



GK Tornado

ESIC & Canara Bank PO Mains 2018 Exam

Current Affairs



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Dear readers,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important Current Affairs news and events that occurred in last **7 months (1 May 2018 – 5th December 2018)**. **Tornado** is important and relevant for all competitive exams like Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams.

Schemes launched by Union/State Govt.

December

1. SC introduced Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 in India

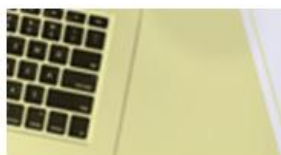
- The Supreme Court (SC) introduced a witness protection regime in the country noting that one of the main reasons for witnesses turning hostile is that they are not given security by the State.
- It also announced that the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 will come into effect immediately across all States.
- This scheme is aimed at enabling a witness to depose fearlessly and truthfully, would be the law of the land till Parliament enacted suitable legislation.
- The Witness Protection Scheme 2018 was framed by the Central government based on the inputs received from 18 States/Union Territories, 5 States Legal Services Authorities and open sources including civil society, three High Courts and police personnel, as well.

2. Delhi Govt. launches Free Pilgrimage Scheme for Senior Citizens

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' which offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits.
- Under this free pilgrimage scheme, a Delhi resident above 60 years will be eligible to take free pilgrimage along with his or her spouse.
- 1100 senior citizens from each Assembly Constituency would now undertake free pilgrimage every year, the expenses for which will be borne by the government.

3. Jammu & Kashmir Govt. launches AB-PMJAY Scheme

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik launched the ambitious "Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)" scheme which would benefit over 31 lakh residents in the state.



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- The governor distributed golden cards among 10 eligible beneficiaries for availing the annual health cover facility, marking the launch of the scheme in the state.

4. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above.
- The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India.
- The programme, which became applicable from January 1, 2017 provides a cash incentive of Rs 5,000 in three instalments to pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first child through Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT).

5. PRASAD Scheme of Ministry of Tourism

- The Centre has included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand under a central scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.
- With the new additions, the number of sites under the PRASAD scheme has now become **41 in 25 states**.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15.
- PRASAD stands for -**Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive**.
- Under the scheme 'Prasad', the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations.

November

1. Ministry of HRD launches faculty development programmes - LEAP & ARPIT

- A unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM, **Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)** was launched on 13th Nov.
- The ministry of human resource development also launched **Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP)** which will be implemented through 15 top institutions like IITs, TISS, DU, JNU and IISERs and also include a week training in a foreign campus of the likes of Harvard University, Oxford University,

Purdue University and NTU Singapore, among others.

About LEAP programme

- LEAP is a three-week flagship leadership development training programme (two-weeks domestic and one-week foreign training for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions).
- LEAP programme will be offered by 15 NIRF top ranked Indian Institutions namely, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, NIT Trichy, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata, Jawaharlal Nehru University,



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University of Delhi, IIT Bombay and TISS Mumbai, among others.

Objective of LEAP

- The objective is to prepare second tier academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.

About ARPIT programme

- ARPIT is a 40-hour module with 20 hours of video content offered in a highly flexible format and can be done at one's own pace and time.
- There are built-in assessment exercises and activities as part of the academic progression in the course.
- At the end of the course, they will be a terminal assessment which can be either online or a written examination.
- All faculties who have successfully completed the online refresher course will be certified.

2. Eight States achieve 100% household electrification under Saubhagya scheme

- 8 States which achieved 100% household electrification under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya scheme are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.
- With this, total 15 States in India have 100 per cent household electrification.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Rs 16320-Crore 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana'- Saubhagya on September 25, 2017 to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

- The scheme aims to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by March 31, 2019.

3. Gujarat tops in implementing Ayushman Bharat

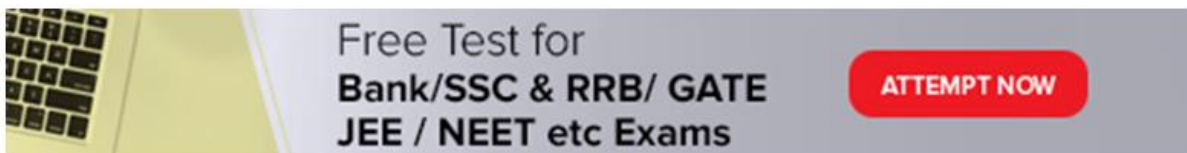
- Gujarat has emerged as the top performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme - Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), which was launched on September 23, promises health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family to over 10 crore poor families.
- Over 3.4 lakh beneficiaries have been treated under the scheme since its launch until November 24, according to the National Health Agency.
- Tamil Nadu ranked second at 54,273 hospital and Chattisgarh third at 53,180.

4. Health Ministry launches Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

- Ms. Preeti Sudan, Union Health Secretary did soft-launch of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states.
- The path-breaking initiative will provide near-real-time data to policymakers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.

5. Gau Samridhi Scheme launched by Kerala govt.

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state.



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- The government subsidized scheme, as proposed, will give insurance coverage to dairy farmers at low premium rates.

6. Yuva Sahakar Scheme launched by Agriculture Ministry

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh launched the 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme.
- Aim - The schemes aim for attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.
- The scheme will be linked to **Rs 1000 crore** 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

7. CCEA approves ACROSS scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of nine sub-schemes of umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" during 2017-2020.
- The scheme aims at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive Research & Development.
- The scheme refers to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

8. Government Launches Bhasha Sangam initiative -

- The government has launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages.
- The initiative, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, was active for the period between 22nd November 2018 – 21st December 2018.

- Bhasha Sangam is a programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages.

9. UP Govt launches Women empowerment resolution campaign –

- Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign to develop abilities in women for leadership and rights.
- The purpose of this campaign is to ensure the empowerment of women through different programs in the state.
- It was launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on November 20, 2018.

10. Union HRD Minister launches 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)' Program

- Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program under Innovation cell in New Delhi.
- HRD Ministry has established Innovation cell at AICTE with purpose to systematically foster culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

11. PM launches Support and Outreach Programme for MSME Sector

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Support and Outreach Programme.
- As part of this programme, PM unveiled 12 key initiatives which will help the growth, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country.
- There are five key aspects for facilitating the MSME sector which include - access to credit,



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access to market, technology upgradation, ease of doing business, and sense of security for employees.

Aim - It aims to boost MSME sector it is one of important sector for major generations of employment opportunities.

Key points

- It will run for **100 days covering 100 Districts** throughout the country.
- Under Access to Credit aspect of this programme, Government will launch **59 minute loan portal** to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs.
- **Loans upto Rs. 1 crore** will be granted in-principle approval through this portal, in just 59 minutes.
- Government will give **2% interest** subvention for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans.
- For exporters who receive loans in pre-shipment and post-shipment period will get increase in interest rebate ranging from **3% to 5%**.
- All MSMEs or companies with turnover more than **Rs. 500 crore** will now be compulsorily brought on Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS).
- Public sector companies have now been asked to compulsorily procure 25 percent, instead of 20 percent of their total purchases, from MSMEs.
- Out of the 25 percent procurement mandated from MSMEs, 3 percent must now be reserved for women entrepreneurs.

12. Saura Jalnidhi scheme launched by the Odisha Govt.

- This scheme has been launched by the Odisha Government only for Farmer for their filed irrigation.

Key points

- Under this scheme, farmers will be given 90% subsidy and 5,000 solar pumps.
- This scheme is only for those who have farmer identical and minimum land should be 0.5 acres.

13. Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Two North East Circuit Projects inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh

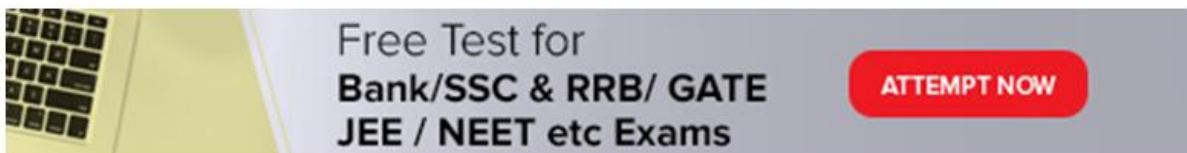
- Union Ministry of Tourism has inaugurated two important projects as part of Development of North East Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Arunachal Pradesh.

Swadesh Darshan scheme

- It was launched by Union Tourism Ministry in 2015 with objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- These tourist circuits developed will be developed under on principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in integrated manner.

14. Govt hikes outlay for first phase of FAME India scheme to Rs 895 crore

- The government has increased the outlay by Rs 100 crore to Rs 895 crore for the first phase of the FAME India scheme to promote mass adoption of electric vehicles, having extended the scheme four times, according to an official notification.
- The phase-I of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (FAME India) scheme was supposed



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to be implemented over a two-year period commencing from April 1, 2015.

October

1. SPARC' scheme - The Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar launched the 'SPARC' scheme.

- The objective of the scheme is to boost India specific research in social and pure sciences.
- Here 'SPARC' stands for - 'Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration'.

"SPARC will focus on joint research projects in focus areas, including technology, science and social sciences, which are of relevance to India.

Aim of the SPARC scheme -

- SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

Key points of the Scheme:

- The SPARC scheme envisages supporting around 600 proposals for a total outlay of Rs 418 Crores over two years.

Budget Outlay - Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry announced a budget of Rs 418 crore from 2018-20 on collaborative research between Indian and foreign institutes.

Collaboration with foreign countries:

- SPARK scheme will facilitate academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations.

National Coordinating Institute

- Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

Eligibility

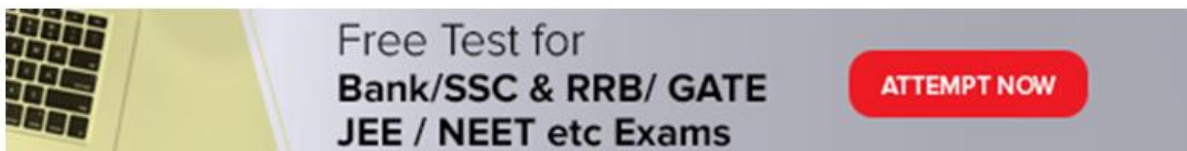
- All Indian Institutions ranked in the overall top-100 or category-wise top-100 in the India Rankings (NIRF) are eligible to apply.
- Only such private institutions which are falling in the above category, and also recognised under Section 12(8) of UGC Act are eligible.
- The partner institution shall be in the top-500 of Q5 World University Rankings or in the top-200 of Q5 World University Rankings by subject.

2. IMPRESS' scheme launched

- With an aim to promote policy research in social science areas Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched 'IMPRESS' scheme in the country.
- 'IMPRESS' stands for - Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences.

Key points:

- The scheme will provide an opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country which includes all universities (central and state).
- **Budget Outlay** - The scheme will be implemented at a total cost of Rs. 414 crores till March 2021.



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- **Implementing Agency** – The scheme will be implemented by the Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR).
- The IMPRESS scheme will open up new avenues in Research aiming at visible impact on Technology, Economy, Society, Culture - B.B. Kumar (ICSSR Chairman)
- Under IMPRESS, **1,500 research projects** will be awarded for two years to support social science research in the higher educational institutions.

Objective of IMPRESS Scheme - The objective of the scheme is as follows

- To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.
- To ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode.
- To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country, including all Universities (Central and State), private institutions with 12(B) status conferred by UGC.

The identified domains under IMPRESS are as:

- State and Democracy
- Urban Transformation
- Media, Culture and Society
- Employment Skills and Rural Transformation
- Governance, Innovation and Public Policy
- Growth, Macro Trade and Economic Policy
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Health and Environment
- Science and Education
- Social Media and Technology
- Politics, Law and Economics

3. Govt. launches Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme

- Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has launched Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi.
- It is Public-private partnership (PPP) initiative in collaboration with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE).
- This programme will help Government to achieve its target of reducing road accidents by 50% by 2020.

4. Delhi Government launches Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme: Delhi government has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges. It was announced by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

- The fellows will be paid remuneration of Rs 1.25 lakh per month and Rs 75,000 per month to Associate Fellows.

5. Government opens new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription - Union Government has opened new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription.

- Under this scheme, sovereign gold bonds will be issued every month from October 2018 to February 2019.
- This bond will be sold through Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, Post Office, Stock Exchange (NSE and BSE).

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme

- It is aimed at providing alternative to buying physical gold.
- Under it, bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof.
- These gold denominated bonds are restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals,



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Hindu undivided families (HUF), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

- The minimum subscription for individual and HUF is 1 gram and maximum is 4 kg.
- For trusts and similar entities, maximum subscription is 20 kg per fiscal.
- RBI has notified rate of interest of **2.50% per annum** on SGB bonds is payable on half yearly basis.

6. Digi Yatra: Govt. releases policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports

- Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi Yatra.
- The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel.
- It will be operational by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.
- In later phase, Airports Authority of India (AAI) will roll out this initiative at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports by April 2019.

Key points:

- Under Digi Yatra, there will be one-time verification at departure airport while travelling for first time using ID.
- After successful verification, facial recognition biometric will be captured and stored in Digi Yatra ID.
- With this initiative, ticket booking, airport entry and boarding pass security check-in will be made digital.
- For this system, passengers will be registered through centralized system and will be given Digi Travel ID.

7. Udyam Abhilasha: SIDBI launches national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched Udyam Abhilasha a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign.

- It was launched in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States.

Objectives of Udyam Abhilasha

- 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 aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship.
- To assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

8. Odisha govt. launched 'Nirman Kusuma' scheme –

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their technical education in the state.

Key points:

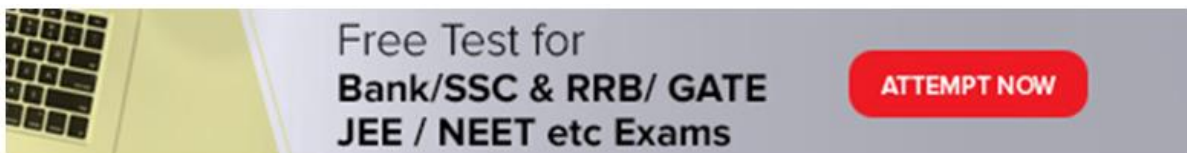
- The children of construction workers would get financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- While an ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600, a diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum.
- A total of 1,878 students will get benefit from the programme.

9. Odisha govt. launch Food Security Scheme - Odisha government launched the State's own food security scheme to cover the poor people.

- As per the provisions of the scheme, 25 lakh poor people left out from the benefits of the National Food Security Act, will get rice of 5 kg per month for one rupee.

10. Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women:

Assam Government has become the first Indian state to



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offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state.

Key points

- Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby.

- The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments - Rs 2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.

September

1. **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna:** The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act.

Key points:

- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
- The eligibility for availing Super Specialty treatment for dependents of Insured Person has now been relaxed to insurable employment of **one year with 156 days of contributions**.
- The ESIC also approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses from existing **10 thousand rupees to 15 thousand rupees** being paid on the death of Insured Person.

2. **Swayangsiddha scheme** - In an attempt to combat human trafficking, the West Bengal government rolled out a scheme, Swayangsiddha, in different districts of the State. As per the NCRB data, West Bengal has highest recorded case of trafficking among the States.

Aim of the scheme –

- The scheme aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.

- Swayangsiddha means self-reliance and it will be executed by the West Bengal Police.

3. **Petroleum Minister to launch 'SATAT' initiative** -

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched **SATAT** initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel.
- 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.

4. **Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) scheme** - Union Government has approved Rs 8,606 crore for 60 projects being implemented under umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM).

- The projects are being implemented in 111 border districts in 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- The scheme include construction of roads, schools, primary health centres, promotion of rural tourism, border tourism, cleanliness mission, promotion of sports activities, supply of drinking water, protection of heritage sites,



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community centres, connectivity, drainage, to enable sustainable living in border areas.

5. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ambitious Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), under Ayushman Bharat umbrella at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The scheme aims to provide annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to 10.74 crore beneficiary families i.e. over 50 crore beneficiaries across India.
- It is touted as world's largest healthcare scheme that will serve beneficiary population that equals 27-28 European countries and almost equal to population of Canada, Mexico and US put together.
- The scheme will become operational from September 25, 2018 i.e. on birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

- PMJAY is government-sponsored health insurance scheme, that will provide free coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year in any government or empanelled private hospitals all over India.
- It will cover beneficiaries families identified on the basis of Socio Economic Caste Survey (SECC) 2011 in 444 districts of 30 states/Union Territories.

6. Tamil Nadu Government announces scheme for protection of exotic Neela Kurinji plants

- Tamil Nadu government has announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years.
- This scheme comes following complaints that these rare and ecologically unique flowers are being packaged and sold on the commercial basis.

Neelakurinji plant

- Neelakurinji is a tropical plant species. It is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats.
- It is also seen in Shevroys Hills in Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.

7. Delhi Government launches India's first scheme for doorstep delivery of essential government services

- Delhi Government has launched scheme for doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services like caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections.
- It is first home delivery scheme of various essential government services in the country.
- It will help to deal with corruption in delivery of essential government services and promote transparent governance.

8. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a new Umbrella Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA). The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

- **Aim** – The scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
- **Objective** – To empower farmers and strengthen the Agriculture sector.
- **Allocation** - The Cabinet has sanctioned **Rs 15,053 crore** to implement the PM-AASHA in the next two financial years, of which Rs 6,250 crore will be spent this year.

Components of PM-AASHA: Under the PM-AASHA, states would be allowed to choose from three schemes –

- Price Support Scheme (PSS),
- Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).



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- 9. Govt. extends Atal Pension Yojana indefinitely** - Union Cabinet decided to indefinitely extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018. To further incentivize people's participation in the scheme.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) –

- It is a social security scheme launched by the government in 2015 to provide a defined pension between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.
- It had replaced earlier government-backed pension Swavalamban scheme.

Key features of the schemes:

- **Overdraft facility doubled** - The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.
- **Age limit increased** - The age limit has been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.
- **Accidental insurance cover raised** - The accidental insurance cover has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.

- 10. Govt. revised Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** – The government has revised the PMJDY scheme, to further incentivize people's participation in the scheme.

Key points

- **Overdraft facility doubled** - The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.
- **Age limit increased** - The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.
- **Accidental insurance cover raised** - The accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh.

- 11. Swadesh Darshan Scheme:** Tourism Ministry sanctions Rs. 80.37 crore for developing cruise tourism in Kerala.

Note:

- The scheme was launched by Union Tourism Ministry with an objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 'North East Circuit: **Imphal and Khongjom**' was inaugurated in Manipur.
- The project covers two sites i.e. Kangla Fort and Khongjom in Manipur.

August

- 1. O-SMART' scheme** – The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences


Key points –

- (O-SMART) stands for - Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science.
- O-SMART scheme encompasses 16 sub-projects related to ocean development activities and science for implementation during 2017-18 and 2019-20.

- The CCEA approved the scheme for implementation during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of Rs 1623 crore.

- 2. HRD Ministry launches Innovation Cell at AICTE** - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has established Innovation Cell at AICTE premises in New Delhi.

Aim - It aims to systematically foster culture of innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.



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3. Government launches third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 (SIH-2019).

- Smart India Hackathon is world's biggest open innovation model which aims to provide students with platform to solve some of pressing problems faced by people in their daily lives.

4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) - Govt. has appointed senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Key points

- It is farmers' welfare scheme launched in 2016 to ensure faster insurance services or reliefs to farmers.
- It aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.
- Under this scheme, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%.
- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by Government.
- Moreover, there is no upper limit on Government subsidy, so farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.

5. PMS-OBC scheme - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved continuation and revision of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes** Students for studying in India (PMS-OBC) till 2020.

Key points

- PMS-OBC is flagship scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in operation since 1998-99.

- It is fully centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide financial assistance to OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.
- Under revised PMS-OBC, annual parental income ceiling has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- Now onwards, 30% of funds will be earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.

6. CCEA approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) - The scheme was launched on 25 December 2000.


- It aims to provide single all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas.
- Union Ministry of Rural Development is nodal ministry for implementation of Scheme.

7. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Union Government, NABARD and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) have signed revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) through Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).

Key points:

- PMKSY was launched in July 2015 with overarching vision to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation for all agricultural farms in the country and to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity.
- It is implemented by Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development.
- It has outlay of Rs 50000 crore with implementation period of over five-year till April 2020.

Note:



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- The government has approved a corpus of **Rs 5,000 crore** for the setting up of a dedicated **micro irrigation fund (MIF)** under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard).

8. Govt. approves 122 new research projects under IMPRINT scheme: Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its IMPRINT-II (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) scheme.

Note:

- IMPRINT is first of its kind MHRD supported scheme to address major science and engineering challenges and boost original scientific and technological research in 10 technology identified domains in the country.
- It was launched in November 2015 with an aim to develop new engineering education policy and create road map to pursue engineering challenges.

9. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Government achieves 5 crore Free LPG Connections Target.

- Union Government has announced that it has reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) almost eight months ahead of schedule (i.e. in 27 months instead of 35 months).
- World Health Organisation (WHO) has recognised PMUY as one of decisive intervention by Government to address indoor air pollution which accounts for nearly 10 lakh deaths in year in the country.

Key points:

- Union Government launched PMUY in May, 2016 with tagline of '**Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.**'

- It aims at providing clean-cooking fuel to poor households, who are otherwise vulnerable to various health hazards associated with indoor air pollution and bringing in qualitative changes in living standards.
- PMUY is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Considering its huge success, government had revised target to 8 crores with budgetary allocation of **Rs. 12,800 crore.**

Note: Uttar Pradesh has got the maximum number of LPG connections (87 lakh) followed by West Bengal (67 lakh) and Bihar (61 lakh).

10. Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam: Andhra Pradesh Government has approved Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide **Rs 1000 per month unemployed youth in state.**

- The allowance will directly credited in bank accounts of selected beneficiary through biometric authentication in transparent manner. It will not be applicable to those paying provident fund.

11. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) – NITI Aayog identified 117 Districts as Aspirational Districts for RUSA Scheme.

- During the second phase of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in 'Aspirational Districts' identified by NITI Aayog and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and the Himalayan States.
- **Note:** RUSA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), launched in 2013 aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.



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July

1. Sulabh Jal Scheme launched in Bihar

- Bihar get world's cheapest clean drinking water.
- The first of such a water project was launched in **Bihar's Darbhanga** district by Sulabh International, an organisation that introduced the concept of 'Sulabh Sauchalya' in the country.
- With the help of this project, the people will easily be able to get pure and clean water only in 50paise/litre.
- The 'Sulabh Jal' project converts contaminated pond and river water into safe drinking water.

2. 'One person One car' policy - West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced "one person one car" policy for ministers and bureaucrats and mandated economy class for all domestic air travel in a bid to cut costs incurred by the state government.

3. Electoral bond scheme -

- Electoral Bond is a bearer Banking Instrument to be used for funding eligible Political Parties.
- An eligible Political Party is the one registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly.

Validity/ Maturity of Electoral Bonds -

- The Electoral Bonds shall be valid for **15 Days** from the Date of Issue ie: An Electoral Bond issued on 1st March 2018 will be valid upto 15th March 2018.

State Bank of India to issue and encash electoral bonds

Denominations or Face Value of Electoral Bonds

- The Electoral Bonds shall be issued in the denomination of Rs1000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1,00,000, Rs 10,00,000 and Rs 1,00,00,000.

Minimum and Maximum limit for Donation -

- The minimum amount for donation in Electoral Bonds is Rs 1000. There is no maximum limit for Donation.

4. "I am not afraid of English" initiative launched by Haryana - The Haryana Education Department has launched "I am not afraid of English" initiative to promote English language right from Class 1 in the state's primary schools.

- The initiative is aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them to help the students to learn, read, write and speak English.

5. MicroDots technology to check vehicle thefts -


- In a bid to put an end to vehicle thefts, the government will 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 tech is termed as **MicroDots** and it is almost impossible to remove these dots.

6. Medini Puraskar Yojna to encourage original Hindi writing - The environment ministry has decided to re-introduce a scheme 'Medini Puraskar Yojna', which aims at promoting original writing of books in Hindi.

- It aims to encourage Hindi authors to write on environmental topics.
- Rs. 1 lakh will be given as first prize, Rs. 75,000 as second prize and Rs. 50,000 as third prize.
- The scheme shall be administered by the Environment Ministry.

7. NMCG Organises "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan" in Five Ganga Basin States -

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is running "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan" in five main stem Ganga basin states - **Uttarakhand,**



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Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

- 8. Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme:** The Union Government has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from **Rs 1000 to Rs 250**.
- The minimum initial deposit to open the account has also been reduced to **Rs 250**.
 - The move is aimed at enabling more people to take advantage of the girl child savings scheme.

Key points:

- **Aim** - The scheme aims to provide **financial security** to a girl till the time that she gets married.
 - **Age limit** - The Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme is meant **for girl children below the age of 10 years**.
 - The account matures in **21 years before** which it is in a lock-in period where funds cannot be withdrawn.
 - Also, the interest rate for the July-September quarter is **8.1%**.
 - **Flexible deposit amounts:** The account can be opened with a **minimum deposit of Rs.250** and in multiples of Rs.100 thereafter.
 - A maximum of **Rs.1.5 lakhs** can be deposited per account every year.
- 9. MP Government launched Subsidised Power Scheme 'Sambal':** The Madhya Pradesh State Government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families.
- Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of **Rs 200 per month**.
- 10. Govt. launches Student Police Cadet Programme:** Ministry of Home Affairs sponsored Student Police Cadet

(SPC) Programme was launched nationally in Gurugram, Haryana.

- It was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- The programme aims to build bridge between Police and larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.

11. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018: Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) has launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in New Delhi.

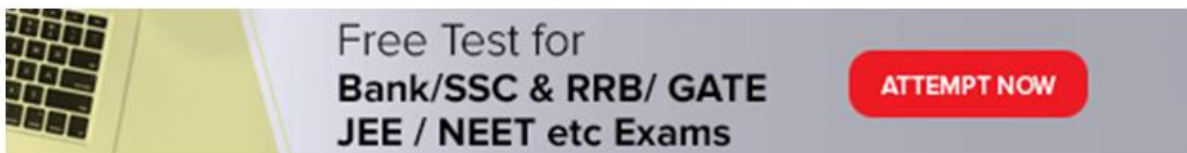
12. It is a rural cleanliness survey to rank all states and districts on basis of qualitative and quantitative evaluation.

13. Govt. selects 734 athletes for Khelo-India scholarships - Sports Authority of India (SAI) under Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has cleared 734 athletes for the scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme.

- They will be provided with annual stipend of Rs. 1,20,000 on quarterly basis to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses.

Khelo India Talent Development Scheme

- The scheme was introduced by Ministry of Sports and Youth affairs to revive sports culture in India at grass-root level.
- Its objective is to build strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as great sporting nation.
- It aims to help scout young talent from schools in various disciplines and groom them as future sports champions



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June

1. **Solar Charkha Mission:** President Ram Nath Kovind launched Solar Charkha Mission under which Government will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to thousands of artisans, generating employment in rural areas.
 - It was launched during the event of Udyam Sangam (National MSME Conclave) on the occasion of World MSME Day (observed on 27 June).
2. **Suryashakti Kisan Yojana' for Farmers:** The Gujarat government launched a solar power scheme for farmers- Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.
3. **Seva Bhoj Yojna, Union Ministry of Culture** launched a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
 - The Union Ministry of Culture has launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
 - Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) charged on the raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.
- The scheme has been launched for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 with a total outlay of **Rs. 325.00 crores.**
4. **Swajal Scheme** launched in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.
 - Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.
 - It will involve outlay of **Rs. 700 crores** through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.
5. **Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018** for laborers and poor families: The Madhya Pradesh government announced an outstanding power bill waiver scheme Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018 for laborers and poor families.
 - Laborers falling under the unorganized sector in Madhya Pradesh will get power supply at a subsidized rate.
 - The state cabinet also approved **Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018** (a scheme to provide subsidized power) in the meeting.
6. **Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana** a Health Insurance Scheme for Journalists: Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a new Health Insurance Scheme for the journalists launched by the state government in Odisha.
 - This scheme provides Rs. 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists of the state.



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May

1. **Samagra Shiksha scheme:** The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched Samagra Shiksha scheme to improve quality of school education.

Note:

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched Samagra Shiksha scheme to improve quality of school education.
- The scheme aims at improving quality of education, enhancing learning outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.

2. **Union Ministry of Power** launched the **PRAAPTI App** to bring transparency in electricity payments to Generators.

Note:

- The Union Ministry of Power launched web portal (www.praapti.in) and app namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).
- The webportal and app aims to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.

3. **IP Nani** - The union minister Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot **IP Nani** at the conference in New Delhi.

- Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson "Chhotu" aka Aditya.
- The IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among people, especially children, in an interesting manner.

4. **Gujarat govt.** launch free treatment scheme for the road accident victims.

Note:

- Under this scheme, the state govt. will bear medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of road accident in the state for the first 48 hours.

- Free treatment includes dressing of wounds, X-ray, blood transfusion, treatment in ICU and MRI, and all other treatment available in a hospital.

5. **National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy** - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy to promote new projects as well as hybridization of the existing ones.

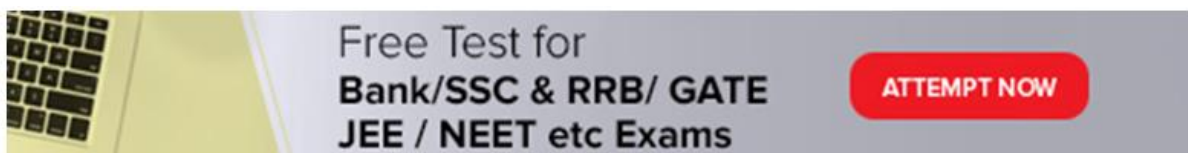
Note:

- The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for the promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land.
- These projects can be set up anywhere across the country depending on feasibility and land availability with bidders.
- The MNRE is also in the process of launching a scheme for new hybrid projects under this policy.

6. **Digital India Internship Scheme** - In May 2018, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the website of **Digital India Internship Scheme** in New Delhi.

Key points -

- Under this scheme, **25 interns** will be inducted for a period of three months, paid a stipend of **10 thousand rupees per month**.
- The internship is an opportunity for a student to secure first hand and practical work experience under the guidance of qualified and experienced Supervisor and Mentor.
- It also aims at active participation in the learning process through experimentation and putting



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into practice the knowledge acquired in the classrooms.

7. **Rythu Bandhu scheme** - The **Telangana government** launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) scheme at Dharmarajupalle-Indiranagar village in Karimnagar district on May 10, 2018.

- The scheme is a first-of-its-kind initiative providing investment support to farmers, who own land.

8. **'SWAYAM'** - Human Resource Development Ministry has launched an initiative 'SWAYAM' to train teachers using digital platform.

- The government will use the Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM aims to update the teaching technique of 1.5 million higher education faculty with focus on new and emerging trends.
- To achieve this, in the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified to prepare online training material and keep the teachers well-informed of latest developments in their disciplines through the online refresher course.

Summits & Conference

December

1. **G – 20 Summit 2018 - Buenos Aires, Argentina**

- The theme of the G20 summit is **'Building Consensus for a Fair and Sustainable Development.'**

2. **G – 20 Summit 2019 – Osaka, Japan**

- The 2019 G20 summit will be held on 28–29 June 2019 in Osaka, Japan.
- Japan will host its first ever G20 Summit.

3. **G – 20 Summit 2020 – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

- The 2020 G20 summit will be held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

4. **G – 20 Summit 2021 – Italy**

- The 2021 G20 summit will be held in **Italy.**

5. **G – 20 Summit 2022 – New Delhi, India**

- India will host the G-20 summit in 2022.

About G-20

- The G-20 is a grouping of the world's 20 major economies.
- G-20 members comprise Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan,

Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the U.S.

- Collectively, the G-20 economies account for nearly 90% of the gross world product, 80% of world trade, two-thirds of the world population, and approximately half of the world land area.
- Spain is a permanent guest invitee.
- In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held in Washington DC, US.


6. **Climate Change Conference 2018 held in Poland**

- The Climate Change Conference 2018 was held in Katowice, Poland.
- Previously, Poland hosted them twice – in 2008, in Poznań and in 2013, in Warsaw.

Note:

- The UN climate summits, i.e. so-called COP (Conference of the Parties) are global conferences, in the course of which action for climate policy is negotiated.

7. **Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 held in Jharkhand**



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- The Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the summit.
- The aim of the Summit is to promote Jharkhand as a key player to attract investment in the agriculture sector.

8. First India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit held in New Delhi

- The first India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit was held in New Delhi.
- It was organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in association with Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Ministry of External Affairs.

9. India Water Impact Summit-2018 held in New Delhi

- The India Water Impact Summit-2018 was held in New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the summit.
- The discussions this year will be on rejuvenation of the Ganga River Basin.
- The spotlight is on the 5 states, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, and Bihar.

10. Government holds Workshop on Developing 'Ganga Museum'

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga organised workshop on 'Developing a Ganga Museum Concept: Exchanging Experiences and Ideas between India and Europe' in Delhi.

11. 13th Edition of CII Agro Tech India - 2018 inaugurated in Chandigarh

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018 in Chandigarh.

12. Asia Pacific Summit-2018 held in Kathmandu

- The Asia Pacific Summit-2018 held in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.
- The theme of two-day Summit is "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values".

13. 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting held in Abu Dhabi.

- The 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation with UAE Foreign Minister was held in Abu Dhabi.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited United Arab Emirates to co-chair the meeting.

November

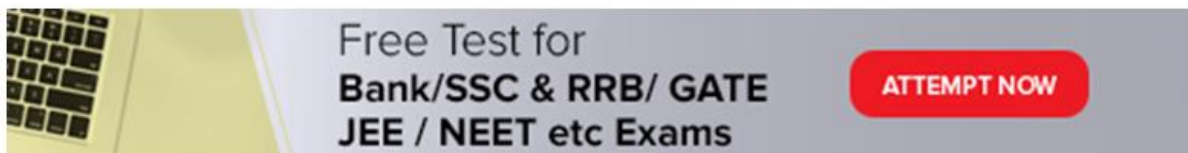
1. India to Chair Kimberley Process from January 2019

- India will chair the Kimberley Process (KP), a global initiative to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain, from January next year.
- The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) Plenary **2018, was held in Brussels, Belgium.**
- EU handed over the Chairmanship of KPCS to India from 1st January, 2019.

- Botswana and the Russian Federation will serve as Vice-Chair during the period of 2019-2020.

Note:

- Kimberley Process (KP) is a joint initiative of different countries, industry and civil societies to control flow of conflict diamonds, which are used by



- rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments in the world.
 - India is the founding member of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) and is actively involved in KP activities to ensure that almost 99 per cent of the diamond trade in the world is conflict free.
 - Since August 2013, the KP has 54 participants, representing 81 countries.
2. **The 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave inaugurated in New Delhi**
 - The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave in New Delhi as part of the commemoration of Constitution Day.
 3. **12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine held in Kathmandu**
 - The 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine started in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.
 - The theme of the 4-day congress is “**Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas**”.
 - The event is hosted by Mountain Medicine Society of Nepal (MMSN).
 4. **Sushma Swaraj Co-Chairs 9th Meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission**
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the 9th Meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission on Bilateral Co-operation with her counterpart Saleumxay Kommasith in Vientiane, Capital of Laos.
 5. **India to host 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in 2019**
 - The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad.
 6. **27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change held in New Delhi**
 - The 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi, India.
 - The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.
 - The BASIC countries comprise Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
 - Brazil will host the next meeting of BASIC in 2019.
 7. **General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) held in France**
 - The 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) was held at Versailles (Paris), France.
 - The members have voted for the redefinition of 130 years old “Le grand K – the SI unit of kg” in terms of the fundamental Planck’s constant(h).
 - The new definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019.
 8. **49th International Film Festival of India concludes in Goa**
 9. **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya**
 10. **7th International Tourism Mart 2018 being organised in Agartala**
 11. **9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue between India and China held in Beijing**
 12. **Regional meeting of World Customs Organisation being held in Jaipur**
 13. **6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi**
 14. **10th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Seminar held in Kochi**
 15. **Indo-Japan Business Council’s Business Festival held in Pune**
 - Indo-Japan Business Council’s Business Festival was held in Pune.
 - The Indo-Japan Business Council (IJBC), hosted KONNACHI WA PUNE – a first of its kind business festival in Pune.



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- The festival was aimed to boost investment, promote businesses and cultural exchange between India and Japan.

16. South Asia Youth Peace Conference held in New Delhi

- The three-day South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference was held in New Delhi as part 150th birth anniversary celebrations of father of nation Mahatma Gandhi.
- It was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) and STEP (Standing Together to Enable Peace).
- It was inaugurated by Krishna G Kulkarni, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

17. APEC Summit 2018 held in - Papua New Guinea

- The summit was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea capital.
- This is the first time Papua New Guinea (PNG), has hosted the summit.
- APEC stands for - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an inter-governmental forum for **21 Pacific Rim member economies** that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

18. 9th Session of India-Kyrgyz IGC held in New Delhi

- The 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) was held in New Delhi.
- The IK-IGC was co-chaired by The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, and Mr. Kosmosbek Cholponbaev, Minister of Health, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

19. 34th ASEAN Summit 2019 – Thailand

- In 2019, the 34th edition of the ASEAN Summit will be held in Thailand.

- The official theme for the ASEAN chairmanship next year will be “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”.

20. 33rd ASEAN Summit 2018 held in Singapore

- Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong hosted the summit.
- The theme of the Summit was “**Resilience**” and “**Innovation**”.
- This is the second ASEAN summit of this year as the 32nd edition of the ASEAN Summit 2018 was held in Singapore from 27-28 April 2018.
- The ASEAN members are - Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos.

21. FinTech Festival held in Singapore

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first head of a country who has been invited to give the keynote address.

22. 13th East Asia Summit 2018 held in Singapore

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 13th East Asia Summit.
- It was Prime Minister Modi's 5th East Asia Summit.
- India has been participating in the East Asia Summit since its very inception in 2005.
- The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.

23. 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) held in Singapore

- PM Modi attended the second RCEP Summit in Singapore with 16-member states.

24. ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit held in Singapore

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit in Singapore

25. The 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting was held in Singapore

- The meeting was attended by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and AEC Ministers.



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26. The second edition of 'INSPIRE 2018' held in New Delhi

- The second edition of INSPIRE was inaugurated in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy.
- INSPIRE stands for - International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency.
- It was jointly organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the World Bank.

27. 26th Conference of Central and State Organizations held In Himachal Pradesh

- The 26th edition of Central and State Statistical Organizations(COCSO) Conference was organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in collaboration with Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Himachal Pradesh at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.
- The theme of the 26th Conference was "Quality Assurance in Official Statistics".

28. 1st WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health held in Geneva

- The First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health took place at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

29. First-ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property held in New Delhi

- The first ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property was held in Delhi to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.

- The dialogue was launched by US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) and FICCI in partnership with the US-India Business Council.

30. India Mobile Congress held in New Delhi

- India Mobile Congress is one of the biggest marquee Mobile, Internet, and Technology event for South-East Asia organized by COAI and DoT.
- IMC 2018 was held in Aerocity, New Delhi.
- The congress was held under the theme of **NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS**.

31. Netherland to be partner Country for 25th DST-CII Technology Summit 2019

- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019, announced Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

32. 4th NITI Aayog- DRC Dialogue Held in Mumbai

- The Fourth Dialogue of the NITI Aayog – Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, Peoples' Republic of China was held in Mumbai.

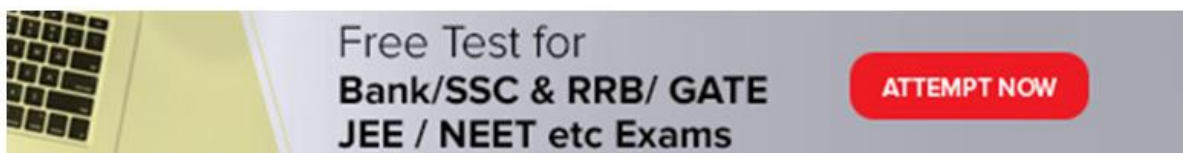
33. World Tolerance Summit held in Dubai, UAE

- The theme of the Summit was 'Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration'.

October

1. India Mobile Congress 2018 held in New Delhi

- The second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) was held New Delhi.



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- It was organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). The theme was “New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate”.
2. **25th DST – CII Technology Summit 2019**
 - The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019 in India.
 3. **5th National Summit on Public Health Care held at Kaziranga in Assam.**
 4. The 22nd National Level Meeting between India and Myanmar was held in New Delhi.
 5. **Gandhian Thought and Swachhata Seminar Organized in Wardha**
 - The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has organised a seminar on Gandhian thoughts and Swachhata to make India a Swachh Bharat by 2019 -150 the birthday celebration of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - It was being organized in the Wardha district of Maharashtra with a focus on achievement of the objectives of sanitation and Gandhian thoughts via Swachh Bharat Mission.
- About Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)**
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) was launched on 2 October 2014 with two submissions, SBA (rural) and SBA (urban).
 - The mission is jointly managed Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) (for rural) and the Ministry of Urban Development (for urban).
6. **North East Festival and Experiencing the North East held in New Delhi**
 - The sixth edition of North East festival is organized in New Delhi and the 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival is also held in New Delhi.
 - The festival is organised by Indian International Centre as 15th anniversary of its annual festivals.
 - The theme for this year is “Experiencing the North East”.
 7. **7th Meeting of Education Ministers of SCO Member States held in Astana, Kazakhstan**
 8. **12th ASEM Summit held in - Brussels, Belgium**
 - The theme of summit was ‘Global Partners for Global Challenges’.
 - It was chaired by European Council President Donald Tusk.
 - The summit was attended by heads of state of 51 European and Asian countries, representatives of European Union and Secretary General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
 - India was represented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
 9. **13th India-Japan Annual Summit – Tokyo, Japan**
 - The annual bilateral summit of India –Japan held on 28, 29 October 2018 in Japan.
 - The Indian prime minister visited Japan to attend the summit.
 - Japan-India Investment Promotion Roadmap enhanced the contribution of Japan in India’s Make in India initiative with establishment of Business Support Centre in Ahmedabad.
 10. **2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care, Kazakhstan**
 - The second conference on PHC inaugurated on 25 October 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
 - The conference is a collective initiative of Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF.
 - From India J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the conference.
 11. **20th Edition of WETEX 2018 held in Dubai**
 - The 20th Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2018 was held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



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- WETEX is organized by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) every year.
- WETEX 2018 is the largest edition in the 20 year-history of WETEX.

12. India hosts the highest number of outward international migrants in 2017

- The Asian Economic Integration Report 2018 was presented by Asian Development Bank.
- The report is an annual publication of ADB with a focus on progress in cooperation and migration.
- The report revealed that India hosts the highest number of outward international migrants in 2017. It was followed by China and Bangladesh.
- About one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.

13. 2018 UN Day Concert Held in New York

- The 2018 United Nations Day Concert was held in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- The theme of this year's concert is "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence".

14. 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and 5th ADMM-Plus – Singapore

- The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus was held on October 19 and 20, 2018 Singapore.
- The conferences were attended by defence ministers from India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and US. India was represented by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- This was second time Singapore has chaired ADMM since its establishment in 2006 and first time to chair ADMM-Plus since its establishment in 2010.

15. PM Modi Inaugurated Krishi Kumbha in Lucknow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a farmers' conclave 'Krishi Kumbh 2018' in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- The Kumbh witnessed two of the world's top economies, Israel and Japan, as official partners while Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states.

16. 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave held in New Delhi

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi.
- The theme: 'Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy'.

17. Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi

- The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi.
- The theme of the 2-day summit is, 'Connecting Farmers to Market'.
- The summit was inaugurated by the Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation, Sanjay Agrawal.

18. 1st Trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan & Iran held in Tehran

- The first trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran, Iran.
- The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Economic Relations) TS Tirumurti.

19. 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The Chair of the Board of IAEA for 2018-2019 is Ambassador Leena Al-Hadid of Jordan.

20. India to host 4th Edition of Global Partners' Forum in December 2018

- India will host the fourth edition of Global Partners' Forum in December 2018 in New Delhi.
- The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) will unite over 100 countries' representatives to discuss issues, strategies and



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solutions to women's, children's and adolescents' health.

- It will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PMNCH. Dr Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile is the chair of PMNCH.

21. 12th Asia Europe Meeting Summit held in Brussels

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit Brussels, Belgium.
- Mr Naidu lead the Indian delegation at the Summit.
- The theme of this year's ASEM Summit is "Global Partners for Global Challenges".

22. 6th Meeting of UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force held in Mumbai

23. 6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM) – Singapore

Note: The Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution C. R. Chaudhary, attended the event.

24. The 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.

- It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles Ajay Tamta.

25. 17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization - **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

26. 2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products – New Delhi

27. India–West Africa Conclave held in - Abuja, Nigeria.

28. India International Science Festival (IISF-2018) - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- Theme - "Science for Transformation"

29. First Uttarakhand Investors Summit – Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh.

30. 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference held in - Mumbai

31. First Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

September

1. Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence - New Delhi

2. High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis at 73rd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at **New York**.

3. India-Morocco Tourism Bilateral Meeting held in New Delhi

4. 23rd Meeting of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission held in Moscow

5. The Global Climate Action Summit 2018 was held at **San Francisco, California, United States**

6. G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting held in Argentina.

7. The Jaipur Literature Festival held in Houston at the Asia Society of Texas.

8. **4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018):** New Delhi

Note: WOSA is a biennial Summit organised by National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

9. **World Hindu Congress** - Chicago, the USA

Note: The theme of World Hindu Congress is '**think collectively, achieve valiantly**'.

10. **India's first Global Mobility summit 'MOVE'** - New Delhi.

Note:

- It was inaugurated Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The summit was organised by NITI Aayog.
- The main focus of the summit is to make cities of India pollution free.



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- The Summit includes three designated components – The Conclave, Digital Exhibition, and Featured Events.
- 11. 87th Izmir International tradeshow** – Izmir, Turkey.
Note: India is the partner country in the tradeshow.
 - 12. Defence & Homeland Security Expo & Conference** – New Delhi.
 - 13. India and the US hold the first edition** of the two-plus-two talks in New Delhi.
 - 14. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018** – Kathmandu, Nepal.

Note: The theme is “Equality begins with Economic Empowerment”.


- 15. International Aviation Summit** - New Delhi, India.
- 16. 6th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers’ Meeting** - Singapore
- 17. 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting** - Singapore
- 18. 4th International Ayurveda Congress** - Netherlands
Note: Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the event.

August

- 1. 4th BIMSTEC Summit** - Kathmandu, Nepal
Note:
 - The theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'
 - Sri Lanka has become the new chair of the BIMSTEC. Hence, Sri Lanka will host the fifth summit of the BIMSTEC.
- 2. International Buddhist Conclave 2020** - India will host the Conclave in August 2020.
- 3. First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum Begins** – Kathmandu, Nepal
- 4. G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting** - Salta, Argentina.
Note: The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'.
- 5. The 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee** - Nairobi, Kenya.
- 6. Fourth Asian electoral stakeholder’s forum (AESF-IV)** – Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 7. India Banking Conclave 2018** - New Delhi.
Note: The India Banking Conclave 2018 was organized by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)
- 8. International Buddhist Conclave 2018** – New Delhi, India

Note:

- The theme of the conclave is 'Buddha Path – The Living Heritage'
 - This year Japan is the partnering country for the Buddhist conclave.
- 9. 11th World Hindi Conference** - Port Louis, Mauritius.
Note: Theme – ‘Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti’
 - 10. The 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP)** - Beijing, China.
Note: Theme was “Learning To Be Human”.
 - 11. ‘One District One Product’ Summit** - The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the ‘One District One Product’ Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
Note:
 - Uttar Pradesh contributes around 44% in the total handicraft exports of the country.
 - Under the ‘One District One Product’ scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing employment to 25 lakh people in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.
 - 12. 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting** - Singapore
 - 13. Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting** – New Delhi, India



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July

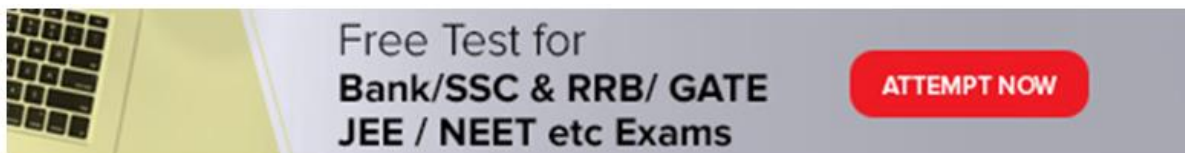
1. 1st Nepal-India Think Tank Summit – Kathmandu, Nepal.
2. **10th BRICS Summit 2018** - Johannesburg, South Africa.
Note:
 - The theme of BRICS Summit 2018 was 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'.
 - **11th BRICS Summit 2019** - Brazil
3. The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting - **New Delhi, India.**
4. **Global Disability Summit 2018** – London, UK
5. **The 8th BRICS Health Ministers' meeting** - Durban, South Africa.
6. **India and Japan fourth round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue** - New Delhi, India
7. **8th India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting** - Muscat
8. **17th World Sanskrit Conference** - Vancouver, Canada.
9. 6th edition of biennial World Cities Summit – Singapore.

Note: The theme was “Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration”

10. **India to host International Union of Food Science and Technology 2018** – India to host 19th edition of its prestigious global event to be held in Navi Mumbai, India in October 2018.
11. **17th World Sanskrit Conference held in Canada:** Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada.
12. **6th edition of biennial World Cities Summit held in Singapore:** The sixth edition of biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore from July 8 to 12, 2018. Its theme was “Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration”.
13. The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries.

June

1. **Haryana** to host World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference.
 - Haryana Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference at Gurugram in 10-13 October 2018.
2. **World Environment Day 2018: India**
 - India hosted 2018 World Environment Day on June 5, 2018.
3. The **11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018** – **New Delhi.**
 - With “**Beat Plastic Pollution**” as the theme for this year’s edition, the world is coming together to combat single-use plastic pollution.
 - India ranks at 177 positions out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index 2018.




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- The 11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, India.
 - The aim of the event was to provide platform to showcase innovative applications of Geospatial technologies.
4. **18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit 2018 - China**
- The 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-2018) was hosted by China in the city of **Qingdao** in June 2018.
 - 17th SCO summit 2017, was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in June 2017.
 - **Kyrgyzstan** has taken over the SCO rotating presidency, and the **19th SCO summit will be held in Kyrgyzstan next year.**
 - The SCO is consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
5. **44th G7 Summit 2018 – Canada**
- The **44th G7 summit** was held on June 8–9, 2018, in **Quebec, Canada.**
 - This was the sixth time since 1981 that Canada has hosted the meetings.
- The **45th G7** summit or next G7 summit will be held in **2019 in France.**
 - The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
6. An International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) - **Kathmandu, Nepal**
- Explanation:**
- The International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal.**
 - The Theme of the two-day conference is **“Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society”.**
 - The conference is organised by the Federation of Computer Association Nepal (CAN).
7. **11th World Hindi Conference - Mauritius**
- The 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018 with an aim to increase the popularity of Hindi globally.
 - The main theme of the Conference is **‘Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti’.**

May

1. Global Wind Summit 2018: **Hamburg, Germany.**
- The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany in September 2018.
 - The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
 - India is fourth largest country, after China, the US and Germany, in terms of wind energy installation capacity.
2. 9th edition of ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’
- **Tehri, Uttarakhand.**
 - Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’ was held to promote India’s rich cultural Heritage which was organised by the Ministry of Culture.
 - **Mahesh Sharma**, Union Minister of Culture - Minister of State (Independent Charge)
3. The 71st World Health Assembly was held in: **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The Union Health Minister Mr. J P Nadda led the Indian Delegation at World Health Assembly.



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- The Event was held under the theme "**Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage**".
- 4. The 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial meeting was held at - **Malmo, Sweden**.
 - The Indian delegation was led by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences.
 - The 'Mission Innovation' is a global platform of 23 countries and European Union aimed at accelerating clean energy innovations through enhanced Government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation.
- 5. Climate summit 2019 – **New York**
 - Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in **New York** to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- 6. The third edition of 'United Nations Peacekeeping course for African Partners(UNPCAP)' - **New Delhi**
 - The third edition of 'United Nations Peacekeeping course for African Partners(UNPCAP)' was held in New Delhi.
- 7. **15th Asia Media Summit 2018 - India**
 - India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit 2018 in **New Delhi**.
 - The theme of this summit is "**Telling our Stories Asia and More**".
 - The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and India hosted the **event for the first time**.
- 8. **2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) – China**
 - China will host the 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) in August 2018.
- The theme of the conference is - **Creating new intelligent power and sharing the new opening-up era**.
- It will offer a venue where academic thoughts can be exchanged at high levels and the latest achievements demonstrated.
- 9. **2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference - China**
 - China hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference in Wuhan, on 9th May 2018.
 - From India, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons attended the conference.
 - It was the first meeting of SCO tourism ministers since the organization was established in 2001 in Shanghai.
- 10. First meeting of the **BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation - India**
 - The first meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation was held in New Delhi, **India on 10-11 May 2018**.
 - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization involving a group of countries in the South Asia and South-East Asia namely, **Myanmar, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal & Sri Lanka**.
 - BIMSTEC was established on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, **Bangladesh**.
- 11. 2018 Bay of **Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** summit – **Nepal**
 - Nepal will host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.



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12. First-ever joint conference of Indian Customs and Department of India Posts - New Delhi

- The first-ever joint conference of Indian Customs and Department of India Posts at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.

13. India- South Africa Business Summit 2018 was held in - Johannesburg

- India- South Africa Business Summit 2018 was held in Johannesburg.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended the event.
- The tag line of the India- South Africa Business Summit is – **United by Legacy, Unified for Prosperity.**

14. The 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' 2018 was held in - Bengaluru

- The conference was organised by the Ministry of Finance.

- The conference was held to discuss three broad areas which include -
- the Challenges as well as Opportunities in the context of need for Futuristic,
- Resilient and Digital Infrastructure,
- Resource Mobilisation and Emerging Challenges among others.

15. The 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers 2018 was held in Manila.

Note:

- The twelfth informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, the capital of Philippines.
- Finance Minister of **Nepal Yuba Raj Khatriwada** chaired the meeting.
- The meeting was held on the side-lines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from the SAARC member states attended the meeting.

April

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 - Varanasi

Explanation:

- The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held on **21-23 January 2019**, in the holy city of **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh.
- The **theme** of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is "**Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India**".
- Prime Minister of **Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth** will be the **Chief Guest** at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019.

2. The India Mobile Congress will be held from 25th – 27th October 2018 in New Delhi

- The theme of the 2018 India Mobile Congress is - "**NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS: Connect. Create. Innovate.**".

3. The first 'Happy Cities' Summit - **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**
4. 7th edition of Home Expo India 2018 - **Greater Noida**
5. The 10th edition of "DefExpo India- 2018" - **Tamil Nadu**
 - The theme of the expo is "**India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub**".
6. The World Expo 2020 - **Dubai**
7. First International conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' - **Nepal**
8. The 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Mid-Term Ministerial conference - **Baku, Azerbaijan**



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- The theme of the conference is - **"Promoting International Peace and Security for Sustainable Development"**.
 - External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** attended the meeting.
9. International Buddhist Conference 2018 **Lumbini, Nepal**
10. First meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors - **Washington D.C.**
- Ministry of Finance, Government of India was represented in the meeting by **Shri Subhash Chandra Garg**, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (EA).
11. The 2018 Global Malaria Summit - **United Kingdom**
- The 2018 Global Malaria Summit was held alongside the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, United Kingdom.
12. 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 - **United Kingdom**
- The 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 is being hosted by United Kingdom from **16-20 April 2018**.
 - The theme of the CHOGM 2018 is **"Towards a Common Future"**.
 - Rwanda has been selected as host of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be held in **2020**.

March

1. The first G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors held in **___Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- Note:**
- The 2018 G20 summit will be the 13th meeting of Group of Twenty (G20).
 - The summit will be held on 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2018 in the city of **Buenos Aires, Argentina**.
 - It will be the first-ever G20 summit to be hosted in **South America**.
 - G 20 Summit in 2017 was held in **Hamburg, Germany**.
2. **106th edition** of the Indian Science Congress will be held in **___Jalandhar, Punjab**.

Note:

- The event will be from January 3-7, 2019 at Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The **theme** for 2019 ISC will be **"Future India: Science & Technology"**.
- **105th Indian Science Congress** was held at Manipur University, Imphal.
- The **theme** for 2018 ISC is "Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology".
- **104th Indian Science Congress 2017** was held in **Tirupati** (S. V. University), **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **103rd Indian Science Congress 2016** was held in **Mysore**.



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Books & Author

1. A book 'Radio Kashmir in Times of Peace & War' written by **Dr Rajesh Bhat**.
2. A book 'Yoga And Mindfulness' - Mansi Gulati
3. Book titled 'The Rule Breakers' - **Preeti Shenoy**
4. Book titled 'Atal Ji Ne Kaha' - **Brijendra Rehi**
5. Book titled '281 and Beyond' - **VVS Laxman (veteran cricketer) autobiography**
6. Book titled 'No Spin' - **Shane Warne (veteran cricketer) autobiography**
7. Book titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" - **Ramachandra Guha**.
8. Novel "Warlight" - **Michael Ondaatje** (named in Man Booker Prize list)
9. Novel 'The English Patient' - **Michael Ondaatje** (winner of Golden Man Booker International prize 2018)
10. Book titled 'Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly' - **Abhirup Bhattacharya**
11. The book 'Straight Talk' authored by **Abhishek Manu Singhvi**
12. Author of the book "Across the Bench – Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System" - **Gyan Bhushan**
13. Book 'Calling Sehmat' authored by - **Harinder S. Sikka**
14. Author of 'Smart Cities Unbundle' book - **Dr. Samir Sharma**
15. Author of 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism' book - **C. H. Hanumantha Rao**
16. Authored of the book "India's Heritage of Gharana Music: Pandits of Gwalior" - **Meeta Pandit**
17. Book titled 'Paramveer Parwane' authored by - Prabhakaran Jain.
18. Book titled 'Exam Warriors' authored by – Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi
19. Book titled "A Century is Not Enough" autobiography of – Sourav Ganguly.
20. Book titled 'Imperfect' autobiography of – Sanjay Manjrekar (cricketer-turned-commentator)


Obituaries

December

1. **Mastanamma** - One of the world's oldest YouTubers, 107-year-old Mastanamma from southern India, passed away.
2. **George HW Bush** - Former US President
3. **Mohammed Aziz** – Veteran Singer

November

1. **Ustad Imrat Khan** - Noted Indian Classical Musician
2. **Sandeep Michael** - Former Indian Hockey Player
3. **William Goldman** - Oscar-winning screenwriter and best-selling author
4. **Saint Narayan Das** - Padma Shri awardee and revered saint Narayan Das Maharaj of Triveni dham near Jaipur passed away.
5. **TS Kanaka** - Asia's 1st Woman Neurosurgeon
6. **Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri** - Hero of 1971 India-Pakistan war
7. **Alyque Padamsee** - Popular ad filmmaker and theatre personality
8. **Stan Lee** - American comic-book writer and Marvel Comics co-creator
9. **Lalan Sarang** - Veteran theatre and Marathi film actor



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10. **Ananth Kumar** - Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers H.N. Ananth Kumar passed away.

11. **Qazi Abdussattar** - a noted Urdu writer and former head of Aligarh Muslim University's
12. **Ntozake Shange** - Playwright, poet and author
13. **M.P. Awati** - 1971 War Hero, former Vice-Admiral

October

1. **Narayan Datt Tiwari** - Former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister.
Note:
 - He was three-time CM of Uttar Pradesh and was first elected CM of Uttarakhand as well.
 - He was Chief Minister of Uttarakhand from 2002 to 2007.
 - He also had served as Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 2007 to 2009.
2. **Qazi Abdussattar** - Padma Shri awardee and noted Urdu writer. He was the former head of Aligarh Muslim University's Urdu department.

3. **Madan Lal Khurana** - Former Delhi Chief minister. He was appointed the governor of Rajasthan in 2004.
4. **Osamu Shimomura** - Japanese-born Marine biologist and the winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
5. **G D Agarwal** - Environmentalist G.D. Agarwal, who was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga, died after a heart attack in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
6. **Paul Allen** - Microsoft Co-Founder
7. **Annapurna Devi** - Legendary musician. (She was married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar)
8. **MN Paloor** - Well-known Malayalam poet
9. **Natwar Thakkar** - Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi.
Pandit Tulsidas Borkar - Renowned harmonium player

September


1. **Biswanath Dutt** - Former BCCI president
2. **Kalpana Lajmi** - Renowned filmmaker
3. **Tran Dai Quang** - former President of Vietnam
4. **Anna Rajam Malhotra** - India's first woman IAS officer
5. **Dolagobinda Pradhan** - Noted freedom fighter and former Odisha Minister
6. **Satya Prakash Malviya** - Former Union petroleum minister

7. **Vijay Shankar Vyas** - Renowned agricultural economist and former PM's Economic Advisory Committee member.
8. **Bhagwati Kumar Sharma** - Noted Gujarati author and poet
9. **Jain Muni Tarun Sagar** - The monk, who was known for his lecture series 'Kadve Pravachan passed away.

August

1. **John McCain** - US Senator
2. **Kuldip Nayar** - Veteran Journalist

3. **Uri Avnery** - Israeli journalist and peace activist and one of the first to openly advocate for a Palestinian state passed away at the age of 94.
4. **Kofi Annan** - Former United Nations Secretary-General



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5. **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** - Former prime minister of India.

Note:

- He was three times Prime Minister of India. First Term: May 1996, Second Term: 1998-1999 and Third Term: 1999-2004.
- He was awarded with the Bharat Ratna Award the highest civilian award in 2015.

6. **Ajit Wadekar** - Former India cricket captain

7. **Balramji Das Tandon** - Chhattisgarh Governor

8. **Somnath Chatterjee** - Former Lok Sabha speaker

9. **V.S. Naipaul** - Nobel Prize-winning British author V S Naipaul.

Note: He wrote more than 30 books and won the Nobel Literature Prize in 2001.

10. **M Karunanidhi** - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

1. **Ramapada Chowdhury** - Noted Bengali writer

2. **Swapan Sarkar** - Veteran Sports Journalist

3. **Ramchandra Singhdeo** - Former and first Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh

4. **Gopal Das Neeraj** - Renowned Hindi poet & lyrics

July

Note: He was conferred with Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2007.

5. **Rita Bhaduri** - Veteran actor

6. **M.N. Vyasa Rao** - Kannada Poet

7. **Dada Vaswani** - Spiritual leader

June

1. Adiraju Venkateswara Rao - **Veteran Journalist**

- Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away.

2. Nerella Venumadhav - renowned **mimicry artiste**

- Noted mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav passed away after a brief illness in Warangal city. He was 85.
- He has conferred scores of awards, including the Padma Shri in 2001.

3. Timothy Pereira - **former football player**

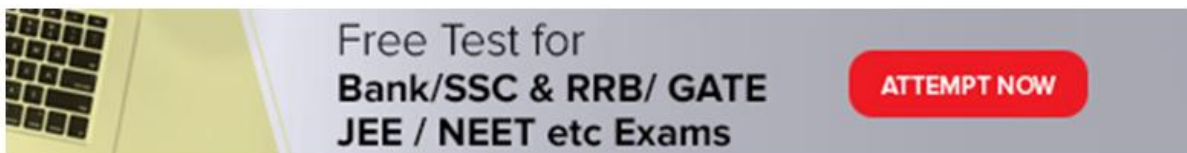
- Timothy Pereira, former football international who represented Tata FC, passed away in Mumbai.

4. **Pappu Karki** - Kumaoni folk singer

- Karki was famous for singing Kumaoni folk.
- Karki is originally from Thal in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

5. Rasaraj' Narayan Prasad Singh - **lyricist**.

- Odisha's most popular lyricist, Narayan Prasad Singh was popularly known as 'Rasaraj' passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar. Singh was 86.



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Appointments

December National

- 1. New Chief Economic Advisor - Krishnamurthy Subramanian**
 - He is currently working as an Associate Professor at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.
- 2. New Finance Secretary – AN Jha**
 - Ajay Narayan Jha has been appointed as new Finance Secretary.
 - He replaced Hasmukh Adhia.
- 3. First Indian To Be Elected in ISSF's Judges Committee**
 - Pawan Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of seven member's of the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
- 4. 1st Indian to Be Elected ISSF's Vice-president - Raninder Singh**
 - Raninder Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation.
- 5. New MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra - AS Rajeev**
- 6. New CEO of Axis Capital - Dharmesh Mehta**
- 7. SBI appointed Swapna Barman as Brand Ambassador for YONO**
 - State Bank of India has roped in Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for its digital app YONO.

November National

- 1. New Chief Election Commissioner of India - Sunil Arora**
 - Sunil Arora has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India.
 - He succeeds Om Prakash Rawat.
- 2. New Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) – Arvind Saxena**
- 3. First UNICEF 'Youth Advocate' of Northeastern Region**
 - Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.
- 4. New Revenue Secretary - Ajay Bhushan Pandey**
 - Ajay Bhushan Pandey CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has been appointed as the new revenue secretary.
 - He replaced Hasmukh Adhia.
- 5. New IWAI Chairman - Jalaj Srivastava**
 - Jalaj Srivastava, has been appointed the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
 - The headquarter of IWAI is in Noida.
- 6. New ED Chief - Sanjay Mishra**
 - Sanjay Mishra was appointed as the new Enforcement Directorate Director (ED).



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7. India's 1st Ever Youth Ambassador – Hima Das

- The United Nations Children's Fund-India (UNICEF) has appointed Hima Das as India's first ever Youth Ambassador.
- Hima Das is the first Indian athlete to win the India's first international gold in track events.

8. New WhatsApp India Head - Abhijit Bose

9. Justices Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, MR Shah and Ajay Rastogi sworn-in as Supreme Court Judges

10. Re-Appointment of Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO

- RBI had approved the re-appointment of Aditya Puri as MD and CEO of the bank for another two years.
- Aditya Puri will now serve the office from November 1, 2018, to October 26, 2020.

11. New MD & CEO of UCO Bank - Atul Goel

- He replaces R K Takkar.

12. New CCI Chairperson - Ashok Kumar Gupta

- Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- He replaces Sudhir Mittal.

13. New DG of ITBP - S. S. Deswal

- S. S. Deswal appointed as the Director General, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

14. Binny Bansal resigns as CEO of Flipkart Group

- Co-founder Binny Bansal has resigned as CEO of Flipkart Group.

15. DV Sadananda Gowda got the additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers

- Currently, DV Sadananda Gowda holds the portfolio of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

16. Narendra Singh Tomar got the additional charge of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

- At present, Narendra Singh is Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines.

17. Sanjay Kumar Seth takes oath as chief justice of MP high court

- Justice Sanjay Kumar Seth sworn in as the 24th Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

18. Yes Bank Chairman Ashok Chawla resigned

19. Yes Bank Director R. Chandrashekhara resigned

October

1. Anupam Kher Resigns as FTII Chairman - Actor

Anupam Kher has resigned as the chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India citing commitments to an international TV show for which he has to be stationed in the U.S.

2. New MD & CEO of Paytm Payments Bank - Satish Kumar Gupta

3. New Interim Director of CBI - M Nageshwar Rao

4. New Solicitor General of India - Tushar Mehta

5. New Chief Statistician of India - Pravin Srivastava

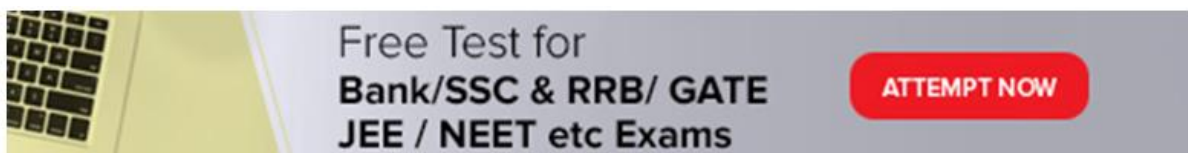
6. New MD & CEO of ICICI Bank - Sandeep Bakhshi

7. Chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) - Rangachari Sridharan

8. New MD & CEO of IDBI Bank - Rakesh Sharma

9. New Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) - Priyanka Kanoongo

10. New Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) - Nimesh Shah



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September

1. India's Next Ambassador to China - Vikram Misri
2. **New Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** - Renowned scientist Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
3. New Chairman and Managing Director of National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) - Tajinder Mukherjee
4. New Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at SBI - Prashant Kumar
5. New Ambassadors of Skill India Campaign - Varun Dhawan & Anushka Sharma
6. **New Chief Justice of India** - Justice Ranjan Gogoi (46th CJI)

Note: He will assume office of Chief Justice on 3rd October, 2018 after retirement of incumbent Chief Justice, Justice Dipak Misra.

7. **New MD & CEO of Axis Bank** - Amitabh Chaudhry
Note: He will replace Shikha Sharma who will step down on December 31, 2018.
8. **New Managing Director of the SBI** - Anshula Kant
Note: With this appointment, SBI now has four MDs - PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.
9. **New Brand Ambassador of BSNL** - Mary Kom
10. **New Secretary (Ministry of Steel)** - Binoy Kumar

August

1. **First CEO of Vodafone Idea** - Balesh Sharma
2. **New DRDO Chairman** - G. Satheesh Reddy
3. **New Secretary General of Assocham** - Uday Kumar Varma
Note: Sandeep Jajodia is the present President of Assocham.
4. **Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister** - Union Minister Arun Jaitley is back as the Finance Minister after a three-month interval to recuperate from a kidney transplant surgery.

5. **New Independent Director of Indiabulls Housing Finance** - S.S. Mundra (former Deputy Governor of the RBI)
6. **New head Coach of the women's National team** - Ramesh Powar (Former India spinner)
7. **New Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity** - Justice Manjula Chellur
8. **New Chief Justice of Delhi High Court** - Justice Rajendra Menon
9. **New Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha** - Harivansh Narayan Singh
10. **New CEO of HSBC India** - Surendra Roshia

New Governor Appointed

1. **New Governor of Uttarakhand** - Baby Rani Maurya
 - Note: He replaced K K Paul.
2. **New Governor of Haryana** - Satyadev Narayan Arya
 - Note: He replaced Kaptan Singh Solanki.
3. **New Governor of Bihar** - Lalji Tandon
 - Note: He replaced Satya Pal Malik.
4. **New Governor of Tripura** - Kaptan Singh Solanki

5. **New Governor of Sikkim** - Ganga Prasad
 - Note: He replaced Shrinivas Patil.
6. **New Governor of Meghalaya** - Tathagata Roy
 - Note: He replaced Ganga Prasad.
7. **New Governor of Jammu & Kashmir** - Satya Pal Malik
 - Note: He replaced NN Vohra.



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July

1. International Kabaddi Federation Chief: **Janardan Singh Gehlot**
2. New Director & GM of United India Insurance: Vijay Srinivas
3. New CMD of SAIL - **Saraswati Prasad**
4. New Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI): Vishwas Patel
5. New Chairman of National Green Tribunal (NGT): Justice Adarsh Kumar

June

1. New Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs - **S Ramesh**
 - He succeeded Vanaja N Sarna.
2. New RBI Deputy Governor – **Mahesh Kumar Jain**
 - The Centre appointed Mahesh Kumar Jain, Managing Director, and CEO of IDBI Bank, as the RBI's Deputy Governor.
3. New MD & CEO of IDBI Bank - **B Sriram**
4. New Managing Director of SBI - **Arijit Basu**
5. New COO of ICICI Bank - **Sandeep Bakhshi**
6. New Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting - **Amit Khare**
 - Amit Khare, IAS assumed charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on superannuation of Shri Narendra Kumar Sinha, IAS.
7. West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi gets additional charge of **Tripura** state Governor.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind gave West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi additional charge of Tripura Governor, during the absence on leave of Tathagata Roy.
8. New vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) - **Sharad Kumar**
9. Acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) - **Arvind Saxena**
 - He replaced incumbent Vinay Mittal.

May

1. New chief minister of Karnataka: **HD Kumaraswamy**
 - Congress Leader G. Parameshwara was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.
2. First-ever Chief Financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - **Sudha Balakrishnan**
 - Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed the first-ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - Earlier, she holds the post of vice president of National Securities Depository Ltd.
3. New MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank - **Anubrata Biswas**
4. New chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI) - **C K Prasad**
5. Get the additional charge of the DRDO Chief - **Sanjay Mitra**
 - Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra was given additional charge of the Chairman of Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)



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6. New deputy National Security Advisor of India - **Pankaj Saran**
7. New Governor of Odisha - **Ganeshi Lal**
8. New Governor of Mizoram - **Kummanam Rajasekharan**
9. New Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi - **Uttam Pacharne**.
 - Eminent artist and sculptor Pacharne succeeds ML Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies).
10. New Chief Justice of Manipur High Court - **Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar**.
11. New Head of U.S India Business Council - **Ambika Sharma**.
12. New CMD of Coal India Limited - **Anil Kumar Jha**.
13. Senior advocate **Mukul Rohatgi** appointed as 'eminent jurist' in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee led by the Prime Minister.
 - In May 2014, Rohatgi was appointed the Attorney General of India and resigned from the post in June 2017.
14. Chairman of IRDAI - **Subhash Chandra Khuntia**
 - He replaced **TS Vijayan's** whose tenure ended on 21st February this year.
15. Current Cabinet secretary of India - **Pradeep Kumar Sinha**
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by PM Narendra Modi approved the extension of Cabinet secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha (1977 batch IAS officer of UP cadre) for another one year (till June 12, 2019).
16. **Ashok Lahiri appointed** as full-time member of - **15th Finance Commission**
Note:
 - **Ashok Lahiri** appointed as full-time member of **15th Finance Commission**.
 - **Ashok Lahiri** is the former Chief Economic Adviser of India.
 - The head of the 15th Finance Commission is **N K Singh**.

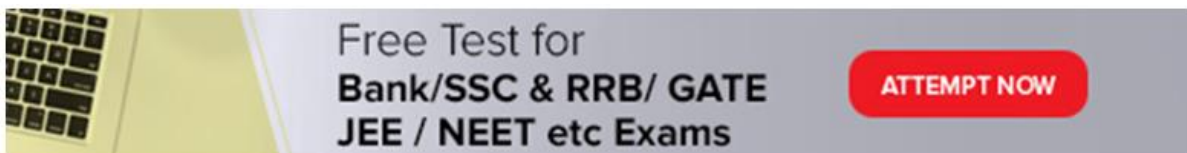
Appointment

International

December

International

1. **New President of Mexico** - Andres Manuel Lopez
2. **New CEO of IAAF** - Jon Ridgeon
 - The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) announced the appointment of Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO.



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November

1. **First female President of Georgia - Salom Zurichishvili**
2. **New PM of Fiji - Voreqe Bainimarama**
3. **Youngest UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador - Millie Bobby**
 - Millie Bobby Brown, the star of hit Netflix series "Stranger Things", appointed as the youngest ever goodwill ambassador of United Nations children's agency UNICEF.
 - UNICEF Headquarters: New York.
4. **New Interpol President - Kim Jong Yang**
 - South Korea's Kim Jong-yang has been elected as Interpol's next president.
 - Interpol Headquarters: Lyon, France
5. **Acting Executive Director of UNEP - Joyce Msuya**
 - Tanzanian national Joyce Msuya was appointed as acting Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
6. **New President of AIBA - Gafur Rakhimov**
 - UNEP headquarter - Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Uzbekistan's businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA)
7. **BIS names Siddharth Tiwari as Chief Representative for Asia**
 - The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced Siddharth Tiwari joining as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.
 - He succeeds Eli Remolona.
8. **New head of Google Cloud - Thomas Kurian**
 - Oracle's ex-product chief Thomas Kurian will head Google's cloud division. He will replace Diane Greene.
9. **UN Environment Chief Erik Solheim resigns**

October

1. **First Female President of Ethiopia** - Sahle-Work Zewde became the first-ever female President Ethiopia.
2. **New Prime Minister of Sri Lanka** - Mahinda Rajapaksha
3. **Re-elected President of Ireland** - Michael D Higgins
4. **New President of Brazil** - Jair Bolsonaro
5. Sajjan Jindal Elected as Treasurer Of World Steel Association
6. New President of Iraq - Barham Salih
7. Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - Gita Gopinath (India-born Harvard University professor)
8. India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) - **Pankaj Sharma**
9. India's Ambassador to Spain - Sanjay Verma
10. Chairman of the working committee at World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) - Vikram Limaye



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September


1. New Prime Minister of Sudan - Moutaz Mousa Abdallah
2. Chief Privacy Officer at Google - Keith Enright
3. **New President of Pakistan** - Arif Alvi
Note: He was elected as the 13th President of Pakistan.
4. **New Chief Justice of Nepal** - Justice Om Prakash Mishra
5. **New Chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd** - Daniel Zhang
Note: Daniel Zhang will replace Jack Ma on Sept 10, 2019.
6. **Regional Director WHO South-East Asia** - Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
7. **New CEO & Executive Director (ED) of WPP Plc** (the world's largest communication services group) - **Mark Read**.

August

1. **New Prime Minister of Pakistan** - Imran Khan becomes the 22nd PM of Pakistan. He is the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).
2. **New Prime Minister of Australia** - Treasurer Scott Morrison
Note: He replaced Malcolm Turnbull.
3. **Re-Elected Mali President** - Ibrahim Boubacar Keita
4. **New President of Paraguay** - Mario Abdo Benitez
5. **New UN Human Rights Chief** - Michelle Bachelet
6. **New President of Colombia** - Ivan Duque
7. **1st Indian to become member at Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** - Ajay Data (Founder & CEO of Data XGen Plus)
8. **New CEO of PepsiCo** - Ramon Laguarta
Note: He will replace Indra Nooyi who will step down in October.
9. **New President of Zimbabwe** - Emmerson Mnangagwa
10. **Pakistan 1st Woman Chief Justice of High Court** - Justice Tahira Safdar

June

1. New President of Turkey - **Tayyip Erdogan**
2. New President of Colombia - **Ivan Duque**
 - He will replace **Juan Manuel Santos**.
3. New Prime Minister of Spain - **Pedro Sanchez**
4. New Prime Minister of Italy - **Giuseppe Conte**
5. First interim woman President of Paraguay - **Alicia Pucheta**
 - Paraguay gets first interim woman President Alicia Pucheta for the first time in its history after outgoing leader Horacio Cartes stepped down ahead of schedule.
6. New Prime Minister of Jordan - **Omar al-Razzaz**
 - Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz was sworn in as Jordan's Prime Minister.



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Honours & Awards

National December

1. Imran Hussain Gets PETA 'Hero to Animals' Award

- Delhi Minister of Food Supplies, Environment and Forest and Elections Imran Hussain was awarded by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)-India for banning the Chinese Manjha, or the glass-coated kite strings, across Delhi.

November

1. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award in Delhi

- Sarod masters, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan conferred with the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' at the Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, for his "immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music".

2. Veteran Journalist N Ram received Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award

- Eminent journalist and Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram has been selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award.

3. CSE Wins Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has won this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, an award conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.

4. Amitabh Bachchan receives Sayaji Ratna Award

- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.

5. Chennai Airport awarded for 100% Grievance Redressal

- The Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha presented the champion award to **Chennai airport** which saw 100% timely closure of grievances in one year.

6. Swati Chaturvedi won Press Freedom Award for Courage in UK

- Freelance journalist Swati Chaturvedi has bagged the 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage for her book 'I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army'.

7. Dr Debabhuson Borah Gets Munin Barkotoki Literary Award

- Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.

8. Dr. Martha Farrell Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



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- Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi.
- Dr. Farrell was recognized for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women’s empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.

9. Six professors win Infosys Prize 2018 for science and research

- Six eminent professors have been awarded the Infosys Prize 2018 across different categories of science and research, the software major’s science foundation announced on 13th Nov 2018.

The list of winners are –

Category	Name of the winner	contribution
1. Engineering and Computer Science	Navakanta Bhat (Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)	Awarded for his work on the design of novel biosensors based on his research in biochemistry and gaseous sensors that push the performance limits of existing metal-oxide sensors.
2. Humanities	Kavita Singh (Professor and Dean, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)	Awarded for her study of Mughal, Rajput and Deccan art.
3. Life Sciences	Roop Mallik (Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai)	Awarded for his work on molecular motor proteins, which are crucial for the functioning of living cells.
4. Mathematical Sciences	Nalini Anantharaman (Professor and Chair of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced	Awarded the prize in Mathematical Sciences for her work related to “Quantum Chaos”.



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	Study, University of Strasbourg, France)	
5. Physical Sciences	S.K. Satheesh (Professor, Centre for Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)	Awarded for his pioneering scientific work in the field of climate change.
6. Social Sciences	Sendhil Mullainathan (Professor of Computation and Behavioral Science, the University of Chicago in the U.S.)	For his path-breaking work in behavioural economics.

- “The Infosys Prize seeks to honour the efforts of some of the brightest scientists and researchers and highlight the country’s ongoing quest for science excellence.
- The annual award includes a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse worth \$100,000 (or its equivalent in Indian rupees), the Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) said in a statement.

October

1. First World Agriculture Prize – Prof. M.S. Swaminathan


- M.S. Swaminathan won the first World Agriculture Prize.
- This prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) was presented by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Prof. Swaminathan is known as Father of Green Revolution in India.

2. Narendra Modi wins Seoul Peace Prize

- 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.
- The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul.

3. BEML Received Top Challengers’ & Best Mining Equipment Seller Award

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the



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Ministry of Defence, received the prestigious 'Top Challengers Award 2018' for the excellent performance during the financial year 2017-18.

4. Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

- Union Government (Ministry of Culture) has announced winners of Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for year 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Winners are –

For 2016 - **Ram Vanji Sutar.**

- He is renowned sculptor.
- His first notable work was the 45-feet Chambal monument at the Gandhi Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh.
- He is also recipient of Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

For 2015 - **Chhayanaut.**

- It is cultural organization of Bangladesh established in 1961.
- It has played leading role in promoting Tagore's works in Bengali culture, music and literature not only within Bangladesh, but all across the world.

For 2014 - **Rajkumar Singhajit Singh.**

- He is doyen of Manipuri dance. He is also teacher, performer and choreographer.

5. INSA Teachers Award-2018

- Prof Ashis Mukherjee, a senior faculty member of the prestigious Tezpur University was awarded the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018).

6. 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration -

- Eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman (89) was awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration.
- He was presented the award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu at a function held in New Delhi.

7. Sikkim Wins FAO's Future Policy Award 2018

- The North-eastern state Sikkim won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future

Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100% organic state.

- Future Policy Award 2018, also known as "Oscar for Best Policies".

8. Carnot Prize for Rural Electrification Effort

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal will receive the prestigious Carnot Prize from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his work for rural electrification while he held the power and renewable energy portfolios.
- The Carnot Prize is given "for distinguished contributions to energy policy".

9. Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement -

Veteran composer, lyricist, writer and music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famously known as Khayya was 2018 Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Note: The award will be conferred by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai.

10. India Social Entrepreneur of The Year 2018 - Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) was awarded with the 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship at the grassroots and ensuring rural livelihood.

11. India's 1st Miss Trans Queen - Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'

12. Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

- Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.

Overall Ranking:



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- Top 3 States- Haryana, Gujarat & Maharashtra.
- Top 3 Districts- Satara, Maharashtra, Rewari, Haryana, Pedapalli, Telangana.
- States with maximum citizen participation- Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat & Maharashtra.
- Districts with maximum citizens' participation- Nashik, Maharashtra, Solapur, Maharashtra & Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.

September

1. **National Tourism Awards 2016-17** - Andhra Pradesh bagged the first prize in state category for comprehensive development of tourism.
2. **UN's Highest Environmental Honour** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour.
3. **Smita Patil Award** - Anushka Sharma received the Smita Patil award for best actor.
4. **Tenzing Norgay Award** - All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for eight long months.
5. **PNB Wins Hindi Implementation Award** - State-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) bagged the "Rajbhasha Kirti" award for outstanding performance in implementing the Official Language Policy during 2017-18.
6. **39th Sarala Puraskar** - Noted Odia poet **Satrughna Pandav** will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection '**Misra Dhrupad**'.
7. **2018 Dr B.C. Roy National Award** - Dr B.K. Misra was named for prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award for year 2018 as Eminent Medical Person of the Year.
Note: It is the highest medical honour of India.

National Sports Awards 2018

1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2018 - It is India's highest sporting award given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

- Ms. S. Mirabai Chanu – Weightlifting
- Virat Kohli – Cricket

2. Dronacharya Awards 2018 - It bestowed upon coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

- Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa – Boxing
- Vijay Sharma – Weightlifting
- A. Srinivasa Rao - Table Tennis
- Sukhdev Singh Pannu – Athletics
- Clarence Lobo - Hockey (Life Time)

- Tarak Sinha - Cricket (Life Time)
- Jiwan Kumar Sharma - Judo (Life Time)
- V.R. Beedu - Athletics (Life Time)

3. Arjuna Award 2018 - It is India's second highest sporting award bestowed upon sportsperson for consistently outstanding performance for four years.

- Neeraj Chopra (Athletics),
- Jinson Johnson (Athletics),
- Hima Das (Athletics),
- Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy (Badminton),
- Satish Kumar (Boxing),
- Smriti Mandhana (Cricket),
- Shubhankar Sharma (Golf),



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- Manpreet Singh (Hockey),
- Savita (Hockey),
- Ravi Rathore (Polo),
- Rahi Sarnobat (Shooting),
- Ankur Mittal (Shooting),
- Shreyasi Singh (Shooting),
- Manika Batra (Table Tennis),
- G. Sathyan (Table Tennis),
- Rohan Bopanna (Tennis),
- Sumit (Wrestling),
- Pooja Kadian (Wushu),

- Ankur Dhama (Para-Athletics) and
- Manoj Sarkar (Para-Badminton).

4. Dhyan Chand Award 2018 - It is bestowed upon sportspersons for life time contribution to sports development.

- Satyadev Prasad – Archery
- Bharat Kumar Chetri – Hockey
- Bobby Aloysius – Athletics
- Chougale Dadu Dattatray - Wrestling

August

1. **'Legion of Merit' 2018** - The United States government has awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired), of the Indian Army.
2. **Shaurya Chakra** - Rifleman Aurangzeb and Major Aditya Kumar of Indian Army will be conferred the Shaurya Chakra.
3. **Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards** - President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the years 2013-2017, in New Delhi.

The list of winners is:

- Bhartruhari Mahtab (for year 2017)
- Dinesh Trivedi (for year 2016)
- Ghulam Nabi Azad (for year 2015)
- Hukum Dev Narayan (for year 2014)
- Dr Najma Heptullah (for year 2013)


4. **24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** - Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill.

July

1. **Mohun Bagan 'Ratna'** – Pradip Chowdhury (former Mohun Bagan captain)
2. **Kalidas Samman: Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon** had received the National Kalidas Samman in Delhi for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.
 - Beside her, Artist A. Ramachandran was also conferred with the Kalidas Award.

June

1. Polly Umrigar Award: **Virat Kohli**
 - Indian captain Virat Kohli received the **Polly Umrigar Award** for being the best international cricketer for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons at the annual BCCI awards.
2. Miss India 2018 - **Anukreethy Vas**
 - Anukreethy Vas, a 19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student, has been crowned Femina Miss India 2018.
3. Best Actor award at IIFA Awards 2018 - **Irfan Khan**
 - Irfan Khan has been bagged as the Best Actor award at IIFA Awards 2018 for Hindi Medium movie.



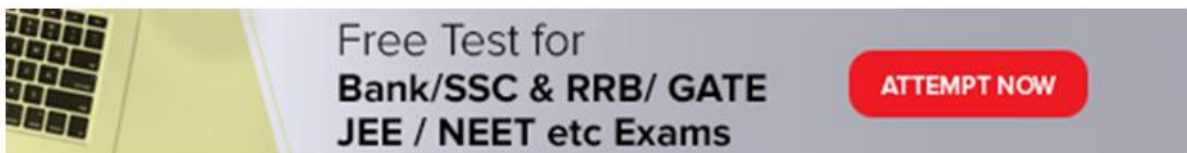
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- **Here's the complete list of winners:**
 - Best Actor in a leading role (Female) - Sridevi (MOM)
 - Best Director - Saket Chaudhary (Hindi Medium)
 - Outstanding Achievement by an Actor in Indian Cinema - Anupam Kher
4. 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance - **Vasundhara Raje**
 - Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance.
 - The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.
 5. India's first Tribal Queen -- **Pallavi Durua**
 - Pallavi Durua, who belongs to Odisha's Koraput district, was crowned as the first Tribal Queen at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap.
 6. Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018 – **Vishwas Mandalik from Nasik and the Yoga Institute in Mumbai**
 - Vishwas Mandalik from Nasik and the Yoga Institute in Mumbai have been selected as recipients of the Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018.
 7. 'City Award' Under India Smart Cities Award 2018 – **Surat**
 8. Under 'India Smart Cities Award' 2018, Surat has been awarded for showcasing "great momentum" in the implementation of projects under the Smart Cities Mission, according to the Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry.
 - Bhopal and Ahmedabad were selected in the 'Innovative Idea' category for their "transformative approach towards sustainable integrated development".
 8. SKOCH Award for 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award - **Ministry of Women & Child Development**
 - SKOCH Group has conferred the 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award on the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the achievements in delivering the promises made and for its significant achievements and initiatives from the last 4 years.
 9. 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' - **Kailash Satyarthi & A S Kiran Kumar**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Surat, Gujarat.

International Awards December

1. **Luka Modric Wins Ballon d'Or 2018**
 - Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder Luka Modric won Ballon d'Or 2018 in Paris.
 - He broke the decade-long duopoly over the award held by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.
 - The last player to win the award outside of Ronaldo and Messi was Brazilian great Kaka in 2007.
2. **Myanmar Leader Suu Kyi To Be Stripped Of Freedom Of Paris Award**



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- Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary freedom of the Paris award over her failure to speak out against a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.
- She has already been stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship and her Amnesty International's "Ambassador of Conscience Award".

3. Abhinav Bindra conferred with shooting's highest honour by ISSF

- Abhinav Bindra, who remains India's lone individual Olympic gold medallist, has been bestowed with the **Blue Cross, the ISSF's highest award**.
- He has been conferred the sport's highest honour for his outstanding services as the chairman of the International Shooting Sport Federation's Athletes Committee.
- Bindra created history by winning the 10m air rifle gold at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

November

1. Anupam Kher gets 'Distinguished Fellow' Award

- Veteran actor Anupam Kher was honoured as a 'Distinguished Fellow' by IndiaGlobal – a leading US think-tank that works on issues concerning non-resident Indians.

2. Arunima Sinha gets Honorary Doctorate in the UK

- Arunima Sinha has been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.
- She is the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013.

3. Jawahar Lal Sarin Conferred with France's Highest Civilian Honour

- Jawahar Lal Sarin was conferred with France's highest civilian honor by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler.
- France's highest civilian honor 'Knight of the Legion of Honour' was bestowed on Sarin in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

4. Donbass wins the Golden Peacock at IFFI 2018

- Donbass' has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).


Note:

- Lijo Jose Pellissery won the **Best Director** Award for his 2018 film 'Ee.Ma.Yau'.
- The Best Actor (Male) Award has gone to **Chemban Vinod** for his portrayal in Ee.Ma.Yau.
- The Best Actor (Female) Award has gone to **Anastasiia Pustovit** for her portrayal of a 'Larysa', a teenage girl in the Ukrainian film 'When the Trees Fall'.

5. UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2018 Announced for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- The renewal of the early 20th-century '**Shijo-cho Ofune-hoko Float Machiya**' has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

Other awards



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Award of Distinction: The LAMO Center, Ladakh, India.

Honorable Mention:

- Rajabai Clock Tower & University of Mumbai Library Building, Mumbai, India.
- Ruttonsee Muljee Jetha Fountain, Mumbai, India.

6. Shubhankar Sharma, 1st Indian to Win European Tour 'Rookie of the Year' Award

- Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma capped a dream season on the European Tour by becoming the first Indian to win the tour's 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year' award.

7. MAHE Wins International Green Apple Silver Award

- Manipal Academy of Higher Education won silver in the International Green Apple Award for Environmental best practice 2018.

8. Wipro Chairman Azim Premji conferred with highest French Civilian Honour

- Azim Premji was bestowed with highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- He was awarded for his outstanding contribution to developing information technology industry in India.

9. Azim Premji Conferred Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018

- Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro, has won Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018, Lifetime Achievement.

10. India gets UN Environment Award for Combating Transboundary Environmental Crime

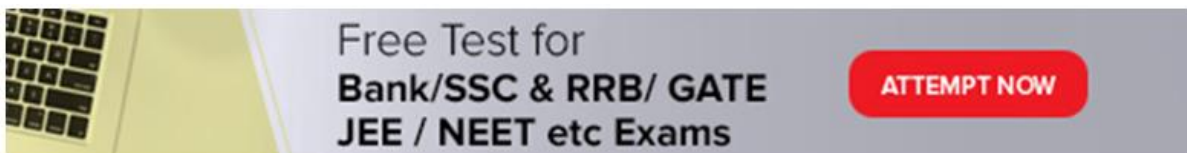
- United Nation Environment has awarded Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 for excellent work done by the Bureau in combating transboundary environmental crime.
- WCCB has adopted innovative enforcement techniques that have dramatically increased enforcement of transboundary environmental crimes in India.

11. Prof SP Ganguly Awarded Mexican Order of Aztec Eagle

- Indian academic, Professor S.P. Ganguly, a well-known Hispanist who headed the Centre for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been awarded the **Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico.**
- The award was in recognition of his "outstanding work in the study and dissemination of the Spanish language and Mexican culture".

12. Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2018 –

- Asia Pacific Screen Award (APSA) 2018 for Best Performance by an Actor (Male) went to Nawazuddin Siddiqui for Manto.
- Nandita Das, director of the movie herself received the prestigious International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award for achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region.



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October

1. 2018 Gleitsman Award - Malala Yousafzai

- Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.
- Harvard's Kennedy School stated that Yousafzai will be conferred with the 2018 Gleitsman Award at a ceremony on 6th December.

2. 2018 Man Booker Prize - Anna Burns

- Northern Irish author Anna Burns has won the 2018 Man Booker Prize for her novel 'Milkman'.

3. Shakti Bhatt Prize 2018 - Sujatha Gidla

- US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla (55) has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India".

Note:

- The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation.
- It was set up in 2008 in memory of young writer and editor Shakti Bhatti.
- It honours first-time writers from Indian sub-continent for their outstanding work of fiction or non-fiction.

4. Miss Grand International 2018 - Clara Sosa

- Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa won the Miss Grand International 2018 title at the 6th edition of the beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar.
- India's, FBB Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2018 Meenakshi Chaudhary was named 1st runner-up.

5. Winners of United Nations Human Rights Prize - 2018

- The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights (UN Human Rights Prize) was announced recently by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés,

President of the 73rd Session of United Nations General Assembly.

The winners of 2018 award are:

- Asma Jahangir – Pakistan's late human rights activist
- Rebeca Gyumi – A Tanzanian human rights activist
- Joenia Wapichana – Brazil's first indigenous lawyer
- Front Line Defenders – A human rights organisation of Ireland

6. Roopam Sharma Wins World Health Summit Startup

- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.

7. India wins CAPM Award, 2018

- India has won Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award, 2018. The award was announced at Annual General Members Meet held at Georgetown, Guyana.


8. Invest India wins UN Investment Promotion Award

- The 'Invest India' initiative of the Union Government won the top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India.

9. Minal Patel Davis won the US' Presidential Medal

- Minal Patel Davis won the US' Presidential Medal for her work against sex slavery and labor exploitation at a White House ceremony attended by President Donald Trump.
- Davis is Special Adviser on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor.

10. Wildlife Photographer of The Year 2018 - Marsel Van Oosten



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- The powerful image of a pair of golden snub-nosed monkeys seated in contemplation amid iridescent foliage has been awarded one of the most prestigious prizes in photography, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018.
- The image, called "The Golden Couple," was captured by Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten in the Qinling Mountains of southwestern China – the endangered monkeys' only habitat.

11. Arshdeep Singh Wins Top Wildlife Photo Award in Junior Category

- Arshdeep Singh, a 10-year-old boy from Punjab, has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum.

12. UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 - The North-eastern state Sikkim won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100% organic state. Note:

- Sikkim defeated 51 nominated policies from 25 countries, winning the Gold Prize of the Future Policy Award 2018, also known as "Oscar for Best Policies".

13. Deming Prize for 2018 - Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won the

Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in the world to achieve this.

Note:

- Indus Towers is only the 29th Indian company to win this coveted award, with other notable names including Tata Steel, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra and Mahindra, and NBC Bearings, etc.

14. ESIC Wins 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & The Pacific 2018' - The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

15. Richie Benaud named Sport Australia Hall of Fame Legend - Sport Australia Hall of Fame has announced

cricketing great Richie Benaud, who died in April, 2015, will become the 40th Legend of Australian Sport. He is only the third cricketer behind Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller to be given Legend status.

16. UNEP Champions of The Earth Award - Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with United Nations' highest environmental award- UNEP Champions of the Earth, along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi.

Nobel Prize Winners 2018

1. Physiology or Medicine – James P. Allison (USA), Tasuku Honjo (Japan)

- Field - For their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation

2. Physics - Gérard Mourou (France), Arthur Ashkin (USA), Donna Strickland (Canada)

- Field - For their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses in the field of laser physics.

3. Chemistry - George Smith (USA), Frances Arnold (USA), Greg Winter (UK)

- Field - For control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind.

4. Peace - Denis Mukwege (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Nadia Murad (Germany)

- Field - For their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

5. Economic Sciences – William Nordhaus (US), Paul Romer (US)

- Field - For work on climate change, and the endogenous growth theory.



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6. Alternative Nobel Literature Prize - Maryse Conde

Note:

- Maryse Conde, one of the Caribbean's most renowned authors, has won an award created to replace this year's Nobel Prize for Literature.

- The Nobel Prize for Literature was suspended after a crisis over its handling of allegations against Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, the husband of one of the academy's members.

September

1. **'UEFA Men's Player of The Year Award'** - Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2017/18.

August

1. **Game Changer of The Year** - PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the Game Changer of the Year award by a global cultural organisation Asia Society.
2. **International Arbitration Award** - Reliance Power has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance Power Netherlands BV has won an international arbitration award of \$56 million (Rs 390 crore) against Prestige Capital Holdings (a Seychelles-based company) and Kokos Jiang.
3. **2018 UEFA President's Award** - David Beckham
Note: David Beckham will become the third Englishman to receive the UEFA President's Award.
4. **WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award** - SK Arora was awarded prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
5. **2018 Albany Medical Center Prize Award** - Three US scientists James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg were declared winners 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.
6. **International Geography Bee World Championship** - Avi Goel (Indian-American high school student)
7. **Nobel prize for math:** Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math.

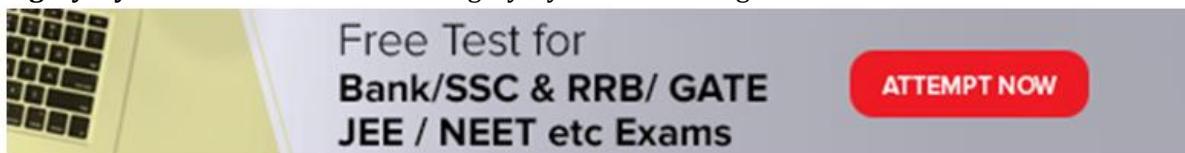
July

1. **3rd BRICS Film Festival** – The 3rd BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa, along with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF).

Awards won by Indian films:

- Best Actress: Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars
- Best Film: Newton by Amit Masurkar
- Special Jury Award: Village Rockstars by Rima Das.

2. **Ramon Magsaysay Award Winners 2018** - Magsaysay Awards are regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.



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Indians

- **Bharat Vatwani** - was awarded for leading the rescue of thousands of mentally ill street paupers to treat and reunite them with their families.
- **Sonam Wangchuk** - won the award for his contribution in harnessing nature, culture and education for community progress.

Other winners are –

- Youk Chhang – Cambodia
- Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz - East Timor
- Howard Dee – Philippines
- Vo Thi Hoang Yen - Vietnam

3. **Golden Man Booker Prize: Michael Ondaatje's** bestselling novel '**The English Patient**' was announced as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize at the Southbank Centre in London.

- The prize was instituted as part of celebrations to mark the Booker's having completed 50 years.

June

1. 2018 World Food Prize - **Lawrence Haddad & Dr David Nabarro**

- Lawrence Haddad, who is a British economist and food policy researcher, and Dr David Nabarro, who has worked with the World Health Organization and United Nations on health and hunger issues, were named the 2018 World Food Prize recipients in a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

2. Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn" - **Kendrick Lamar**

- Kendrick Lamar received the Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn."
- Lamar is the first rapper in history to be given the award.

3. During his 3-nation visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the Padma Shri award, one of India's highest civilian awards, to former Singaporean diplomat

— **Tommy Koh**

- Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.

May


1. **Man Booker International Prize 2018 - Polish author Olga Tokarczuk**

- Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has won the Man Booker International Prize for her novel '**Flights**'.
- The novel, translated by Jennifer Croft, interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body.

- She is the first Polish writer to win the award.

2. **2018 Nikkei Asia Prize - Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak**

- The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, has been honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development,



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National Affairs

December

1. Railways Ministry, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum sign MoU to foster tourism in Delhi NCR

- The National Rail Museum (NRM) of the Railways Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum to foster tourism in Delhi NCR region.
- This first time ever public-private museum collaboration will help attract more tourists to both National Rail Museum and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.
- Under the MoU, a special discount of 35 percent will be offered on ticket prices to National Rail Museum visitors when they visit Madame Tussauds Museum, Delhi.
- Similarly, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum visitors will be getting discount of 30 percent on combo packages of NRM.

2. Government Sanctions 254 Projects Under National Mission for Clean Ganga

- The government has sanctioned 254 projects worth over 24 thousand crore rupees under National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- The Announcement was made at the India Water Impact Summit 2018 in New Delhi.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved projects worth Rs 841 crore on tributaries of River Ganga in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

3. PM Modi to inaugurate India's longest bridge Bogibeel on Dec 25

- Bogibeel, India's longest rail-cum-road bridge connecting Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 25.
- The ceremony to mark the opening of the bridge coincides with the 94th birth anniversary of the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away in August.
- December 25 is marked by the government as Good Governance Day.

Key points

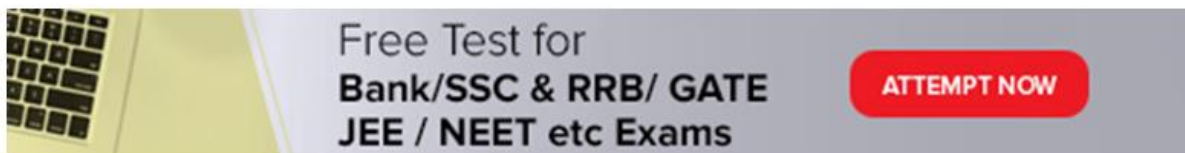
- The bridge is 4.94 km long and 32 metres above the water level of the Brahmaputra.
- It will be the second largest bridge in Asia with three-lane roads on top and a double-line railway track below.

Note:

- Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda laid the foundation stone for the Bogibeel bridge in January 1997, the work started only in April 2002 when former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the construction.

4. South African President to be Chief Guest at Republic Day Celebrations 2019

- South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** will be the Chief Guest at the 70th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2019.
- The announcement comes month after US President Donald Trump declined India's invitation to be chief guest.



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November

1. Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to launch single emergency number 112

- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) as Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched ERSS number 112 for the state.
- Under this system, all emergency numbers like 100 for police, 101 for fire, 102 for ambulance and disaster response have been integrated into one number '112'.
- This emergency number has been introduced on basis of US emergency number 911. Gradually this emergency number will be started in other states of the country.

Note:

- The ERSS project was approved by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) based on the recommendations of the **Justice Verma Committee** in the backdrop of unfortunate incident of Nirbhaya in December 2012 in national capital New Delhi.

2. NPCC conferred Miniratna Category-I status

- Union Government has conferred status of Miniratna: Category-I to National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC).
- The empowerment of miniratna status to NPCC will help company to take speedy decisions by enhancing delegation of powers to Board.

Note:

- NPCC is schedule 'B' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under administrative control of Ministry of Water Resources.
- It incorporated in 1957.

- It is premier construction company having mandate with creation of infrastructure to provide impetus for economic development of the country.
- At present there are total 8 Maharatna, 16 Navratna, 60 Miniratna Category-I and 15 Miniratna Category-II CPSEs.

3. Jolly Grant airport renamed After Atal Bihari Vajpayee


- The Uttarakhand government has decided to rename the Dehradun airport after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The proposal to rename the Jolly Grant airport after Atal Bihari Vajpayee was approved by the state cabinet at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

4. Gender wage gap highest in India, women are paid 34% less than men: ILO

- According to Global Wage Report 2018-19 published by International Labour Organization (ILO), women are paid most unequally in India, compared to men, when it comes to hourly wages for labour.
- This gap in wages, known as gender wage gap is the highest among 73 countries studied in the report.
- The findings are based on data from 136 countries.

Highlights of report

- On average, women are paid **34% less than** men in India.
- Globally, on average, hourly wages of women are **16% less than** those of men.
- Inequality is higher in monthly wages, with a gap of 22%.



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- Overall, real wages grew just 1.8% globally (136 countries) in 2017.
- Women are paid higher hourly wages than men in Bangladesh.
- Gender wage gap highest in India, women are paid 30% less than men.

About International Labour Organization

- The ILO is United Nations agency dealing with labour issues, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.
- It was established in 1919 as an agency of the League of Nations and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- India is a founder member of the ILO.
- At present, it has 187 members.

5. Casio launches world's first GST calculator

- Japanese electronics company 'CASIO' has launched world's first Goods and Services Tax (GST) calculator in India for simplify the GST calculations for tax payers.
- The company has two variants of GST calculators MJ-120GST and MJ-12GST in the Indian market. These new GST calculators will provide solutions for GST based invoicing.

6. CSIR To Establish a High-End Skill Development Centre in Chandigarh

- India's premier National Research Laboratory CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) announced a new partnership with Merck, a leading German science and technology company, to establish a 'High End Skill Development Centre' in CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh.

7. 'HAUSLA-2018' Inaugurated in New Delhi

- The National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- "Hausla 2018" of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was inaugurated by the Secretary, Shri Rakesh Srivastava, in New Delhi.

8. Aadi Mahotsav" Organized by Tribal Affairs Ministry in Delhi

- The 4th edition of annual "Aadi Mahotsav", a National Tribal Festival organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs at Dilli Haat, Shri Aurobindo Marg, INA, Delhi.
- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Jual Oram inaugurated the event.

9. India to lay Foundation Stone for Kartarpur Corridor Route

- Vice President M Venkiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Dera Baba Nanak Kartarpur Sahib corridor for Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.
- Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib is situated in district Narowal 4 KM away from Indo Pak border in Pakistan.
- This Gurudwara has a great significance for the Sikhs because the first Guru Sh Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent the last 18 years of his life there and died there.
- Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore was the guest of honour.

10. UN Selects Noida, Greater Noida to Participate in Global Sustainable Cities 2025 Initiative

- The United Nations has selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative.
- According to UN, the twin-cities in Gautam Buddh Nagar district, adjoining the national capital, have been selected in the "University City" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as the only invitee from India.

11. NITI Aayog Constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council -

- NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region.



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- The Council will be chaired by the Dr. VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog.
- The Council has been constituted to review and implement identified action points based on the Reports of five Working Groups, which were established along thematic areas to prepare a roadmap for action.

12. PM Modi Laid Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution Projects

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Projects in 65 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 129 Districts under the 9th CGD Bidding Round.
- He also launched the tenth round of bidding for award of city gas licenses in 124 new districts in 14 states, which have been clubbed into 50 Geographical Areas (GAs).

CGD Network

- Government of India has put thrust to promote the usage of environment friendly clean fuel i.e. natural gas as a fuel/feedstock across the country to move towards a gas-based economy.
- Accordingly, development of CGD networks has been focused to increase the availability of cleaner cooking fuel (i.e. PNG) and transportation fuel (i.e. CNG) to the citizens of the country.
- The expansion of CGD network will also benefit to industrial and commercial units by ensuring the uninterrupted supply of natural gas.
- Till September 2018, 96 cities/Districts in different parts of the country were covered for development of CGD networks.

- About 46.5 lakh households and 32 lakh CNG vehicles are availing the benefit of clean fuel through existing CGD networks.

Share of natural gas

- Currently, the share of gas in the India's energy mix is just over 6 per cent and the aim is to reach the 15 per cent figure, while the world average is 24 per cent.
- India - in the state of Gujarat itself, it is 25%.

Why Natural Gas

- Gas is an environment-friendly fuel which is cheaper than not just liquid fuels such as petrol and diesel but is also cheaper than subsidised LPG.
- Natural Gas (as CNG) is cheaper by 60% as compared with petrol and 45 % w.r.t. Diesel.
- Similarly, Natural Gas (as PNG) is cheaper by 40 % as compared with market price LPG and price of PNG almost matches with that of subsidised LPG (based on prices in Delhi).
- India made a commitment in COP21 Paris Convention in December 2015 that by 2030, it would reduce carbon emission by 33% of 2005 levels.

13. 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 aims 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



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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.

14. Twitter launches #PowerOf18 campaign to boost youth engagement for 2019 polls

- Twitter India has launched #PowerOf18 campaign aimed at encouraging youth to contribute in public debates and participate in civic engagement for the 2019 general elections.
- The initiative was launched by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Maya Hari, Vice-President and Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Twitter during townhall chat with the students of IIT Delhi.

15. IIT-Madras develops portable cold storage device

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has developed portable solar-powered cold storage device with 500 kg capacity for storing vegetables and fruits, among other items.

- The device will help farmers store their produce for sufficient time so that it does not get spoilt before it is sold, thereby preventing wastage of agricultural produce.
- The first unit of device was deployed at farm in Madurantakam in Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu.

16. NDMC launches QR-enabled fridge magnets for digital payment of bills

- New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has launched quick response (QR)-enabled fridge magnets for digital payment of bills.
- The magnets are personalised, and each customer will have unique QR Code mapped to their consumer account number.
- It is powered by SignCatch – an IT and services company.

17.

18. 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.

19. 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).
- IMAI headquartered is in Mumbai.

20. Rajnath Singh (Union Home Minister) - to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in the country and abroad.

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

Note:



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- 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.

22. Bengaluru India's most-congested city: US study

- According to the National bureau of economic research (NBER) Bengaluru is the country's most congested and second slowest city.
- Bengaluru tops the index for most congested city in the country followed by Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata.
- When it comes to traffic speed, Kolkata is the slowest city, followed by Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Varanasi.
- The study, conducted by a team of researchers from the University of California, Berkeley and other institutions, used Google Maps and analysed 22 million trips in 154 cities in the country.

23. Satyarup Siddhanta becomes first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea

- Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe - the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
- Satyarup reached the summit of the mountain which is at an elevation of 4,367 metres on November 11.
- Satya now has scaled 5 of the 7 volcanic summits.
- Mt Damavand is the highest peak in Iran and also a potentially active volcano.

24. 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.

25. India's job outlook drops 3% in H2 of FY19: TeamLease Report

- The overall hiring sentiment for the second half of this financial year has declined by 3 percent to 92 percent with persisting currency and oil pricing concerns in the country, according to a report.
- It was 95 percent in the preceding half-year (April-September 2018), according to TeamLease Employment Outlook report 2018-19.
- The report surveyed 750 employers and 2,500 employees of small, medium and large companies across 19 sectors and 14 cities to understand the hiring sentiment in the country.

26. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) & UN Habitat organize a policy dialogue - Urban Café - 'River for Habitat'.

27. The Ministry of Railways has launched the 'Unreserved Mobile Ticketing' facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable



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seamless booking of unreserved tickets in **all Zonal Railways**.

- The facility of booking unreserved tickets, including season tickets and also platform tickets is available through the '**UTSONMOBILE**' app, available for Android, IOS and Windows phone users.

28. According to a report by global cybersecurity company, 'Kaspersky Lab', India is ranked in worldwide when it comes to the dangers associated with surfing the web -- **12th**.

29. The first passenger train to run on broad gauge between India and Nepal will run from **December 2018**.

Note: The train will run from Jayanagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Dhanusa district in Janakpur Zone of south-eastern Nepal. No visa will be required for Indian and Nepalese nationals crossing the border through this stretch.

30. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology '**Impact Based Forecasting Approach**' to assess the **rise of water level in rivers** and reservoirs by rain.

31. The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the India's first Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) at **Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)**.

26. IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous microprocessor - **Shakti**

- The researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have designed India's first indigenous microprocessor called 'Shakti'.
- It is aimed at developing industrial-grade microprocessors and other components of the microprocessor ecosystem.

27. IRCTC launches AI chatbot to answer user queries - **Ask Disha**

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot- Ask Disha

((Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime) to help its users answer various queries.

28. PM Modi inaugurates Kundli-Manesar Palwal Western Peripheral Expressway

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar section of the Western Peripheral Expressway.
- The Western Peripheral Expressway also known as KMP expressway is expected to divert more than 50 thousand heavy vehicles away from Delhi.

29. Growth rate of 8 infrastructure sectors slows down to 4.8% in October 2018

- According to index of eight core industries released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.8 per cent in October 2018.
- This was mainly due to contraction in production of crude oil, natural gas and fertilizer.
- It had recorded growth rate of 5% in October 2017.
- During April-October 2018-19, eight sectors recorded a growth rate of 5.4% against 3.5 per cent in the same period last year.

30. Govt to issue Rs 75 coin to mark 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.
- 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 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper, and 5 per cent each of nickel and zinc, and will weigh 35 grams.



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- This coin will bear the portrait of 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose' saluting the flag on the background of Cellular Jail in Port Blair.

31. Delhi Police Commissioner launches e-learning portal 'NIPUN'

- In consonance with the spirit of digital India, the Delhi Police on 13th November launched an e-learning portal 'NIPUN' to impart in-service training to its personnel.
- The e-learning portal aims at imparting online training and information through specialized courses designed by experts.

32. First India-Israel Innovation Centre opens in Bengaluru

- The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
- The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries.

33. PM Modi inaugurates first multi-modal terminal in Varanasi

- The Prime Minister inaugurated first multi-modal terminal on Ganga river in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Inland Multi-Modal Terminal Port constructed at the cost of 207 crore rupees.
- This is the first of the four Multi-Modal Terminals being constructed on National Waterways-I on River Ganga as part of the World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- The other three terminals are under construction at Sahibganj (Jharkhand), Haldia (West Bengal), and Gazipur (Uttar Pradesh).
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the project implementing agency.

34. Train 18'- India's 1st Engineless Train trial run conducted on the Bareilly-Moradabad section

- Train 18'- India's 1st Engineless Train trial run conducted on the Bareilly-Moradabad section
- "Train 18", developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
- The fully air-conditioned train, built at a cost of Rs 100 crore in 18 months, can run at a speed of up to 160 kmph.
- Train 18 is seen as a successor to the prestigious Shatabdi Express which was introduced in 1988.
- It will be first long-distance train without separate locomotive (engine).

35. Government sets up National Data Repository

- The Union Government has set up a state of -the-art National Data Repository.
- The Minister said that the repository is a database of all the geo-scientific data of hydrocarbon resources in the country.
- He added that it is equipped with cutting-edge technology and will provide ready access to interested companies.
- The main objective is to set up National Data Repository of reliable exploration and production data for India with provisions for seamless access and online data management.

About National Data Repository

- The National Data Repository (NDR) is an integrated data repository of Exploration and Production (E&P) data of Indian sedimentary basins.
- It is hosted at Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in Noida.
- The DGH is a technical arm of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Note:

- With the introduction of the National Data Repository, India has joined the league of countries



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like UK and Norway which have a National Data Repository for the upstream sector.

36. eDrishti software launched to help Railways Minister keep track of punctuality of trains

- Indian Railways unveiled 'eDrishti' software that will help Union Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country.
- The software has been developed by Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) to help Minister keep track of all information related to Indian Railways, one of the world's largest rail networks.

37. Govt. launches Logo and Brochure of Logix India

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched logo and brochure of Logix India 2019 in New Delhi.
- Logix India 2019 is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from 31st January to 2nd February 2019.
- It is being organized by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).
- India was ranked 44 in World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2018.

38. Govt. launches PAISA Portal under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 'PAiSA' – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access during National Workshop on Municipal Finance and Urban Planning held in New Delhi.

PAISA Portal

- It is centralised electronic platform for quicker processing of loans under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**.
- It aims to connect directly with beneficiaries and ensure there is greater efficiency in the delivery

of services. It has been designed and developed by **Allahabad Bank**, the nodal bank under the scheme.

- All 35 States and Union Territories (UTs) & all scheduled commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are expected to be on board the PAiSA portal the year end.

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

- It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- Its objective is to uplift urban poor folks by enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development.
- It also provides subsidy to urban poor i.e. interest subsidy of 5% – 7% for setting up individual micro-enterprises with loan of up to 2 lakhs and for group enterprises with loan limit of up to Rs.10 lakhs.

39. Health Ministry launches health information platform to monitor public health surveillance

- Union Ministry Health and Family Welfare has soft-launched Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in **seven states**.
- The first one-of-its-kind initiative launched by the Central Government to monitor public health surveillance.

40. Sashastra Seema Bal to patrol Dudhwa tiger reserve

- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and Sashastra Seema Bal have joined hands to provide security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife.

About Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

- It is protected area in Uttar Pradesh that stretches mainly across the Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich districts.



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- It comprises Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.

41. 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha unveiled at Rajgir in Nalanda district

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district of state.
- It is second tallest statue of Buddha in the country.
- The statue has been installed above 16 metre radius pedestal in middle of **lake Ghora Katora**.

42. Cabinet approves setting up of Medical College at Silvassa in UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

- Under Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently, Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a medical college in Silvassa of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- This will increase the availability of doctors and increase in medical education opportunities.
- The construction of this medical college will be done till 2019-20 and in accordance with the guidelines of the Medical Council of India and Central Health and Family Welfare Ministry.
- An amount of Rs. 189 crores has been fixed for its construction.

43. IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, ICC sign MoU for energising startup ecosystem in East and Northeast India

- IIM Calcutta Innovation Park and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for energising start-up ecosystem in East and Northeast India.
- The MoU will bring incubator and industry together in more formal way.
- IIM Innovation Park is currently incubating 40 start-ups with almost half from West Bengal.

44. India overtakes US to become 2nd largest smartphone market: Report

- According to a report by research firm Canalys, India has overtaken the US to become the second largest smartphone market in the July-September 2018 quarter.
- As per the data, India saw a shipment of 40.4 million units during the third quarter was second to China where 100.6 million smartphones were shipped.
- Smartphone shipment in the US was at 40 million units in the July-September 2018 period.
- The three markets (among the top 10) that registered growth were Indonesia (13.2% increase y-o-y to 8.9 million units), Russia (11.5% jump y-o-y to 8.8 million units), and Germany (2.4% rise y-o-y to 5.5 million units).
- China's smartphone shipment declined 15.2% y-o-y, India by 1.1% and the US by 0.4% in the September 2018 quarter.

45. PM sets up National Implementation Committee to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted National Implementation Committee (NIC) under Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in the country and abroad.
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Minister of State for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma are its Members.

46. Govt. launches chatbot loaded AirSewa digital platform for air passengers

- Union Civil Aviation Ministry launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- The upgraded version of AirSewa operates through interactive web portal as well as



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through mobile app for both Android and iOS platforms.

- It will offer passengers convenient and hassle-free air travel experience

47. Jashne Bachpan: 14th edition of international children's theatre festival held in New Delhi

- The 14th edition of JashneBachpan, a theatre festival for children was held at the Sammukh, Abhimanch, Abhikalp and Little Theatre Group (LTG) auditorium in New Delhi.
- It was organised by National School of Drama's (NSD) Theatre in Education (TIE) Company.

48. AYUSH Ministry observes the first Naturopathy Day on November 18

- Union Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) Ministry celebrated first Naturopathy Day on 18th November 2018 with aim of promoting drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering diet and lifestyle.

49. India's first specialized hospital for elephants opened in Mathura

- India's first specialized hospital for elephants was formally opened Churmura village in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It is promoted by Wildlife SOS which had established first elephant conservation and care centre in 2010 and is currently looking after 20 elephants requiring specialised treatment.

50. 2nd Mega Food Park in Maharashtra inaugurated in Aurangabad

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated 2nd Mega Food Park in Maharashtra, in Wahegaon and Dhangaon village in Paithan taluka of Aurangabad district.
- It was launched under Mega Food Park Scheme and is promoted by Paithan Mega Food Park Pvt

Ltd. The first park was inaugurated in Satara district in March 2018.

- Third mega foodpark has been sanctioned by Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries in Maharashtra in Wardha district.

51. Government to refund employers for seven weeks of maternity leave to employees: WCD Ministry

- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has announced that government will pay employers salaries for first seven of 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 month.
- This decision was taken after WCD Ministry had talks with Union Labour Ministry that 7 of 26 weeks of maternity leave for all women employees in private and government sector getting more than Rs 15,000 a month will be paid from that fund.

52. Sri Ramayana Express flagged off from Safdarjung railway station in Delhi

- Shri Ramayana Express, a special tourist train to run on Ramayana circuit to cover major spots related to Hindu epic was flagged off by Indian Railways from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi.
- The pilgrimage circuit of Shri Ramayana Yatra will have two travel components — one each in India and Sri Lanka.

53. 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

- The 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) was held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The 14-day annual event was inaugurated by inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Culture, Mahesh Sharma.
- It is organised by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

54. Industrial production, measured in terms of IIP grows 4.5% in September 2018



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- According to data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), factory output measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 4.5% in September 2018.
- It was slowest pace in four months mainly due to poor performance of mining sector and lower offtake of capital goods.

55. Pneumonia may kill over 17 lakh children in India by 2030: Study

- According to global study released by UK-based NGO 'Save the Children', more than 17 lakh children in India are likely to die of pneumonia by 2030, despite the infection being easily curable.
- The study was released on occasion of World Pneumonia Day (observed on November 12).

Key points

- Pneumonia is likely to kill over one crore children under five by 2030. Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are likely to bear highest burden of deaths.
- The forecasts were based on model developed by researchers at Johns Hopkins University, US called Lives Saved Tool (LiST).

56. Cabinet approves setting up of Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh

- Union Cabinet has approved setting up of Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- It will be set up in Relli village of Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh.

57. India elected as Member of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council

- India was elected as member of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term from 2019 to 2022.

- The elections to ITU Council were held during ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE.
- India got elected to Council from Asia-Australasia region by securing 165 votes and was among 48 countries elected to Council globally.
- They were elected by 193 member states of ITU.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ITU is the UN specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- It has 193 countries as its members and also 800 private-sector entities and academic institutions.
- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

58. Government approves operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens

- Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) approved operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens. Operation Greens was announced by Union Government in Budget 2018-19 to stabilise supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops.
- It is aimed at ensuring availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

Operation Greens

- It was announced in Union Budget 2018-19 on line of Operation Flood to promote FPOs, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- It aims to promote farmer producers organisations, processing facilities, agri-logistics and professional management.
- It also aims to aid farmers and help control and limit erratic fluctuations in the prices of tomatoes, onions and potatoes (TOP)

59. India and Japan signs loan Agreement for Turga Hydel Project

- India and Japan signed Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1817 crore for construction of Turga Pumped Storage (I) Hydel Project.



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- On completion, this project will contribute to Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in the West Bengal.

60. Cabinet approves renaming of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha as Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda

- The Union Cabinet has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha as “Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda” after Veer Surendra Sai who is well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.

October

National Affairs

1. PM Modi Unveils World's Tallest Statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- On 31st October 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the ‘Statue of Unity’ (world's tallest Statue) on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Surat, Gujarat.

Tallest statue:

- The Statue of Unity (bronze statue) is the tallest statue 600 feet (182-metre) in the world, taller than China's Spring Temple Buddha statue (153-metre) and almost double the height of the Statue of Liberty (93 metres) in USA.

Location:

- The statue of unity located on the Sadhu Bet island (near Rajpipla) on the Narmada river, located between the Satpura and the Vindhya mountain ranges.

Total cost

- The project cost was Rs 3,050 crore and fully funded by the Gujarat government, built within three-and-a-half years from infrastructure major **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**.

Built by –

- It was built by Padma Bhushan recipient sculptor **Ram V Sutar** and intricate bronze cladding work was done by a Chinese foundry, the Jiangxi Toqine Company (JTQ).

2. National Unity Day: 31st October

- National Unity day (also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated every year on 31st of October by the people all through India. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

3. Italian PM Giuseppe Conte arrives India on 30th Oct 2018 – This is Giuseppe Conte's first visit to India after taking over as prime minister in June.

- He will also attend the 24th edition of the India-Italy Technology Summit.

4. Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala -

- The Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala.
- The Dry Dock will give an impetus to “Make in India” initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to 2%.
- India currently occupies 0.66 % share in global shipbuilding market.
- The new Dry Dock is being constructed at a cost of Rs 1799 Crore.
- It is a 310 m long, 75m wide, with a depth of 13 m and draught of 9.5m.



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5. India to become world's third largest aviation market around 2024: IATA

- According to the global airlines' body IATA's 20-year Air Passenger Forecast, India will become the world's third largest aviation market around 2024 surpassing the United Kingdom.
- It is projected that total air passenger numbers to touch 8.2 billion in 2037.
- According to the IATA, China would displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market in the mid-2020s.
- India will take 3rd place after the US, surpassing the UK around 2024.
- Indonesia is forecast to be a standout performer - climbing from the world's 10th largest aviation market in 2017 to the 4th largest by 2030.

6. No Sale of BS-IV vehicles across country from April 1, 2020: SC

- The Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020.
- The Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country.

7. India's First Domestic Cruise 'Angriya' flagged off from Mumbai

- Angriya, India's first domestic luxury cruise line, has started ferrying tourists between Mumbai and Goa.
- Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis flagged-off the cruise which will operate between Mumbai and Goa.
- Angriya will make four trips per week -- except during monsoons -- between Mumbai and Mormugao in Goa. It will not halt at any point during the journey.

- The 131-metre long and 17-metre wide ship has been built in Japan and will be used to boost cruise tourism in India.
- The ship is named after the first **Admiral of the Maratha Navy**, Kanhoji Angre, popularly known as the 'Shivaji of the Indian Sea'.

8. PM inaugurates National Police Memorial in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated National Police Memorial (NPM) to nation in New Delhi on the occasion of National Police Commemoration Day (Observed on October 21).
- The memorial has been built on 6.12-acre land in central Delhi's Chanakyapuri area.
- This memorial represents all State/UT Police Forces and Central Police Organisations of the country.
- Its design was conceptualised by Advaita Gadanayak of National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).

9. India's highest tricolour unfurled at Haj House in Mumbai

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai.
- The national flag measured 20x30 feet and stood 350 feet above the ground level.

10. India Building World's Highest Railway Line

- India railways announced its plan to link New Delhi and Ladakh by means of a railway line that will run along the India-China Border.
- The proposed Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line would be the world's highest railway line once launched.
- The projected cost to construct the 465 km line will be Rs 83,360 crore.

11. Vigilance Awareness Week - 2018



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- The Central Vigilance Commission observes the Vigilance Awareness Week every year during the week in which birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls.
- The 2018 Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 29th October to 3rd November 2018.
- The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week-2018 is - Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India.

12. QS Asia Rankings 2019: Eight Universities from India among top 100

- The National University of Singapore is ranked as Asia's best university, followed by University of Hong Kong, Nanyang Technological University, Tsinghua University and Peking University.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay)** has topped the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings from India followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Madras.
- Eight Indian universities have figured among the top 100 in the list of Asia's top 50 universities. IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras, IISC Bangalore, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Kanpur, Delhi University and IIT-Roorkee are the Indian institutions in the top 100.

13. India, China sign agreement on security cooperation

- India and China have signed agreement on internal security cooperation. It is first such agreement to be signed between the two countries.

14. India, Myanmar sign MoU on operationalisation of Sittwe Port

- India and Myanmar inked a crucial MoU for the appointment of a private operator of the Sittwe Port that will boost connectivity and help in creating local job opportunities.

Note:

- Sittwe port in Myanmar will connect India's landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram. It will also provide alternate route to Kolkata.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- This project aims to connect seaport of Kolkata (India) with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea; it will then link Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio to Mizoram in India by road transport.

15. 75th anniversary of establishment of Azad Hind government observed on 22 Oct – The 75th anniversary of establishment of Azad Hind government observed October 21, 2018.

- On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted National flag and unveiled plaque at the Red Fort, Delhi.

Note:


- Azad Hind Government was founded in Singapore on October 21, 1943.
- It was India's first independent government established by Indian nationalists-in-exile during latter part of WWII in Singapore with monetary, military and political assistance from Imperial Japan.

16. India's longest river bridge will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam

- India's longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam.
- This bridge will connect Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya.
- This bridge will have total length will be 19.3 kilometers and will be four-lane. Its construction will be completed by 2026-27.

Note:

- At present, India's largest river bridge is Dhola-Sadia bridge, its length is 9.15 kilometers.



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17. Government launches Swasth Bharat Yatra national campaign for food safety

- The Union Government launched national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' on occasion of World Food Day (observed on 16 October) to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy.
- The campaign has been launched in association with states and led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

18. The government has announced 100 crore rupee award for states that would complete the household electrification early under the Saubhagaya scheme.

19. First India-Israel Innovation Centre opens in Bengaluru - The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.

20. Textile Ministry to release Rs 7.8 Cr for construction of textile tourism complex in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya

21. Government has allowed foreign tourists to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions.

- In this regard, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has modified its earlier order which made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of their arrival.

22. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993.

23. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) have reiterated India's status as polio-free country.

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

- The country's cooling energy demand will rise to 2.2 times the existing level by 2027 and interventions can help cut it down by 17 per cent 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).

25. Govt to form national trade portal to cut logistics cost: Commerce jt secy

- The union ministry of commerce and industry is in the process of forming a national trade portal to lower logistics cost and link all stakeholders in domestic and import trade, joint secretary to the ministry Keshawva Chandra has said

26. The country's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 concluded in New Delhi.

Note: Some of the winners of the competition will be given additional training, before they represent India at the 45th World Skills Competition at **Kazan, Russia in 2019.**

27. The Centre has assured Karnataka government that nearly 450 crore rupees will be reimbursed to it in connection with the expenditure incurred for procuring cereals and coarse cereals.

28. The 36th National Games will be held in Goa from March 30 to April 14 next year.

29. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited New Delhi on a two-day visit to India. He attended the 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi.

30. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi.

31. United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres visited India on 4th Oct 2018.

32. Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) for Kolkata City.

- It is also India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS. It will reduce economic loss and impacts on livelihood and improve flood awareness and safety at the community level.



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33. Union Cabinet has approved establishment and operationalisation of two new permanent campuses of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Behrampur (Odisha).

34. Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched **India for Humanity initiative** to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honour of his service to humanity.

- It will feature year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning globe.

35. Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Closing the **Skills Gap Task Force** in India in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF).

- It will be co-chaired by Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Dharmendra Pradhan along with Salil Parekh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys.

36. **India ranks 5th in world terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs**

- India was ranked 5th among 206 countries in Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018 released by Canadian Cancer Society.
- In 2018 report, **Timor-Leste** has the largest warnings on cigarette packages in the world with 92.5% on front and back, followed by Nepal and Vanuatu with 90% and New Zealand at fourth with 87.5%.
- India secured the fifth rank jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85% warnings.

September

1. **PM Inaugurates Modern Food Processing Facilities & Pipeline Projects in Gujarat**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the state-of-the-art chocolate plant of Amul dairy set up with an investment of about 190 crore rupees at Mogar village in Anand district of Gujarat.

2. **PM Modi Inaugurated Parakram Parv Exhibition in Jodhpur** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Parakram Parv exhibition at the military station in Jodhpur to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes carried out by the Indian Army across the LoC.

3. **Tourism Minister Launches Incredible India Mobile App** - The Union Minister for Tourism (IC), Mr. K.J. Alphons launched the 'Incredible India Mobile App' and the "Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification" programme. The Minister announced that India will be

the host country for official World Tourism Day celebrations for the UNWTO, in 2019.

4. **Cabinet Approves National Digital Communications Policy** - The cabinet has approved the new telecom policy, now named National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which aims to attract **USD 100 billion** investment and create 4 million jobs in the sector by 2022.

- According to the draft of the policy, NDGP is focused on increasing high-speed broadband penetration, with use of modern technologies like 5G and optical fibres across the country at affordable rates.

5. Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur.

6. PM Modi, Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina jointly launched Indo-Bangla Pipeline Project



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India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project:

- The 130-kilometre pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.
 - The capacity of the pipeline will be 1 million metric tons per annum.
 - The estimated project cost will be Rs 346 crore and it will be completed in 30 months time.
 - This will be the first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Parbatipur depot from Numaligarh of Assam in India.
7. Piyush Goyal inaugurates 1st Ever India Tourism Mart 2018 in New Delhi
 8. India Gets Its 1st ever dedicated Dog Park in Hyderabad.
 9. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Movement, to boost nationwide public participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and catalyse the fulfilment of Babu's dream of a Clean India.
 10. Government launches Rail heritage digitisation project in collaboration with Google
 11. 25th September observed as Antyodaya Diwas - 25th September was observed as Antyodaya Diwas across the country to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
 12. **Andhra Pradesh tops Ease of Living Index rankings under AMRUT** - Andhra Pradesh has topped Ease of Living Index rankings under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation).
 - It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
 - The three states were awarded best-performing states at National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018 held in New Delhi.
 13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) in Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi.
 14. **Govt. approves 100% Electrification of Railways by 2021-22** - The Union cabinet approved a proposal for the complete electrification of Indian Railways by 2021-

22, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel and saving revenue for the national carrier.

- The move will cost the government Rs12,134 crore.

15. **PM Modi launch 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'** - To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'.
16. **Bus services started between Bihar & Nepal for first time** - For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started. The bus service was flagged off from Patna by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
17. **NRTI, India's 1st Railway Varsity starts operations in Vadodara** - The first of its kind university in the country in the transport sector, the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), started operations.
 - Currently, it is functioning out of the National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara.
18. NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up **Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI)** in Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka.
19. **Homosexuality not a crime in India: SC Abolishes Section 377** - The Supreme Court Abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality.
 - The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, but the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013.
 - According to Section 377, consensual sexual acts are also considered unnatural and are punishable.
20. **Govt. approved proposal to increase Wages of Artisans by over 36%** - The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved a proposal by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the wages of artisans by over 36%.
21. **September: National Nutrition month being celebrated across country** - The National Nutrition



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Month (September) is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition.

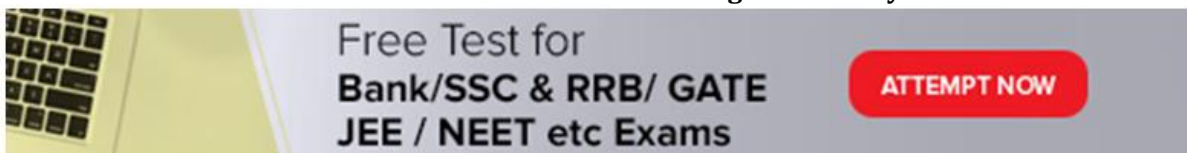
- 22. India to have 'One-Nation-One-Card' policy for transport soon: NITI Aayog** - NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant announced that India will shortly unveil a One Nation-One Card policy for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport. The announcement was made at a function on Future Mobility Summit-2018 in New Delhi.
- 23. Krishna Kutir: Government inaugurates home for 1000 widows in Vrindavan** - Union Ministry of Women

and Child Development recently had inaugurated widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

- Krishna Kutir is special home for 1000 widows set under Swadhar Greh scheme and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by government organization.

August

- 1. Navlekha:** Google launches Project Navlekha for bringing offline content online.
 - Understanding the importance of regional languages in India, search giant Google has announced a new program that will empower offline newspapers and magazines in India to bring their content online.
 - Announced during the fourth edition of 'Google for India' event, the Project Navlekha claims to bring offline content online in just a few clicks.
 - **Project Navlekha** — its new initiative to bring India's 135,000 Indic language publications online in a hassle-free manner.
 - **Navlekha**, which means 'a new way to write' in Sanskrit, will allow local publishers who do not have websites to make their offline content fit for online publishing in less than a minute.
- 2. World's first thermal battery plant to be unveiled in Andhra Pradesh** - The world's first-ever thermal battery plant owned by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST) was inaugurated in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh.
- 3. RISECREEK: IIT-Madras develop first indigenous microprocessors under Project Shakti** - Computer scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed first of family of six industry-standard microprocessors under Project Shakti.
 - The initial batch of 300 chips have been named RISECREEK and have been fabricated at Intel's facility at Oregon, US for free to run Linux operating system.
 - Project Shakti was started in 2014 as IIT-M initiative and part of it is funded by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 4. India's first Biofuel-Powered flight lands in Delhi** - India's first biofuel-powered flight landed in Delhi, covering the distance between Dehradun & Delhi. The biofuel is developed by Indian Institute of Petroleum. The flight test was successfully completed by SpiceJet.
- 5. India's largest business Incubator Bhamashah Techno Hub launched in Jaipur** - In a big step forward to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Rajasthan, the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched India's largest business incubator the Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jaipur.
- 6. India's 1st Genetic Bank for Wildlife Conservation inaugurated in Hyderabad** - National Wildlife Genetic



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Resource Bank (NWGRB) was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Note: It is India's first genetic resource bank where the genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.

7. **Santhali becomes India's 1st Tribal Language to get Wikipedia edition** - Santhali (Santali), a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a Wikipedia edition in its own script.

- The language is been spoken by over 6.4 million people in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam.

8. **Israel Opens Visa Application Centre in Kolkata** - Israel has opened a Visa Application Centre in Kolkata for tourists from West Bengal and the northeastern states to encourage more Indian travelers to visit that country. Israel recently announced a reduction in visa fees to INR 1,100 rupees from its previous 1,700 charged from Indians.

9. **Government launches third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019** - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 (SIH-2019).

- Smart India Hackathon is world's biggest open innovation model which aims to provide students with platform to solve some of pressing problems faced by people in their daily lives.
- It also seeks to inculcate culture of product innovation and mindset of problem-solving among young children.
- It will provide students opportunity to work on challenges faced by public sector organisations and union ministries.

10. **India Elected President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development** - India has been elected as

the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of two years.

- India got elected against Iran during voting which took place at the 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

11. **3rd Indian Ocean Conference held in Hanoi, Vietnam** - Its theme was "Building Regional Architectures".

12. **India's first interstate connected wind power project commissioned in Bhuj** - 126 MW wind power capacity, part of India's first inter-state transmission system (ISTS) auction, was commissioned in Bhuj, Gujarat.

- It was part of India's first ISTS auction was conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) in February 2017.

13. The Union Government has unlocked green funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore to increase the country's forest cover.

Note: The fund is an accumulated amount of money, which user agencies have been depositing as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, including industries and infrastructure, since the past 10 years.

14. **TRIBES India Outlets to open at Ahmedabad, Udaipur and Kolkata airports** - Airport Authority of India (AAI) has allotted space to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) for opening of Tribes India outlets at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Kolkata (West Bengal) airports.

15. **35% of cyber-attacks on Indian sites from China: CERT-In report** - According to recent report by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), maximum number of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites are from China, US and Russia.

- The report was forwarded to National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and other security agencies. It had analysed cyber-attacks from April-June 2018.



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16. Indian scientist-academician N Raghuram became first Indian and Asian to get elected as Chair of International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative.

17. Pune tops in Ease of Living Index released by Housing Ministry - Pune (Maharashtra) ranked first among 116 cities (with population of 1 million plus) in Ease of Living Index released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Note: Top 10 cities are (rank order) are Pune, Navi Mumbai, Greater Mumbai, Tirupati, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijaywada and Bhopal.

- Rampur in Uttar Pradesh was ranked worst on the scale and also Kohima and Patna on bottom two and three ranks while.

18. Jodhpur, Marwar ranked cleanliest rail stations in Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness -

- Union Railway Ministry released Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness which ranked 407 railway stations including 75 A1 category stations, 332 A category stations on basis of cleanliness performance.
- **Jodhpur (Rajasthan)** was ranked first in survey **A1 category stations**.
- Marwar (Rajasthan) first in **A category stations** and
- North Western Railway first among all Zonal Railways.

Ranking of Stations

Top 3 A1 category Stations (out of 75): Jodhpur (1st), Jaipur (2nd), Tirupati (3rd).

Top 3 A category stations (out of 332) - Marwar (1st), Phulera (2nd), Warangal (3rd).

Top 3 Zonal Railways Rankings: North Western Railway (1st), South Central Railway (2nd), East Coast Railway (3rd).

19. Govt. announces 50% reservation for women in RPF jawans recruitment - Union Government has

announced 50% reservation for women in upcoming recruitment of 9500-10000 jawans for the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

20. Government launches Niryat Mitra mobile app - Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched Niryat Mitra mobile application for exporters and importers of the country. The app developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the largest exporters organisation of the country.

21. Pingali Venkayya: 141st birth anniversary of designer of Indian National Flag observed - 141st birth anniversary of freedom fighter and designer (architect) of Indian National Flag Pingali Venkayya was observed on August 2, 2018.


- He was born on August 2, 1876 in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh and died in 1963.

22. Government launches Seva Bhoj Yojna - Union Ministry of Culture launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.

- Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Interstate GST charged on raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.

23. STA-1: India becomes first South Asian country to get access to US cutting-edge technology - United States has designated India as Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country that will allow country to buy highly advanced and cutting-edge sensitive technologies from America. This coveted status brings India in par with US's closest allies and partners such as NATO.

Note: India is only South Asian country to be on the list. Other Asian countries designated as STA-1 are Japan and South Korea.



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July

1. **SAFAR: Most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting inaugurated in Delhi** - Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in Delhi.
 - It is first of its kind and most advanced system in India.
2. **Wings: BSNL launches India's first internet telephony service** - State-run telecom firm BSNL through its mobile app 'Wings' launched India's first internet telephony service.
 - Through this app, BSNL customers will be able to make calls to any phone number, domestic or international.
 - Before this service, phone calls on mobile apps were possible within users of particular app (such as Whatsapp, Duo etc) and not on telephone numbers.
3. **Indian Railways Launches 'Mission Satyanishtha'** - The Indian Railways launched 'Mission Satyanishtha' and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event, at a day-long function held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.
4. **Permanent campus for NSTI, Women opens in Mohali** - The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone for permanent campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women at Mohali, Punjab.
 - This is the first NSTI Institute for Punjab and only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for women.
 - The Minister also launched a unique Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) which would admit differently abled persons as well, also a first of its kind in India at Mohali.
- He also launched India's first in-phone guide and mobile application "Go whats That" in Chandigarh.
5. **Myanmar joins International Solar Alliance** - Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), thus, becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.
 - The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.
6. **India becomes Vice Chair of Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation** - India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020).
 - The underlying Theme of the Inaugural Ceremony is "Customs – Fostering Trade Facilitation".
 - World Customs Organization headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
 - Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-General of WCO.
7. **Government to set up Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala** - Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced to set up Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram.
8. **BSNL launches India's 1st Internet Telephony Service to enable Making Calls Without SIM** - State-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) unveiled the country's first internet telephony service that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app.
 - Now BSNL customers will be able to make calls using the company's mobile app "Wings" to any phone number in the country.



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- Using this service, BSNL customers will be able to make calls on any network in the country even by using BSNL wi-fi or any other service provider.

9. Six Universities Granted 'Institute of Eminence'

Status - The Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.

Three Public Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:

1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay,
2. IIT-Delhi,
3. IISc Bangalore.

Three Private Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:

1. Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation (recommended for a letter of intent),
2. BITS Pilani,
3. Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

10. Western Railway renames Elphinstone Road Station as Prabhadevi - Western Railway renamed Elphinstone Road suburban railway station in Mumbai, Maharashtra to Prabhadevi Station.

- The station code of Prabhadevi station will be PBHD.
- The station was initially named after Lord Elphinstone, who was Governor of Bombay Presidency from 1853 to 1860.
- It has now been renamed in honour of local deity Prabhadevi.

11. India's genetically modified crop area fifth largest in world: Report

- According to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) latest 'Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017' report, India with 11.4 million hectares (mh) has world's fifth largest area

cultivated under genetically modified (GM) crops in 2017.

- United States has highest area under transgenic crops, at 75 mh. It is followed by Brazil (50.2 mh), Argentina's (23.6 mh) and Canada (13.1 mh).

12. PM Modi Inaugurated World's Largest Mobile Factory in Noida:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Noida and inaugurated the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida.

- Notably, it will be the world's largest mobile factory.

13. South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in New Delhi evening on a four-day visit to India.

14. The country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

15. Government approves Hike in Minimum Support Price for Kharif Crops: The government has decided to sharply increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops, as it responds to concerns about distress in the country's farm economy despite two years of strong monsoons.

- The MSP for common variety paddy, the most important Kharif crop, will be raised by Rs 200 over last year's Rs 1,550 per quintal. That works out a 13% increase for the financial year ended March 2019 compared to a 5.4% increase in FY18.

16. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is going to set up state-of-the-art Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport.

17. UNESCO to set up Design University for Gaming in Visakhapatnam: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will set up 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



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18. Cabinet approves renaming of Agartala Airport as **Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport, Agartala**
19. Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay visited India.
20. Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr Om Prakash Rawat launched an Android-based mobile application named '**cVigil**' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.

21. **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has **approved proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** by enhancing its **capital base to Rs. 10,000 crore** and tasking it to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education or RISE by 2022.

June

1. NITI Aayog releases **First Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts.**

- The NITI Aayog has released first Delta ranking for 108 aspirational districts to measure their incremental progress across five developmental areas during two-month period of April and May 2018.
- **Most improved aspirational districts:** Dahod (Gujarat, rank: 1st), West Sikkim district (Sikkim, 2nd). Ramanathapuram district (Tamil Nadu, 3rd) and Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh, 4th) and YSR Kadapa district (Andhra Pradesh, 5th).
- **Least improved aspirational districts:** Kupwara (Jammu and Kashmir), Begusarai (Bihar), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Simdega (Jharkhand) and Khagaria (Bihar) were listed as first to fifth aspirational districts, respectively, in least improved states.

2. India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated for crimes related to women for timely deliver justice is set up in **Chandigarh.**

- It is India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated for crimes related to women for timely deliver justice.

- Union Minister for **Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi** laid the foundation stone of India's first advanced DNA forensic laboratory in Chandigarh as part efforts to reduce the backlog of cases needing advanced forensic analysis.

3. Asia's first 13 'Blue Flag' beaches to be developed in **India.**

- Asia's first 13 'Blue Flag' beaches to be developed in India
- These beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.
- Maharashtra's Chiwla and Bhogave beaches are being made a part of this initiative, along with one beach each from Puducherry, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- There is not a single Blue Flag beach in Asia.
- The Blue Flag beach standards were established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985.
- The Blue Flag programme, which requires 33 standards in four areas to be met to make



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beaches environment-friendly, first started from Paris.

4. The Union government has announced a package of more than Rs 8,000 crore aimed to provide relief to **sugarcane farmers**.

- The Union government has announced a package of more than Rs 8,000 crore aimed to provide relief to sugarcane farmers and to clear their dues.

5. **India** is the second highest sender of foreign students in the US?

- The United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide and the number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.
- Currently, around one lakh eighty-six thousand students are studying in various institutions and Universities in the United States.

6. India's first national police museum to be established in **Chanakyapuri, Delhi**.

- The museum is expected to be inaugurated on Police Commemoration Day (21st October).
- The items will include brass insignia, ceremonial and operational head gears and uniforms, batons, belts, distinctive photographs of dog squads, mounted columns, and old copies of the Indian Police Act.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre set up at **Naya Raipur (Chhattisgarh)**.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre set up at Naya Raipur - the upcoming capital city of Chhattisgarh.
- The centre will control and monitor online water and power supply, sanitation, traffic movement, integrated building management, city

connectivity and Internet infrastructure (data centre), under one roof.

8. The Union Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation selected **10 iconic sites** under Phase III of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of Swachh Bharat Mission.

- The third phase of SIP was launched at Mana village which is situated close to Badrinath temple in Uttarakhand.
- These 10 new sites under Phase III have joined 20 other iconic places selected under Phase I & II where special sanitation work is already underway. 10 new iconic sites are: Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Andhra Pradesh), Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana), Vidur Kuti (Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (J&K), Nagvasuki Temple (UP), Ima Keithal market (Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).

9. India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use **flash flood guidance system** for the first time in the country to forecast floods. Currently, the Central Water Commission issues flood warnings.

10. The Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the new digital initiative of HRD Ministry 'National Digital Library of India' on the occasion of National Reading Day in **New Delhi**.

11. US Ambassador to the UN **Nikki Haley**, visited India recently on 27th June 2018.

12. President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Udyam Sangam-2018 in **New Delhi**.

- It is a step forward towards consolidating the convergence and synergy of all the government initiatives relating to MSME Sector.
- The President of India launched the Solar Charkha Mission which will cover 50 clusters



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and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans.

- The Mission has been approved by the Government of India for which the MSME Ministry will disburse subsidy of Rs. 550 crores to the artisans.

13. Government launches **5000** Wi-Fi Choupals in partnership with Common Service Centers (CSC).

- The Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeITY) launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages in partnership with common service centres (CSCs).
- It was jointly inaugurated by Union Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.
- The aim of Wi-Fi Choupals is to transform rural Internet connectivity through **BharatNet**.

14. **NITI Aayog** launch Water Management Index as useful tool to assess and improve performance in efficient management of water resources in the country.

- The NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog launched Composite Water Management Index as useful tool to assess and

improve performance in efficient management of water resources.

- The index aims to inspire States/UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water and recycling thereof with sense of urgency.

15. **India** will host 23rd European Union Film Festival (EUFF).

- India is going to host 23rd European Union Film Festival (EUFF) on 18th to 24th June, 2018 at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.
- It is organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting partnering with the Delegation of European Union (EU) and embassies of EU Member States in various city film club.

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up of committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in the country. The committee will be headed by **E Sreedharan**.

- The committee will be headed by **E Sreedharan** (famously known as metro man of India) who is credited for changing face of public transport in India with his leadership in building Konkan Railway and Delhi Metro.

May

1. Baba Ramdev's 'Patanjali' launched **Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM card** in alliance with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

- Initially, only the employees and office bearers of Patanjali will be able to avail the benefits of the SIM card.
- After its full-fledged launch, people will get discount of 10% on Patanjali products with this card.

- The card also comes with the medical and life insurance covers of Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively (in the case of road accident).

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated construction of Rs 6,809 crore Zojila tunnel project in **Jammu and Kashmir's Leh**


- It will be India's and Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional road tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.



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- It will be situated at altitude of 11,578 feet on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway (NH-1A).
3. India ranked **145th among 195 countries** in terms of Healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index in the year 2016, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
 - The index was released as part of Global Burden of Disease study released by Lancet, one of the world's oldest and best-known peer-reviewed general medical journal.
 - Top 3 countries with highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016 are Iceland, Norway and Netherlands.
 4. Union Cabinet has approved Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA's) proposal of setting up 4,072 mobile towers to improve telecom connectivity network in **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Areas**.
 - This network would be used by security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas.
 - It will give impetus to e-Governance activities in backward and LWE affected area with availability of digital mobile connectivity.
 5. ASEAN India Film Festival was held in **New Delhi**
 - ASEAN India Film Festival was held in New Delhi from May 25 to 30, 2018.
 - It was organised by Ministry of External Affairs (ASEAN Multilateral Division) as part of the series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations.
 - The film festival was non-competitive and its tagline was '**Friendship through Films**'.
 6. National Informatics Centre (NIC) set up cloud-enabled National Data Centre in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
 - It will offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for e-governance applications of ministries and departments.
 - It is fourth cloud-enabled National Data Centre of NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
 7. **UNICEF** organization launches data visualisation app on education scenario in India.
 - The UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) launched Data Visualisation App to provide user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of education scenario in India.
 - It was developed with technical inputs from the UNICEF, in collaboration with National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA).
 8. **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) & India Meteorological Department (IMD)** teamed up to send extreme weather warnings (alerts) to people.
 - BSNL and IMD will send area-specific alerts to users if they happen to be at place likely to experience extreme weather conditions, even if their phone numbers do not belong to that particular telecom circle.
 9. PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal power project **Jharkhand**.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand.
 - The project is 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN), a subsidiary company of NTPC.
 10. **Guwahati now India's first railway station run by solar power.**
 - The project of installing solar panels was commissioned last year in April 2017.



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- Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station.
- Solar panels have been installed at the roof-top solar power plant.

11. According to new United Nations estimates, **Delhi** city is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028.

Note:

- India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050.
- 68% of the world population is projected to live in urban areas by 2050.
- Currently, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas.
- The 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

12. International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) - **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- Many reputed rail car and equipment builders are showing their technology and products.
- It will be a unique platform to bring different suppliers under one roof and create synergy for "Make in India".
- The expo is being hosted by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), under the Ministry of Railways, in coordination with CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) and RITES Ltd.

13. Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology adopted the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.

- The "AYUSH" has become popular as the acronym for five traditional and complementary systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Yoga &

Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and successfully used in all Government communications.

- The decision follows a proposal from the Ministry of AYUSH in this regard.

14. Shivangi Pathak become India's youngest woman to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.

Note:

- She remains the youngest Indian woman to scale Everest (considering all routes).

15. India is the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017, as per report 'RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets and opportunities – Asia and the Pacific'.

- According to the report 'RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets and opportunities – Asia and the Pacific', India is the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017, with migrant workers from the country sending home **69 billion US dollars**.
- The remittances to the Asia-Pacific region amounted to 256 billion dollars last year.
- In 2017, **India** with \$69 billion, **China** with \$64 billion and the **Philippines** with \$33 billion are the three largest remittance-receiving countries in the world.

16. US-based retail giant **Walmart** has confirmed that it will buy 77% stake in India's largest e-commerce startup **Flipkart** for \$16 billion.

- The acquisition, which is the largest e-commerce deal in the world, will value the homegrown startup at a reported amount of \$20.8 billion.

17. BJP MP Murali Manohar Joshi will be the head of the parliamentary panel which is constituted to study the recovery of black money and **performance of public sector banks among a host of subjects**.

- As per the memorandum of the committee, the panel will look into the import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and



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the drought situation in the country among other matters.

18. Arun-3 Hydropower project being constructed in **Nepal**.

- Arun-3 Project is the largest capacity project in the history of hydroelectricity of **Nepal**, scheduled to be constructed within next five years on Arun river.
- Nepal Govt. granted power generation license to Indian government-owned subsidiary **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN Ltd)** for Arun-3 Hydropower Project located in Nepal.

19. IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched the Bharat Inclusion Initiative, with a commitment of \$25 million from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Omidyar Network and Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

- The initiative will focus on incubating and backing startups that work in areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health.

20. Patanjali Ayurved Limited is India's most trusted Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018.

21. The 15th Finance Commission constituted **Arvind Virmani** Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission?

- The 15th Finance Commission constituted an advisory council to advise and assist the commission.
- The 6-member council will be headed by the President of Forum for Strategic Initiatives, **Arvind Virmani**.
- The role and functions of the council will be to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission.

22. The IIT Kharagpur has suggested setting up a critical science institute with **French collaboration**.

- The critical science approach helps one probe beneath the surface meanings of words and symbols to comprehend root causes of problems instead of always treating the symptoms from a technical, quick-fix perspective.

23. The bilateral trade between India and China through **Nathu La border** resumed in May 2018. Nathu La connects which **Sikkim** state with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Note:

- Nathu La connects the Indian **Sikkim** state with China's Tibet Autonomous Region
- Nathu La is one of the three open trading border (**Shipkila in Himachal Pradesh & Lipulekh** at the trisection point of Uttarakhand India & Nepal) posts between China and India.

24. SEBI tightened Know Your Customer (KYC) rules for **foreign investors**.

- According to the new rules, in foreign portfolio investor (FPI) structured as a company, a person owning **25 percent stake** would be considered the beneficial owner (BO).

Note:

- If structured as trust or partnership entity, the threshold is **15 per cent**.
- If the fund originates from a high-risk authority, any person owning **10 per cent stake** or more in an FPI would be considered a beneficial owner (BO).
- **Beneficial Owner** is the **natural person(s)** who ultimately owns or controls an FPI and should be identified in accordance with Rule 9 of the Prevention of Money laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 (PMLA),
- Among other things, the market regulator made it clear that **non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) and resident Indians cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs.**



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- NRIs and OCIs can only obtain an FPI licence on condition that they limit their roles to investment advisors and do not invest their money.
25. According to the WHO report, **14** Indian cities figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016.

Note:

- According to the WHO report, **14 Indian cities** figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016.
- In terms of PM10 levels, **13 cities** in India figured among the 20 most-polluted cities of the world in 2016.
- The most polluted city in India is Kanpur with a PM 2.5 concentration of 173 micrograms per cubic metre, followed by Faridabad, Varanasi and Gaya.

State Affairs

December

1. **Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi to get GI tag**

- Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) will soon get Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- Kandhamal Haldi is famous for its healing properties. It is main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal.
- Apart from domestic use, it is also used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.

2. **Nagaland becomes first north-eastern state to launch single emergency number '112'**

- The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on December 1, 2018 launched the single emergency number '112' under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for the state of Nagaland.
- The launch coincided with the state's formation day and the inaugural day of the **2018 edition of the Hornbill Festival**.

3. **PEETHA scheme launched in Odisha to reinforce brand Naveen**

- Odisha government launched PEETHA scheme which aimed at creating awareness about various schemes and improving transparency in distribution of individual and social benefits.
- PEETHA stands for - Peoples Empowerment Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiatives (PEETHA).

4. **Rajnath Singh inaugurated 19th Hornbill Festival in Nagaland**

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 19th Hornbill Festival in Nagaland on 55th Nagaland Statehood Day.
- In 1963, Nagaland attains its statehood and was declared as the 16th state of the India.



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November

1. Himachal Pradesh Approves Sashakt Mahila Yojna

- The Himachal Pradesh government launched the Sashakt Mahila Yojna in the state.
- The objective is to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organization and socio-economic development.

2. UP Cabinet approves renaming of Faizabad as Ayodhya, Allahabad as Prayagraj

- The Uttar Pradesh government has approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively.
- The decision was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Earlier, the government renamed the Mughalsarai Railway station, another historic spot, as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction.

3. India's First Justice City to set up in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh is building a world-class and India's first 'Justice City' within its new capital Amaravati with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem built on latest technology for supporting the judicial system in the state.

4. Kerala Introduces New Open Online Learning Programme: 'KOOL'

- The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out- KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform.
- The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.
- With the state's schools going Hi-Tech, requiring teachers and students to be trained on different domains simultaneously, it was decided to launch KOOL.

- KOOL has been designed in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) model.

5. Nongkrem Dance festival celebrated in Meghalaya

- Nongkrem dance festival, celebrated in Meghalaya.
- It is an annual event during which prayers are offered for good harvest, peace, and prosperity of the community.

6. Sangai tourism festival held in Manipur

- The annual Sangai Festival was celebrated in north-eastern state of Manipur.
- It is grandest festival of state named after state animal, Sangai, the critically endangered brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
- The festival aims to promote Manipur as world class tourism destination. It was inaugurated by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Sangai Deer (Rucervus eldii) also called the Dancing Deer.
- It is the state animal of Manipur.


7. Titli', the severe cyclonic storm that devastated Odisha in October 2018 as 'rarest cyclone'.

8. Andhra Pradesh Government launches Bhuseva and Bhudaar web portal

- Andhra Pradesh Government has launched Bhuseva and Bhudaar web portal through which people can view land records online.
- People can get land record records online through these portals using Aadhaar card. Bhudaar security policy was also launched to provide security to the land records of farmers.

Bhudaar

- It is 11 digit unique identification code to be assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban property.



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- It will allow people to get land details on their mobile phones.
- It will help to transparency in land records. It provides information related to all transactions of particular land or property in single source.

9. West Bengal Assembly passes Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal

- West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal.
- The bill will end era of uncertain future for the people residing in those enclaves as it will help them to get full-fledged status as citizens of India, along with all civic amenities and rights.
- It will also help in distribution of land rights documents people of enclaves in border district of Cooch Behar.

10. Jharkhand to provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers, says CM

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the government will provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers and a separate electric feeder for them for agriculture purpose by 2019/2021.

11. Signature Bridge inaugurated in Delhi

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the Delhi's Signature Bridge, over river 'Yamuna'.
- It is the first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge in India.
- The bridge was constructed by the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC) at an expenditure of Rs 1,518.37 crore.

12. Odisha Government Announced New Biotechnology Policy

- The Odisha government announced a new Biotechnology Policy 2018 to attract investments in the sector at the concluding day of the Make in Odisha Conclave, held in Bhubaneswar.

13. India International Cherry Blossom Festival held in Meghalaya

- The third edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 was held in Shillong.
- It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma in the presence of Japanese Ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu.

14. Khasi fest Seng Kut Snem celebrated in Meghalaya

- The annual **Seng Kut Snem festival** is celebrated to commemorate the Seng Khasi Movement to preserve, protect and uphold indigenous Khasi religion and culture.
- This year the festivities marked the 119th anniversary of the Seng Khasi Movement.

15. Wangala Festival held in Meghalaya

- Wangala Festival of Meghalaya is a most popular festival among the Garos of Meghalaya, India.
- Also known as a **100 drums festival**, **Wangala Festival** is the occasion when the tribals offer sacrifices to please their main deity Saljong - the Sun God.

16. Meghalaya announces Rs 378-cr investment in Aqua Mission 2.0

- The Meghalaya Government announced Rs378 crore investment in the second phase of the State's flagship aquaculture mission aimed at cutting down fish imports into the hill State.
- The mission — Meghalaya State Aqua Mission 2.0 — was announced by Fisheries Minister Comingone Ymbon at the 5th state aqua festival held in Shillong.



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17. Lucknow's Ekana cricket stadium renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to rename newly-built Ekana International Stadium in capital city Lucknow after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The stadium with a seating capacity of around 50,000 will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.
- Note: Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath also renamed Allahabad as Prayagraj and Mughalsarai as Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

18. Shut down of Sterlite Copper plant in Tamil Nadu

- A National Green Tribunal (NGT) Committee ruled that the closure of the Sterlite copper plant in Tamil Nadu is not sustainable and is against the natural justice, thus, the closure is not justified.

19. Punjab becomes 3rd state to ban hookah bars or lounges

- Punjab becomes third state in the country after Maharashtra and Gujarat to ban hookah bars or lounges.

20. Cyclone Gaja strike in Tamil Nadu

- Parts of coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry get widespread rainfall as Cyclone Gaja comes closer to the Tamil Nadu coast.

21. Jharkhand celebrates 18th foundation day on 15th November

- Jharkhand state celebrated its 18th **foundation day on 15th November 2018.**
- The Jharkhand state was carved out of the southern part of Bihar on 15 November 2000.

22. J&K Governor Mr Satya Pal Malik flagged off 'SAUBHAGYA RATH'

- 'SAUBHAGYA RATH' comprising 20 vehicles each for one District of Kashmir and Jammu divisions from Raj Bhawan, Jammu.
- The SAUBHAGYA RATH under 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' - SAUBHAGYA shall move in each district for one month, to rule out the possibility of any household remaining un-electrified.
- A total of 2,26,367 households (Out of 3,57,405) were already proposed under the ongoing Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana -(DDUGJY)' and other allied schemes.

23. INS Viraat to be turned into maritime museum

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the conversion of decommissioned carrier INS Viraat into a floating museum.
- It will make the new generation familiar with the glorious history of INS Viraat.
- The carrier will be housed on a concrete foundation near Nivati Rocks in Sindhudurg in Konkan region of the state.

24. Mo Bus services launched in Odisha

- The Odisha government has launched Mo Bus services for the residents of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri.

25. New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has launched quick response (QR)-enabled fridge magnets for digital payment of bills.

- The magnets are personalized, and each customer will have unique QR Code mapped to their consumer account number.
- It is powered by an IT and services company 'SignCatch'. It is a two-dimensional (matrix) machine-readable bar code made up of black and white square.
- This code can be read by the camera of a smartphone.

26. The West Bengal Govt. has decided to observe "Rosogulla Day" on - 14th November.



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- The day commemorate the first anniversary of Bengal's Rosogolla getting the Geographical Indication (GI) tag at the 'Mishti hub'.
27. The Kerala Government has launched the '**Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme**' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state.
 28. The fifteen days Aadi Mahotsav festival has begun in Delhi.
 29. The Gujarat government has launched a Rs 351-crore project for the conservation of the Gir lions.
Note: The project is launched in the backdrop of the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) outbreak that claimed 23 Asiatic lion lives in their only dwelling Gir National park in Saurashtra.

30. The first edition of 'Arunachal Literature Festival' is being organized in Itanagar.

Note: The theme of the Arunachal Literature Festival is 'building bridges through literature'. The festival organized by the State Information and Public Relation Department ((IPR).

31. Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Dr Rajat Kumar inaugurated five-day exhibition on -- Our Vote- Our Future.
32. To increase transparency and build transport solutions, the transport department of the Delhi government has launched the Open Transit Data platform.

October

1. Bihar's Shahi litchi gets Geographical Indication tag

- Shahi Litchi from Bihar has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.
- The GI registration was done in name of Muzaffarpur-based Litchi Growers Association of Bihar.

2. Gujarat's First Mega Food Park Inaugurated in Surat

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat.
- It is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.
- A 2nd Mega Food Park has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Mehsana District of Gujarat.

3. Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approves renaming of Allahabad to Prayagraj - Uttar Pradesh Cabinet led by

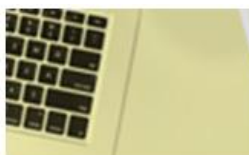
CM Yogi Adityanath has approved the proposal to rename Allahabad, which will be called Prayagraj with immediate effect.

- The new name derives from a place in the city called Prayag, where three rivers flowing across the state meet.

4. India's 1st 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' launched in Assam

- Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company for launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program".
- The program was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman at Namrup.

5. Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication tag - Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has granted Alphonso mango from 5



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districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- These five districts Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad are from western Konkan coastal region of State.
- With this recognition, Alphonso has joined list of 325 products from India with GI tag.

- 6. BPCL To Set Up Country's 1st Biofuel Plant in Odisha** - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will complete commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated modern food processing facilities, including Amul's ultra-modern Chocolate Plant in Anand.
8. PM inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot.
9. PM inaugurated the Mundra LNG terminal, the Anjar-Mundra Pipeline Project and the Palanpur-Pali-Barmer pipeline project, at Anjar.
- 10. Niwari announced as 52nd district of Madhya Pradesh** - Madhya Pradesh Government has announced creation of new district Niwari. It will be 52nd district of the state and came into effect from October 1, 2018.

September

- 1. Brabourne Stadium cricket ground gets world's largest solar rooftop** - The World's largest solar rooftop installed on Brabourne stadium, at Cricket Club of India, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - Tata Power' has commissioned 820.8kWp for the installation of the solar rooftop project.
 - It will help to generate over 1.12 million electricity per year, which will thus lead to 25% of savings in the power consumption cost.
- 2. PM Modi Inaugurated Sikkim's First Airport in Pakyong** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim, nine years after the foundation stone was laid.
 - Pakyong airport is India's 100th functional airport and one of the country's five highest airports.
 - The airport is located around 60 km from the Indo-China border.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a new airport at Jharsuguda in Odisha.
- 4. Festival of Nuakhai Being Celebrated in Odisha** - The festival of Nuakhai is being celebrated in Odisha. During this harvest festival of western Odisha.
5. Indian Culinary Institute inaugurated in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
- 6. Uttarakhand Assembly adopts resolution to declare cow rashtra mata** - Uttarakhand Assembly has unanimously passed resolution seeking status of "rashtra mata — mother of the nation" for cow.
- 7. Maharashtra Government to set up new Cyber University** - Maharashtra Government is setting up new Cyber University dedicated to mitigating cyber threats.
 - It will train 3,000 professionals to fight online space cyber-attacks, internet crimes and conduct cyber forensics.
- 8. Country's first Tribal Tourism circuit launched in Chhattisgarh** - Union minister K J Alphons, the Minister of State for Tourism, inaugurated the country's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh.



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- This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in February 2016 for Rs. 99.21 Crores.
- The project was implemented under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme launched in 2014-15 for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner.

9. Rajasthan govt. to Provide free mobile Phones to Women of BPL families - In a bid to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Digital India'

campaign, Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under the Bhamashah Yojana.

- 10. India's first insect museum opened in Tamil Nadu.**
- India's first insect museum with state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University campus in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- 11. Tamil Nadu Government bans manufacture and sale of e-cigarettes with immediate effect in the state.**

August

- 1. Chhattisgarh announces renaming of Naya Raipur to Atal Nagar** - In a tribute to the late former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Naya Raipur as 'Atal Nagar'.
- 2. Chhattisgarh, first State to provide Right to Skills' Development to Youth** - Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced that Chhattisgarh is the first among the 28 other states in the country to provide Right to Skills' Development to the youth.
- 3. Goa Tourism's App-Based Taxi Service Flagged Off** - Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called 'GOAMILES' in Panaji.
- 4. World's first Thermal Battery plant inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh** - The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST).

- 5. Khangchendzonga becomes 11th Biosphere Reserve included in WNBR** - The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in **Sikkim**, surrounding the world's third highest peak Mount Khangchendzonga, has been added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, making it the 11th biosphere in India to be included in the network.
Note: The core zone of Khangchendzonga National Park already has been designated World Heritage Site in 2016 under 'mixed' category (first from India in this category).
- 6. Rajasthan first State to implement Biofuel Policy** - Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre this year.
Note: The policy on biofuels seeks to help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence.



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July

1. **Odisha to get country's 1st Skill Training Centre** – Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country. He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
2. **PM Modi dedicates Bansagar Canal Project to Nation in Mirzapur, UP** - The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Bansagar Canal Project to the Nation in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. This project will provide a big boost to irrigation in the region, and will be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
3. **India's 1st private UAV factory to come up in Kota** - India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.
4. **Regional Rail Training Institute inaugurated at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh** - Indian Railways inaugurated Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh in a bid to strengthen expertise and capabilities of the employees of North-Eastern Railways.
5. **NABARD launches South East Asia's first ever Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is first of its kind centre in South East Asia.
 - It aims at accelerating concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial and non -government sectors.
6. **Chhattisgarh CM launch mobile distribution Scheme 'Mobile Tihar'** - Actress Kangana Ranaut and

Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.


Note:

- The scheme includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children, and setting up of 556 new mobile towers.
 - The Chhattisgarh government is working towards improving network connectivity and empowering youth with smartphones.
7. **Rajasthan signs MoU for the 1st Cow Sanctuary in State** - Rajasthan Government signed an MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladevi Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows. This will be the first cow sanctuary in Rajasthan and will be situated in Bikaner's Napasar.
 8. **Himachal Pradesh launches Shaur Nahin mobile application** - Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched 'horn not ok' awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin' (no noise) mobile application in state capital Shimla.
 9. **Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala tops list of best governed States for third time** - According to Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2018, Kerala tops the list as best-governed state in the country followed by Tamil Nadu.
 - The index was released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
 - Kerala has topped PAI as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 among large states

Large States:

- Kerala has topped the list, followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat. Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest, indicating higher social and economic inequalities in the states.

Smaller states (with population less than two crore):



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- Himachal Pradesh topped the list followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at bottom of the index among small states.

10. Animals Declared As 'Legal Persons' in

Uttarakhand - In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state. The HC stated that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."

11. Gujarat Government has granted religious minority status to Jews living in the state.

- Gujarat is third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

12. Jharkhand To Set Up Country's 1st Khadi Mall:

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the first 'Khadi Mall' of the country will be opened in Jharkhand.

13. Behdienkhlam Festival concludes in Meghalaya: The famous 4-day Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam", held every year at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya.

14. Animals Declared As 'Legal Persons' in

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June

1. Madhya Pradesh was awarded by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan-PMSMA).

- The state was awarded for registering unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths from 2014 to 2016 as per report of Registrar General of India (RGI).

2. Governor's Rule imposed in which state - **Jammu and Kashmir**.

- Governor's rule imposed in Jammu and Kashmir.
- This is the eighth time in the last four decades J&K was put under Governor's rule and third time under J&K **Governor N N Vohra** tenure.

3. **Punjab** state launched "Business First Portal" a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in the state.


- In a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in Punjab, the state government has launched a "Business First Portal".

4. Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh state.

- Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh.
- Rose-ringed parakeet will be the state bird while jasmine will be the state flower.

5. In **Uttarakhand**, Polythene will be completely prohibited from 31st July in the state. All the polythene vendors have been asked to finish the polyethylene stock before 31st July.

6. Following directions from Supreme Court, the Central Government has constituted the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) to address the dispute



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over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

7. The **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system.

- HP Govt had set up a review committee headed by former vice-chancellor to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and it has recommended reverting back to annual examination system.

8. Queen' Pineapple fruit declared as official fruit of **Tripura** state.

- President Ram Nath Kovind announced that the "queen" variety of pineapple would be Tripura's state fruit.
- Tripura exported its first consignment of one tonne pineapples to Dubai earlier this month.
- Tripura is one of the largest pineapple growing states in country.

May

1. The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in – **Manipur**

- It will have its second campus at Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow.
- It will be a specialised University, first of its kind, to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology.

2. **Chhattisgarh** state will get specialised anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther on the lines of the Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh,

- It was announced by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh after chairing meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).

3. Rajasthan state government launched **Nidaan** software for disease monitoring and strengthening tele-medicine services in the government hospitals.

- The software will help for providing presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as trends of ailments found in specific areas.

4. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Southern Campus of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- NIDM would become a Centre for excellence in the future and save people from cyclones and other disasters.

5. Goa celebrates its Statehood day on **30th May**.

- Goa celebrates its Statehood Day on **30th May 1987** and became India's 25th state.

17. **Manipur** state became the first state in the Northeast to have solar toilets.

- **Manipur** has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets.
- The solar panel, connected to the toilets, absorb the heat to generate power and are also efficient to transform waste material.

6. On 16 May 1975, **Sikkim** became the **22nd state** of the Indian Union.


7. **Telangana** state govt. issued an order to provide 2% reservation in government jobs in the state to meritorious sportspersons.



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- The reservation would be applicable to 29 recognized sports disciplines
 - It will not affect the overall percentage of reservation in the state.
8. **Bihar** state govt signed a MoU with NTPC Limited to improve the performance of Power Sector in the state.
- The MoU envisages transfer of **Barauni Thermal Power Station** (720 MW) to NTPC.
 - Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUN) & Nabinagar Power Generating Company (Pvt.) Limited (NPGC) will also be transferred to NTPC.
 - All the three power generation facilities are envisaged to be transferred to NTPC from the effective date to be notified by Government of Bihar through a Statutory Transfer Scheme.
9. Cabinet approves setting up of a Central University of **Andhra Pradesh** in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has given in-principle approval for establishing a Central University by the name of "Central University of Andhra Pradesh" in Janthaluru Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh.
 - A provision of funds of Rs. 450 crores have been approved for the first phase expenditure towards establishment of the new University.
10. The Himachal Pradesh govt. to spend **25 crore rupees** on renovating and developing the British Raj **Bantony Castle**.
- Note:**
- The castle is one of the historic and monumental buildings located on Mall Road Shimla town and fine example of the Anglo-Gothic architecture.
 - The Bantony Castle, owned by a business family and housing the state police headquarters, was acquired by the government for over 27 crores two years ago.
11. **Punjab** state government along with **World Wildlife Fund** (WWF) India conducted the first organized census for the conservation of Indus **dolphins on their population**.
12. **Madhya Pradesh** government launched India's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for its smart cities at the Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL) facility in the Berkheda area.
13. The Sikkim government nominated Bollywood singer **Mohit Chauhan** as the Green Ambassador of the state.
- To promote Sikkim as a Green Destination, nationally and internationally, on voluntary basis.
 - Mohit Chauhan is a playback singer and singer of a band known as 'Silk Route'.
14. The world's second oldest rock discovered from **Kendujhar** district of Odisha.
- Scientists discovered the world's second oldest grain of magnetic zircon from the Singhbhum rock at the Champua in **Kendujhar** district of **Odisha**.
 - The zircon is a mineral that **contains traces of radioactive isotopes**.
 - It is an estimated that the magnetic zircon in the rock is 4, 240 million years old that will offer fresh clues about the earth's origins.
15. **Gujarat and Maharashtra** states celebrated their 58th foundation day on **1 May 2018**.
- In 1960 that the erstwhile state of Bombay was divided on linguistic basis and two states namely Gujarat and Maharashtra came into existence.
 - The day is marked with various cultural events and ceremonies highlighting the culture and traditions of Maharashtra.
16. **Maharashtra** state became the first state in the country to provide digitally-signed land record receipts.
- Note:**



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- **Maharashtra** became the first state in the country to provide digitally-signed land record

receipts and accept a digital signature to check irregularities and bring in transparency.

International Affairs

December

1. Luxembourg to become First Country to Make Public Transport Free

- Luxembourg is set to become the first country in the world to make all public transport free, implementing the move in 2020.
- The move is aimed at addressing environmental issues and the problem of traffic congestion.
- Earlier, Luxembourg introduced free transport for all people under the age of 20.

2. Patents granted by India up by 50% in 2017: WIPO

- According to World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report released by United Nation's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

- It is the global body for promotion and protection of intellectual property rights (IPR).
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

3. Qatar to leave OPEC from January 2019

- Qatar has announced its decision to leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019 and focus more on the production of natural gas.
- The announcement was made by Qatar's new energy minister, Saad al-Kaabi.

About OPEC

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- The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organisation of 15 nations, founded in 1960 in Baghdad.
- OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Capital of Austria.
- HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo is the Secretary General of OPEC.

4. SpiNNaker: Largest brain-mimicking supercomputer switched on

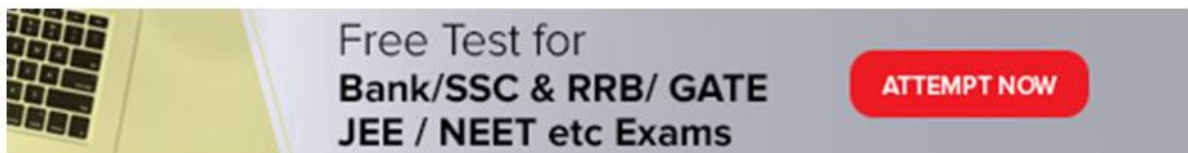
- The world's largest supercomputer Spiking Neural Network Architecture (SpiNNaker) machine designed to work in same way as human brain was switched on for the first time.
- It designed and built at University of Manchester in UK.

5. Australia become 1st Country to recognise 'Orphanage Trafficking' as Slavery

- Australia has become the first country in the world to recognise 'orphanage trafficking' as a form of modern slavery.
- Children from smaller countries are recruited in orphanages in the West for the purpose of profit through foreign aid.
- As per estimates, 80% of children living in the world's orphanages have at least one living parent.

6. World Bank Unveils USD 200 billion in Climate Action Investment for 2021-25

- The World Bank has unveiled 200 billion US Dollars in climate action investment for 2021



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to 2025, adding that this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding.

- The move coincides with a UN climate summit in Katowice.

November

1. WCCB wins Asia Environment Enforcement Awards for combating trans-boundary environmental crime

- United Nations Environment Program has selected Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and its enforcement officer RS Sharath for 2018 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards.
- They were selected under organization and individual categories respectively for their outstanding contributions in combating the trans-boundary environmental crimes.
- The 2018 Awards will be given by UNEP with UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL (UNODC), USAID, Freeland Foundation, and Government of Sweden.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

- WCCB is statutory multi-disciplinary body under Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.

2. Bangladesh elected IORA Chairman for 2021-23

- Bangladesh was elected as Vice Chairman of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period of 2019-21 and eventually as IORA Chairman for 2021-23 at 18th IORA Council of Ministers' Meeting held in Durban, South Africa.
- The Current Chair is South Africa and Vice Chair is UAE.

3. UN World Food Programme, Alibaba Group form strategic partnership to eliminate hunger

- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed strategic partnership to support efforts eliminate hunger globally by 2030.

4. Prime Minister Modi launches APIX technology in Singapore

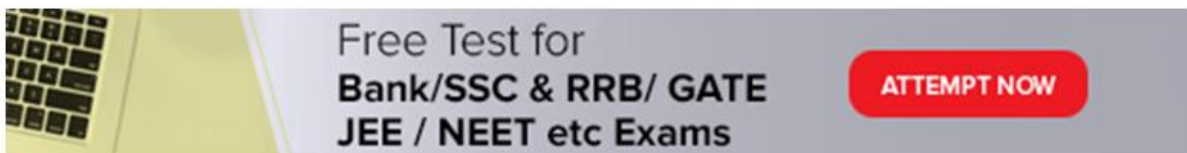
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the APIX (Application Programming Interface Exchange), a banking technology platform designed to reach nearly two billion people worldwide who are still without bank accounts.
- Prime Minister Modi became the first leader to address the prestigious Fintech Festival in Singapore.

Note:

- 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.

5. Palau Becomes 1st Country in World to Ban Reef-Killing Sunscreen

- Palau has become the first country to ban reef toxic sunscreen by 2020 in an attempt to



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protect its coral reefs after the president of the country signed a bill into law.

- Palau Capital: Ngerulmud,
- Currency: United States Dollar

6. Vice President's visit to 3 South African Countries: Complete Highlights

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu was on a seven-day 3-South African nation visit to Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.

Key highlights

Botswana

- Botswana decided to join the International Solar Alliance,
- M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the India-Botswana CEO Roundtable in Gaborone.
- Botswana Capital: Gaborone, Botswana
Currency: Botswana pula

Zimbabwe

- Vice President announced the US\$ 310 million Line of Credit for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station.
- It is Zimbabwe's second biggest power plant with an installed capacity of 920 MW
- Zimbabwe Capital: Harare, Zimbabwe
Currency: US dollars, South African rand, Euro.

Malawi

- Attended the Malawi-India Business Meet, in Lilongwe, Malawi.
- Inaugurated a very unique event, India for Humanity to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Malawi Capital: Lilongwe, Malawi
Currency: Malawian kwacha

7. UNSC Lifts Sanctions against Eritrea after 9 Years

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years.

- An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported al-Shabab militants in Somalia.

Note:

- Eritrea Capital: Asmara
- Currency: Eritrean nakfa.

8. Morocco unveils Africa's First Ever High-Speed Train Line

- French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.

9. World's Standard Definition of Kilogram, Second & Metre Redefined


- The 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) was held at Versailles(Paris), France.
- The members have voted for the redefinition of 130 years old "Le grand K – the SI unit of kg" in terms of the fundamental Planck's constant(h).
- The new definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019.

Note:

- The definition of kilogram has been changed from being the mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to the Planck constant which is a physical constant.
- Likewise, the definition of meter has been changed to link it to the speed of light. There is a change in the definition of time also.
- The CGPM is the highest international body of the world for accurate and precise measurements.

10. Nepal Launches Social Security Scheme

- Nepal government has launched a Social Security Scheme for formal sector workers of the country.



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11. Ukraine declares Martial Law after Russian Naval Attack

- Ukraine's parliament has imposed martial law in the country to fight what its president called "growing aggression" from Moscow after a weekend naval confrontation off the disputed Crimean Peninsula in which Russia fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels amid renewed tensions between the neighbors.

12. World leaders mark 100 years since end of First World War

- World leaders gathered in Paris on November 11, 2018 to lead the global commemorations to mark 100 years since the end of the first World War.
- The occasion saw around 70 leaders come together including US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to mark the centenary of the 1918 Armistice in the French capital.

13. France unveils bronze statue commemorating role of Indian soldiers in World War I

- A statue commemorating the role of Indian soldiers in World War I was unveiled on November 11, 2018 in the town of Laventie, France to mark the end of the First World War in 1918.
- Another memorial was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu at Villers Guislain in France on November 10, 2018.
- The main motif of the Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain is the Indian national emblem that has four Ashoka lions.

14. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu represents India at centenary of WW-1 Armistice

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, who is on a three-day visit to Paris, represented India at the Armistice of World War I centenary commemoration.

15. Amnesty strips Aung San Suu Kyi of highest honour

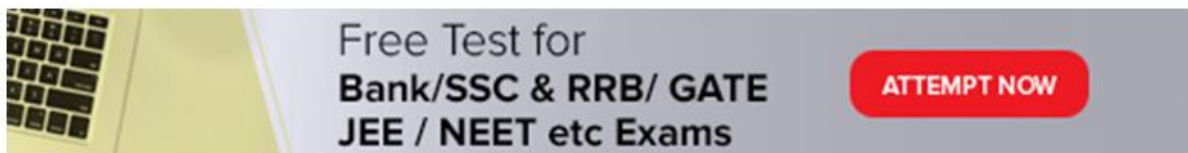
- Amnesty International has withdrawn a prestigious human rights award from Myanmar Councillor Aung San Suu Kyi, accusing her of perpetuating human rights abuses by not speaking out about violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority.
- The international human rights group named Suu Kyi as its 2009 Ambassador of Conscience Award recipient when she was still under house arrest for her opposition to Myanmar's oppressive military junta.

16. India to top US as second-largest carbon spewer from power: IEA

- India will overtake the US to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030 as the nation's electricity demand skyrockets, the International Energy Agency said in its latest World Energy Outlook.
- Carbon dioxide emissions from India's power sector are expected to rise nearly 80 percent by 2040 as power use almost triples, driven in part by air conditioning, the Paris-based IEA said in the report.
- China will remain the biggest emitter.

17. EU aims to be First Carbon Neutral Economy by 2050

- The European Commission is the first major economy to set its sight on achieving climate neutrality by 2050.



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October

1. Seychelles launches World's First Sovereign Blue Bond

- The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond—a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.
- The Seychelles blue bond is partially guaranteed by a US\$5 million guarantee from the World Bank (IBRD) and further supported by a US\$5 million concessional loan from the GEF which will partially cover interest payments for the bond.
- Victoria is the capital of Seychelles and Seychellois rupee is the currency.

2. Vice President Embarks on 3-Nation Africa visit –

- The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu embarked on his first Africa visit.
- In his weeklong visit, he will visit Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi where he is scheduled to interact with heads of state of the three nations, business fora and address Indian Community.

Note;

- The capital of Botswana is – Botswana, Currency is – pula
- The capital of Zimbabwe – Harare,
- The capital of Malawi – Lilongwe, Currency is - kwacha

3. World's largest airport 'under one roof' opened in Istanbul

- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers opened on October 29 in Istanbul, Turkey.

- The new airport is located near the Black Sea coast on the Europe side of Istanbul.

4. Angela Merkel to step down as German chancellor in 2021

- Germany's Angela Merkel has said she will step down as chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks.
- She also said she would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right CDU party in December. She has held the post since 2000.

5. India donates 3 lakh dollars for United Nations' peacekeeping initiative

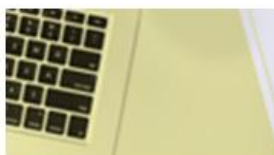
- India has donated three lakh dollars for a peacekeeping initiative at the United Nations.
- India's Permanent Representative at the UN, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin.
- The UN Department of Field Support announced that the Indian government donated the amount for the 'Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Programme' with a specific focus on issues of conduct and discipline among the peacekeeping personnel.

6. China opens world's longest sea bridge linking Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai

- China inaugurated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, world's longest sea bridge with total length of 55 km.
- The new sea bridge will connect the east and west sides of Pearl River Delta of the South China Sea, connecting two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau with Zhuhai i.e. mainland China.

7. India, Iran, Afghanistan hold first trilateral on Chabahar port project

- The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council



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of Chabahar Agreement was held in Tehran, capital city of Iran.

- India, Iran and Afghanistan in May 2016, had signed agreement which entailed establishment of transit and transport corridor among three countries using Chabahar Port as one of regional hubs.

8. China Successfully Tests 'World's Largest' Cargo Drone 'Feihong-98 (FH-98)'

- A Chinese company has tested the 'world's largest' cargo drone Feihong-98 (FH-98) which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1,500kg).

9. Canada Becomes 2nd Country to Legalize

Recreational Cannabis: Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis.

10. Global Hunger Index 2018: Key Findings

- India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries.
- The 2018 global hunger index is prepared by Welthungerhilfe together with Concern Worldwide.

11. US to pull out of Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia

- United States (US) President Donald Trump has announced that US will unilaterally pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.

12. India wins election to UN Human Rights Council

- India was elected to the United Nations' top human rights body for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019.
- India got total 188 votes, the highest number of votes among all candidates in the Asia-Pacific category.
- The 18 new members were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot.

Countries needed a minimum of **97 votes to get elected to the Council.**

- In the Asia Pacific category, India got 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 votes, Bangladesh 178, Bahrain and Philippines 165 each.

13. International Day of Rural Women: October 15

- The International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on October 15 to recognize the crucial role and contribution of rural women.
- The 2018 theme of the day was "Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".

14. 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.

15. Alibaba's Jack Ma to open institute for tech entrepreneurs in Indonesia

- Jack Ma, executive chairman of China's Alibaba Group Holding, he plans to open an institute to train thousands of tech entrepreneurs in Indonesia, where he is already an adviser to the government on e-commerce.

16. India, China launched 1st Joint Programme for Afghanistan to Train Diplomats

17. Malaysian Government Abolishes Capital

Punishment - In Malaysia, the cabinet decided to abolish the death penalty.

18. Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became the first person to be stripped of the honorary Canadian citizenship for her role in gross human rights violations against the Rohingya people.

19. Ministry of AYUSH has set up an AYUSH Information Cell at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Romania



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to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and encourage Ayurveda practice in Romania.

20. Stanford University named World's Most

Innovative University: Reuters

- Stanford University was named as World's Most Innovative University by Reuters news agency rankings.
- No Indian was able to make it to the list.
- Top 3 - Stanford University, US, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, Harvard University, US

21. World Obesity Day: 11 October - The World Obesity Day is observed globally every year on 11 October to promote practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis.

- **The theme** for this year is "It's time to End Weight Stigma!".

22. World Post Day: October 9

- The 2018 theme is: "Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?".

23. International Coffee Day: October 1

September

1. India, Japan sign Loan Agreement for Bullet Train Funds

- India has signed two loan agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project and Kolkata East West Metro Project.
- Under these agreements, Japan will provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of around Rs 5,500 crore as tranche 1 for Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project Rs.1619 crore for tranche 3 Kolkata East-West Metro Project.

2. Argentina gets biggest Loan in IMF's History at \$57 Billion - Argentina has received \$57.1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the biggest loan package ever from the global body aimed at boosting the country's struggling economy.

3. Germany launched World's first Hydrogen-Powered Train.

4. United Nation declared Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace 2019-2028.

5. Nepal refuses to participate in first BIMSTEC joint military exercise - Nepal has refused to participate in inaugural joint military exercise of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries scheduled to be held in Pune, Maharashtra.

Note:

- The first BIMSTEC field training exercise will be conducted at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra from September 10 and 16, 2018.

6. G-20 Trade & Investment Ministerial meeting held in Argentina - Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting at Mar del Plata in Argentina.

7. Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state: Report - According to recent report, Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear



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weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads.

- Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and its stockpile is expected to

increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 (surpassing United Kingdom) if its current proliferation trend continues.

August


- 1. Facebook launches Digital Literacy Library:** Social networking giant Facebook has launched "Digital Literacy Library" to help young people build skills they need to safely enjoy online technology.
 - The lessons can be found on Facebook's Safety Center as well as on Berkman Klein's Digital Literacy Resource Platform.
- 2. Tokyo 2020:** First Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology to increase security
 - Tokyo 2020 will be first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues.
 - For this, games organisers have partnered with Japanese telecommunications and information technology giant NEC to develop the first system of this kind to be implemented at an Olympics games.
- 3. Chinese researchers create world's first single chromosome yeast** - Researchers from China's Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences have claimed to have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions.
- 4. China successfully launched Gaofen-11,** an optical remote sensing satellite, as part of the country's high-resolution Earth observation project.
 - Gaofen-11 is sub-meter resolution optical satellite. It was developed by China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).
- 5. Bondi: World Bank launches world's first blockchain bond** - The World Bank launched world's first public blockchain bond named bond-i created,

allocated, transferred and managed by using blockchain technology.

- Bond-i is an acronym standing for Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument and also refers to tourist famous Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia.

Note:

- Bond-I is Ethereum blockchain bond denominated in Australian dollars, making it Kangaroo bond (referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in local currency).
 - World Bank had chosen Commonwealth Bank of Australia (largest bank in Austria) was chosen as sole arranger for this bond.
- 6. US extends \$39 million military finance to Sri Lanka to boost maritime security** - United States has announced to grant \$39 million as part its foreign military financing to Sri Lanka to boost maritime security.
 - The US funding for Sri Lanka is part of its \$300 million set aside for South and Southeast Asia to ensure free, open, and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - 7. 2018 Global Liveability Index: Vienna named world's most liveable city** - Austrian capital Vienna was ranked as world's most liveable city among 140 major cities in 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
 - It is first time that European city has topped rankings of EIU annual survey.
 - **Top 3 countries** - Vienna, Austria, Melbourne, Australia and Osaka, Japan.



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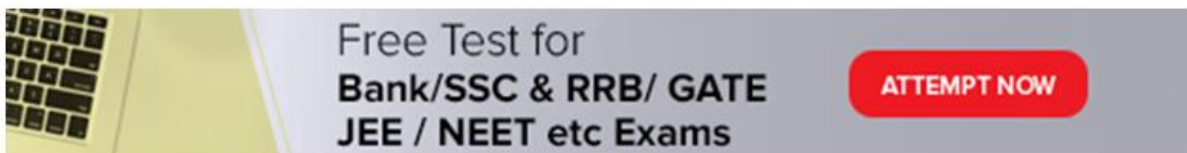
8. **Historic Esala Maha Perehera Festival held in Sri Lanka** – In Sri Lanka, the ten-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera held in Kandy, Sri Lanka. **Note:** The Esala Perahera is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals in Sri Lanka, featuring dancers, jugglers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants.
9. **Sushma Swaraj Inaugurate 'Panini Language Laboratory' in Mauritius** - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) at Port Louis in Mauritius.

- She called on Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jagnauth and discussed further deepening of the special ties between the two nations.

10. **Japan pips China to become World's 2nd largest Stock Market** - Japan has pipped China as the world's number two stock market, according to a Bloomberg report. **Note:** Both markets are ranked after the US which is the world's largest at just over \$31 trillion. China lost to Japan after Chinese stocks and currency fell this year amid a trade spat with the US.

July

1. **UNEP partners with Google for Monitoring Impact of Human Activity on Ecosystem** - UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has entered into a partnership with search engine giant Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools. **Note:** UN Environment Programme (UNEP) head office is in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
2. **Integrated Indian visa application Centre inaugurated in Bangladesh** - A new integrated state-of-the-art integrated Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was jointly inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan at Dhaka's Jamuna Future Park.
3. **World's first Digital Art Museum opens in Tokyo** - The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.
4. **Asia's 1st Patent Arbitration Centre to open in Tokyo**: Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in Tokyo in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
5. **World's 1st Digital Art Museum Opens in Tokyo**: The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.
6. **India to Operate 'World's Emptiest Airport' in Sri Lanka**: The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) would be operated as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture. The \$210 million facility, 241km south-east of Colombo, is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.



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June

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI at the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' in **Singapore**.
 - With the launch, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old **Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS)**.
 - The move will enable RuPay users to make payments at all of NETS acceptance points across Singapore.
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. World's Most Experienced Spacewoman **Peggy Whitson** retired after a 22-year-long career. Whitson, who joined NASA as a researcher in 1986.
 - The 58-year-old is the oldest woman to go into space and also the most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 missions.
4. Giorgi Kvirikashvili announced his resignation. He was the Prime Minister of **Georgia**.
5. Raksha Mantri, Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first Representative Office of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.
 - The Representative Office will aim to promote BEL's exports in areas such as Weapon Systems, Radar Systems, Naval Systems, Military Communication Systems, etc.
6. **US** withdraws from UN Human Rights Council?
 - The United States under President Donald Trump administration has announced its withdrawal from United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) terming it hypocritical and self-serving.
 - The United Nations Human Rights Council is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
 - United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) headquarters is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
7. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting took place on in **Jurmala, Latvia**
 - Latvia assumed chairmanship of NSG for **2018-19**.
 - With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair the NSG.
8. The headquarter of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is in **The Hague, Netherlands**
 - The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29 April 1997.
9. **US** country unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit'.
 - US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit' that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second.
10. Home Minister Rajnath Singh lays foundation stone for refinery project in **Mongolian Refinery**.
 - This refinery project has been financed by the Government of India through a Line of Credit of **One Billion USD**.
 - **Mongolia Capital**- Ulaanbaatar,
 - **Currency**- Mongolian togrog.



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May

- Colombia** recently, joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as global partner.
 - Colombia** joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as global partner.
 - It makes it first Latin American to join NATO.
 - NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance between **29 North American** and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty.
 - Headquarter of NATO is in **Brussels, Belgium**.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) **Nepal** became first country in south-east Asia Region to defeat trachoma, world's leading infectious cause of blindness.
 - The eye disease was second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in 1980s.
- Narendra Modi among top 10 most powerful people in the world: Forbes**
 - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes.
 - The list is topped by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
 - Modi ranks **9th** on the Forbes 2018 list of 75 of the **World's Most Powerful People** who make the world turn.
 - Russian President Vladimir Putin on second rank.
 - Donald Trump on the third spot, followed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel (4) and Amazon chief Jeff Bezos (5).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched an initiative '**REPLACE**' to provide a guidance for all countries on how to remove artificial trans fats from their foods supply **by 2023**.

Note:

- REPLACE stands for review dietary sources, promote use of healthier fats, legislate, assess changes, create awareness, and enforce.

- This initiative is meant to lead countries in establishing legislation to eliminate the trans fats.
- Artificial trans fats are made when vegetable oil hardens in a process called hydrogenation.

- Guatemala** inaugurated its Israel embassy in Jerusalem and became the first country to follow in the footsteps of the United States.

Note:

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales attended an inauguration ceremony.
- The US and Guatemalan moves break with decades of international consensus.

- Russia** unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station.

- It will be primarily used to power oil rigs as Russia pushes further north into the Arctic to drill for oil and gas and needs electricity in far-flung locations.
- The Akademik Lomonosov arrived in Murmansk where it was moored in the port and presented to the media.
- The ship (144 by 30 metre) holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships.

- US President announces US withdrawal from **2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran**.

- The historic nuclear deal was reached in Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council along with **Germany** and the European Union.
- **The P5+1 refers** to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); **namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus, Germany.**



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- It is a group of six world powers which, in 2006, joined together in diplomatic efforts with Iran with regard to its nuclear program.
8. The **British marketing analytics firm**, Cambridge Analytica announced to shut down all its business operations in Britain and the United States.
- The company has been accused of using the personal data of 87 million **Facebook users** to control the result of the US 2016 presidential election.
9. The Swedish Academy postponed 2018 Nobel Awards of **Literature** categories in the wake of a sexual and financial scandal.

Note:

- Due to assault allegations made against (Jean-Claude Arnault) husband of former member of the Swedish Academy, the Swedish Academy

postponed 2018 Nobel Literature Prize for the first time in almost 70 years.

- The Swedish Academy intends to decide on and announce the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 in parallel with the naming of the 2019 laureate.
10. According to the Airports Council International (ACI) traffic forecast - **India** has been projected to be the **second fastest** growing country in the world for air passenger traffic.
- As per the ACI forecast Vietnam at the top position with an 8.5% growth rate, followed by India at 7.5% and Iran at 7.3%.
 - China has been placed at the 8th position with 5.9% growth rate.

Sports

December

1. Pune International Marathon 2018

- Atlawim Debebe of Ethiopia won the Pune International Marathon 2018
- **Atlawim Debebe** won the Marathon with the timing of 2 hours 17 minutes 17 seconds.
- Teshome Getachew claimed second and Bekele Asefa third position. Both of them are also from Ethiopia.
- In women's Full Marathon Pascalia Chepkogei from Kenya stood first with the timing of 2 hour 50 minutes 27 seconds.

2. Senior Women's National Championship


- Vinesh Phogat won the Gold at 57 kg category in wrestling in the Tata Motors Senior Women's National Championship.

- Sakshi Malik won the Gold at 62 kg category in wrestling in the Tata Motors Senior Women's National Championship.
- The event was hosted by Uttar Pradesh.

3. Ullas Narayan Wins India's 1st International Medal in Ultra Running

- Ullas Narayan won the bronze medal in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei.
- With this he became the first ever Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra-running event.

4. Gautam Gambhir Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket



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- Gautam Gambhir has announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket.
- The 37-year-old announced his retirement on social media.
- A 12-year international career fetched over 10,000 runs for the country; 4,154 in 58 Tests, 5,238 in 147 ODIs and 932 in 37 T20Is.

5. Delhi Daredevils renamed as Delhi Capitals

- Delhi Daredevils was renamed as 'Delhi Capitals' after a track record over the past 11 IPL seasons.
- Shreyas Iyer will continue to lead the team.

November

1. Magnus Carlsen wins the World Chess Championship 2018

- Current World champion Norwegian Magnus Carlsen (26-year-old) beat American Fabiano Caruana 3-0 and regain his World Chess Championship title-2018 in London, England.

Note:

- The World Chess Championship 2018 organised by the FIDE (commercial partner-Agon) at The College in Holborn, London.
- The headquarter of FIDE is in Athens, Greece.

2. Harmanpreet Kaur named captain of Women's World T20 XI

- India's batting star Harmanpreet Kaur was named captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI.

3. India's Bhavani Devi (first Indian) has won the gold medal in the Sabre event in the Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2018 in Canberra, Australia.

4. MCG to host both men's, women's World T20 finals in 2020

- Australia's biggest stadium Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will host the final match of both the men's and women's World Twenty20 cricket in 2020.
- The women's World T20 will run from 21st February to 8th March 2020.

- The men's tournament will be held from 18th October to 15th November 2020 in Australia.

5. 62nd National Shooting Championship held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- India's 13-year-old shooter **Esha Singh** won the **Women's, Youth Women's** and Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol competitions.
- She beat Manu Bhaker and Heena Sidhu to win three gold medals.
- **Adarsh Singh Wins Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol National Title** - Haryana's Adarsh Singh clinched the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol national title.

6. Women's Skeet National Crown - Rajasthan's Maheshwari Chauhan, retained her Women's Skeet National crown at the 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSSC), shotgun events.

7. Mr Raninder Singh elected as Vice President of ISSF

- Mr Raninder Singh President NRAI has been elected as ISSF Vice President during the elections held at Munich, Germany.
- It's for the first time in Shooting Sport that any Indian has been elected for this coveted post of Vice President in ISSF.

8. Mr Pawan Singh first Indian to be Elected as member of ISSF Judges Committee



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- Pawan Singh (former coach of the Indian shooting team) has become the first Indian to be elected one of seven members of the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).

9. Khelo India Youth Games 2019 – Pune

- Khelo India Youth Games 2019 will be held at Balewadi Shooting Ranges, Pune, Maharashtra from 9th to 16th January 2019.

10. Government to set up National Sports Stadium for differently-abled in Meghalaya

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot announced the construction of an international standard sports stadium for the differently-abled in Shillong Meghalaya.
- The stadium, to cost Rs 200 crore, is one of five such facilities that the government proposes to establish in five states, including Meghalaya.
- The stadium should come up before the 2022 National Games to be held in Meghalaya.

11. Meghalaya to host 2022 National Games

- The 2022 National Games will coincide Meghalaya's 50 years of statehood.

12. BCCI announces two-year ban for age fraud

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced that a cricketer guilty of age fraud will be barred from all its recognised tournaments for a period of two years.

13. Karen Khachanov lifts Paris Masters Men's Singles title

- Russian Karen Khachanov (22-year old) has lifted the Paris Masters Men's Singles Tennis title with a stunning win over Novak Djokovic.

14. Sri Lanka's bowling coach Nuwan Zoysa suspended by ICC

- According to an ICC release, Sri Lanka's bowling coach Nuwan Zoysa has been suspended with immediate effect by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and charged with match-fixing.

15. Men's Hockey World Cup 2018

- Venue - Odisha
- The opening ceremony of Men's Hockey World Cup took place at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar on 27th Nov 2018.
- It is the 14th edition of the Men's Hockey World Cup tournament.
- India is hosting the FIH Hockey World Cup for the third time. Earlier in 1982 in Mumbai and in 2010 in New Delhi.
- Total 16 teams participating in the event.
- India Captain - **Manpreet Singh**
- Tata Steel named Official Partner of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2018.

Note:

- India won their only World Cup in **1975** under Ajit Pal Singh's captaincy.
- Men's Hockey World Cup held every four years.
- In 2014 Netherlands, hosted the Men's Hockey World Cup and Australia won the title.

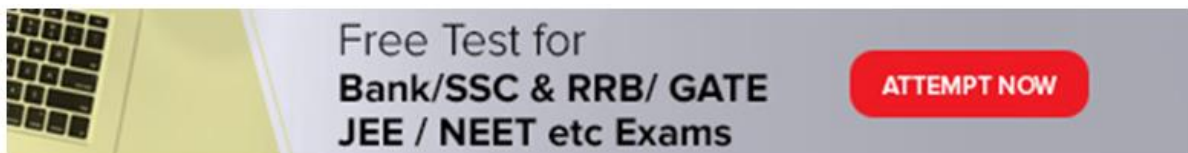
16. ICC Women's t20 World Cup 2018

- Venue – West Indies
- Winner – Australia – Australia beat England by 8 wickets in final to lift the title.
- Runner-up – England
- This is Australia's 4th title win at Women's World T20.
- Earlier, Australia won the trophy in 2010, 2012 and 2014.
- ICC Women's t20 World Cup 2020 – Australia

17. Harmanpreet Kaur is the captain of Indian squad at ICC Women's t20 World Cup 2018

18. 10th World Boxing Championship

- Venue – New Delhi, India



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- MC Mary Kom was the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Championship in New Delhi.

Mary Kom has created the history –

- She becomes the first female boxer to win 6 Gold medals at World Boxing Championships.
- She defeated Ukraine's Hanna Okhota in Women's 48 kg boxing final to clinch her 6th World title.
- She previously clinched the World Championship gold on five occasions -- 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010.
- With this win, she also became the first female boxer to win a medal in seven world boxing championships.
- Now, Mary Kom matched Cuba's Felix Savon as the joint most successful boxer (men and women) in the World Championships history.
- Before Mary Kom, **Katy Taylor of Ireland** made five gold medals in the 60 kg category from 2006 to 2016. She also won a bronze medal.

Silver for 21-year-old Sonia Chahal

- Sonia Chahal settles for silver after losing to Wahner Ornella Gabriele of Germany in the 57 kg final.

Note:

- Indian boxers secured total 4 medals which includes – 1 Gold, 1 Silver & 2 Bronze medal at the 10th World Boxing Championship in New Delhi.

Name	Category	Medal
MC Mary Kom (Manipur)	48 kg	Gold
Sonia Chahal (Haryana)	57 kg	Silver

Simranjit Kaur (Punjab)	64 kg	Bronze
Lovlina Borgohain (Assam)	69 kg	Bronze

19. Mary Kom named the best boxer of AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships

- India's legendary boxer MC Mary Kom was adjudged the best boxer of the 10th AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship held in New Delhi.

20. India to host the first Men's World Boxing Championship in 2021

- As the host nation, India would be hosting the Men's World Boxing Championship in 2021.

21. Syed Modi International Championships (Badminton)

- Men's single title – Sameer Verma defeated China's Guangzu Lu to win the title.
- Women's Single title - Saina Nehwal lost to Han Yue of China in women's singles summit clash and won silver.
- The Syed Modi International Badminton Championships is an international badminton tournament, which is held annually in Lucknow, India.

22. Monaco to host 2019 Laureus Awards in February -

The 19th edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in Monaco on February 2019.

- Considered the 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports Awards celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.

23. Subroto Cup Football Tournament - Bangladesh

Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) won the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament beating Amini School,



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- Afghanistan by a solitary goal at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.
24. Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy.
- The Vidharbha batsman achieved the milestone during the third-round match against Baroda in Nagpur at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
25. Senior Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali announced his retirement from limited overs cricket.
26. **Brazilian Grand Prix** - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the Brazilian Grand Prix tournament.
27. **John Hastings retires from International Cricket** - Former Australia all-rounder John Hastings has retired from all cricket, citing the risks posed by a bleeding lung condition.
28. Former England and Chelsea Football midfielder Joe Cole has retired at the age of 37. He played at 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups.
29. **Lakshya Sen wins Bronze at World Junior Badminton Championship** - India's top junior shuttler Lakshya Sen (17 years old) won bronze medal at Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018 held at Markham, Canada.
30. **Alexander Zverev Won ATP World Tour Finals in London** - Alexander Zverev has won ATP World Tour finals in London.
- Note:**
- Alexander Zverev defeated world number one **Novak Djokovic** in straight sets to claim the season-ending ATP Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career.
 - Zverev also became the first player to beat both Djokovic and Federer in the same ATP Finals.
31. Former Chelsea striker Didier Drogba announced his retirement from Football.
32. Barcelona star Lionel Messi was named La Liga Player of the Year.
33. **Lucknow Stadium renamed After Atal Bihari Vajpayee** -
- The newly-built Ekana International Stadium of Lucknow was renamed after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - The stadium will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.
34. **SaarLorLux Open Badminton Tournament**
- Subhankar Dey has won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany.
 - He defeated Rajiv Ouseph of Britain.
35. **Bajrang Punia becomes Number 1 in World in 65kg category** -
- Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia touched a new high in his career by achieving the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category.
 - He has won five medals this season, including CWG and Asian Games golds and a silver at the World Championships.
 - He was placed atop the ranking table with 96 points in the United World Wrestling list.
36. **Pankaj Advani became First Indian to Win Asian Snooker Tour Title** -
- Nineteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won the second leg of the Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China.
37. **World Corporate Games in 2019 - Qatar**
- Qatar will host the 23rd edition of the World Corporate Games 2019.
 - This is the first time the World Corporate Games will be held in the Middle East.
38. **Simone Biles sets World record, Wins 13th World Championship Gold**
- Simone Biles made history by picking up her record 13th career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships in Doha, Qatar.



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- Simone Biles became the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals. She hails from the USA.
-

October

1. World Wrestling Championships – 2018

- The 2018 World Wrestling Championships were fifteenth edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events and were held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest, Hungary.

Key points:

- In the 2018 event, Japan won the most medals with 5 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze. Russia comes second with 8 medals.
- India is at the 17th place with 2 medals – 1 silver and 1 bronze.
- Bajrang Punia bagged the silver medal.
- Pooja Dhanda won Bronze medal and became fourth Indian woman to win a medal at the World Wrestling Championship.

2. Roger Federer won 99th Career Title in his Hometown

- Swiss tennis star Roger Federer won his 99th career title after winning the **Basel Open for the ninth time** in his career.
- Federer is now just 10 titles short of the all-time record holder Jimmy Connors, who leads with 109.

3. Simona Halep becomes 1st Recipient of Chris Evert WTA World No.1 Trophy

- World number one Simona Halep has become the first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy,

named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.

- The 27-year-old had lifted her maiden Grand Slam title at the Roland Garros and claimed the WTA Year-End world number one singles award for the second consecutive year.

4. Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee has won a silver medal in the under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open.

5. Panasonic Open India Title

- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club. With this win, Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title in the last eight editions of the tournament.

6. Hockey Asian Champions Trophy

- In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.

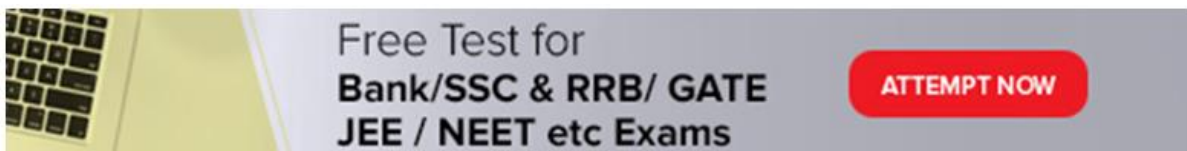
7. World Billiards Championship

- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.

8. Dwayne Bravo Retires from International Cricket

- All-rounder West Indies player Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket.

9. Kohli becomes fastest player to reach 10,000 Runs in History of ODI Cricket



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- India captain Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI cricket, achieving the feat in **his 205th innings**, against Windies.
- The 29-year-old overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs in his 259th innings, against Australia in 2001.

10. DANISA Denmark Open 2018:

Men's Single –

- **Winner** - Kento Momota (Japan)
- **Runner-up** - Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei)

Women's Single

- **Winner** - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
- **Runner-up** - Saina Nehwal (India)

11. Praveen Kumar Retires from all forms of Cricket

- Former India fast bowler Praveen Kumar has retired from all forms of international cricket. Praveen last played for India in 2012 and represented India in 84 international matches.

12. Vijay Hazare Trophy 2018

- Mumbai has defeated Delhi by four wickets to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

13. Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sports, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million with streaming service DAZN.

14. Youth Olympic Games (YOG) 2018:

- Venue - **Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

15. Asian Para Games 2018 –

- **Venue** - Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Mascot** - The official mascot of the 2018 Asian Para Games is a Bondol eagle named MOMO, which was chosen to represent motivation and mobility.
- India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games by ending the 2018 edition with 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze medals).
- **Hangzhou in China** will host the fourth edition of **Asian Para Games in 2022.**

- It is the first Summer Youth Olympic Games to be held outside of Asia.
- **Motto** - Feel the future
- **Mascot** - Pandi
- **Summer Youth Olympics 2022** - Dakar, Senegal, the first IOC event to be held in Africa.
- **Winter Youth Olympic Games 2020** - Lausanne, Switzerland will host the next winter version of YOG in 2020.

India at YOG 2018

- Flag bearer - **Manu Bhaker** is the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games.
- Weightlifter **Jeremy Lalrinnunga** has become India's **first-ever gold medallist** in the history of Youth Olympic Games (YOG).
- Sixteen-year-old shooter **Manu Bhaker** has become the first-ever Indian **woman** to win gold at Youth Olympics.
- **Suraj Panwar** won India's first medal in **athletics**. He won the silver medal in the men's 5000m race walk.
- 16 Year old Thangjam Tababi Devi became India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level. She won the silver medal.
- Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-meter air pistol event.
- Akash Malik became India's first silver-medallist in archery at the Youth Olympic Games.



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Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	172	88	59	319
2.	South Korea	53	45	46	144
3.	Iran	51	42	43	136
9.	India	15	24	33	72

16. Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey 2018 - Great Britain lifted the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup

- Great Britain defeated India in the final.
- Final was played at Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

17. Santo Domingo Open Trophy - Leander Paes has won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.

18. Former Pakistan left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman, who along with teammate Saeed Ajmal famously stunned England during a 3-0 defeat in 2012, announced his retirement from international cricket.

19. U-19 Asia Cup Title - Indian under-19 cricket team has defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs in the summit clash of the 2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- The victory gave India their sixth title in the continental tournament.

20. Richie Benaud named Sport Australia Hall Of Fame Legend - Sport Australia Hall of Fame has announced

cricketing great Richie Benaud, who died in April, 2015, will become the 40th Legend of Australian Sport.

21. India's Keerthana Pandian has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships. In the final in St Petersburg, Russia.

22. Former England batsman Nick Compton announced his retirement from cricket.

23. 18-Year-Old Prithvi Shaw Youngest Indian to Score Century on Test Debut - Prithvi Shaw has become the youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut, achieving the feat aged 18 years and 329 days against Windies in Rajkot, Gujarat.

24. Australian midfielder **Mile Jedinak** and Russian goalkeeper **Igor Akinfeev** announced retirement from international football.

September

US Open 2018

Men's Singles title -

- **Winner** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- **Runner-up** - Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)


Note:

- It was Djokovic's third US Open title and overall 14th Grand Slam title.

- With this win, he equalled Pete Sampras' haul of 14 Grand Slams.

Women's Singles title -

- Winner - Naomi Osaka (Japan)
- Runner-up - Serena Williams (USA)



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Note:

- Naomi Osaka became the first Japanese woman to win a Grand Slam title.

Asian Games 2018

- Venue** - Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia. (It is for the first time that the sporting extravaganza is being co-hosted by two cities.)
- Mascot** - Bhin Bhin, Kaka, and Atung
- Motto** - Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Energy of Asia)
- Asian Games 2022** - Hangzhou, China.
- Most Valuable Player (MVP)** - Japanese swimmer Ikee Rikako named as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of 18th edition of the Asian Games.

Note: The 18-year-old, who bagged six gold and two silver medals in the tournament, became the first female athlete to win the MVP title.

Medal Tally


Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	132	92	65	289
2	Japan	75	56	74	205
3	Republic of Korea	49	58	70	177
8	India	15	24	30	69

India at Asian Games 2018

- Opening Ceremony (Flag Bearer)** - Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw)
- Closing Ceremony (Flag Bearer)** - Rani Rampal (Hockey)

First in Asian Games:

- First medal in Sepak Takraw** - The bronze was India's first medal in the event.
- First Gold medal** - Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) won 1st Gold Medal for India in men's freestyle 65 kg category.
- First Indian woman to win gold in wrestling in Asian Games** - Vinesh Phogat became 1st Indian woman to win gold in wrestling (50kg category) in Asian Games.
- First Gold in heptathlon event** - Swapna Barman became 1st Indian to win an Asiad gold in the women's **heptathlon** event.
- First Gold in Javelin throw event** - Neeraj Chopra became 1st Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.
- First medal in 20 years in women's 100m dash event** - Indian sprinter Dutee Chand clinched a **silver** in women's 100m dash in the 18th Asian



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Games to win the country's first medal in 20 years in this event.

- **First Indian female shooter to win Gold at the Asian Games** - Rahi Sarnobat, the first Indian female shooter to win Gold medal at the Asian Games. She won the gold in the 25m pistol event.
- **First women's singles medals in badminton** - P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal won India's first ever medal in the women's singles event in badminton claiming Silver and Bronze Medal respectively.
- **India's 1st ever Bridge Gold** - India's 60-year-old Pranab Bardhan and 56-year-old Shibnath Sarkar won the men's pair bridge event to bag the

country's first-ever gold in bridge at the Asian Games.


- **Vikas Krishan Yadav** becomes the first Indian boxer to clinch a medal in three consecutive Asian games.
- **First gold medal in 1500m after 56 years** - Jinson Johnson won the **gold** in 1500 metres in the men's competition in Asian Games after 56 years.
- **Youngest Indian to win the gold medal in Asian Games 2018** - 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary won gold at the 10m air pistol event in Asia Games 2018 and became India's youngest-ever gold medallist

Other Gold medal winners –

- India won gold in the women's 4X400 metre event. The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Korothe.
- **Amit Panghal (Boxing)** - India's 22-year-old boxer Amit Panghal defeated 2016 Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov in the men's 49kg final to bag gold at the Asian Games 2018.
- **Arpinder Singh (triple jump)** - Arpinder Singh won the gold medal in triple jump at the Asian Games with an effort of 16.77m.
- Sprinter **Manjit Singh** won the gold medal in the men's 800m event.
- **Tejinder Pal Singh Toor** won the Gold medal in Men's Shot-Put final.
- Indian rowers Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh won the men's Quadruple Sculls to win India's fifth gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.
- Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the maiden men's tennis doubles gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.

Other Sports news

1. **Asia Cup 2018** - India defeated Bangladesh to win the Unimoni Asia Cup Title 2018.
 - Overall, this was India's seventh Asia Cup triumph.
 - Liton Das was the Player of The Match
2. **Asian Junior Squash Title: Yuvraj Wadhwani** has won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title. He defeated Anas Ali Shah of
 - Shikhar Dhawan was declared as the Player of The Series.



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- Pakistan by 13-11, 11-5, 6-11, 12-10 in the final in Chennai.
3. The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 4. **FIFA's Best Player of The Year Award** - Croatia's Luka Modric Won FIFA's Best Player of The Year Award
 5. **Asian Team Snooker Championship** - India settled for the silver medal after losing to Pakistan 2-3 in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship.
 6. **India to host Women's Boxing World Championships** in November 15-24, 2018, in New Delhi
 7. **Singapore Grand Prix 2018** - Lewis Hamilton
 8. Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin (Germany), smashing the previous best as he clocked 2 hours 1 minute 39 second.
 9. **2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup** - Maldives defeated India in the final.
 10. Former Indian Hockey Captain Sardar Singh announced his retirement from international hockey.
 11. **Duleep Trophy 2018 - India Blue** defeated defending champion **India Red** in the final to win the 57th Duleep Trophy at NPR College ground, in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.
 12. Triple jumper **Arpinder Singh** created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup.
 13. **Hima Das** appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam
- Note:**
- She was the **first Indian athlete** to win **gold medal** in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere, Finland.
 - In 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta), she had won **silver medal in 400 m final to win a silver medal**.
14. Indian Pacer RP Singh announced his retirement from International Cricket.
 15. England's highest Test run-scorer **Alastair Cook** announced his retirement from International cricket.
 16. **Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela** have become the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the **2020 Olympics**.

ISSF World Championship 2018

- Indian shooter **Hriday Hazarika** win the gold medal in the 10 m air rifle junior men's event.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched gold medal at the 10 metres Air Pistol event.
- **Ankur Mittal** claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the ISSF World Championship.

August

1. North Korean to host 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.
2. **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2018** - Japan Women's National Team defeated Spain Women's National Team in the final to win the title for the first time in Japanese football history.
3. **Jhulan Goswami announces retirement** - Indian women's team fast bowler Jhulan Goswami announced her retirement from T20 Cricket Internationals.



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4. **Western & Southern Open 2018** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia) beat Roger Federer (Switzerland) to win the title.
Note: With this win, Djokovic became the first men's tennis player in history to win all nine Masters 1,000 tournaments
5. **Australian cricketer Mitchell Johnson** announced the retirement from all forms of cricket.
6. India defeated Bangladesh in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship in Thimpu, Bhutan.
7. Rishabh Pant became fourth Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on Test debut during the second day of the third Test against England.
8. International **Master Nihal Sarin** became the 53rd Grandmaster of India.
9. Former India spinner Ramesh Powar was named head coach of the women's national team.
10. Indian golfer **Viraj Madappa** became the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour, as he won his first title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru.
11. **Rafael Nadal lifts Rogers Cup 2018:** Rafael Nadal clinched his fourth Canadian master's 1000 title at the Rogers Cup in Toronto. He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas.
12. Veteran German striker **Mario Gomez** announced his retirement from international football.
13. **U-20 Football title** - India's under-20 team won over Argentina under-20 in the final group stage match of the COTIF Cup held in Valencia's Els Arcs Stadium.
14. **U-16 Football title** - India defeated under-16 champions team of Iraq by 1-0 in the West Asian Football Federation Cup in Amman, Jordan.
15. **Asian Nations Cup Chess Tourney** - Indian women chess team at the Asian Nations Cup 2018 clinched the gold in the Blitz event held in Iran.
16. Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar grabbed his maiden **European Tour** title at the Fiji International in Natadola Bay.
17. **Women's Hockey World Cup 2018: Netherlands defeated Ireland** in the final to win the title for a record eighth time.
Note: India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.
18. **World Badminton Championships 2018: P V Sindhu** won the silver medal. She was defeated by Carolina Marin.
19. **World Junior Squash Championships 2018:** World Junior Squash Championships 2018 was held in Chennai, India.
 - Men's Individual - Winner - Mostafa Asal (Egypt) - Runner-up - Marwan Tarek (Egypt)
 - Women's Individual - Winner - Rowan Elaraby (Egypt) - Runner-up - Hania El Hammamy (Egypt)
 - Men's Team - Winner - Egypt - Runner-up - England
20. **Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix** - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)



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July

FIFA World Cup 2018

- Venue – **Russia**
- Winner – France (France won the match 4–2 to claim their second World Cup title after 1998)
- Runner-up - Croatia
- Venue of FIFA 2022 – **Qatar** (It will be the first Arab country to host World Cup and it will also for first time it will be held in Middle East region.)
- Venue of FIFA 2026 - **Canada, Mexico, United States**

Important points:

- Official Match Ball - Telstar 18
- Official Song – “Live It Up”, with vocals from Will Smith, Nicky Jam and Era Istrefi
- Mascot - Zabivaka (an anthropomorphic wolf)
- Man of the Match in Final: Antoine Griezmann (France).
- FIFA President - Gianni Infantino
- France Captain - **Hugo Lloris**
- Golden Ball Award: **Croatian captain Luka Modric**
- **Golden Glove Award:** Belgium's Thibaut Courtois won the Golden Glove award for the best goalkeeper.
- **Golden Boot Award:** England captain Harry Kane won the World Cup Golden Boot. He was the top scorer with six goals.
- **Young Player Award:** France's Kylian Mbappe won the Young Player award. He scored the game's finest goal and became the first teenager to register in the final since Pele in 1958.
- **Fair play Award:** **Spain** was awarded the Fair play Award for being the most disciplined team in the tournament.
- For the first time video assistant referee (VAR) system was used in the FIFA World Cup.
- Iceland and Panama made their first appearances at a FIFA World Cup 2018.

Wimbledon Championships 2018

1. Men's Singles

- Winner - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- Runner- up - Kevin Anderson (South Africa)

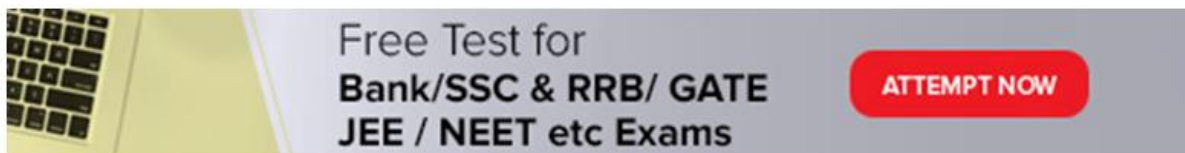
2. Women's Singles

- Winner - Angelique Kerber (Germany)
- Runner-up - Serena Williams (USA)

Other sports news

1. **Russian Open Badminton Trophy** - Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open

Badminton trophy at Vladivostok. He defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe.



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2. **German Grand Prix** - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)

3. **Olympic 2020 – Tokyo, Japan**

Mascot – ‘Miraitowa’ – It is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks to "promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world".

4. **Fakhar Zaman became quickest player** to reach 1000 runs in 1-Day Internationals.

- He became the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day international.
- He scored a double century for Pakistan against Zimbabwe.
- Fakhar Zaman has broken the record of West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards.
- Fakhar Zaman took 18 innings to reach the 1000 mark. Vivian Richards had achieved this mark in 21 matches.

5. **Lakshya Sen** wins Badminton Asian Junior Championships Title after defeating Indonesia's Kunlavut Vitidsaran in the final match.

6. **World's Most Expensive Goalkeeper:** Alisson Becker of Brazil has become the World's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million.

7. **Thailand Open 2018:** Nozomi Okuhara defeated PV Sindhu to win Maiden Title

8. Mohammad Kaif announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket.

9. Dipa Karmakar created history by becoming first Indian gymnast to win gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey.

10. **Satyarup Siddhanta** has become second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado (6893 m), the highest volcano in the world on Argentina-Chile border.

21st Commonwealth Games 2018

• **Host Country** – Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.


Note:

- It is for the **5th time** Australia hosted the Commonwealth Games.
- Earlier Australia hosted Commonwealth Games in -1938, 1962, 1982, 2006.
- **Motto** - **"Share the Dream"**.
- **Mascot** - **Borobi**
- Next Commonwealth Games 2022 - **Birmingham, England**.
- Shooting game excluded from **2022 Commonwealth Games**. The Birmingham Organising Committee of Commonwealth Games decided not to pick shooting game for 2022 Games.

Medal Tally

Top 3 countries at Commonwealth Games 2018

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Australia	80	59	59	198
2. England	45	45	46	136
3. India	26	20	20	66



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India at Commonwealth Games 2018 –

Flag bearer

- **Opening – P.V. Sindhu** led Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018.
- **Closing - Mary Kom** led Indian contingent at the closing ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018.
- Pistol shooter Vijay Kumar was the flag-bearer in the **2014 Commonwealth Games**.
- **2014 Commonwealth Games** was held in **Glasgow, Scotland**

First Gold Medal list -

1. First **medal** for India in CWG 2018
 - **P Gururaja** won the first medal for India.
 - He won the **silver medal** in the men's **56kg weightlifting event**.
2. First **gold medal** for India in CWG 2018
 - **Mirabai Chanu**, won the first gold medal for India in the women's **48 kg category** Weightlifting event.
3. **India's youngest-ever gold medalist**
 - **Anish Bhanwala** (15 years old) won the gold medal in the shooting game in men's 25m rapid fire pistol event.
 - Anish Bhanwala is a native of Karnal, Haryana.
4. First Indian **Woman Boxer to win Gold medal**
 - **Mary Kom** became the first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at Commonwealth Games 2018. She won the won the gold medal in the 48-kg category.
5. First-ever **gold in badminton mixed-team -**
 - India clinched its first-ever gold in badminton mixed-team event by defeating **Malaysia**.
6. First Indian **woman table tennis player** to win a singles gold
 - **Manika Batra** created history by becoming the first Indian **woman table tennis player** to win a singles gold at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
 - She defeated **Yu Mengyu** of Singapore.
7. First Indian **javelin thrower** to win a gold medal
 - **Neeraj Chopra** became the first Indian javelin thrower to win a gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
8. India's **first wrestling gold medal in CWG 2018**
 - **Wrestler Rahul Aware** wins country's first gold in the 57-kilogram category of the men's freestyle competition.
9. First ever **gold medal in table tennis team**
 - **India women's table tennis** team scripted history as they clinched their first ever gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
 - They registered a 3- 1 victory over Singapore in the final to clinch the gold medal.
 - **Players –** Manika Batra, Mouma Das, Madhurika Patkar, Pooja Sahasrabudhe, Sutirtha Mukherjee
10. India's **first medal in Shooting** in CWG 2018
 - **Manu Bhaker** wins India's first medal in Shooting in **women's 10m Air Pistol event**
 - She is a native of **Haryana**.
 - **Heena Sidhu** won the silver medal in Shooting in **women's 10m Air Pistol event**.
 - **Mehuli Ghosh** won the silver medal in Shooting in **women's 10m air rifle event**.



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Cricket July

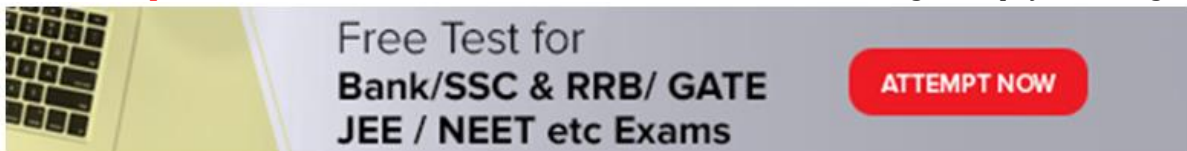
1. **Australian captain Aaron Finch slammed 172 (76) against Zimbabwe** to register the highest-ever individual score in T20Is, overtaking his own record of 156 runs.
2. **Rahul Dravid inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018:** Former captains Rahul Dravid of India, Ricky Ponting of Australia and retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018 during a glittering ceremony in Dublin, Ireland.
 - Former Team India captain Rahul Dravid has become the fifth Indian cricketer after Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

June

1. Polly Umrigar Award: **Virat Kohli**
 - India captain Virat Kohli received the **Polly Umrigar Award** for being the best international cricketer for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons at the annual BCCI awards.
 - **Anshuman Gaekwad and Sudha Shah** received the **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award**.
2. **Mithali Raj** became the first batsman from the country to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket.
 - Mithali has now scored 2015 runs in 74 T20Is with the help of 14 half-centuries.
3. **Kagiso Rabada** wins South Africa's Cricketer of The Year Award.
 - She has a decent average of 38.01 with the highest score of 76 not out.
 - **Kagiso Rabada**, the world's number one Test bowler, was named South Africa's Cricketer of the Year.
 - Rabada collected a total of six awards, including Test cricketer of the year, one-day international player of the year and players' player of the year.

Lawn Tennis June

1. 2018 French Open Women's single title:
 - **Winner - Simona Halep**
 - She defeated Sloane Stephens of America.
 - **Simona Halep** became the second Romanian woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy after Virginia Ruzici.



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2. 2018 French Open Men's single title:

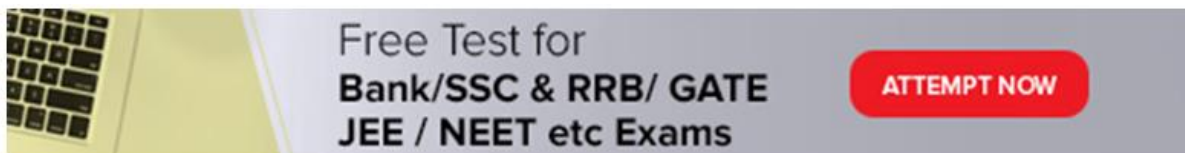
- **Winner - Rafael Nadal**
- **Rafael Nadal** won his 11th French Open title by beating Austrian **Dominic Thiem** in straight sets.
- With this win he won 17th Grand Slam title of his career.

Formula 1

1. Austrian Grand Prix 2018: Red Bull's **Max Verstappen**
2. French Grand Prix 2018 - **Lewis Hamilton**
3. Monaco Grand Prix 2018 - **Daniel Ricciardo**
4. Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship - -
Bala Prasath
 - Bala Prasath Wins Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
5. Spanish Grand Prix - **Lewis Hamilton**
6. Azerbaijan Grand Prix - **Lewis Hamilton**
7. Chinese Grand Prix - **Daniel Ricciardo**
8. Bahrain Grand Prix - **Sebastian Vettel**
9. Australian Grand Prix 2018 - **Sebastian Vettel**

List of Upcoming Sports Venue

1. **Asian Games –**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2014 – **Incheon, South Korea.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2018 - **Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2022 – **Hangzhou, China.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2026 – **Nagoya, Japan.**
2. **Commonwealth Games (CWG) –**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2010 – **New Delhi, India.**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2014 – **Glasgow, Scotland.**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2018 – **Gold Coast, Australia.**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2022 – **Birmingham, England.**
3. **Olympics Games**
Summer Olympic –
 - Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2016 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 - Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2020 – Tokyo, Japan
 - Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2024 – Paris, France
4. **Winter Olympic –**
 - Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2014 – Sochi, Russia.
 - Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2018 – Pyeongchang, South Korea.
 - Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2022 – Beijing, China.
4. **ICC World Cup Cricket –**
 - Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 – England, Wales.
 - Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 – India.
5. **ICC World Cup T20**
 - Venue of World Cup T20 2016– India.
 - Venue of World Cup 2020 – Australia.
6. **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup –**



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- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2017 – England.
 - Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2021 – New Zealand.
- 7. ICC Women's World Cup T20 –**
- Venue of World Cup 2014 – Bangladesh.
 - Venue of World Cup T20 2016– India.
 - Venue of World Cup T20 2018– West Indies
 - Venue of World Cup 2020 – Australia.
- 8. Hockey Men's World Cup –**
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – The Hague, Netherlands.
 - Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – Bhubaneswar, India.
- 9. Hockey Women's World Cup –**
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – The Hague, Netherlands.
 - Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – London, England.
- 10. FIFA (Football) World Cup –**
- **President of FIFA** - Gianni Infantino.
 - Venue of FIFA World Cup 2014 – Brazil.
 - Venue of FIFA World Cup 2018 – Russia.
 - Venue of FIFA World Cup 2022 – Qatar.
- 11. FIFA Women's World Cup –**
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2015 – Canada.
 - Venue of FIFA World Cup 2019 – France.
- 12. FIFA (U-17) World Cup –** Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2015 – Chile.
- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2017 – India.

Science & Defense


Military Exercise

December

- 1. SHINYUU Maitri-18** - Air Exercise between **India & Japan**.
 - The Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) held a bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 with Indian Air Force at A F Station Agra
- 2. Cope India 2019** – Trilateral Air Exercise between **India & US**.
 - Air forces of the United States and India are set to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in West Bengal.
 - The exercise will be held from December 3 to 14, at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh).

November

- 1. KONKAN-18** - Naval exercise between **India and the United Kingdom** was held in Goa.
- 2. 'Vajra Prahar'** - **Indo-US** joint Military Exercise held in Jaipur.
- 3. SIMBEX - Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise**
 - The 25th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise was held in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- 4. Hand in Hand** - joint military exercise between **India & China** will be held in southwest China's Chengdu.
- 5. Dharma Guardian - India-Japan** military exercise
 - India and Japan concluded their first land-based joint military exercise in Mizoram.
- 6. INDRA 2018** - joint military exercise between **Indian and Russia** held in Jhansi, UP.



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7. **Samudra Shakti** - Bilateral Naval Exercise between **India & Indonesia** held at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia.

Note:

- Indian Navy's Rajput class destroyer INS Rana entered Surabaya port in Indonesia to

participate in the inaugural edition of Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy exercise “Samudra Shakti”.

- Indian naval ship INS Sumitra on July 11, 2018 became the first-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in Indonesia.

October

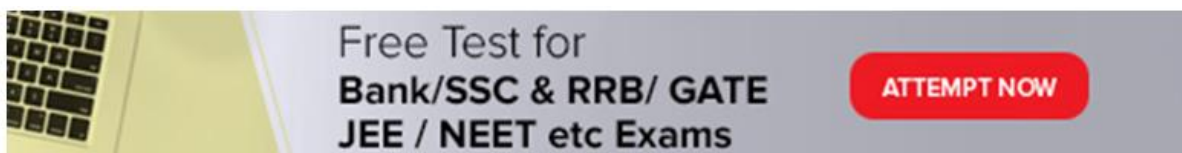
1. 'Druzhba-III' - Joint Military exercise between Pakistan & Russia.
2. '**JIMEX 18**' - Maritime exercise between Japan & India was held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
3. **Sahyog HOP TAC-2018** - Coast Guards of India, Vietnam hold joint exercise

4. '**IBSAMAR-VI**' - a joint Multi-National Maritime exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is held at Simons Town, South Africa.
5. Iron Magic 19: joint military exercise between US & UAE held in Dubai.

September

1. **Sagarmatha Friendship-2018** - Nepal-China joint military exercise
2. **Aviandra 18** - India and Russia joint air exercise was held in Lipetsk, Russia.
3. **Vostok-2018** - Russia has launched its biggest military exercise named "Vostok-2018", involving about 300,000 service personnel, in eastern Siberia.
4. '**Yudh Abhyas 2018**' - Indo-US joint military training exercise to be conducted at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand.
5. '**MILEX-18**' - First military exercise of BIMSTEC countries held in Pune.
6. '**Nomadic Elephant 2018**' - India-Mongolia joint exercise held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

7. 'SLINEX-2018' - India & Sri Lanka conducts joint naval exercise at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
8. 'KAZIND 2018' - Indo-Kazakhstan joint Army exercise conducted in Otar region, Kazakhstan.
9. '**IOWave18**' - India along with 23 other nations will be participating in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as **IOWave18**.
Note: The exercise is being organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
10. '**Rapid Trident**' - Ukraine has launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with the United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries.



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Science & Defense Other News

December

1. ISRO's successfully launched heaviest satellite GSAT-11

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India's heaviest satellite GSAT-11 (weighing 5,854 kg) by Ariane-5 VA246 rocket from Kourou Launch Zone, French Guiana in South America.

About GSAT-11

- The GSAT-11 also called -Big Bird.
- The GSAT-11 is the next generation high throughput communication satellite that will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country.
- The satellite is expected to have a lifespan of 15 years.

November

1. ISRO launches India's first hyperspectral imaging satellite

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched country's first advance earth observation satellite Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS).
- The satellite was launched on board of ISRO's workhorse PSLV-C43 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

2. India signs \$950 million contract with Russia to buy two Stealth Frigates

- India has signed a \$950 million contract with Russia for two upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates.

3. India and Russia sealed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy.

4. INS Arihant successfully completes its first deterrence patrol

- India's first indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant, or the "annihilator of enemies", has successfully completed its first deterrence patrol.

5. Indian Army inducts three artillery guns, including US' M777 howitzers

- Indian army inducted three major artillery gun systems, including the M777 American Ultra Light Howitzers and the K-9 Vajra and 'Composite Gun Towing Vehicle' into the Army.

Note:

- **M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzers** : It is 155mm, 39 Calibre ULHs towed artillery gun, with maximum range of 24-30km procured from United States.



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- **K9 Vajra guns:** It is a 155-mm, 52-calibre self-propelled gun with maximum range of 40 km. It will be imported from South Korea.
 - **Common Gun Tower:** It is 6×6 field artillery tractor is indigenously developed by Ashok Leyland.
- 6. Raksha Mantri launches 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'**
- Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti', in New Delhi to boost Intellectual Property Right (IPR) culture in indigenous defence industry.
- 7. NASA's InSight spacecraft successfully lands on Mars after a six-month journey**
- NASA's robotic InSight lander successfully landed on Red Planet Mars after the six-month journey.
 - The spacecraft has been designed to dig deep into the rocky surface of the Mars to reveal its secrets.
- 8. Indian Coast Guard launches new Offshore patrol vessel - ICGS Varaha**
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launches new Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) ICGS Varaha at L&T Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- 9. India successfully conducted night trial of Agni-I ballistic missile**
- India has successfully carried out night user trial of Agni-I short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile.
 - The test flight was conducted by Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command off Abdul Kalam Island in Bay of Bengal, off the coast of the Indian state of Odisha.
- 10. IAF launches MedWatch mobile health app**
- Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched 'MedWatch' mobile health app to provide

health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics.

- It is first of its kind mobile health app built by any of the three armed forces.

11. Mohammed VI-B: Morocco launches its second earth observation satellite

- Morocco successfully launched its second earth observation satellite named Mohammed VI-B.

12. ISRO successfully launches communication satellite GSAT-29

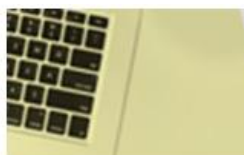
- On 14th November 2018, ISRO successfully launched the communication satellite GSAT-29 through its most powerful and heavy lift "rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV MkIII-D2).
- The satellite was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Key points of GSAT-29 satellite

- GSAT-29 satellite which weighs 3,423 kg is the heaviest satellite launched from India.
- GSAT-29 carries Ka/Ku-band high throughput communication transponders designed to improve telecommunication and internet services under the 'Digital India' program in J&K and Northeast.
- GSAT-29 is a multibeam, multiband communication satellite.

Key points of GSLV Mk III – Bahubali of Indian rockets

- India's Bahubali rocket Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (GSLV Mk-III) weighs 641 tons, which is equal to the weight of five fully loaded passenger planes.
- The height of the rocket is 43 meters which is higher than the 13-storey building.



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- The interesting fact is that 'Bahubali' rocket is the heaviest of all operational launch vehicles in India, also the shortest in size.
- The rocket took 15 years to complete.
- Each launch of GSLV-Mk III costs upwards of Rs 300 crores to the space organisation.

Note:

- According to the ISRO, '**Chandrayaan-2**' is scheduled to be launched in January 2019.
- Whereas, ISRO has set a 'target' of achieving the country's ambitious manned mission to space by 2021, with the first unmanned programme of '**Gaganyaan**' planned for **December 2020**.
- GSLV-MkIII-D2, the launch vehicle will be used to carry an Indian astronaut to space.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to work together for first manned space mission Gaganyaan.

13. NASA retires Kepler space telescope

- NASA has retired Kepler space telescope after it ran out of fuel needed for further science operations.
- This brings end of nine-and-a-half year mission of Kepler space telescope.

Kepler space telescope

- The unmanned space telescope was launched in 2009 on 3.5-year mission (from 2009 until November 2012), but operated for 9 years.
- It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission.
- It was named after German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler.

14. ISRO to set up Space Science Centre in J&K

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in University.
- It will be first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.

October

1. Reliance-Built Coast Guard Training Ship ICGS Varuna launched


- ICGS Varuna, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched in Pipavav.

2. India Signs \$777 Million Deal for Israeli Missile Defence Systems

- State-owned 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.

3. **Clear Sky 2018** - Ukraine launched Air Exercises with NATO Countries
4. **Ghauri ballistic missile** - Pakistan has successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometres.
5. **India & Kazakhstan** agree to boost Defence & Military-Technical Cooperation



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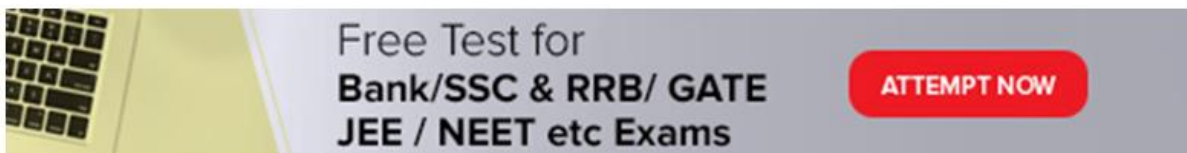
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September

1. Indian Air Force successfully test fired the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air **Missile Astra** from a Su-30 aircraft.
 2. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore, Odisha.
 3. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman accorded approval for the procurement of equipment for the Defence Forces valued at over Rs 9,100 crores.
 4. India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the Indo-Pak border at the BSF Headquarters in Ploura, Jammu.
 5. Indigenously developed weapon system Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), was successfully flight tested for the second time from the Ahmednagar range, Maharashtra.
 6. **Japan to conduct world's first test of space elevator** - Japanese researchers from Shizuoka University will conduct world's first experiment to test small prototype of space elevator in space by using two mini satellites.
 - The test equipment will be launched by Japan's space agency on board of H-2B rocket from southern island of Tanegashima.
 7. **Dataset Search: Google launches new search engine for scientific community** - Search engine
- giant Google has launched Dataset Search, a new search engine for scientific community that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online.
8. **BARC recommissions upgraded version of India's oldest research reactor 'Apsara'** - Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay has recommissioned India's oldest nuclear research reactor named '**Apsara**', which was shut down permanently in 2009 for repair.
 - The refurbished version of this reactor has been named as 'Apsara-upgraded' (Apsara-U) and also has double capacity compared to its earlier version.
 - It is located within India's nuclear weapons facility at BARC's Trombay campus (Maharashtra).
 9. **Bengaluru to host Aero India in February 2019: Defence Ministry**
 - The next edition of Aero India will be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 20 to 24, 2019, Defence Ministry announced.
 - This five-day event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.

August

1. Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet named 'KOWSAR'.
 2. India successfully tests anti-tank guided missile '**HELINA**' - India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran in Rajasthan.
3. **India's 1st Women SWAT team inducted in Delhi Police** - The Delhi Police inducted an all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, consisting of 36 commandos – the first ever by any police force in India – for anti-terrorist operations.




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4. Barak 8 missile - Israeli Navy has announced to procure multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by India and Israel.
 - **Barak-8 (Lightning 8 in Hebrew)**, also known as also known as LR-SAM or as MR-SAM is an operational air and missile defense system used by Israeli Navy as well as by Indian Navy and air forces.
5. **Defence Industrial Corridor launched in Aligarh, UP** - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a **defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh**.
6. **Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror)** - Iran has unveiled Fateh Mobin (Bright Conqueror) next generation short-range ballistic missile capable of striking targets on land and sea.
7. **Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD successfully flight tested** - Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
 - The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms was launched against multiple simulated targets of 1500 km class ballistic missile.
8. **Operation Madad and Operation Sahyog** launched to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala - Indian Navy has launched Operation Madad, major rescue and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala. Indian Army also has launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.
9. **Xingkong-2: China successfully tests first hypersonic aircraft** - China successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic "waverider" flight vehicle (aircraft) Xingkong-2 (Starry Sky-2).
10. **India's first biofuel flight was powered by jatropha seeds** - India's first first-ever environment friendly biofuel powered flight between Dehradun and Delhi was propelled by blend of oil from jatropha seeds and aviation turbine fuel.
11. European Space Agency (ESA) has successfully launched wind-sensing satellite named **Aeolus** into orbit on board of Vega rocket from French Guyana.
12. **ISRO postpones launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission** - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to moon to January 2019.
13. **India to launch first manned space mission by 2022: PM**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of his 72nd Independence Day speech vowed to put Indian in space by 2022 under manned space mission on board 'Gaganyaan'.
 - Former Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space.

July

1. **First Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad** - Country's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad, which is India's missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries. The incubator will be housed at T-Hub.
2. Indian Army has awarded Rs. 100-crore contract for 81 high mobility 10×10 vehicles to India's leading vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland. This is for first time Indian vehicle manufacturer will deliver heavy duty, high mobility vehicles for the launchers.



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3. 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas observed -

The 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated across India on 26 July 2018 to commemorate the success of Operation Vijay and remember brave sacrifice of Indian soldiers during 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.

4. India's 1st private UAV factory to set up in Kota -

India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.

Important Dates

December

1. Armed Forces Flag Day: 07 December**2. World Soil Day - 5 December**

- The Theme for year 2018 is 'Be the Solution to Soil Pollution'.

3. Indian Navy Day: 4 December

- Navy Day is being celebrated in India on 4th December.
- The day is celebrated in honour of the maritime force's role during the war with Pakistan in 1971 when Indian warships attacked Karachi port and successfully

hurt Pakistani operations in the western coast.

4. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2 December**5. International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December**

- The theme for this year's IDPD is "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

6. World AIDS Day: 1 December

- The theme for the World AIDS Day 2018 is "Know Your Status".

November

1. MoS (Home) Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates 14th Formation Day of NDMA on 27th Nov

- The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the 14th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 27th November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The theme of this year's Formation Day is 'Early Warning for Disasters'.

2. Indian Organ Donation Day: 27 November**3. NCC Day: 4th Sunday of November**

- National Cadets Corps (NCC) day is celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday in the month of November.
- The NCC in India was formed by the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948 on 15th July 1948.
- The motto for the NCC is "Unity and Discipline".

4. National Milk Day: 26 November

- National Milk Day is celebrated on November 26 to mark the birth



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anniversary of India's most successful dairy entrepreneur Dr. Varghese Kurien, the founder of dairy firm Amul.

5. Indian Constitution Day: 26 November

- 26 November is celebrated as Indian Constitution Day.
- On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India.
- On 19th November 2015, during the year-long celebration of the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar, Government of India declared November 26th as the Constitution Day.

6. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November

7. Universal Children's Day: 20 November

8. Africa Industrialization Day: 20 November

9. Qaumi Ekta Week Observed Across Country

- Qaumi Ekta Week observed across the country from November 19th-25th to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony and national integration.

10. World Toilet Day: 19 November

- The theme for WTD 2018 is 'When Nature Calls'.
- United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability

and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030.

11. International Day for Tolerance: 16 November

- **UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence:**
- The 2018 winners are social entrepreneur and filmmaker Manon Barbeau (Canada) and the Coexist Initiative, a non-profit organization working to end violence against women (Kenya).

12. National Press Day: 16 November

13. World Diabetes Day: 14 November

- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018 and 2019 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.

14. Public Service Broadcasting Day: 12 November

15. World Pneumonia Day: 12 November

16. National Education Day: 11 November

17. World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10 November

- The theme for 2018 is "Science, a Human Right"

18. National Legal Services Day: 9 November

19. World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5 November

20. National Ayurveda Day: 5 November

- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).
- The theme of 2018 Ayurveda Day was: "Ayurveda for Public health".

October

1. International Day for the Elderly - October 1

- Theme - Celebrating Older Human Rights champions".

2. International Coffee Day: October 1

3. Gandhi Jayanthi; International Day of Non-Violence - October 2

4. World Habitat Day (first Monday of October of every year) – 1st Oct 2018

- The theme – 'Municipal Solid Waste Management'

5. World Animal Welfare Day - October 4

6. World Teachers' Day: 5 October



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7. Indian Air Force Day - October 8
8. World Post Office Day - October 9
 - The 2018 theme is: "Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?".
9. National Post Day - October 10
10. World Mental Health Day - October 10
 - The theme - 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'
11. International Day of The Girl Child: 11 October
 - Theme - 'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'.
12. World Obesity Day: 11 October
13. World Sight Day - October 2nd Thursday
14. UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction - October 13
 - Theme - Reducing Disaster Economic Losses
15. World Standards Day - October 14
16. World Students Day - October 15
17. International Day Of Rural Women: 15 October
18. Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas: 15 October
19. World White Cane Day (guiding the blind) - October 15
20. World Food Day - October 16
 - The theme - "Our Actions Are Our Future".
21. UN Day - October 24
22. World Development Information Day - October 24
23. World Thrift Day - October 30

September

1. Hindi Diwas – 14th September
2. International Literacy Day - 8 September
 - This year's theme is '**Literacy and skills development.**'
3. National Engineers Day - 15 September
4. World Ozone Day - 16 September
 - This year's theme is – '**Keep cool and carry on**'
5. World Alzheimer's Day - 21 September
6. International Day of Peace - 21 September
7. World Tourism Day - 27th September
 - This year's theme is - Tourism & Cultural Protection.
8. World Rabies Day: 28 September
9. World Heart Day - 29th September
10. International Translation Day: 30 September

August

1. The National Handloom Day - **7th August.**
2. The nation celebrated the 76th anniversary of the Quit India Movement -- **8th August**
3. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People - **9th August.**
Note: The theme of this year is - 'Indigenous peoples' migration and movement'.
4. The World Biofuel Day - **10th August.**
5. The International Youth Day (IYD) - **12th August.**
Note: The theme for International Youth Day 2018 is "Safe space for Youth".
6. The World Elephant Day (WED) - **12th August.**
7. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) - **19th August.**
- Note:** The 2018 World Humanitarian Day campaign: #NotATarget.
8. The World Photography Day being observed on -- **19th August.**
9. The 2018 World Mosquito Day (WMD) - **20th August.**
10. The first-ever International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism - **21st August.**
11. World Senior Citizens Day: **21 August**
11. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on -- **23rd August.**
12. The Sanskrit Divas - **Shravan Purnima (26th August).**
13. International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) - **29th August.**



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14. The National Sports day - 29th August.

15. International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - 30 August

July

1. National Doctors Day – **1 July**
2. World Population Day - **11 July**
3. World Malala Day – **12 July**
4. World Day for International Justice – **17 July**
 - Theme 2018: Workers on the move: the quest for social justice
5. Nelson Mandela International Day - **18 July**
6. Kargil Vijay Diwas - **26 July**
7. World Hepatitis Day - **28 July**

- Theme 2018: Test. Treat. Hepatitis.
8. World Nature Conservation Day – **28 July**
 9. International Tiger Day – **29 July**
 10. World Day against Trafficking in Persons – **30 July**
 - Theme 2018: Responding to the trafficking of children and young people.
 11. World Ranger Day - **31 July**

June

1. The Global Day of Parents is observed every year on **1st June.**
2. The World Milk Day being observed every year on **1st June.**

Note:

- The World Milk Day is a day established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.

3. The first **World Bicycle Day (WBD)** is observed by United Nations (UN) on **3rd June 2018**

Note:

- The WBD was approved on 12th April 2018 as an official United Nations day of awareness about the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transport and leisure.

4. The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is a United Nations (UN) observance each year on **4th June.**

5. The World Environment Day (WED) observed every year across the world on **5th June.**

Note:

- The theme for World Environment Day 2018 is "Beat Plastic Pollution".

- India is the global host nation for the 43rd edition of this event.

6. World Ocean Day observed on **8th June**
7. World Day Against Child Labour: **12th June 2018**
8. World Blood Donors Day: **14 June**

- The theme of the World Blood Donors Day 2018 is '**Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life**'.


9. The International Domestic Workers Day (IDWD) is observed on **16th June.**
10. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on **17th June.**
11. The Goa Revolution Day (GRD) has celebrated on **18th June 2018.**
12. The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day (WSGD) is observed every year on **18th June.**

Note:

- The day reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development.

13. The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed every year on **19th June.**

Note:



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- The 2018 theme is “**The Plight and Rights of Children Born of War**”.
14. World Refugee Day is held every year on **20th June**.
Note:
- The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is ‘**Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees**’.
15. The World Music Day is celebrated across the world on **21 June**.
Note:
- This Day was first celebrated on 21st June 1982.
16. The International Yoga Day is being celebrated across the globe on **21st of June**.
Note:
- The theme for Yoga Day 2018 is “**Yoga for Peace**”.
17. The International Olympic Day (IOD) is observed every year on **23rd June**.
Note:
- The three pillars of Olympic Day are ‘move’, ‘learn’ and ‘discover’.

May

1. International Labour Day – **1 May**
 - Theme of the 2018 International Labour Day? **Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement**
2. World Press Freedom Day - **3rd May**
 - The theme of the 2018 World Press Freedom Day is **Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law**.
3. The World Cartoonist’s Day - **5 May**
4. World Thalassemia Day - **8th May**
 - The theme for the day this year is “**Thalassaemia past, present and future: Documenting progress and patients’ needs worldwide**”.

18. The International Widows day (IWD) is observed every year on **23rd June**.
Note:
- International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation.
19. The United Nations Public Service Day is observed every year on **23rd June**.
20. The **Day of the Seafarer (DotS)** was observed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on **25 June**.
Note:
- The theme of the 2018 Day of the Seafarer theme was ‘Seafarers’ wellbeing’.
21. The United Nations’ (UN) International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on **26th June**.
22. The “Statistics Day” is being observed every year in India on **29th June**.
Note:
- The day acknowledges the notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning.
 - The 2018 theme is “**Quality Assurance in Official Statistics**”.

- Thalassemia, a blood disorder, is caused by the weakening and destruction of blood cells.
5. The ‘**World Red Cross Day**’ - **8th May**
 - The theme of the 2018 World Red Cross Day is “**Memorable smiles from around the world**”.
 6. The 2018 National Technology Day (NTD) - **May 11**
 - The National Technology Day (NTD) is celebrated every year in India on **May 11**.
 - On this day in 1998, India successfully tested its nuclear bombs in **Pokhran, Rajasthan**.
 7. World Migratory Bird Day - **12 May**



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- In 2018, the theme of the World Migratory Bird Day is "Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation".
8. International Nurses Day - **12 May**
- This year theme - **Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right.**
9. The International Day of Families - **15th May.**
10. National Dengue Day - **16th May.**
11. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) - **17th May.**

Note:

- The 2018 theme "Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All".

12. The Anti -Terrorism Day - **21st May.**

Note:

- On 21 May, 1991 the seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the terrorist and then, V.P. Singh

government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti-Terrorism Day.

13. The International Bio-diversity Day - **22nd May.**
- The theme of this year is, '**Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity**'.
14. Nepal celebrated its 11th Republic Day - **28th May**
- On May 28, 2008, the Constituent Assembly of the Himalayan nation declared Nepal the Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy.
15. The International Day of UN Peacekeepers - **May 29**
16. World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) - **31st May.**
- The theme for world No Tobacco Day 2018 is '**Tobacco and heart disease**'.



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