration before May 31 deadline. State government had set up tur procurement target of 44.6 lakh quintals.
13. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind approved promulgation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, bringing changes in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016, affecting mainly real estate and financial sectors. Notable changes are -
  1. Homebuyers will be Recognized as Financial Creditors, giving them due representation in Committee of Creditors (CoC).
  2. Promoters of MSMEs will be allowed to bid for their companies as long as they are not wilful defaulters. This corrects anomaly in section 29A of existing act that barred promoters of defaulting assets from bidding for their assets.
  3. Withdrawal of Insolvency Application will be permitted only if it is approved by 90% vote share of CoC. CoC voting threshold has been brought down to 66 % from 75 % for all major decisions.
  4. Other provisions -
    1. Addresses some issues such as non-entertainment of late bids, no negotiation with the late bidders and a well laid down procedure for maximizing value of assets.
    2. Exempts pure play financial entities from being disqualified on account of NPA and NPA acquired under Insolvency Code shall not disqualify an entity for the next three years.
    3. Successful resolution applicants will get a minimum one-year grace period to fulfill various statutory obligations.
    4. It also addresses much litigated issue of enforcement of guarantees.
14. ▶ RBI conducted Financial Literacy Week from June 4 on theme 'Customer Protection'. Last year's theme of the week was, 'Know Your Customer'.
15. ▶ RBI eased bad loan classification norms for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to formalize economy further and create more jobs. loans to all MSMEs having credit facility of up to 25 crore will now be classified as non-performing assets (NPAs) as per 180-days due criterion, rather than 90-days due criterion. This is done as a result of effect of GST on the small and medium enterprises. After January 2019, rules will fall back to normal 90 day regime for GST registered MSMEs.
16. ▶ RBI made PAN mandatory for remitting money abroad under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). Earlier PAN was not insisted upon for putting current account transactions of up to \$25,000. Under LRS, foreign remittances of upto USD 2,50,000 annually are allowed by resident individuals.
17. ▶ RBI made changes in Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to make it more attractive -
  1. RBI allowed customers to deposit the gold in a broken time period where short term period of 1-3 years can be broken to 1 year 3 months , 2 years 3 months 15 days etc. Medium Term Period (5-7 years) and Long Term Period (12-15 years) can be broken as well. Interest rate is calculated as per number of years and remaining days.
  2. For pre-mature retrieval of Medium and Long term the amount would be in INR while 0.2% in INR would be deducted as administrative charges upon redemption in gold form.
  3. Interest for Medium and Long term can be calculated as per amount of gold in terms of rupees during at time of deposit.
  4. Interest rate vary from 2.25% to 2.5%.
18. ▶ RBI stated that interest subsidy scheme on short-term crop loans of up to 3 lakh rupees will be implemented through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode from current FY. Centre earmarked 15000 crore rupees for 2018-19 towards interest subvention for short-term crop loans.
19. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced changes in Monetary Policy Rates. New Rates are -
  1. New Rates -
    1. Repo Rate - 6.25 % (Increased from 6 %)
    2. Reverse Repo - 6.00 %
    3. Bank Rate - 6.50 %
    4. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.50 %
  2. Unchanged Rates -
    1. CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
    2. SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 %

3. 6 member monetary policy committee (MPC) of RBI is headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel. In this meeting, RBI also decided to allow voluntary transition of Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCB) into Small Finance Banks (SFB). It is an outcome of recommendations made by Committee on Urban Cooperative Banks in August 2015 headed by Former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi. Panel recommended converting UCBs with business size of 20000 crores into regular banks in a bid to propel their growth.
20. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a Public Credit Registry (PCR) as a repository of information regarding loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers, as per recommendations of Y.M. Deosthalee committee. Committee Recommendations -
1. RBI should set up a Public Credit Registry and this should be backed by a legal framework. PCR will work as a repository of all loan contracts, duly verified by reporting institutions for all / any lending in India, regardless of amount of loan.
  2. PCR should also capture data such as external commercial borrowings, market borrowings and should provide an holistic picture about borrower's indebtedness. Borrowers should also be able to access their own history.
  3. PCR data will be available to all stakeholders such as banks on a need-to-know basis. The database should also be linked to defaulter databases such as those maintained by Export Credit Guarantee Corp, GST network etc.
21. ▶ Task Force on Shell Companies was set up in February 2017 to check the menace of companies indulging in illegal activities including facilitation of tax evasion and commonly referred to as 'Shell Companies'.
1. Task Force has most notably compiled a database of shell companies by SFIO. This database comprises of 3 lists - Confirmed List (16537 entries), Derived List (16739 entries) and Suspect List (80670 entries).
  2. During FY 2017-18, Registrars of Companies (ROCs) removed names of 226166 companies (under Section 248 of Companies Act 2013), which had not filed their Financial Statements for continuous 2 years. Also, 309619 directors were disqualified.
  3. To help genuine corporates in regularizing their pending returns, Condonation of Delay Scheme 2018 was brought. It was effective from 1-01-2018 to 1-05-2018. Total 13,993 companies benefitted from the scheme.
  4. For 2nd drive to be launched during FY 2018-19, total 225910 companies have been identified for being struck-off, along with 7191 LLPs for action under section 75 of LLP Act 2008, due to non-filing of financial statements for 2015-16 and 2016-17.
22. ▶ World Bank approved Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation's *Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)*, with INR 6000 crores Expenditure. It is to be implemented from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance. It aims to address criticality of ground water resources in a major part of country. Priority areas are Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these states.
1. Funds will be provided to states for strengthening ground water governance and encourage community involvement for improving ground water management.
  2. Scheme will have several positive outcomes like better understanding of ground water regime, focused community based approach for addressing issues related to ground water depletion, adoption of efficient water use practices to reduce ground water use for irrigation.
23. ▶ Yes Bank launched a new deposit scheme as first of many green retail products to be launched by bank. Bank aims to fetch INR 1000 crores through the scheme, called 'Green Future : Deposit'. It supports *Green Good Deeds* campaign recently launched by Government. This would provide a peak interest of 7.5% and has a tenure of 18 months and 8 to 18 days. For senior citizens it would provide 8% interest. Bank also launched a pilot project for recycled dry waste generated at facilities.

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### **International**

1. ▶ 12th Global Peace Index (GPI) 2018 by Australian Think Tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Rankng 163 Nations -
  1. Top 5 - Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Austria (3), Portugal (4), Denmark (5)
  2. Bottom 5 - Syria (163), Afghanistan (162), South Sudan (161), Iraq (160), Somalia (159)
  3. Neighbours - Nepal (84), Pakistan (151), **Sri Lanka (67)**, Bangladesh (93)
  4. BRICS - Brazil (106), Russia (154), **India (136)**, China (112), South Africa (125)
  5. India improved as compared to 137th Rank in 2017 List.
2. ▶ *End of Childhood Index 2018* report by global child rights group named *Save the Children*.
  1. India ranked 113th in list of 175 countries.
  2. Top 5 - Singapore (1), Slovenia (2), Norway (3), Sweden (4), Finland (5)
  3. Bottom 5 - Niger (175), Mali (174), Central African Republic (173), Chad (172), South Sudan (171)

3. ▶ ASSOCHAM study on *Electricals & Electronics Manufacturing in India* -
  1. India recycles only 5% of its e-waste and is one of biggest contributors of e-waste (2 million tonnes per annum). E-waste includes discarded computer monitors, motherboards, Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT), Printed Circuit Board (PCB), mobile phones and chargers etc.
  2. Other top e-waste generator countries are China, US, Japan and Germany.
  3. In India, Maharashtra is at top in e-waste generation (19.8%), followed by Tamil Nadu (13%), Uttar Pradesh (10.1%).
4. ▶ China approved first domestically developed, long-acting injectable HIV drug named Albuvirtide. It can block fusion of virus and host cell membranes, blocking HIV life cycle in earliest stage.
5. ▶ China successfully launched new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-6. It will focus on agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring. Also, a scientific experiment satellite named Luojia-1 was sent into space.
6. ▶ Citi Bank is first to enroll as *Payment Initiation Service Provider* under UK's Open Banking regime, According to which the European Banks are required to share customer data with third party banks upon the customers' approval. This would enable it to receive small payments directly from UK's customer bank accounts without debit or credit cards.
7. ▶ Denmark banned wearing of face veils (burqa and niqab) in public places, a move that will criminalise Muslim women who choose to wear niqab or burqa.
8. ▶ East African Nation Uganda's parliament passed a law to impose a controversial tax on people using social media platforms. It imposes a 200 shilling (\$0.05, £0.04) daily levy on people using internet messaging platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Viber and Twitter, arguing that social media encouraged gossip.
9. ▶ German conglomerate Bayer completed its \$63-billion takeover of US-based Monsanto to create world's biggest agro-chemical and seed company.
10. ▶ Global financial services major Morgan Stanley reported that India will become a leader in shared mobility by 2030, caused by increasing amount of electric and autonomous vehicles being used. In 2017, 10% of total 257 million miles have been travelled by shared mobility and this trend would increase to 35% by 2030.
11. ▶ India received first shipment of its so far cheapest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russian supplier Gazprom, priced USD 7 per million British Thermal Unit (mmBtu), which is around 1.5 USD cheaper from LNG imported from Qatar (India's oldest and largest supplier of LNG).
  1. India is fourth largest importer of LNG, with import dependence 45% to 50%.
12. ▶ India's Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) signed agreement to set up a framework for recognizing members easier and encourage mobility of professionals between both countries.
13. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its loan of \$252 million to Sri Lanka, as part of a \$1.5 billion deal.
14. ▶ Iraq Parliament ordered a full manual recount of country's recent parliamentary election where 1.1 crore votes were cast, as a response to charges of electoral fraud. Elections were held in Iraq last month for first time since defeat of Islamic State in country.
15. ▶ Microsoft launched prototype of an underwater data centre off the coast of Scotland's Orkney Islands, as part of Microsoft's Project Natick. The capsule contains 864 servers and 27.6 Petabytes of storage, and has been placed 117 feet below ocean's surface. It is designed to hold data for up to 5 years without maintenance.
16. ▶ Myanmar and UN agencies signed an agreement that could lead to return of some of 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who fled brutal persecution by country's security forces and are now crowded into makeshift camps in Bangladesh.
17. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd received the first equity oil cargo from Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum oilfield, where it recently bought 10% stake in. A shipload of Das blend crude oil reached New Mangalore port. Lower Zakum (LZ) oilfield produces 400000 barrels per day.
18. ▶ Passport Index 2018 by Henley and Partners -
  1. It analyzes 199 different passports across 227 destinations to list rankings annually.
  2. Japanese passport is named most powerful passport in world, granting visa-free access to 189 countries.
  3. Indian passport secured 76th rank in index with its holders getting visa-free access to 59 countries.
19. ▶ QS World Best Universities Ranking 2019 (Top 1000 Universities Listed) -
  1. Top 5 -
    1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
    2. Stanford University (USA)
    3. Harvard University (USA)
    4. California Institute of Technology (Caltech) (USA)
    5. University of Oxford (UK)
  2. Indian Universities in List -

1. 24 Indian Universities in 2018 List, up from 20 last year.
2. IIT Bombay topped among Indian Universities in List (162nd Place), Followed by IISC Bengaluru (170), IIT Delhi (172), IIT Madras (264) and IIT Kanpur (283).
20. ▶ Rajnilanth Starrer Kaala become first Indian film to release in Saudi Arabia. Note that Hollywood's Black Panther recently became first film to release in Saudi Arabia in 35 years. Saudi Arabia also recently gave away its first batch of driving licenses to women after decades long ban.
21. ▶ Saudi Arabia Government established Ministry of Culture, separating it from Information Ministry, amid attempts to modernise the conservative kingdom.
22. ▶ Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will become 1st international head of State to travel to North Korea to meet North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un, since he took over in 2011.
23. ▶ USA and Cuba will permanently restore postal services after running a pilot program for 2 years, which was suspended in 1963.
24. ▶ USA unveiled world's most powerful supercomputer called 'Summit', beating previous record-holder China's Sunway TaihuLight. With a peak performance of 200,000 trillion calculations per second (200 petaflops), it is over twice as fast as Sunway TaihuLight, which is capable of 93,000 trillion calculations per second. Summit has 4,608 servers.
25. ▶ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Belgium as non-permanent members of UN Security Council (UNSC). They will have two-year term beginning January 1, 2019.
26. ▶ WHO launched new *WHO Global action plan on physical activity and health 2018-2030: More active people for a healthier world*, explaining how countries can reduce physical inactivity in adults and adolescents by 15% by 2030. It specifies a set of 20 policy areas aimed to develop more active societies by improving the environments and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to do more Physical Activities.
27. ▶ With Over 186000 Indian students studying in USA, India is 2nd highest sender of foreign students to US, next only to China.
28. ▶ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) notified declaration submitted by India related to Article II and III of Appendix to Paris Act (1971) related to Berne (*Switzerland*) Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.
  1. It will enable India to avail facilities provided for Article II and III of Appendix to Berne Convention during 10 years period that will expire, on October 10, 2024.
  2. India has been member of Berne Convention since April 1928 and has been submitting declaration as per Article II and III of Appendix from time to time.
  3. Berne Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Convention) is international copyright agreement that mandates equal treatment of copyrighted works by signatories, known as Berne Union. It was adopted in 1886 in Berne, Switzerland.
29. ▶ World Reputation Rankings 2018 Times Higher Education (THE) -
  1. Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru (IISc Bangalore) is Only University in Global Top 100 (Ranked 91).
  2. Top 5 - Harvard University (USA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), Stanford University (USA), University of Cambridge (UK) and University of Oxford (UK).
30. ▶ World's First third generation European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) reactor started working in Taishan (China).
  1. EPR is a third generation pressurised water reactor (PWR) design, developed mainly by Framatome and Électricité de France (EDF) in France, and Siemens in Germany. In Europe this reactor design was called European Pressurised Reactor, and internationalised name was Evolutionary Power Reactor. 2 EPR units under construction in Finland and France are both facing costly construction delays.

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### **Meetings**

1. ▶ 44th G7 summit held in Quebec (Canada). Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States AND European Union. Next (45th) G7 Summit will be held in Nouvelle - Aquitaine (France).

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### **National**

1. ▶ 13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification, for being Environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards. These beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states will be the first in Asia, to get Blue Flag

certification. Blue Blue Flag beach standards are conferred by Copenhagen (Denmark) based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

2. ▶ 578 metre long Theng tunnel inaugurated in Sikkim, as state's longest tunnel. It is constructed on Gangtok-Chungthang Highway.
3. ▶ According to Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, rural sanitation coverage has risen to 85% under Swachh Bharat Mission. Sanitation coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) has increased more than double since launch of mission. As a result, over 3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts across country have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).
4. ▶ According to Recently Released SRS bulletin (2016) -
  1. India registered significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio, with 22% reduction in since 2013. MMR declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016, against UN MDG (Millennium Development Goals) target of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 139 by 2015. Total maternal deaths for first time are reduced to 32000.
  2. Uttar Pradesh with 30% decline topped in reduction of Maternal Deaths. Three states (*Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu*) have already met SDG target for MMR of 70 per 100000.
  3. WHO commended India's progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 77 %, from 556 per one lac live births in 1990 to 130 per one lac live births in 2016. This puts India country on track towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target of MMR below 70 by 2030.
5. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu stated that state is now Open Defecation Free (ODF), as it achieved goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets.
6. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched a Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) scheme for benefitting farmers, aiming 100% chemical-free agriculture by 2024. It has provisioned investment of INR 16134 crores by 2024. It makes Andhra Pradesh as India's first 100 % natural farming state.
7. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government announced monthly allowance of INR 1,000 each to unemployed graduate youths in state with an upper age limit of 35 years.
8. ▶ Andhra Pradesh will become first state to use auto-disable syringes for all clinical purposes to prevent infection, from World Hepatitis Day on July 28.
9. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched *Arunachal Rising* Campaign, to create awareness among people about government programmes. It will highlight positive works of government and involve feedback services covering all sections of people.
10. ▶ Bihar government launched new crop insurance scheme named *Bihar State Crop Assistance scheme*, to be effective from Kharif season 2018. Under this, farmers would get compensation of INR 7500 per hectare if less than 20% of crop is damaged. And if more than 20% of crop is damaged, INR 10000 would per hectare would be given as compensation.
11. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 06, 2018) -
  1. CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) Approvals -
    1. Approved construction of 9.9 km long new 6 - lane bridge across river Ganga on NH - 96 at Phaphamau in Allahabad with total cost of INR 1948 crores, to be completed by December 2021. It will resolve the traffic congestion on existing old 2 - lane Phaphamau bridge on NH-96 at Allahabad. This will also boost pilgrimage and local economy of Holy city of Prayag.
    2. Implementation of Phase-3 of Off-grid and Decentralised Solar PV (Photo Voltaic) Application Programme to achieve additional 118 MWp(Mega Watt peak) off-grid solar PV capacity by 2020. Off-grid solar systems will also open better livelihood opportunities for beneficiaries in remote areas, increasing self-employment. Implementation of Phase-III is likely to generate employment opportunity equivalent to 8.67 lakh man-days. It will Cover -
      1. 300000 solar street lights will be installed across country.
      2. Solar power plants of individual size up to 25 kWp(kilo Watt peak) will be promoted in areas where grid power has not reached or is not reliable. Aggregated capacity of solar power plants would be 100 MWp.
      3. 2500000 solar study lamps will be provided in North Eastern States and LWE affected districts.
      4. Total project of the three components included under the phase 3 is INR 1895 crores of which INR 637 crores will be provided as central financial assistance.
  2. General Approvals -
    1. Release of Joint Stamps between with Russia, to establish postal cooperation.
    2. Approved revision in wage structure of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), with expenditure of INR 1258 crores during 2018-19, benefitting . 3.07 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks. GDSs have been brought under two categories - Branch Postmasters

(BPMs) and Assistant Branch Postmaster (ABPMs). Present 11 TRCA slabs will be merged into 3 TRCA Slabs with two levels each for BPMs and other than BPMs. Introduction of new Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA).

3. Approved Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Continuation Programme (Phase 6) and funding of thirty PSLV operational flights under the Programme, with total fund requirement of INR 6131 Crores.

1. PSLV Continuation Programme was sanctioned in 2008, with four phases completed and fifth phase to be completed by Q2 of 2019-20. Phase 6 approval will cater to launch of satellite missions during Q3 of 2019-20 to Q1 of 2023-2, with frequency of up to 8 launches per year.

4. Approved Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) continuation programme (Phase-I) consisting of ten (10) GSLV (Mk-III) flights, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 4338 crores.

1. The GSLV Mk-III continuation Programme – Phase 1 is first phase of operational flights that will enable launch of 4 tonne class of communication satellites to meet country's satellite communication requirements, during 2019-2024.

2. It will meet launch requirement of communication satellites to meet national demand for High Throughput Satellites for rural broadband connectivity, increase and sustain the availability of transponders for DTH, VSAT and Television broadcasters.

5. Approved several measures worth approx INR 8500 crores, to improve liquidity of sugar mills resulting in accumulation of huge cane price arrears of farmers.

1. Creation of buffer stock of 30 LMT of sugar for 1 year and to incur estimated expenditure of 1175 crores.

2. To fix minimum selling price of white / refined sugar at mill gate below which no white / refined sugar can be sold by a sugar mill in domestic market. Minimum selling price of white/refined sugar shall be initially fixed at Rs.29/kg which can be revised by DFPD based on revision of FRP etc.

3. To up-grade existing distilleries attached to sugar mills by installing incineration boilers and setting up new distilleries in sugar mills. Government will bear interest subvention of maximum 1332 crores over 5 years on bank loans amounting 4440 crores to be sanctioned to sugar mills by banks.

3. MOUs -

1. With Netherlands on technical cooperation in Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management.

2. With Denmark on technical cooperation in Sustainable and Smart Urban Development.

3. With United Kingdom, France on technical cooperation in Sustainable Urban Development.

4. With Oman on Cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space.

12. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a 16 MW solar 'PV power plant' established by Bharat Electronics LTD at Heavy Vehicle Factory in Avadi (Chennai).

13. ▶ Draft national disaster risk index prepared by home ministry with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has ranked Maharashtra at top, followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, while Delhi is most at risk among Union territories (UTs).

14. ▶ Election Commission launched its online RTI Portal at URL (<http://rti.eci.nic.in>), to facilitate applicants seeking information under Right to Information Act.

15. ▶ General Conferences (June 1 - 10, 2018) -

1. India and South Centre (an inter-governmental organisation based in Geneva (Switzerland)) organized an International Conference on TRIPS- CBD Linkage in Geneva, aiming to revive WTO discussions on issues related to preventing theft of traditional knowledge.

2. 49th Conference of Governors Held in New Delhi.

3. 3rd National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga held at Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in New Delhi.

4. Oxford University Press South Asia Conclave 2018 held in New Delhi.

5. State Environment Ministers Conference as a run-up to World Environment Day held in New Delhi.

1. In this event, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan released 'Status of Environment Report, India 2015'.

2. India's forest cover was 21.34 % in 2015, and non forest trees area is 2.82%. Mizoram with 89 % has highest forest cover, followed by Lakshdweep (84.56 %), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (82 %), Arunachal Pradesh (80 %).

3. Assam has lowest forest cover with 35 % among 15 states / UTs with over 33 % forest cover.

4. Madhya Pradesh has maximum forest cover of 72,462 sq km, out of total approx 7 Lakh Sq Km forest cover in India.

6. 11th GeoIntelligence Asia 2018 organised at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi with theme *GeoSpatial : A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security*.

7. India's Sanjana Ramesh was awarded 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) even as compatriot Vaishnavi Yadav won the 'Girls Grit Award', during Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018 event held in New Delhi.
8. Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) organised National Consultation on Child Protection in New Delhi.
9. Ministry of Shipping in association with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Ministry of Rural Development conducted a workshop on "Skill Development in the Port and Maritime Sector" in New Delhi.
16. ▶ Government launched *JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA* Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), to be available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras across India. It is priced at INR 2.5 Per pad, down from average price of a pad at INR 8 Currently.
17. ▶ Haryana government issued a notification directing sports persons employed with state to pay 33% of their income earned professionally and through commercial endorsements to state sports council. It will be used for development of sports in Haryana. State government also hiked Dearness Allowance (DA) from 5 % to 7%.
18. ▶ Haryana government launched One-Stop centres for women affected by violence in all its districts. Presently there are 7 OSCs in some districts in Haryana and approval has been granted for 15 more OSCs.
19. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government will do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system, as recommended by a committee formed to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan).
20. ▶ India will get its first national police museum in Lutyens Delhi, depicting history of central and state police forces. It will be inaugurated on Police Commemoration Day, which is held on October 21.
21. ▶ India's first automated and organised vehicle scrapping and recycling facility set up in Greater Noida by Mahindra & Mahindra Limited through a joint venture with MSTC Limited.
22. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir government will host its first ever *global investors meet* in July 2018 in Srinagar, focused on harnessing hydropower potential of 20,000 mega watts in Jammu Kashmir.
23. ▶ Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) launched a new portal with single window facility for job seekers and employers. KASE will develop a Labour Bank that will be connected to jobs portal.
24. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government announced outstanding power bill waiver scheme for laborers and poor families, expected to benefit about 77 lakh people. Cabinet also approved Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018 to provide subsidized power.
25. ▶ Maharashtra Govt. inaugurated a web portal named Continuous Medical Education (CME) to offer information and suggestions related to exact treatment received by patients for various health issues. Using this, medical practitioners can obtain suggestions regarding accurate treatment of patients suffering from various ailments.
26. ▶ Maharashtra government partnered with Andhra Pradesh Government, to strengthen ecosystem of Fintech technology, during recent Mumbai Fintech Festival.
27. ▶ Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid Foundation for India's First Advanced Forensic Lab in Chandigarh, dedicated to women related cases. It will augment current capacity of CFSL Chandigarh to 2000 Cases per year (from 160 cases). 5 more advanced forensic labs would come up in Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati, Pune and Bhopal in 3 months, taking annual capacity to 50000 cases.
28. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture launched *Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan* from June 1 to July 31, 2018, to promote best farming practices and double farmers income launched in 25 villages in Aspirational Districts identified by Ministry of Rural Development and NITI Aayog. Activities include distribution of soil health cards, mini kits of pulses and horticulture plants etc.
29. ▶ Ministry of Culture launched *Seva Bhoj Yojna* scheme with outlay of INR 325 Crores for 2018-19 and 2019-20. It envisages to reimburse Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST), to lessen burden of Charitable Religious Institutions who provide Food free of cost without any discrimination to General Public, including Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram etc.
  1. It is applicable to Organizations which have been in existence for at least 5 years before applying for financial assistance/grant and who serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month.
  2. Ministry will register eligible charitable religious institutions for a time period ending with finance commission period and subsequently registration may be renewed by the Ministry, subject to performance evaluation.
  3. Entity will be permitted to submit reimbursement claim of GST and Central Government share of IGST to designated authority of GST Department at State level in prescribed format during validity of registration.
  4. Eligible institutions should be registered with Darpan portal.
30. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation approved 2 major irrigation projects and 4 flood management schemes with a cumulative cost of INR 84748 crores from six States/ UT.

1. Kaleshwaram Project (Telengana), will divert 195 TMC (5522 Million Cubic Meter) of Godavari water to irrigate about 18.25 lakh acres of land in 13 districts of Telangana. It is worth approx INR 80190 crores.
2. Upper Pravara (Nilwande-II) Project (Maharashtra) will irrigate an area of 2,12,758 acres. It is worth approx INR 2232 crores.
31. ▶ NTPC adopted iconic Charminar of Hyderabad (Telangans) under Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. NTPC, in partnership with the GHMC, will take up development and beautification works at Charminar.
32. ▶ National Institute for Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh) successfully conducted its Expedition to Mount Everest, making it first time that any National Institute expedition team has put eight members on top of Everest in First attempt.
33. ▶ Odisha Government launched Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana as a new Health Insurance Scheme for journalists. It provides INR 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists, initially covering families of around 3200 journalists. It is named after prominent social worker Gopalbandhu Das.
34. ▶ Odisha government signed a MoU with Hyderabad-based Pullela Gopichand Badminton Foundation (PGBF) for setting up of P Gopichand Badminton Academy in Odisha.
35. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind formally declared *Queen Pineapple* as state fruit of Tripura. He also inaugurated National Highway from Matabari to Sabroom in Udaipur (Tripura), during his visit to State.
36. ▶ Punjab Government launched a 'Business First Portal' to give a big push towards ease of doing business in state. It aims at facilitating industrialists for regulatory clearances and fiscal approvals and real-time tracking of applications on a common platform.
37. ▶ Railways flagged off a new Humsafar Jodhpur (Rajasthan) - Bandra (Maharashtra) Express. Humsafar Express are a completely 3-tier AC sleeper trains which started their operation from December 2016 (First being Anand Vihar - Gorakhpur Express). Humsafar Express have Special features such as LED screen displays, Vending machines, smoke alarms, CCTVs, refrigerating boxes etc.
38. ▶ Railways launched 2 mobile applications to ease traveling experience - '*Rail MADAD*' and *Menu on Rails*. Rail MADAD will enable travelers to lodge complaints, and *Menu on Rails* will facilitate seamless ordering of food. Also, Northern Railways will now monitor the cleanliness of its trains using WhatsApp groups supervised by senior officials.
39. ▶ State Government also launched 3rd year of insurance scheme Chandranna Bima Yojana, aimed to benenefit over 2.5 crores labourers in unorganised sector (with monthly income under INR 15000). Beneficiaries need to pay only 15 per year to get -
  1. Insurance of 5 lakh for accidental death / permanent disability and up to 2.50 lakh for temporary disability due to accident.
  2. Those in 18 - 50 years age will receive 2 lakh and those aged between 51 - 59 years will receive 30000 in case of natural death.
40. ▶ State government of Gujarat has launched a dedicated ambulance service for infants, under *Neonatal ambulance service project for inter-hospital transfer*.
41. ▶ Swedish furniture giant IKEA will open its first store in India in Hyderabad in July 2018. In February 2018, IKEA opened a distribution centre spread over 2.3 lakh square feet in Pune.
42. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration has approved World's first prosthetic iris that can be implanted to treat patients with missing or damaged iris (coloured part of eye).
43. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government will set up a police station in every district, which wil focus on minimizing power theft and power loss. State government has also approved a Solid Waste Management policy, Animal Breeding Policy 2018 and Milk Policy 2018.
44. ▶ Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport will become India's first airport to have an automated smart facial recognition system at its entry, security and boarding points. It will ensure quicker entry into airports by facilitating automated check-ins.
45. ▶ West Bengal Government will invest 107 crore rupees to check erosion at vulnerable areas along banks of Ganga and Padma.

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### **Persons**

1. ▶ Four year old Ayan Gogoi Gohain of Assam is honoured as *Youngest Author of India* title by Indian Book of Records, for his book 'honeycomb', published in January 2018.
2. ▶ French swimmer Ben Lecomte began his expedition to become first person to swim across Pacific Ocean, starting from Japan. He will swim for eight hours a day for more than six months as he heads towards US west coast, during approx 8850 kilometres long swim.

3. ▶ India's Priyanka Das from Assam has been appointed as ambassador for 'promote science' initiative in France to encourage girls to pursue scientific careers.
4. ▶ Obituaries (June 2018) -
  1. Timothy Pereira - Former Indian footballer.
  2. Urmila Singh - Former Himachal Pradesh governor.
  3. L.P. Shahi - Congress leader and former Union Minister (Appointed Education & Culture Minister in 1985).
  4. Narayan Prasad Singh - Odisha's Noted lyricist, popularly known as *Rasaraj*.
  5. David Douglas Duncan - Noted World War II photographer (USA).
  6. Maria Bueno - Noted Brazilian tennis player.
5. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (June 2018) -
  1. Olivier Mahafaly Solonandrasana - Madagascar's Prime Minister.
  2. James Sutherland - Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer.
  3. Mike Hesson - New Zealand cricket coach.
6. ▶ Visits from India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -
  1. Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Brazil.
  2. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited South Africa. She participated in BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting and IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting during her visit.
  3. PM Narendra Modi Visited China -
    1. India and China signed 2 MoUs related to sharing of Brahmaputra river data and supply of non-Basmati rice. Under MoU, China will provide India hydrological data of Brahmaputra River in flood season crucial to predict floods.
    2. Attended 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Qingdao. SCO has 8 Members Including India and Pakistan.
  4. PM Narendra Modi Visited Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore -
    1. Indonesia -
      1. India and Indonesia signed 15 MoUs in fields of economic co-operation, defence, scientific and technological cooperation, railways and health, among others.
        1. India and Indonesia agreed to Jointly develop strategic Indian Ocean Port.
        2. India and Indonesia will set up a task force to enhance connectivity between Andaman (India) and Sabang (Indonesia).
    2. Malaysia -
      1. PM Modi met his newly elected 92-year-old Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad. Discussed issues of Bilateral Co-operation and Mutual Interest.
    3. Singapore -
      1. India and Singapore signed 14 MOUs in a business cum community event called 'Anushasanam'.
      2. Key fields under which agreements were exchanged are - Naval cooperation, Economic co-operation, Fintech, Cybersecurity, Nursing, Combating Narcotics smuggling & Human Trafficking, Personnel Management and Public Administration, Planning.
      3. Attended Annual Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual security meet of 28 Asia - Pacific Nations.
      4. Conferred Padma Shri award to former Singaporean Diplomat Tommy Koh. Koh served as Singapore's ambassador to US and the UN, and as president of Third United Nations Conference on Law of Sea in 1981 and 1982.
      5. An orchid is named as 'Dendrobium Narendra Modi' as a special gesture for PM Modi during his visit.
      6. Unveiled a plaque dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi at Clifford Pier in city-state, where his ashes were immersed.
      7. Launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI. With this, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS). It would create multi-billion dollar transactions as some five million Indians travel to and transit through Singapore, internationalising RuPay beginning with first cross border usage.
      8. India signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in Nursing with Singapore. This is first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners. It paves way for our healthcare service providers to institutionally access markets abroad.

9. India and Singapore concluded 2nd Review of India Singapore CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement).

5. Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended an Informal Meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministers in Paris.

7. ▶ Visits to India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -

1. Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff Rajendra Chhetri visited India.

2. Singapore trade and industry minister Mr. R Iswaran Visited India. During this Visir, Andhra Pradesh Govt. announced set up of startup area with joint collaboration with Singapore, with signing of a Concession and Development agreement (CADA).

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## **Science**

1. ▶ Flower *Impatiens dorjiekhandui* has been named after former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu. It was discovered at a forest in Zemithang area of Tawang in September 2017.

2. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use flash flood guidance system for the first time, to forecast floods. Currently, Central Water Commission issues flood warnings. Different kinds of soil from various parts of country have been studied to find out how absorbent each variety was.

3. ▶ India will start producing first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries, after an MoU for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project was signed between CSIR Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd. India imported Li-Ion batteries worth 150 million dollars in 2017 and is one of its largest importers in the world.

4. ▶ Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) launched Ensemble Prediction System (EPS), as a new system to generate more area specific forecast of extreme weather events.

1. EPS system has been developed by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

2. EPS is special for its high resolution short-medium range weather forecasts. Under it, area of spatial resolution (currently 23 km grid scale) will come down to 12 km.

3. In its calculations, system will use a newly procured 8 petaflops high-power computing system.

4. Forecasts of severe weather events at 12 km grid scale would greatly help in making better emergency response decisions.

5. ▶ NASA extended Juno's science operations until July 2021, providing it additional 41 months in orbit around Jupiter. Larger orbits will also allow scientists to further explore far reaches of the Jovian magnetosphere, region of space dominated by Jupiter's magnetic field.

6. ▶ Researchers from University of Seville (Spain) identified absorbent materials that can help soak up pollutants found in urban waste water. Results show that material C18-Mica-4 is capable of eliminating majority of pollutants that were evaluated in urban waste water, as well as surface water and potable water.

7. ▶ Russian researchers created a battery based on radioactive isotope nickel-63 that has a half-life of 100 years, which could help power deep space missions. The prototype packs about 3,300 kilowatt-hours of energy per gram, which is more than any other nuclear battery based on nickel-63 and 10 times more than commercial electrochemical cells.

8. ▶ Scientists at Ahmedabad Physical Research Laboratory have discovered an exoplanet, Taking India into a select group of countries which have found planets outside the solar system. The 'super-Neptune' is about 27 times mass of Earth and six times its radius. It is 600 light-years away from Earth.

9. ▶ Scientists discovered peripheries of a 14th century Maori village in New Zealand, containing tools and food items that can shed more light on the lifestyle of settlers. Obsidian (volcanic glass) was used by early Maori settlers as simple cutting tools.

10. ▶ World's 1st habitable 3D-printed houses will be built in Eindhoven (Netherlands), to be occupied by mid-2019. It would help reduce carbon footprint as less cement would be needed for their construction.

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## **Sports**

1. ▶ 18th Asian Junior Athletics Championships 2018 in Gifu (Japan) -

1. 437 under 20 athletes from 35 nations participated in 44 Events.

2. Medal Table -

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Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Japan	14	15	12	41
2	China	11	8	5	24
3	India	5	2	10	17
4	Chinese Taipei	4	5	3	12
5	Sri Lanka	3	4	2	9

3. India Ranked 3rd with 17 Medals.

1. Gold - Ashish Jakhar (Hammer Throw), Kamalraj Kanagaraj (Triple Jump), Ajeet Kumar (5000 Metres), Anu Kumar (800 Metres), Jisna Mathew (400 metres Female Event)
2. Silver - 4×400 m relay Female Team comprising Subha Venkatesan, Rachna, Nidhi Singh AND Jisna Mathew, Damneet Singh (Hamer Throw)

2. ▶ 2018 Forbes list of 'The World's 100 highest paid athletes' -

1. Top 5 -

1. Floyd Mayweather (USA) - Boxing (285 Million USD)
2. Lionel Messi (Argentina) - Soccer (111 million USD)
3. Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) - Soccer (108 million USD)
4. Conor McGregor (Ireland) - Mixed Martial Arts (99 million USD)
5. Neymar (Brazil) - Soccer (90 million USD)

2. Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli is the sole Indian and Cricketer to feature in List with Pay of \$24 Million USD.

3. No Female Athlete Named in 2018's list. Last Year, USA Tennis star Serena Williams with \$27 Million USD Earnings was ranked 51st.

3. ▶ Bangladesh Cricketer Shakib Al Hasan became quickest to reach 10000 runs (ODI + Tests + T20I) and pick 500 wickets in international cricket. He also became first Bangladeshi cricketer with 500 international wickets.

1. Also, England Became First ODI Nation to loose to an Associate Nation, after they lost an ODI to Scotland, in Edinburgh.

4. ▶ Bangladesh won Women's Asia T20 Cricket Cup 2018 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), defeating India.

5. ▶ FIFA lifted 18 Month long suspension imposed on Guatemala Football Association (Central America), over its failure to comply with anti-corruption rules.

6. ▶ French Open Tennis 2018 -

1. Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain), defeating Dominic Thiem (Austria).

1. Nadal equaled Margaret Court's all-time record of 11 Grand Slam singles titles won at one major (French Open).
2. Overall, It was Nadal's 17th Grand Slam Victory, 2nd only to Swiss Star Roger Federer (20 Titles).

2. Women's Singles - Simona Halep (Romania), Defating Sloane Stephens (USA). It was Halep's first Grand Slam title.

3. Men's Doubles - Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) AND Nicolas Mahut (France)

4. Women's Doubles - Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) AND Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)

5. Mixed Doubles - Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei) AND Ivan Dodig (Croatia)

6. Boys' Singles - Tseng Chun-hsin (Chinese Taipei)

7. Girls' Singles - Cori Gauff (USA)

7. ▶ Government approved revised guidelines for MAKA (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad) Trophy, to simplify selection of top performing university in sports for award of MAKA Trophy. Under revised guidelines -

1. Receiving and Scrutiny of Applications will be invited by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports / Sports Authority of India (unlike Association of Indian Universities (AIU) upto now).

2. Tournaments which are held more than once a year will not be considered for computation of marks.

3. Award money for winner has been increased from 10 lakh to 15 lakh. While that for 1st and 2nd Runner-up universities is enhanced from 5 lakh to 7.5 lakh and 3 lakh to 4.5 lakh respectively.

8. ▶ Harry Kane (England) named most valuable player for upcoming FIFA World Cup in Russia 2018. Kane is estimated to be worth 201.2 million euros, as calculated by CIES Football Observatory algorithm.

9. ▶ ICC included Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland and the UAE in their ODI rankings list apart from 12 existing countries.

10. ▶ India won Intercontinental Cup football title by defeating Kenya by 2-0 in Mumbai. India's Sunil Chhetri became joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentina's Lionel Messi with his 64th strike. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is top active scorer with 85 Goals so far.

11. ▶ Kagiso Rabada Named South Africa's Cricketer Of The Year, for 2nd time. He is also named ODI and Test Cricketer of the Year.

12. ▶ Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore approved revision of pension to meritorious Sportspersons. New Rates are -

Category	Pension Amount
Medallist at Olympic/Para-Olympic Games	20000
Gold medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympic/Asian Games disciplines)	16000
Silver/Bronze medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympics / Asian Games disciplines)	14000
Gold medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games	
Silver and Bronze medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games	12000

13. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (June 2018) -

1. Ariya Jutanugarn (Thailand) won 73rd US Women's Open, becoming first player from Thailand to win a US Women's Open title.

14. ▶ Mithali Raj become first Indian Female Cricketer to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket.

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