



Current Affairs - September 2018

Month Type



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Appointments

- ▶ Arup Kumar Goswami has been appointed acting chief justice of the Gauhati High Court.
- ▶ Axis Bank appointed Amitabh Chaudhry as its managing director & CEO from January 1, 2019, for 3 years. Mr. Chaudhry is MD & CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company at present. He will replace Shikha Sharma for Top post at Axis Bank.
- ▶ Binoy Kumar took over as Secretary in Ministry of Steel.
- ▶ Indian Banks Association (IBA) elected PNB MD and CEO Sunil Mehta as chairman for 2018-19. Madhav Nair has been elected as Honorary Secretary of association for 2018-19.
- ▶ Jack Ma, co-founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, will step down as head of the company in 2019. He named company CEO Daniel Zhang as his successor.
- ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Government appointed Dilbagh Singh as Director General of Police (DGP) of the state.
- ▶ Misc. Appointments (September 2018) -
 1. WPP Plc, world's largest communication services group, appointed Mark Read as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director (ED).
 2. Tahira Safdar sworn in as first woman chief justice in Pakistan's Balochistan High Court.
- ▶ New Ambassadors (September 2018) -
 1. BSNL - Noted Indian Female Boxer Mary Kom.
 2. Alok Amitabh Dimri - New Indian Ambassador to Kyrgyz Republic.
 3. B. Vanlalvawna - New Indian Ambassador to Republic of Azerbaijan.
 4. Actor Akshay Kumar - Honorary Ambassador to Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.
- ▶ Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi elected as 13th President of Pakistan.
- ▶ Poonam Khetrpal Singh has been re-elected as Regional Director of WHO for another five-year term beginning February 2019. She is the first woman to have been elected to the position of Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region.
- ▶ R Madhavan took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ▶ Ranjan Gogoi will be appointed as new Chief Justice of India (46th), on October 3, 2018. He will replace current CJI Dipak Misra.
- ▶ Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) elected Rajan Wadhwa as its new President.
- ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) appointed Anshula Kant as its Managing Director. Also, SBI Mutual Fund appointed Ashwani Bhatia as its managing director and chief executive officer.

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Awards

- ▶ Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan will be bestowed with inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award.
- ▶ American actress Anne Hathaway will be honoured with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) National Equality Award.
- ▶ Bibek Debroy, Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, has been conferred 'Honoris Causa' by University of Engineering & Management (UEM) in Kolkata.

4. ▶ Industrial Awards (September 2018) -

1. Panchpatmali bauxite mine of National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) won 5 awards at 20th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) week, held under guidance of Indian Bureau of Mines.
5. ▶ Noted Odia poet Satrugna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad', to be awarded by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).
6. ▶ Noted neurosurgeon B.K. Misra has been named for this year's prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award as an Eminent Medical Person of Year, given by Medical Council of India (since 1962). It will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1 next year (National Doctors Day).

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Books

1. ▶ Author Preeti Shenoy's new book named *The Rule Breakers* has been released.
2. ▶ Book *Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project*, authored by Bidyut Chakrabarty has been released.
3. ▶ New Book *Shades of Truth: A Journey Derailed*, written by Former Congress MP Kapil Sibal has been released.
4. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released book *Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office*, written by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu to mark his 1 year in office.

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Committees

1. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a monitoring committee headed by Justice S P Garg to prepare a time-bound action plan on groundwater recharge in Delhi.
2. ▶ Union Government has appointed former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan as the head of panel that has been tasked with selecting India's next chief economic advisor (CEA).

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Days

1. ▶ National Nutrition Week observed from 1st to 7th September, to spread awareness regarding importance of nutrition.
2. ▶ Sep 05 - International Day of Charity.
3. ▶ Sep 05 - National Teachers' Day in India.
 1. On this occasion, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu presented National Awards for Teachers 2017 to 45 teachers from across country.
 2. It marks birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, first Vice-President, and second President of independent India. Celebration of National Teacher's Day started in 1962.
 3. As a gift on occasion of Teachers' Day, Uttar Pradesh government has decided to give 7th pay commission pay scale to teachers and professors of state colleges and universities.
 4. On this occasion, A book named 'Experiential Learning – Gandhi's Nai Talim' (basic education) was released.
4. ▶ Sep 08 - International Literacy Day. 2018 theme is *Literacy and skills development*.
5. ▶ Sep 10 - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD).
6. ▶ September 2 - World coconut day.

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Defence

1. ▶ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) bagged order worth INR 9200 crores for supply of seven Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) systems to Indian Navy.
2. ▶ Cyient Solutions & Systems (*JV of IT firm Cyient and BlueBird Aero Systems of Israel*) bagged order from Indian Army to supply SpyLite mini UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance. SpyLite mini UAV unmanned aerial system has endurance of 4-5 hours and maximum flight ceiling of 30,000 feet, making it ideal for Indian Army operations along border with China and Siachen glacier.

3. ▶ India along with 23 other nations participated in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as IOWave18, organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Purpose is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout region.
 1. In India, It is being coordinated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
4. ▶ India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations, participated in as IOWave18. Its a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill), organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. In India, IOWave18 is being coordinated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
5. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out first ever midair refuelling of indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. It involved dry linkup (no fuel actually transferred) between IAF Il-78 tanker and Tejas fighter jet through its air-to-air refuelling probe.
 1. Its a be major leap for indigenious fighter which will help in enhancing its mission capability by increasing its range and payload.
 2. LCA Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) as part of LCA programme, started in 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters.
6. ▶ Next edition of Aero India will be held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) in February 2019, as a five-day event with major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.
7. ▶ USA based Aerospace firm Lockheed Martin announced that wings of its F-16 fighter jets will be produced in India, under an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).

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Economy

1. ▶ RBI released new guidelines for all notes which were introduced post note ban imposed in November 2016, ending lack of clarity over exchange of the New 2000 / 200 currency notes, introduced post demonetisation.
 1. Rs 2000 and Rs 200 (issued in November 2016 and September 2017 respectively) could not be governed by old rules due to their difference in size.
 2. As per new Rules, the undivided area of the single largest piece of the note for a damaged Rs 2000 note must be 88 square cm for a full refund, and 44 square cm for half refund. Rs 2000 note is 109.56 square cm in dimension.
 3. For a damaged Rs 200 note, the criteria is 78 square cm for a full refund, and 39 square cm for half refund.
2. ▶ SBI increased its benchmark lending rates or MCLR by 0.2 percent across all tenors upto 3 years.
3. ▶ According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Mauritius was top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore. Total FDI in FY18 stood at \$37.36 billion in financial year which was marginal rise over \$36.31 billion recorded in the previous fiscal 2016-17.
4. ▶ Airline SpiceJet will start a dedicated air cargo service under the SpiceXpress brand from September 18.
5. ▶ Airtel Payment Bank launched card-less cash withdrawals at over 100,000 ATMs across India. The technology can be used for self-withdrawal or for sending money to an intended recipient for ATM cash withdrawal.
6. ▶ All contributions to home ministry's 'Bharat Ke Veer' fund have been exempted from income tax under 80(G), formalising it nto a registered trust. Bharat Ke Veer initiative is a trust fund where people can aids families of paramilitary personnel who died fighting extremists. It has been formed with seven trustees headed by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
7. ▶ As per a RBI Report, India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to a four-quarter-high at 2.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) in April-June period, from 1.9% of GDP in the January-March quarter of 2017-18.
8. ▶ Asia Index Pvt Ltd launched S&P BSE Private Banks Index to measure performance of private banks, drawn from constituents of S&P BSE Finance Index, Asia's oldest exchange. It would measures performance of private banks listed in India.
9. ▶ Cabinet extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018.
 1. To further incentivize people's participation, age criterion for participation has been revised. Earlier, people of age 18 to 60 years were entitled to enroll in this scheme. But now it has been relaxed further to 65 years.
 2. All accounts opened after August 2018 will have accident insurance limit of Rs 2 lakh, double than earlier Rs 1 lakh limit.
 3. The overdraft facility of the scheme was also increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
 4. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is a social security scheme that aims to provide affordable universal access to essential social security protection to unorganized work force of country, which constitute more than 85% of workforce.

1. It had replaced earlier government-backed pension Swavalamban scheme targeted at the unorganised sector. It was launched in June 2015. It is available to all citizens of India in age group of 18-40 years.
10. ▶ Canara bank opened a portal to claim education loan interest subsidy for FY 2017-18, under Central sector interest subsidy (CSIS) scheme of HRD Ministry.
 1. According to this, Full interest subsidy is provided to eligible students for course period plus one year for loans up to Rs.7.5 lakh. Tamil Nadu is the top state availing this loan.
11. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released its annual report on additional tax from MNCs through 219 APAs(199 unilateral and 20 bilateral). As per report, In FY18, MNCs have acquired an extra income of Rs 10,000 crore, translating into a tax of Rs 3,000 crore.
 1. APAs (Advanced Pricing Agreements) are primarily aimed at avoiding transfer pricing disputes arising from cross-border transactions undertaken by MNCs. It is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority.
12. ▶ Finance Ministry doubled pecuniary limit to INR 20 lakh from 10 lakh for filing loan recovery application in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions. It means that banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if pecuniary limit amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh. This move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs.
13. ▶ Government made Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts. It was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years
 1. Overdraft limit for account holders has now been doubled to Rs 10000.
 2. Free accident insurance cover for those opening Jan Dhan accounts after August 28 too has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh
 3. There will be no conditions attached for over-draft of up to Rs 2,000.
 4. Upper age limit for availing the facility has also been hiked to 65 from the earlier 60 years.
14. ▶ HDFC Bank retained its top spot in the Brand India Top 50 for the fifth year in a row. The total brand value of HDCF bank grew by 21 % to \$21.7 billion in 2018. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) comes at the second spot, while Tata Consultancy Services ranked third on the list.
15. ▶ Insurance Firm HDFC ERGO launched 'E@Secure', a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals, to provide protection against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss.
16. ▶ Iraq has replaced Saudi Arabia as India's largest oil supplier in August, according to Reuters. Despite the lower purchases amid US sanctions on Iranian oil, Iran remained third biggest oil supplier to India during August 2018.0
17. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) for increasing awareness and accelerating use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments and their agencies.
 1. GeM provides online, end to end solution for procurement of commonly used goods and services for all Central Government Departments and State Governments.
18. ▶ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved proposal by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase wages of artisans by over 36 %. Now, Wages will be increased from Rs 5.50 per hank previously to Rs 7.50 per hank. On an average, an artisan makes over 20 hanks per day.
19. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned INR 335 crores under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal, in August 2018.
20. ▶ Paytm Money has launched its app for mutual fund investments, in partnership with 25 asset management companies.
 1. Paytm Money is subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd targets to sell mutual fund to around 25 million people in 3 - 5 years.
21. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launched India Post Payments Bank, as 6th Payments Bank in India.
 1. India Post Payments bank is being projected as a major steps towards Financial Inclusion, keeping in view its large reach and huge customer base (17 crore postal savings bank (PSB) accounts).
 2. On this occasion, 648 branches of IPPB were inaugurated (1 in each district). 2 IPPB branches were already operational, taking number of IPPB branches to 650.
 3. Government will link all 1.55 lakh post office branches with IPPB services, to create country's largest banking network.
 4. IPPB will have 3,250 access points co-located at post offices. 11,000 gramin dak sevaks (in rural area) and postmen (in urban area) will provide doorstep banking services.
 5. IPPB will enable general banking services including Funds transfer, mobile banking access etc.
 6. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) does away with ATM cards and debit cards for both cash and cashless transactions. IPPB will issue new QR (Quick-Response) cards which work on biometric authentication and not on passwords or PINs. QR card transactions can be done through postmen, post offices or Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS).

7. Several Differences between IPPB and Post Office Savings Accounts (POSA) are -

1. Types of Account -

1. IPPB offers regular, digital and basic Accounts.
2. POSA offers standard banking and remittance services.

2. Deposits -

1. IPPB supports zero balance savings accounts and can hold max 1 Lakh. Any balance in excess of Rs 1 lakh will be transferred to related post office account, which is a regular savings bank account.
2. POSA Accounts can be opened with minimum deposit of 20 (and INR 50 as minimum to balance). The accounts with cheque facility require a minimum deposit of Rs 500.

3. Interest Rate -

1. Both, IPPB and POSA accounts attract an interest rate of 4% per annum, paid quarterly.

4. Doorstep Banking -

1. IPPB aims at financial inclusion, with focus on doorstep banking services.
2. POSA does not have provisions of doorstep banking services.

5. Money Transfer -

1. IPPB, being a general Bank account, will allow funds transfer to any bank account (UPI / IMPS / NEFT).
2. In case of POSA, Money transfer allowed within post office savings bank (POSB) accounts. After POSA accounts are linked with IPPB, customers will be able to enjoy all money transfer service like other banks.

6. Governing Authority -

1. Being a Bank, IPPB will be governed by Reserve Bank of India
2. POSA are under supervision of finance ministry.

8. About Payments Banks -

1. Earlier Active Payments Banks are Airtel, Paytm, Aditya Birla, Fino and jio.
2. RBI, in 2015, gave in-principle approval to 11 entities to set up Payments Banks in India.

22. ▶ RBI cancelled licence of Rajasthan-based Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank, due to inadequate capital and earning prospects.
23. ▶ RBI bought 8.46 tonne of gold in financial year 2017-18, as first purchase in almost nine years. RBI now has 566.23 tonne of gold.
24. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all scheduled commercial banks with more than 10 branches to appoint an internal ombudsman (IO). RBI, however, excluded regional rural banks (RRBs) from appointing IOs.
25. ▶ Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling launched first data sharing and accessibility portal of Sikkim, called State Data Sharing and Accessibility Platform (SDSAP). State IT Department would upload data in portals twice a year – in April-May and September-October. State Direct Benefit Transfer portal was also launched.
26. ▶ Singapore-based investment firm Temasek will invest up to Rs 2,750 crore (\$400 million) in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Master Fund.
 1. NIIF now has agreements totalling almost Rs. 10,000 crore, with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) having committed to invest up to \$1 billion (about Rs 6,500 crore) and domestic financial institutions, about Rs. 500 crore.
 2. NIIF was set up in December 2015 to catalyse funding into the country's infrastructure sector by serving as quasi sovereign wealth fund (SWF). It aims to maximize economic growth of country mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects.
 3. It has targeted corpus of Rs 40,000 crore to be raised over the years – 49% of it will be funded by government and remaining 51% will be raised from domestic and global investors.
27. ▶ Union Bank of India will close its branch in the global diamond hub of Antwerp (Belgium) within a year, after it wasn't able to generate *expected amount of business*.
28. ▶ World Bank approved assistance of INR 929 crores for Shimla water supply and sewerage project. Activities to take place -
 1. Augmentation of Gummawater source from Sutlej river
 2. Construction of storage dams on Giri river
 3. Installation of filter units in 13 "bouries" or natural water bodies.

1. ▶ According to recent report, Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads. Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and its stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 (surpassing United Kingdom).
 1. The current estimate of 140 to 150 nuclear weapons with Pakistan exceeds projection made by US Defense Intelligence Agency in 1999 that Pakistan would have 60 to 80 warheads by 2020.
2. ▶ Amid economic crisis, Argentina central bank raised its benchmark interest by 15 percentage points to 60%, highest in world. The Argentine peso is down 50% this year against the dollar and the country's inflation is running at over 30%. Many south american nations are facing economic crisis, with neighbouring nation venezuela being under more more steep financial stress.
3. ▶ At International Court of Justice, India supported Mauritius over its claim on Chagos Islands, which are under United Kingdom's control in Indian Ocean..
4. ▶ China pledged \$60 billion of financial assistance to Africa, announced at 3rd Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing. FOCAC excludes Swaziland (recently renamed to Eswatini).
 1. Out of \$60 billion offered, China will disburse \$15 billion as aid, interest-free loans and concessional loans, \$20 billion as credit line, channel \$10 billion into special fund for China-Africa development and \$5 billion special fund will be set up only for African imports.
5. ▶ China successfully launched a new marine satellite called HY-1C aboard a Long March-2C rocket. It will aim at better monitor its maritime waters and study impact of climate change.
6. ▶ China-Maldives Friendship Bridge opened for traffic, as first cross-sea bridge to be built in Maldives.
 1. It is 2.2 km long bridge and has four vehicle lanes and two pedestrian lanes. It connects Maldives capital city Male and neighbouring Hulhule island where island country's main international airport is located.
 2. The bridge was built with Chinese grant of \$116 million, along with \$72 million as an additional loan.
7. ▶ Facebook will invest over \$1 billion to build its first Asian data centre in Singapore, expected to open in 2022. Like other data centres, it will be fully powered by renewable energy.
8. ▶ India and Agence Française de Développement (France) signed an implementation agreement on "*MOBILISE YOUR CITY* (MYC). MYC is part of an international initiative which is supported by French and German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December 2015.
 1. European Union has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million through the AFD to contribute to specific investments and technical assistance components within the Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India.
 2. MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad, to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport.
9. ▶ India is Partner Country in 87th Izmir International tradeshow in Turkey. India also launched its mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies. Izmir is 3rd most populous city in Turkey, after Istanbul and Ankara.
10. ▶ India stands 19th in 'Theft Ranking' for countries with weapons-usable nuclear materials, according to the Nuclear Security Index. The index was released by the US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI).
 1. Neighboring Pakistan ranks 20th in List.
 2. Australia shared top spot with Switzerland.
11. ▶ India will buy 18 Bullet Trains from Japan, Each train with 10 coaches and would be able to attain speed of 350 km per hour. The 508-km high speed train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad at an estimated cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore is expected to be operational by 2022.
12. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and CMs of West Bengal (Mamta Baannerjee) and Tripura (Biplab Kumar Deb), jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh, via video conference. Projects are -
 1. 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, through existing Bheramara (Bangladesh) - Baharampur (India) interconnection.
 2. Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link
 3. Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazzpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
13. ▶ Jeff Bezos led e-commerce major Amazon became 2nd US company to hit \$1 trillion in market capitalisation after Apple. Also, TCS became 2nd Indian Company to hit 8 Lakh crores INR (Approx \$120 Billion USD), after Reliance achieved it recently.
14. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched its first Trade Finance Scorecard, a new tool to address market and boost trade finance. It aims to prevent money-laundering and terrorism. It will use a 2 level assessing, First level will consist of score out of 10 on seven criteria on the macro level and Second level will consist of five working-level issues on the micro level.

15. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) decided to participate in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) after gap of nine years, by sending team of officers to Paris to negotiate India's terms of participation in PISA 2021.
 1. Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is assessment test for 15-year-olds, organised every three years by Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Paris (France).
 2. PISA measures student performance in mathematics, reading, and science and even innovative subjects like collaborative problem-solving and money literacy.
 3. PISA test results give insight into education systems around the world. The results are shown as a national mean score and not shown individually. Its objective is not to rank countries, but to see how education system can be improved.
16. ▶ Ocean Cleanup foundation (founded by 24-year-old Dutch innovator Boyan Slat) launched world's first ocean cleanup array from San Francisco, called System 001, marking start of cleanup of Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a collection of marine debris in North Pacific Ocean. The patch is larger than area of France.
 1. System 001, named as 'Wilson', will be able to collect 50 tons of plastic in its first year. • It consists of a 2000 ft long U-shaped floating barrier with a three-meter (10 ft) skirt attached below.
 2. Great Pacific Garbage Patch -
 1. Its a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean, containing up to 16 times more waste than previously thought.
 2. The Patch occupies an area three times the size of France in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii with 79000 tons of plastic debris in the form of 1.8 trillion pieces.
 3. It was discovered in 1997 by Charles Moore, who had sailed through a mishmash of floating plastic bottles and other debris on his way home to Los Angeles.
17. ▶ Qatar become first Gulf nation to offer permanent residency to expatriates, allowing maximum 100 expatriates to gain permanent residency each year.
18. ▶ Search engine Google launched Dataset Search, a new search engine for scientific community that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online. It will work like Google Scholar, company's popular search engine for academic studies and reports.
 1. It will have twin benefits of creating data sharing ecosystem that will encourage data publishers to follow best practices for data storage and publication and give scientists way to show impact of their work through citation of datasets that they have produced.
 2. Google also launched a new app 'Blog Compass' to help Indian bloggers manage their site and find topics to write about. The India exclusive app works as an analytics and recommendation platform. .
19. ▶ South Africa entered recession for first time since 2009, after Its economy contracted by 0.7% in 2nd quarter of current Fiscal.
20. ▶ UN Security Council (UNSC) held its first-ever meeting on corruption and its linkages to global conflicts. Citing the World Economic Forum's estimates, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that corruption costs at least \$2.6 trillion or 5% of global GDP.
21. ▶ US-based *Internet Society and Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)* signed MoU to make Internet safe and secure in India by securing routers which is vital for healthy internet infrastructure. It will also promote Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS) which is global initiative to implement crucial fixes needed to reduce most common threats to internet's routing system.
22. ▶ Ukraine launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries, to be held in western Ukrainian village of Starychi till September 15, 2018.

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Meetings

1. ▶ 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons' held in Seoul (South Korea). Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
2. ▶ 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi.
3. ▶ Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
4. ▶ Food and Drink Technology Africa 2018 trade show held in Johannesburg (South Africa), Attended by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).

5. ▶ HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar Inaugurated 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018), held in New Delhi. Focus of WOSA 2018 is on *CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION*.
6. ▶ International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 inaugurated in Kathmandu (Nepal), organised by South Asian Women Development Forum. Theme of summit is 'Equality begins with Economic Empowerment'.
7. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated MOVE: India's ever first Global Mobility Summit organized by NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The focus of the summit is on raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility and bringing various stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility across different platforms.
 1. Earlier, NITI Aayog flagged off cycle rally MOVE Cyclathon to spread message of clean mobility to Indian public and promote cleaner, accessible modes of transport. It was held in run up to MOVE: Global Mobility Summit scheduled to be held in Sep 2018 in New Delhi.
 2. Earlier, NITI Aayog launched *Pitch to MOVE* mobility pitch competition, aiming to provide budding entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. Winners will be felicitated during Global Mobility Summit to be held in New Delhi in September 2018.
 1. Pitch to MOVE aims to identify startups, which will help vision of Shared, Connected, Intermodal and Environment Friendly Mobility in India. It is available at <http://mobilitypitch.movesummit.in>
8. ▶ USA Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis participated in inaugural India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, held in New Delhi. India was represented by Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman.
 1. During the summit, India and USA signed Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), to open up way for sale of more sensitive US military equipment to India. It will help India obtain critical and encrypted defence technologies from US.
 2. A Memorandum of Intent was concluded between US Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and Indian Defence Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-IDEX).
 3. COMCASA is one of the four foundational agreements that a country needs to sign to become a major defence partner of USA. It has a lifespan of 10 years. Other three agreements are General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMoA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).
 4. Collaboration between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company for the establishment of 6 nuclear power plants in India.
 5. To grow bilateral trade to \$500-600 billion from the current \$125 billion,
 6. A tri-Services joint exercise with the United States off the eastern coast of India in 2019 was decided.

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National

1. ▶ Around 600 food and beverage (F&B) importers from about 50 countries are likely to participate in Indusfood-II, touted as the world's food supermarket, in January 2019. It will be held in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh).
2. ▶ As per UNWTO, International tourist arrivals hit record high in 2017 with India leading growth in South Asian region. In India, international tourists arrivals grew from 14.57 million in 2016 to 15.54 million in 2017.
3. ▶ Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will become first airport in Asia to introduce face recognition based passage system technology from 2019. For this, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), which operates KIA has signed agreement with Portuguese software firm Vision Box. It will allow passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport using automatic biometric boarding procedure instead of manual boarding passes verification.
4. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 05, 2018) -
 1. General Approvals -
 1. Approved establishment of permanent campus of 7 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmour, Vishakhapatnam and Jammu, and their recurring expenditure at a total cost of Rs 3775 crores.
 2. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) -
 1. Approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project

Tiger (CSS-PT), Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and Project Elephant (CSS-PE). Outlay is INR 1731 crores.

1. Total 18 tiger range States in 5 landscapes of country would be benefitted under Project Tiger scheme.
 2. Similarly, for other two schemes, the coverage is entire country in case of Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH) and 23 elephant range States for Project Elephant.
 3. It will generate direct employment of about 30 lakh mandays annually which shall include many local tribes besides non-tribal local workforce.
5. ▶ Census 2021 for first time in independent India will collect data on Other Backwards Castes (OBCs), after over 25 years after implementation of 27% reservation for OBCs based on Mandal Commission's recommendations on basis of last castes data collected in 1931 census.
1. In 1953, President under Article 340 had set up first Backward Classes Commission under chairmanship of Kaka Kelkar to identify backward classes other than SCs and STs at national level. Its conclusions were rejected later.
 2. Later in January 1979, 2nd Backward Classes Commission headed by B P Mandal was appointed to consider reservations, to redress caste discrimination. It reported that OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward. It also recommended increasing existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include OBCs. Its recommendations were implemented in 1990.
 3. UPA government (under Manmohan Singh) accepted demand for caste-based enumeration and undertaken Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in 2011. However, SECC-2011 data was not made public for certain errors identified by Registrar General of India.
6. ▶ Delhi government launched doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services such as caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections in the first phase. The services will be provided for an extra fee of Rs 50. Delivery would be completed with help of assigned *Mobile sahayaks*.
7. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -
1. IARI held Conference on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA) at National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC) in New Delhi.
 2. 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference on theme "Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility" held at AIIMS Delhi.
 3. A National Conference organised by Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association in New Delhi.
 4. 3-day Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference – 2018, organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association in New Delhi.
 5. US-India Business Council (USIBC) organised its first India Ideas Summit in Mumbai.
 6. Ministry of Railways & Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) organised a seminar on "Leveraging IT for Mobility" in New Delhi. Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched a new app – "AAPOORTI" mobile App of 'Indian Railways e-procurement system' (IREPS).
 7. 31st meeting of Central Hindi Committee held in New Delhi.
 8. 115th meeting of India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) held in Lahore (Pakistan). PK Saxena (Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters), attended the same. Both countries agreed to undertake Treaty mandated tours of both Indus Commissioners in Indus basin on both sides.
 9. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) announced guidelines for 'Sandbox' method to enable testing of new innovative insurance products, during 11th Global Insurance Summit organised by Assocham in Mumbai. Sandbox method would allow insurers or a set of few policyholders to test products in a particular geography before they are available in market.
 10. Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) in association with NITI Aayog concluded in New Delhi.
 11. 4th Annual Sustainable Smart Cities India Conference held in Bengaluru.
 12. Bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces held in New Delhi.
8. ▶ Gujarat Government partnered with India-centric American advocacy group US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), for 9th *Vibrant Gujarat* annual industry summit to be held in January 2019 in Gandhinagar.
9. ▶ International Aviation Summit held in New Delhi, jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

1. Civil Aviation Ministry announced Vision 2035 under which it plans to build 100 new airports across India in the next 10-15 years with an investment of USD 60 billion and address major issues concerning aviation industry.
10. ▶ International Executive Council (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)), accorded Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS) status on Telangana's Sadarmatt anicut and iconic Pedda Cheruvu tank. Both these sites will now be inscribed in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.
 1. Sadarmatt anicut - The Sadarmatt barrage, across Godavari in Khanapur of Nirmal district, is an iconic structure installed by the then Hyderabad ruler Nawab Ikbal-ud-Dowla in 1891-92.
 1. Sadarmatt is 437.4 m long on its left flank and 23.8 m on its right flank. maximum flood discharge at the anicut is 7.76 lakh cusecs.
 2. Pedda Cheruvu -
 1. It is spread over an area of 618 acres and was built in 1897 during the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State. It has a 1.8-km-long tank bund and 145-metre wall and three sluices.
11. ▶ Kerala Government appointed KPMG as project consultant partner for rebuilding state ravaged by recent massive floods. Services of KPMG rendered for projects related to revamping to Kerala will be free of cost.
 1. Netherlands based KPMG is one of largest professional service companies in world and one of Big Four auditors, along with Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.
12. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government hiked ex-gratia to be paid to the kin of deceased journalists, from 1 to 4 lakhs. Also, 5 per cent interest subsidy will be given for a period of five years on housing loan up to Rs 25 lakh to deceased journalists from.
13. ▶ Madhya Pradesh launched a first of its kind initiative called “Mil -Banche” in all government schools across the state. It Aims to create education and learning awareness among children.
14. ▶ Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga - digital mobile extension services.
 1. Mobile app Coffee Connect is developed to ease work of field functionaries and to improve work efficiency. It harnesses power of mobility comprising latest technology in easing the whole process of the field activities like digitization of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging, collecting Plantation details.
 2. Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customized information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.
15. ▶ Minister of State for Atomic Energy, Jitendra Singh inaugurated 10KW transmitter of All India Radio at Patnitop in Ramban District of Jammu & Kashmir. This would enable services to reach remote areas of the State in various districts like Ramban, Doda, Udhampur, Anantnag and parts of Jammu. It would be available at an ariel distance of 60 km in the frequency of 101 MHz.
16. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released draft Charter of Patients’ Rights prepared by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), aimed at creating consolidating comprehensive document on patients’ rights in India.
 1. It provides patients with right to emergency medical care and informed consent, right to non-discrimination, seek a second opinion and choose alternative treatment options, if available. It also includes 17 rights with description and draws upon all relevant provisions.
17. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs approved renaming Jharkhand's Nagar Untari town and railway station as Banshidhar Nagar, after Bansidhar Temple, dedicated to Krishna in Garhwa district of state. It is being done as part of its including Banshidhar Nagar as part of Krishna circuit and develop it as major tourist attraction under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
18. ▶ Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of rural circuit in Kerala. Approved cruise are Malabari Cuisine and Culinary Cruise (Muthappan Cruise). Valapattanam River-Theyyam Cruise AND Mangrove Cruise.
19. ▶ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation prepared draft Bill which proposes setting up armed Ganga Protection Corps (GPC) to arrest any person who has committed offence of polluting River Ganga punishable under this law.
20. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development inaugurated widows’ home ‘Krishna Kutir’ at Vrindavan in Mathura (Uttar Pradesh). Krishna Kutir is special home for 1000 widows set under Swadhar Greh scheme and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by government organization.
21. ▶ NITI Aayog constituted group of experts submitted report titled ‘Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.’
 1. It stated that nearly 30% of springs crucial to water security of people are drying and 50% have reported reduced discharge.

2. It calls for spring mapping and revival, using 8 steps protocol should be taken up across Himalayan states in phased manner, applying carrying capacity concept to all major tourist destinations and implementing and monitoring tourism sector. It also has mooted 8-year programme to overhaul spring water management.
 3. Meghalaya with 3,810 villages with springs has highest number of these water sources in Eastern Himalayan States. Sikkim had greatest density with 94% of its villages having spring. In Western Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir had both highest number of villages with springs at 3,313 and greatest density of 50.6%.
22. ▶ National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), India's first university in transport sector, has started functioning. It is presently functioning at National Academy of Indian Railways in Vadodara (Gujarat). University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University are its international partners. It offers two undergraduate courses: BSc Transportation Technology and BBA Transportation Managements.
 23. ▶ Odisha State Assembly has passed resolution seeking creation of 49 Member Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad or second house of legislature).
 1. Resolution now will be sent to Central Government (Union cabinet) for approval, following which it will be tabled in both houses of Parliament. Thereafter, presidential assent is required to make it Act.
 2. India has bicameral system of legislature. Just as Parliament has two Houses, States can have Legislative Council (LC) in addition to Legislative Assembly if they choose to. This option is available under Article 171 of Constitution.
 3. Currently, seven states have Legislative Councils viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. Proposals to create Councils in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament.
 4. Legislative Council of state cannot have MLCs more than one-third of total number of MLAs of state assembly and not less than 40 members. Jammu & Kashmir is exception, as Section 50 of state's Constitution, Assembly has 87 members and Legislative Council 36.
 5. Tenure of Member of Legislative Council (MLC) is six years (similar to Rajya Sabha MPs).
 24. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) made oil and gas discoveries in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, as category-III basins, having hydrocarbon and are considered geologically prospective for exploration.
 1. Madhya Pradesh - Deposits were discovered in block in Vindhyan basin. This find is at 3,000-plus meters deep and is being now tested.
 2. West Bengal - Deposits discovered in well in Ashok Nagar of 24 Parganas district.
 3. India has 26 sedimentary basins, of which only seven category-I basins have commercial production of oil and gas. It is in the process of adding eighth basin by putting Kutch offshore discovery (it holds about one trillion cubic feet of gas reserves) to production.
 25. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced increase in remuneration for ASHA and Anganwadi workers.
 1. ASHA workers routine incentive has been doubled. In addition, all ASHA workers and their helpers will be provided free insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana.
 2. Anganwadi workers - Those receiving Rs. 3000 so far, will now receive Rs. 4500. Similarly those receiving Rs. 2200, will now get Rs. 3500. honorarium for Anganwadi helpers also has been increased from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2250.
 26. ▶ Pindara Thakur village in Amethi (Uttarpradesh) has been made fully digital under Digital India Programme of government. It will have access to 206 government services digitally. It was linked with Wi Fi Chaupal and use of 2 GB free data for 15 days has been made available.
 27. ▶ Rajasthan Assembly passed Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2018, containing provisions for -
 1. Relaxation of *two-child* provision for those aspiring to contest panchayat elections provided one of the children is differently-abled
 2. Allowing people suffering from leprosy to contest panchayat elections.
 28. ▶ Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under Bhamashah Yojana, Focused on women in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
 29. ▶ Singphan Elephant Reserve has been named as 30th elephant reserve in India, located in Mon district of Nagaland and spreads over an area of 5825 acres (2357 hac).
 30. ▶ Snow leopard spotted at height of about 4,000 metres in Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, ascertaining that snow leopards are inhabiting new areas.
 1. Snow leopard large cats are native to mountain ranges of Central and South Asia- including Himalayas, and Russia's remote Altai mountains. In India, it is found in states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

31. ▶ Supreme Court banned all construction activities in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh till October 9, after these states / UT failed to comply with court's order to come up with a policy on solid waste management.
32. ▶ Supreme Court decriminalised part of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that criminalises homosexuality, saying it was irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary.
33. ▶ Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) made Aadhaar mandatory for Indian patients to register in the Tamil Nadu Network for Organ Sharing. While foreigners are asked to submit a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the respective Embassies.
34. ▶ Union Territory of Puducherry won top position in National Clean School Award after seven schools from Puducherry were awarded for cleanliness.
 1. Tamil Nadu bagged second position in National Clean School Award. The third position was shared by Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
 2. 52 schools from across country were bestowed with National Clean School Award in recognition of their efforts in carrying forward Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
35. ▶ Uttarakhand High Court declared fatwas as unconstitutional and illegal, banning all religious bodies and statutory panchayats in state from issuing fatwas. The ruling came, as the court declared illegal a fatwa banishing the family of a rape victim from their village.

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Persons

1. ▶ Indian poet Abhay K became first Indian poet invited to record his poems at Library of Congress in Washington D.C.
2. ▶ Nehal Chudasama declared as winner of Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Miss Universe 2018, to represent India at Miss Universe 2018 pageant in Bangkok (Thailand) in December 2018.
3. ▶ Obituaries (September 2018) -
 1. Tarun Sagar - Noted Jainism monk.
 2. Bhagwati Kumar Sharma - Noted Gujarati author and journalist.
 3. Burt Reynolds - Noted American Actor.
4. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (September 2018) -
 1. Alastair Cook - England Cricketer. He is overall 5th and England's top scorer in test cricket, with 12472 runs.
 2. Rudra Pratap Singh - Indian Cricketer.
 3. Morna Nielsen - New Zealand Female Cricketer.
5. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018)
 1. India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul (Afghanistan). Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.
 2. Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting.
 3. Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Satya Pal Singh visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting. It was first ever meeting of Education Ministers in history of G-20.
 4. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Vietnam and Cambodia.
 1. In Vietnam, She inaugurated 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi.
 2. In Cambodia, She signed 2 MOUs - 1st MOU is on Restoration and preservation of world heritage site of an 11th century temple of Lord Shiva called 'Temple of Preah Vihear' in Cambodia's Preah Vihear. 2nd MOU is on cooperation between India's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Cambodia's National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR).
 5. Indian Air Force Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Myanmar and Malaysia.
 6. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited USA to address 2nd World Hindu Congress held in Chicago, on occasion of 125th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at Parliament of the World's Religions on Sep 11, 1893.
 7. Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment visited Seoul (Korea), to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'.
 8. Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das visited China. He invited China to participate in food processing summit, which will be organised by Jharkhand Government in November.
 9. President Ram Nath Kovind Visited European Nations Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic.
 1. Cyprus -

1. India and Cyprus have signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in field of environment.
2. India and Cyprus agreed to revise Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) signed between India and Cyprus in 2016 to further enhance investment cross flows.
2. Bulgaria -
 1. India and Bulgaria sign five pacts on Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, science and technology cooperation and Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University.
3. Czech Republic -
 1. 5 Agreements signed -
 1. Cooperation between Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Czech Academy of Sciences
 2. Visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders
 3. A work plan to support Indo-Czech projects in diverse areas of science and technology.
 4. Cooperation in laser technology between ELI Beamlines and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
 5. Cooperation between Haryana Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences.
6. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -
 1. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister of Nepal Visited India.

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Science

1. ▶ According to a new study by BirdLife International, 8 avian species was declared “extinct” in this decade. It was carried out to analyse 51 Critically Endangered birds six statistical methods to assign to the IUCN Red List Category to determine which of them qualify as ‘potentially extinct’ and ‘extinct’. 5 of 8 extinctions were from the South American mainland due to deforestation resulting in habitat loss.
2. ▶ Google developed a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to combat online spreading of contents involving child sexual abuse, using deep neural networks for image processing to help discover and detect child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. Quick identification of new images will lead to quicker identification of children, who are being sexually abused and will help protect them from further abuse.
3. ▶ ISRO will set up a satellite ground control station at the North Pole for a “14-orbit coverage” to efficiently download data from India’s Earth-observing satellites. ISRO already has two ground stations, IMAGES at Telangana Shadnagar built in 2011, and AGEOS in Antarctica.
 1. Also, ISRO announced to conduct 19 missions, including 10 satellites and nine launch vehicles, in next seven months between September and March. It will include the launch of India’s second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 in Jan 2019.
4. ▶ India and France have signed agreement to collaborate for ISRO’s first human space mission Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022. The announcement was made 6th edition of Bengaluru Space Expo (touted to be largest space conference in Asia and held in Bengaluru).
 1. ISRO and French space agency CNES will form working group to exchange expertise in fields of astronaut life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems among others.
 2. During same event, ISRO displayed a space suit developed for Gaganyaan Mission 2022. It is an orange-coloured prototype space suit developed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. It can hold one oxygen cylinder, allowing an astronaut to breathe in space for 60 minutes.
 3. ISRO also displayed a crew model and crew escape model, with thermal shield and temperature inside maintained at 25 degree Celsius.
 4. Gaganyaan Mission astronauts will be living for five to seven days in a 400-km orbit from the Earth’s surface as they would conduct micro-gravity experiments.
 5. Theme for Bengaluru Space Expo 2018 was *Creating dynamism in Indian space ecosystem*.
5. ▶ NASA’s Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager (FOXSI) took its third flight from the White Sands Missile Range in White Sands, New Mexico.
 1. It is first instrument built specially to image high-energy X-rays from Sun, that will capture nanoflares (miniature explosions invisible to naked eye).
 2. First FOXSI flight was in 2012, during which it successfully viewed a small solar flare in progress, and its second in 2014, when it detected best evidence at the time of X-ray emission from nanoflares.

6. ▶ Researchers at Shizuoka University (Japan) developed a space elevator, a miniature version on satellites.
1. 2 ultra-small cubic satellites will be used for demonstration, being released from International Space Station (ISS) and container acting like elevator car will be moved on cable connecting satellites using motor. The movement of motorised elevator box will be monitored with cameras in the satellites.
 2. Space elevator is a proposed type of planet-to-space transportation system. It will permit vehicles to travel along cable from planetary surface, such as Earth's, directly into space or orbit, without use of large rockets. The idea of space elevator was first proposed in 1895 by Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.

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Sports

- ▶ 2018 AIBA Youth Women's & Men's World Championships in Budapest (Hungary).
 1. 359 boxers from 65 countries participated. Mascot was Hungarian Grey bull and cow
 2. Indian Winners:
 1. Gold -Nitu (Women's Light Fly 45-48kg), Sakshi (Women's Feather 54-57kg)
 2. Silver - Anamika (Women's Fly 48-51kg), Manisha (Women's Light Welter 64kg)
 3. Bronze - Bhavesh Kattimani (Men's Fly 49-52kg), Ankit (Women's Light – 60kg), Jony (Women's Light 57-60kg), Pahwa A (Women's Middle 69-75kg), Gaidhani S (Women's Light Heavy 81kg), Yadav N (Women's Heavy +81kg)
 3. Awards:
 - Best Men Boxer – Dzhambulat Bizhamov (Russia – 69KG)
 - Best Women Boxer – Charlie Cavanagh (Canada – 69KG)
 - Best Team – Team Russia
 - Fair Play Award – Team Hungary
- ▶ 2018 Asian Games -
 1. Facts -
 1. It was 18th edition of Asian Games, hosted by Jakarta and Palembang (Indonesia).
 2. 11720 Athletes from 45 Nations participated in 465 events of 40 sports.
 3. Official Mascots were named Bhin Bhin, Atung and Kaka, representing Eastern, Central, and Western regions of Indonesia respectively.
 4. Next, 19th edition of Asian Games will be hosted by Hangzhou (China), in 2022.
 5. Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee named Most Valuable player in 18th Asian Games, after she had won 6 medals which is the most for a female athlete at a single Game. She will get a trophy and a cheque for \$50,000. She became the fourth Japanese athlete to win the award since its inception at the 1998 Bangkok Games, and first female athlete to be given this title.
 2. Medal Table -

Rank	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	132	92	65	289
2	Japan	75	56	74	205
3	South Korea	49	58	70	177
4	Indonesia	31	24	43	98
5	Uzbekistan	21	24	25	70
8	India	15	24	30	69
 3. India at 2018 Asian Games -
 1. 570 Indian athletes participated in 36 sports.
 2. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was flag bearer for Indian contingent at opening ceremony of Asian Games 2018. Indian women hockey captain Rani Rampal was India's flag-bearer for Closing Ceremony.
 3. It was India's best ever performance in terms of total medal tally. In terms of gold medal tally, India match its best performance at the inaugural 1951 Games in New Delhi.
 4. Delhi Government announced enhance in prize money for medalists -
 1. Gold - 1 crore (earlier 20 lakh)
 2. Silver - 75 lakh (earlier 14 lakh)
 3. Bronze - 50 lakh (earlier Rs 10 lakh).
 4. Trainers of medal winners to get 6 lakh (earlier Rs 3 lakh).

5. As per official provisions, pensions of medallists are -

1. Category	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

6. Some facts and notable points -

1. PV Sindhu became the first badminton player to win silver in Asian Games, after she lost to Tai Tzu-Ying (Taiwan).
2. Rahi Sarnobat became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games.
3. Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games.
4. Swapna Barman gave India its first-ever Asiad gold in women's heptathlon event.
5. Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.
6. Fouaad Mirza became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual equestrian medal since 1982.
7. India also won its first medal in sepaktakraw at the 18th Asian Games.
8. India's first medal in Kurash came through Malaprabha Yallapa Jadav.
9. Saina Nehwal winning bronze in Badminton, after losing to Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in women's singles semifinals.

7. Indian Gold Medalists (15 Medals) -

1. Athletics - 7

1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Men's shot put) - *It was India's first gold in Athletics at 2018 Asian Games.*
2. Neeraj Chopra (Men's javelin throw) - *First Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold. With this, he also set up a national record.*
3. Manjit Singh (Men's 800 metres)
4. Arpinder Singh (Men's triple jump) - *He ended India's 48-year wait for a gold medal in men's triple jump event at Asian Games. It was an Indian medal in men's triple jump, after 36 years.*
5. Swapna Barman (Women's heptathlon) - *India's first-ever Asiad gold in women's heptathlon event.*
6. Jinson Johnson (Men's 1500 metres)
7. M. R. Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das, Vismaya (Women's 4 x 400 m relay)

2. Boxing - 1

1. Amit Panghal (Light flyweight (49 kg))

3. Bridge - 1

1. Pranab Bardhan, Shibhnath Sarkar (Men's pair)

4. Rowing - 1

1. Sawarn Singh Dattu, Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash, Sukhmeet Singh (Men's quadruple sculls)

5. Shooting - 2

1. Saurabh Chaudhary (Men's 10 metre air pistol)
2. Rahi Sarnobat (Women's 25 metre pistol) - *She became first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games.*

6. Lawn tennis - 1

1. Rohan Bopa
2. nna, Divij Sharan (Men's doubles)

7. Wrestling - 2

1. Bajrang Punia (Men's freestyle 65 kg)
2. Vinesh Phogat (Women's freestyle 50 kg)

8. India's Silver Medalists -

1. Shooting -

1. Deepak Kumar (Men's 10 metre air rifle)

2. Lakshay Sheoran (Men's trap)
3. Sanjeev Rajput (Men's 50 metre rifle three positions)
4. Shardul Vihan (Men's double trap)
2. Kabaddi -
 1. Women's kabaddi (Lost to Iran).
3. Equestrian -
 1. Fouaad Mirza (Individual eventing)
 2. Team eventing
4. Athletics -
 1. Hima Das (Women's 400 metres)
 2. Muhammed Anas (Men's 400 metres)
 3. Dutee Chand (Women's 100 metres)
 4. Dharun Ayyasamy (Men's 400 metres hurdles)
 5. Sudha Singh (Women's 3000 metres steeplechase)
 6. Neena Varakil (Women's long jump)
 7. Jinson Johnson (Men's 800 metres)
 8. Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas, Hima Das, M. R. Poovamma (Mixed 4 x 400 metres relay)
 9. Dutee Chand (Women's 200 metres)
 10. Dharun Ayyasamy, Kunhu Mohammed, Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas (Men's 4 x 400 m relay)
5. Archery -
 1. Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini (Men's team compound)
 2. Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari, Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Women's team compound)
6. Badminton -
 1. P. V. Sindhu (Women's singles)
7. Kurash -
 1. Pincky Balhara (Women's 52 kg)
8. Sailing -
 1. Shweta Shervegar, Varsha Gautham (49er FX women)
9. Hockey -
 1. Women's hockey team
10. Squash -
 1. Dipika Pallikal, Joshna Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna, Sunayna Kuruvilla (Women's team)
3. ▶ Government approved participation of Indian Kho Kho team at the 1st International Kho Kho Championship in England in first week of September 2018.
4. ▶ India Blue won 2017-18 Duleep Cricket Trophy by defeating India Red, in Dindigul (Tamilnadu).
5. ▶ Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami became first bowler in women's cricket to pick 300 international wickets. Also, Mithali Raj went past England's Charlotte Edwards as most-capped captain in women's ODIs with her 118th appearance.
6. ▶ Indian sprinter Hima Das was appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam.
 1. She was first Indian athlete to win gold medal in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere, Finland.
 2. In 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta), she had won silver medal in 400 m final to win a silver medal. She is nicknamed 'Dhing Express' after her village in Assam.
7. ▶ Mercedes's Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won F1 Italian Grand Prix -
 1. 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
	Monaco Grand Prix	27 May	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)

6			
7	Canadian Grand Prix	10 June	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
8	French Grand Prix	24 June	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
9	Austrian Grand Prix	1 July	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)
10	British Grand Prix	8 July	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
11	German Grand Prix	22 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
12	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

8. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (September 2018) -

1. Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela became first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
2. Indian shuttlers Anoushka Parikh, Saurabh Sharma AND Krishna Prasad Garaga, Dhruv Kapila won mixed doubles and men's doubles title respectively, at RSL Kharkiv International challenge in Kharkiv (Ukraine).

9. ▶ US Open Tennis 2018 -

1. Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), defeating Juan Martín del Potro (Argentina). It was 14th Grand Slam Title for Djokovic, and his 3rd US Open title.
2. Women's Singles - Naomi Osaka (Japan), Defeating Serena Williams (USA).
3. Men's Doubles - USA's Mike Bryan AND Jack Sock
4. Women's Doubles - Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND CoCo Vandeweghe (USA)
5. Mixed Doubles - Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) AND Jamie Murray (UK)

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