



GK Tornado for ESIC & Canara Bank PO Mains 2018 Exam Banking & Financial Awareness

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Banking & Financial Awareness Tornado for ESIC SSO Mains & Canara Bank PO 2018 Exam

Dear readers,

This **Tornado** is a complete docket of important Banking & Financial news and events that occurred in last **7 months (1st May 2018- 12 December 2018)**. **Tornado** is important and relevant for all competitive exams like Banking and Insurance Exams.

News Related to RBI

December

1. Shaktikanta Das appointed as the New Governor of RBI

- Shaktikanta Das assumed the charge as the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India for three years.
- He succeeds Urjit Patel who stepped down from the post citing personal reasons.

About Shaktikanta Das

- Shaktikanta Das is a former IAS officer from Odisha. He is a 1980 batch IAS officer from Tamil Nadu cadre.
- He was the Economic Affairs Secretary when demonetisation was announced. He served the position from August 2015- May 2017.
- Shaktikanta Das has been a vocal supporter of demonetisation.
- He will be the first bureaucrat (IAS) to head the central bank in almost five years.
- He was earlier a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India and India's Sherpa to the G20.

2. Urjit Patel quits as RBI Governor

- Urjit Patel stepped down as the Reserve Bank of India Governor on 10th December 2018, about nine months ahead of the completion of his three-year term.
- He stepped down from the post citing personal reasons.
- This is only the second time since Independence that a sitting RBI Governor has quit.
- The previous one to do so was **Sir Benegal Rama Rau**, who resigned before his second

extended tenure expired due to differences with the then Finance Minister.

Note:

- He was appointed as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4 September 2016.
- He succeeds Raghuram Rajan.

3. RBI imposes ₹1 cr fine on Indian Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on Indian Bank for contravention of circular on cyber security framework in banks.
- The central bank, in a statement, said this penalty has been imposed taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid guidelines and directions issued by the RBI.

4. Every day 3 banks looted during the last three years, reveal RBI data

- According to RBI data, every day almost three banks were looted in the last three years and three months (from 2015-16 to June 2018).
- About ₹168.72 crore was looted from various banks during this period.
- Of the 3,167 cases of robbery, dacoity, burglary, and theft reported by banks during this period, 10 per cent of them was reported from Bihar followed by 9 per cent each from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- With Punjab reporting 7 per cent cases and Rajasthan 6 per cent, these six States accounted for 50 per cent of the total reported cases.

- However, when it comes to the amount burgled, ₹87.21 crore (51 per cent) was stolen from banks in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.
- During the same period, 2,468 frauds related to ATM and debit cards, involving ₹111.71 crore, were reported.

5. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

- On 6th December 2018, the Reserve Bank of India in its fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement for 2018-19, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
 - Reserve Bank also retained GDP growth estimate at 7.4 per cent for the current financial year.
- Note:

Current Rates is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Repo Rate | 6.50% (changed) |
| 2. Reverse Repo Rate | 6.25% (changed) |
| 3. CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) | 4.00% (unchanged) |
| 4. SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) | 19.50% (unchanged) |
| 5. MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) | 6.75% (changed) |
| 6. Bank Rate | 6.75% (changed) |

Point to remember:

- **Repo rate:**
 - It is a rate at which **RBI lends money to the commercial banks** against government securities.
 - It is a rate at which commercial banks borrows money RBI.
- **Reverse Repo Rate:**
 - It is a rate at which **commercial banks lend money to RBI.**
 - It is a rate at which RBI borrows money from commercial banks.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate:**
 - It is rate at which scheduled banks can borrow funds overnight from RBI against government securities.
 - It is very short-term borrowing scheme for scheduled banks.
- **Bank Rate:**
 - Bank rate is a rate at which Central bank of a country advances loans to other banks in the country.
- Managing the bank rate is method by which central banks affect economic activity.
- Lower bank rates can help to expand the economy by lowering the cost of funds for borrowers, and higher bank rates help to reign in the economy when inflation is higher than desired.
- Repo Rate is a short-term measure, Bank Rate is a long-term measure.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):**
 - It is a ratio of an amount of funds that banks **have to keep with RBI.**
 - The RBI uses CRR to drain out excessive money from system.
- **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):**
 - It is a ratio of an amount that **banks have to maintain** a stipulated proportion of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in form of liquid assets like cash, gold and unencumbered securities, treasury bills, dated securities etc.

November

1. RBI eases hedging norms for ECBs to 70% from current 100%

- The Reserve Bank of India relaxed norms for external commercial borrowings (ECBs) by reducing the mandatory hedging provision to 70% from the current 100%.
- As per the notification, the relaxed norms will apply to the ECBs with a maturity period between 3 and 5 years.

Note:

- The RBI eased hedging norms when economy faces the liquidity crunch which troubled the non-banking companies.
- The RBI has already reduced the minimum tenure for borrowing through the ECB route to three years from five years.
- The RBI also reduced the tenure required for exemption from mandatory hedging to five years from 10 years.
- According to the RBI, Track I refers to medium-term foreign currency-denominated ECB with a minimum average maturity of 3-5 years.

About Hedging

- Hedging is an investment process required to reduce the risk of adverse price or currency movements.
- A borrower has to hedge in a manner that the projected cash flows match the expectation of the borrowers irrespective of the fluctuations in the foreign currency.

2. Net stable funding ratio norms for banks from April, 2020: RBI

- According to the RBI, the NSFR norms that mandate banks to maintain a stable funding profile in relation to the composition of their assets and off-balance sheet activities will be operational from April 2020.
- The NSFR is defined as the amount of available stable funding relative to the amount of required stable funding.
- The NSFR would be applicable for Indian banks at the solo as well as consolidated level.
- For foreign banks operating as branches in India, the framework would be applicable on stand-alone basis (for Indian operations only), said the guidelines.

- As per the guidelines, the Reserve Bank may require an individual bank to adopt more stringent standards to reflect its funding risk profile and its compliance with the 'sound principles'.

3. NBFCs remain fastest-growing sector for deployment of bank credit: RBI

- Non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) remain the fastest-growing sector for deployment of bank credit, despite its liquidity problem.
- According to data issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Credit to NBFCs rose **55 per cent** in October, against growth of 8.1 per cent in the same month of 2017.
- The sum of what NBFCs owed at end-October was Rs 5.62 trillion, from Rs 3.6 trn in October 2017. At end-September 2018, it was Rs 5.46 trn.

4. RBI relaxes ECB norms for infra companies

- The Reserve Bank has liberalised the norms governing foreign borrowings for infrastructure creation "in consultation with the Government".
- The minimum average maturity requirement for ECBs (external commercial borrowings) in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers has been reduced to **three years from earlier five years**.
- Additionally, the average maturity requirement for mandatory hedging has been reduced to five years from earlier ten years, the central bank announced.

5. RBI to banks: Share foreign exchange data with DRI

- The Reserve Bank of India has asked banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange (Authorised Dealer-I Banks) to share data with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- DRI is the apex intelligence and investigative agency for matters relating to violation of the Customs Act.

6. RBI imposes fines on Deutsche Bank, J&K Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a ₹3-crore fine each on two lenders — Deutsche Bank and Jammu and Kashmir Bank — for non-compliance of various norms, including asset classification and know your customer norms.

- The RBI said the penalties on these two banks have been imposed taking into account the failure of the banks to adhere to the directions issued by it.

October

1. RBI lifts ban on Fino Payments Bank to open new accounts

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted its ban on adding new customers for Fino Payments Bank.
- The ban had been placed by the RBI in May because of non-compliance of operational guidelines, particularly certain accounts having deposits in excess of the allowed amount.
- RBI's operating guidelines for payments banks said the aggregate limit for customer in his/her bank account shall not exceed Rs 1 lakh.

Note:

- Currently there are five payment banks operating in the country - Paytm, Airtel, Fino and Aditya Birla-Idea Payments Bank and India Post Payments Bank.

2. RBI lowers retail inflation projection to 3.9-4.5 pc for second half of FY19

- The Reserve Bank lowered its retail inflation projection for the second half of the current fiscal to 3.9-4.5 per cent mainly because of an unusually benign trend in food prices.
- "Inflation is projected at 4 per cent in second quarter (July-September) 2018-19, 3.9-4.5 per cent in H2 (October-March) and 4.8 per cent in Q1:2019-20 (April-June), with risks somewhat to the upside.

3. RBI to inject Rs 12,000 cr into system to manage liquidity

- The Reserve Bank had announced that it will inject Rs 12,000 crore liquidity into the system through purchase of government bonds to meet the festival season demand for funds.
- The government will purchase bonds with maturity ranging between 2020 to 2030, the RBI said in a statement.
- The auction to purchase government bonds is a part of the Open Market Operations (OMO) to manage liquidity in the system which seems to be facing liquidity tightness.
- As part of the OMOs, the RBI will purchase government securities maturing in 2020 bearing interest rate of 8.27 per cent, 2022

(8.15 per cent), 2024 (7.35 per cent), 2026 (8.15 per cent) and 2030 (7.61 per cent).

Note:

- Open Market Operations (OMO) are the tools which can be used to either inject or drain liquidity from the system.
- It is done to adjust rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
- If there is excess liquidity, the RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, it buys securities from the market, thereby releasing money into the market.

4. RBI Survey: Majority of Indian households are doubtful about general economic

- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest Consumer Confidence Survey revealed that perception of people in India about the general economic situation of the country has declined and remained in the pessimistic zone as compared with the preceding round.
- But they are hopeful to see an improvement after a year.
- The current situation index waned in the September 2018 round reflecting worsening of consumers' perception on the general economic situation and the employment scenario.
- The survey was conducted in 13 major cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Bhopal, Jaipur, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.
- It collected about 5,264 responses on the perceptions and expectations of households.

Key points

- Consumer Confidence Index saw a decline and fell to 94.8 points from 98.3 in the previous round of survey that was conducted in June 2018.
- One-year-ahead expectations however went up to 121.1 points from 119.8 points in the June 2018 round, it revealed.
- As per the latest findings, while nearly **44.3% people felt that the economic condition** had worsened, about 33.7% said that it has improved.
- Interestingly though, **53.2% people** believe that the situation is expected to improve in the next one year ahead expectations survey.

- About the price situation, a huge percentage of people – 88.3% – said that price level went up and 80.1% participants said it would remain high in the year-ahead period.
- But, majority of participants remained pessimistic about the price situation. Also, majority of respondents expect the income level to increase in the next one year.

September

1. RBI shortlists Infosys, TCS, 3 other IT firms to implement CIMS

- The Reserve Bank has shortlisted five IT firms including Infosys and TCS for implementation of a centralised information and management system (CIMS) for seamless data collection and validations.
- The central bank had invited expression of interest (EOI) in July for identification of solution provider for implementation of CIMS by overhauling the Data Warehouse (DW) of the apex bank.

2. RBI bars Bandhan Bank from opening new branches, freezes CEO's compensation

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches, and also ordered freezing of the bank's CEO salary over failure to stick to shareholding rules.

3. RBI slaps Rs 5 crore penalty on Karur Vysya Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of its directives.

4. RBI eases cash reserve rules for banks to ease liquidity

- The Reserve Bank of India allowed banks to dip further into statutory cash reserves in a bid to ease a liquidity squeeze afflicting the nation's money markets.
- RBI in a statement said banks could 'carve out' up to 15 per cent of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13 per cent now.
- This resulted from a rise in the facility to avail funds for LCR to 13 per cent from 11 per cent, effective October 1, RBI said in a statement.

Note:

- SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks in India are required to maintain in the form of cash, gold reserves,

government approved securities before providing credit to the customers.

- Current SLR is - 19.5 per cent.

5. India's external debt declines 2.8 per cent \$514.4 billion at end-June: RBI

- According to the RBI, India's external debt declined 2.8 per cent to USD 514.4 billion at June-end over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits.
- At end-June 2018, the external debt was placed at USD 514.4 billion, recording a decrease of USD 14.9 billion over its level at end-March 2018.

6. RBI imposes Rs 1cr fine on Union Bank for delay in fraud detection, reporting

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a Rs 1 crore penalty on Union Bank of India for failing to detect and report fraud on time.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under "Banking Regulation Act,"
- RBI had issued a show cause notice to the bank on January 15, 2018 asking why a penalty not be imposed on Union Bank of India under the Act.

7. Appoint Internal Ombudsmen to redress complaints at bank-level, RBI tells banks

- The Reserve Bank of India directed all Scheduled Commercial Banks having more than 10 banking outlets to appoint an Internal Ombudsman (IO) so that customer complaints are redressed at the bank level itself.
- As per the 'Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018', the IO will examine customer complaints that are partly or wholly rejected by the bank.
- The implementation of IO Scheme 2018 will be monitored by the bank's internal audit mechanism, apart from regulatory oversight by the RBI

8. RBI buys 8.46 tonne of gold in FY18; first purchase in 9 yrs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has bought 8.46 tonne of gold in financial year 2017-18, the first purchase of yellow metal by the apex bank in almost nine years, a report said.

- RBI held 566.23 tonne of gold as on June 30, 2018, compared with 557.77 tonne as on June 30, 2017, according to RBI's latest annual report for 2017-18.

August

1. Government appoints S Gurumurthy, Satish Marathe as part-time directors on RBI board

- The Central government appointed Satish Kashinath Marathe and Swaminathan Gurumurthy as part-time, non-official directors on the central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

2. RBI to pay ₹ 50,000 crore dividend to govt for FY18

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer ₹50,000 crore of its surplus money to the

government, the highest since 2015-16, in a partial relief for the latter struggling to replenish public sector banks.

3. India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4 % in current financial year: RBI

- The Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4 per cent in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon.

July

1. The Reserve Bank of India had issued new bank note of denomination Rs. 100 in lavender-coloured.

Key features of the note:

- The motif of the Rs. 100 bank note is "RANI KI VAV" a heritage site located in Gujarat - on the reverse side.
- The base colour of the note is lavender.
- Dimension of the banknote is 66 mm x 142 mm.
- New note will have signature of Dr. Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

2. P2P platforms would be regulated by the RBI

- Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms would be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

What is P2P lending?

- P2P lending is a crowd-funding model (largely online) where people looking to invest their money with people who want to borrow can do so.
- The concept is centered around savers getting higher interest by lending their money instead of saving and borrowers get comparatively lower interest rates.

- Borrowers are either individuals or small businesses. But unlike a traditional savings account, one can lose money if the borrower defaults.

3. Monexo Fintech gets RBI certification for P2P biz

- The Reserve Bank of India granted the NBFC-P2P certification to Monexo Fintech (P) Ltd for operations in India.
- The RBI certification will help Monexo Fintech gain traction in financial markets and strengthen confidence among its investor community.
- The company is the first P2P platform in India to provide investors with an escrow account, the option of auto-invest and an insurance cover with borrower job-loss protection.

4. Federal Bank gets RBI nod to enter Bahrain, Kuwait, Singapore

- Federal Bank has received the regulatory nod to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore.
- The Kochi-headquartered bank already has representative offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

5. **RBI cancels licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank:** The RBI cancelled the licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar, Rajasthan as it is not able to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons.
6. **RBI grants licence to Bank of China to set up branch in India:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), issued a licence to the Bank of China (BoC), one of the four biggest state-owned commercial lenders in China, to operate in India.

June

1. **MK Jain appointed RBI Deputy Governor:** IDBI Bank CEO **Mahesh Kumar Jain** has been appointed as fourth deputy governor for a three-year term.
 - The fourth deputy governor's post has been vacant since SS Mundra retired in July 2017.
 - As per the RBI Act, the central bank should have four deputy governors -- two from within the ranks, a commercial banker and an economist -- to head the monetary policy department.
 - Mahesh Kumar Jain was appointed as the CEO of IDBI Bank in 2017 and was previously CEO at Chennai based Indian Bank between November 2015 and March 2017.
2. **Sudha Balakrishnan appointed first CFO of Reserve Bank of India:**
 - Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed the first ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - Before joining RBI, she was a vice president with the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), India's first and largest depository,
 - She will be the 12th executive director of the RBI and will have a three-year term.
3. **Financial Literacy Week concluded with theme 'Customer Protection':**
 - Reserve Bank of India conducted Financial Literacy Week from with the theme '**Customer Protection**'.
 - The aim is to focus on creating awareness about different financial products, services, digital applications and good financial practices among customers of banks.
4. **RBI to set up PCR to curb bad loans**

- The RBI approval follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment that India would expedite procedures to allow the BoC to set up branches in India.
- Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) already has operations in India along with 44 other foreign banks, according to the RBI.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it would set up a **Public Credit Registry (PCR)**—an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers.
- A credit repository will help banks distinguish between a **bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates** to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers.
- The move is based on the recommendations of a **committee** it set up last year, headed by **Y.M. Deosthalee**.
- The public credit repository will address information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers.

5. **RBI amends Gold Monetization Scheme to make it more attractive**
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to make it more attractive.
 - According to the RBI, the short-term deposits should be treated as bank's on-balance sheet liability.
 - "These deposits will be made with the designated banks for a short period of 1-3 years (with a facility of roll over).
 - Deposits can also be allowed for broken periods (e.g. 1 year 3 months; 2 years 4 months 5 days; etc.)," it said.
 - In 2015, the government launched the GMS with the objective of mobilising the gold held by households and institutions in the country.

6. RBI releases draft guidelines on Loan System for Delivery of Bank Credit

- The Reserve Bank came out with draft guidelines on loan system for delivery of bank credit to improve discipline among larger borrowers enjoying working capital facility from the banking system.

Minimum level of 'loan component' and Effective date

- "In respect of borrowers having aggregate fund based working capital limit of **Rs 150 crore** and above from the banking system, a minimum level of '**loan component' of 40 per cent shall be effective from October 1, 2018.**
- Accordingly, for such borrowers, the outstanding 'loan component' must be equal to at least 40 percent of the sanctioned fund based working capital limit, including ad hoc credit facilities.

Risk weights for undrawn portion of cash credit limits

- Effective from April 1, 2019, the undrawn portion of cash credit/ overdraft limits sanctioned to the aforesaid large borrowers, irrespective of whether unconditionally cancellable or not, shall attract a credit conversion factor of 20 percent.
- The 40 percent loan component will be revised to 60 percent, with effect from April 1, 2019.

7. RBI eases norms for FPIs to invest in debt; to help RE, corporate bonds

- The Reserve Bank has eased investment norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in debt, especially into individual large corporates, a move that can help attract more overseas flows and thereby help arrest the recent fall in the rupee on one hand and also lift the recent fall in demand for corporate bonds.
- FPIs are allowed to invest in various debt market instruments such as government bonds, treasury bills, state development loans and corporate bonds, but with certain limits and restrictions.
- The RBI increased the FPIs cap on investment in government security to **30 per cent** of the outstanding stock of that security, from **20 per cent earlier.**
- FPIs were allowed to invest in government bonds with a minimum residual **maturity of three years.**

8. RBI revises upwards housing loan limits under priority sector

- Housing loans of up to Rs 35 lakh, for dwellings costing less than Rs 45 lakh, will be treated as priority sector lending (PSL) to give a fillip to the low-cost segment, the Reserve Bank said.
- PSL loans are relatively cheaper than market interest rate.
- To give a filip to low-cost housing for the Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups, the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending will be revised to **Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres, and Rs 25 lakh in other centres.**
- There is a condition however that the overall cost of the dwelling unit in the metropolitan centre (with population of ten lakh and above) and at other centres should not exceed **Rs 45 lakh and Rs 30 lakh**, respectively, for being classified as priority sector.
- Currently, loans to individuals for up to **Rs 28 lakh in metropolitan centres and Rs 20 lakh in other centres**, can be classified under priority sector, provided that the cost of dwelling unit does not exceed **Rs 35 lakh and Rs 25 lakh respectively.**

9. RBI proposes Board of Management for urban co-operative banks:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed setting up of Board of Management (BoM) in all Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) having **deposits size of over Rs 100 crore.**
- The aim is to strengthen governance and promote professional management in these banks.

Note:

- In 2010, expert committee on licensing new urban co-operative banks constituted under chairmanship of YH Malegam which recommended that BoM should be constituted in every UCB.
- This was reiterated by high powered committee on UCBs headed by R. Gandhi constituted in January 2015 by RBI.

10. RBI asks banks to upgrade ATMs for greater security:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to uninstall the Microsoft XP operating system from all ATMs and upgrade them by June 2019.

- There were over 2.06 lakh ATMs across the country till February-end.
- All the ATMs should be upgraded by **June 2019**, as per the timeline notified by the RBI.

May

1. RBI modified norms for setting up of IFSC Banking Units

- The Reserve Bank of India modified the norms for setting up International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) by banks in IFSCs.
- According to the new norms - the parent bank will be required to provide and maintain always a minimum capital of **\$20 million** or equivalent in any foreign currency to its IBU.
- In April 2015, RBI framed a scheme for setting up of International Financial Services Centres Banking Units by banks in IFSCs.
- Still, the minimum prescribed regulatory capital, including for the exposures of the IBU, should be maintained on an on-going basis at the parent level.

2. RBI proposes 100% net stable funding ratio for banks

- On 17th May 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued final guidelines suggesting on net stable funding ratio (NSFR) to ensure banks have sufficient stable sources of funding to finance their activities over the long term.
- **RBI suggest 100 percent net stable funding ratio (NSFR)** for banks a long-term liquidity measurement included in the Basel III liquidity standards.
- Banks will have to submit NSFR data for every quarter within 15 days.

About NSFR

- NSFR is defined as the amount of available stable funding (ASF) relative to the amount of required stable funding (RSF).
- It promotes resilience over a longer-term time horizon by requiring banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.
- The above ratio should be equal to at least 100 percent on an ongoing basis.

Objective

- The objective of NSFR is to ensure that banks maintain a stable funding profile in relation to the

composition of their assets and off-balance sheet activities.

Note:

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) proposed certain reforms to strengthen global capital and liquidity regulations during the global financial crisis of 2007-08.

- In this regard two minimum standards, viz., Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) for funding liquidity were prescribed by the Basel Committee for achieving two separate but complementary objectives.
- In India, Liquidity Coverage Ratio would be fully implemented from 1 January, 2019.

3. RBI imposed Rs5 crore penalty on South Indian Bank

- On 18th May 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs 5 crore penalty on South Indian Bank for not following its rules on asset classification, know-you-customers (KYC) and treasury functioning.

4. RBI imposed PCA on Dena Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) against public sector lender Dena Bank in view of high non-performing loans.
- The gross non-performing assets of the bank, as percentage of gross advances, was 22.4% as on end March as compared with 16.17% a year ago.
- According to RBI's PCA norms, the bank is at the second level of risk threshold since it reported three consecutive years of negative RoA and net NPA more than 9%.
- The fourth and final risk threshold is four years of negative RoA and more than 12% net NPA.
- **Returns on Assets (ROA)**– ROA is one of the parameters on which banks are judged for prompt corrective action.

Note:

- **Prompt Corrective action** is a qualitative tool introduced by the Reserve Bank of India under which direct action is taken on weak banks to

ensure the financial health of a bank is maintained and it does not go bust.

- In India it was first introduced in 2002 during the period of **Bimal Jalan** as RBI governor and was tightened by RBI governor **Urjit Patel** on April 2017.
 - **It is applicable to all** the Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Small Finance Bank except RRB. It also does not take into its ambit the payment banks, NBFCs and MUDRA banks.
5. **RBI cancels Certificate of Registration of 3 NBFCs**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the certificate of registration of the three non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- The Reserve Bank of India, in exercise of powers conferred on it under **Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, cancelled the Certificate of Registration of the following companies –
M/s Jagannatha Financial Services Limited,
M/s SCF Finance Limited and M/s Mansar Finance Limited.

India's GDP Growth Rate Projected by Different Org. – 2018

1. **RBI** - The central bank kept the GDP forecast for the current fiscal unchanged at **7.4 per cent**.
2. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** – In its latest World Economic Outlook update IMF projected India's GDP growth rate at **7.3% in 2018-19 and 7.4% in 2019-20**.
3. **World Bank** - The 2018 Global Economics Prospect (GEP) released by the World Bank projected India's GDP growth to pick up to **7.3% in 2018** and to **7.5% in 2019 & 2020**.
4. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** – Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected India's economic growth rate to grow at **7.3% in 2018-19 and 7.6% in 2019-20 fiscal**.
5. **Ind-Ra revises FY19 growth outlook to 7.2% from 7.4%**
India Ratings and Research has revised downwards its forecast for the growth of the Indian economy in 2018-19 to **7.2% from the 7.4% projected earlier**.
6. **GDP growth may moderate to 7.2% in H2: Nomura**
Nomura expects GDP growth to peak in April-June quarter and then moderate to 7.2 per cent in the second half of 2018 from around 7.8 per cent in the first half.
7. **Moody's puts India growth in 2018 at 7.2%**
 - Moody's Investors Service's annual Banking System Outlook on India estimated the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) for the current financial year and next fiscal to grow at 7.2% and 7.4%, respectively.
8. India's GDP Growth to rise to 7.5% in 2018, 2019: **Morgan Stanley**
9. **Fitch ups India growth forecast to 7.8% for FY'19:**
Fitch Ratings in its Global Economic Outlook report raised India growth forecast for 2018-19 to **7.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent**.
10. **UN report** - According to UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), India's economic growth is expected to grow to at **7.6% in fiscal year 2018-19**.
11. **Indian Economy Grows 7.7% in 4th Quarter: Central Statistics Data**
 - According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) national accounts data, India's GDP grew at the fastest pace in seven quarters at 7.7 per cent in January-March remains ahead of China as fastest growing economy.
12. **India to Achieve 9% Growth Rate By 2022: NITI Aayog**
 - Indian economy will achieve 9 per cent growth rate on sustained basis by 2022, NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar said.
 - Indian economy grew by 6.6 per cent in 2017-18 and expected to grow at 7.5 per cent this fiscal.

Rank of India in Different Indexes

November

1. World Bank's ease-of-doing-business 2019: India ranked at 77

- India's jumped 23 places to 77 among 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2019 index.
- The World Bank on October 31, 2018 released the Doing Business Report 2019 titled as 'Doing Business 2019: Training for Reform', assessing and ranking countries on the basis of ease of doing business in the year 2018.
- In its annual 'Doing Business' 2019 report, the World Bank said India has improved on six of the 10 parameters on starting and doing business in a country.
- The biggest improvements have been in the indicators related "construction permits" and "trading across borders."

- Last year, India ranked at 100th position.
- The top 3 economies in the ease of doing business rankings are **New Zealand, Singapore, and Denmark.**

2. IMD World Talent Ranking: India Ranks 53rd

- Switzerland has topped the list of the IMD World Talent Ranking 2018 for the fifth year in a row.
- Among the BRICS countries, South Africa remains in the middle position (50th) performing better than India (53rd) and Brazil (58th) but lagging behind China (39th) and Russia (46th).

The Top 3 countries in the list are:

- Switzerland, Denmark, Norway

October

1. L&T Ranks 22 in Forbes' Best Global Employer

- Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro is the only domestic firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the Forbes' global 2000 best employers list.
- L&T is ranked 22, there are only four domestic firms in the top 100 list which include Mahindra & Mahindra at 55, Grasim Industries at 59 and HDFC at 91.
- The Top 3 companies in the List are: Alphabet, Microsoft, Apple.

2. Global Competitiveness Report 2018: India Ranks 58th

- India has been ranked as the **58th most** competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018.
- The US topped the list which is followed by Singapore and Germany at the second and the third positions respectively.
- India's rank rose by five places from 2017, the largest gain among G20 economies.

3. Global Hunger Index 2018: India Ranks 103rd

- India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index.
- According to the report, India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".
- In 2017, India was ranked at the 100th position.
- The index indicates that the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide falls into the serious category, at a value of 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000.
- The Global Hunger Index 2018 report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).
- Top 3 countries – Belarus, Cuba, Estonia

4. World Bank's Human Capital Index: India Ranks 115th

- India has been ranked at the 115th position among 157 countries on the World Bank's Human Capital Index.

- The theme of the World Development Report (WDR) this year is “**The Changing Nature of Work**”.
- The Index was released at the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Bali, Indonesia.
- Singapore topped the poll which is followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland.

5. **Oxfam World Inequality Index 2018: India Ranks 147th**

- India has been ranked at the 147th position among 157 countries on the World Inequality Index.
- Ranking at 11th, Japan became the topper among the Asian countries.
- The Top 3 Countries include: Denmark, Germany, Finland.

September

1. ‘Human Capital’ Score, India Ranked 158th

- India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and health care, according to the first-ever scientific study ranking countries for their levels of human capital.
- The nation is placed behind Sudan (ranked 157th) and ahead of Namibia (ranked 159th) in the list.
- The Lancet, says that India is ranked at 158 out of 195 countries, an improvement from its position of 162 in 1990.
- The U.S. is ranked 27th, while China is at 44th and Pakistan at 164th.

- Finland topped the list, followed by Iceland and Denmark.

2. **India Ranks 3rd on Family-Owned Business List: CSRI Report**

- India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion.
- India closely follows China with 159 firms and the US with 121 firms, according to the ‘Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018’ study, published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI).

August

1. **UN E-Government Index: India Ranks 96th, Denmark Tops**

- India has jumped 22 places to 96th rank to break into the top 100 of the United Nation’s E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018.
- The E-Government survey is released by the United Nations in every two years.

Top 5 cities in the list are:

- Pune,
- Navi Mumbai,
- Greater Mumbai,
- Tirupati,
- Chandigarh.

Top 3 countries in the list are:

- Denmark,
- Australia,
- Republic of Korea.

Bottom 3 Cities in the list are:

1. Rampur (111th),
2. Kohima (110th),
3. Patna (109th).

2. **Ease of Living Index 2018: Pune Tops**

- The Ease of Living Index 2018 was released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with few most prominent cities failing to make a cut in the top 10.
- Of total 111 cities ranked under the index, **Pune has been ranked first** while **Navi Mumbai has surfaced as the second** preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'.

3. **Global Liveability Index 2018: Delhi Stands 112th**

- Delhi was ranked at 112th position and Mumbai fetched 117th spot.
- Austria’s capital **Vienna** has been ranked as the world’s most liveable city, displacing Australian city of Melbourne.

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2018. The Top three cities on the list are:
 1. Vienna,

2. Melbourne,
3. Osaka.

July

1. Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala best governed State, Bihar worst

- According to the Public Affairs Index 2018, Kerala is the best-governed state in the country, released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre.
- As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.

2. Global Innovation Index 2018:

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world.
- The country has improved its ranking from 60th position in 2017.
- The GI is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.
- The Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index are: Switzerland, The Netherlands and Sweden.

June

1. Global Environment Performance Index 2018:

- India stands 177th at the bottom of the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings. In 2016, the country had ranked 141 out of 180 countries.
- In 2018, according to the State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures, it has slipped to the 177th position. India scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality.
- The Top 3 countries on the list are:
Switzerland, France, and Denmark.

2. Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2018:

- India was ranked 35th among 100 countries (countries) in recently released Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRET).
The index was released by realty consultant JLL.
- Top 3 countries are: United Kingdom (1st), Australia (2nd), United States (3rd).

3. End of Childhood Index 2018:

- According to a Save the Children's "End of Childhood Index 2018", India ranks **113 among** 175 countries with regards to where childhood is threatened as a result of poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labour, and child marriage.
- **Singapore and Slovenia** are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index and Niger figures at the end of the list at 175.

4. Global Peace Index 2018:

- India ranked at 136th position among 163 countries in the 2018 Global Peace Index.
- The index was prepared by an Australian international think-tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- Iceland topped the index followed by New Zealand (ranked 2nd), Austria (3rd), Portugal (4th), Denmark (5th).
- Syria remains the least peaceful country in the world, a position it has held for the past five years.

May

1. IMD's competitiveness rankings 2018:

- India has been ranked at 44th positions in terms of competitiveness in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- The US topped the list and became the most competitive economy globally driven by its strength in economic performance and infrastructure.
- Hong Kong is at 2nd place and Singapore is at 3rd place in the list.

2. Business optimism index 2018

- India slipped to the **6th position** globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of this year, says a survey.

- With a score of 89, India is at the sixth place in the index.
- The top five nations are **Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the US.**

3. FDI Confidence Index 2018

- India ranked at 11th positions in the 2018 FDI Confidence Index.
- Last in 2017, India was at 8th position in the FDI Confidence Index.
- Global consultancy firm **A T Kearney** publishes the report.
- Top 3 countries in the index – **United States, Canada and Germany.**

Rank of India in Different Reports/Survey

December

1. Number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017: UN

- The number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017, keeping up a trend of steep increases, according to the UN's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- The patents granted by India increased from 8,248 in 2016 to 12,387 in 2017, the WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report released in Geneva showed.
- Globally, 1.4 million patents were granted in 2017, the report estimated.

2. India to retain top position in remittances with USD 80 billion: World Bank

- India will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances in 2018 with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 80 billion back home, according to the World Bank report.
- India is followed by China (USD 67 billion), Mexico and the Philippines (USD 34 billion each) and Egypt (USD 26 billion), according to the global lender.
- The Bank estimates that officially-recorded remittances to developing countries will

increase by 10.8% to reach USD 528 billion in 2018.

3.

4. 4 Indian-Origin Women in Forbes US Top 50 Females in Tech

- Four Indian-origin technology executives have made it to the Forbes' list of America's 50 women in technology space in 2018.
- The list includes Neha Narkhede, chief technology officer and co-founder of streaming platform Confluent; Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan, CEO, and founder of identity-management company Drawbridge; Padmasree Warrior, former chief technology officer (CTO) of Cisco, and Komal Mangtani, senior director at Uber.

5. Salman Khan tops Forbes' Richest Indian Celebrity List 2018

- Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is the richest Indian celebrity, according to the 2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list, which he has topped for the third consecutive year.
- Shah Rukh Khan has fallen out of the top 10 list.

- The 2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 List rankings are based on estimates of entertainment-related earnings of celebrities.
- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli jumped one spot to the second rank, with total earnings of Rs 228.09 crore, a sharp increase of 116.53 percent from the previous year.
- Actor Akshay Kumar completed the top three, with Rs 185 crore in earnings in the period under consideration for the list.

6. UAE passport ranked most powerful globally: Arton Capital

- The UAE now has the world's most powerful passport.

- The number 1 spot in the global Passport Index was achieved just as the UAE celebrates its 47th National Day and its achievements since 1971.
- The index, compiled by Arton Capital, ranks national passports based on the number of countries a holder can enter without a visa or by obtaining one on arrival.
- India was ranked 140th in the list.
- Top 3 countries on INDIVIDUAL PASSPORT POWER RANK are:
 1. The UAE
 2. Singapore
 3. Germany

November

1. India Skills Report 2019: Andhra Tops in Employability Rate, Talent Quality

- Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana, as per the India Skills Report 2019.
- The employability levels of B.Tech/B.E have increased across all the sectors, touching a new high of 63.11%, which remained at 42.08 last year.
- However, the employability levels of MBA and polytechnic stand low between 47.18% and 45.90%.
- The survey was conducted jointly by Wheebox, People Strong, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

2. India's Unemployment Rate Jumps to 2-Year High of 6.9%: Report

- Unemployment rate in the country rose to 6.9% in October, the highest in two years, according to a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- The estimated number of people employed during October 2018 was 397 million.
- This was 2.4% lower than the rate in October 2017.
- Around 407 million individuals were estimated to be employed during the same period in 2017. Only 39.5% of the adult population was employed in October 2018.

3. India to top U.S. as 2nd-largest Carbon Spewer from Power: IEA Report

- The International Energy Agency in its latest report 'World Energy Outlook' stated that India will overtake the U.S. to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030.
- Carbon dioxide emissions from India's power sector are expected to rise nearly 80% by 2040 as power use almost triples, driven in part by air conditioning. China will remain the biggest emitter.

4. Malaria Cases Declined by 24% in India: WHO Report

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report stated that India is the only country to have recorded a substantial decline in malaria cases in 2017 out of the 11 highest burden countries worldwide.
- India registered a 24% reduction in cases over 2016, largely due to substantial declines of the disease in the highly malarious state of Odisha, home to approximately 40 percent of all malaria cases in the country.
- According to the report, India accounted for 4% of global malaria cases in 2017.

5. 4th Annual Ease of Doing Business in India Report

- The 'UK India Business Council Ease of Doing Business Report' has been released.

- It highlighted that UK businesses' perceptions of corruption as a barrier to operating in India has halved since 2015.
- An in-depth survey of businesses with a combined turnover of USD 122 billion, the report found only 25% of UK businesses saw corruption as a major barrier in 2018, as opposed to 51% in 2015.

- 46% of UK Businesses responding had plans to expand their investments in India in the next 12 months.
- Since 2000, the UK has been the largest G20 investor in India, investing £17.5 billion and creating 371,000 new jobs, representing 10% of all FDI-related jobs in that period.

October

1. India becomes second largest Solar Market: Mercom

- India installed 4.9 GW of solar power, consolidating its position as the second largest solar market in the world, during the first half of the calendar year 2018, according to a report by Mercom Communications India.
- According to the report, China topped the list.

2. India has Most Outward Migrants in 2017: ADB Report

- Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report titled 'Asian Economic Integration Report 2018'.
- India had the most outward migrants in 2017 (17 million), followed by China (10 million) and Bangladesh (7.5 million).

3. India Doubles Its Presence in QS Asia Ranking 2019

- According to a report named QS Asia University Rankings 2019 by Quacquarelli Symonds, India doubled their presence in the ranking.
- India has the third largest number of universities and institutes (75), after mainland China (112) and Japan (89).
- The National University of Singapore has been assessed as Asia's best university.
- IIT-Bombay remains the highest ranked institution. It moved one place to the 33rd position.

The Other Indian institutions in the top 100 are:

- IIT-Delhi at the 40th position,
- IIT-Madras at the 48th position,

- Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore, 50th Position.

4. IFFCO biggest Cooperative in the World: Report

- Fertiliser major IFFCO announced that it has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'World Cooperative Monitor' report 2018.
- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) publish the world cooperative monitor report.
- The report was based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. IFFCO has nearly 36,000 member co-operatives and a turnover of nearly USD 3 billion (FY 2017-18).
- It has retained this position from 2016.

5. India ranked 9th Most Valuable Nation Brand

- India has secured ninth rank out of top 50 valuable national brands, according to a report titled 'Nation Brands 2018' released by Brand Finance.
- India was ranked 8th in last year's report but slipped by a spot to the 9th rank, despite its brand value rose by 5%.
- The US topped the list with a brand value of \$25,899 billion which rose by 23% from last year.
- China is at the second spot with a brand value of \$12,779 billion.
- China's brand value saw an increase of 25% from last year.

6. Japanese passport named World's Most Powerful, India 81st

- Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018.
- The Indian passport has secured the 81st rank with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations.
- Top 3 on Henley Passport Index Power Ranking 2018: Japan, Singapore, Germany.

7. India ranked at 28th rank in govt e-payment adoption: Survey

- According to the survey, India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018, from 36th in 2011.

- Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark.

8. Maharashtra tops List of States with maximum average AUM: AMFI

- According to Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops the chart for state with the maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM).
- For Maharashtra, it touched Rs 10.35 lakh crore, about 41.1% of the all-India total.
- It is followed by Delhi having Rs 2.35 lakh crore and Karnataka having Rs 1.76 lakh crore.

Sept/Aug

1. Jodhpur is the cleanest railway station in A1 category: Cleanliness report

Minister of Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal has released a report on Station Cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI).

A1 category stations (out of 75):

- 1st: Jodhpur/North-Western Railway
- 2nd: Jaipur/North-Western Railway
- 3rd: Tirupati/South-Central Railway.

A category stations (out of a total of 332):

- 1st: Marwar/North Western Railway
- 2nd: Phulera/North -Western Railway
- 3rd: Warangal/South-Central Railway.

Zonal Railway rankings are:

- 1st: North Western Railway
- 2nd: South Central Railway
- 3rd: East Coast Railway.

2. SBI is India's Most Patriotic Brand: Survey

- Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, according to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov.
- SBI is followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.
- In the financial sector, SBI lead the chart with 47% respondents considering it to be the most patriotic brand, followed by LIC with 16%.

3. Kempegowda International (Bengaluru) 2nd fastest growing Airport in the World: The

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged

as the second fastest growing airport in the world in the first half of 2018 in terms of actual growth in the number of passengers.

- It has recorded 1,58,50,352 flyers during the six-month period.
- **Only Tokyo's Haneda International** has bettered KIA's growth. The report was published by RoutesOnline, a company focussing on the quality and standards of aviation globally.
- New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is placed sixth while Hyderabad is placed 17th in terms of actual growth of passengers.

4. Fortune 500 list of World's largest companies released

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is the highest ranked company from India followed by Reliance Industries Limited.
- The US-based retail company, Walmart has topped the list.

The Top 3 companies on the list are:

1. Walmart (the USA),
2. State Grid (China),
3. Sinopec Group (China).

3. Karnataka tops in Renewable Energy: IEEFA Report

- According to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.
- It has surpassed Tamil Nadu that had for quite some time been India's best renewable market.

4. Haryana top State in Per Capita revenue collection under GST

- Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST and is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country.

5. India ranks third on family-owned business list: CSRI report

- India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion.

Note:

- India closely follows **China** with 159 firms and the **US** with 121 firms.
- The report is published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI).

July/June

1. Andhra Pradesh Tops Ease of Doing Business

Rankings:

- Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the easiest Indian state to do business in, according to a survey.
- Ease of Doing Business that was released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Delhi.
- Telangana came second followed by Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The north-eastern state of Meghalaya was ranked lowest at 36th.

2. India Becomes World's 6th Largest Economy: World Bank

- India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to \$2.597 trillion at the end of 2017, against \$2.582 trillion for France.
- The world's top 3 economies are: The United States, China, Japan.

3. India 145th in Healthcare Access, Quality: Lancet Report

- India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, according to a Lancet study.
- In 2016, India's healthcare access and quality scored at 41.2 (up from 24.7 in 1990). India lags behind China (48), Sri Lanka (71), Bangladesh (133) and Bhutan (134).
- The top 3 countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016: Iceland, Norway and The Netherlands.

4. India ranks fourth in Asia-Pacific on power index

- India ranked at 4th positions among 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region on an index.
- The index is published by an Australian think tank firm the Lowy Institute of.
- Top three countries in the index are – **US, China & Japan.**

5. India among top five defence spenders in the world: SIPRI

- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, India is among world's five biggest military spenders in 2017.
- Indian government boosted the operational capability of its armed forces in the face of tensions with China and Pakistan.
- India was in the **5th spot**, after the US, China, Saudi Arabia and Russia, and they together accounted for 60% of global military spending.
- China spends far more on its military than any other power in Asia.

6. India highest recipient of Remittances in 2017: World Bank

- As per the Migration and Development report of World Bank, India has retained top position as recipient of remittances with about \$69 billion in 2017.
- China with (\$64 billion) stood on the second positions followed by Philippines (\$33 billion), Mexico (\$31 billion), Nigeria (\$22 billion) and Egypt (\$20 billion).

7. India becomes second largest manufacturer of crude steel

- According to Steel Users Federation of India (SUF), India has overtaken Japan to become world's second largest producer of crude steel in February 2018.

- China is the largest producer of crude steel in the world.
- Earlier in 2017, India had overtaken US to become third largest producer of crude steel.

Banking & Financial Awareness

December

1. Economist Surjit Bhalla resigns from PMEAC

- Noted economist Surjit Bhalla has resigned from the Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC). His resignation has been accepted by the Government.
- He was appointed as a member to PMEAC which is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.
- The council is headed by noted economist **Bibek Debroy**.
- The six member Council consists of eminent economists : Bibek Debroy (Chairman), Shri Ratan P Watal (member secretary), Rathin Roy (part-time member), Ashima Goyal (part-time member), and Shamika Ravi (part-time member).

2. ADB retains Indian growth forecast at 7.3 per cent for FY19

- Asian Development Bank has retained its India growth forecast at 7.3 per cent for current fiscal and 7.6 per cent for 2019-20.

3. IOB raises Rs 300 cr via Basel III compliant bonds

- State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) said it has raised Rs 300 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds.

Note:

- Basel III is an international regulatory framework with a set of reforms to improve the regulation, supervision and risk management within the banking sector.
- To comply with global Basel III capital regulations, banks need to improve and strengthen their capital planning process.

4. Moody's Estimates India's real GDP to Grow at 7.2% in FY 2018-19

- Moody's Investors Service's annual Banking System Outlook on India estimated the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) for the current financial year and next fiscal to grow at 7.2% and 7.4%, respectively.

5. SWIFT India appointed Arundhati Bhattacharya as board chairman

- SWIFT India has appointed former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya as the new Chairman of its board.
- SWIFT India is a joint venture of top Indian public and private sector banks and SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication).
- Bhattacharya will succeed former banker M. V. Nair, who is stepping down after completing five years with the company.
- Kiran Shetty is the CEO of SWIFT India.

6. ICICI Bank unveils savings bank account for working women

- ICICI Bank on 12th Dec 2018, launched a savings bank account exclusively for working women.
- The saving account will be called as 'Advantage Woman Aura Savings Account' which is meant for the working women, including self-employed women who are educators, professionals or into home business, among others.

Key points

- The account comes in 5 variants — **Regular, Silver, Gold, Magnum and Titanium** – and offers various privileges and benefits to the account holder.
- The bank has introduced '**Magnum**' as a variant for the first time in its suite of savings account offerings.
- Account holders would also get air and personal accident insurance of up to Rs. 40 lakh and Rs 10 lakh respectively.

7. SEBI renamed ITP as 'Innovators Growth Platform'

- To make listing on stock market more attractive for start-ups, markets regulator Sebi came out with a new set of proposals that would allow more investor categories, relax shareholding norms and reduce trading lot amount.

- In this regard, Sebi has mooted changes to the framework of Institutional Trading Platform (ITP), which has not seen much traction even though it was put in place in August 2015.
- The proposed changes include renaming the **Institutional Trading Platform (ITP)** that the regulator had created for such listings as **Innovators Growth Platform (IGP)**.

8. Govt. raises its contribution in National Pension System to 14% from 10%

- The cabinet has decided to raise the government's contribution to National Pension Scheme (NPS) to 14% of basic salary from the current 10 per cent.
- Minimum employee contribution will, however, remain at 10%.
- The Cabinet also approved tax incentives under 80C of the Income Tax Act for employees' contribution to the extent of 10%.
- At present, the government and employees contribute 10% of basic salary each to NPS.
- Government also has decided to make NPS fully tax free, making it on par with the provident fund scheme.
- It has decided to exempt income tax that is applicable on part of NPS corpus that is withdrawn on retirement.
- At present, while exiting scheme, 60% of corpus could be withdrawn and 20% of withdrawn amount is taxable. This portion now has been made tax free.
- The latest changes in NPS rules will cost the exchequer around Rs. 2,840 crore for financial year 2019-20, the official statement noted.

About NPS

- National Pension Scheme (NPS) is a government-sponsored pension scheme.
- It was launched in January 2004 for government employees.
- However, in 2009, it was opened to all sections.
- The scheme allows subscribers to contribute regularly in a pension account during their working life.
- On retirement, subscribers can withdraw a part of the corpus in a lumpsum and use the remaining corpus to buy an annuity to secure a regular income after retirement.

Regulator

- NPS is governed and administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Age limit –

- Currently, any Indian between age of 18 to 65 years may voluntarily join the NPS.

PRAN

- Every NPS subscriber is issued a card with **12-digit unique** number called Permanent Retirement Account Number or PRAN.

NPS is structured into two tiers

- Tier I and Tier II
- Tier I is the primary account which the subscriber has to open to be able to open Tier II account.
- While in Tier I no withdrawal can be made till the subscriber reaches 60years of age.
- In **Tier II** the subscriber can withdraw from his balance anytime he wishes to withdraw.

9. ECB launched 'TIPS' Target Instant Payments

Settlement

- The European Central Bank rolled out the first pan-eurozone instant payment service, hoping to become a dominant player in a field crowded by US and Asian tech giants.
- The so-called **TIPS - Target Instant Payments Settlement** will allow consumers and businesses across the 19-nation euro area to send and receive money in mere seconds, without the usual lags associated with online and real-world transactions.
- The service is a direct challenge to the “digital wallets” provided by the likes of Google, Apple, Amazon or China's Alibaba and Tencent, which offer contactless, super-fast online payments and have exploded in popularity.
- The ECB said TIPS will initially be open to any person, bank or business in the eurozone but could in future be expanded to other countries and currencies.

10. CAG Rajiv Mehrishi appointed as Vice-Chair of UN Panel of Auditors

- Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi has become the Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of Auditors, CAG.
- The United Nations Panel of Auditors consists of External Auditors of the United Nations and its agencies.

- Presently, the panel consists of 11 countries -- India, Germany, Chile, Canada, France, Italy, Philippines, Ghana, Indonesia, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
- Currently, the panel is chaired by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the UK.
- The panel held its annual meeting in New York from 3 to 4 December 2018.

- The panel also elected the Comptroller and Auditor General of the UK as Chair of the Panel for another term (2019).
- The next meeting of the panel will be held in Bonn, Germany in November-December 2019.

November

1. Shapoorji Pallonji bags country's first large-scale floating solar project

- India's first large-scale floating solar project is on its way with **Shapoorji Pallonji** winning the first block in Solar Energy Corporation of India's auction of 150 MW of such projects on the Rihand Dam, along the Uttar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh border.
- Shapoorji Pallonji won the reverse auction for 50 MW quoting a tariff of Rs 3.29 per unit, officials said.
- This is the country's first floating solar project at such a scale," said a Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) official

Note:

- Rihand Dam, also known as Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar, is the country's largest reservoir by volume and largest artificial lake, located on the Rihand River with its catchment area spread over Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- The Shapoorji Pallonji Group is a business conglomerate in India with interests in construction, real estate, textiles, engineered goods, home appliances, shipping, publications, power, and biotechnology.

2. Govt plans to set up NBFC for lending food processing firms

- According to the Union Cabinet Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal; the government has planned to set up a non-banking financial company (NBFC) with an initial corpus of **Rs 2,000 crore**.
- The objective is to fund food processing industries as part of its effort to boost this sector and double farmers income.

- The minister said; she would hold consultation with the finance ministry on setting up of this NBFC. The proposal would also be put before the Cabinet for approval.
- The minister said the food processing sector is attracting USD 1 billion (around Rs 7,000 crore) foreign direct investment (FDI) annually now.

3. India, ADB ink \$200 mn loan pact to improve Bihar's state highways

- The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200-million loan agreement for improving Bihar's state highways.

4. ADB to lend \$300 mn to boost infra funding by IIFCL

- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$300-million loan agreement to support state-run India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) that provides long-term finance to infrastructure projects.

5. Govt, ADB sign \$169 mn loan to provide water, sanitation services in TN

- The Centre and Asian Development Bank signed to lend \$169 million to develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in Tamil Nadu.

6. ADB, India Sign \$105 Million Loan to Support Hydropower Transmission in Himachal Pradesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$105 million loan to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower to the state and the national grid.

7. Prime Minister Launches Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge at an event in Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi.
- The aim is to make India one of the easiest places to conduct business in the world.
- The Prime Minister said that the aim is to make India a 5 trillion-dollar economy in the shortest possible time. He said that for this, improvement is necessary in every sector of the economy.

Objective -

- The objective of this challenge is to invite innovative ideas based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Blockchain and other cutting-edge technology to reform Government processes.
- The platform for the Grand Challenge is the Startup India Portal.

Note:

- In the World Bank's Doing Business Report (DBR, 2019) released on 31st October 2018 India has recorded a jump of 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017 to be placed at 77th rank among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank.
- As a result of continued efforts by the Government, India has improved its rank by 53 positions in the last two years and 65 positions in the last four years.

8. Second quarter GDP growth likely to slow to 7.5-7.6 per cent: Report

- According to the SBI research report, the GDP growth in the September quarter is expected to decelerate to 7.5-7.6 per cent over the previous three-month period mainly due to slowdown in rural demand.
- The GDP growth at constant prices (2011-12) was 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2018-19.
- Consequently, the headline second quarter Gross Value Added (GVA) growth could be 7.3-

7.4 per cent, due to the slowing of rural demand, it said.

9. India GDP to slow down marginally, but remain strong at 7.5% in 2019 & 2020: OECD

- India's economic growth will slow down somewhat but remain robust, at close to 7.50% in 2019 and 2020, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.7% in 2017-18.
- OECD projects GDP at market prices to grow 7.3% in 2019 and 7.4% in 2020 from 7.5% in 2018.

10. Canara Bank celebrates 113th Founder's Day

- Canara Bank celebrates 113th Founder's Day on 19th Nov 2018.
- Canara Bank was established at Mangalore in 1906 by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai. It is one of the oldest public sector banks in the country.
- During the foundation day, Canara Bank inaugurated an enhanced call centre facility "CALL CANARA".
- Bank also launched, Banking Business Outlet (business correspondent model) along with few CSR initiatives. Bank also established creche facility to the staff members.
- The headquarter of Canara Bank is located in Bengaluru.
- T. N. Manoharan is the current Chairman of the Canara Bank.

11. Sidharth Rath is the new MD & CEO of State Bank of Mauritius

- Sidharth Rath has taken over as the Managing Director & CEO of State Bank of Mauritius.
- Before joining SBM Bank (India), Rath was with Axis Bank as Group Executive and Head of Corporate, Transaction Banking and International Banking.

12. NPCC is now a Miniratna

- **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited** has been conferred with the status of Miniratna Category -I by the Union Government.
- The empowerment of Miniratna Status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy

decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.

- NPCC, a schedule 'B' CPSE under the administrative control of Ministry of Water Resources RD & GR, has also been awarded ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

About NPCC

- The NPCC, incorporated in 1957, is a premier construction company having mandate with creation of infrastructure to provide impetus for economic development of the country.
- The Corporation is making continuous profit since 2009-10, having positive networth for the last six years and has ambitious business plan with enhanced order book position of Rs 11,833 crore.

13. Akhilesh Ranjan appointed convener of new direct tax law task force

- The Government appointed Central Board of Taxes member Akhilesh Ranjan, the Convener of the Task Force -- set up by the Centre to draft a new direct tax legislation.
- The other members of the Task Force remain unchanged.
- He replaces Arbind Modi who retired in September 2018.

14. Baba Kalyani committee submit its report on SEZ policy

- The Baba Kalyani led committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to study the existing SEZ policy of India submitted its report to the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, in New Delhi on 19th Nov 2018.

Objective - The objectives of the committee were

- to evaluate the SEZ policy and make it WTO compatible,
- to suggest measures for maximizing utilisation of vacant land in SEZs,
- to suggest changes in the SEZ policy based on international experience and
- to merge the SEZ policy with other Government schemes like coastal economic zones, Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor, national industrial manufacturing zones and food and textiles parks.

Suggestions of the committee

- The committee suggests that if India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift.
- The success seen by services sector like IT and ITES has to be promoted in other services sector like health care, financial services, legal, repair and design services.
- The Government of India has set a target of creating 100 million jobs and achieving 25% of GDP from the manufacturing sector by 2022, as part of its flagship 'Make in India' programme.
- Furthermore, the Government plans to increase manufacturing value to USD 1.2 trillion by 2025.
- While these are ambitious plans to propel India into a growth trajectory, it requires evaluation of existing policy frameworks to catalyse manufacturing sector growth.
- At the same time, policy needs to be compiled with the relevant WTO regulations.

15. India, China amend double taxation avoidance treaty

- According to the Finance Ministry, India and China have amended the bilateral tax treaty which will help prevent tax evasion by allowing exchange of information.
- The Government of India and the People's Republic of China have signed a protocol on November 26, 2018, to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. "

Note:

- Under **Section 90 of the Income-tax Act, 1961**, India can enter into an agreement with a foreign country or specified territory for avoidance of double taxation of income, for exchange of information for the prevention of evasion.

16. IndusInd Bank introduces India's first interactive credit card 'Nexxt'

- IndusInd Bank has launched the IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card - the first interactive Credit Card in India with buttons.
- The card provides customers with the flexibility of three payment options at a Point

of Sale (POS) terminal - Credit, Converting Transactions into EMIs with 4 tenure options (6, 12, 18 & 24 months) or using accumulated Reward Points, by simply pushing a button on the card.

- This Card has been created in partnership with Dynamics Inc., which is headquartered in Pittsburgh USA, and designs and manufactures intelligent, battery powered payment cards.

17. Growth of 8 infrastructure sectors slows down to 4.3% in September

- Growth of eight infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.3 per cent in September this year, the lowest in the last four months, as production of crude oil and natural gas declined.
- According to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry, Fertiliser grew by 2.5 percent, cement by 11.8 per cent, and electricity output grew by 8.2 per cent.
- However, the growth of coal declined to 6.4 per cent, refinery products to 2.5 per cent and steel sectors fell to 3.2 per cent.
- The output of crude oil dipped by 4.2 per cent and natural gas by 1.8 per cent in the month under review.
- Previously, the lowest growth rate was in May 2018 when the core sectors expanded at 4.1 per cent.

Note:

- Eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had grown by 4.7 per cent in September last year.
- These eight segments comprise **more than 40 per cent** of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production.

18. Exports grow by 17.86 per cent in Oct

- India's exports grew by 17.86 per cent to 26.98 billion dollar in October this year.
- Commerce Ministry, in the release, said, India's exports stood at 22.89 billion dollar in October last year.
- The sectors which recorded healthy growth includes petroleum, engineering, chemicals, pharma and gems and jewellery sector.
- During the April-October period of the current fiscal, exports grew by 13.27 per cent to 191 billion dollar.

- The Ministry said, imports during October also rose by 17.62 per cent to over 44 billion dollar.
- Oil imports in October increased by 52.64 per cent and electronics goods by 31 per cent.

19. Govt to issue Rs 75 coin to mark the 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

- The government will release a Rs 75 coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting the Tricolour for the first time at Port Blair.
- The Ministry of Finance has issued a notification regarding the release of the Rs 75 coin along with its specifications.
- On December 30, 1943, Bose, who raised the Indian National Army (INA) to fight against the British, had hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at Cellular Jail, Port Blair.
- The commemorative Rs 75 coin will be made out of 50 percent silver, 40 percent copper, and 5 percent each of nickel and zinc, and will weigh 35 grams.
- This coin will bear the portrait of 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose' saluting the flag on the background of Cellular Jail in Port Blair.

20. Union Bank of India turns 100 on 11th November 2018

- Union Bank of India on 11th Nov 2018 celebrated its 100th Foundation Day in Mumbai.
- Established on November 11, 1919, the bank's corporate office in Mumbai was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi.
- India Post released a postal stamp to commemorate the centenary year of Union Bank of India while Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis released a coffee table book A Century of Trust issued by the bank.
- The bank also launched two new variants of debit and credit cards, a new mobile banking app and a web and a tab-enabled module for credit to the MSME sector.

21. IDFC First Bank may start operations from New Year

- IDFC First Bank, the new entity formed after the amalgamation of Capital First with IDFC Bank, is set to launch operations from the New Year.

- “It is expected that the newly merged bank will start operations from January,” said the source.
- Shareholders and creditors of IDFC Bank and Capital First had approved the transaction in October and November, respectively.
- On October 25, IDFC Bank had said its board has approved making an application to the Reserve Bank of India to change its name to ‘IDFC First Bank Limited’.
- Post-merger, Rajiv Lall, Managing Director, and CEO of IDFC Bank, will take over as the non-executive Chairman of the new entity.
- V Vaidyanathan, Chairman and Managing Director, Capital First who is also a veteran banker, will become MD and CEO of the new entity.

22. Prime Minister Modi launches APIX technology in Singapore

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the APIX (Application Programming Interface Exchange), a banking technology platform designed to reach nearly two billion people worldwide who are still without bank accounts.
- Prime Minister Modi launched the technology platform with Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore T Shanmugaratnam.
- Prime Minister Modi became the first leader to address the prestigious Fintech Festival in Singapore.
- APIX is a banking technology platform designed to reach two billion people worldwide who are still without bank accounts.
- Designed by software experts based in Hyderabad, Colombo and London, APIX is a sophisticated technology developed by Boston-headquartered Virtusa, especially for smaller banks, Tier 3 and 4, to reach out to people in the remote regions.
- The APIX will support banks to reach out to those without bank accounts in 23 countries including the 10 ASEAN members as well as major markets such as India, and small nations including Fiji.

23. Ashok Chawla steps down as Yes Bank chairman

- Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla has stepped down, stating that the current transition period calls for someone who can devote more time and attention.

24. ADB grants EESL \$13 million to promote efficient energy usage in the country

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it would provide USD 13 million loans to EESL to promote efficient energy usage in India.
- ADB and the Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) signed a USD 13 million grant, to be provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), for the additional financing of an ongoing ADB-supported project that is promoting end-use energy efficiency.

25. TN gets SEBI nod for State Shelter Fund launch

- Tamil Nadu has received the nod from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its **State Shelter Fund** for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.
- Deputy Chief Minister of the State O Panneerselvam said that the - Tamil Nadu government established the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund which is the category-I Alternative Investment Fund.
- The Deputy Chief Minister said, “The fund is a social impact fund to provide investors with profit besides getting social and environmental benefits.”

26. India to add 14 lakh IT jobs in New-Age technologies by 2027: Cisco study

- India is likely to add over 1.4 million new IT jobs by 2027 finds a joint study by Cisco and International Data Corporation (IDC).
- This represents a 46% growth in jobs primarily driven by emerging technologies like cybersecurity, Internet of things (IoT) and Big Data, which are the digital transformation skills that organizations are seeking.
- According to the findings, jobs like social media administrator, Machine Learning (ML) designer and IoT designer are

among the most in-demand job roles in the country in the coming years.

27. Fitch retains rating for India at 'BBB-'

- Fitch Ratings on 15th November retained India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade rating, although maintaining its stable outlook.
- The agency added that the economy would shrug off any lingering effects of demonetisation and GST during 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- "Fitch forecasts growth to rebound to 7.3% in FY19 and 7.5% in FY20.
- Fitch had last upgraded India's sovereign rating from BB+ to BBB- with a stable outlook on August 1, 2006.
- The Fitch gave the country its first sovereign rating upgrade since 2004.

28. Sunil Mehta panel incorporates 'Sashakt India AMC' for large NPAs

- Sunil Mehta, the chairman of a bankers' panel working on faster resolution of stressed assets in public sector banks, said an asset management company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans has been formed and will be called as **Sashakt India Asset Management**.
- He also said that the panel is now working towards identifying potential investors for an alternate investment fund (AIF) which will fund the AMC.
-

Note:

- The government in July has proposed a five-pronged strategy under **Project Sashakt** to tackle stress in the banking sector, and had formed a panel led by **Mehta, the non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.
- Under the project, the committee had to float an AMC and an AIF **to resolve non-performing assets (NPAs) over Rs 500 crore**.
- The Mehta committee comprises representatives of all major banks, including State Bank of India (SBI).
- There are about 200 bad loan accounts which owe more than Rs 500 crore each to banks at

present, with a total exposure of about Rs 3.1 lakh crore.

29. PNB ranked as top PSU bank in online transactions in India: FinMin report

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has been ranked as the best PSU bank in the overall digital transaction's category in India.

- "Based on the recent findings of DFS (Department of Financial Services), PNB is ranked the number 1 PSU bank in digital transactions in India.
- According to the PNB statement, the report card on the banking sector's performance in digital transactions as on July 31, 2018 was prepared by the Ministry of Finance.
- The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of '71' which is the highest category of performance."

30. Govt. to use MicroDots technology to check vehicle thefts

- In a bid to put an end to vehicle thefts, the government will soon launch a new standard for automobile industry, which involves use of a technology.
- In this technique, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body.
- This will also include their engines.
- This tech is termed as MicroDots and it is almost impossible to remove these dots.

31. Recoveri launches MicroDot anti-theft tech in India

- Recoveri has launched its micro tag identification and trace solutions for vehicles in India.
- The South Africa-based company manufactures and exports its MicroDot technology, which is claimed to be an effective form of vehicle marking and a powerful theft deterrent.
- The MicroDot anti-theft technology uses thousands of small dots laser etched with a Personal Identification Number (PIN) linked to the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- The MicroDots are then sprayed throughout the vehicle.
- These are 1mm x 1mm polymer dots that are difficult to locate.

32. **'Electoral Bond' scheme announced** which aimed at increasing transparency in political funding. The Union Finance electoral bonds scheme was announced by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the 2017 Budget. **Objective** - to bring transparency in funding of political parties and elections.

Key points -

- **Interest free instrument** - Electoral bonds would be a bearer instrument like promissory note and an interest-free banking instrument.
- **Denomination** - Electoral bonds can be purchased for any value in multiples of **₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹10 lakh, and ₹1 crore.**
- **Outlet** - From any of the specified branches of the **State Bank of India.**
- **KYC norms mandatory** - The purchaser will be allowed to buy electoral bonds only on due fulfilment of all the extant KYC norms and by making payment from a bank account.
- **Validity** - The bonds will have a **life of 15 days** during which they can be used to make donations to registered political parties that have secured **not less than 1% of the votes** polled in the **last election to the Lok Sabha or Assembly.**
- **Available only 4 months in a year** - The bonds shall be available for purchase for a period of **10 days each in the months of January, April, July** and October, with an additional 30 days to be specified by the Central government in the year of a general election.
- The bond shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through a designated bank account with the authorised bank.
- It will not carry the name of the payee.

33. **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** - It is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above.

Objective - to provide social security during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.

Age limit -

Minimum Entry Age: 60 years (completed)
Maximum Entry Age: No limit

Key points

- The scheme provides an assured return of 8% per annum for 10 years.

- Minimum purchase price under the scheme is **Rs.1,50,000/-** for a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- per month and
- Maximum purchase price is **Rs.7,50,000/- for a maximum pension of Rs.5,000/-** per month.
- The scheme is exempted from Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The scheme is open for subscription till 3rd May 2018.

34. Petroleum Minister to launch SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched an innovative initiative in New Delhi.
- Titled SATAT, the initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

35. **BoB, CDSL sign agreement**

- Bank of Baroda has signed an agreement with CDSL Commodity Repository (CCRL), thus becoming the first public sector bank to become the repository participant for pledge finance under the repository ecosystem for registered / accredited warehouses.

36. **UN member countries are expected** to present their **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** on the implementation of- SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

- As 47 countries prepare to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the July 2018 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018), 21 countries have already announced their intention to present VNRs during HLPF 2019.
- **Sustainable development goals have specific targets to be achieved by the year 2030.** The Sustainable development goals cover some of the important issues like poverty, health, education, water sanitation etc.

37. Election Commission of India hold a National Consultation on Accessible Elections

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has organized a two-day “National Consultation on Accessible Elections” in New Delhi.
- The event is a part of the ECI’s pursuit of its mission ‘leave no voter behind,’ with special focus on **“Persons with Disabilities” (PwD)**.
- The theme of “Inclusion of PwD’s” has been given a special focus in the ECI’s Strategic Plan 2016-2025.
- Besides, “Accessible Elections” has been adopted as its central theme for this year’s National Voters’ Day celebrations.

38. Only 5 states account for 70% of exports, Economic Survey shows

- Survey points out for the first time in India’s history that five States Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana account for a whopping 70 % of India’s exports.
- Maharashtra (22.3%), Gujarat (17.2%), Karnataka (12.7%), Tamil Nadu (11.5) and Telangana (6.4) were the top five states when it came to exports. Haryana (4.9%) came next, bringing up the cumulative to 75 percent to total exports.
- The data also revealed that 16 of India’s 30 states (29 states + Delhi) account for 97 percent of exports. The Northeastern states, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh together make for only 3 percent of exports.

39. In 2017, Delhi’s IGI in world’s top 20 busiest airports

- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport ranked among the World’s top 20 busiest airports in the world in terms of passenger traffic - in 2017.
- Airports Council International (ACI), World Airport Traffic Forecasts predicts that the India will represent the third largest aviation market, in terms of passenger throughput, after the US and China by 2020.

40. NITI Aayog And United Nations In India Sign Sustainable Development Framework For 2018-2022

- NITI Aayog and United Nations in India signed the Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022.
- The agreement is a reflection of the commitment and efforts made by India towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The total planned budget outlay for the implementation of the UNSDF 2018-2022 is approximately INR 11000 crore.

41. Govt to take steps to promote agri commodity exports: FM Arun Jaitley

- The government will take steps to boost exports of agriculture commodities which have the potential of reaching USD 100 billion.
- The country’s agricultural exports are around USD 30 billion at present.
- “India’s agri exports potential is as high as USD 100 billion against a current export of USD 30 billion.
- India is one of biggest producers and exporters of agri commodities.
- Agri-products account for over 10 per cent of the country’s total exports.
- India mainly exports tea, coffee, rice, cereals, tobacco, spices, cashew, oil meals, fruits and vegetables and marine products.

42. Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018

- A new reward scheme titled “Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018”, has been issued by the Income Tax Department.
- This reward scheme is aimed at encouraging people to give information about benami transactions and properties as well as income earned on such properties by such hidden investors and beneficial owners.
- **Reward of up to Rs 1 crore** - The tax department announced two reward schemes under which informants sharing ‘specific information’ about any benami transaction or

property could get a reward of up to Rs 1 crore.

- **Reward of up to Rs 5 crore** - Information on undisclosed black money stashed abroad could fetch up to Rs 5 crore for the informant.
- **Reward of up to Rs 50 lakh** - According to the department's announcement, the 'Income Tax Informants Reward Scheme' too has been

amended, under which a person can get reward up to Rs 50 lakh for giving specific information about substantial evasion of tax on income or assets in India, which are actionable under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

October

1. SBI & Hitachi payments form a joint venture

- State Bank of India (SBI) and Hitachi Payment Services India (payments solution provider) has entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.
- SBI will have a majority stake in the proposed joint venture.
- Hitachi Payment Services India is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Group, Japan.

2. Seychelles launches world's first Sovereign Blue bond

- The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond.
- Sovereign Blue Bond is a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.
- The bond demonstrates the potential for countries to harness capital markets for financing the sustainable use of marine resources.
- The bond raised USD 15 million from international investors.

3. IBM acquired Red Hat for USD 34 Billion in its biggest purchase

- America's IBM has acquired software company Red Hat in a USD 34 billion cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date.
- The open source, enterprise software maker 'Red Hat' founded 25 years ago, valued at about USD 20.5 billion at the end of trading.

4. Corp Bank bags MSME award

- Corporation Bank has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank - Winner 2018' award instituted by the Assocham.

- The '6th Assocham SMEs Excellence Award – 2018' was held in New Delhi.
- Shivanand Hebbar, DGM, received the award from Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma.
- The award was conferred based on the bank's performance in SME (small and medium enterprise) segment.

5. Satish Kumar Gupta appointed CEO of Paytm Payments Bank

- Veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta has been appointed as managing director (MD) and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank.
- Gupta comes in after Renu Satti stepped down as CEO in July.
- Previously, Mr. Gupta had stints as the chief product officer at National Payments Corporation of India and deputy general manager at State Bank of India.

Note:

- The Paytm Payments Bank is a separate entity in which founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma will hold 51% share, One97 Communications holds 39% and 10% held by a subsidiary of One97 and Sharma.
- The bank was officially inaugurated in November 2017 by the Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley.
- It is set to launch over 100,000 banking outlets across India by end of 2018.

6. PNB Metlife launches AI-powered customer service app 'Khushi'

- PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'.
- The app is designed to be a one-stop shop providing insurance-related information, anytime, anywhere, such as policy features, premium due details besides providing fund value and portfolio details.
- Khushi app has the ability to understand customer intent and provide tailored responses.
- Earlier in 2016, PNB Metlife had launched 'conVRse', virtual reality (VR) service platform as well as 'eBranch', a paperless digital platform enabling real-time transfer of information.

7. IFC launches USD 1 Billion masala bond programme in the US & Europe

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has launched its USD 1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe.
- These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.
- Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees.
- IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments.

Note:

- Masala (means spices) term was used by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to evoke the culture and cuisine of India.
- The first Masala bond was issued by the World Bank-backed IFC in November 2014 when it raised 1,000 crore bonds to fund infrastructure projects in India.

8. Paytm launches 'PayPay' mobile wallet in Japan

- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- It is a smartphone-based settlement service that allows users to store money from a bank account in their 'PayPay' wallet and make payments with it.
- It is built around its QRtech which it has deployed in India to allow customers to make offline payments.

9. WEF launches Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced its new Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India.
- The Centre will be based in Maharashtra.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at function held in New Delhi.
- It will be fourth center in chain-ones as part of WEF's global network along with San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China) are already functioning.

10. Sebi allows foreign entities in commodity derivatives market

- With an aim to deepen the commodity derivatives market, regulator Sebi allowed trading in the segment by foreign entities with exposure to the Indian physical commodity market.
- Currently, foreign entities are not permitted to directly participate in the Indian commodity derivatives market, even if they import/export various commodities from/to India.
- As per the regulator, such entities by virtue of their actual exposure to the various commodities in Indian market are valuable stakeholders in the value chain of such commodities, and are also exposed to price uncertainty of Indian commodity markets.
- Therefore, these entities should be enabled to hedge their price risk in the country's commodity derivatives market.
- Such foreign entities will be known as Eligible Foreign Entities (EFEs).
- Under the norms, such EFEs will have actual exposure to Indian physical commodity markets. The EFE is resident in a country, whose securities or commodity derivatives market regulator is a of a bilateral pact with Sebi.
- The minimum net-worth requirement for such EFE will be **USD 500,000**.

11. SBI signs MoU with Nepal's National Banking Institute for human resource development

- State Bank of India has signed an MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for the development of human resources.
- SBI signed the three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NBI to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance for development of NBI's human resources by imparting education, training and research.
- Under the MoU, the strategic training unit of SBI will impart education, training and

development to facilitate transformation of NBI's HR department.

12. Govt appoints Rakesh Sharma as MD and CEO of IDBI Bank for six months

- Rakesh Sharma has taken charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of the IDBI bank.
- On October 5, the government had announced Sharma's appointment as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank for a period of six months.
- He retired from Canara Bank as the MD and CEO after serving for a period of three years from September 11, 2015 till July 31, 2018.

13. India's cooling energy consumption to grow around 2.2 times by 2027: Report

- The country's cooling energy demand will rise to 2 times the existing level by 2027 and interventions can help cut it down by 17 percent in the next decade, a report said.
- The report, commissioned by the Indo-German Energy Forum, on behalf of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, was prepared by the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

14. State Bank of Mauritius India cyber attack loss set at ₹19 crore

- The Mumbai branch of the State Bank of Mauritius India, which faced a cyber attack earlier this month, has been able to recover almost all of it, barring ₹19 crore.
- The cyber attack took place on October 2 through a fraudulent SWIFT payment at the bank's branch at Nariman Point, Mumbai.

15. EESL inks MoU with DoP for distribution of energy-efficient appliances

- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed an agreement with the Department of Posts (DoP) for distribution of energy-efficient appliances under the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme.

16. Liberty to acquire European assets of ArcelorMittal

- Liberty is set to acquire European assets of ArcelorMittal, as it pushes for expansion on the European mainland following a rapid build-up in the U.K.

17. Bank of Baroda MD & CEO Jayakumar gets one-year extension

- The union Government granted a year's extension to Bank of Baroda's MD (Managing Director) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PS Jayakumar (from 12th Oct).

18. Govt hikes GPF interest rate to 8% for Oct-Dec quarter

- The central government has increased the rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes by 0.4 percentage points to 8 per cent for the October-December quarter.
- The interest rate on GPF was 7.6 per cent for the July-September quarter of 2018-19.
- The interest rate would apply on Provident Funds of central government employees, railways and defence forces.
- Keeping in mind the rising deposit rates in the banks, the interest rates for small savings schemes, including National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF), were increased by up to 0.4 per cent for the October-December quarter.
- Interest rate for the five-year term deposit, recurring deposit Senior Citizens Savings Scheme were raised to 7.8, 7.3 and 8.7 per cent, respectively.

19. IRDAI panel to study feasibility of paying claims in instalments

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a panel to examine the feasibility of payment of general and health insurance claims in instalments.
- The IRDAI has formed a panel under the chairmanship of Suresh Mathur, ED (Health).

20. Wipro appoints former SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as independent director

- Wipro had appointed former State Bank of India chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director beginning January 1, 2019.
- Bhattacharya's appointment is for a period of five years and is subject to shareholder approval, the company said.

21. PM Narendra Modi awarded Seoul Peace Prize 2018 for contribution towards economic growth in India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.

22. India has most outward migrants in 2017, says ADB report

- According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) report, most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh.

- The report further said as many as one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017. “India had the most outward migrants in 2017 (17 million), followed by China (10 million) and Bangladesh (7.5 million).
- According to the report, Asia continued as the largest source of international migrants globally although the number of Asian migrants headed to regional destinations declined slightly.
- As per the report, Asia’s outward foreign direct investment (FDI) moderated by 1.4 per cent in 2017—to USD 487.9 billion from USD 494.9 billion in 2016.

23. WPI inflation rises to 5.13% in September

- India’s wholesale price inflation (WPI) surged to 5.13% in September from 4.53% in August, data released by the commerce and industry ministry.
- The 5.13 per cent inflation is the highest in two months, and a higher inflation than this level was last seen in July at 5.27 per cent.

24. Gita Gopinath appointed as Chief Economist of IMF

- Gita Gopinath was appointed as chief economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF), becoming the second Indian to be appointed to the position.

25. BSE becomes first stock exchange in India to launch commodity derivative contracts in gold, silver

- BSE became the first stock exchange in the country to launch the commodity derivative contracts in gold and silver.
- Till date, commodity contracts are available only on MCX and NCDEX, the two specialised commodity derivatives exchanges in the country.

26. Core Infra sector growth slows to 4.2% in August 2018

- India’s infrastructure sector growth slowed to 4.2 per cent in August hit by a decline in crude oil and fertiliser production and sluggish performance of coal, steel, refinery products and natural gas sectors.
- According to an official release - Of the eight core sectors which contribute 40 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), cement (weight of 5.37 per cent) posted the highest growth of 14.3 per cent in August over the same month last year, followed by electricity generation (weight of 19.85 per cent) which grew by 5.4 per cent.

27. IMF, World Bank and WTO launch Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth Report

- International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization have collectively launched report “Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth”.
- In this report all three international organisations have sought liberalisation of global service sector, asserting that barriers to these services trade currently is roughly as high as those to trade in goods about a half century ago.

28. SIDBI launches a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha

- On Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi i.e. October 02, 2018 Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), had launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha (उद्यम अभिलाषा).
- It was introduced in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.

Udyam Abhilasha

- The campaign would create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to the aspiring youths across these districts thus encouraging them to enter the admired segment of entrepreneurs.
- SIDBI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, (CSC SPV) set up by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India for implementing the campaign through their CSCs

The objectives of the missionary campaign include -

- to inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise,
- to impart trainings through digital medium across the country,
- to create business opportunities for CSC VLEs,
- to focus on women aspirants in these aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship and
- to assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

29. SBI reduces ATM cash withdrawal limit from Rs 40,000 to Rs 20,000 per day

- State Bank of India (SBI) has announced that the cash withdrawal limit from automated

teller machines (ATMs) has been reduced to Rs 20,000 per day effective from October 31, 2018.

- Currently, the cash withdrawal limit of SBI from ATMs is Rs 40,000 per day.
- As per the bank, this has been done keeping in view the growing number of complaints regarding the fraudulent transactions at ATMs as well as to give a boost to digital transactions.

30. Cabinet hikes Rabi crops MSP by up to 21%

- The government has raised the minimum support price (MSP) for major crops, including wheat, pulses and oilseeds, by 2 per cent to 21 per cent.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved higher minimum support prices (MSP) for six winter-sown or Rabi crops.
- Few months back, the government had announced higher MSP for Kharif (summer) crops, to fulfil its promise of giving farmers 50 per cent more price than their cost of production.
- Agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh said MSPs for all Rabi crops are higher than the cost of production ranging from 50-112 per cent.
- The CCEA approved a Rs 105 per quintal hike in wheat MSP to Rs 1,840 for Rabi season of 2018-19 crop year (July-June).

September

1. The government hiked interest rates on small savings schemes, including National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF), by up to **0.4 per cent for the October-December quarter.**

- The rates of interest on various small savings schemes for the third quarter of financial year 2018-19, starting October 1 and ending on December 31, 2018.

The Interest rates on different Small Savings schemes are as follows:

| Schemes | Interest rate (in %) |
|---|----------------------|
| 5 yr Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (Paid Quarterly) | 8.7% |
| Post office Savings Deposits | 4% |
| Public Provident Fund (PPF) | 8% |
| National Savings Certificate (NSC) | 8% |
| Kisan Vikas Patra (maturity in 112 months) | 7.7% |
| Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) | 8.5% |
| five-year Term Deposit | 7.8% |
| five-year post office recurring deposit | 7.3% |
| post office Monthly Income Scheme (MIS) | 7.7% |

2. Cabinet approves National Digital Communications Policy-2018

- The cabinet approved the new telecom policy, known as National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which aims to attract **\$100 billion investment** and create 4 million jobs in the sector by 2022.
- According to the draft of the policy, NDCP is focused on increasing high-speed broadband penetration, with use of modern technologies like 5G and optical fibres across the country at affordable rates.

Features: The policy aims to

- Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen;
- Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022;
- Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas;
- Attract investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector;
- Train one million manpower for building New Age Skill;
- Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices;

3. Government launches Financial Inclusion Index

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched the Financial Inclusion Index (FII) in New Delhi.
 - The index was launched after the Finance Minister's annual performance review meeting with the CEOs of public sector banks.
 - The index will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.
 - The single composite index gives a snap shot of level of financial inclusion that would guide Macro Policy perspective.
- 4. Arun Jaitley launches portal to grant MSME loans within an hour**
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched a portal to enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to get in-principle approval of loans within an hour without the need for a branch visit.
 - The web portal, **www.psbloansin59minutes.com**, will enable in-principle nod for loans up to Rs 10 million within 59 minutes for MSMEs, financial services.
 - The portal is for securing loan approvals only from Small Industries Development Bank of India, and five public sector banks (PSB) — **State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Vijaya Bank, and Indian Bank.**
 - The turnaround time of loan processing will reduce from 20-25 days to 59 minutes, the finance ministry said.
- 5. Yes Bank Slapped with Rs 38 Crore in GST Fines**
- Yes Bank has paid Rs 38 crore in fines to the GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances.
- 6. Finance Ministry launched Mobile App "Jan Dhan Darshak"**
- Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application Jan Dhan Darshak as a Part of Financial Inclusion.
 - This App will provide guidance to the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
 - Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed the app Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion initiative.
- Jan Dhan Darshak app will be in a unique position to provide a citizen-centric platform for locating financial service touch points across all providers such as banks and post office.
- 7. BRICS bank approves \$525 million loan for infra projects in Madhya Pradesh**
- The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved a \$525-million loan to Madhya Pradesh for infrastructure projects.
 - The Board of Directors of the NDB approved a \$350-million loan for the Major District Roads Project II of Madhya Pradesh and \$175 million for building and upgrading 350 bridges.
- 8. Fitch raises India's GDP forecast to 7.8% from 7.4% for FY19**
- Fitch Ratings upped India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8 per cent, from 7.4 per cent projected earlier.
- 9. New MD & CEO appointed in 10 PSU banks**
- New MD & CEO of Indian Bank – Padmaja Chundru
 - New MD & CEO of Syndicate Bank - Mrutyunjay Mahapatra
 - New MD & CEO of Central Bank of India - Pallav Mohapatra
 - New MD & CEO of Andhra Bank - Packirisamy
 - New MD & CEO of Dena Bank - Karnam Sekar
 - New MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank - SS Mallikarajuna Rao
 - New MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra - AS Rajeev
 - New MD & CEO of UCO Bank - Atul Kumar Goel
 - New MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank - S Harisankar
 - New MD & CEO of United Bank of India - Ashok Kumar Pradhan
- 10. IPPB ties up with Bajaj Allianz to offer life insurance products**
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) partnered with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to expand product offerings for its customers.
 - The insurance products will first be available across IPPB's network of 3250 access points,

gradually expanding to **155,000** post offices across every village, town and district in India.

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance is the first life insurer to tie-up with the newly formed bank.

11. Govt proposes to merge Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Baroda

- The Central government proposed the merger of State-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third largest bank as part of reforms in the public sector banking segment.
- The amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank could take between 4-6 months, Bank of Baroda Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer P.S. Jayakumar said.

12. Nabard approves Rs 65,635 cr loan for 93 irrigation projects

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has approved Rs 65,634.93 crore loan so far to 93 prioritised irrigation projects under the government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

13. IPPB Ties Up with FSS To Create Payments Network for Unorganized Retail

- In a move aimed at creating a payments acceptance network for unorganized retail including small merchants and kirana stores where consumers can make payments, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Financial Software and Systems (FSS).
- The objective of this agreement is to ensure that micro-merchants are able to accept payments over any channel – online, unified payments interface (UPI), quick-response (QR) codes, Aadhaar and IPPB accounts.

14. Axis Bank appoints Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO

- Axis Bank appointed Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO from January 1, after incumbent Shikha Sharma steps down at the end of this year.

15. World Bank endorses Country Partnership Framework for India's transition to high-middle income nation

- The World Bank has endorsed an ambitious five-year framework for India under which it is

expected to receive **USD 25-30 billion** in financial support for its transition from a low-middle income to a high-middle income country.

- The **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** for India is aimed at supporting the country's transition to a higher middle-income country by addressing some of its key development priorities - resource efficient and inclusive growth, job creation and building its human capital.
- This is the first country partnership framework written with India.

16. Prime Minister launches India Post Payments Bank

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) on 1st September 2018 in New Delhi.

Key points –

- IPPB was the third entity to receive payments bank permit after Airtel and Paytm.
- IPPB was incorporated on August 17, 2016 under Companies Act, 2013 as a public limited company.
- India Post Payments Bank has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, with 100% equity owned by Government of India.
- It started operations on 30 January, 2017, by opening two pilot branches, one at Raipur and the other at Ranchi.
- Suresh Sethi is MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- IPPB would be available through 650 branches and 3,250 access points.

Key features

- As per the guidelines set by the RBI, Payments Banks cannot accept more than Rs 1 lakh in deposits and cannot provide loans and insurance.
- India Post Payments Bank will offer 4 per cent interest rate in savings accounts.
- India Post Payments Bank can offer forex services at charges lower than banks.
- QR card is another service the IPPB is offering. With the help of a QR card, you can access your bank account and make transactions without having to remember the account number.
- IPPB has tied up with the Punjab National Bank and would work as an agent of the bank to provide loans to the account holders.
- IPPB has tied up with the Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to provide insurance to its customers.
- For ATM facility IPPB has tied up with the Punjab National Bank.

Accounts: IPPB will allow three types of accounts for customers –

- **A regular savings account** - used to withdraw cash, deposit money and perform easy remittances.
- **A Basic savings account** - which will allow only four cash withdrawals per month.
- **Digital savings bank account** - which will allow users to open their account through the IPPB Android mobile app.

17. PayU gets RBI approval to operate as NBFC

- Leading online payment service provider PayU has received RBI's approval (subject to certain pending RBI compliance) to operate as NBFC.

18. SBI appoints Anshula Kant as Managing Director

- State Bank of India said the Government has appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director of the Bank.

19. With \$400 m from Temasek, NIIF makes 2nd closure of Master Fund

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has announced the second closure for its Master Fund with Singapore's sovereign fund Temasek committing up to \$400 million.
- NIIF said Temasek will also become a shareholder of National Investment and Infrastructure Ltd, its investment management company, but did not disclose the size of the shareholding.

Note:

- NIIF, with a proposed corpus of ₹40,000 crore — out of which the Centre will contribute 49 per cent — was created in 2015 as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), under SEBI regulations.

20. Monetary limit for filing cases in DRT doubled to Rs 20 lakh

- The government Thursday doubled the pecuniary limit to Rs 20 lakh for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions.
- The move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs.
- There are 39 DRTs in the country.
- The Central government has raised “the pecuniary limit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for filing application for recovery of debts in the Debts Recovery Tribunals by such banks and financial institutions,” said a Finance Ministry notification.
- As a result, any bank or financial institution or a consortium of banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if the amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh.

21. National Housing Bank offers Rs 200 cr refinance facility to Kerala

- To provide relief to the households having annual income up to Rs 3 lakh in rural areas and up to Rs 6 lakh in urban areas in the floods-hit state of Kerala, National Housing Bank (NHB) has announced a refinance assistance of Rs 200 crore.
- This refinance facility would facilitate concessional rate of interest for construction/repair and renovation of houses, through primary lending institutions.

August

1. 88.1 per cent rural households have savings

account: Nabard survey - As per the Nabard All India Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) - 88.1 per cent of households having savings accounts in rural areas.

- The first-of-its-kind survey showed that among rural households, agri households earned more than non-agricultural ones.
- The survey covered 245 districts across 29 states and was done across Tier III to Tier VI cities.
- It covered 40,327 households and 187,000 people.

Key highlights of the survey:

- The annual income of rural households was ₹96,708.
- 48% are agriculture households.
- 55 per cent agricultural households reported **having a bank account**.
- 33 % households reported more than **one savings account**.
- Average savings per annum per household was Rs 17,488.

- Only 7.4 % of these households use debit or credit card. 7.5 % use cheque to make a payment at least once in three months.
- About 24 % of them use ATM services at least once in three months.
- Over 50% agricultural households are facing indebtedness.
- About 26 per cent of agricultural households and 25 per cent of non-agricultural households were found to have been covered under **insurance**.

Note:

- Punjab, Haryana and Kerala are the top 3 states having average monthly income of Rs 23,133, Rs 18,496 and Rs 16,927, for rural households.
- Uttar Pradesh has the least with average monthly income of Rs 6,668 per month.
- In Andhra Pradesh, high expenditure with respect to income was observed. Hence a rural household gets an average surplus of only Rs 95 a month.
- A family in Bihar retains Rs 262/month. In Uttar Pradesh it is Rs 315/month.

2. PNB chief elected IBA Chairman

- Sunil Mehta, Managing Director and CEO, Punjab National Bank, was elected as the Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for the year 2018-19.
- Dinabandhu Mohapatra, Managing Director and CEO, Bank of India, has been elected as IBA's Deputy Chairman.

3. RIL becomes first Indian company to cross Rs 8 trillion in market cap

- The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross ₹ 8 trillion market capitalization after its shares surged nearly 38% this year.

4. FDI in country rises 23 % to about 13 bn dollars in first quarter of this fiscal

- Official data shows that Foreign Direct Investment, FDI in India rose 23 percent, to 12.8 billion dollars during the April to June quarter of this fiscal.
- According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion data, the foreign fund inflows in April-June 2017-18 stood at 10.4 billion dollars.

- Key sectors that received maximum foreign investment during the first quarter of the current fiscal include services 2.4 billion dollars, trading 1.62 billion dollars and telecommunications 1.59 billion dollars.
- **Singapore was the largest source of FDI** during April to June quarter with 6.52 billion dollars.

5. Google Tez is now Google Pay, to offer instant bank loans

- In a bid to increase its market share in India's payments market, Google rebranded its payments app Google Tez into Google Pay, introduced new features and widened its scope with new tie-ups.

6. Idea Cellular completes merger with Vodafone India

- The merger of Idea Cellular and Vodafone India has been completed, creating India's biggest telecom service provider with over 408 million subscribers.

7. SBI launches MOPAD, a unified payment terminal

- State Bank of India, the largest lender with a fifth of the market share, launched a payments machine that would help merchants eliminate the multiple choices that they keep to facilitate transactions from cards to QR code based payments.
- The new device titled **MOPAD, or Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device**, is a Point of Sale (PoS) terminal that would along with cards accept payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy wallet which till now required different tools to receive payments.

8. Paresh Sukthankar resigns as HDFC Bank's deputy managing director

- HDFC Bank's Paresh Sukthankar has resigned from the board of the country's largest private sector bank.

9. SBI posts third straight quarterly loss at Rs 48.76 bn on higher provisions

- State Bank of India (SBI) reported a net loss of Rs 48.75 billion for the April-June 2018 period (Q1), its third straight quarterly loss, on account of huge provisions for erosion in value of its investment in bonds and an increase in

operating expenses due to wage revision and enhanced limits for gratuity.

- The country's largest lender had posted its biggest-ever quarterly loss of Rs 77.18 billion in the March 2018 quarter, and a net profit of Rs 20.05 billion in April-June 2017 (Q1FY18).

10. NHAI ink MoU with SBI for Rs 25k cr loan

- NHAI ink a pact with State Bank of India (SBI) for a long-term unsecured loan to the tune of Rs 25,000 crore.
- This is SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity and also the largest ever loan sanctioned to NHAI.
- "NHAI is getting an unsecured loan of Rs 25,000 crore from SBI for 10 years with 3 years of moratorium on repayments.
- This is the largest amount of loan to have been sanctioned to NHAI in one stroke by any institution," Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement.

11. S Gopakumar joins United India Insurance as Director & GM

- Public sector non-life insurance firm United India Insurance Company today announced the appointment of S Gopakumar as its Director and General Manager with immediate effect.

12. Axis Bank introduces iris authentication for Aadhaar-based transactions

- Axis Bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce **Iris Scan Authentication** feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
- This service requires a customer to scan their iris on a tablet.

13. Cosmos Bank's server hacked; Rs 94 crore siphoned off in 2 days

- Pune-based Cosmos Co-operative Bank has reported fraudulent withdrawals amounting to Rs 94 crore due to cyber-attacks, including malware attack, on its debit card payment system and SWIFT transaction.
- The 112-year-old bank said about Rs 78 crore was withdrawn through various ATMs located across 28 countries, including Canada, Hong Kong.

14. NPCI launches UPI 2.0 with overdraft facility

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for all retail

payments in India, launched the updated unified payments interface (UPI) 2.0.

- The new version of UPI, in addition to current and savings accounts, will let customers link overdraft accounts to UPI.
- Customers will be able to transact instantly, and all benefits associated with an overdraft account would be made available for users.
- Another feature would allow customers to check their invoice sent by merchants prior to making payments.
- It will help customers view and verify credentials and check whether it has come from the right merchant or not.
- Customers can pay post verifying the amount and other important details mentioned in the invoice.
- For signed intent and QR codes, customers would be able to check the authenticity of merchants while scanning QR code.

15. Bharti Axa ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to offer Jeevan Jyoti Bima

- Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY), a government-backed life insurance scheme.
- The alliance will leverage Airtel Payments Bank's vast network to reach deep rural pockets and serve the under-insured.
- With this, Airtel Payments Bank also becomes the first payments bank in India to offer the Government of India-backed life insurance scheme, the company said in a statement.
- The product (PMJJBY) provided by Bharti Axa Life Insurance offers Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover for a nominal premium of Rs 330 per annum and can be purchased by all existing or new Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between the ages of 18-50.
- Under the tie-up, PMJJBY will be initially available at one lakh Airtel Payments Bank banking points across the country.

16. HAL becomes first PSU to transact on TReDS: RXIL

- The Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL) said that; Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform".
- According to the NSE-SIDBI joint venture, TReDS is an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium

enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers.

- "Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) executed its first digitized invoice discounting transaction on RXIL TReDS platform, when it accepted the digital invoice uploaded by Narendra Udyog, a Nasik based MSME (micro category) vendor earlier this week," a statement from RXIL said.
- "This makes **HAL the first PSU to transact on TReDS across** platforms.
- The transaction was **financed by Bank of Baroda**.

17. Ashish Kumar Bhutani appointed CEO of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- Senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), according to an order issued by the Personnel Ministry.
- Bhutani, a 1992 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been appointed to the post till May 9, 2020, it said.
- Launched in 2016, the PMFBY is in line with one nation one scheme theme.
- It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time, all previous shortcomings and weaknesses have been removed to ensure faster insurance services or reliefs to farmers.

July

1. SBI and Nabard tie-up for credit in Telangana

- State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups in Telangana.
- The two signed an MoU, along with seven NGOs from Nizamabad, Medak and Warangal districts, for the promotion and credit linkage of 2,000 JLGs during the current year.

2. Jana Small Finance Bank begins operations

- Jana Small Finance Bank, erstwhile MFI - Janalakshmi Financial Services, officially launched its commercial banking operations on 18th July 2018.
- The bank, which received the small finance bank licence in March this year, took time to upgrade its systems for a formal commercial launch.
- The bank, after the roll out, will be utilising its 157 branches spread over 19 States, in addition to 402 micro-finance branches.
- Ajay Kanwal is MD and CEO of Jana Small Finance Bank.
- Jana Small Finance Bank headquarters is in Bengaluru.

3. SBI organises Kisan Mela to educate farmers on financial literacy

- Kisan Mela was organized at State Bank of India's rural and semi-urban branches across the country to impart financial literacy to farmers.
- It is one-of-its-kind initiative to develop connect with farmer customers, resolve their grievances and educate them about their various rights and bank's initiatives.

4. NABARD Foundation Day: 12 July

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has completed 36 years of service to the nation and celebrated the 37th Foundation Day on 12th July.
- NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee, (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) on 12 July 1982 to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
- NABARD - Headquarters: Mumbai and Chairman: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

5. India becomes newest shareholder of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- India is now the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), paving the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.
- The Indian government had applied for membership in the London-based EBRD in December 2017.

- The EBRD board of governors, which represents all the existing shareholders, voted unanimously in favour of the country's application in March 2018, with the entire membership process completed this week, the bank said in a statement.

6. India's first Mobile Open Exchange zone to be at Noida

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of country's first Mobile Open Exchange (MOX) zone in Noida at the ground-breaking ceremony on 29 July 2018.
- The UP government had signed an MoU with World Trade Centre, Noida at UP Investors' Summit to develop a Tech Zone which would act as a catalyst for growth of mobile and allied sectors in the state.

7. Core sector grows 6.7% in June

- India's infrastructure sector growth gathered pace in June posting an increase of 6.7 per cent year-on-year riding on increased production of refinery products, coal and cement.
- Other core infrastructure sectors with higher production include steel, electricity and fertilisers. The two sectors, where production fell are crude oil and natural gas.

8. India welcomes US move to grant STA-1 status

- India has welcomed the US government's decision to grant it the status of a Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country — a move that will make it eligible for exports of number of high technology products to India without the requirement of individual licences.
- This step will further facilitate India-US trade and technology collaboration in defence and high technology areas.

9. YES Bank gets Sebi nod to launch mutual fund business

- Private lender YES Bank announced that it has received final regulatory approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start mutual fund business.
- This approval is subsequent to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval.
- YES Asset Management (India), a wholly owned subsidiary of YES Bank, will launch fund offerings across the spectrum in both debt and equity markets over the next 6-12 months.

10. Bandhan Bank re-appoints Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as CEO, MD:

- Bandhan Bank, received RBI approval for the re-appointment of current MD and CEO, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, for three years.
- Ghosh is the founder of the bank, and has 37 years of experience in the micro-finance industry.
- Bandhan Bank headquarters is in Kolkata.

11. HDFC Bank most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China:

- HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is \$78.4 billion against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion.
- Chinese banks are leading the pecking order in the emerging market, with Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list with a market cap of \$273.4 billion, followed by China Construction Bank (\$225.1 billion).
- Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is the most valuable with a market cap of \$353 billion, followed by Bank of America at \$282 billion.
- There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.

12. Project Sashakt: 5 point strategies on stressed asset resolution:

- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal unveiled 'Project Sashakt', a five-prong strategy to deal with non-performing assets.
- Sashakt aims to strengthen the credit capacity, credit culture and credit portfolio of public sector banks.
- The government has accepted a report submitted by a committee of bankers led by Punjab National Bank chairman Sunil Mehta.
- Sunil Mehta committee on bad loans resolution has recommended a five-pronged strategy -- Project 'Sashakt' -- to deal with Non-performing Assets in the country's banking system.
- The five-pronged strategy includes -- **SME resolution approach, bank-led resolution approach, AMC/AIF led resolution approach, NCLT/IBC approach, and asset-trading platform.**

- State run banks will take lead in setting up an **asset management company** (AMC) for resolution of loans above **Rs 500 crore**.
- For loans ranging between Rs 50 to 500 crores, a **Bank Led Resolution Approach** (BLRA) has been recommended, wherein financial institutions will enter into an inter-creditor agreement to authorise the lead bank to implement a resolution plan in 180 days.

13. Cabinet approves extension of Scheme of Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks:

- Union Cabinet has approved extension of scheme of recapitalization of Regional Rural

Banks (RRBs) for next three years (upto 2019-20).

- This will enable RRBs to maintain minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%. It will ensure strong capital structure and minimum required level of CRAR.

RRBs are jointly owned by Central Government, concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50%, 15% and 35% respectively.

June

1. Arijit Basu appointed Managing Director of SBI

- The government appointed Arjit Basu as managing director of the country's largest lender State Bank of India.
- He will fill the position that fell vacant following the elevation of Rajnish Kumar as the chairman.
- Now, after this the SBI will have four managing directors.
- As per the SBI Act, the bank can have four managing directors.

2. B Sriram appointed CMD of IDBI Bank

- State Bank of India's Managing Director B Sriram appointed as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank for a temporary period of three months.
- He has been appointed in place of incumbent **Mahesh Kumar Jain** who was recently named **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

3. ICICI Bank names Sandeep Bakhshi as COO

- The ICICI Bank board appointed ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO Sandeep Bakhshi as whole-time director and chief operating officer (COO), creating a new top position at India's second largest private bank, to steer all its businesses.

4. Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian resigned:

- The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India, Arvind Subramanian had resigned from the post

and will return to the US because of "pressing family commitments". The announcement was made by Mr Arun Jaitley.

- Subramanian was appointed as CEA to the finance ministry in October 2014, for the period of three years. In 2017 his term was extended for a year.

5. RBL Bank raises its stake in Swadhaar FinServe to 100%

- Private sector lender RBL Bank has fully acquired Mumbai-based financial product distribution firm Swadhaar FinServe Pvt Ltd where it had 60.49 per cent holding earlier.
- Swadhaar has now become fully owned subsidiary of the bank
- Swadhaar is a business correspondence that works exclusively for RBL Bank.

6. IRDAI gives nod to LIC to buy stake in IDBI Bank

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved a proposal allowing the Life Insurance Corporation of India to acquire a majority stake in the IDBI bank.
- Under the proposal, the public sector life insurance behemoth can raise its stake in the public sector bank to 51 per cent, injecting ₹10,000-13,000 crore in the debt-ridden lender, sources said.
- At present, LIC owns a 10.82 per cent stake in IDBI Bank and it will be expected to bring

down its holding to the mandated 15 per cent over the next few years.

- The Centre currently holds an 80.96 per cent stake in IDBI Bank. Over the last few years, it has been looking at options to recapitalise the lender, which saw bad loans rise to ₹55,588 crore in March 2018.
- The bank had received ₹10,610 crore as capital infusion from the Centre in 2017-18.

7. DBS Bank will open subsidiary in India in October:

- Singapore-based DBS Bank expects to become the first foreign lender to operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India by October this year.
- DBS was the first foreign lender in 2015 to apply for the new operating WOS model two years ago, and got its in-principle approval in September last year.
- Singapore's largest lender by assets has invested another Rs 500 crore in March 2018 to take its total capital in India to Rs 5,000 crore.

8. Fitch Ratings revises outlook on Axis Bank to negative from stable

- Fitch Ratings affirmed the Long-Term **Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs)** and Viability Ratings of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank at '**BBB-**' and '**bbb**', respectively.
- Also, it has revised the outlook on Axis Bank to negative from stable.
- Fitch has also downgraded ICICI's Support Rating to '**3**', from '**2**', and revised its Support Rating Floor to '**BB+**', from '**BBB-**'.
- On the negative outlook for Axis Bank, the rating agency said: "Axis' IDR reflects rising pressure on its standalone profile relative to banks with a Viability Rating of 'bbb-', stemming from heightened asset-quality stress and weak earnings.

9. Karnataka Bank launches 'Deposit Only Card'

- Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched 'KBL-Deposit Only Card' that enables hassle-free cash deposit transactions at the bank's 24X7 e-lobby services.
- This card is specially meant for the bank's current/overdraft customers. These customers can perform cash deposit transactions even with higher deposit limit at the bank's bunch note acceptor (BNA) or cash recycler kiosks by using this card.

- The limit for the cash deposit a day is Rs 10 lakh.

10. Vijaya Bank bags PFRDA award

- Public sector Vijaya Bank has bagged the Best Performing Public Sector Bank award for the financial year 2017-2018 from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- The bank has performed well under Atal Pension Yojana.
- The award was given at the National Atal Pension Yojana Conference held at Delhi.

11. Fitch downgrades viability rating of SBI, Bank of Baroda

- Fitch Ratings has downgraded the viability rating (VR) of State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) by one notch to bb+ and bb, respectively, reflecting their weakened intrinsic risk profile due to the negative effect of poor asset quality and earnings on their capital position.
- The banks' core capital buffers also appear more vulnerable to moderate shocks, the global credit rating agency said in a statement.

Note:

- Viability Ratings (VRs) measure the intrinsic creditworthiness of a financial institution, and reflects Fitch's opinion on the likelihood that the entity will fail.
- The one-notch downgrade of SBI reflects the bank's vulnerable core capitalisation from its prolonged asset quality problems and weak earnings.
- Fitch said the one-notch downgrade of BoB reflects increasing pressure on its capital position from extended financial weakness in terms of NPLs and earnings.

12. HDFC fifth biggest consumer financial services company globally: Forbes

- Housing finance major HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category' on a list compiled by Forbes magazine.
- American Express has topped this category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.
- In the overall list, topped by China's banking behemoth ICBC, HDFC took 321st place, up from 404th a year ago.

- There are a total of 58 Indian companies on the overall list of 2,000 firms from across the world.
- These include Reliance Industries at 83rd place, the only from India in the top-100. Besides, HDFC Bank is at 202nd, ONGC at 266th, Indian Oil at 270th and ICICI Bank at 320th.

13. YES Bank re-appoints Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO for 3 years

- Private sector lender YES Bank has re-appointed Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO of the bank for a period of three years.

14. Sarita Nayyar appointed WEF Managing Board:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) said it has appointed Sarita Nayyar to its Managing Board.
- In addition to her role as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the World Economic Forum

LLC, Nayyar will help lead the international expansion of the Forum's centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network.

15. FDI in India rises to \$61.96 billion in 2017-18:

Government

- According to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Foreign direct investment in India increased to USD 61.96 billion in 2017-18.
- FDI inflows stood at \$60 billion in the previous fiscal. The figure includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.
- Major sources of foreign inflows include Mauritius, Singapore, Japan, the Netherlands, the US, Germany, France and the UAE.

May

1. India's per capita income grows by 8.6% to Rs 1.13 lakh in FY18: According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) data, India's per capita income grew at a slower pace of 8.6 per cent to Rs 1,12,835 during the last fiscal ended March 2018.

2. Dena Bank, Punjab & Sindh Bank, Central Bank of India get new chairpersons: The union govt. has appointed non-executive chairpersons at Punjab and Sindh Bank (Charan Singh), Dena Bank (Anjali Bansal) and Central Bank of India (Tapan Ray).

3. SBI reports loss of Rs. 7,718 Crore in March Quarter: Report

- The State Bank of India (SBI) in its Q4FY18 results reported a net loss of Rs 7,718 crore.
- In December quarter, the bank had reported its first quarterly loss in 17 years, the net loss stood at Rs 2,416 crore.
- The bank had reported a net profit of over Rs 2,814 crore in Q4FY17.
- In fact, SBI's latest loss is the highest quarterly loss figure reported by any bank after Punjab National Bank's Rs 13,417 crore loss.

4. TCS is first Indian company to achieve 7 lakh crore market capitalisations

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the first Indian company to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone.

- With this TCS created history to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone.
- M-cap is value of company that is traded on stock market, calculated by multiplying total number of shares by present share price.
- Now it is country's most valued firm, followed by Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, HUL and ITC in the top five list.

5. Airtel Payments Bank appointed 'Anubrata Biswas' as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

6. India launched 2nd IT Corridor in Guiyang, China

- India launched its second IT corridor in Guiyang, China to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market which remained elusive despite the presence of top Indian technology firms.
- At the launch of the corridor agreements worth RMB 36 million (about \$6 million) were signed between Indian service providers and Chinese customers by China's Guiyang Municipal government and the NASSCOM.
- Last December, the NASSCOM established its first SIDCOP platform in the Chinese port city of Dalian, which is India's first IT hub in China.

7. China's bank launches country's first India-dedicated investment fund

- The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, a top state-run Chinese bank had launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund.
- The bank urges the Chinese to invest heavily asserting that the Indian economy is entering the "golden age of economic take-off".
- The fund, named as the Industrial and Commercial Bank Credit Suisse India Market Fund, will "invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and the US that are based on the Indian market."
- It is China's first publicly offered fund for investing in India, state-run Global Times reported.

Note

- The ICBC bank, the largest in the world with over USD 3.6 trillion in assets, has given an upbeat picture of India's economic growth path, while launching the fund.

8. BSE is first Indian exchange to get US SEC recognition

- On 16 May 2018, BSE became the first Indian exchange to be selected as a 'Designated Offshore Securities Market' (DOSM) by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- The DOSM status allows sale of securities to US investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with the US SEC, which eases the trades by US investors in India.
- The recognition will also enhance the attractiveness of Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs) amongst US investors.
- BSE's new status will provide additional benefits to companies whose securities are traded both in the US and on BSE, it added.

9. DoT approves merger of Bharti Airtel and Telenor India

- The Department of Telecom (DoT) approved the merger of Telenor India with Bharti Airtel.
- The guarantee included Rs 1,499 crore for one-time spectrum charge for the radiowaves allocated to Airtel without auction, and over Rs

200 crore for spectrum payment which Telenor has to make.

10. PNB post biggest ever loss quarterly loss by any bank in India

- On 15th May 2018, the Punjab National Bank reported a **Rs13,417-crore loss** for the January-March period of the financial year 2017-2018, the largest quarterly loss posted by any bank in India.
- This is the biggest ever quarterly loss in the history of India's banking sector.
- The bank's profit in the same quarter last year was Rs 261.9 crore.

Rise in bad loans

- The bank's total NPAs (non-performing assets) rose to 18.38 per cent for Q4 against 12.53 per cent a year ago.
- Its net NPAs ratio soured to 11.24 per cent against 7.81 per cent a year ago and 7.55 per cent in Q3.
- Besides, the bank's provision for NPAs was Rs 16,203 crore in Q4 compared to Rs 2,996 crore in Q3.

11. India pulled US to WTO over steel, aluminium duties

- India had dragged the US to the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement mechanism over the imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium.
- India has stated that the decision will impact exports of these products to the US and it is not in compliance with global trade norms.

12. Paytm introduces automatic recurring payments

- On 14th May 2018, Paytm introduced a new feature i.e. automatic recurring payment.
- This new feature will allow users configure the payments app to pay for periodic recurring expenses automatically.

13. Walmart buys 77% stake in Flipkart

- On 9 May 2018, Walmart Inc announced that it would pay \$16 billion for an initial stake of approximately 77% in India e-commerce company Flipkart.
- This is one of its biggest foreign investment ever as it battles rival Amazon in one of the world's biggest emerging markets.
- With this deal, Flipkart co-founder and chairman Sachin Bansal will leave the company and sell his 5.5-6% stake in the company.

14. The GST collection in April has crossed Rs. 1 lakh crore

- The GST collection in April has crossed Rs. 1 lakh crore. The figures reflect the increase in the economy and better compliance.
- While Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in entire 2017-18 stood Rs 7.41 lakh crore, in March the figure was Rs 89,264 crore.

15. India will be world's fastest growing economy in coming decade: Harvard

- According to a Harvard University report, India will be the fastest growing economies in the world in the coming decade and

- India is projected to grow at 7.9 per cent annually, ahead of China and the US.
- China is projected to grow at 4.9 per cent annually to 2026, the US three per cent and France 3.5 per cent.

16. Singapore is Asia's best-performing stock market

- The Singapore Straits Times Index is Asia's best-performing stock market.
- This year's Straits Times Index gain to 6.2 percent in local currency terms, and took the top spot from Vietnam's VN Index, which plunged 2 percent.

Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** - Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** - Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** - Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **BBPS** - Bharat Bill Payment System
6. **BCA** - Baseline Credit Assessment
7. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
8. **BLRA**: Bank Led Resolution Approach
9. **CBS** - Core Banking System
10. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
11. **CTS** - Cheque Truncation System
12. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
13. **CASA** - Current Account Saving Account
14. **CAD** - Capital Account Deficit
15. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
16. **CRR** - Cash Reserve Ratio
17. **ECS** - Electronic Clearing Service
18. **DNS** - Domain Name System
19. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
20. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
21. **EFT** - Electronic Fund Transfer.
22. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
23. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
24. **LTV** - Loan To Value
25. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
26. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
27. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
28. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
29. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
30. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
31. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
32. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
33. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
34. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
35. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
36. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
37. **NPA** - Non- Performing Assets
38. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
39. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
40. **NFS** - National Financial Switch
41. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
42. **NACH** - National Automated Clearing House
43. **NEFT** - National Electronic Fund Transfer
44. **NFC** - Near field communication
45. **NDTL** - Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
46. **OTC** - Over the Counter
47. **PIN** - Personal Identification Number
48. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
49. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
50. **PCR** - Public Credit Registry
51. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
52. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
53. **RTGS** - Real Time Gross Settlement
54. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
55. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
56. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
57. **GDR** - Global Depository Receipt
58. **GAAR** - General anti avoidance rule
59. **PAN** - Permanent Account Number
60. **PLR** - Prime Lending Rate
61. **SLR** - Statutory Liquidity Ratio
62. **SDR** - Special Drawing Rights
63. **DTAA** - Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
64. **TIEA** - Tax Information Exchange Agreement
65. **EFSF** - European Financial Stability Facility
66. **PPP** - Purchasing Power Parity

- 67. **PPP** – Public Private Partnership
- 68. **NPS** – New Pension Scheme
- 69. **EEFC** - Exchange Earner's Foreign Currency
- 70. **FII** – Foreign Institutional Investor
- 71. **DII** – Domestic Institutional Investor
- 72. **GST** – Goods and Services Tax
- 73. **DTC** – Direct Tax Code
- 74. **FCNRA** – Foreign Currency Non- Resident account
- 75. **MFI** - Micro Finance Institutions
- 76. **MFDC** – Micro Finance Development Council
- 77. **TRAI** - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- 78. **MSF** – Marginal Standing Facility
- 79. **IDF** – Infrastructure Debt Fund
- 80. **CRIS** – Comparative Rating Index for Sovereign
- 81. **LIBOR** – London Inter Bank Operation Rate
- 82. **MIBOR** – Mumbai Inter Bank Operation Rate
- 83. **MICR** – Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
- 84. **SARFAESI** - Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest
- 85. **BCBS** - Basel Committee on Banking Supervision
- 86. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India

Agreement & Deals

India's Agreement with other Countries & Organizations

December

1. **India, UAE Sign Currency Swap Agreement**
 - India and the United Arab Emirates signed a currency swap agreement to boost investment and enable direct trade without using dollars or other international currencies.
 - The swap is for 2 billion dirhams or 35 billion Indian rupees (\$496 million), depending on which central bank requests the amount, an Indian embassy statement said.
 - The bilateral currency swap agreement between India and the UAE is expected to reduce the dependency on hard currencies like the U.S dollar.
2. Bahrain and Maharashtra Government Signed an MoU on Fintech
3. MoC between India and Japan in the field of Environmental Cooperation.
4. MoU between India and the USA concerning Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Earth Sciences.
5. MoU between India and France in the field of energy efficiency / energy conservation
6. MoC between India and Japan for Cooperation in the Postal field.
7. MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Space Technology for Development.
8. MoU between India and Russia on Joint Activities under the Human Spaceflight Programme.
9. Agreement between India and Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the exploration and uses of Outer Space for peaceful purposes.
10. MoU between India and Zimbabwe for cooperation in the field of geology, mining and mineral resources.
11. MoU between India and Morocco for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
12. Agreement between India and Algeria on Cooperation in the field of Space Sciences, Technologies and Applications.
13. MoC between India and Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness.
14. India signed an agreement with Peru For Co-operation in Customs Matters
15. Ministry of Railways signed an MoU with Madame Tussauds Wax Museum

November

1. India, South Korea signed MoU on Cooperation in Sports
 2. India and Republic of Korea signed an MoU in Field of Tourism
 3. **IIMC Innovation Park, ICC Signs MoU To Promote Startups**
 - IIM Calcutta Innovation Park and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has signed an MoU for energising the startup ecosystem in East and Northeast India.
 4. India, China ink Protocol on Hygiene & Inspection Requirements for Exports
 5. India, Malawi signed MoUs in Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver
- Note:
- Malawi Capital: Lilongwe, Currency: Malawian kwacha

October

1. **Punjab signs MoUs with Israel for agri research, water management** - The Punjab government has signed four MoUs with Israeli institutions to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in the state.
2. **India, Bangladesh sign agreements to boost Waterways Connectivity** - India and Bangladesh signed three agreements, including one to use **Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh** for goods movement, for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity between the two countries.
3. **India signs \$777 million deal for Israeli missile defence systems** - Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has won an additional, \$777 million contract to supply LRSAM air and missile defence systems to seven ships in the Indian navy.
 - The contract is with India's state-owned Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), which is the main contractor in the project.
4. **India, China signed Agreement on Security Cooperation.**
5. India and Croatia signed two agreements to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries.
6. **India & Sri Lanka Sign Two MoU For Construction of 1200 Houses** - India and Sri Lanka has signed two MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Srilankan rupees.
7. **Delhi, Moscow Sign Twin-City Agreement** - Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.
8. **Central University of Jammu Signs MoU with ISRO** - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University.
9. **UNICEF, NASSCOM Sign MoU To Strengthen Child Rights** - UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation have signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions.
10. **Atal Innovation Mission & SIRIUS Sign MoU** - To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, an MoU was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation.
11. **India, Russia Seal \$5 Billion S-400 Missile Air Defence Deal** - India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.
12. **India & Kazakhstan agree to boost Defence & Military-Technical Cooperation** - India and Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation include military-technical cooperation, military education and training, joint military exercises, bilateral exchange of visits and cadet youth exchange programs.
13. **Goa & Portugal Inks MoU For Water & Sewage Management** - The MoU between the Portuguese Environment Ministry and Goa Public Works Department (PWD) was signed. It will help Goa manage its water resources better.

September

1. **India & UN Signed a Five-Year Sustainable Development Framework** - CEO NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant and United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, Yuri Afanasiev, signed the Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022
2. India & Morocco Signed MoU to Enhance Cooperation in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector.
3. **BSNL signs deal with SoftBank, NTT To Roll Out 5G In India** - Telecom firm BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India.
4. **India & Morocco Sign Air Services Agreement** - India and Morocco signed the revised Air Services Agreement between the two countries enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement.
5. **India & France to collaborate for Gaganyaan mission**
 - India and France have signed agreement to collaborate for ISRO's first human space mission Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022.

Note:

 - Under this agreement, 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.
 - It will be India's first manned space mission.
 - Under it, India is planning to send **three humans** (Gaganyatris) into space by 2022 for period of five to seven days.
 - The mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech.
 - It will make India fourth nation in the world after USA, Russia and China to launch a human spaceflight mission.
 - GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, having necessary payload capability will be used to launch Gaganyaan.
6. **India & France on Mobilise Your City:**
 - India and France have signed implementation agreement on Mobilise Your City (MYC) to support three pilot cities – Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad for reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport.
7. **India, Czech Republic sign five agreements** - India and Czech Republic have signed five agreements on defence, scientific and industrial research, laser technology, agriculture and diplomatic visa waiver.

Note:

 - President Kovind visited Czech Republic on final leg of his state visit to three European nations – **Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic.**
 - Capital of Czech Republic – Prague
 - Currency of Czech Republic – koruna
 - Capital of Bulgaria – **Sofia**
 - Currency of Bulgaria- **lev**
 - Capital of Cyprus – **Nicosia**
 - Currency of Cyprus – **Euro**
8. **India, Bulgaria sign MoUs on civil nuclear cooperation, S&T, investment & tourism**
 - India and Bulgaria have signed four MoUs in fields of Civil Nuclear cooperation, investment, Tourism and establishment of Hindi chair at Sofia University.
 - Both countries also signed program of Cooperation on science and Technology.
9. **India and Cyprus sign 2 MoUs**
 - India and Cyprus have signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment.
10. **Internet Society, ISPAI sign MoU to secure Internet infrastructure in India**
 - US-based nonprofit The Internet Society and Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) have signed MoU to make Internet safe and secure in India by securing routers which is vital for healthy internet infrastructure.
11. **India & Nepal on Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line** –
 - India and Nepal have signed MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar, India to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.

August

- 1. India & European Union for Horizon 2020:**
 - Union Government and European Union (EU) have collaborated for research programme named Horizon 2020 to develop Next Generation Influenza Vaccine to protect citizens across the globe
- 2. Telangana, Tech Mahindra ink MoU for India's first Blockchain District –**
 - Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district. The MoU was signed at International Blockchain Congress 2018 held in Hyderabad.
- 3. Germany to provide Euro 120 million soft loan for Clean Ganga Mission –**
 - Germany has announced to provide soft loan of euro 120 million (Rs. 990 crore approximately) to India to strengthen sewage water treatment infrastructure in Uttarakhand in an effort to clean River Ganga under Clean Ganga Mission.
- 4. Postal Highway Project: India grants Rs 470 million to Nepal –**
 - India has released additional Rs. 470 million (Nepali) for Phase I of Postal Highway Project being constructed in Southern Plains of Nepal. The amount released will help to maintain fund liquidity for ongoing construction of 14 road packages under Postal Highway Project.

July

- 1. India, Rwanda sign MoU for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue:**
 - Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu became the first Rajya Sabha chairman to sign such an agreement when he inked the MoU with the visiting President of the Senate of the **Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza**.
 - Capital of Rwanda is **Kigali**.
- Currency of Rwanda is **franc**.
- 2. India and South Korea** have signed five MoUs in the field of Science and Technology in New Delhi.
- 3. Microsoft** has signed an MoU with the **Rajasthan** government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year.
- 4. India and Nepal** to Jointly Promote Tourism: India and Nepal agreed to jointly promote Buddhist and Ramayana circuits and Adventure tourism.

June

- 1. India and China** have signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) related to sharing of Brahmaputra river data and supply of non-Basmati rice.
- 2. India has signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in Nursing** with Singapore. This is the first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners.
- 3. India** has signed two Memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with Cuba to enhance cooperation in biotechnology and traditional medicine.
- 4. India** has announced US \$100-million credit to **Seychelles** for augmenting its defence capabilities.
- 5. India and Tajikistan** have reaffirmed their commitment to promote bilateral relations and agreed to enhance economic cooperation, particularly in sustainable water development.
- 6. The Central Water Commission (CWC)**, India's apex technical organisation in the field of Water Resources has signed a Collaboration Agreement with Google for flood forecasting.

India's agreement with Financial Institutions

December

1. **India and Asian Development Bank Sign \$31 Million Loan Agreement for Tamil Nadu**

- The agreement was signed to build-up the State Tourism Industry and boost visitor arrivals in Tamil Nadu.

2. **ADB, Centre Sign \$85 million Loan to Support Odisha Skill Development Project**

- The Centre and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed an 85 million dollar loan to improve skill development eco-system in Odisha.
- An advanced skill training centre, the World Skill Center (WSC) will also be established in Bhubaneswar with the help of a loan.

November

1. **World Bank signed \$172 Million Project agreement with Andhra Pradesh**

2. **CCEA approves disinvestment of 100% Govt stake in Dredging Corporation of India**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 100% strategic disinvestment of the government's equity in the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.
- Presently, the government of India holds 73.44% shares in Dredging Corporation of India Limited.

3. **India and ADB Signed \$105 mn Loan Agreement for Himachal Pradesh**

- India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 105 million dollar loan agreement to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower.

4. **India and World Bank Sign \$310 million loan Agreement for Jharkhand**

- The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed in New Delhi a \$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.

5. **Centre, ADB Sign 200 Million Dollar loan pact to upgrade State Highways in Bihar**

- The Centre and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a 200 million dollar loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.

October

1. **India signs \$5 bn-worth of pacts to give impetus to iron and steel industry** - Thirty-eight pacts worth \$5 billion were signed among 20 technology providers, capital goods manufacturers and steel producers, which will give impetus to the manufacturing of capital goods for iron and steel industry.

2. **India & ADB Signs \$110 Million Loan to Improve Rural Connectivity in MP** - The government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$110 million loan to finance the upgrade of 2,800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in the State of Madhya Pradesh

under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY).

3. **India & ADB sign \$ 150 Million Loan Agreement to support India's First Global Skills Park** - Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$150 million Loan Agreement in New Delhi to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh, the First Multi-Skills Park in India.

4. **India & ADB sign \$240 Million loan for Safe Drinking Water Service for West Bengal** - The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed

\$240 million loan for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three

districts of the state of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.

September

- 1. India signs Financing Loan Agreement with World Bank For UKWDP** - A Loan Agreement for IBRD Credit of US\$74 million equivalent for the Utrakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP) was signed between India and the World Bank.
- 2. India, Sri Lanka inks MoU For Construction Of 5000-MT Temperature Controlled Warehouse** - India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU for construction of a 5000-metric ton temperature-controlled warehouse in Dambulla, Sri Lanka.
- 3. Delhi, Seoul Sign MoU To Tackle Air Pollution** - The Delhi government signed an MoU with the Seoul

Metropolitan Government to work closely in the fields of environment, tourism, wastewater and solid waste management, infrastructure and public health.

- 4. EXIM Bank & BRICS banks for blockchain research** - Union Cabinet has approved MoU signed between Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and member banks under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block chain Technology in context of development of digital economy.

August

- 1. ADB & Madhya Pradesh for irrigation (\$375 million)**
 - Union Government has signed **\$375 million loan agreement** with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project.
- 2. ADB & West Bengal for safe drinking water (\$245 million)**
 - Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved financing package of **\$245 million** to implement project for providing safe, sustainable drinking water service to million people in three districts of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.
- 3. India & World Bank to scale-up Energy Efficiency Program (\$300 million)**
 - Union Government (Finance Ministry) has inked \$220 million Loan Agreement with World Bank

to scale-up India's Energy Efficiency Program. It also signed \$80 million guarantee agreement with World Bank.

- 4. India & World Bank - for Rajasthan state for Electricity (\$250 million)**
 - Central Government along with Government of Rajasthan has signed **\$250 million** Development Policy Loan (DPL) agreement with World Bank for Electricity Distribution Sector Reforms in Rajasthan.
- 5. India & ADB - for Karnataka state highways (\$346 million)**
 - India has inked **\$346 million** loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance Karnataka State Highways Improvement III Project (KSHIP-III) for improvement of over 400 km of state highways in Karnataka.

July

1. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **503-million US Dollar** lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of **Bihar** which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.

June

1. **AIIB to invest \$200 million into NIIF to boost infrastructure projects**

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved investment of \$200 million in India's National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to give greater impetus to mega infrastructure projects.
- It will be investing US \$100 million now and remaining \$100 million in the time to come.

NIIF

- National Investment & Infrastructure Fund was set up in December 2015 to catalyse funding into the country's infrastructure sector.
- It has been registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India as a Category II Alternate Investment Fund.

May

1. **India signs loan agreement with the World Bank for Rajasthan Project**

- India and World bank signed a loan agreement of USD 21.7 Million for the strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project.

2. **India, World Bank sign \$500 million loan pact for rural roads**

- India signed a USD 500 million (Rs 3,371 crore) loan pact with World Bank to provide additional financing for PMGSY rural road projects.

3. **World Bank extends \$300 mn credit to scale up energy efficiency program**

- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved **\$300** million credit guarantee for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program.

4. **India, World Bank sign USD 200 million loan deal for national nutrition mission**

- The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan).
- The loan will support the first phase scale up to **315 districts** across all states and union territories.

Note:

- The POSHAN Abhiyaan, an overarching scheme for holistic nourishment, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 8th March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Important Committees

December /November

1. **Rajiv Kumar (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman)**

Committee – to look at selling of 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.

2. **Namrita Mahindro committee** - to promote Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) technology to drive economic growth, job creation, and skill development in the country.

Note:

- The committee is formed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- IAMAI headquartered is in Mumbai.

3. **Justice (Retd) G. Rohini committee** - to examine the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Note:

- Union Government with approval of President had constituted five member Commission

under article 340 of Constitution in October, 2017.

- It is headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice (Retd) G. Rohini.
 - Its report is expected to recommend earmarking sub-quotas for the extremely backward classes within the OBCs.
4. **Rajnath Singh (Union Home Minister)** - to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in the country and abroad.
 5. **High Level Committee to Review National Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the constitution of a High Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated targets.
- The High-Level Steering Committee will be chaired by **Chief Statistician of India and Secretary**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

October

1. **Injeti Srinivas committee** - The Union Government constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review the Competition Act, 2002.

Sept/Aug

1. **Sushil Modi panel** - The Government constituted a seven-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.
2. **Justice Amitava Roy committee** - The Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee to look into the problems of jails in India and suggest reform measures.
3. **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai committee** - The Union Government constituted the Lokpal Search Committee under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai for recommending names for Lokpal.
4. **K Vijay Raghavan (principal scientific adviser to the Union Government)** - to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on matters related to science, technology and innovations.
5. **Bhaskar Ramamurthy (IIT-Madras director) committee** - to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced) in the wake of an inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year.
6. **Bimal Jalan (Former RBI Governor) panel** - to select India's next chief economic advisor (CEA).
7. **Amitabh Kant (CEO - NITI Aayog) committee** - to look into all issues including foreign direct investment norms pertaining to the fast growing e-commerce industry in the country.
8. **P.J. Joseph committee** - to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects.
9. **Pradeep Kumar Sinha (Cabinet Secretary) committee** - to address issues of stressed Thermal Power Projects
10. **Rajiv Gauba (Home Secretary) committee** - to check mob lynching issues in the country.
11. **Anil Swarup (Education Secretary) committee** - to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).
12. **Injeti Srinivas (Corporate Affairs Secretary) committee** - to review offences under Companies Act, 2013.

July/June

- 1. Sushil Kumar Modi panel** - A ministerial panel formed by the Goods and Services Tax Council recommended that there shall be no additional tax incentives for digital transactions for a year, citing revenue considerations.
- 2. Baba Kalyani committee** - The commerce ministry has set up a committee headed by Bharat Forge chairman Baba Kalyani to make its special economic zone (SEZ) policy compatible with WTO rules after the US challenged India's export subsidy programme at the multilateral trade body.
- 3. Ravindra Dholakia committee:** to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation.
- 4. Suresh Mathur committee** - The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a panel to review the regulations pertaining to insurance marketing firms.
- 5. Justice BN Srikrishna:** to probe charges against ICICI Bank CEO
 - Retired Supreme Court Judge Justice **BN Srikrishna** will head the investigation initiated by the board of ICICI Bank on allegations of corporate misconduct and quid pro quo against its Managing Director and CEO, Chanda Kochhar.
- 6. Jayant Sinha panel** - for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
- 7. Subhash Chandra Garg Committee** - to consider various issues related to Fintech for making regulations more flexible and promoting financial inclusion in the country.
- 8. Y H Malegam committee** - to investigate issues related to classification of bad loans, rising incidents of frauds and effectiveness of audits.
- 9. Vinay Sheel Oberoi committee** - to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernisation of the armed forces.
- 10. N Chandrasekaran (Tata Sons Chairman) committee** - to study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military.
- 11. Dinesh Sharma committee** - to look into issues relating to cryptocurrencies.
- 12. BR Sharma committee** - to frame guidelines on playing national anthem in cinemas and other public places.
- 13. Amitabh Kant Committee** - to address the problem of Non-performing assets (NPAs) or stressed assets in India's power sector.
- 14. YM Deosthalee Committee** - task force on Public Credit Registry (PCR). The committee will review the current availability of information on credit in India.
- 15. B C Khanduri Committee** - parliamentary standing committee on defense. The committee will examine the operational preparedness of armed forces and review accidents involving strategic defence assets and also assess the procurement policy relating to defence equipment.
- 16. Arun Jaitley Committee** - The union govt. has constituted a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley **to oversee merger proposals of state-owned banks.**
- 17. Dr Hasmukh Adhia Committee** - The Union government has constituted a GST Committee on Exports headed by Dr Hasmukh Adhia.
- 18. Dr V. Kamakoti Committee** - The Union Government constituted a task force on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the country's Economic Transformation.** The 18-member panel, headed by **Dr V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras.**
- 19. K Kasturirangan Committee** - to prepare National Education Policy



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