



Current Affairs - May 2018

Month Type



- [151 Current Affairs were found in Period - May 1 - 10, 2018 for Type - All](#)

Appointments

- ▶ Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as acting chief justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- ▶ Appointments approved by ACC (Appointments Committee of Cabinet) -
 1. Juthika Patankar - as Director General in National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD).
 2. M. Srinivas Rao - Chief Executive Officer in National e-Governance Division (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).
 3. Rakesh Kumar Gupta - Secretary in Union Public Service Commission.
 4. Sameer Sharma - Director General in Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.
 5. Rakesh Kumar Vats - Chairperson in National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
- ▶ Facebook appointed Chris Daniels as CEO of Whatsapp after Co-founder Jan Koum resigned amid Recent Data-leak Controversies.
- ▶ Government extends tenure of Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha by 1 year, till June 2019.
- ▶ Hockey India appointed Harendra Singh as chief coach of Indian men's hockey team, replacing Sjoerd Marijne who takes back his role as coach of Women's Hockey Team.
- ▶ Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as interim judge to civil court of New York City in USA.
- ▶ Jagdish Mukhi has been appointed as acting governor of Manipur, in absence of Governor Najma Heptullah.
- ▶ Mahathir Mohamad has been elected as new Prime Minister of Malaysia (South East Asia). It's his 2nd term as PM of Malaysia, after 1st in 1981 – 2003. Aged 92, he is currently the oldest PM of any nation in the world.
- ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has set up National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) as a single window source of updated data on water resources.
- ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has involved Survey of India (Established in 1767, oldest scientific department in India) to strengthen Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It involves use of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) technology for accurate data collection.
- ▶ Nikol Pashinyan has been appointed as prime minister of Armenia.
- ▶ Radhakrishnan Nair has been appointed as an Additional (Independent) Director in ICICI Bank's board.
- ▶ Sitanshu Ranjan Kar, took over as 27th Principal Spokesperson of Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau.
- ▶ Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ▶ Vladimir Putin sworn-in as President of Russia for 4th time, for six-year term. While, Dmitry Medvedev is appointed as Prime Minister for his 2nd term.

[Top](#)

Awards

1. ▶ Fiji's Indian-origin former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry has been selected for V K Krishna Menon Award for his contribution to Indian diaspora.
2. ▶ Jnanpith Awardee M T Vasudevan Nair won 2018's ONV Literary Prize, instituted in memory of iconic poet late O N V Kurup, for his contributions to Malayalam literature.
3. ▶ Nisha Bhalla has been presented *Excellent Woman of Excellence* award at WEF (Women Economic Forum) at Annual WEF Awards.
4. ▶ Noted singer Asha Bhosle honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for contribution in the field of Indian music.
5. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Visitor's Awards 2018, for Research in Basic and Applied Science, Humanities, Arts and Social Science.
 1. Sanjay K. Jain's - Development of a drug delivery system having the potential to make cancer treatment more effective and affordable.
 2. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee – Research on molecular complexity of snake venom.
 3. Ashwani Pareek – Development of a rice variety with potential to increase farm productivity and income of farmers.
 4. Pramod K. Nayar – Work in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.
6. ▶ Railways announces awards for beautification for Railway Stations -
 1. Balharshah and Chandrapur stations (Nagpur Division) of Central Railway awarded first prize.
 2. Madhubani Railway station under East Central Railway in Bihar is 2nd.
 3. Kota Station (West Central), Gandhidham Station (Western Railway) & Secunderabad Station (South Central) are at 3rd place.

[Top](#)

Books

1. ▶ Cricket journalist Boria Majumdar's new book *Eleven Gods and A Billion Indians* has been released.

[Top](#)

Committees

1. ▶ A Task Force headed by Preeti Saran on *Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)* submitted its report to Home Minister Rajnath Singh. It includes Business case for coalition, Analysis of best practices of international partnerships in disaster risk and other thematic areas lead by India, Preliminary design of coalition AND Roll – out plan.
2. ▶ GST Council constituted 2 Group of Ministers (GoM) -
 1. First GoM - Will consider issues relating to incentivizing digital payments in GST regime, with Sushil Kumar Modi (Deputy CM of Bihar) as convenor.
 2. Second GoM - Will consider issues relating to imposition of Cess on Sugar under GST. Himanta Biswa Sarma (Finance Minister of Assam) is its convenor.

[Top](#)

Days

1. ▶ May 01 - Statehood Day of Maharashtra and Gujarat. It commemorates formation of Maharashtra and Gujarat from division of the Bombay State on 1 May 1960.
2. ▶ May 02 - World Tuna Day. 2018 theme is *Smart Tuna – Smart Ocean*.
3. ▶ May 03 - World Press Freedom Day. was observed across the world on May 3, 2018 with an aim to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, defend the media from attacks and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while being on duty. The Theme for 2018 is 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'.
4. ▶ May 1 - World Asthma Day. 2018 theme is *Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease*.
5. ▶ May 1 - International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day AND May Day. 2018 Theme is *Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement*.
6. ▶ May 4 - International Firefighters' Day.
7. ▶ May 5 - World Cartoonist's Day.
8. ▶ May 6, 2018 - World Laughter Day 2018. It is celebrated on First Sunday of May of every year.
9. ▶ May 7, 2018 - 58th Raising day of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is also observed as World Athletics Day.

Defence

- ▶ Dakota DC-3 aircraft of 1940's vintage named as 'Parshuram' has been again Inducted into Indian Air Force, after over 40 years of phasing out.
- ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
- ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).

Economy

- ▶ 15th Finance Commission (FCC) headed by NK Singh constituted Advisory Council to advise Commission on issue or subject related to Terms of Reference (ToR) to quell (*control*) strong opposition from some states over 2011 census. It will also help commission in broadening its ambit and understanding to seek best national and international practices on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution.
- ▶ As per Ministry of Finance, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in month of April 2018 was INR 1.034 Lakh crores, consisting Integrated GST (IGST) of 50548 crores as Biggest Component (Others are Central GST, State GST and cess). April 2018 is first ever month in which GST collection surpassed 1 lakh crore mark.
- ▶ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme's subscriber crossed 1 Crore on completion of 3 years of Its launch (May 9, 2015), With current number of subscribers standing at 1.10 Crores.
 1. APY is a guaranteed Pension Scheme that focuses on unorganised sector workers which constitute more than 85% of workforce. Under It APY, guaranteed pension of 1000 - 5000 will be given at the age of 60 years depending on contribution by subscribers.
 2. The Scheme has generated around 9.10 % CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) since its inception till March 2018.
- ▶ Bank deposits growth fell to a five-decade low in FY 2017-18, with other savings methods such as mutual funds and insurance reduced banking competitiveness. A total deposit of 114 lakh crore was reported in the last fiscal, with growth rate of 6.7% (lowest since 1963).
- ▶ CBDT notified A Protocol to amend existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait, for avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ▶ GST Council approved simplified return filing process, Including measures like -
 1. One monthly Return.
 2. Unidirectional Flow of invoices - Seller needs to upload unidirectional flow of invoices anytime during month. This would be valid document to avail input tax credit by buyer.
 3. Simple Return design and easy IT interface.
 4. No automatic reversal of credit - There will not be any automatic reversal of input tax credit from buyer's side on non-payment of tax by seller.
 5. Due process for recovery and reversal will be carried out through a due process of issuing notice and order.
 6. Transition - There will be a three stage transition in the new system.
 1. Stage I will be the present system of filing of return GSTR 3B and GSTR 1. GSTR 2 and GSTR 3 shall continue to remain suspended.
 2. In stage 2, new return will have facility to upload invoice-wise data and also for claiming input tax credit on self declaration basis.
 7. Content of return and implementation - Return will be simplified by reducing amount of information required to be filled.
 8. GST Council also approved to make GST Network (GSTN) a government body, with Govt. acquiring 51% stake, up from 49 % Currently.
- ▶ India signed a loan agreement worth \$ 200 million with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan), to help reduce stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by 2022. POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by PM Modi on 8th March 2018 at Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan).
- ▶ Joint Plant Committee (Ministry of Steel) stated that India's exports of finished steel increased by 16.7% to 9.6 million tonnes in 2017-18. Additionally, Indian tea industry also reached its highest ever production of 1,325.05 million kg and export of 256.57

million kg during 2017-18.

9. ▶ Kotak Securities Limited launched *Free Intraday Trading*, to allow traders to do intra-day trading without paying any brokerage per trade. Intraday trading refers to buying and selling a security on same day.
10. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to buy 10000 crores INR of government bonds via open market operation (OMO), after failing to sell all debt it had offered to bidders, yielding 7.75%. Participants should submit their offers on RBI Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.
11. ▶ Reserve Bank of India directed banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange (Authorised Dealer-I Banks) to share data with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). This requires a banking company to furnish information relating to foreign exchange transactions made or received by any person to receiving authority (DRI). DRI is top investigative agency for issues related to violation of Customs Act.
12. ▶ Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched *View Pension Passbook Service* for pensioners on Umang App (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), to allow them view their pension passbook on mobile phones.
13. ▶ SEBI issued detailed framework for Know Your Customer (KYC) documentation of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). SEBI also stated that non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs, they can only obtain an FPI licence on condition that they limit their roles to investment advisors and do not invest their money.
14. ▶ US retail giant Walmart acquired 77% stake in India's largest online retailer Flipkart for \$16 billion. It will be India's largest acquisition and world's biggest purchase of an ecommerce company.
 1. It will include \$2 billion of fresh investment, pegging value of Flipkart at \$22 billion.
 2. Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal exits with approx INR 7000 Crores Cash, while other cofounder Binny Bansal will remain on board.

Top

International

1. ▶ North Korea extended its Clocks by 30 Minutes, to synchronize its time zone with that south Korea, which was pulled back 30 minutes 3 years ago. Its a major step towards unification among 2 Koreas looking for peace.
2. ▶ 1st Asia Power Index Australia Based Lowy Institute -
 1. Termed as *giant of the future*, India is ranked 4th out of 25 nations in Asia-Pacific region. As per Report, India trails behind in indicators of defence networks and economic relationships.
 2. A country's overall power is its weighted average across eight measures of power - *economic resources, military capability, resilience, future trends, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, defence networks and cultural influence*.
 3. USA, China And Japan are top 3. While Russia is at 5th Place.
3. ▶ 2018 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index (25 Nations) -
 1. Top 5 - USA, Canada, Germany, UK, China.
 2. India is ranked at 11th, down from 8th Position in China.
4. ▶ As per Grant Thornton's quarterly global business survey -
 1. India slipped to 6th position globally in business optimism index for first quarter of 2018.
 2. Top five - Austria, Finland, Indonesia, Netherlands and US.
5. ▶ Bilateral trade between India and China through Nathu La border (Sikkim) has resumed, located at 14,200 feet.
6. ▶ Britain's Royal Navy Received its first unmanned autonomous minesweeping system, capable of operating from a land or ship-based control station.
7. ▶ Carribean Nation Dominican Republic and China established diplomatic relations, amid China's growing influence. With this, Dominican Republic has broken 77-year alliance with Taiwan.
8. ▶ Central Bank of Argentina raised interest rates by 300 basis points to fight inflationary pressures. Interest rates have been raised from 27.25 to 30.25 %, to prop up its ailing currency from sliding further against US dollar.
9. ▶ China has built world's longest cross-sea bridge with length 55 KMs, connecting Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It took 7 years to complete, is six lanes wide and comprises of 4 tunnels and 4 artificial islands. It has cost approx 20 Billion USD.
 1. World's longest bridge is also in china, known as Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge, with 164.7 KM Length.
 2. China also aims to deliver its domestically developed AG600 by 2022, world's largest amphibious aircraft.
10. ▶ China launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of atmosphere, including air pollution. It is first China-developed satellite that can monitor air pollution.

11. ▶ China launched a new communication satellite named *APSTAR-6C*. It will offer TV transmission, communication, Internet and multimedia services to customers in Asia-Pacific region.
12. ▶ Chinese e-Commerce giant Alibaba acquired Pakistan's Largest e-commerce firm *Daraz.pk* for \$150 Million.
13. ▶ Democratic Republic of Congo declared a new outbreak of Ebola in northwestern part, as 9th outbreak of Ebola since its discovery in 1976.
14. ▶ Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Bill Gates' Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnered to accelerate breakthroughs in education. It will focus on math, writing, and skills that correspond with things like memory and self-control.
15. ▶ Finnish Communication Giant Nokia acquired California (USA) based Internet of Things (IoT) start up *SpaceTime Insight*.
16. ▶ Forbes' *World's Most Powerful People 2018* List (75 People) -
 1. Xi Jinping (China's President) is at top for first time ever.
 2. Top 5 - Chinese President XI Jinping (1), Russian President Vladimir Putin (2), US President Donald Trump (3), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (4), Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos (5).
 3. 2 Indians named in list - PM Modi (9th) and Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani (32nd).
17. ▶ Global Military Expenditure Report 2017 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -
 1. India surpassed France to become 5th largest military spender.
 2. Top five (Amount in Billion USD) - US (610), China (228), Saudi Arabia (69.4), Russia (66.3) and India (63.9).
18. ▶ Global Urban Air Pollution database released by World Health Organisation (WHO) -
 1. 14 Indian cities named in list of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016. These cities include Delhi, Varanasi, Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Patna, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur.
19. ▶ Google launched Android Things (codenamed Brillo), a variant of Android operating system for Internet of Things (IoT) devices, aiming to enable IoT machines developers to be built faster, cheaper and more secure.
 1. *Android Things* is aimed to be used with low-power and memory constrained Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which are usually built from different microcontroller unit (MCU) platforms.
20. ▶ IT firm Cognizant acquired Hedera Consulting, a Belgium-based business advisory and data analytics services company.
21. ▶ India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries.
22. ▶ India sent Bangladesh its second relief consignment under Operation Insaniyat, on board INS Airavat, to help displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar into Bangladesh following military crackdown in violence-hit Rakhine state.
23. ▶ India's Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) bagged order for executing largest hydro power project in Nepal, The 900 Megawatt Arun-3 hydro project placed by SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC). Order is worth INR 536 Crores.
24. ▶ Israel withdrawn its bid for a non-permanent seat at UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2019-2020 term.
 1. UNSC has 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members who are elected for a two-year term.
25. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) signed an agreement with Cab Aggregator Uber to explore Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas. UAM is a safe system for air vehicles, to move passengers and cargo within a city.
26. ▶ Pakistan's Parliament passed a bill granting fundamental rights to transgenders and outlawing discrimination against them.
27. ▶ Russia launched world's First floating nuclear power unit into Baltic Sea, with 70-megawatt Capacity, named Akademik Lomonosov.
28. ▶ Scotland become first country to introduce a minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Alcoholic products in Scotland will cost a minimum of 50 pence per unit.
29. ▶ Swedish Academy, That organizes Nobel Prize in Literature announced that, Nobel Prize in literature will not be awarded this year due to sex-abuse allegations and other issues. Swedish Academy has been in stress due to #MeToo campaign since November 2017. Academy has been alleged of sexual misconduct by husband of one of its members.
30. ▶ UK-based data analytics company Cambridge Analytica announced to shut down its operations, after being caught in a massive data-harvesting scandal took away all of its customers. Approx 2 months ago, it was revealed that CA had illegally harvested data of over 87 million Facebook users and used it to manipulate voter behavior in 2016 US Presidential elections.
31. ▶ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in New York to review commitments of 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Considering effects of climate spreading all over the world. Earlier, Guterres appointed Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action.

32. ▶ US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to create a *faith-based* initiative, which would recognize vital role of faith in American life. It would ensure that faith-based organizations have equal access to government funding and equal right to exercise their beliefs.
33. ▶ US state California's economy surpassed UK to become world's fifth largest, With GDP of \$2.7 trillion, with UK and India as Next. California is only behind USA, China, Japan and Germany.
34. ▶ USA and Philippine Armies held their Joint annual military exercise *Balikatan*.
35. ▶ USA pulled out of an international nuclear deal with Iran signed in 2015 by USA and 5 other Powers (UK, Russia, France, China, Germany and European Union).
 1. This could raise risk of conflict in Middle East, upset America's European allies and bring uncertainty to global oil supplies.
 2. The deal eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for the country limiting its nuclear programme, seen by many as a way to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb.
 3. USA Prez Trump complained that the agreement, does not address Iran's ballistic missile programme, its nuclear activities and nor its role in conflicts in Yemen and Syria. It did not prevent Iran from cheating and continuing to pursue nuclear weapons, so it needs to be vanished and Tough Economic Sanctions are being put back on Iran.
36. ▶ USA's Stanford University will assist Uttar Pradesh Government to combat chronic disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
37. ▶ Yahoo launched a group messaging app called *Squirrel*, focussed on friends, family and work groups.

Top

Meetings

1. ▶ 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) will be held in Beijing (China) in August 2018. It will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from over 10 countries.
2. ▶ 3rd United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) held in New Delhi, conducted by Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with USA.

Top

National

1. ▶ 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) in January 2019, with Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth as Chief Guest. Theme of 15th PBD will be *Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India*.
 1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated in India on 9 January, commemorating return of M K Gandhi from South Africa in Bombay on January 9, 1915.
2. ▶ According to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India's installed renewable energy capacity has risen to 70 Gigawatts (GW) and 38 GW is under implementation. Thus, India is well on way to target of 175 GW renewable energy (100GW Solar, 60 GW Wind, 10 GW Biomass and 5 GW Hydro) by 2022.
3. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced construction Goa's 2nd Airport (after first at Dabolim) at Mopa, with Both Passenger and Cargo Hub Facilities. It will become functional in 2020, with annual capacity of 30 million passengers.
4. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. launched official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in Collector's conference in Amaravati, Aimed at implementing effective governance in Andhra Pradesh.
5. ▶ Arunachal CM Pema Khandu inaugurated State's biggest solar power plant in Itanagar, with capacity of 1 MW and cost accumulated is INR 8.50 crores.
6. ▶ Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL) launched India's first cloud-based Common Integrated Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC), powered by Hewlett Packard (HP). It will enable Madhya Pradesh State administration to administer multiple city civic utilities and citizen services across seven smart cities in state through central cloud.
 1. 7 smart cities in state include Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore, Ujjain, Satna, and Sagar.
7. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 01, 2018) -
 1. **General Approvals** -
 1. Approved doubling investment limit from INR 7.5 lakhs to 15 lakhs and extending time limits for subscription from May 4, 2018 to Mar 31, 2020 under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY). It will enable upto Rs.10000 Pension per month for Senior Citizens.

1. PMVVY is implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged over 60 years . It provides assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for 10 years.
2. Approved construction of 100 bedded General Hospital at Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) Najafgarh in New Delhi at cost INR 95 Crores.
3. Approved Restructuring of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) by abolition of certain posts of Joint Secretary-level and above, with cadre strength Unchanged.
4. Approved Cadre review and formation of Group 'A' service of technical cadre of Petroleum & Safety Organization (PESO) in name *Indian Petroleum & Explosives Safety Service (IPESS)*, to enhance capacity of organization.
5. Approved promulgation of Ordinance to amend a law for speedy disposal of commercial disputes, aimed at improving India's ranking in World Bank's ease of doing business index. It will bring down specified value of commercial dispute to INR 3 lakh from 1 crore. It also aims to bring down time taken from present 1,445 days in resolution of commercial disputes of lesser value.

2. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -

1. Approved upgradation of infrastructure at Chennai, Guwahati and Lucknow airports at a total cost of INR 5,082 crores. Chennai airport would get max INR 2,467 crores, while Guwahati and Lucknow airports would get INR 1,383 and 1,232 crores.
2. Approved to provide financial assistance @ of Rs. 5.50 per quintal (INR 55 per Ton) of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane, in order to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, which have accumulated upto 19000 Crores INR
3. Approved Umbrella Scheme *Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana* for period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Central Share of INR 33270 crores. It comprises of 11 Schemes.
 1. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) - Central share of INR 7533.04 crores, MIDH aims to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector.
 2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), including National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) - Central share of INR 6893.38 crores. It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement.
 3. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - Central share of Rs.3980.82 crore. It aims at promoting sustainable agriculture practices best suitable to specific agro-ecology.
 4. Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE) - Central share of 2961.26 crores. SMAE aims to strengthen ongoing extension mechanism of State Governments, local bodies etc., achieving food and nutritional security and socio-economic empowerment of farmers.
 5. Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) - Central share of 920.6 crores. SMSP aims to increase production of certified seed, upgrade quality of farm saved seeds, strengthen seed multiplication chain and promote new technologies and methodologies in seed production.
 6. Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) - Central share of 3250 crores. SMAM aims to increase reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to regions where availability of farm power is low.
 7. Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ) - Central share of 1022.67 crores. SMPPQ aims to minimize loss to quality and yield of agricultural crops from ravages of insect pests, diseases, weeds, nematodes, rodents, etc.
 8. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACES) - Central share of 730.58 crores. It aims to undertake agriculture census, study of cost of cultivation of principal crops, undertake research studies on agro-economic problems.
 9. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC) - Central share of 1902.636 crores. It aims to provide financial assistance for improving economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances and to speed up - cooperative development in agricultural marketing.
 10. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) - Central share of 3863.93 crores. ISAM aims to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure, promote innovative and latest technologies and competitive alternatives in agriculture marketing.

11. National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A) - Central share of 211.06 crores. It aims to bring farmer centricity & service orientation to programmes, to enhance reach & impact of extension services and improve access of farmers to information & services.
12. These sub schemes/missions were approved independently as separate scheme/mission. In 2017-18, it was decided to club all these under one umbrella scheme known as *Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana*.
4. Approved Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan to 2019-20, with financial outlay of INR 14832 crores. Under this, new AIIMS are established and Government medical colleges are upgraded. It will lead to employment generation for nearly 3000 people in various faculty & non-faculty posts in each of AIIMS.
 1. Under this extension, 20 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be established and 73 medical colleges will be upgraded.
5. Approved renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), along with continuation during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission (Till 2020).
 1. PMJVK would provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to minority communities, particularly in education, health & skill development.
 2. Criteria for identification of Minority Concentration Towns have been rationalized by lowering population % criteria of Minority Communities (50 % to 25%) and fulfilment of parameters as Given -
 1. Earlier Towns which were backward in terms of both in Basic Amenities and Socio-economic parameters were taken as MCTs. Now, Towns which were found backward in either or both of criteria have been taken up as MCT.
 2. Area to be covered under PMJVK would be 57% more as compared to MsDP. MsDP covered 196 districts, while PMJVK will cover 308 districts.
 3. Expenditure for continuation of programme as PMJVK will be INR 3972 crores.
 4. It aims to address development deficits in identified minority concentration areas. Inclusion of Minority Concentration District HQs with Minority Concentration Towns having population over 25000, Minority Concentration Blocks and Cluster of Villages as per Census, 2011 data, will extend coverage.
 5. PMJVK would cover 5 more States/UTs - Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Goa and Pondicherry.
 6. Minority Concentration Areas of 61 districts out of 115 Aspirational districts have been covered under PMJVK.
 7. Area covered under PMJVK will have 109 MCD Hqrs., 870 MCBs and 321 MCTs.

3. MOUs and Foreign Approvals -

1. Approved Mutual Recognition Agreement between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).
 2. Approved to accede to Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.
8. ▶ Chhattisgarh will become first state to recruit transgenders in police force, To promote gender equality.
 9. ▶ Dalmia Bharat Group adopted Gandikota Fort in Andhra Pradesh and Red Fort in Delhi, under government's 'Adopt A Heritage' scheme, for a period of five years.
 10. ▶ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft of new Telecom policy – *National Digital Communications Policy 2018*.
 1. It Calls for Universal broadband coverage, creating 40 lakh jobs in digital communications sector, enhancing contribution of digital communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017. These objectives are to be achieved by 2022. It also aims to hike India's rank in ITU's ICT development index to top 50, from 134 in 2017.
 2. Improvement in regulatory framework - The policy recognises its importance for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve needs of people.
 3. Rationalising spectrum regulatory regime - It recognises spectrum as key natural resource for public benefit to achieve socio-economic goals. It calls for simplifying process of obtaining permissions from various agencies, to promote efficiency.
 4. National Broadband Mission - It will be established to secure universal broadband access for implementation of broadband initiatives, to be funded through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Its components include- BharatNet (10 to 10 Gbps to Gram Panchayats), GramNet (connecting key rural areas with 10 to 100 Mbps), NagarNet (establish one- million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas), JanWiFi (establishing two-million Wi-Fi

Hotspots in rural areas) and Fibre First Initiative.

5. Satellite Communication Technologies - Government would develop an ecosystem for satellite communications in India.
 6. USOF's scope and modalities will be reviewed by redesigning USOF and broadening its objectives to enable universal broadband access and strengthening institutional capacity.
 7. Better Quality of services.
 8. Comprehensive data protection regime has been mandated for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.
11. ▶ General Conferences (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
1. Ministry of Finance organized 4th Regional Conference on Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure in Bengaluru. This Conference is a lead-up to the 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to be hosted by India in June 2018.
 2. Women and Child Development Ministry held National Conference of 244 Districts under BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) in New Delhi.
 3. First meeting of National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati in New Delhi. Committee has total of 125 members, chaired by President Ram Nath Kovind.
 4. Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba launched online Event Clearance System (<https://conference.mha.gov.in>) for grant of security clearance to conference/seminar/workshop organized in India.
 5. 15th Finance Commission held its First Conference on Agriculture sector, In New Delhi.
 1. 15th Finance Commission of India was formed in November 2017 under Nand Kishore Singh and will be operational between 2020 - 2025. Appointments Committee appointed Ashok Lahiri as Full Time Member in 15th Finance Commission, subject to condition that he steps down as non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank.
 2. Currently, 14th Finance Commission is Operational (2015–2020) with former Reserve Bank of India governor Y. V. Reddy.
 6. India and USA held 2nd round of India-US Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa, focussing on cooperation in Indo-Pacific region.
 7. National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database Held in New Delhi, by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
 8. India will organize a cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition on paintings of Tagore titled 'Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours' will be held in Giza.
 9. *Vibrant North East 2018*, an event to make people aware of government's schemes was held in Guwahati (Assam).
 10. Government held Kisan Kalyan Karyashala at block level all over India, under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan initiative. At the workshops, farmers from each block interacted with agriculture scientists regarding increase of farmers' income using new technologies. On this occasion, Skill India also organized an Ajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
 11. First Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities held in Bhopal (MP). During this, Aence Française de Développement (AFD's) programme to fund Smart City projects was launched. Under this, Euro 100 million will be provided to 30- 80 selected projects (selected through a challenge) and Euro 6 million will be available for technical support.
 12. 29th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between India and Sri Lanka held onboard INS *Sumithra* at Boundary Line off Kankesanthurai.
 13. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) organised a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' in Faridabad (Haryana).
 14. Exhibition called *India and the World: A History in Nine Stories* held at National Museum auditorium in New Delhi.
 15. 19th TOONZ Animation Masters Summit held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), organised by Toonz Media Group.
 16. Bi-annual Naval Commander's Conference held in New Delhi.
 17. *Star Khel Mahakumbh* held in Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh), seeking participation from youth across 5000 villages and 800 panchayats in various sports.
12. ▶ Google's philanthropic arm Google.org announced \$3 million in grants for teacher training and educational content creation in India.
1. Google will also facilitate all Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh with internet access, by installing 25000 Wi-Fi hotspots by December 2018.
13. ▶ Government appointed Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.

14. ▶ Gujarat government signed an MoU with Poland government, regarding centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other regions of world.
15. ▶ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) approved animal-free tests for drug manufacturers. It replaces pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes. These guidelines will come into effect from July 1, 2018.
 1. Pyrogen test will be replaced by bacterial endotoxin test or monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes.
 1. It is carried out to check impurity that can cause adverse side-effects. Drug is injected into rabbit and it is closely observed for feverish symptoms.
 2. For abnormal toxicity test, Vaccine manufacturers can apply for waiver by getting compliance certificate from National Control Laboratory.
 1. This test is carried out to check hazardous biological contamination in vaccine formulations. In this, mice or guinea pigs are injected with vaccine. The scientists observe if there is death of any animal.
16. ▶ Maharashtra Government will provide Rs 3 subsidy for every litre of milk to co-operative and private producers to manufacture milk powder, aimed at encouraging production of milk powder from surplus milk. Milk producers in Maharashtra will get Minimum Support Price (MSP) of INR 27 per litre.
17. ▶ Maharashtra became first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), to check irregularities and bring in transparency.
18. ▶ Maharashtra government will rename Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University after Bahinabai Chaudhari, renowned poetess of 19th century.
19. ▶ Manipur CM N.Biren Singh launched *Go to Village* mission throughout, aimed at identifying eligible beneficiaries across state and delivering government services at their doorstep. The mission has been launched in 60 villages of all 60 Assembly constituencies.
20. ▶ Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Act 2017 has been officially notified after of President's Approval. It amends Minimum Wages Act 1948, and was passed by Delhi Assembly in August 2017.
 1. As per new rules, employers violating labour rules in Delhi will now face fine ranging from Rs 20000 to 50000 and jail term of one to three years.
 2. Courts will be required to dispose it off within a month from the date of filing.
 3. Delhi Government hiked minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers by 37 %. Minimum Wages are -
 1. Unskilled worker - 13350
 2. Semi-skilled - 14698
 3. Skilled persons is Rs 16182 in Delhi.
21. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) launched Digital India Internship Scheme along with its website.
 1. Under this, 25 interns will be inducted for period of three months. These interns will be paid a stipend of Rs. 10, 000 per month.
 2. Eligibility - Indian students from recognized universities who secured over 60% marks in last held degree. Students pursuing B.E/B.Tech or M.E/M.Tech or dual degrees can apply for internships on the portal.
 3. Internship will be offered two times in year - summer Internship during May and June and winter Internship during December and January.
 4. Proposed broad areas for Internship are Cyber Security, e-Governance, Digital Literacy (HRD), International Cooperation & Industrial Promotion, Hardware Industry and Digital Payments and Electronic Testing.
22. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched initiative for development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using massive open online course (MOOC) platform SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). Under first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified.
 1. NRCS includes varied institutions under Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), in Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, State Universities, UGC's Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs), National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training (NITTTRs), IIITs, Open Universities.
23. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis to promote electric vehicles. It aims at easy identification of electric vehicles for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones besides other proposed benefits like concessional toll.

1. India presently has approx 1 to 1.5 lakh electric vehicles. It is projected to grow to about 5% of total vehicles in next five years.
24. ▶ Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) will expand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in tribal districts, with 3000 such kendras proposed to be set up in 2 years. Initially, it will be taken up in 39 districts with over 50% tribal population and then will be expanded to other Tribal Districts.
1. Van Dhan Yojana aims at mainstreaming tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to Non Timber Minor Forest Produce (MFP) at grassroots level. It also aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.
 2. Through this, share of tribals in value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from 20% to around 60%.
25. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) approved setting up additional 100 One Stop Centres (OSCs) for women affected by violence, in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
1. OSC are funded from Nirbhaya Fund. Aim is to provide women with services such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal aid and counselling, temporary stay for 5 days etc.
26. ▶ NITI Aayog and Google signed a Statement of Intent (SOI), to work on a range of initiatives to help build AI (Artificial Intelligence) ecosystem across country.
27. ▶ NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real-time advisory to farmers in aspirational districts. Aim is to enable cooperation in the use of technology to provide insights to farmers to improve crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the overarching goal of improving farmers' incomes.
28. ▶ Pakyong airport in Sikkim will be 100th operational airport in country, after its commissioning in June 2018. Post commissioning, Airline SpiceJet will be operating flights to Pakyong in Sikkim from Kolkata under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).
29. ▶ Patanjali Ayurved has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand (overall 13th) in TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018. Top Brand is Samsung and Top BFSI (Banking, Financial services and Insurance) is SBI.
30. ▶ Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) signed pact with Ministry of Power to incur capital expenditure of INR 25000 crores for current fiscal.
31. ▶ Press Council of India Chairman C.K Prasad rejected Reporters Without Borders (RWB)'s World Press Freedom Index report 2018 that was recently released and ranked India 138th among 180 Nations in terms of level of freedom for media. PCI stated that the report had *lack of clarity*.
32. ▶ Punjab government along with WWF-India will conduct first organised census of Indus Dolphins, one of world's rarest mammals. Dolphins are found only in India and Pakistan, confined to 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas River in Punjab.
33. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that courts can look into Parliamentary Standing Committee reports while deciding on an issue. However, parliamentary reports cannot be challenged in Courts. It will help NGOs, which frequently file PILs in theSC, to rely on Parliamentary Standing Committee reports.
34. ▶ Supreme Court struck down a legislation that allowed former Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers to continue occupying government accommodation even after demitting office, terming it as *arbitrary and discriminatory*.
35. ▶ Telecom Commission approved voice and data in-flight connectivity, permitting Internet and Mobile Communication on Aircraft (MCA) in Indian airspace. It is recommended to permit MCA services with minimum height restriction of 3000 meters in airspace.
36. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued *Telecommunication Interconnection (Amendment) Regulations 2018* to amend interconnect regulations, proposing certain changes in terms and conditions for operators to seek fresh call connect ports from other operators.
1. Service provider can ask another operator for additional ports or Point of Interconnection (POI), when utilisation of capacity exceeds 85% over 60 day period. Time frame for provisioning of ports for initial interconnection and augmentation is to be increased to maximum 42 working days.
37. ▶ World's largest Indian national flag has been unfurled in Hyderabad (Telangana), which is 122 feet in length and 183 feet in width.

[Top](#)

1. ▶ According to *World Leaders on Facebook* study by Burson Cohn & Wolfe, Indian PM Narendra Modi is most 'liked' world leader on Facebook. With 4.3 Crore Followers, he is way ahead of USA President Donald Trump (2.3 Crore Followers).
2. ▶ Visits from India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
 1. Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Johannesburg (South Africa), He attended India- South Africa business summit.
 2. 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in Manila (Philippines), Indian delegation was headed by Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs). Alongside, 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was also held.
 1. During this meet, ADB Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 & 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.
3. ▶ Visits to India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
 1. Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko Visited India. He attended 9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi. Indo-Japan Startup Hub was also inaugurated in Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB).
 2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dacic Visited India.
 3. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov Visited India.

Top

Science

1. ▶ An important peptide that can be used to create a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis (tropical infectious disease) has been found by researchers from Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre. At present there is no preventive vaccine for Leptospirosis.
 1. Researchers learned whole protein set of bacteria *Leptospira interrogans* by narrowing down to one effective immunogenic protein.
 2. This protein was found in almost all serovars (different types within a species) of the bacteria.
2. ▶ Astronomers discovered a first of its kind carbon-rich asteroid in Kuiper Belt, designated as 2004 EW95.
 1. Kuiper belt is a circum-stellar disc in outer Solar System, extending from orbit of Neptune to approximately 50 astronomical unit (AU) from Sun.
 2. 2004 EW95 seems to have formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and then would have been flung billions of kms to its current locations.
3. ▶ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (Ministry of Earth Sciences) has developed a new model that would predict how far sea water would travel after violating natural boundaries. It would be a Level-3 alert under India's Tsunami Early Warning System, which was put in place after 2004 tsunami. Level-1 tracks magnitude of a tsunami and Level-2 generates an alert about a potential tsunami and wave height.
4. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites to measure clear-cut location data. Currently ISRO imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium for navigation satellites.
 1. It will be used on seven navigation satellites of India as part of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NAVIC. Currently 3 NAVIC satellites have 3 imported Rubidium atomic clocks.
5. ▶ Japanese scientists invented procedure to produce alcoholic beverages from wood of cherry, cedar, and birch trees. Four-kilogram cedar wood produced 3.8 litres of liquid, with 15% alcohol content.
6. ▶ NASA will launch mission InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) to study deep interior of Mars on May 5, 2018. Rocket will also launch two mini-spacecraft called Mars Cube One (MarCO), NASA's technology experiment. InSight is stationary lander that will be first NASA mission since Apollo moon landings to place seismometer, a device that measures quakes on soil of another planet.
7. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) demonstrated that Its Kilowatt portable nuclear fission reactor could enable crewed missions to Moon, Mars and beyond.
 1. Kilowatt Reactor Using Stirling Technology (KRUSTY) experiment was conducted by NASA at in November 2017 - March 2018, established that this system can create electricity with fission power.
 2. KRUSTY is a small, lightweight fission power system which is capable of providing up to 10 kilowatts of electrical power continuously for at least 10 years. This prototype uses a solid uranium-235 reactor core.

8. ▶ Researchers from Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that global warming is driving proliferation of Noctiluca algae (known as sea tinkle), a harmful algae in Arabian Sea responsible for glowing of Mumbai's beaches in dark.
 1. Noctiluca algae is parasite and occurs in patches or blooms in northern Arabian Sea. The algae compete with fish for food and choke their supply. It also excretes large amounts of ammonia, which causes massive fish mortality.
9. ▶ Scientists at Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) Rajasthan invented a new laparoscope-assisted insemination technique for sheep breeding. It is minor invasive laparoscopic technique involves passing rigid fibre-optic laparoscope into abdomen through small incision.
 1. It resolves difficulties in freezing of semen and inability to transit tortuous reproductive tract of sheep kept as livestock. It will also help achieve up to 60% survival in birth of lambs.
10. ▶ Scientists from Tohoku University in Japan found mineral called moganite in lunar (Moon's) meteorite that points presence of abundant hidden reserves of water ice under surface of moon. The mineral discovered in a desert in northwest Africa could be potentially useful for future human exploration of moon.
 1. Moganite is a crystal of silicon dioxide (SiO₂), known to form on earth in specific circumstances in sedimentary settings from alkaline fluids.
 2. Researchers believe that mineral formed on surface of moon in area called Procellarum Terrane as water was present in lunar dirt, that evaporated due to strong sunlight. But in subsurface, water remains in form of ice.
11. ▶ Tapanuli Orangutan, the rarest ape species on Earth, is on verge of extinction with only approx 800 members of the species alive. This species was discovered in 2017 in Sumatra (Indonesia).
12. ▶ Uropeltis bhupathyi, a new snake species has been discovered in the Anaikatty hills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It has been named after late herpetologist S. Bhupathy. They are non-venomous, burrowing, mostly earthworm-eating.

[Top](#)

Sports

1. ▶ 2018 Porsche Women's Tennis Grand Prix (Also Known as Stuttgart Open) -
 1. Women's Singles - Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
 2. Women's Doubles - Raquel Atawo (USA) AND Anna-Lena Grönefeld (Germany)
2. ▶ FIFA proposed staging a 'mini-World Cup' every two years, replacing Confederations Cup currently staged every four years in a year before World Cup. New event will be called 'Final 8', would feature eight teams and could commence in October or November 2021.
3. ▶ Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer is appointed as Australian cricket team's new head coach for all formats, replacing Darren Lehmann, who stepped down after recent ball-tampering controversy.
4. ▶ Indian Boxer Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with *WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award*. He is current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category.
5. ▶ Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi grabbed number one spot in 10m air pistol rankings by ISSF. He won silver in recent World Cup in Changwon (South Korea).
6. ▶ Long time Rivals North and South Korea will field a unified team for semi-finals of world Table Tennis championships to be held in Halmstad (Sweden). It was decided after a recent meet between two nations to ease up tensions.
7. ▶ Tim Paine and Aaron Finch have been appointed as Australia Cricket Team's new ODI and T20 captains respectively.
8. ▶ Wimbledon officials announced increase of £50,000 for 2018 men's and women's singles champions, to receive £2.25 million as Prize Money This year. It has boosted overall prize money total to £34 million this year.
9. ▶ With 69 Doping cases, India is ranked joint-sixth (with Russia) in World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)'s report of number of doping violations in 2016. India improved after being joint-third for from 2013 to 2015. Italy topped drug cases in 2016, followed by France (86), USA (76).

[Top](#)

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