



Current Affairs - September 2018

Month Type



- [170 Current Affairs were found in Period - September 21 - 30, 2018 for Type - All](#)

Appointments

- ▶ Anil Khosla will be appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- ▶ Government Appointed Anil Kumar Chaudhary as Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), for 2 years.
- ▶ Government appointed Rajni Mishra as the director general of Border Security Force (BSF).
- ▶ Government appointed S S Deswal as Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chosen veteran scientist VR Lalithambika to head its Gaganyaan mission to put an Indian in space by 2022.
- ▶ Jayant Mammen Mathew elected as president of the Indian Newspaper Society, apex body of India's print media industry.
- ▶ Kalraj Mishra appointed as chairman of parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.
- ▶ 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.
 3. Om Prakash Mishra - Chief Justice of Nepal.
 4. Lal Krishan Advani renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha.
 5. Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign.
 6. SBI appointed Prashant Kumar as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
 7. Former foreign secretary S Jaishankar joined board of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
 8. Keith Enright - Chief Privacy Officer of Google.
 9. Facebook appointed Ajit Mohan as Facebook India's Managing Director and Vice President.
 10. B. S. Mubarak appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Guatemala (Central America).
- ▶ N.Ravi (Publisher of *The Hindu* Group) is appointed as chairman of Press Trust of India. While, Vijay Kumar Chopra (Chief Editor of Punjab Kesari Group) is appointed as Vice Chairman.
- ▶ 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 Ambassabor to Republic of Azerbaijan.
 4. Actor Akshay Kumar - Honrary Ambassdor to Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.
- ▶ Sanjay Kumar (National Disaster Response Force chief) has been given additional charge of post of Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards.
- ▶ Vikram Misri has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to China.

[Top](#)

Awards

1. ▶ 3 jailed Saudi human rights activists awarded Right Livelihood Award, widely referred to as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani and Waleed Abu al-Khair jointly got a one million kronor cash award for their efforts to reform the totalitarian political system in Saudi Arabia.
2. ▶ Actor-director Pankaj Kapur is honoured with 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at closing ceremony of 9th Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai.
3. ▶ Actress Anushka Sharma received Smita Patil Memorial Award at Priyadarshni Academy 34th Anniversary Global Awards in Mumbai.
4. ▶ CSIR announced Winners of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2018 -
 1. Every year, scientists below 45 years age are awarded for their outstanding scientific work in last 5 years. 2018 Winners -

Category	Winner	Affiliation
Biological Sciences	Ganesh Nagaraju	IISc Bengaluru
	Thomas Pucadyil	IISER Pune
Chemical Sciences	Rahul Banerjee	IISER Kolkata
	Swadhin Kumar Mandal	IISER Kolkata
Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences	Madineni Venkat Ratnam	National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Tirupati
	Parthasarathi Chakraborty	CSIR-NIO, Goa
Engineering Sciences	Amit Agrawal	IIT Bombay
	Ashwin Anil Gumaste	IIT Bombay
Mathematical Sciences	Amit Kumar	IIT Delhi
	Nitin Saxena	IIT Kanpur
Medical Sciences	Ganesan Venkatasubramanian	NIMHANS, Bengaluru
Physical Sciences	Aditi Sen De	Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad
	Ambarish Ghosh	IISc Bengaluru

5. ▶ Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2018
 1. About Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards -
 1. Started by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2017 to propel global action and track progress on the United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goals, Also known as Oscar for Social Progress
 2. 2018 Awardees -
 1. Amika George (Campaign Award). Indian Origin Girl. Her #FreePeriods campaign that brought her granddad and 2,000 other protestors on Downing Street in UK in December 2017 to demand free sanitary products for poor.
 2. Nadia Murad (Pagemaker Award). She is a Yazidi survivor of Islamic State (IS) genocide in Iraq.
 3. Dysmus Kisilu (Progress Award). His renewable energy solutions increased yields of small farmers in Kenya by 150%.
6. ▶ 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.
 2. Kerala Tourism won 2 gold awards of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns, in *Travel Advertisement Print* and *Travel Poster* categories.
 3. Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) became first ever metro rail corporation from India to win International 'Royal Society For The Prevention Of Accidents' (RoSPA) Award (Silver).
 4. Manatec, Pondicherry-based garage equipment manufacturer, won Innovation Award at Automechanika, a leading trade fair in Germany. It won for its innovation of JUMBO 3D – World's 1st 3D Wheel Aligner for Multi-Axle Trucks, Buses & Trailers.
7. ▶ Maharashtra government's 'Lata Mangeshkar Award' for 2018 will be conferred on Vijay Patil, of music director duo Raam-Laxman. The annual award is declared on the birthday of the legendary singer, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, On her birthday (Sep 28).
8. ▶ PM Narendra Modi has been awarded the United Nations highest environmental honour 'Champions of the Earth' for his leadership of the band pledge to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022. Awards will be presented during Champions of the Earth Gala in New York, on sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly. Other Awardees are -
 1. French President Emmanuel Macron.
 2. India's Cochin International Airport - Awarded in Entrepreneurial Vision category. It is world's first fully solar-powered airport.
 3. Joan Carling - Awarded lifetime achievement award as a prominent defender of environmental and indigenous rights.
 4. Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods - Jointly recognised in Science and Innovation category.

5. China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme - Awarded in inspiration and action category.
9. ▶ Social network Firm Facebook selected 3 Indian women (among 115 selected globally) for \$1 million award as part of its Community Leadership Programme. They are Adhunika Prakash, Chetana Misra and Tamanna Dhamija, awarded \$50,000 in fellowship each.
 1. Adhunika Prakash - founded non-profit Breastfeeding Support for Indian Moms in Pune.
 2. Chetana Misra - founded Mompreneurs India, community of like-minded women, allowing them to network, share knowledge and contacts and benefit from partnerships to start business and take it online.
 3. Tamanna Dhamija - Created Baby Destination, that helps mothers exchange information and support one another.

[Top](#)

Committees

1. ▶ A High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility – 2018 (HLC-2018) constituted under Chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas (Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)) to review existing framework and guide and formulate the roadmap for a coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
2. ▶ A Uttar Pradesh Government committee suggested recommendations aimed at providing a solution to completion of homes in stalled projects of Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway. Committee was chaired by Durga Shankar Mishra (Secretary in Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)).
3. ▶ During 30th Meeting of GST Council, 7-Member Group of Ministers (GoM) was tasked to examine proposal of Kerala Government for imposition of Cess on SGST for rehabilitation and flood affected works this issue in depth. Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar is Convenor of the GoM.
4. ▶ Government constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review Competition Act, which was passed in 2002 and Competition Commission of India was set up. Commission started functioning from 2009. The committee is headed by Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Currently Injeti Srinivas).
5. ▶ Govt. constituted an eight-member search committee, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.
6. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry constituted a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to address challenges in order to find a way forward in the contemporary global trade scenario, under chairmanship of Surjit S. Bhalla.
7. ▶ Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into the aspect of jail reforms across country.

[Top](#)

Days

1. ▶ 28 September: World Rabies Day. 2018 theme is *Rabies: Share the message. Save a life*. It seeks to raise awareness about impact of rabies on animals and human beings. It is also observed as UNESCO International Day for Universal Access to Information.
2. ▶ 2nd Anniversary of Surgical Strike celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 - 30, 2018 by Indian Army to showcase gallant action of brave Army in conduct of Surgical Strikes on September 29, 2016. It also marked to remember sacrifice of soldiers during 'Uri Attacks'. PM Modi inaugurated an Exhibition in Jodhpur (Rajasthan), on this occasion.
 1. UGC also directed all universities / higher educational institutions to observe September 29 as Surgical Strike Day.
3. ▶ Assam government decided to observe September 22 as "Rhino Day".
4. ▶ Sep 21 - International Day of Peace. 2018 Theme is *The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70*. Sep 21 is also observed as World Alzheimer's Day.
5. ▶ Sep 23 - International Day of Sign Languages. 2018 theme is *With Sign Language, Everyone is Included*. Sep 23, 2018 Also marks Centenary of the Battle of Haifa, when on 23 Sep 1918, Indian soldiers from Jodhpur, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers liberated city of Haifa (Israel).
6. ▶ Sep 26 - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 68/32 in December 2013.
7. ▶ Sep 27 - World Tourism Day. 2018 theme is *Tourism and the Digital Transformation*. Hungary is the host country for 2018's WTD, While India will be official Host country for WTD 2019. This year, 77 awardees were honored under National Tourism Awards 2016-17. Notable Awardees are -

1. Best State/ UT (Comprehensive Development of Tourism) - Andhra Pradesh (1), Kerala (2), Goa & Rajasthan (Joint 3rd). Sikkim in category of Jammu & Kashmir & North East of India including Sikkim.
2. Madhya Pradesh won Hall of Fame National Award, given to a state for being best for tourism three years consecutively. MP also won 10 other awards.
3. Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station - Secunderabad Railway Station
4. Best Tourist Friendly Airport - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport Ahmedabad (Class X cities), Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport Indore (Rest of India)
5. Best Film Promotion Friendly State/ UT - Rajasthan
6. Best Tourism Film - Department of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala for 'Live Inspired'.
7. Best Heritage City - Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Mandu (Madhya Pradesh) as Joint Winners.
8. Tourism Minister also launched 'Incredible India Mobile App' and the 'Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification' programme.
8. ▶ Sep 27, 2018 - World Maritime Day (WMD) 2018. It is observed every year on last Thursday of September. 2018 theme is *IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future*. The day was first observed in 1978.
9. ▶ Sep 29 - World Heart Day.
10. ▶ Sep 30 - International Translation Day. 2018 Theme is *Translation: promoting cultural heritage in changing times*.

Top

Defence

1. ▶ 1st session of India and Russia joint air exercise Aviaindra 2018 held in Lipetsk (Russia). 2nd session of Aviaindra 2018 will be conducted in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in December 2018. Since 2014, it is conducted bi-annually (twice a year) in both countries.
2. ▶ 3rd Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' 2018 conducted in Otar region (Kazakhstan).
3. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army at an approximate cost of over 2,300 crore rupees.
4. ▶ Government approved INR 8606 croreS for 60 projects being implemented under umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM). projects are being implemented in 111 border districts in 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
 1. India shares borders with Pakistan (3,323 km), China (3,488 km), Nepal (1,751 km), Bhutan (699 km), Myanmar (1,643 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km).
5. ▶ India and USA conducted their annual army exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2018* at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand, as 14th edition of this exercise.
6. ▶ India tested Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) with an interceptor missile test off Odisha coast, as a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.
7. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) located in Visakhapatnam for construction of two Diving Support Vessels (DSV), each of 118 m in length and 7,650 tonnes displacement capacity. These will be equipped with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), which significantly enhances its Submarine Rescue Capabilities.
8. ▶ Indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft.
9. ▶ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will raise 4 more battalions (adding to existing 12), to be stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and NCR Delhi.

Top

Economy

1. ▶ 1st Advance Estimates of production of major Kharif crops for 2018-19 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. As per 1st Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during Kharif 2018-19 is -
 1. Foodgrains – 141.59 million tonnes.
 - Rice – 99.24 million tonnes.
 - Nutri / Coarse Cereals – 33.13 million tonnes.
 - Maize – 21.47 million tonnes.
 - Pulses – 9.22 million tonnes.

- Tur – 4.08 million tonnes.
 - Urad – 2.65 million tonnes.
2. Oilseeds – 22.19 million tonnes.
 - Soyabean – 13.46 million tonnes
 - Groundnut – 6.33 million tonnes
 - Castorseed – 1.52 million tonnes
 3. Cotton – 32.48 million bales (of 170 kg each)
 4. Jute & Mesta -10.17 million bales (of 180 kg each)
 5. Sugarcane – 383.89 million tonnes
2. ▶ Loan Agreements signed between India and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) for -
 1. Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (I) of Yen 89.457 billion (Rs.5591 crore approx).
 2. Kolkata East-West Metro Project (III) of Yen 25.903 billion (Rs.1619 crore approx).
 3. ▶ A World Bank report named *A Glass Half Full: The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia*, India's trade in goods with South Asia could be at \$62 billion and that with Pakistan could be at \$37 billion without trade barriers, up from \$19 billion with South Asia and \$2 billion with Pakistan currently.
 4. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh became first State in North East India to introduce Smart e-Public Distribution System (e-PDS), developed by Madras Security Printers. It provides centralized online real-time electronic PDS to improve efficiency in supplying commodities to the beneficiaries.
 5. ▶ As per recent report, FDI in telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-18. Draft National Digital Communications Policy 2018 aims to attract investment of USD 100 billion in Digital Communications Sector.
 6. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing of up to \$500 million for a multi tranche financing facility (MFF) infrastructure project in various cities of Tamil Nadu.
 7. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US \$150 million loan for establishing first multi-skills park of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal. It will create more skilled workforce that meets labour market needs of the state.
 8. ▶ Asian News International (ANIO) and Emirates News Agency (WAM) signed MoU for bilateral cooperation in area of free news exchange in Abu Dhabi.
 9. ▶ BRICS' Bank (New Development Bank) approved a \$525-million loan for infrastructure projects in Madhya Pradesh, for rehabilitating major district roads with a total length of about 2,000 km.
 1. NDB Headquarters is in Shanghai (China), with K.V. Kamath as President.
 10. ▶ BSE, PTC India Ltd and ICICI Bank will jointly form India's third electricity exchange, after 2 operating power exchanges - Power Exchange of India (PXIL) and India Energy Exchange (IEX).
 11. ▶ BSNL signed pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India. As per BSNL, 5G will be launched in India in 2020 as soon standards are finalized by ITU.
 12. ▶ Central Government enhanced its contribution in State Disaster Response fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90%, from April 2018. Additional contribution thus rising for Central Government in SDRF will be 1690 crores for 2018-19 and 1774 crores for 2019-20.
 1. Under Disaster Management Act 2005, SDRF has been constituted in each State in which Centre, so far, had been contributing 75% for General Category States and 90% for Special Category States of hilly regions every year.
 2. On recommendations of 14th Finance Commission (Headed by Y V Reddy and operational between 2015-20), Government significantly enhanced allocation to SDRF by 82.30% (from 33580 crores during 2010-11 to 2014-15 to 61,220 crore 2015-16 to 2019-20).
 13. ▶ Department of Financial Services (DFS) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) jointly developed a mobile app called *Jan Dhan Darshak*, as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiatives. It will guide common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location.
 1. With over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) mapped on App, approx. 1.35 lakh Bank Mitras would be on-boarded by December 2018.
 14. ▶ Economic Affairs Secretary SC Garghas announced a reduction in gross borrowing estimate for current fiscal by 70,000 crore rupees, stating that government will contain fiscal deficit target at 3.3 %.
 15. ▶ First-ever Mizoram International Short Film Festival (MISFF) held at Aijal Club in Aizawl.
 16. ▶ Gujarat government formed a committee to look into complaints of farmers who have not received timely compensation for crop loss.

1. Gujarat government also increased insurance cover compensation for farmers in event of accidental death or disability. Compensation doubled for Accidental death from 1 lakh to 2 lakh, and Partial disability from 50000 to 1 lakh.
17. ▶ ICICI Prudential Life inked pact with Saraswat Bank to offer insurance products to its customers.
18. ▶ IRDA raised minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs. 15 lakh for a premium of Rs. 750 per annum, a move to provide some succour to road accident victims. Currently, capital sum insured (CSI) under this section for motorised two-wheelers and private cars/commercial vehicles is 1 lakh and 2 lakh, respectively.
19. ▶ Ibrahim Mohamed Solih elected as President of Maldives.
20. ▶ India will overtake Japan as world's third-largest economy by 2030, according to a report by UK's HSBC Holdings. India's GDP will stand at \$5.9 trillion in 2030, compared to \$2.59 trillion at end of 2017. Notably, India recently surpassed France to become 6th largest economy.
21. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (September 2018) -
 1. Fitch Ratings upgraded India's growth forecast for current fiscal to 7.8% from 7.4% earlier.
 2. Asian Development Bank's (ADB)'s Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2018 stated that India's economy is in an upward trajectory and GDP forecast remains unchanged at 7.3 % for 2018, and 7.6 % for 2019.
22. ▶ Meghalaya cabinet approved final draft of state's first Education Policy, to address issues related to education sector. In March 2017, a 24-member Task Force was constituted to finalise the Meghalaya State Education Policy.
23. ▶ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched a transformative initiative in MSME credit space, with URL portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com, which will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to INR 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya and Indian Bank).
 1. It sets a new benchmark in loan processing and reduces the turnaround time from 20-25 days to 59 minutes. Subsequent to this in principle approval, loan will be disbursed in 7-8 working days.
 2. The loans are undertaken without human intervention till sanction / disbursement stage. A User Friendly Platform has been built where MSME borrower is not required to submit any physical document for in-principle approval.
24. ▶ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley reviewed performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) with their Chief Executives and other Whole-time Directors in New Delhi.
 1. Review took note of continued improvement in banking in terms of highest ever recovery in the last quarter, pick-up in credit growth to 13.5%, growth in MSME lending to 10.5%, highest Provision Coverage Ratio in over five years, and higher operating profits.
 2. Highlights of Review include -
 1. Targeting recovery of 180000 crores, up from Rs. 74,562 crore in last FY.
 2. Mobilising over 18500 crore through monetisation of banks' Non-core assets in current FY for strengthening capital base of PSBs.
 3. Complete rationalisation of foreign operations of PSBs by March 2019, with closure/consolidation of 57 branches/office
 4. PCA banks would pursue their Quarterly Performance Milestones, including improvement in their lending risk profiles through a 6% reduction in Credit RWA to Advances Ratio and 8% reduction in Cost to Income Ratio.
 5. Banks would complete action by December 2018 on fraud detection and initiation of action in respect of NPAs with outstanding of above INR 50 crore.
 6. End-to-end OTS platform for all online & offline OTS proposals by March 2019
 7. EASE and financial inclusion efforts are to be intensified. For EASE, banks were advised to modernise more branches to enable self-service for customers in digital mode.
 3. Mr. Jaitley also launched Financial Inclusion Index, to be annually released by Department of Financial Services (DFS). It will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality. It will be released in January 2019.
25. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs approved construction of 6,26,488 more affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), with total 11 states involved. Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned most (2,34,879) houses.
 1. Uttar Pradesh scored first position in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), providing houses to 11 lakh poor families. In urban areas, it has benefited over 4 lakh families.
26. ▶ Naropa traditional Festival held in Ladakh (J & K). On this occasion, 299 women dressed up in traditional Ladakhi wedding attire danced together making it to the Guinness World Records and declared the dance performance as *Largest Ladakhi Dance*.
 1. Celebrated every 12th year of the Tibetan calendar, the Naropa festival, also known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas'.

27. ▶ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and London Stock Exchange (LSE) signed MoU to collaborate on creating dual listing route for masala bonds and foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.
1. Through approval of single listing document, issuer can obtain dual listing on LSE's International Securities Market and NSE's Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT City).
 2. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency. It is debt instruments used by corporates to raise money from foreign investors in local currency. It transfers risk associated with currency fluctuations to investors and not to issuers.
 3. From issuer's perspective, masala bonds provides cheaper borrowings compared to raising funds in India besides helps in diversifying its sources of fund-raising.
 4. Its issuance in long term can help to check slide of rupee and also reduce current account deficit over time.
28. ▶ Over 27 Crore people in India moved out of poverty in since 2005-06, according to 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index released by United Nations. It stated that India's poverty rate came down to 27.5% from 54.7% during the period.
29. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Pakyong Airport, as Sikkim's first and India's 100th functional Airport, Situated at 4,500 feet above sea level. It will provide a big boost to connectivity in Sikkim and will boost its tourism.
1. It is located around 60 km from Indo-China border and around 30 km away from Gangtok, capital of Sikkim. It has capacity to handle 50 in-bound and as many out-bound passengers flights.
 2. PM also inaugurated new airport in Jharsuguda, also known as powerhouse of Odisha. It is first airport in Odisha to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (UdeDesh Ka AamNaagrik) Scheme.
 1. Other than Jharsuguda, three more airports are being developed in Odisha - Jeypore (Koraput), Rourkela (Sundargarh) and Utkela (Kalahandi). Jharsuguda Airport is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational.
 2. Odisha assembly recently approved naming Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. It is 2nd airport in Odisha to be renamed, after Biju Patnaik International airport in Bhubaneswar.
30. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched flagship scheme '*Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana*' (PMJAY), also known as Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). In terms of beneficiaries, it is world's largest health insurance scheme. It was launched from Ranchi (Jharkhand).
1. PM also launched a toll free number 14555 for people to get more information about Ayushman Bharat scheme. A website was also launched with URL **mera.pmjay.gov.in**
 2. Government announced that treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
 3. It will provide free coverage of up to INR 5 lakh per family per year in any government or empanelled private hospitals all over India. Around 13000 hospitals in country have been coordinated for the implementation of the scheme. It will be available for 10.74 crore beneficiary families and about 50 crore Indian citizens.
 4. It will be funded with 60 % contribution from Centre and remaining from states.
 5. So far, 30 states / UTs have signed MoUs with Union Government to implement the programme. However, Telangana, Odisha, Delhi, Kerala and Punjab have still not signed MoUs, so the scheme will not be implemented in these states till they come on board.
 6. States will be required to form a State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme and at district level also, a structure for implementation of the scheme will be set up.
 7. Scheme will become operational from September 25, 2018 i.e. on birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay.
 8. Transactions will be cashless and paperless. It will also provide reimbursement for bed charges and drugs and diagnostics two days before, during and 15 days after hospitalisation. Beneficiary will be also paid transport allowance for hospitalisation.
 9. First part of Ayushman Bharat - the health and wellness centres, was launched on Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary (April 14), and second part - the health assurance scheme, is being launched two days before Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary. Aim is to have 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres in India by 2022.
 10. Beneficiaries will be decided on the basis of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.
 11. Ayushman Bharat call centre was formally inaugurated in Bengaluru by CEO of Ayushman Bharat Dr. Indu Bhushan. This national call centre is operational since August 25.
 12. Jharkhand government signed MoU with National Insurance Company to provide medical facilities to the people of the state under the Centre's flagship health scheme "Ayushman Bharat Yojana".

31. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) approved raising INR 5431 crores capital support from central government through preferential issue of equity shares.
32. ▶ RBI barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches and also ordered freezing of bank's CEO salary over failure to stick to shareholding rules.
 1. Bandhan Bank was not able to bring down shareholding of Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) to 40% as required under licensing condition.
33. ▶ RBI eased liquidity squeeze afflicting nation's money markets, allowing banks to carve out up to 15% of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements, compared to 13% currently.
34. ▶ RBI fined Karur Vysya Bank a total of Rs. 5 crore for non-compliance of its directives.
 1. RBI also stated that India's external debt for quarter ended June 2018 declined by 2.8 % cent to \$514.4 billion. Also, external debt to GDP ratio stood at 20.4 % at June-end.
35. ▶ RBI shortlisted 5 IT firms for implementation of Centralised Information and Management System (CIMS) - Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini Technology Services India, IBM India and Larsen & Toubro Infotech.
 1. RBI has proposed CIMS comprising of DW and Data Lake (DL) to harness power of big data analytics. CMIS will include seamless data collection from regulated entities by creating system-to-system interface, system driven data validation and data review, flexible and scalable data repository and providing data dissemination platform.
 2. RBI in April 2018 announced to harness power of big data analytics by setting up data sciences lab that will comprise experts and budding analysts. In pursuance of this, it had issued EOI in July 2018 for implementation of CIMS.
36. ▶ Walmart Foundation will invest INR 180 crores in India over the next five years to improve farmers' livelihood, by supporting farmer organisations to develop knowledge of sustainable farming practices.
37. ▶ World Bank approved ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India. CPF was preceded by systematic country diagnostic (SCD) that offered narrative about India's progress.
 1. India is well-positioned to become a high middle-income country by 2030, with its fast-growing economy, global stature and unique experience of lifting highest number of poor out of poverty in past decades.
 2. CPF for India will be mainly based on Government's development priorities, World Bank's Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) for India and World Bank's comparative advantage and value proposition to support India.
 3. CPF also incorporates lessons learned from last five years of implementation of Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) FY13-17.
 4. It recognizes that India has gone from low-income country status to low-middle income and now is entering transformation from low-middle to high-middle income country.
 5. It is expected to bring financial support worth US \$25-30 billion from World Bank's sister agencies such International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
38. ▶ YES Bank partnered with RupeeBoss.com, to enable integration of YES mPower BOT, Bank's chat bot based platform. It would be used to support instant loan eligibilities for its several loan products.
39. ▶ Yes Bank has been fined with INR 38 crores, as fines to GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances.

[Top](#)

International

1. ▶ 2018 Golden Globe Race, a sailing race around world which started on 1 July 2018 from Les Sables-d'Olonne (France). It dates back to fifty years, featuring yachts similar to those used at that time, with no modern technology allowed.
2. ▶ A massive Earthquake of 7.5 Richter Scale along with Tsunami waves hit Palu City of Indonesia, triggering over 1000 human casualties.
3. ▶ According to *The Annual World Airport Traffic Report 2018* by Airport Council International (ACI) -
 1. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) is 16th busiest in world, by handling 63.4 million passengers in 2017.
 2. First place was held by Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson in US, handling 103.9 million passengers in 2017, followed by Beijing with 95.8 million passengers.
4. ▶ According to a study by Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation published in *The Lancet* -
 1. India ranks 158th in world for its investments in education and healthcare, among 195 Surveyed countries.
 2. Finland tops the list in two key sectors.
 3. USA ranked 27th, while China placed at 44th and Pakistan 164th.

5. ▶ According to a study named Economic Freedom in the World by Centre for Civil Society (CCS) along with Canada's Fraser Institute -
 1. India stands at 96th rank out of 162 countries in economic freedom.
 2. Hong Kong (1) and Singapore (2) are at top of list. New Zealand (3), Switzerland (4), Ireland (5) are others in Top 5.
 3. Among BRICS nations, Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th place and China and Brazil are behind it at 108th and 144th positions.
 4. 10 lowest-ranked countries - Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Syria, Algeria, Argentina, Libya and last-place Venezuela.
6. ▶ India and Morocco signed an MoU for deepening cooperation between MSME sectors of the two countries in Rabat (Morocco).
7. ▶ India contributed \$1 million to United Nations (UN) Headquarters' Solar Project, under which solar panels will be installed on roof of UN headquarters at New York (US).
8. ▶ India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting joined SDG Media Compact aimed at advancing awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 1. SDG Media Compact is initiative of United Nations, in collaboration with UN Foundation. It is alliance of news and entertainment media and it is committing to work with United Nations to foster public discourse and spur action on SDGs.
 2. It seeks to inspire media companies around world to leverage their resources to advance SDGs adopted by all world leaders at UN in 2015.
 3. SDGs are 17 global non-binding goals featuring 169 targets to be implemented from 2015 to 2030.
9. ▶ Indra Jatra festival held in Kathmandu (Nepal), as an eight day long annual festival observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
10. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a loan agreement with Economically troubled South American Nation Argentina, on a 36-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) totaling to US\$57.1 billion. It is largest ever loan given by IMF.
11. ▶ Japan became world's first country to land 2 robotic rovers in asteroid Ryugu, also being first man made robot to have landed in an asteroid. Name of the rover that landed is *MINERVA-II1*, consisting of 2 rovers.
12. ▶ Macedonia held a referendum on whether to change its name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'.
 1. Greece and Macedonia had signed a deal in this regard in June. Greece argued that the name 'Macedonia' implied a territorial claim on its own province of the same name and has thus vetoed Macedonia's entry into NATO and European Union.
13. ▶ NITI Aayog and United Nations signed India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022.
 1. It outlines work of UN agencies in India, with 19 UN agencies signing UNSDF 2018-2022.
 2. 7 priority areas outlined in the UNSDF are - Poverty and Urbanization; Health, Water, and Sanitation; Education and Employability; Nutrition and Food Security; Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Disaster Resilience; Skilling, Entrepreneurship, and Job Creation; Gender Equality and Youth Development.
14. ▶ Nepal become first country to double its tiger population in a decade as part of World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme, that aims to double number of tigers in all over world by 2022.
 1. There are now estimated 235 wild tigers in Nepal, compared to 121 back in 2009.
 2. Tx2 programme was launched by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia. Under it, 13 tiger range countries had agreed to double the world tiger population by 2022, which is the year of tiger in Chinese calendar.
15. ▶ Pakistan invited Saudi Arabia to join \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as 3rd strategic partner. Saudi Arabia is first country that Pakistan has invited to become partner in CPEC.
 1. Saudi Arabia has long history of financially bailing out Pakistan during economic crisis. Saudi Arabia loaned Pakistan \$1.5 billion in 2014 to strengthen its rupee currency, six months after Pakistan obtained its last IMF bailout.
16. ▶ Saudi Arabia inaugurated a high-speed rail line connecting the holy Islamic cities of Mecca and Medina, to take down travel time to 2 hours.
17. ▶ Swedish PM Stefan Löfven became country's first leader to be ousted in a no-confidence vote.
18. ▶ Times Higher Education's (THE) world university rankings 2019 -
 1. No Indian institution figures in the top 250 Universities. Although number of Indian institutions in rankings increased from 42 last year to 49, making India 5th best-represented nation.
 2. Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru retained its position as best in India (ranked 251 - 300 globally), followed by IIT Indore (351-400).

3. Top 5 Globally -

1. University of Oxford (UK)
2. University of Cambridge (UK)
3. Stanford University (USA)
4. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
5. California Institute of Technology (USA)

19. ▶ To highlight Kashmir issue, Pakistan released 20 “commemorative” postage stamps, one of which portrays slain terrorist Burhan Wani as a ‘freedom icon’.
20. ▶ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared 2019-2028 as *Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace*, during Nelson Mandela peace summit honouring South African leader at UN.
21. ▶ US-based aircraft maker Boeing will set up an electronics manufacturing and avionics assembly facility in Bengaluru at an investment of INR 1,152 crores, as company’s second-largest such facility after one in Seattle (Washington).
22. ▶ USA and Morocco launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), to enable sharing expertise on implementing effective counterterrorism watchlisting and screening tools. It will strengthen UNSC Resolution 2396 aiming to stop terrorist travel altogether.
23. ▶ USA’s Central Bank Federal Reserve raised interest rates for a third time this year (by 25 basis points to 2.25 %), also reaffirming outlook for further hikes well into 2019. It reflects an upbeat assessment of economy.
24. ▶ Vatican reached a landmark deal with China on appointment of bishops in China, with Pope Francis recognizing 7 state-appointed Chinese bishops as part of the deal.
25. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) released 2018 Global TB Report, calling for commitments to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2030. As per report, global efforts have prevented approx 5.4 crore TB deaths since 2000, but TB remains world’s deadliest infectious disease.
26. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) SAFER initiative to support governments in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health, beat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). SAFER provides five high-impact strategic actions prioritized for implementation to promote health and development -
 1. Strengthening restrictions on alcohol availability.
 2. Advance and enforcing drink driving countermeasures.
 3. Facilitating access to screening, brief interventions, and treatment.
 4. Enforcing bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion.
 5. Raising prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies.
27. ▶ World’s first self-driving tram, fitted with multiple radar, LiDAR, and camera sensors, has been successfully been tested in Potsdam (Germany). The tram operated on a 6-km test route in real traffic with a safety driver for emergency purposes.

Top

Meetings

1. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended and addressed 73rd session of UN General Assembly in New York (USA).
 1. Antonio Guterres (Portugal) is Secretary-General of 73rd UN General Assembly.
 2. India and G4 nations (Brazil, Germany and Japan) voiced concern over lack of substantive progress in the long-pending Security Council reform, saying it is time to initiate text-based negotiations to safeguard legitimacy and credibility of UNSC.
 3. Also, J P Nadda (Minister of Health and Family Welfare) addressed *High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis* at 73rd session of UNGA. He stated that India commits to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030, by launching the TB Free India Campaign.
 4. External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj also attended SAARC foreign ministers’ meet on sidelines of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. She left the meeting early after delivering straight remarks on Pakistan.

Top

National

1. ▶ Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched online software for Agmark, to make application and related services process simple, quick, transparent and 24x7.

1. Agmark is certification mark that assures conformity to set of standards approved by Government agency Directorate of Marketing and Inspection. It is legally enforced by Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 (and ammended in 1986).
2. The present AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for 205 different commodities spanning variety of cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, essential oils, fruits & vegetables, and semi-processed products like vermicelli.
2. ▶ All India Council for Technical Education will establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur (Rajasthan), with 3 more ATAL academies to come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by 2019.
 1. These will provide upgraded teaching methods and modules to make technical education more effective and accountable. Faculties will be trained on the eight-module course in these academies in five months.
 2. The training will be mandatory for new teachers from 2019 and it will be necessary for existing teachers and assistant teachers while applying for promotions.
3. ▶ As per a recent Law Ministry report, India has 19.49 judges per 10 lakh people on an average. Subordinate courts have a shortage of 5748 judicial officers, and 24 high courts have a total of 406 vacancies. Working strength of lower judiciary is 16726, while approved strength is 22474.
4. ▶ Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2019 (91st Academy Awards) under Foreign Language Film category. It was selected by 12-member jury of Film Federation of India (FII), led by Kannada producer-director SV Rajendra Singh Babu.
5. ▶ Badminton player PV Sindhu is only sportsperson featuring in Forbes India's 1st 'tycoons of tomorrow' list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.
6. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Sep 26, 2018) -
 1. CCEA Approvals -
 1. New BG Electrified Line of 294.53 route Kms from Katghora to Dongargarh will provide rail connectivity to unserved areas of Chhattisgarh, with approx cost of 5950 crores.
 2. Construction of New Domestic Terminal Building and other allied structures at Patna airport at an estimated cost of 1216 crores, to enhance passenger handling capacity of airport to 4.5 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA), from 0.7 MPPA.
 3. Due to excess stocks and indication of similar excess production in sugar season 2018-19, cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers may also peak at unprecedented high level. To check this, CCEA approved assistance over 5500 crores to support sugar sector -
 1. Assistance to sugar mills by towards transport and other costs -
 1. Rs. 1000/MT for mills located within 100 kms from ports
 2. 2500/MT for mills located beyond 100 kms from port in coastal states
 3. 3000/MT for mills located in other than coastal states or actual expenditure, whichever is lower.
 4. Total expenditure on this account would be about Rs.1375 crore which will be borne by Government.
 2. To help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, Government will provide assistance @ of Rs. 13.88 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2018-19 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane. Total expenditure on this account would be about 4163 crores.
 2. General Approvals -
 1. Increasing of Government ownership in Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and change in existing structure -
 1. Acquisition of 51% equity held by the -Government Institutions in GSTN, and Restructure GSTN, with 100% government ownership shall have equity structure between the Centre (50%) and the States (50%).
 2. Allow change in the existing composition of the Board of GSTN inducting three directors from Centre and States and three other independent directors to be nominated by Board of Directors and one Chairman and the CEO. Thus total number of Directors is 11.
 2. Central Assistance of INR 620 Crores and 206 Crores for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively over five years (2018-19 to 2022-23).
 3. Approved National Digital Communications Policy-2018 and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the *Digital Communications Commission*.
 1. It aims to -
 1. Enhancing contribution of Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017

2. Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen;
3. Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
4. Attract investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector;
5. Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.
6. Secure digital communications infrastructure and services

2. Strategy Includes -

1. Establishment of a National Digital Grid by creating a National Fibre Authority.
2. Creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardization of costs and timelines.
3. Facilitating development of Open Access Next Generation Networks.

3. MOUs -

1. With Uzbekistan -

1. Tourism
2. Law & Justice
3. Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics, Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors
4. For establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan. The MoU will be signed during the visit of President of Uzbekistan to India on 1st October 2018.
5. Agriculture and Allied sectors
6. Pharmaceutical sector

2. South Korea - Applied Science and Industrial Technology

3. Co-operation MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).

4. MoU between NITI Aayog, and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (MEDRF) in the field of social, economic, industrial and regional development programs.

7. ▶ General Conferences (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -

1. 7th National Conference on Excellence in Workplace Safety and Occupational Health in New Delhi.
2. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence in New Delhi. To deliberate on challenges facing Indian education system and to work out a plan for a paradigm shift in terms of achieving academic outcomes and in regulation of education.
3. 3rd meeting of IONS Working Group (IWG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) held in Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
4. National literary and intellectual conference Lok Manthan 2018 held at Khel Gaon in Ranchi (Jharkhand).
5. Joint border conference of India and Bangladesh held at Aizawl (Mizoram).
6. India and Nepal's 5th meeting of Boundary Working Group (BWG) held in Kathmandu. Both Nations agreed to explore possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work.
7. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs 2 day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in New Delhi.
 1. NeVA is initiative of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aiming to make all legislatures in country paperless by making proceedings of houses digital. It hosts secure page for each Member of House for submitting Questions and other Notices.
 2. NeVA serves as 'One Nation, One Application' by bringing uniformity of database for easy and effective engagement of citizens with Government.
8. 21st Central Zonal Council meeting held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
9. Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur (Rajasthan), to discuss utilizing benefits of new technology, town planning, challenges before socio-economic development in Smart City sector.
10. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) held its Grameena Habba Event in Bangalore (Karnataka), to expand the market for weavers, rural artisans and craftsmen, SHGs, rural entrepreneurs, and farmers' producer organisations.
11. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha's official Bhawan in Chennai (Tamilnadu). He also launched 'Kalahandi Dialogue' at Bhawanipatna, in Kalahandi (Odisha).

8. ▶ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate change) inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU(Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi. WAYU is developed by CSIR – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI).
9. ▶ Hyderabad Metro became second biggest rail network in India with a total of 46 km service (2nd to Delhi Metro) After Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan flagged off 16-km stretch of Hyderabad Metro between Ameerpet and L B Nagar.
10. ▶ India became only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products (1800-11-2356). India is the 4th such country in Asia after Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia to have a helpline number dedicated for helping people quit tobacco products.
11. ▶ India's First corn festival held in Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh).
12. ▶ Indian actress Jaya Prada appointed as goodwill ambassador for Nepal tourism, for 4 years.
13. ▶ India's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality in 2019, now undergoing sodium commissioning.
 1. Criticality of Nuclear Reactor is event of it reaching self-sustained chain reaction. This means that no external source of neutrons is required to sustain fission in reactor core. It is precondition of producing useful amounts of energy from the reactor.
 2. PFBR has been designed indigenously by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), to generate 500 MWe of electrical power, with operational life of 40 years. It generates power by burning mixed uranium-plutonium MOX fuel, a mixture of PuO₂ and UO₂.
 3. Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (Bhavini) has been given responsibility to build these reactors. India is planning to build 21 such reactors by 2030.
14. ▶ Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a flood forecasting and early warning system (FFEWS) for Kolkata City, as India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS. Asian Development Bank (ADB) from its Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund funded this project with technical assistance of a \$1 million.
15. ▶ Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) in New Delhi.
 1. CEDA will aid in fast-tracking adoption of advanced analytics in government, with centre aiming to strengthen citizen service delivery through data-driven governance.
 2. CEDA aims at providing following services to Government:-
 1. Data Quality Assurance Services.
 2. Custom-built Data Analytics Solutions.
 3. Develop reusable assets.
 4. Knowledge Management.
 5. Capacity Building and Self Service Analytics.
 6. Change Management - CEDA will help ministries in assessing impact from the analytics solutions and help in understanding changes to organizational roles and responsibilities
 3. DigiVaarta was also launched on this occasion, to express intention of spreading awareness on DigiDhan. It aims to enable citizen government dialogue and engage citizens in educational and outreach programmes. It has two components –
 1. An SMS application which operates from NIC's SMS Gateway on a special Short-code service allotted for this purpose by DoT with the number "14444". Citizens will receive SMS messages which are pre-approved by experts and the response messages will be made available for further action, analysis and research.
 2. A Mobile application version of DigiVaarta.
16. ▶ Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal launched "Rail Heritage Digitisation Project" of Indian Railways in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture, accessible at <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/indian-railways>.
 1. Its a landmark effort to showcase country's Rail Heritage to National and International audience in an online story-telling platform.
 2. Railways in India started on 16th April, 1853 between Bori bunder and Thane. Today we have three World Heritage Railways: DHR (Darjeeling Himalayan Railways), NMR (Nilgiri Mountain Railway), KSR (Kalka Shimla Railways).
 3. With over 151,000 kilometres of track, 7,000 stations, 1.3 million employees and 160 years of history, Indian Railway is one of the most celebrated railway networks in world.
17. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released the first ever 'Ease of Living Index' covering 111 Indian cities -
 1. Andhra Pradesh topped among States, followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

2. It was decided in June 2017 to rank 116 cities (all smart cities and million plus cities) based on liveability parameters. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given highest weightage of 45, institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.
3. Ease of Living framework comprised four pillars namely Institutional, Social, Economic and Physical which are further broken down into 78 indicators across 15 categories .
4. Top 10 Cities -
 1. Pune
 2. Navi Mumbai
 3. Greater Mumbai
 4. Tirupati
 5. Chandigarh
 6. Thane
 7. Raipur
 8. Indore
 9. Vijaywada
 10. Bhopal
18. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map, under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM–U). It will run throughout October and November 2018 in an effort to increase awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India. It aims to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.
19. ▶ NITI Aayog launched Online Course on Digital Payments, titled ‘Understanding Digital Payments’. It has been designed especially for India by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) a specialized UN Agency in ICT in consultation with NITI Aayog and Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
 1. It is being offered free of cost and is hosted by ITU Academy online, targeted at mid-level Government officers. Course duration is two weeks (1st to 15th October 2018).
20. ▶ Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh agreed to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum products, amid rising fuel prices. They also have agreed to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit.
21. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched work for India’s first Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant with pet coke blending will come up in Talcher (Odisha), developed by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (joint venture of GAIL (29.67 %), Coal India (29.67%), Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCFL-29.67%) and Fertilizer Corporation of India (10.99%).
 1. It will be built at an estimated investment of Rs. 13,000 crore and is targeted to be commissioned by 2022. On completion, this plant will have capacity of producing 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Neem coated prilled urea using coal and petcoke as feedstock. Neem coated urea reduces leaching of nitrogen into soil and checks diversion of urea from agriculture uses.
 2. It will use gas produced from coal, thus reducing dependence on urea and gas imports. Pollutants like Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) produced by this plant will be recycled for production of Urea and other by – products.
22. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind approved to set up a committee to run Medical Council of India, till Parliament passes legislation to replace MCI with a new commission.
23. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to Good samaritan bill of Karnataka, as first such legislation in India.
 1. Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill 2016, provides legal protection to good samaritans who help accident victims with emergency medical care within the golden hour (first hour after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial).
24. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi.
 1. Government had recognised DBHPS as one of Institutes of National Importance in 1964. It is divided into four divisions one each for south states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
 2. DBHPS was established by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi in 1918 with sole aim of prorogating Hindi in South India to unite northern and southern states.
25. ▶ Supreme Court asked Government to form a law on deciding whether lawmakers facing criminal charges be barred from contesting elections or should they be disqualified only after conviction. SC also asked political parties and candidates to publish their criminal records at least 3 times in newspapers / TV channels after filing of nomination papers.

26. ▶ Supreme Court declared Centre's Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid. Bench stated that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for filing IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN). But, it will not be mandatory for Bank accounts, Telecom services, Educational Admissions. Other Notable statements by SC are -
1. Section 57 of Aadhaar Act that permits private entities to avail Aadhaar data has been struck down.
 2. Aadhaar authentication data cannot be stored for more than 6 months.
 3. National security exception under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act was also struck down.
27. ▶ Supreme Court declined to refer 1994 Ismail Farooqui judgment (that mosques are not integral to Islam) to a larger constitution bench.
1. Judgement was delivered by a 3 judge bench. Majority was written by Ashok Bhushan and Chief Justice Deepak Misra. 3rd judge, Abdul Nazeer presented a dissenting judgment.
 2. Decision to not refer issue of reconsideration of 1994 observations on Ayodhya-Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute case to a five-judge constitution bench paves way for SC to hear main Ayodhya land dispute.
 3. The issue whether mosque is integral to Islam cropped up when SC bench headed by CJI Misra was of petitions challenging Allahabad High Court's 2010 verdict, by which disputed land in Ayodhya was to be divided in 3 parts (Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla represented by Hindu Maha Sabha).
 4. Ismail Farooqui judgement -
 1. In 1994, Supreme Court had ruled that namaz or prayers could be offered anywhere and that a mosque was not necessary. This cleared way for government to acquire the land where 16th century Babri mosque was demolished by Hindu Kar Sevaks.
28. ▶ Supreme Court of India allowed live streaming and video recording of court proceedings across country, asking government to frame rules in this regard under Article 145 of the Constitution.
1. SC earlier reserved its verdict on the matter on August 24, saying it wanted to implement *open court* concept to decongest courtrooms.
29. ▶ Supreme Court struck down Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 that made adultery punishable offence for men.
1. Section 497 of IPC (Adultery) says that whoever has sexual intercourse with wife of another man (without consent of that man), such intercourse not amounting to offence of rape, is guilty of offence of adultery. Such person shall be punished with imprisonment and / or Fine. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor.
30. ▶ Supreme Court struck down a rule that disallowed females in 10-50 age group from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. Chief Justice Dipak Misra-headed Constitution bench in a 4-1 verdict said temple rule violated their right to equality and right to worship.
31. ▶ Tamil Nadu government announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthus kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years.
1. This plant species is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats. It is also seen in Shevroys Hills in Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.
 2. It grows at height of 30 to 60 cm on hills slopes at an altitude of 1300 to 2400 meters where there is no tree forest. The flowers are purple-blue in colour and blooms once in 12 years.
32. ▶ To tackle counterfeit drugs in India, NITI Aayog and IT Firm Oracle signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) will pilot a real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.
1. It will allow sharing of information across drug supply chain securely, with every exchange getting recorded. There will be no tampering of any record of drug movement and no data will be deleted.
33. ▶ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 2 coastal tourism circuit projects in Andhra Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
1. First includes beautification of Nellore tank and Pulicat Lake, facelift to Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, construction of restaurant and development of Kotha Koduru, Ubbalamadugu, Mypadu, Rama Theertham, and Isukapalli project.
 2. Second coastal circuit is aimed at developing Kakinada port, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Hope Island, construction of cottages and wooden huts at Aduru, Pasarlupudi and S Yanam and development of Kotipalli project.
34. ▶ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), promoted by Ministry of Tourism. M main objective of ICI is to institutionalize mechanism to support efforts intended to preserve, document, promote and disseminate Indian Cuisine.

Persons

1. ▶ Mukesh Ambani (chairman of Reliance Industries)' topped 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for 7th consecutive year, with the total net worth of INR 371,000 crores.
2. ▶ 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. Rita Jitendra - Noted Writer from J & K.
 5. Vijay Shankar Vyas - Noted agricultural economist. He worked with two Prime Ministers (*Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh*) as a member of their Economic Advisory Councils (EAC).
 6. Goura Chandra Mohapatra - Noted Freedom fighter from Odisha.
 7. Brij Katyal - Noted Bollywood Storywriter.
 8. Satya Prakash Malaviya - Former Union petroleum minister. He served as petroleum minister in cabinet headed by former PM Chandra Shekhar.
 9. Anna Rajam Malhotra - India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence.
 10. Captain Raju - Noted Malayalam actor
 11. Ganpatrao Andalkar - former Asian Games champion Wrestler.
 12. Kalpana Lajmi - Filmmaker.
 13. Biswanath Dutt - Former BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) president.
 14. Tran Dai Quang - Serving President of Vietnam.
 15. Jasdev Singh - Noted Commentator (primarily cricket).
 16. Kavita Mahajan - Noted Marathi writer, novelist and translator.
 17. Pandit Tulsidas Borkar - Noted harmonium artist.
3. ▶ 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.
 4. Sardar Singh - Former India Hockey Player and captain.
 5. James Foster - England Cricketer.
 6. Paul Collingwood - England cricketer.
 7. Shaida Mohammad Abdali - Afghanistan Ambassador to India.
 8. Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger - Co-founders of Social Media app Instagram.
 9. Ramesh Bawa - IL&FS Financial Services Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 10. Russia's Mikhail Youzhny (nicknamed 'Colonel'), retired from professional tennis, with 499 career wins.
 11. Jiwanjot Singh Teja - National compound archery coach. He resigned following denial of Dronacharya award.
4. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
 1. Senior security officials from Iran, Russia, China, India and Afghanistan attended a meeting in Tehran (Iran). National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Visited on India's Behalf.
 2. USA and India formed 'USAID-India End TB Alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis. Event was attended by Health Minister J P Nadda on India's Behalf.
 1. It includes Soumya Swaminathan (Deputy Director General of Programmes (DDP) at World Health Organisation (WHO)) and Blessina Kumar from Global Coalition of TB Activists.
 2. USAID will make initial US \$30 million commitment, subject to approval of the US Congress.
 3. Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Bangladesh.
5. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
 1. Goa government signed agreement with Portugal in field of water supply, waste water management and sanitation for a period of 2 years. It was signed during Portugal's Minister of Environment Joao Pedro de Matos Fernandes Visiting India.
 2. Sayyid Badr Saud Harib Al Busaidi, Defence Minister of Sultanate of Oman Visited India.
 3. India and Morocco have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security, during Visit of Moroccan Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudyi, to India. 2 MoUs signed - Cyber Security AND Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

4. Minister for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan, Shuhrat Sadikov Visited India. 2 MoUs signed
 1. Strengthening e-Governance cooperation.
 2. Declaration of Intent between CDAC India and Tashkent University of Information Technologies (Uzbekistan) for cooperation in capacity building in ICT sector.
5. Queen Mother of Bhutan, Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck Visited India.

Top

Science

1. ▶ American Pharmaceutical Company Abbott will introduce a high-sensitive troponin-I blood test in India, that can predict chances of a heart attack or other cardiac event months to years in advance.
 1. Troponin-I test provides better predictive information for determining a person's chances of developing future heart disease when added to current standard of care.
2. ▶ India's Mars mission Mangalyaan, successfully completed four years around Mars, despite being designed to last only six months. ISRO inserted Mangalyaan into Mars' orbit in its first attempt on September 24, 2014.
 1. Also, ASTROSAT, India's first multi-wavelength space observatory will complete 3 years in Earth's orbit (Launched on September 28, 2015). ASTROSAT has helped scientists confirm the presence of younger stars in globular clusters, earlier believed to contain only old stars.
3. ▶ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, known as TESS, has spotted "hot Earth" and "super-Earth" planets in solar systems 49 and 60 light-years away, marking its first discovery since April launch. TESS is designed to build on the work of its predecessor, Kepler space telescope, which discovered over 2,500 confirmed exoplanets in 20 years and is now running out of fuel.
4. ▶ Scientists discovered an ancient fossil of Dickinsonia, earliest animal on geological record. Dickinsonia is an oval shaped creature that lived 558 million years ago. It grew up to 1.4 m in length. The fossil was discovered by researchers from Australian National University (ANU) near the White Sea in Russia.
5. ▶ US Scientists successfully grown oesophageal organoids, a miniature, functional versions of human food pipe using pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) in laboratory. It will help to study birth defects like esophageal atresia, organoids, eosinophilic esophagitis and Barrett's metaplasia.
 1. Oesophagus is long muscular tube part of digestive system that connects mouth to stomach to actively pass food. It is also called as gastro-intestinal tract (GI tract or gullet or food pipe). It is around 25cm long in adults.
6. ▶ ZSL (Zoological Society of London) Institute of Zoology conferred title of 'world's largest bird' to Coombe titan (meaning 'big bird' in Malagasy and Greek), believed to have weighed up to 800 kg and 3 metres tall.

Top

Sports

1. ▶ 2018 China Open Badminton -
 1. Men's Singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
 2. Women's Singles - Carolina Marín (Spain)
 3. Men's Doubles - Denmark's Kim Astrup AND Anders Skaarup Rasmussen
 4. Women's Doubles - Japan's Misaki Matsutomo AND Ayaka Takahashi
 5. Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong
2. ▶ CERN(world's largest physics laboratory) has discovered two new particles, as well as hints of another new particle, in high-energy proton collisions at 27-km-long Large Hadron Collider. The particles belong to the same family of protons called baryons.
3. ▶ France Football magazine announced that, a women's Ballon d'Or will be awarded for first time in 2018, to be presented on 8 December 2018 in Paris (France).
 1. Ballon d'Or is awarded annually for men since 1956.
4. ▶ Germany will host UEFA 2024 European Championship, as Germany's first major football championship hosting since World Cup 2006. 24 national teams will play in 10 German cities.
5. ▶ India defeated Bangladesh to win Unimoni Asia Cup Cricket Championship 2018, held in UAE. This was India's seventh Asia Cup Title.

6. ▶ International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that Madrid (Spain) would host the first 2 new-format Davis Cup Tennis finals in 2019 and 2020. It will engage 18 countries at one place for a week at the end of tennis season. Kosmos will spend \$3 billion over 25 years on revamped 118-year-old Davis Cup.
7. ▶ Laver cup Tennis 2018 (Chicago, United States)-
 1. Its an indoor hard court men's tennis tournament between two teams - Team Europe and Team World. It was founded in 2017.
 2. Team Europe successfully defended their title, winning the tournament 13–8.
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).
 3. Man Kaur, 102-year-old Indian athlete won 200m race in 100-104 age group category at World Masters Athletics Championships in Spain. Last year, Man Kaur won 100m gold at World Masters Games at Auckland (New Zealand).
 4. Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin (Germany), smashing previous best as he clocked 2 hours 1 minute 39 second.
 5. Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Monika (48 kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81 kg) claimed gold medals at Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul (Turkey).
 6. Indian boxing champion M C Mary Kom won her 3rd gold medal of 2018 in 48 kg category, while Jyoti Gulia picked up gold in 51 kg of youth category of Silesian Open boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice (Poland).
 7. Medved International Wrestling tournament held in Minsk (Belarus). India's Sakshi Malik won silver in 62 kg category. India's Pooja Dhandra won a Bronze medal in 57 kg category.
 8. Mahendra Singh become 2nd most capped player for India in international cricket as he played his 505th match for India, in Asia Cup 2018 against Pakistan. Dhoni overtook Rahul Dravid as 2nd most capped player for India.
 9. India won silver medal after losing to Pakistan in final of Asian Team Snooker Championships, in Doha (Qatar).
 10. Junior World wrestling championships held in Trnava (Slovakia), with India winning total 7 Medals (Silver - 4, Bronze - 3).
 11. 5th Track Asia Cup Cycling championships held in New Delhi. India topped medal tally with 6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals. It was followed by Indonesia in 2nd place and Hong Kong in third.
 12. Serbia Junior and Cadet Open (table tennis) held in Belgrade (Serbia).
 1. Cadet boys singles title was won by India's Payas Jain. Junior girls also won team title.
 2. Cadet boys team event title won by India's Payas Jain and Vishwa Deenadayalan.
 3. Silver medal was won by India B team - Divyansh Srivastava and Aadarsh Om Chhetri.
 13. Blind chess player Vaishali Narendra Salavkar became first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at world chess Olympiad held in Batumi (Georgia).
 14. 58th National Open athletics championships held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
 15. India's Yuvraj Wadhvani won 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title, by beating Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan. It was held in Chennai. Also, in Under 15, Arnav Sareen settled for runner-up spot.
 16. 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
9. ▶ September 25 - Antyodaya Divas. It marks birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
10. ▶ The Best FIFA Football Awards 2018 (London) -
 1. Best FIFA Men's Player - Luka Modrić (Croatia)
 2. Best FIFA Goalkeeper - Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)
 3. Best FIFA Men's Coach - Didier Deschamps (France)
 4. Best FIFA Women's Player - Marta (Brazil)
 5. Best FIFA Women's Coach - Reynald Pedros (Lyon)
 6. FIFA Fair Play Award - Lennart (Germany), Missed an Eredivisie match to donate stem cells to a leukemia patient
 7. FIFA Puskás Award (Best Goal) - Mohamed Salah (Egypt), Plays for Liverpool FC. Won for his goal in 2017–18 Premier League.
11. ▶ Women's Boxing World Championships, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, in November 2018 in New Delhi.

