



# Monthly GK Digest

**November 2018**



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## Monthly Digest November -2018

**Dear readers,**

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of **November 2018**. We have compiled important & expected questions, which can be asked in upcoming **Banking interviews** and all upcoming **Banking & Insurance exams**.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

- 1. Kirloskar Capital** has received RBI license to start a **non-banking financial company** (NBFC).  
**Note:** Kirloskar Capital is wholly-owned subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines (KOEL), plans to lend more than Rs 1,000 crore over the next three years.
- 2.** According to Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley**, **GST collections in October 2018** have crossed the **one lakh crore rupees**.  
**Note:** In September, the revenue from goods and services tax was 94,000 crore rupees. Goods & Services Tax Law in India is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax that is levied on every value addition. The Goods and Service Tax Act came into effect on 1st July 2017.
- 3. Atul Goel** takes charge as Managing Director (MD) and CEO (Chief executive officer) of UCO Bank.  
**Note:** Goel takes over from R K Takkar who completed his three-year tenure on 1st November 2018. UCO Bank (formerly United Commercial Bank) established in 1943 in Kolkata.
- 4. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** has received India's 1st blockchain-enabled letter of credit (LC).  
**Note:** HSBC Holdings Plc has executed a trade finance transaction using blockchain for an export by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to US-based Tricon Energy. The blockchain-enabled letter of credit (LC) transaction substantially reduced the time taken for such deals.
- 5. SEBI** has fined brokerage house Anand Rathi Rs 1 lakh for violating stock broker norms by transferring funds from the client's account to own account.  
**Note:** The regulator had outlined strict segregation of client's funds, member account's funds and transfer of funds is permitted as an exception under specific instances.
- 6. National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched a **mobile application** and **web-based platform** for retail investors to **buy government securities -- NSE goBID**.  
**Note:** The new app was launched by Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi.
- 7.** The union government will infuse how many Crore in the state-owned banks by March-end -- **RS. 42,000 crores**.  
**Note:** Earlier, The union government pumped INR 11,336 crore in five PSBs (PNB, Allahabad Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank, and Corporation Bank) to improve their financial health.
- 8. Reserve Bank** has launched a survey to gauge their scope with respect to turnover, profitability, and workforce.  
**Note:** According to the RBI, the survey forms have been mailed to all startup entities registered with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- 9.** Payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India has entered into an agreement with Country's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.  
**Note:** SBI will have a majority stake in the proposed joint venture. Hitachi Payment Services India is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Group, Japan.
- 10. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has initiated steps to set up wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers.  
**Note:** In this regard, RBI has invited expression of interest (EOI) for developing PSC from companies with turnover of over Rs 100 crore in last three years. Setting up of PCR assumes significance amidst rising bad loans



in financial system. The non-performing assets (NPAs) in Indian banking system is too much.

- 11. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** has acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance (IDFC-IFL), an infrastructure debt fund.

**Note:** This acquisition is the first investment from NIIF's strategic fund. The acquisition is subject to approval from RBI. IDFs are investment vehicles for channelling investment into India's infrastructure sector. IDFC-IFL, with a loan book of Rs 4500 crore, lends to operating infrastructure projects, helping original project financiers to recycle their capital following the commencement of operations.

- 12.** An American multinational information technology company **IBM** has acquired software company Red Hat in a USD34 billion cash and debt deal.

**Note:** Red Hat was valued at about USD20.5 billion at the end of trading. The open source, enterprise software maker will become a unit of IBM's Hybrid Cloud division, with Red Hat CEO Jim Whitehurst joining IBM's senior management team and reporting to CEO Ginni Rometty.

- 13. The Reserve Bank of India** has setting up a digital Public Credit Registry to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.

**Note:** The Reserve Bank has invited expression of interest for developing the registry from companies with a turnover of over 100 crore rupees in the last three years. The Public Credit Registry will also include data from entities like market regulator SEBI, the corporate affairs ministry, Goods and Service Tax Network and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India to enable the banks and financial institutions to get 360-degree profile of existing and prospective borrowers on a real-time basis.

- 14.** The union government will release a **Rs 75 coin** to commemorate the **75th anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**.

**Note:** The Ministry of Finance has issued a notification regarding the release of the Rs 75 coin along with its specifications. On December 30, 1943, Bose, who raised the Indian National Army (INA) to fight against the British, had hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at Cellular Jail, Port Blair. The commemorative Rs 75 coin will be made out of 50 percent silver, 40 percent

copper, and 5 percent each of nickel and zinc, and will weigh 35 grams.

- 15.** Union Bank of India on 11th Nov 2018 celebrated its **100<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day** in Mumbai.

**Note:** The bank established on November 11, 1919. India Post released a postal stamp to commemorate the centenary year of Union Bank of India while Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis released a coffee table book A Century of Trust issued by the bank. The bank also launched two new variants of debit and credit cards, a new mobile banking app and a web and a tab-enabled module for credit to the MSME sector.

- 16.** The Union finance ministry has altered the CPSE Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) and has included in the basket the four State-owned companies -- **NTPC, SJVN, NLC and NBCC**.

- 17.** The Retail inflation falls to one-year low in October this year-- **3.31%**.

**Note:** According to Official data, the inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.7% (in September 2018) and 3.58% (in October 2017). The retail inflation number is the lowest since September 2017 when it touched 3.28%.

- 18. The Asian Development Bank** will provide USD 13 million loans to EESL to promote efficient energy usage in India.

**Note:** ADB and the Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) signed a USD 13 million grant, to be provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), for the additional financing of an ongoing ADB-supported project that is promoting end-use energy efficiency.

- 19.** Wholesale inflation rises to four-month high in October -- **5.28%**.

**Note:** The Wholesale Price Index based inflation stood at 5.13% in September and 3.68% in October last year. The hike is mainly due to spike in petrol and diesel prices.

- 20. Tamil Nadu Govt.** has received the nod from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.

**Note:** Tamil Nadu government established the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund which is the category-I Alternative Investment Fund. The fund is a social impact fund to provide investors with profit besides getting social and environmental benefits.

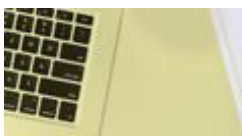




21. The number of digital payment transactions in India touched **244.81 crore** in August 2018.  
**Note:** The new payment modes, BHIM-UPI, AePS and NETC have transformed digital payment ecosystem by increasing Person to Person (P2P) as well as Person to Merchant (P2M) payments. Total value of such transactions, which stood at 108.7 lakh crore rupees in October 2016, increased 88 percent to 204.86 lakh crore rupees in August 2018.
22. The State-run lender bank **UCO Bank** has requested the government to inject Rs 7000 crore to prop up capital.  
**Note:** The bank's capital adequacy ratio slipped to 7.57% against the stipulated 9% while its net loss widened to Rs 1136 crore in the September quarter owing to fresh slippages worth Rs 2000 crore. Net loss was Rs 623 crore in the year-ago period. Managing director AK Goel, who assumed charge on November 2, expects the government to infuse capital by March.
23. The **Karnataka Bank** has opened its first-ever digital branch in the country in Bengaluru.  
**Note:** This happens to be the 821st branch of the bank. Ramamohan Rao Belle, Director of the bank, inaugurated the branch in the presence of Mahabaleshwara MS, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank.
24. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a Rs. 3-crore fine each on two lenders for non-compliance of various norms \_\_\_ **Deutsche Bank & Jammu and Kashmir Bank**.  
**Note:** According to RBI, the penalties on these two banks have been imposed taking into account the failure of the banks to adhere to the directions issued by it.
25. Karnataka Bank has introduced a new savings bank (SB) scheme \_- **KBL SB – TASC**.
26. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan agreement of 105-million Dollar with India to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower.  
**Note:** The loan agreement was signed by Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry Sameer Kumar Khare, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, Kenichi Yokoyama.
27. Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign USD 300 Million loan to support **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)**.

**Note:** The Project will enhance availability of long-term finance for PPP projects, improve operational capacity of IIFCL, and expand the portfolio of infrastructure financing instruments available to IIFCL. The Project supports the renewed effort of the Government of India in accelerating infrastructure growth through increased Private Sector investment.

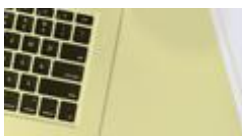
28. **SBICAP Ventures (SVL)** has launched two funds for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and affordable housing sectors.  
**Note:** It is an alternative asset manager and a wholly owned subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets.
29. As per Fitch Ratings, India's sovereign rating at -- **'BBB-'**.  
**Note:** The agency added that the economy would shrug off any lingering effects of demonetization and GST during 2018-19 and 2019-20. "Fitch forecasts growth to rebound to 7.3% in FY19 and 7.5% in FY20. The Fitch gave the country its first sovereign rating upgrade since 2004.
30. An asset management company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans has been formed and will be called as - **Sashakt India Asset Management**.  
**Note:** The chairman of a bankers' panel Sunil Mehta working on a faster resolution of stressed assets in public sector banks. Under the project, the committee had to float an AMC and an AIF to resolve non-performing assets (NPAs) over Rs 500 crore. The Mehta committee comprises representatives of all major banks, including State Bank of India (SBI).
31. **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched a mobile application and web-based platform for retail investors to buy government securities -- **NSE goBID**.  
**Note:** The platform will allow retail investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days and various government bonds from one year to almost 40 years.
32. The **IndusInd bank** has launched India's first interactive Credit Card with buttons.  
**Note:** IndusInd Bank has launched IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card, which empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS). The bank claims it to be the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons.



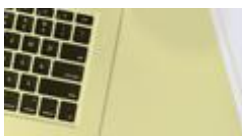
- 33. Microsoft** has become the **most valuable US company** (USD 753.3 billion) in market capitalization, past **Apple** (USD 746.8 billion) for the first time since 2010.  
**Note:** Currently, Amazon with USD 736.6 billion is at third and Alphabet (the parent company of Google) with USD 725.5 billion is at the fourth spot. Now, the investors are betting big on companies with robust Cloud services and software services which are witnessing an increased demand.
- 34. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** will present the interim Budget for 2019-20 fiscal on -- **1st of February 2019.**  
**Note:** The work for preparation of interim Budget has already commenced and is now gaining momentum.
- 35. Indian public sector bank State Bank of India** has increased fixed deposit (FD) rates for some select maturity periods.  
**Note:** According to the revised rates, SBI is offering 6.8% interest rate on FDs with maturity period of one to two years (earlier 6.7%).
- The interest rate for senior citizens also goes up to 7.30% on SBI FDs for one to two years (earlier-7.2%).
  - Now, SBI is offering 6.80% interest rate on FDs with maturity period between two to three years (earlier- 6.75%).
  - The interest rate for senior citizens goes up to 7.30% on SBI FDs for one to two years tenure (earlier 7.25%)
  - SBI has kept interest rate unchanged for FDs with other maturity tenures.
- 36. Markets regulator** has come out with new rules for re-classification of a promoter as a public investor \_\_ **Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**  
**Note:** Besides, the promoter would not be allowed to have any representation on the board of directors or act as a key managerial person in the listed entity. Furthermore, the promoter seeking re-classification must not be a wilful defaulter or a fugitive economic offender.
- 37. The Reserve Bank** has relaxed norms for **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** by reducing the mandatory hedging provision to **70% (current 100%).**  
**Note:** The relaxed norms will apply to the ECBs with a maturity period between 3 and 5 years.

### Important Dates

1. The **Madhya Pradesh** state celebrated its **63rd. Foundation Day** in all the districts of the state with traditional pride and grandeur.  
**Note:** Madhya Pradesh was founded on November 1, 1956, and now is the second largest Indian state in size with an area of 3 Lakh 8 thousand sq. km. Madhya Governor Smt. Anandiben Patel congratulated the people of the state on the foundation day. This year, the theme for the celebrations is the heritage of MP and all performances will revolve around folk and classical performances.
2. The World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) is being observed across the world on -- **5th November.**  
**Note:** The first World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world on 5th November 2016. In 2018, the World Tsunami Awareness Day will align with the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the "Sendai Seven Campaign" and will focus on Target "c" of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which aims at reducing direct disaster economic loss in relation to GDP.
3. 2018 Ayurveda Day is being observed on -- **5th November.**  
**Note:** Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). The objective of the day to encourage entrepreneurs and Ayurveda stakeholders towards businesses opportunities in the sector.
4. The World Science Day for Peace & Development celebrated every year on **10th November.**  
**Note:** The day is observed to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. The theme for 2018 is "Science, a Human Right", in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers.
5. The National Education Day is being observed on **11th November.**



- Note:** The day is observed on 11th November every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He was the first Education Minister of independent India, who served from 15th August 1947 (until 2nd February 1958).
6. The World Pneumonia Day is being observed every year on **12<sup>th</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day raise awareness about pneumonia, the world's leading infectious killer of children under the age of 5. This year is the 10th year of World Pneumonia Day and the theme is "Stop Pneumonia: 10 Years of Progress and the path forward". The day also aims to generate action, including continued donor investment, to combat pneumonia and other common, deadly childhood diseases.
  7. The world Diabetes Day is being observed on **14<sup>th</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The theme for World Diabetes Day this year is "The Family and Diabetes". World Diabetes Day was first introduced in 1991 and founded by both the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization. The day chosen was the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, a medical scientist who co-discovered Insulin and was the first person to use it on humans.
  8. The World Antibiotic Awareness Week to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance (AMR) -- **12-18 November**.  
**Note:** The objective is to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. According to WHO, the 2018 World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) campaign seeks to provide greater flexibility to regions and countries to reflect their unique priorities, target specific levels of awareness and their specific audiences.
  9. The state celebrated its 18th formation day with much fanfare and gaiety after separation from Uttar Pradesh - **Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** On 9th November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh.
  10. The World Philosophy Day being observed on -- **15th November**.  
**Note:** The **World Philosophy Day** was proclaimed by **UNESCO** to be celebrated every **3rd Thursday** of November. It is a day for people to share thoughts, openly explore and discuss new ideas and inspire public debate or discussion on society's challenges.
  11. International Day for Tolerance observed every year on **16 November**.  
**Note:** The International Day for Tolerance is an annual observance day declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.
  12. The World Toilet Day is observed across the world on **19th November**.  
**Note:** The theme for 2018 is 'Nature-based solutions'. The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030.
  13. The Quami Ekta Week (National Integration Week) is being observed across the country from **19th to 25th November 2018**.  
**Note:** The week is observed to highlight the strength and resilience of the nation to withstand any potential threats to the secular fabric.
  14. The Universal Children's Day has been observed across the world on **20th November**.  
**Note:** The theme of 2018 is 'Children are taking over and turning the world blue'. The intergovernmental organisation is asking individuals, schools and corporates worldwide to 'Go Blue' this Universal Children's Day to help build a world where every child goes to school and is safe from harm.
  15. The World Fisheries Day (WFD) is being celebrated throughout the world on **21st November**.  
**Note:** The Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of the water. According to Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund of 7,522 crore rupees will augment production and create more jobs.
  16. The birth anniversary (549th) of 1st Sikh Guru **Guru Nanak Dev jee** is being celebrated across the country.  
**Note:** On this day, Sikh devotees around the world visit Gurudwaras and offer prayers. The union Cabinet approved building and development of Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab to the International Border. This will provide a smooth and easy passage to pilgrims to visit Gurdwara





Darbar Sahib in Pakistan throughout the year. Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikh religion and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. His words are registered in the form of 974 poetic hymns in the holy text of Sikhism.

17. The **National Milk Day** (NMD) has been observed across India on **26th November**.

**Note:** The day mark the birth anniversary of the Father of the White Revolution **Dr. Verghese Kurien**. The idea of observing National Milk Day was first mooted by Indian Dairy Association (IDA) in 2014 on the lines of World Milk Day that is observed on 1st June every year under the aegis of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

18. The Constitution Day in India is being celebrated every year on **26th of November**.

**Note:** The constitution of India (supreme law of India) was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th of November 1949 and came into force on 26th January in 1950. The constitution declares India a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic, assuring its citizens justice, equality and liberty, and endeavours to promote fraternity.

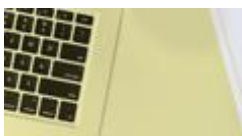
19. Commemoration Day being observed across UAE (United Arab Emirates) on **29th November**.

**Note:** The day recognize the sacrifice and dedication of Emirati martyrs who have given their lives in the field of civil, military and humanitarian service. The UAE Flag (local time - at 8 AM) will be lowered across the country for three hours followed by one minute of silence and supplication.

## Obituaries

1. Playwright, poet and author **Ntozake Shange** passed away at an assisted living center in Maryland.  
**Note:** Ntozake Shange's most acclaimed theatre piece is the 1975 Tony Award-nominated play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf". "For Colored Girls" describes the racism, sexism, violence and rape experienced by seven black women. She taught at multiple colleges including Brown University and DePaul University.
2. The famous Bhajan singer **Vinod Agrawal** passed away in Nayati hospital of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh.  
**Note:** He was used to sing mostly hymns of Lord Krishna. Vinod Agrawal had done more than 1500 live shows across the globe including Singapore, Italy, Britain, Switzerland, France, Germany, Ireland, Canada and Dubai. He settled down in Vrindavan for his love for Lord Krishna.
3. Commanding officer of INS Kamorta during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War Vice-Admiral (retd.) **M.P. Awati** passed away.  
**Note:** Mr. Awati was the commanding officer of INS Kamorta during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, and successfully faced enemy operations for almost a fortnight. He was awarded the Vir Chakra for his leadership and gallantry. He was also known as the father of Indian Navy's circumnavigation adventures.

4. Senior BJP leader and Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Ananth Kumar** passed away at a private hospital in Bengaluru.  
**Note:** He was suffering from cancer and had come back from the US in October after treatment at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York. Six-time member of parliament from Bengaluru South Lok Sabhaseat, Mr. Kumar was representing it continuously since 1996.
5. Eminent economist & chairman of the department of economics **TN Srinivasan** passed away in Chennai.  
**Note:** He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his contribution to development economics. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the choice of techniques and earned his Ph.D. in Economics (1962) from Yale University. He also worked in the Planning Commission when the economy was still closed.
6. One of the masterminds of the Marvel comics universe **Stan Lee** passed away at the age of 95 years.  
**Note:** Lee created the Fantastic Four for Marvel Comics in 1961. Lee was the creator of dozens of now-iconic comic-book heroes, including Spider-Man, X-Men, the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, and Black Panther. Lee was born as Stanley Martin Lieber in New York on December 28, 1922, the son of Jewish immigrants from Romania.
7. Asia's first woman neurosurgeon **T.S. Kanaka** passed away in Chennai.  
**Note:** Kanaka, who retired as professor of Neurosurgery, Institute of Neurology, Madras Medical College (MMC), in



1990. She was known to have inspired many women to take to the field of neurosurgery in the country. She was the third woman neurosurgeon in the whole world.
8. Ad Guru **Alyque Padamsee** passed away in Mumbai.  
**Note:** Mr Padamsee was also best known for his role as Muhammad Ali Jinnah in historical drama "Gandhi" (in 1982). He was honored with Padmashri (in 2000), named Advertising Man of the Century by The Advertising Club in Mumbai.
  9. Maha Vir Chakra awardee Brigadier **Kuldip Singh Chandpuri (retd)** passed away in a private hospital in Mohali, Punjab.  
**Note:** Mr. Chandpuri is known as the hero of the historic 1971 battle of Longewala. The battle of Longewala (1971) was one of the first major engagements in the western sector during the Indo-Pak war of 1971, fought between assaulting Pakistani forces and Indian defenders at the Indian border post of Longewala in the Thar desert of Rajasthan.
  10. Revered saint of Triveni Dham **Narayan Das Maharaj** passed away in Jaipur.  
**Note:** He was awarded Padma Shri in January 2018. He founded Sanskrit University and then handed it over to the Rajasthan government.
  11. Kerala Lok Sabha MP **MI Shanavas** passed away at a private hospital in Chennai.  
**Note:** He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2009 and again in 2014. Current, He was working president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).
  12. Noted Social activist and former BJD MP **Baishnab Charan Parida** passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.  
**Note:** He served as the BJD member in Rajya Sabha from 2010 to 2016. Earlier, he was the President of the Odisha unit of Samajwadi Party from 1999-2018.
  13. Classical music stalwart **Ustad Imrat Khan** passed away in the US after a brief illness.  
**Note:** Mr. Khan dedicated his life to propagating the Sitar and the surbahar worldwide. Imrat Khan famously turned down the Padma Shri last year saying the recognition had come too late and diminished his achievements.
  14. Former Railway Minister, senior most Congress leader **CK Jaffer Sharief** passed away in Bengaluru.  
**Note:** He held the office of the Minister of Railways under PV Narasimha Rao (from 1991 to 1995). Sharief served eight terms as the member of parliament, the last of which was from 1999 to 2000. Jaffer Sharief was born in Chitradurga district of Mysore kingdom (now Karnataka).
  15. Well-known singer **Mohammed Aziz** passed away in Mumbai.  
**Note:** Mohammed Aziz recorded over 20,000 songs in his three-decade long career. Some of Aziz's famous songs include, "Mard Taangewala" (first break in Bollywood) 'Imli Ka Boota', 'Aap Ke Aa Jaane Se', 'Ek Dusre Se Karte Hai Pyar Hum', 'Roz Roz Aankhon Tale', 'Aankhon Hi Aankhon Main', 'Lal Dupatta Malmal Ka' and 'My Name is Lakhan'.
  16. Italian filmmaker **Bernardo Bertolucci** passed away at his home in Rome.  
**Note:** Bertolucci won Oscars with "The Last Emperor" and whose erotic drama "Last Tango in Paris" enthralled and shocked the world.

### New Appointments

1. Senior IPS officer **S S Deswal** has been appointed the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).  
**Note:** He has been appointed in place of R K Pachnanda. Shri Deswal will hold the additional charge of the post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) till further orders. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of India, raised on 24 October 1962 in the wake of the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
2. Indian actor **Anupam Kher** has resigned as the chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) citing commitments to an international TV show in the U.S.  
**Note:** Anupam Kher was appointed as the FTII chairman on 11th October, 2017 (replaced Gajendra Chauhan). The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India.
3. Senior diplomat **Gaddam Dharmendra** has been appointed India's Ambassador to Iran.  
**Note:** He will replace Saurabh Kumar, who was appointed India's ambassador to Myanmar. At present, Mr. Dharmendra is the additional secretary in the MEA. India and China are among the eight countries





- that have been given the rare temporary exemptions from the Iranian sanctions
4. **Justice Sanjay Kumar Seth** sworn in as the 24th Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.  
**Note:** State Governor Anandi Ben Patel administered the oath of office to Justice Seth in a ceremony. Before becoming a high court judge, he had served as an additional advocate general. He was enrolled as an advocate on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1981, and practiced in Jabalpur.
  5. **D V Sadananda Gowda** takes additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.  
**Note:** The move was necessitated following the demise of Ananth Kumar. Currently, he is the minister for statistics and programme implementation
  6. **Ashok Chawla** steps down as Yes Bank chairman.  
**Note:** Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla's resignation comes days after the bank sought RBI's opinion on Chawla continuing in the post after being named in a corruption charge sheet in the Aircel-Maxis case. Chawla, a former secretary with the ministry of finance, is also the chairman of the National Stock Exchange.
  7. Justice Amareshwar Pratap Sahi sworn in as Chief Justice of **Patna High Court**.  
**Note:** The oath of office was administered by Bihar governor Lalji Tandon. Patna High Court is the High Court of the state of Bihar, established on 3 February 1916.
  8. UIDAI head Ajay Bhushan Pandey to be next **Revenue Secretary**.  
**Note:** He will succeed current Finance and Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia (retires on 30th November 2018). Mr. Pandey will continue to hold the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer of UIDAI and Chairman of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) until further orders.
  9. **Jalaj Srivastava** has been appointed as chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).  
**Note:** Currently Mr. Srivastava is working as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. The IWAI comes under the Union Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.
  10. **Kim Jong Yang (South Korea)** has been elected as the Interpol President for two-year term.  
**Note:** He replaced Meng Hongwei (Deputy Minister of Public Security of China) who is alleged to have resigned via an undersigned postal letter (in October 2018) after his detention and disappearance by Chinese authorities on corruption charges. The decision was taken at the 87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai (first time) UAE.
  11. Senior IAS officer **Vijay Kumar Dev** has been appointed as the chief secretary of Delhi.  
**Note:** He will replace Anshu Prakash (transferred last week as the additional secretary of the Department of Telecommunications). Earlier, Mr. Dev has served as the chief election officer of Delhi. Chief Secretary (Mukhya Sachiv) is the senior-most position held in the civil services of the states and union territories of India.
  12. **Nahid Afrin** has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the north eastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.  
**Note:** The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as agents of change in society. Nahid made her playback debut in the 2016 Bollywood film 'Akira' starring Sonakshi Sinha in the lead. She received the best female playback singer award at the Assam state Film Award 2018.
  13. **Sunil Arora** has been appointed the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.  
**Note:** Mr. Arora (62-years) succeeds the incumbent CEC Mr. Om Prakash Rawat. The Chief Election Commissioner heads the Election Commission of India, a body constitutionally empowered to conduct free and fair elections to the national and state legislatures. Election Commission headquarters is in New Delhi.
  14. **Ranbir Singh** has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi.  
**Note:** Mr. Singh succeeded Vijay Kumar Dev who has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of the national capital. Earlier, Ranbir Singh served as the commissioner of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.
  15. **Shri A.M. Naik** has been appointed as the Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.  
**Note:** Shri A M Naik is the **Group Chairman** of Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T). NSDC has developed a unique model combining skill development with strong industry partnerships. The objective of NSDC to promote skill development by catalysing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.



**16.** President of LG's Home Entertainment Company **Brian Kwon** will leader the Mobile Communications (MC) Company.

**Note:** Current president Hwang Jeong-hwan will focus fully on as head of LG's Convergence Business Development Office.LG Electronics Inc. is a South Korean multinational electronics company headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.LG comprises four business units: Home Entertainment, Mobile Communications, Home Appliance & Air Solution, and Vehicle Components.

**17.** Emmy-nominated British actress **Millie Bobby Brown** has been appointed as UNICEF's newest Goodwill Ambassador.

**Note:** She is joined by stars and leaders in entertainment, government, sport and business who are rallying for children in support of their rights.

**UNICEF Youth Ambassadors:**

Name	Profession	Ambassador
Wang Yuan (Roy Wang), 18 year	Singer (China)	UNICEF China
Hima Das (18-year)	Athlete (India)	UNICEF India
Hinna Asefi Wardak (15-year)	Television presenter (Afghanistan)	UNICEF Afghanistan
Sonam Wangchen (16-year)	Singer, songwriter and musician (Bhutan)	UNICEF Bhutan
El Sistema	The National Children's Orchestra of Venezuela (Venezuela)	UNICEF Venezuela

### Important News – India

**1.** India has jumped 23 places in ease of doing business ranking now -- **77<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:** Now, India is recognized as among top ten improvers for the 2nd consecutive year. The biggest gain was in construction permit where India climbed 129 ranks to 52nd place on the back of targeted government effort to remove hurdles. The ease of doing business index is an index created by Simeon Djankov at the World Bank Group. The academic research for the report was done jointly with professors Oliver Hart and Andrei Shleifer.

**2.** First India-Japan military exercise has begun at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte -- **Dharma Guardian-2018'**.

**Note:** The Japanese contingent is represented by 32nd Infantry Battalion, while the Indian side by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles.It will be to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase interoperability between the two forces.

**3.** Malayalam film **Olu** will be the opening film at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) -2018 in Goa.

**Note:** The Feature Film Jury of thirteen members was headed by acclaimed film director and screenwriter, Rahul Rawail. Jury also selected the Marathi film

Kharvas directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale as the Opening non-feature film.

**4.** More than 1 crore members have been added in the last two years in -- **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.**

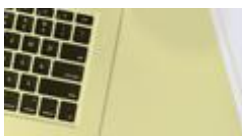
**Note:** It is the constant endeavour of the government to bring more workers in the unorganised sector under the fold of the EPFO. Around 40 crore people are working in the unorganised sector and our government is more concerned about them.

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

**Note:** The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Li Wei (President of DRC) and the Indian delegation was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar (Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog).The DRC-NITI Dialogue provides an important platform for both sides to discuss key macro- economic issues impacting both countries and areas of mutual interest.

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

**Note:** Experts in the sector got together to discuss the deep association that rivers have with various aspects of human civilization.



7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Support and Outreach Programme in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The MSME Outreach Programme will run for 100 days covering 100 Districts throughout the country. The Union Ministers are likely to visit these districts to appraise the entrepreneurs about various facilities being extended to MSME sector by the Government and financial institutions. It will help in further boosting the MSME to the overall growth of the country's economy.
8. India and Japan have signed a loan agreement worth of 1817 crore approximately for the construction of **Turga Pumped Storage (I)**.  
**Note:** The objective of the Project is to strengthen the capability to respond to fluctuation in supply and demand of power and to improve stability of the power supply. Turga Pumped Storage Project on Turga nala is a closed loop type (1,000 MW) Pumped Storage Project located in Purulia district of West Bengal.
9. India Pavilion inaugurated at Videocittà 2018 in **Rome Film Festival**.  
**Note:** India Pavilion at Videocitta 2018 showcased Indian films' heritage, ease of film shooting in India, promoted film shooting locations in India. It is an event focusing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc. was organized along with Rome Film Festival and Mercato Internazionale dell' Audiovisivo (MIA) (the International Audio-Visual Market).
10. The Ministry of Railways has launched the '**Unreserved Mobile Ticketing**' facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets in **all Zonal Railways**.  
**Note:** Now, the booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways will now be made available on mobile. 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.
11. A two-day National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The seminar has been organized by the AYUSH Ministry. The seminar is expected to develop awareness among stakeholders about business opportunities, encouraging young entrepreneurs to use modern technologies and highlight opportunities at global level.
12. Indo-French Conclave signed 12 agreements worth 200 million euro held in **Nagpur**.  
**Note:** The Indo-French Conclave was organized by Indo French Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IFCCI) and the Embassy of France in India.
13. The Indian Coast Guard has launched a new offshore patrol vessel called ICGS Varaha from a corporate shipyard near--**Chennai**.  
**Note:** The vessel has been designed and built indigenously. This is the third in a series of seven similar ships to be handed over to the Coast Guard. The timeline for the delivery of all the vessels is March 2021. ICGS Varaha will soon be fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries. The weapons will include a 30 mm guns with Fire Control Systems.
14. The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) have designed and boot up India's first microprocessor -- **Shakti**.  
**Note:** An open-source high-level synthesis language 'Bluespec' was used in making the chips. The Shakti microprocessor can be used in low-power wireless systems and networking systems besides reducing reliance on imported microprocessors in communication and defence sectors.
15. 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**.  
**Note:** In the third quarter (July- September), 32.8% of the users were attacked by web-borne threats in India. Kaspersky Lab products detected 48,093,743 Internet-borne malware incidents on the computers of KSN participants in India.
16. According to AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik, the Ayurveda Departments will open **19** All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS).  
**Note:** Work is already in progress to start Ayurveda Departments in hundred ESIC hospitals under Ministry of Labour. Home Ministry has approved to open Ayurveda Departments in seven hospitals of BSF and other Paramilitary forces. This year government has taken many steps to fulfil the theme 'Ayurveda for public health'.
17. CEO and MD of Ashok Leyland **Vinod Dasari** announced to resign from the company citing personal reasons.





- Note:** The company Board accepted his resignation, will continue to work in the current position until 31st March 2019. The Board has meanwhile called upon Dheeraj Hinduja to step in as executive chairman (EC) with immediate effect.
- 18. Binny Bansal** has announced his resignation as CEO of Flipkart Group.
- 19. Ashok Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as the Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI). **Note:** He replaces acting chairperson Sudhir Mital. CCI is quasi-Judicial statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002. It was established in October 2003 and became fully functional in May, 2009.
- 20.** The Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan has extended the tenure of Lok Sabha Secretary General **Snehlata Shrivastava** for one year. **Note:** She is a 1982 batch IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre. Her extension will be effective from the 1st of December to the 30th of November next year.
- 21.** The Kerala High Court has disqualified an Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MLA **K.M. Shaji** on a plea claiming that he used religion to win the Assembly polls in 2016. **Note:** Disqualifying K.M. Shaji had won the elections from Azhikode Assembly constituency in 2016. The court gave the judgement on a plea filed by LDF candidate M.V. Nikesh Kumar, who contested the election against Mr. Shaji (win by a margin of 2,287 votes).
- 22. Siddharth Tiwari** has been appointed as the Chief Representative of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) for Asia and the Pacific. **Note:** Tiwari, who took up his new position on November 1, succeeds Eli Remolona, who was Chief Representative of the Asian Office from 2008 to 2018. Tiwari has served as Executive Secretary to the G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance. He holds an MA and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago.
- 23.** US President Donald Trump announced the nomination of retired Army Gen. as U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia -- **John Abizaid**. **Note:** Abizaid (67-year) is a fluent Arabic speaker of Lebanese Christian descent who headed US Central Command -- which covers the Middle East -- during the Iraq war from shortly after the US invasion in 2003 through 2007.
- 24.** Mansi Gulati's Book has been launched by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu -- **Yoga And Mindfulness**. **Note:** The book 'Yoga and Mindfulness' revolves around the fact that yoga, is not mere asanas, but anything you do with mindfulness and dedication is yoga. This book aids in making yoga a part of your daily life. It explored the linkage between physical exercises and mindfulness.
- 25.** The union minister Shri R K Singh has inaugurated the second edition of INSPIRE in **New Delhi**. **Note:** 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. The three-day symposium will focus on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, financial instruments and technologies for energy efficiency in India.
- 26.** The three-day event of Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities- 2018 concluded in **New Delhi**. **Note:** This year 96 youth with disabilities from 18 countries including India, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, UK and UAE participated in it. The objective of the Global ICT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities was to leverage IT skills among youth with disabilities.
- 27. India** has signed an agreement with India on **Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters**. **Note:** The agreement will strengthen bilateral cooperation with Morocco and enhance effectiveness and provide a broad legal framework for prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes.
- 28.** 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.
- 29.** The 25th editorial of SIMBEX is scheduled from 10th to 21st November 2018 off **Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**. **Note:** It was the first formalized when RSN ships began training with the Indian Navy in 1994.
- 30.** The two-days global cooling innovation summit will be held in **New Delhi**.



- Note:** The Summit will bring together leaders from around the world to explore concrete means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners.
31. INS Rana has participated in the inaugural edition of Indian Navy & Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise -- **Samudra Shakti**.  
**Note:** The objective of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.
32. **IIT- Madras** has developed portable solar-powered cold storage device with 500 kg capacity for storing vegetables and fruits, among other items.  
**Note:** The device will help farmers store their produce for sufficient time so that it does not get spoiled 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.
33. The joint military exercise between Indian and Russia is being conducted at Babina Military Station -- '**INDRA 2018**'.  
**Note:** The objective of exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance interoperability of the two Armies in the peace keeping/ enforcement environment under the aegis of the UN. It is the tenth edition of Exercise INDRA series.
34. The union minister Dr. Satya Pal Singh has launched two new initiatives for higher education -- **LEAP & ARPIT**.  
**Note:** Committed teachers will develop confidence and competence and must become effective communicators so that they can spread knowledge like the rays of the sun.
35. According to the National Bureau of economic research (NBER), India's most congested and second slowest city -- **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** 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 analyzed 22 million trips in 154 cities in the country.
36. The 10th-anniversary commemorative activities of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was held at **Kochi**.  
**Note:** The theme for the 10th-anniversary seminar of IONS is "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region). IONS is a security construct for the Indian Ocean region which is similar to the Western Pacific Naval Symposium.
37. The 38th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2018 opens at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.  
**Note:** The flagship event of **India Trade Promotion Organisation** (ITPO) will continue from 14th to 27th November 2018. The partner country is the **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** and the **focus country** is the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. The focus state is **Jharkhand**. This edition of IITF assumes special significance as it marks the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.
38. A unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform-- **SWAYAM**.  
**Note:** The ministry of HRD 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.
39. Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched a start-up scheme to encourage youth to join cooperative business ventures in agriculture and allied sectors -- **Yuva Sahakar**.  
**Note:** The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF) created by the NCDC. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the agriculture ministry has come up the Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme.
40. ISRO successfully launches GSLV Mark III D2 carrying - **GSAT 29 satellite**.  
**Note:** ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk-III-D2) - on its second developmental flight - lifted off from Sriharikota, India's rocket port in Andhra Pradesh on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. India's heaviest rocket referred to as "Baahubali". It carries Ka/Ku-band high throughput



communication transponders, which are intended to cater to the communication requirements of users, including those in remote areas.

**41. Delhi Police Commissioner launches e-learning portal -- NIPUN.**

**Note:** The e-learning portal aims at imparting online training and information through specialized courses designed by experts. It will benefit the police officers investigating various cases by providing online resource and information on the law, standing orders, investigation checklists, forms for case files, latest High Court and Supreme Court rulings.

**42. NITI Aayog has constituted the Himalayan State Regional Council.**

**Note:** The council, which will be chaired by VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, will consist of Chief Secretaries of the 12 Himalayan States as well as secretaries of central ministries, among others. It will review and implement identified action points based on the reports of five working groups.

**43. India's first specialized hospital for elephants was formally opened in Mathura.**

**Note:** The hospital is designed to treat injured, sick or geriatric elephants and is equipped with a medical hoist for lifting elephants.

**44. The 6th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC) 2018 was held in New Delhi.**

**Note:** The theme of 6th ISWC 2018 was "Human Development and Social Inclusion: Imperatives for Social Work Education and Practice". It was jointly organized by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) and Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work), University of Delhi.

**45. Ministry is celebrating its first Naturopathy Day across the country -- AYUSH Ministry.**

**Note:** More than 1,000 Naturopathy specialist doctors from all over the country participated in the event, which was organised by International Naturopathy Organisation in association with Ministry of Ayush. Work on building natural clinics is already in progress in Pune, Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

**46. The two-days 8th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP) has begun in Ranchi.**

**Note:** The conference is being organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development in collaboration with Jharkhand Police. It is the only national level platform to address the issues of Women in uniform and create

an enabling atmosphere for them to maximize and optimize their professional potential.

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

**Note:** The 14th edition of JashneBachpan (theatre festival for children) was held at the Sammukh, Abhimanch, Abhikalp and Little Theatre Group (LTG) auditorium in New Delhi. The JashneBachpan has been organized by National School of Drama.

**48. The Union Ministers Suresh Prabhu and Jayant Sinha jointly launched the upgraded version of web portal and mobile app -- AirSewa2.0**

**Note:** It is an upgraded version of AirSewa1.0 to provide a superior user experience with enhanced functionalities. The upgrade version of AirSewa will offer passengers a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience. The AirSewa 1.0 was received well, with around 30,000 app downloads and around 75,000 web portal hits since its launch.

**49. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has released a book 'Radio Kashmir in Times of Peace & War' written by Dr Rajesh Bhat.**

**Note:** The book explains the role played by Radio Kashmir in serving the people of Kashmir and strengthening democratic institutions in Kashmir, since the inception of Radio Kashmir in 1947.

**50. The Union Government of India and the World Bank have signed a USD 310 million Loan Agreement for JPSIP.**

**Note:** The Project is part of the Government of India's Power for All program launched in 2014. The plan envisages addition of over 4.5 GW generation capacities by 2022 (including a significant share of 1.5 GW from solar energy), through a mix of Private and Public-sector investments. As per data from the Jharkhand Distribution Company, more than 80% of all citizens in the State have access to electricity.

**51. The Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar has launched a Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program under Innovation cell of MHRD in New Delhi.**

**Note:** It is significant step in institutionalizing innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country. The HRD ministry has established an "Innovation cell" at AICTE with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

**52. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in 129 districts.**





- Note:** It will herald the availability of convenient, environment-friendly and cheaper natural gas for almost half of the country's population spread across 26 States and Union Territories. Till September 2018, 96 cities and 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.
53. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval to expand the scope of mandatory packaging norms under the **Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987**.  
**Note:** The CCEA approved that 100% of the food grains and 20 percent of sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags. The decision to pack sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry. The CCEA also approved establishment of National Facility for Airborne Research with a financial commitment of 130 crore rupees during 2020-21 and beyond.
54. According to The Geological Survey of India (GSI) report, 44 new coal blocks found in four eastern states.  
**Note:** These coal blocks spread across **West Bengal's** Purulia and Birbhum districts, coal city of Talcher in **Odisha**, **Bihar's** Bhagalpur and **Jharkhand's** East Bokaro and south Karanpura. The GSI has done National Geo Chemical Mapping (NGCM) of over **1,82,000 Sq km area** in the eastern region of the country in the last 10 years to find out the elements which are economically fruitful to the country.
55. Malaria cases declined in India by -- **24%**.  
**Note:** According to World Health Organization (WHO), India is the only country to have recorded a substantial decline in malaria cases in 2017 out of the 11 highest burden countries worldwide. India accounted for 4% of global malaria cases in 2017. Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease affecting humans and other animals caused by parasitic single-celled microorganisms belonging to the Plasmodium group.
56. **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.  
**Note:** The technology shows pre-event scenario, can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.
57. **United Nations** has selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its **Global Sustainable Cities 2025** initiative.  
**Note:** The twin-cities in Gautam Buddha 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. Overall 25 cities across the world have been selected in five categories by the UN Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) cities initiative. The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
58. Vice President of India **Sri Venkaiah Naidu** laid the foundation stone of the **Dera Baba Nanak - Kartarpur Sahib Corridor** at Mann village of **Gurdaspur district (Punjab)**.  
**Note:** The corridor will provide smooth and easy passage to Sikh pilgrims to visit 'Gurdwara Darbar Sahib' in Pakistan throughout the year (completed by 23rd November, 2019). Currently, Sikh pilgrims have to go through the long visa process, wait for particular dates of buses to reach the Gurudwara via Wagah border.
59. The union Government to set up National Sports Stadium for differently-abled in **Meghalaya**.  
**Note:** The decision was taken after Conrad Sangma (Meghalaya Chief Minister) came forward with the proposal and provided 50 acres of land for the same. The stadium is expected to be completed before National Games 2022.
60. National festival for CCI children '**HAUSLA-2018**' inaugurated in New Delhi.  
**Note:** The four-day National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) 'Hausla 2018' held in New Delhi. 'Hausla 2018' has seen the participation of more than 600 children from CCIs across 18 states. The theme for the event is 'child safety'.
61. The Union Minister 'Suresh Prabhu' has launched the 'logo' and 'brochure' of '**Logix India 2019**'.  
**Note:** The three-day mega logistics event (31st Jan to 2nd Feb 2019) is being organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) to improve logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's global trade. FIEO will also focus on investment opportunities in infrastructure development, warehouse consolidation, technology integration and IT enablement and skilling of manpower. India ranked 44 in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2018.
62. The **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC)** company has been conferred with the status of Miniratna: (Category -I) by the Government of India.  
**Note:** The empowerment of Miniratna Status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board. Tag (CATEGORY I) is applied to only those PSEs who can make a profit consistently from the period of last three years or can hold average of profit of Rs. 30 crore or more.
63. The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the 14th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in **New Delhi**.



**Note:** The theme of this year's Formation Day is 'Early Warning for Disasters'. NDMA also released training manual for masons on Hazard-Resistant Construction and "Gujarat floods 2017: A Case Study".

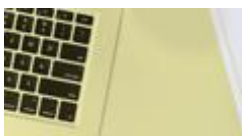
- 64. University Grants Commission (UGC)** has decided to set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines.  
**Note:** According to commission, the percentage of research articles published in poor quality journals is reported to be high in India which has adversely affected its image. Members of CARE will prepare lists of quality journals in their respective disciplines within a defined timeframe.
- 65. The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** has launched the India's first Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) at **Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)**.  
**Note:** All emergency numbers, including 100 (for police), 101 (for fire), 102 (for ambulance) and disaster response have been integrated into countrywide one

number, 112. The system would identify the location of the person in distress connecting through voice or data and immediate assistance would be provided. The union Government has allocated RS. 321.69 Crore under Nirbhaya Fund for implementation of ERSS project across the country.

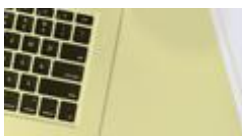
- 66. The President Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Conclave is being organized by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians and the Dr Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce.
- 67. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind** received the first copy of the book from Finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley -- **Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government**.  
**Note:** This book contains fifty-one essays on themes ranging from economy to diplomacy, education to public health.

### States News

- J&K Governor Mr Satya Pal Malik** flagged off 'SAUBHAGYA RATH' comprising 20 vehicles each for one District of Kashmir and Jammu divisions from **\_Raj Bhawan, Jammu**.  
**Note:** 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 Upadhaya Gram Jyoti Yojana -(DDUGJY)' and other allied schemes.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport (in Odisha) as **Veer Surendra Sai Airport**.  
**Note:** Veer Surendra Sai was an Indian freedom fighter and tribal leader who sacrificed his life fighting against the British East India Company. Sai was born on 23rd January 1809 in a Khinda village near Lapanga on the way to Jharsuguda about 40 km to the north of Sambalpur, Odisha.
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the conversion of decommissioned carrier **INS Viraat** into a **floating museum**.  
**Note:** 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. The project worth 852 crore rupees will be implemented through public-private-partnership (PPP). **INS Viraat** holds a place of pride in Indian defence history, was decommissioned in March 2017 and since then has been laid up at the Naval Dockyard.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** has inaugurated the iconic **Signature Bridge** over river 'Yamuna'.  
**Note:** The Signature Bridge is (675 metres long) a cantilever spar cable-stayed bridge, spans Yamuna river at Wazirabad section, connecting Wazirabad to East Delhi. The pylon of the Signature bridge is tallest structure in Delhi and is double the height of Qutb Minar, with 154-metre high viewing box, which act as selfie points for people. It is country's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge.
- The Odisha government has launched **Mo Bus services** for the residents of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri.  
**Note:** The service will be launched as a part of state government-owned Capital Region Urban Transport's (CRUT) 'City Bus Modernisation' programme. The buses will be available in 10-12 min duration for commuters daily for 15 hours (7 A.M. to 10 P.M.) on nine routes.
- New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC)** has launched quick response (QR)-enabled fridge magnets for digital payment of bills.  
**Note:** 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.

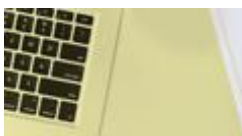


7. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced that Faizabad district would henceforth be known as-- **Ayodhya**.  
**Note:** The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also announced a medical college in the name of King Dashrath for the district. 'Deepotsav' event organised in the pilgrim town, about 120 km from State capital Lucknow. The event was also attended by the First Lady of South Korea, Kim Jung-sook, and Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik. The festival of Diwali is celebrated due to the legend Lord Ram returning home from "vanvas" (exile).
8. The West Bengal Govt. has decided to observe "Rosogulla Day" on -- **14th November**.  
**Note:** The day commemorate the first anniversary of Bengal's Rosogolla getting the Geographical Indication (GI) tag at the 'Mishti hub'. According to the HIDCO Chairman Debasish Sen, Different varieties of rosogollas would be showcased in the stalls of the 'Mishti Hub' (sweetmeat hub).
9. Tourism Minister K J Alphons has inaugurated the Tourist Facilitation and Information Counter at **IGI Airport, New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The counter will be connected to the 24x7 Helpline - 1363 of the Tourism Ministry. The Tourism Ministry is also starting facilitation counters in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Gaya and Varanasi.
10. **Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio** has launched GPS Mapping of Government Schools and Personnel Location System (PLS) to computerization and digitization of records in Kohima.  
**Note:** CM Neiphiu Rio congratulated the School Education Department for undertaking the exercise. Nagaland School Education Department envisaged this information in the public domain to facilitate departmental information being made more accessible to the public.
11. **West Bengal Govt.** as decided to set up development boards (Namasudra Welfare Board and West Bengal Matua Welfare Board) for the **Matua and Namasudra communities**.  
**Note:** The chairperson and members of the welfare boards will be decided by the State Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee. The decision to set up the boards has been taken for socio-economic development of the communities. With the setting up of the welfare boards, there will need specific development work. The boards will also ensure better implementation of the government's developmental projects.
12. The Chhattisgarh Election Commission has set up polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh to encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections -- **'Sangwari' (means friend)**.  
**Note:** These women friendly booths will be manned by all-female staff including presiding officers, supervisors and security personnel. According to Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo, five Sangwari Polling Centres have been set up for women in every assembly segment. Chhattisgarh has 90 constituencies, about One crore 85 lakh electorates. Out of this, more than 92 lakhs are females.
13. The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a Central Tribal University in -- **Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:** A fund of 420 crore rupees has been granted as the first phase expenditure towards the establishment of the University. The Cabinet has also given in-principle approval for leasing out six airports through Public Private Partnership. They are Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru.
14. The union cabinet approved leasing out six airports in Indian cities through PPP at - **Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram & Mangaluru**.  
**Note:** The PPP airports in India have been ranked among the top 5 in their respective categories by the Airports Council International (ACI) in terms of Airport Service Quality (ASQ). In-principle" approval for leasing out six airports of AAI viz. Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for operation, management and development under Public Private Partnership (PPP) through Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).
15. The **Tripura** state government will start dialogue for purchase of 26% equity shares of the Palatana gas thermal power project from Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS).  
**Note:** The power project, run by ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC), was launched in 2014 as a joint venture between ONGC, IDFC, IL & FS and the Tripura government.
16. PM Narendra Modi dedicated multimodal terminal to the nation on the river **Ganga**.
17. The 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) has begun at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** This year the theme of the fair is Rural Enterprises in India. Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal will be the Focus Country. Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.
18. The Union Ministry Vijay Goel has inaugurated the 26th Conference of Central and States Statistical Organizations at **Dharamshala**.  
**Note:** The theme of this year's Conference is "Quality Assurance in Official Statistics".
19. Jharkhand state celebrated its 18th foundation day on **15th November 2018**.





- Note:** The Jharkhand state was carved out of the southern part of Bihar on 15 November 2000. Chief minister Raghubar Das declared Jharkhand open defecation free (ODF).
20. The **Kerala Government** has launched the '**Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme**' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state.  
**Note:** It will give **insurance coverage** to dairy farmers at low premium rates. Farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.
21. The fifteen days Aadi Mahotsav festival has begun in **Delhi**.  
**Note:** More than 600 artisans from 23 states will participate in the event. The theme of the festival is '**celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce**'.
22. The union Govt. has approved the additional assistance of Rs. 546 crores from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to **Karnataka**.  
**Note:** The decision was taken during a High-Level Committee, Chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh to consider the additional Central Assistance to the State affected by floods during 2018-19. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialised force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
19. The **Jammu and Kashmir** state Assembly dissolved after rival alliances stake claim to form govt.  
**Note:** The Governor's rule was imposed in the state on 19th June for a 6-month period following the collapse of the PDP-BJP coalition government after BJP withdrew its support. The state went to polls at the end of 2014 and the Assembly's tenure was till October 2020.
20. 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. This intensive project will also include an emergency ambulance van akin to the 108 emergency services.
21. Tripura Governor has inaugurated the 7th International Tourism Mart in **Agartala**.  
**Note:** This is an annual event organized in the North Eastern region with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets. It brings together the tourism business fraternity and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States.
22. The **Andhra Pradesh** Government has launched 'Bhuseva' and 'Bhudaar' web portal through which people can view land records online.  
**Note:** People can get land record online through these portals using Aadhaar card. Bhudaar security policy was also launched to provide security to the land records of farmers. Bhudaar card can be generated by the land owner or property owner from Bhuseva web portal. Two types of Bhudaar cards are available including e-Bhudaar and M-Bhudaar.
23. To increase transparency and build transport solutions, the transport department of the **Delhi government** has launched the Open Transit Data platform.  
**Note:** It is a major step to promote collaboration and co-creation of innovative and inclusive transport solutions for the people of Delhi. The portal was designed and developed by IIT Delhi on behalf of the Delhi government.
24. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled a 70-foot tall statue of Lord Buddha at **Rajgir**.  
**Note:** It is the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country. The statue has been installed above a 16-metre radius pedestal in the middle of Lake Ghora Katora.
25. The Uttarakhand government has decided to rename the Dehradun Jolly Grant airport after former prime minister -- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
26. **Asian Development Bank** have signed a 200 million USD loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar.  
**Note:** The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare (Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry) and Rajeev P. Singh (Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission) in New Delhi. This loan will help the State government to upgrade all State Highways to meet the minimum two-lane standard with better surfaces and improved road safety.
27. Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Dr Rajat Kumar inaugurated five-day exhibition on -- **Our Vote- Our Future**.  
**Note:** He also highlighted the measures that are being taken for Accessible Election and Ethical voting in Telangana (on 7th December). 46 panels of photos were displayed in the exhibition which depicted the election process and its transformation ever since it started in the country.
28. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** will provide a 75 million USD loan for a water supply project in four coastal towns of Karnataka.  
**Note:** The project would ensure round the clock water supply in four towns (Kundapura, Mangalore Puttur and Udupi). The objective of the programme to improve urban water resource management in selected river basins in Karnataka through modernisation and



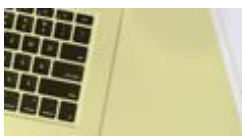
expansion of urban water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

29. 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).

### Important News – World

1. **Japan** has announced to join the group **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.  
**Note:** Japan will be the 71<sup>st</sup> country to sign and 48th country to ratify the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries. The objective of the alliance is to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
2. **Qatar** has set up a support fund for foreign workers who run into **difficulties for not being** paid.  
**Note:** The fund would support and care for workers, secure their rights and provide a healthy and safe work environment for them. The changes are part of a three-year agreement signed by Qatar last November with the UN's International Labour Organization to oversee reform.
3. China has successfully launched a high orbit satellite to boost its home-grown BeiDou global satellite navigation system being built to rival United States Global Position System (GPS).  
**Note:** The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwestern Sichuan Province. It is the first BeiDou-3 satellite in high orbit (36,000 km) above the Earth, meant to serve countries in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.
4. **Netherlands** will be the Partner Country of 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019.  
**Note:** There is great scope to explore a closer partnership between the two countries to leverage emerging digital technologies. India and the Netherlands are addressing unmet needs and opening new collaborative avenues together in areas such as water, health, agriculture, high tech systems and IT.
5. The World Corporate Games 2019 will be held for the first time in the Middle East in **Doha**.  
**Note:** The 23rd edition is held under the patronage of Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani and will bring together the local, regional and international business sporting community. It will be the first time that the World Corporate Games, established nearly 30 years ago, incorporate eSports and mind sports.
6. The 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting was held in **Durban, South Africa**.  
**Note:** Gen. (Dr.) VK Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, attended the IORA Council of Ministers Meeting. This meeting took place during the on-going celebrations of the 150th year of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
7. India has signed an MoUs with the country in Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver -- **Malawi**.  
**Note:** According to the T S Tirumurti (Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs), Secretariat India & Malawi have signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes and VISA Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports. India will also extend a new Line of credit of 215 million US dollars to Malawi for 18 water projects. Earlier, Mr Naidu had meeting with the President of Malawi Peter Arthur Mutharika.
8. Indian Food and Agro Buyer Seller Meet held in **Jaddah**.  
**Note:** Saudi Arabia is India's one of the most important trade partners and is a major FDI partner of India after the UAE in Gulf region. India's export to Saudi Arabia was worth USD 5 billion in 2017. The major products exported by India to Saudi Arabia were rice, Chemicals, refined petroleum oil and motor vehicles and its parts.
9. The world's first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor debuts in **China**.  
**Note:** The world's first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor made "his" debut at the ongoing fifth World Internet Conference in east China's Zhejiang province. The AI news anchor was jointly developed by Xinhua and the Chinese search engine company, Sogou.com. The AI anchor has become a member of reporting team and can work 24 hours a day on its official website and various social media platforms, reducing news production costs and improving efficiency.
10. The 33rd edition of the ASEAN Summit has begun in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the East Asia Summit and Associated meetings of ASEAN. He also addressed the audience during the

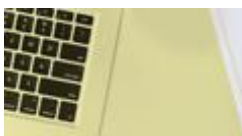


- Fintech Conference along with the IMF Managing Director, Christine Lagarde.
11. Commerce Minister leads delegation for RCEP meet in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** The RCEP members include 10 ASEAN members (Brunei Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam) and their 6 free trade agreement partners (India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand). RCEP is a pact that aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights.
  12. Vice President Naidu embarks on the three-day visit to **France**.  
**Note:** The Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has attended the Paris Peace Forum being held to commemorate the centenary of the end to the First World War. The objective of the Paris Peace Forum is to establish a global platform to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism, international cooperation and reform of global governance institutions.
  13. The fourth edition of Intex South Asia was inaugurated in **Colombo**.  
**Note:** The event has been organized by Worldex India Exhibition and Promotion Pvt. Ltd in partnership with Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Retailers Association of India, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) etc.
  14. **India** has been re-elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022).  
**Note:** The elections to the Council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is an agency of the United Nations (UN) whose purpose is to coordinate telecommunication operations and services throughout the world.
  15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the swearing-in ceremony of President of Maldives **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**.  
**Note:** India is looking forward to closely work with Maldives in further deepening its partnership.
  16. **India** has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) from 2019 to 2022.  
**Note:** The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), founded on the principle of international cooperation between governments (Member States) and the private sector (Sector Members, Associates and Academia). Currently, ITU has a membership of 193 countries and almost 800 private-sector entities and academic institutions.
  17. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain in **France**.  
**Note:** The main ceremony at Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris was presided over by the French President Emmanuel Macron. The Vice President also met the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay.
  18. **Amnesty International** stripped **Aung San Suu Kyi** of its highest honor over the **Myanmar leader's** 'indifference' to the atrocities committed by the country's military against Rohingya Muslims.  
**Note:** The global human rights organization said it was revoking the Ambassador of Conscience Award it gave Suu Kyi in 2009. "Amnesty International cannot justify your continued status as a recipient of the Ambassador of Conscience award and so with great sadness we are hereby withdrawing it from you."
  19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and socio-cultural integration among its members and other Asian states. The ASEAN members are Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, and Laos.
  20. **India** will overtake the US to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030.  
**Note:** Carbon dioxide emissions from India's power sector are expected to rise to 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. Even with the jump in power demand and emissions, India's per-capita electricity consumption will remain one of the world's lowest, according to the report.
  21. The World Tolerance Summit opens for the first time in **UAE, Dubai**.  
**Note:** The two-day summit is being held in line with the UN's International Day of Tolerance. The theme of the Summit was 'Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration'.
  22. Oxford Dictionary has declared the adjective as the Word of the Year 2018 -- **toxic**.  
**Note:** The adjective toxic is defined as 'poisonous'. The word toxic was selected from a shortlist that included contenders such as 'gaslighting', 'incel' and 'teclash'.





- 23.** India and United Kingdom have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in **Cancer research**.  
**Note:** The MoU was signed between Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) for India-UK Cancer Research Initiative for collaboration in cancer research for the next five years.
- 24.** The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit ended with its leaders failing to agree on a formal joint statement in **Papua New Guinea**.  
**Note:** The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. APEC has 21 members.
- 25.** India, US Joint **Special Forces Exercise 2018** commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR), Bikaner in Rajasthan --**Vajra Prahar**.  
**Note:** The 12 days exercise was called between Special Forces of both countries to deal with operations for counter-terrorism and is being done at unit as well as sub-unit levels. US Army is represented by contingent of one officer and 10 Other Ranks from Special Forces Group of United States Pacific Command.
- 26.** The Nepal's minister has inaugurated an exhibition of construction equipment and technology at Bhaktapur (near Kathmandu) in Nepal -- **ConMac 2018**.  
**Note:** The Embassy of India in Nepal and CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) jointly organized this exhibition of construction equipment and technology- 'ConMac 2018'. The objective of the exhibition is to further enhance high level engagements between construction industry of the two countries.
- 27.** MEA Sushma Swaraj co-chaired 9th meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission in **Vientiane**.  
**Note:** The two sides have reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations covering areas of Defence, Agriculture, Trade and Investment, Science and IT, Energy and Mining among others.
- 28.** 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine started in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.  
**Note:** The biennial event mainly focuses on science and research aspects of high-altitude medicine. The theme of congress is "Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas".
- 29.** Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has launched a Security Scheme for formal sector workers of the country -- **Social Security Scheme**.  
**Note:** People of all ages and categories would be included in the scheme. The new social security scheme is contribution based and it will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, accident and physical incapacity security, security to dependent family members and security at old age.
- 30.** The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken part in the 13th G-20 summit in **Buenos Aires (Argentina)**.  
**Note:** The theme of the summit is 'Building Consensus for a Fair and Sustainable Development'. During the G20 summit, India will highlight the need for reformed multilateralism which reflects the contemporary realities and can effectively strengthen collective action for global good.
- 31.** The **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference** was held in **Nairobi, Kenya**.  
**Note:** Sustainable Blue Economy is marine-based economy that provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations, restores, protects and maintains diversity, productivity of marine ecosystems. The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference organized by Kenya and co-hosted by Japan and Canada. The theme of this conference was 'The Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 32.** The European Union (EU) has urged government, businesses, citizens and regions to join it in an ambitious plan to cut emissions and make the bloc carbon neutral by **2050**.  
**Note:** EU climate commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said in a press conference in Brussels today that block is kicking off a process to determine how Europe's energy and climate policy will evolve between now and 2050. Member states will submit their draft national climate and energy plans to the EU by the end of 2018.
- 33.** NASA's robotic lander successfully landed on Red Planet Mars after the six-month journey-- **InSight**.  
**Note:** The spacecraft has been designed to dig deep into the rocky surface of the Mars to reveal its secrets. The lander sent signals indicating that its solar panels are open and collecting sunlight on the Martian surface. The InSight lander touched down near Mars' equator on the western side of a flat, smooth expanse of lava called Elysium Planitia. InSight will study the interior of Mars and will teach about valuable science as they prepare to send astronauts to the Moon and later to Mars.
- 34.** Air forces of the United States and India will participate in a **12-day joint exercise** at two air force stations in West Bengal --- **Cope India 2019**.  
**Note:** The exercise will be held from 3rd to 14th December at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh). The exercise showcases efforts and commitment of the two nations to a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The Cope India exercise is being held after a gap of eight years, with the last one having taken place in 2010. Exercise CI19 focused on enhancing US-Indian mutual cooperation and building on existing capabilities, aircrew tactics and force employment."



35. The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) reliable workhorse PSLV-C43 rocket successfully lifted off with earth observation satellite -- **HysIS (hyperspectral imaging satellite)**.  
**Note:** The 30 commercial satellites (1 micro and 29 nano) from eight countries, combined weight is 261.5 kg. HysIS can provide hyperspectral imaging

capabilities for a variety of purposes, including agriculture and forestry. It carries two payloads one to capture images in the visible near-infrared (VNIR) range of the light spectrum and another in the shortwave infrared (SWIR) range. The satellite will provide Earth observation service till 2023.

## Honor & Awards

- Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece has been included by BBC's 100 best foreign language films (only film from India) to feature in the list -- **Pather Panchali**.  
**Note:** Pather Panchali released in 1955, was placed at number 15 in the list, which has been topped by Akira Kurosawa's 'Seven Samurai'. 27 of the highest-rated films were in French, followed by 12 in Mandarin, and 11 each in Italian and Japanese.
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** has announced Swachh Bharat World Toilet Day Contest for districts of the States.  
**Note:** The purpose of the Contest is to encourage all districts in India to re-intensify the sanitation movement with a special focus on Open Defecation Free-ODF Sustainability. Top 10 District Collectors, top 3 State Mission Directors and State Secretary in-charge of Sanitation will be recognized and awarded by the Swachh Bharat Mission. The Contest does not apply to the five States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.
- Super 30 founder **Anand Kumar** has been honored with **education award** in Dubai.  
**Note:** Mr. Anand will be honoured with 'Global Education Award' by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate. Anand Kumar's life has involved a lot of struggle and his contributions to the field of education is indeed pioneering.
- Noted Malayalam writer **M Mukundan** has been selected for the highest literacy prize 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2018'.  
**Note:** The award is being given for his overall contributions to the language and literature. The Ezhuthachan Puraskaram is the highest literary honour named after Ezhuthachan (the father of the Malayalam language), given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Government of Kerala. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 5,50,000 and a citation.
- Controversial Uzbek businessman has been elected as the president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) -- **Gafur Rakhimov**.  
**Note:** Rakhimov won 86 of the 134 second-round votes collected by AIBA officials in Moscow. He beat his only opponent, former boxer Serik Konakbayev of Kazakhstan. The International Boxing Association or AIBA is a sport organization that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.
- Former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) **Anupam Kher** has been honored as a 'Distinguished Fellow' award.  
**Note:** IndiaGlobal is a leading US think-tank that works on issues concerning non-resident Indians. The event was held at the prestigious MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston. currently Anupam Kher is in New York, shooting for his most recent international TV show New Amsterdam.
- Renowned French scholar was presented with France's highest civilian honour Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur -- **Jawahar Lal Sarin**.  
**Note:** Jawahar Lal Sarin president of Alliance française de Delhi's governing body. He was presented with this award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting French language
- Freelance journalist has won the Press Freedom Award for Courage for her book, I am a Troll: Inside The Secret World of The Bharatiya Janata Party's Digital Army -- **Swati Chaturvedi**.  
**Note:** The award was presented at the Getty Images Gallery in London's Fitzrovia on November 8. The award ceremony organized by the UK chapter of Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders in London.
- The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic -- **Dr. Debabhuson Borah**.  
**Note:** For his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'. The Munin Barkotoki Memorial Trust announced the annual Award instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a citation and a plaque.



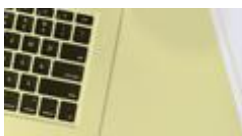
- 10. An educationist Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati** has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018.  
**Note:** The award has been conferred on Dr. Gulati in recognition of her exemplary contribution to 'K-12 education and promotion of Art and Culture'. Dr. Gulati (Director of Blue Bells Group of Schools) was among the nine eminent education leaders from India who were awarded for their exemplary contribution in various spheres of education and social development.
- 11. Veteran Journalist** received Raja Ram Mohan Roy award - **N Ram**.  
**Note:** Eminent journalist N Ram has been selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award. Ruby Sarkar (Chief Correspondent of Deshbandhu Bhopal) and Rajesh Joshte (Daily Pudhari in Ratnagiri) will share the award in category of Rural Journalism. N Ram is the Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group.
- 12. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** has won 2018 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development.  
**Note:** The CSE was established in 1980 under leadership of the late Anil Agarwal and is presently headed by Sunita Narain.  
 The Indira Gandhi Prize is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order.  
**Indira Gandhi peace prize** conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.
- 13. The 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** has begun at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in **Panaji (Goa)**.  
**Note:** Malayalam movie Olu (directed by Shaji Karun) will be the opening movie of the feature film section of Indian panorama. World Panorama section will present 67 movies including 15 OSCAR nominated films from different countries. Israel is the focus country, Jharkhand is the focus state this year. Veteran Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award. This year's IFFI will showcase six Indian sports biopics (Gold, Mary Kom, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, 1983, MSD: The untold story and Soorma) as an extension of Khelo India initiative.
- 14. Mexican government** has honored Indian academician **Shyama Prasad Ganguly** with "Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca" (Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle).  
**Note:** It is the highest civilian honor given to a foreigner by Mexico. He was awarded for disseminating Spanish language and Mexican culture to strengthen Mexico-India cultural relations. He is first Indian Academician to get this award. He is former professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- 15. Nandita Das** has been honored with the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) award in Brisbane.  
**Note:** Nandita Das started her career as an actor in films like "1947 Earth", "Fire" and "**Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa**". She made her directorial debut with the critically-acclaimed feature "Firaaq".
- 16. Bollywood superstar** has been awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award for contribution to social causes — **Amitabh Bachchan**.  
**Note:** Earlier, N R Narayana Murthy (Infosys co-founder) and Ratan Tata (noted industrialist) have been given the award earlier. In 2013, The Baroda Management Association had instituted the award to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the ruler, known for undertaking major social reform measures during his rule in the early twentieth century.
- 17. Veteran writer Salim Khan** has been honored with the IFFI special award for his lifetime contribution to Indian cinema.  
**Note:** He got cash prize of 10 lakh rupees, a certificate and a shawl at the closing ceremony of International Film Festival of India in Goa.
- 18. Donbass** has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).  
**Note:** The Golden Peacock Award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director (Sergei Loznitsa), Trophy and the citation. Donbass tells the story of a hybrid war taking place in a region of Eastern Ukraine, involving an open armed conflict alongside killings and robberies perpetrated on a mass scale by separatist gangs.
- **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'.
  - **Alberto Monteras II** receives 'Best Debut Feature Film of a Director' for Respeto.
- 19. Indian business tycoon** conferred with the highest French civilian distinction **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur** (Knight of the Legion of Honour) -- **Azim Premji (chairman of Wipro)**.  
**Note:** His economic outreach in France and his laudable contribution to the society as a philanthropist through the Azim Premji Foundation and Azim Premji University. It is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.





## Sports News

1. Sri Lanka's bowling coach **Nuwan Zoysa** has been suspended with immediate effect by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and charged with match-fixing.  
**Note:** Mr Zoysa has 14 days from tomorrow to respond to the charges. Zoysa has been charged with articles which relate to match-fixing and encouraging players to influence results.
2. 19th times World champion has won the second leg of the **Asian Snooker Tour** in Jinan, China -- **Pankaj Advani**.  
**Note:** He has become the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event. Advani delivered a power-packed performance to outclass China's Ju Reti 6-1 in the final.
3. Olympic medallists has been named as the brand ambassador of the upcoming 10th edition of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Women World Championship -- **Mary Kom**.  
**Note:** AIBA Women World Championship is slated to be held from November 15-24 in New Delhi. The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) also unveiled the logo and anthem at the launch of the 2018 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships, to be held at the IG Stadium between November 15 and 24.
4. Former Pakistan captain **Azhar Ali** has announced his retirement from ODI cricket in order to prolong his Test career.  
**Note:** Azhar has been one of Pakistan's most prolific run-scorers in Test cricket as he scored a triple century and a double hundred in Tests in the UAE and Australia in 2016 & 2017. In January 2018, he played his last ODIs against New Zealand.
5. Indian badminton player **Subhankar Dey** has won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany.  
**Note:** He defeated fifth-placed Rajiv Ouseph (Britain), in straight games, 21-11, 21-14. This is Subhankar's first title of 2018. Earlier, he had finished runner-up in the Kabal International tournament at the Czech Republic.
6. **Karen Khachanov** has lifted the Paris Masters Men's Singles Tennis title with a stunning win over Novak Djokovic.  
**Note:** He defeated Djokovic in straight sets, 7-5, 6-4 to end the Serb's 22-match unbeaten run.
7. Former Mumbai medium pacer **Saurabh Netravalkar** has become the captain of the US national cricket team.  
**Note:** Netravalkar had quit the game to study computer science in Cornell University, USA (in 2015). He was India's highest wicket-taker in the team's ill-fated U-19 World Cup campaign in 2010.  
Netravalkar played his only Ranji Trophy game for Mumbai against Karnataka and claimed three wickets.
8. The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to rename Lucknow's Ekana International Stadium (newly-built) in after -- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee (former Prime Minister)**.  
**Note:** The former prime minister was Member of Parliament from Lucknow for five consecutive times between 1991 and 2009.
9. **Angad Vir Singh Bajwa** won the gold medal in the men's skeet final at the 8th Asian Shotgun Championship in Kuwait \_\_\_\_  
**Note:** He became the first Indian skeet shooter to win a continental or world level event.
10. **Kento Momota** has won the badminton's Fuzhou China Open 2018.  
**Note:** World champion Momota defeated the fourth seed Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan 21-13, 11-21, 21-16.
11. **Lewis Hamilton** won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2018.  
**Note:** Lewis Hamilton wins after Max Verstappen collides with Esteban Ocon in Brazil. The win was Hamilton's 10th of the season and 72nd of his career having sewn up a fifth drivers' title two weeks ago.
12. Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** has become number-1 wrestler in the World in 65kg.  
**Note:** Bajrang has won five medals, including CWG and Asian Games gold and a silver at the World Championship, was placed top ranking table with 96 points in the UWW list.
13. Indian mountaineer has become the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe -- **Satyarup Siddhanta**.
14. Australian fast bowler **John Hastings** has retired from all forms of cricket.  
**Note:** He has represented his country in all three formats of the game, revealed last month he was struggling with an illness that causes him to cough up blood whenever he bowls. Hastings made his debut for Australia in one-day and Twenty20 internationals in 2010.
15. **Hima Das** has been chosen as UNICEF's India's Youth Ambassador.  
**Note:** Hima Das made history by becoming India's first ever track and field gold medallist at the IAAF World Championships 2018. She also clinched a gold medal in Women's 4 x 400 m Relay event at the 2018 Asian



- Games. She is the daughter of a farmer from the village of Dhing in Assam's Nagaon district.
- 16. Polish tennis player Agnieszka Radwanska** announced retirement due to health reason.
- Note:** Radwanska, who reached a career-high ranking of second in 2012, complained of health woes last year, including suffering from viruses which she had to fight using antibiotics. She struggled for form in the 2018 season, falling to 75 in the world rankings after starting the year in the top 30.
- 17. The 10th edition of Women's World Boxing Championships** begin in **Delhi**.
- Note:** This tenth edition of the tournament is set to be the biggest ever as more than 300 boxers from 72 countries are taking part. The highlight of 10th edition will be that new countries—Scotland, Malta, Bangladesh, Cayman Islands, DR Congo, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Somalia—are making their debut.
- 18. Former England midfielder Joe Cole** announced his retirement after making more than 700 appearances for seven clubs.
- Note:** Cole made 716 professional appearances, scoring 104 goals for seven clubs and his 56 England caps spanned across three World Cup tournaments. He made his international debut aged 19 when he was earmarked as one of England's brightest young talents at the Hammers.
- 19. Former Australia all-rounder John Hastings** retired from International Cricket.
- Note:** His final international was a one-day match against New Zealand in 2017. Hastings played one Test, 29 ODIs and nine.
- 20. India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani** has won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format.
- Note:** Earlier, He had won in his hometown Bengaluru in 2016 before doing the same in Doha last year.
- 21. Manav Thakkar** settled for a bronze medal in the Under-21 singles category in the International Table Tennis Federation Challenge Belgosstrakh Belarus Open in Minsk, Belarus.
- Note:** Manav lost to Russia's Denis Ivonin in the semifinals to miss out on the gold.
- 22. 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**.
- Note:** The eight host cities will be Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is an Australian sports stadium located in Yarra Park, Melbourne, Victoria.
- 23. The winner of ATP 2018 championship -- Alexander Zverev.**
- Note:** Alexander Zverev (Germany) beat world number one Novak Djokovic 6-4 6-3 to win the ATP Finals. Zverev is the first German to win the title since Boris Becker in Frankfurt in 1995 and the youngest since Djokovic won at the same age in Shanghai in 2008. The 2018 ATP World Tour is the global elite men's professional tennis circuit organised by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for the 2018 tennis season.
- 24. The winner of 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football tournament** at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi -- **Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP)**.
- Note:** BFSP defeated Amini School (Afghanistan) by a solitary goal. A total of 95 teams and 1500 players participated in the tournament, including eight teams from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- 25. India's shuttler Lakshya Sen** has won bronze medal at Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018 at Markham, Canada.
- Note:** This was overall India's fifth boy's singles bronze medal at BWF World Junior Championships. Earlier, RMV Gurusaidutt (2008), B Sai Praneeth (2010), HS Prannoy (2010) and Sameer Verma (2011) have won bronze medal. Siril Verma (2015) is India's only boy's singles silver-medalist at World Junior Championships.
- 27. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced doubling of the ban for age frauds in cricketers sport.
- Note:** Now, any cricketer who is found guilty of tampering his/her date of birth will be disqualified and barred from participating in any BCCI tournament for a period of 2 years. Earlier, a cricketer faced a ban of one year.
- 28. Indian gymnasts Prins Aris & Rejilesh Suribabu** have won two bronze medals in the men's and women's group events of the FIG Acrobatic World Cup in Baku.
- Note:** Russian gymnasts won both the gold and silver.
- 29. Mary Kom** has become the first female boxer to win **6 gold medals** at World C'ships.
- Note:** India's MC Mary Kom (35-year) defeated Hanna Okhota (Ukraine) by 5-0 in the 48kg light flyweight to clinch an unprecedented 6th gold medal at the women's World Championships at the KD Jadav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Mary Kom has become the first female boxer to win six gold medals at world championships. India finished with one gold, one silver (Sonia Chahal) and two bronze medals (Simranjit Kaur and Lovlina Borgohain).



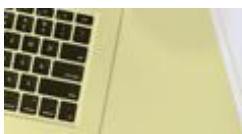
- 30.** India's batting star **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been named as captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI.  
**Note:** A selection panel of ICC has picked up the team based on the players' performances in the tournament. Three players from England and India, two from Australia and one each from Pakistan, New Zealand and the Windies have also been named in the eleven.
- 31. Bhavani Devi** has won the gold medal in the Sabre event in the Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2018 in Canberra, Australia.  
**Note:** She defeated England's Emily Ruaux 15-12 in the final.
- 32.** Ace Indian shuttler **Sameer Verma** has clinched the Men's Singles title of **Syed Modi International Badminton Championships** against Guangzu Lu.  
**Note:** With this win, Verma sealed his spot in the BWF World Tour Finals. Men's doubles pair of Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and women's doubles players Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy also settled for silver in their respective finals.
- 33.** The 19th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in February 2019 in **Monaco**.  
**Note:** The Laureus World Sports Awards (considered 'Oscars of sports') celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year. Last year,

tennis great Roger Federer won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award for a record fifth time. Serena Williams won the Sportswoman of the Year recognition for the fourth time.

- 34. Magnus Carlsen** has won the World Chess Championship title -2018 in London, England.  
**Note:** Norwegian Magnus Carlsen (26-year-old) beat American Fabiano Caruana 3-0 and regain his World Chess Championship title-2018 in London, England. Carlsen won USD 625,000 as the winner, and Caruana received USD 511,400 as the runner-up. The World Chess Championship 2018 organized by the FIDE (commercial partner-Agon) at The College in Holborn, London.
- 35.** The 14th edition of **Men's Hockey World Cup (HWC)** held at the Kalinga Stadium in **Bhubaneswar**.  
**Note:** Around 1,100 artists, star actors Shahrukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit and AR Rahman (music composer) has performed at the ceremony. The 2018 Men's HWC will be the 14th edition of the Hockey World Cup field hockey tournament, scheduled to be held from 28th November to 16th December 2018. Sixteen teams (divided into four groups) will fight for the Men's Hockey World Cup title.

Pool	Teams Names
Pool A	Argentina, New Zealand, Spain, France
Pool B	Australia, England, Ireland, China
Pool C	Belgium, <b>India</b> , Canada, South Africa
Pool D	Netherlands, Germany, Malaysia, Pakistan

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