

**CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (JULY TO OCTOBER 2018)**  
**(FOR IBPS PO & CLERK MAIN EXAMS)**

**NATIONAL**

- Fertiliser major IFFCO announced that it has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'Word Cooperative Monitor' report 2018.
- According to a report named QS Asia University Rankings 2019 by Quacquarelli Symonds, India doubled their presence in the ranking. India has the third largest number of universities and institutes (75), after mainland China (112) and Japan (89).
- According to a report titled 'Nation Brands 2018' released by Brand Finance, India has secured ninth rank out of top 50 valuable national brands.
- India's first engine-less train, "Train 18", developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and seen as a successor to the prestigious Shatabdi Express, was unveiled by Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial on the leader's 143rd birth anniversary in Gujarat's Narmada district. Called the Statue of Unity.
- India will become the world's third largest aviation market around 2024 surpassing the UK, according to global airlines' body International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020.
- Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, has been inaugurated at Mumbai.
- The government has announced 100 crore rupee award for states that would complete the household electrification early under the Saubhagaya scheme.
- Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta has stated that the Ministry will release 7.8 crore rupees for the construction of a textile tourism complex in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
- The country's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 was held in New Delhi.
- The Centre has assured Karnataka government that nearly 450 crore rupees will be reimbursed to it in connection with the expenditure incurred for procuring cereals and coarse cereals.
- The Election Commission has announced the poll schedule for Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.
- Assam launched Asia's first cannisters based Methanol Cooking Fuel Program.
- As many as 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA, adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi.
- Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) for Kolkata City.
- A parliamentary panel headed by Kirit Somaiya will examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears.
- The Union Government constituted a four-member Group of Ministers headed by Rajnath Singh to examine and strengthen the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.
- Odisha government launched the State's own food security scheme to cover the poor people.
- The Government constituted a seven-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.
- In pursuance of its objective of ensuring that Legislation is in sync with the needs of strong economic fundamentals, the Government has constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review the Competition Act. The Committee was headed by Injeti Srinivas.
- ICGS Varuna, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched in Pipavav.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) biggest military manoeuvres since the Cold War was held in Norway.
- India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format.
- India and Japan are all set to hold the first-ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Mizoram.
- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, was held at Simons Town, South Africa.
- Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, Bihar has got official recognition as it receives the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and other adjoining areas in Maharashtra, got a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- The cabinet has approved the new telecom policy, now named National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which aims to attract USD 100 billion investment and create 4 million jobs in the sector by 2022.

- The Supreme Court declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as Constitutionally valid. The Supreme Court ruled that linking the Aadhaar card to PAN card is mandatory and is needed for filing income tax returns. The apex court, however, said Aadhaar is not mandatory for opening bank accounts and linking with existing accounts.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana from Ranchi, Jharkhand. Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health assurance worth five lakh rupees each, every year.
  - The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence.
  - The Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in New Delhi.
  - The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Movement, to boost nationwide public participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and catalyse the fulfilment of Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Clean India.
  - The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) released the report HIV Estimations 2017. As per the report, Maharashtra has the highest number of people living with HIV in India. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were on second and third place, respectively.
  - The Union cabinet approved a proposal for the complete electrification of Indian Railways by 2021-22, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel and saving revenue for the national carrier.
  - The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced the implementation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.
  - The act criminalises any kind of discrimination against people suffering from AIDS in terms of treatment, employment and workplace.
  - The first of its kind university in the country in the transport sector, the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), started operations in Vadodara.
  - The first ever mid-air refuelling of the indigenously developed light combat aircraft Tejas was successfully carried out, placing India in an elite group of countries having air-to-air refuelling capacity for military planes.
  - The Supreme Court abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality.
  - Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders at a function in New Delhi.
  - The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved a proposal by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the wages of artisans by over 36%.
  - The National Nutrition Month (September) is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition.
  - NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant announced that India will shortly unveil a One Nation-One Card policy for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport.
  - India along with 23 other nations participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill which will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states.
  - Rima Das' National Award-winning feature Village Rockstars has been chosen to represent India in the Best Foreign Language category at the 91st Academy Awards next year
  - In order to fight the growing problem of counterfeit drugs in India, NITI Aayog and Oracle signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) to pilot a real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.
- India And UN Signed A Five-Year Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022
- The government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) 2018-2022 outlines the work of UN agencies in India, to support the achievement of key development outcomes that have been identified in consultation with the government and are aligned to the national priorities.
  - BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India.
  - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, exchanged the MoUs with the Tata Trusts and Dell to provide a technological platform for nation wide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
  - The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space signed an MoU for setting up of an state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - Cisco, a U.S.-based firm, that makes networking telecommunications equipment, has signed two agreements with the NITI Aayog and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to speed up its Country Digital Acceleration programme in India.
  - NITI Aayog, Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI).
  - Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the first regional workshop on RERA (Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act) in Pune.
  - Union Minister for HRD Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at New Delhi.

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated India's first Global Mobility summit 'MOVE' in New Delhi.
  - A Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IREE) in association with NITI Aayog concluded in New Delhi.
  - The government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.
  - The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act. This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
  - The third edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - Smart India Hackathon 2019 - was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.
  - India's largest business incubator the Bhamashah Techno Hub was inaugurated in Jaipur.
  - The Supreme Court ruled that the 'None of The Above' (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in the Rajya Sabha elections.
  - With an aim to provide country's poor access to quality and affordable healthcare, government on announced the launch of Ayushman Bharat (now Jan Aarogya Abhiyan) covering 50 crore people.
  - The Statistics from 14 cities across India have been analysed for clean and low carbon mobility and the title reported 'The Urban Commute'
  - Bhopal tops for lowest overall emissions and energy use.
  - Kolkata emits least among six megacities due to high usage of public transport and walking.
  - The Ease of Living Index 2018 was released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Of total 111 cities ranked under the index, Pune has been ranked first while Navi Mumbai has surfaced as the second preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'.
  - India has jumped 22 places to 96th rank to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018. Denmark, with an index value of 0.9150, topped the 2018 E-Government Development Survey.
  - India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran in Rajasthan.
  - Exercise 'Maitree' 2018 is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army which is held in Thailand.
  - Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari signed an MoU with six states for the construction of the Lakhwar multi-purpose project in the upper Yamuna basin to deal with water crisis.
  - The Centre unveiled a draft scheme for extending the affordable air travel programme UDAN to international circuits, with state governments identifying the routes for operation.
  - Government has approved 122 new research projects of 112 crore rupees under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology 'IMPRINT-2' scheme. The initiative aims to advance research in energy.
  - Santhali (Santali), a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a Wikipedia edition in its own script.
  - The Union Government has unlocked green funds worth over Rs.66,000 crore to increase the country's forest cover.
- The Global Innovation Index 2018 was launched in New Delhi by Ratan P Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog. India's rank on the Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018.
- The Global Innovation Index (GII) provides detailed metrics about the innovation performance of 126 countries which represent 90.8% of the world's population and 96.3% of global GDP.
  - The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (in Sikkim) has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserve.
  - The 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill giving constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has got Parliamentary assent.
  - AIBD India has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of two years.
  - Google announced Project Navlekha at its 4th edition of Google for India Event held in New Delhi.
  - Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched the National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application to rate Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
  - NITI Aayog has launched "Pitch to MOVE" - a mobility pitch competition that aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury.
  - The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has rolled out the Smart City projects that will help New Delhi emerge as a world-class city.
  - The Ministry of HRD has embarked on a major and new initiative Project called 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
  - Startup India has launched the Startup Academia Alliance programme, which is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains, to fulfill the Indian Government's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indications (GI) to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the country. The slogan for the GI tag is- 'Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India'.
  - The IT ministry launched a desktop software e-Aksharayan in a conference for Indian Languages Technology Industry 'Bhashantara', in New Delhi.
  - Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1).
  - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for implementation of an umbrella scheme 'Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)'.
  - A National Viral Hepatitis control programme aimed at eliminating the deadly condition by 2030 was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organisation.
  - The government has decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Anil Swarup, to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).
  - The Madhya Pradesh State Government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families.
  - The government has set up a 13-member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation.
  - According to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.
  - According to the Public Affairs Index 2018, Kerala is the best-governed state in the country.
  - Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST and is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country.
  - Andhra Pradesh has been ranked first in the 2018 Ease of Doing Business, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
  - The Indian Railways launched 'Mission Satyanishtha' and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event.
  - The Parliament approved a legislation, fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 to help the government bring back fugitives involved in white-collar crimes to stand trial in India.
  - Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country.
  - India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020).
  - The Telecom Commission has approved the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations that bar service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access.
  - The Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.
- Three Public Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:
1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay,
  2. IIT-Delhi,
  3. IISc Bangalore.
- Three Private Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:
1. Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation (recommended for a letter of intent),
  2. BITS Pilani,
  3. Manipal Academy of Higher Education.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) and Internship (ISCI) program that will provide the youth with an opportunity to experience the aspects of Urban planning and governance.
  - The Union Environment Ministry has issued a notification setting noise standards for all airports across the country. The limits, however, exclude defence aircrafts, and those that are landing and taking off.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Noida and inaugurated the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida, which will be the world's largest mobile factory.
  - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to Rs. 10,000 crore and tasking it to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education or RISE by 2022.
  - Election Commission has launched Android-based mobile application named 'cVigil' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
  - The government has decided to sharply increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops. The MSP for common variety paddy, the most important Kharif crop, will be raised by Rs 200 over last year's Rs 1,550 per quintal.
  - Union minister of chemicals and Fertilisers Ananth Kumar announced that the country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- The Archaeological Survey of India decided to allow photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites.
- Rajya Sabha has, for the first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue. Venkaiah Naidu has become the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign such an agreement when he inked an MOU with the visiting President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza.
- The National Security Guard will be the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up a state-of-the-art Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport to find indigenous solutions to meet the challenges posed by the growing air traffic and for enhancing safety, capacity and efficiency of aircraft operations in the country.
- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'.
- The Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha) has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country with a record number of their nesting sites spotted in it.
- India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$150 million Loan Agreement in New Delhi to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh.
- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed \$240 million loan for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to people of West Bengal.
- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers has been officially opened in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2018 was held in Dubai.
- A Chinese company has tested the 'world's largest' cargo drone Feihong-98 (FH-98) which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1,500kg).
- Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis.
- India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.
- India has been elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council with the highest vote among all candidates.
- Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit between India and Japan was held in Tokyo.
- Second Plenary Session of '2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Primary Health Care was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The first trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran, Iran.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) has started in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- According to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report titled 'Asian Economic Integration Report 2018', most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh.
- The 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicates that the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide falls into the serious category, at a value of 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000. As per the index, India was ranked 103<sup>rd</sup>.
- The World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the World Development Report 2019. Singapore topped the poll after it was highly rated for its universal health care

## INTERNATIONAL

- India and Bangladesh signed several agreements for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity between the two countries for trade and cruise movements.
- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has won an additional \$777 million contract to supply LRSAM air and missile defence systems to seven ships in the Indian navy.
- India and Croatia signed two agreements to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries.
- India and Sri Lanka has signed two MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Sri Lankan rupees.
- India and Azerbaijan have agreed to take measures to enhance bilateral trade relations.
- Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.
- UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation have signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions."
- The government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$110 million loan to finance the upgrade of 2,800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh.

system, education exams results and life expectancy figures. It is followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland. India was ranked at the 115<sup>th</sup> position.

- Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018.
- Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018 in the top 100 brands globally.
- India and Morocco signed an MoU for deepening cooperation between MSME sectors of the two countries in Rabat, Morocco.
- India and Niger signed an MoU for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey, Niger with the Indian government's grant assistance.
- India and Morocco signed the revised Air Services Agreement between the two countries enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement.
- India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU for construction of a 5000-metric ton temperature controlled warehouse in Dambulla, Sri Lanka.
- A Loan Agreement for IBRD Credit of US\$74 million equivalent for the Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP) was signed between India and the World Bank.
- Bangladesh's Cabinet has approved a draft agreement with India to enable New Delhi to use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from northeast India.
- The Delhi government signed an MoU with the Seoul Metropolitan Government to work closely in the fields of environment, tourism, wastewater and solid waste management, infrastructure and public health.

India and France have signed an implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC). Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative which is supported by the French and the German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting.

- The MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities viz. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.
- India and US have signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will facilitate India to obtain critical defence technologies from the US, and access critical communication network to ensure interoperability among the US and the Indian armed forces.
- As per a UN report on the 'state of food security and nutrition in the world', the number of undernourished globally increased to 821 million in 2017, which means that one in every nine people, does not have enough to eat.

- International tourist arrivals hit record high in 2017 with India leading the growth in South Asian region. According to data from the UN's tourism organisation, a total of 1,323 million international tourist arrivals recorded in destinations around the world.
- 'High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis was held at 73rd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at New York'.
- The Global Climate Action Summit 2018 was held at San Francisco, California, United States.
- G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial meeting was held in Argentina
- India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan during which implementation of the Chabahar port project and a host of other issues including ways to deepen counter-terror cooperation were discussed.
- The three-day World Hindu Congress was held in Chicago, the USA.
- India and the US held the first edition of the two-plus-two talks in New Delhi.
- The International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 is being held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The International Aviation Summit was held in New Delhi, India.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) was held in Singapore.
- Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the Fourth International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) at the Netherlands.
- The UN has declared period from 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace.
- Germany has rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train.
- The second edition of Nepal-China joint military exercise (JME) named Mt Everest Friendship Exercise-2018 (Sagarmatha Friendship-2018) commenced in China's southwestern Sichuan province.
- Russia has launched its biggest military exercise since the Cold War named "Vostok-2018", involving about 300,000 service personnel, in eastern Siberia.
- Indian navy ships and aircraft have arrived in Sri Lanka to take part in the joint exercise SLINEX-2018 to be held with Sri Lankan navy at Trincomalee.
- India and Bulgaria sign five pacts on Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, science and technology cooperation and Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University.
- Ukraine has launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with the United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The fourth Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) was held in Colombo to discuss the state of elections and democracy in the region.

- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong chaired the 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Singapore.
- India and Singapore have signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in New Delhi which will boost bilateral trade between the two countries.
- India and Germany have signed an agreement on financial and technical cooperation focusing on sustainable urban development and renewable energy.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2018, the ranking of 140 global cities based on their living conditions. The Top three cities on the list are:
  1. Vienna,
  2. Melbourne,
  3. Osaka
- Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, the latest in 'Peace Mission' series was held at Chebarkul, Russia.
- Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet named 'KOWSAR'.
- The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) at Port Louis in Mauritius.
- The UK government has announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within the Indian-origin communities in the country.
- The Government of India has released 470 million Nepali rupees grant for Terai roads project in Nepal
- The 11th World Hindi Conference has started in Port Louis the capital of Mauritius.
- The 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) was held in Beijing, China.
- India and Uganda signed four MoUs in various fields including the areas of defence, diplomatic ties, cultural exchange and material testing laboratory.
- India and Rwanda signed eight agreements following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali.
- India and Ghana signed two agreements in an effort to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.
- Defence public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed an MoU with Saab, Sweden, recently for jointly marketing the L-Band 3D Air Surveillance Radar, RAWL-03, co-developed by BEL and Saab.
- India signed a revised travel agreement with Bangladesh to ease visa restrictions for citizens from the neighbouring country.
- India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts and tribunals.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended the Global Disability Summit held in London, UK.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting was held at Durban, South Africa.
- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan.
- The UK has topped an annual global ranking of nations' soft power, with France placed second on the list of 30 countries.
- The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57<sup>th</sup> most innovative nation in the world.
- The Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index are:
  1. Switzerland,
  2. The Netherlands,
  3. Sweden.
- The United States has eased export controls for high-technology product sales to India by elevating its status to a Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) country.
- The UN Security Council adopted a resolution 2427, aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.
- The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) which is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to lack of flights would be operated as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture.
- The world's first digital art museum was opened to public in Tokyo, Japan.
- Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in Tokyo.
- Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), thus, becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.

### BANKING AWARENESS

- State Bank of India (SBI) and payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India has entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.
- IDFC Bank proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation

with the non-banking financial company Capital First.

- State Bank of India has signed an MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for the development of human resources of the latter.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) has decided to increase the Refinance Limit from Rs.24,000 crore to Rs.30,000 crore for the Current Year (July 2018-June 2019) towards refinancing eligible institutions.
- The Centre in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19. The Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact trade in eligible instruments. ('Eligible Instruments' shall mean securities, money market instruments, foreign exchange instruments, derivatives, or other instruments of like nature, as may be specified by the RBI).

- As per the norms issued by the central bank ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange. ETP Operator' shall mean an entity authorised by the Reserve Bank to operate an ETP.
- On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), had launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs.5 crore on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of its directives.
- The BRICS' New Development Bank has approved a \$525-million loan for infrastructure projects in India.
- Yes Bank has paid Rs.38 crore in fines to the GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances.
- Insurance regulator IRDAI has raised the minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs.15 lakh for a premium of Rs.750 per annum, a move to provide some assistance to road accident victims.
- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative.
- SEBI approved a slew of proposals, including a revised framework for settlement of cases and new KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors.
- The government has proposed amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, and Dena Bank to create India's 3rd largest globally competitive Bank.

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

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Financial Software and Systems aimed to create payments acceptance network for unorganized retail including small merchants and kirana stores where consumers can make payments.

- FSS a payments technology company to ensure that micro-merchants are able to accept payments over any channel – online, unified payments interface (UPI), quick-response (QR) codes, Aadhaar and IPPB accounts.

The RBI has reviewed the arrangement and issued revised directions under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in the form of 'Internal Ombudsman( IO) Scheme, 2018.

It states that All Scheduled Commercial Banks in India having more than ten banking outlets (excluding Regional Rural Banks), are required to appoint IO in their banks.

- The Banking Ombudsman Scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum for bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
- All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.
- HDFC ERGO, India's third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, announced the launch of 'E@Secure', a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals. This policy aims at providing comprehensive protection to individuals and their families against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned an amount of Rs.335 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. IPPB is the largest payments bank in the country by network size.

- Payments bank can carry out banking operations but can't advance loans or issue credit cards.
- As per the new Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Amendment Rules, 2018, "the undivided area of the single largest piece of the note" for a damaged Rs 2000 note must be 88 square cm for a full refund, and 44 square cm for half refund. The Rs.2000 note is 109.56 square cm in dimension. For a damaged Rs 200 note, the criteria is 78 square cm for a full refund, and 39 square cm for half refund.
- DBS Bank has been named the world's best bank by Global Finance magazine, in a reflection of its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers.



- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that the Department of Financial Services report has rated it as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions.
- Exim Bank of India has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake "collaborative research" in distributed ledger/blockchain technology.
- Axis bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar -based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has entered into a bancassurance deal with Vijaya Bank.

- Bancassurance means selling insurance product through banks. Banks and insurance company come up in a partnership wherein the bank sells the tied insurance company's insurance products to its clients
- PayPal, a digital payments platform has announced its strategic partnership with and HDFC Bank to offer safer, faster and convenient payment experiences for the bank's cardholders.
- Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has launched a new digital platform 'MyDeal' to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to information such as investors' feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer Rs.50,000 crore of its surplus money to the government, the highest since 2015-16.

Mauritius-based SBM Group has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to operate in the country through a wholly-owned subsidiary route. It is the first foreign lender to receive such a licence.

- SBM, which has been in India since 1994, currently operates through four branches, in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ramachandrapuram.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs.772 crore for eight water projects in the rural areas of Haryana.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> Bi-monthly Policy Statement, the Reserve bank of India's (RBI's) monetary policy committee (MPC) raised policy rates by 25 basis points to 6.5% on account of inflationary pressures arising due to hike in minimum support price.

- Reverse Repo- 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate- 6.75%
- Bank rate – 6.75%
- Cash reserve Ratio- 4%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio – 19.5%
- India Banking Conclave 2018 was held in New Delhi. The India Banking Conclave 2018 was organized by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).
- The value of transactions made through mobile wallets touched a record Rs14,632 crore in June, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

Nearly two dozen Banks and Financial Institutions, including SBI and LIC, have signed the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) framework to speed up the resolution of stressed assets which are under the 500-crore rupee bracket.

- The objective of ICA is to resolve stressed assets fast, and will primarily focus on NPAs in the 50 crore to 500 crore bracket.
- The framework is part of the Project SASHAKT, the report on bad bank drafted and submitted by the committee headed by Non-executive Chairman of PNB, Sunil Mehta.
- Federal Bank has received the regulatory nod to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore.
- Jana Small Finance Bank announced the commercial launch of its banking operations, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank (SFB), three years after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its in-principle approval.
- Oxigen and Fincare Small Finance Bank signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxigen's flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxigen Micro ATM Super PoS.

The finance ministry has approved an infusion of Rs.11,336 crore in five state-owned lenders including PNB, Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank to help them meet the regulatory capital requirement.

- Capital requirement is also known as regulatory capital or capital adequacy.
- The capital norms recommend Capital Adequacy ratio (CAR) be increased to 8 per cent internationally, while in India it is 9 per cent. CAR is a ratio of a bank's capital to its risk.
- The board of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has approved the proposal for the insurer to hold a 51% stake in IDBI Bank.
- State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Telangana.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the face of payment instrumentalities like demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments to prevent money laundering.
- HDFC securities announced the launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, Arya.

Airtel Payments Bank has received requisite approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to begin taking new customers.

- The development comes nearly seven months after Airtel, along with Airtel Payments Bank, came under fire for allegedly opening payments bank accounts of its mobile subscribers without their consent.

India has become the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991.
- Headquarters: London UK
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.
- The Reserve Bank of India has announced that the licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar, Rajasthan has been cancelled as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons.
- Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is the most valuable with a market cap of \$353 billion, followed by Bank of America at \$282 billion. There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.
- YES Bank announced that it has received final regulatory approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start mutual fund business.
- ICICI Bank has announced that its mortgage loan portfolio crossed the Rs 1.5-trillion milestone, making it the largest private player in the segment, and the lender is targeting to grow it to Rs 2 trillion by FY20.
- China, UAE, Cyprus and significantly, Mauritius, along with 21 other countries have been tagged as "high-risk jurisdictions" by global banks acting as custodians for foreign funds which comprise the largest group of investors in the Indian stock market.
- The Reserve Bank of India licensed Bank of China to operate in India.
- The Sunil Mehta Committee, set up to look into the faster resolution of stressed assets, has recommended the creation of an asset management company for the resolution of stressed loans worth more than Rs500 crore.

The Lok Sabha passed the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which has the provision of allowing a court trying an offence related to cheque bouncing, to direct the drawer to pay interim compensation to the complainant.

- The interim compensation will not exceed 20% of the cheque amount and will have to be paid by the drawer within 60 days of the trial court's order to pay such a compensation.

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- IBM has acquired software company Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date.
- According to data from the US Department of Labour, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among top 10 firms to get

foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018.

- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.

In a move aimed at promoting digital transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets.

- Currently, a mobile wallet does not allow customers to send or receive money from a wallet run by another company.

TCS became the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing megabanks and insurers.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital from overseas.

- Till now oil marketing companies were not allowed to raise External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) for working capital needs on a long-term basis.

IFC, International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's lending arm, has launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe. These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.

- Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas.

- As per the IMF's latest report, India is projected to grow at 7.3% in 2018 and 7.4% in 2019.

- As per the RBI, India's external debt declined 2.8% to USD 514.4 billion at June-end over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits.

- The Reserve Bank of India has notified that it will inject Rs.40,000 crore through open market operation (OMO) into the system in November through the purchase of government securities.

- The Reserve Bank of India has kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 6.25%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75%. Growth projection for 2018-19 has also been retained at 7.4%.

- The Republic of Seychelles launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.

- According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2018, by World Economic Forum India has been ranked 58<sup>th</sup> most competitive economy. The Top 5 countries on the Index are: US, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, and Japan.

- According to an international survey, India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28<sup>th</sup> in 2018. Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark.

- Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of USD 47.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine. As per the 'Forbes India Rich List 2018', Wipro Chairman Azim Premji has retained the second spot, followed by Lakshmi Mittal.
- According to Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops the chart for state with the maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM).
- India Banking Conclave 2018 was held in New Delhi. The India Banking Conclave 2018 was organized by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).
- The value of transactions made through mobile wallets touched a record Rs14,632 crore in June, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.
- Global research agency Fitch has raised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8 per cent from the earlier 7.4 per cent.
- Inflation based on wholesale prices eased to a four-month low of 4.53% in August on softening of prices of food articles, especially vegetables.

The government has announced an array of steps to check the rising Current Account Deficit (CAD), and the fall in rupee. The steps include removal of withholding tax on rupee-denominated bonds known as Masala bonds issued till March 2019, relaxation for Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), and curbs on non-essential imports.

- The current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of the goods and services it imports exceeds the value of the goods and services it exports.
- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-August 2018-19 (as per the RBI Press Release) are estimated to be USD 221.83 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 20.70% over the same period last year.
- According to the data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), Index of Industrial production (IIP) grew at 6.6% in July on the back of good performance by the manufacturing sector and higher offtake of capital goods and consumer durables.
- The government of India has doubled the monetary limit to 20 lakh rupees for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions.
- Indian economy grew by 8.2% in the first quarter (April-June) of the current fiscal, the highest in over two years.
- India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and health care, according to the first-ever scientific study ranking countries for their levels of human capital. Finland topped the list, followed by Iceland and Denmark.
- India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion. India closely follows China with 159 firms

and the US with 121 firms, according to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' study, published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI).

- The Reserve Bank of India has released its annual report. Due to the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4% from 6.7% in the previous year.
- The government has raised interest rates on Small Savings Schemes (SSS), including National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF) by up to 0.4% for the October-December quarter, in line with rising deposit rates in the banks.
- The Union Cabinet approved new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan, PM-AASHA. The new Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers.
- The Union Government has appointed former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan as the head of the panel that has been tasked with selecting India's next chief economic advisor (CEA).
- The Government has decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts. The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 under the Yojana.

FDI in the telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in the last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-18.

PayU India has received Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to operate its own non-banking financial company (NBFC).

- PayU India is a digital payments firm owned by South Africa's Naspers Ltd.
- Samsung has opened its biggest experience centre Opera House in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The Haryana government signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat with an outlay of over Rs.900 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India has released its annual report in Mumbai. It was mentioned in the report that due to the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4% from 6.7% in the previous year.
- The Indian economy is expected to grow by around 7.5% in 2018 and 2019 as it is largely resilient to external pressures like those from higher oil prices, according to Moody's Investors Service
- Google re-branded its made-in-India Tez app as 'Google Pay'
- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs 8 trillion market capitalization.
- The Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL) announced that Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has

become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform".

- TReDS is an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched BSNL WINGS a VOIP based service. In WINGS, there is no SIM or cable wiring as VOIP is a service through an app.
- State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, according to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.
- Seven Indian companies have been listed in Fortune's 500 list 2018 of world biggest corporations. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is the highest ranked company from India followed by RIL which jumped 55 places. The US-based retail company, Walmart has topped the list.
- In the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, GST council approves cash incentives to promote Digital transactions. Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announces 20% Cashback upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay or USSD mode.
- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) constituted a group of experts from the health and nutrition sector to look into the issue of food labelling.
- The World Bank launched 'bond-i', the world's first bond to be created, allocated, transferred and managed by using distributed ledger technology.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has now integrated its Mobile Apps namely DND 2.0 & MyCall with UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) Platform.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$346 million loan to finance improvement of over 400 kilometers of state highways that will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.
- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has given final approval to the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular.
- World Bank Group member IFC (International Finance Corporation) has invested \$100 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance).
- The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has Motif of "RANI KI VAV" on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
- According to the data of the commerce and industry ministry, India's wholesale inflation grew 5.77% in June, a four-and-half-year high, driven by some food items and fuel price.
- Invest India and the UAE Minister for Artificial Intelligence (AI) signed an MoU for India - UAE Artificial Intelligence Bridge in New Delhi.
- Invest India and Business France have signed an MoU to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France.
- A Statement of Intent (Sol) was signed between NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme.
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has entered into a partnership with search engine giant Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools.
- Microsoft has signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year.
- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has entered into an agreement with the Bombay Metal Exchange (BME) for the growth and systematic development of commodity derivatives markets in the non-ferrous metals complex.
- With a view to resolve the stress and revive such assets, the Government has decided to set up a High-Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary, Pradeep Kumar Sinha with representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and the lenders having major exposure to the power sector.
- Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. IRDAI Member P.J. Joseph has been appointed as the Chairman of the committee.
- The Union Government has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 250.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 10 Member Committee, headed by the Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs Mr Injeti Srinivas, for review of the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points to 7.3% in the year 2018 and by 30 basis points to 7.5% in 2019.
- India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.
- According to the study titled 'The start of a new poverty narrative' and published in the Brookings' Nigeria has already overtaken India as the

country with the largest number of extreme poor in early 2018.

- The law commission recommended that gambling and betting on sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

## ENVIRONMENT

- According to recently released Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) scientists has developed less polluting green firecrackers named SWAS, SAFAL, STAR.
- International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held at Bangaram Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- UN-backed fund Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US \$43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India's coastal communities as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change.
- National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna.
- Nepal become first country in the world to double its tiger population in a decade as part of World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme which aims to double number of tigers in the world all over the world by 2022.
- Tamil Nadu government has announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji plants that flower only once in 12 years.
- India has contributed \$1 million to United Nations (UN) Headquarters' Solar Project, under which solar panels will be installed on roof of world body's headquarters at New York, US.
- Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on eve of World Ozone Day (16th September) released draft India Cooling Action Plan. It makes India first country in world to develop such document.
- According to recent study conducted by IIT-Kharagpur, River Ganga has witnessed unprecedented low levels of water in several lower reaches in last few summer seasons.
- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), one of India's premier avian research institutes, will start operating its first regional centre or avifauna observatory in Odisha.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has banned import of petcoke for use as fuel.
- Supreme Court has accepted Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) proposal to use hologram-based coloured stickers on vehicle plying in Delhi NCR.
- India (Union Ministry of Agriculture) has written to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations (UN) proposing declaration of year 2019 as "International Year of Millets"
- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified rules for utilisation of more than Rs 66,000 crore afforestation funds by states/UTs and for setting up authorities to monitor its use for afforestation and conservation.
- National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telanagana.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) had organised Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan in five main Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has entered into partnership with search engine giant Google to monitor impacts of human activity on global ecosystems.
- According to recent study published international journal Ecological Engineering, climate change is threatening the Nilgiri tahr,. It is estimated that endangered wild goat could lose approximately 60% of its habitat, starting from 2030s.
- According to recent study, if Indian farmers make big switch from growing rice and wheat to alternative cereals such as maize, sorghum and millet, it could reduce demand for irrigation water by 33%.
- The standing committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently added four species- Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda into Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot– Ask Disha ((Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime) to help its users answer various queries.
- Scientists from US claimed that they have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.
- Scientists at Rice University in the US have developed tiny spheres that can catch and destroy bisphenol A (BPA), a synthetic chemical used to make plastics that often contaminates water.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to work together for first manned space mission Gaganyaan.

- NASA's Parker Solar Probe has successfully completed flyby of Venus at distance of about 2,415 kilometres during its first gravity assist from planet.
- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) landed a pair of rovers on an asteroid, marking the world's first moving, robotic observation of an asteroid surface.
- India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast, achieving a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.
- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated ISRO's first Space Technology Incubation Centre (STIC) at the National Institute of Technology Agartala.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched PSLV C 42 with two British earth observation satellites NovaSAR and S1-4 in precision from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- NASA launched its Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2, known as ICESat-2, which will use an extremely precise laser to collect measurement data to track the Earth's shrinking polar ice.
- Indigenously developed weapon system Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), was successfully flight tested for the second time from the Ahmednagar range, Maharashtra.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar' from launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore, Odisha.
- The India Air Force successfully test fired the indigenously developed Beyond Visual range Air-to-Air Missile Astra from a Su-30 aircraft.
- India's first first-ever environment friendly biofuel powered flight between Dehradun and Delhi was propelled by blend of oil from jatropha seeds and aviation turbine fuel.
- European Space Agency (ESA) has successfully launched wind-sensing satellite named Aeolus.
- Tokyo 2020 will be first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues.
- The world's first-ever thermal battery plant owned by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST) was inaugurated in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed first of family of six industry-standard microprocessors under Project Shakti.
- Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first block chain.
- Facebook has launched "Digital Literacy Library" to help young people build skills they need to safely enjoy online technology.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) unveiled details of its first indigenous human space mission dubbed as Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022.
- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued advisory to all states and Union Territories to not allow manufacture, sale and advertisement of e-and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).
- Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.
- NASA's 'Parker Solar Probe' will travel directly into the Sun's atmosphere, about four million miles from its surface, and more than seven times closer than any spacecraft has come before.
- Facebook has confirmed it is working on a new satellite project, named Athena, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out a flight test named 'Pad Abort Test' for a newly-designed Crew Escape System. It is meant for saving lives of astronauts in an exigency.
- India's supersonic cruise missile (SCM) BrahMos was test fired from Odisha's Chandipur range launch pad under extreme conditions.
- India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up in Kota, Rajasthan.
- Scientists have developed world's fastest rotor, which will help in studying quantum mechanics. The rotor can spin at more than 60 billion revolutions.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System— SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting at Chandni Chowk in Delhi).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has developed TreadWill, an online tool to help people cope with issues related to mental health.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras has commissioned remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope.
- BSNL through its mobile app 'Wings' launched India's first internet telephony service.

### PERSONS IN NEWS

- Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Brazil's presidential election.
- Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime minister of Sri Lanka.
- Ethiopia appointed diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde as its first-ever female President.
- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as its new Managing Director and CEO
- JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal was elected as the Treasurer of the World Steel Association.

- Online financial services marketplace BankBazaar has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor (DG) S S Mundra as an advisor to the company.
  - Nimesh Shah, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, has been elected as Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
  - Priyank Kanoongo appointed to the post of Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
  - Tushar Mehta has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India.
  - The government has appointed Pravin Srivastava, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as the Chief Statistician of India.
  - IDBI Bank has announced that Rakesh Sharma has taken charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank.
  - The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been appointed the chairman of the working committee and director on the board by the international industry body–World Federation of Exchanges
  - Sanjay Verma, has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Spain.
  - Pankaj Sharma has been appointed the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - Iraq's Parliament has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician Barham Salih as the country's new President.
  - Justice Ranjan Gogoi has sworn-in as new Chief Justice of India.
  - The Centre has appointed former IAS officer Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
  - India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath has been appointed as the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by IMF's Managing Director Christine Lagarde.
  - Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi has passed away recently.
  - Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas has been appointed the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
  - Tajinder Mukherjee has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Insurance Company Limited (NICL).
  - Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - State Bank of India announced that Prashant Kumar has taken charge as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Bank.
  - Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become Sudan's new Prime Minister.
  - The President of India has appointed Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the next Chief Justice of India.
  - HDFC Life appointed Vibha Padalkar as its new managing director and CEO for a period of three years
  - India's ace sprinter Hima Das was appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam to inspire budding players of northeastern state to aim big and young generation to take up sports seriously.
  - Axis Bank announced that Amitabh Chaudhry has been appointed as its managing director & CEO.
  - Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) roped in Indian boxer MC Mary Kom as its brand ambassador for two years.
  - India retained the top WHO position in South-East Asia Region with Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
  - Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi was elected as the 13th President of Pakistan.
  - WPP Plc, the world's largest communication services group, announced the appointment of Mark Read as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director .
  - Binoy Kumar has taken over as Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
- The government of India cleared the appointment of Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors (CEOs and MDs) at 10 Public Sector Banks.
1. Padmaja Chundru - Indian Bank.
  2. Mrutyunjay Mahapatra - Syndicate Bank.
  3. Pallav Mohapatra - Central Bank of India.
  4. Packirisamy - Andhra Bank.
  5. Karnam Sekar - Dena Bank.
  6. SS Mallikarajuna Rao - Allahabad Bank
  7. AS Rajeev - Bank of Maharashtra
  8. Atul Kumar Goel - UCO Bank
  9. S Harisankar - Punjab & Sind Bank
  10. Ashok Kumar Pradhan - United Bank of India
  11. Mukesh Ambani, chairman of India's second-most valued firm 'Reliance Industries', has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the seventh consecutive year, with the total net worth of INR 371,000 crore.
- Dr G Satheesh Reddy, appointed as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Secretary in Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D).
- Uday Kumar Varma has been appointed as Secretary General of Assocham.
  - Scott Morrison has been elected the new Prime Minister of Australia.
  - S S Mundra has been appointed as Independent Director on the Board of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd
  - Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected for a five-year term.
  - Mario Abdo Benitez was sworn in as the new President of Paraguay for a five-year term.

- The United Nations announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to be the UN's new human rights chief.
  - Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman with 125 votes.
  - Ivan Duque was sworn in as the newly elected President of Colombia.
  - S Gopakumar was appointed Director and General Manager of United India Insurance.
  - The nominating committee of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has selected Ajay Data, as a new council member of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO). He is the first Indian to have been selected as a member of ccNSO.
  - Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa won the country's landmark election in Zimbabwe.
  - Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan have made it to the Forbes' list of World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018, which was topped by George Clooney. Akshay and Salman made it to spot seven and nine, respectively.
  - Serena Williams (with earnings of \$18.1 million) was the highest paid female athlete for a third consecutive year in 2018, according to "List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes 2018" published by Forbes
  - Smitha V. Crishna, a third-generation heir of the Godrej family, ranks first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women 2018 list with an estimated wealth of Rs.37,570 crore.
  - BBC History Magazine conducted a reader's poll of 100 women who changed the world. In this poll, Marie Curie has been voted the woman who made the most significant impact on world history.
  - Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan took oath as Pakistan's new prime minister.
  - Film actor Akshay Kumar was appointed ambassador for road safety by Union Minister for Road transport.
  - Balesh Sharma takes over as Vodafone Idea's first CEO.
  - Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has passed away aged 93 in Delhi. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was three times Prime Minister of India.
  - Surendra Roshia was appointed Chief Executive Officer for HSBC India.
  - Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Saran Singh is set to be named the Chef de Mission of the Asian Games-bound Indian contingent.
  - Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was given the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh by President Ram Nath Kovind.
  - Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited has appointed T Latha as the Managing Director and CEO.
  - Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired from the Supreme Court of India has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
  - Payments Council of India (PCI), an apex body representing the companies in the payments and settlement system, has announced the appointment of Vishwas Patel, CEO of Infibeam Avenues, as its new chairman.
  - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed a veteran Uruguayan Army official Major General José Eladio Alcain as head of the United Nations mission tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan.
  - Uttam Dhillon, an Indian-American top White House lawyer, has been appointed as the new head of the crucial Drug Enforcement Agency that combats the smuggling and use of narcotics in the US.
  - Saraswati Prasad has taken over the additional charge as chairman and managing director of steel PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
  - Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been elected as Mexico's President.
  - Janardan Singh Gehlot was elected the president of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) for the next four years.
- Four persons of India-origin, including three women, have been named by Fortune among 40 of the most influential and inspiring young people in business under the age of 40.
1. Dhivya Suryadevara (4th), CFO of General Motors
  2. Anjali Sud (14th), CEO of Vimeo
  3. Baiju Bhatt (24th), Cofounder and Co-CEO of Robinhood
  4. Anu Duggal (32nd), founding partner of Female Founders Fund.
- Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.

## AWARDS

- Prof. MS Swaminathan, chief architect of India's Green Revolution was awarded the World Agriculture Prize for 2018.
- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence, received the prestigious 'Top Challengers Award 2018' for the excellent performance during the financial year 2017-18.
- Prof Ashis Mukherjee, a senior faculty member of the prestigious Tezpur University was awarded the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018).
- India has won the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award, 2018.



- The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 is being conferred on the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (For 2014); Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh, for 2015) and on one of India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar (for 2016).
  - Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the 2018 UN Human Rights Prize along with three other winners. Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.
  - The 'Invest India' initiative of the Union Government won the top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India.
  - The Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an annual award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces for commendable contributions in disaster relief operations.
  - Minal Patel Davis won the US' Presidential Medal for her work against sex slavery and labor exploitation at a White House ceremony/
  - Union Minister Piyush Goyal will receive the prestigious Carnot Prize from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his work for rural electrification.
  - Suheil F. Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development.
  - Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famous as 'Khayyam', has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
  - Northern Irish author Anna Burns has won the 2018 Man Booker Prize for her novel 'Milkman'.
  - Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten has been awarded the most prestigious prizes in photography, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018.
  - Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), was awarded the 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship.
  - Sikkim won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100% organic state.
  - Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won the Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in the world to achieve this.
  - Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.
  - The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The 2018 Nobel Prize were announced recently in 5 different fields viz. Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Peace, and Economic Sciences. This is for the first time that no Literature Prize was given in 70 years because of a MeToo scandal.
- Physiology or Medicine - James P Allison and Tasaku Honjo were awarded for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.
  - Physics - Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou Donna Strickland were awarded for ground breaking inventions in the field of laser physics
  - Chemistry-1) Frances H. Arnold was awarded for the directed evolution of enzymes 2) George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter were awarded for the phage display of peptides and antibodies"
  - Peace- Denis Mukwege, Nadia Murad were awarded for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.
  - Economic Sciences- 1)William D. Nordhaus was awarded for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis. 2) Paul M. Romer was awarded for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with United Nations' highest environmental award-UNEP Champions of the Earth, along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour, for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single use plastic by 2022.
  - All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for eight long months.
  - Chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., Dr. Raghupati Singhania has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico.
  - National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year.
  - Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2018: S. Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting), Virat Kohli (Cricket).
  - Kerala Tourism has won two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns.

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) bagged the "Rajbhasha Kirti" award for outstanding performance in implementing the Official Language Policy during 2017-18.
- Actress Aishwarya Rai was honoured with the Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award.
- Odia poet Satrugna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad'.
- Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the Game Changer of the Year award by a global cultural organisation Asia Society in recognition of her business achievement.
- Former England captain David Beckham will receive the UEFA President's Award for his contribution to football and promoting the sport in "every corner of the planet".
- Delhi government's additional director of health, SK Arora was awarded prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
- The United States government has awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired), of the Indian Army.
- Three US scientists James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg were declared winners 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.
- Indian-American high school student Avi Goel has won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which was held in Berlin, Germany.
- Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math.
- The other three winners are: Caucher Birkar; Germany's Peter Scholze, and Alessio Figalli, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich.
- Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was awarded the INFRA Icon Award in the 'Global Energy' category at the mid-day INFRA Icons Awards 2018.
- Mohun Bagan 'Ratna', the highest honour of Mohun Bagan club was awarded to former India international Pradip Chowdhury at its foundation day programme.
- Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among six who have been declared winners of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award, referred to as Asian version of the Nobel Prize. There are Youk Chhang (Cambodia), Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz (East Timor), Howard Dee (Philippines) and Vo Thi Hoang Yen (Vietnam).
- Repco Micro Finance Ltd, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repco Bank, received

Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.

- Michael Ondaatje's bestselling novel 'The English Patient' was announced as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize.
- Anjolie Ela Menon had received the National Kalidas Samman in Delhi for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.
- Former captains Rahul Dravid of India, Ricky Ponting of Australia and retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018.

## SPORTS

- Roger Federer won his 99th career title after winning the Basel Open for the ninth time in his career.
- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club.
- In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.
- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.
- In Wrestling World Championships, Pooja Dhanda won a bronze medal in the women's freestyle 57kg weight class in Budapest, Hungary.
- Wrestler Bajrang Punia won the silver medal after defeating Japan's Takuto Otoguro in the 65kg final of the Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- India captain Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI cricket, achieving the feat in his 205th innings, against Windies.
- Mumbai has defeated Delhi by four wickets to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
- Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sports, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million with streaming service DAZN.
- In Hockey, Great Britain lifted the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup. Great Britain defeated India in the final.
- Leander Paes has won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.

Youth Olympics: 2018 Youth Olympics was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Suraj Panwar won silver medal in the men's 5000m race walk event.
- Akash Malik won silver medal in archery.
- Saurabh Chaudhary has bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-meter air pistol.
- shooter Manu Bhaker has become the first-ever Indian woman to win gold at Youth Olympics.

- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga has become India's first-ever gold medallist in the history of Youth Olympic Games
- The International Olympics Committee (IOC) has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal.
- The third Asian Para Games took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games by ending the 2018 edition with 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze medals). China were at the top of the medal tally with 172 gold and total 319 medals.
- Indian under-19 cricket team has defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs in the summit clash of the 2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Prithvi Shaw has become the youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut, achieving the feat aged 18 years and 329 days against Windies in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting defeated Japan's Kento Momota to take the Men's singles china Open title in Changzhou. Spain's Carolina Marin defeated China's Chen Yufei to take the women's singles title.
- India won silver medal after losing to Pakistan in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship. Pankaj Advani and Malkeet Singh represented India while Babar Masih and Mohammad Asif were from the Pakistani side.
- India will host the 2018 Women's Boxing World Championship.
- The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) confirmed that Hangzhou in China will host the fourth edition of Asian Para Games in 2022.
- Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix at Marina Bay Street Circuit, in Singapore.
- Japan Open:
- Men's Singles: Kento Momota (Winner) Khosit Phetpradab (Runner)
- Women's Singles: Carolina Marin(Winner) Nozomi Okuhara( Runner)
- Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin (Germany), smashing the previous best as he clocked 2 hours 1 minute 39 second.
- M C Mary Kom clinched her third gold medal in 48 kg category, while Jyoti Gulia picked up the country's lone gold in 51 kg of the youth category of the Silesian Open boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice, Poland.
- Maldives won the 2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup defeating India.
- Udhayveer Singh has won an individual Gold Medal in Junior Men's 25 metre pistol event in the World Shooting Championships in South Korea.
- US open:
- Men's Singles: Novak Djokovic( winner) Juan Martin del Potr( Runner)
- Women's Singles: Naomi Osaka ( winner) Serena Williams ( runner)
- Triple jumper Arpinder Singh has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup.
- Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the ISSF World Championship.
- Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2017-18.
- Indian shooter Hriday Hazarika notched up a gold medal in the 10 m air rifle junior men's event of the ISSF World Championships in South Korea.
- England's highest Test run-scorer Alastair Cook announced his retirement from International cricket after final Test against India.
- Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela have become the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the 2020 Olympics.
- Japanese swimmer Ikee Rikako has been named as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the recently-concluded 18th edition of the Asian Games.
- India's 22-year-old boxer Amit Panghal defeated Hasanboy Dusmatov in the men's 49kg final to bag gold at the Asian Games 2018.
- India's 60-year-old Pranab Bardhan and 56-year-old Shibnath Sarkar won the men's pair bridge event to bag the country's first-ever gold in bridge at the Asian Games.
- Luka Modric broke a decade of award dominance by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi after being crowned world footballer of the year by FIFA.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of Asian Games were being held in Jakarta Palembang, Indonesia
- Arpinder Singh won a gold in triple jump at the Asian Games with an effort of 16.77m.
- Swapna Barman created history by becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold in Indonesia.
- India's sprinter Manjit Singh won the gold medal in the men's 800m event at the 2018 Asian Games.
- PV Sindhu won first-ever silver medal for India in badminton at Asian Games.
- Neeraj Chopra became the first-ever Indian javelin thrower to win a gold medal at the Asian Games.
- Hima Das won the Silver medal in 400-meter race. Dutee Chand also bagged silver medal in women's 100 meter race.
- Tejinder Pal Singh Toor wins the Gold medal in Men's Shot Put.
- Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won their maiden men's tennis doubles gold medal .
- Shooter Rahi Sarnobat won the women's 25m Pistol event.
- Vinesh Phogat, first Indian Woman Wrestler to bag Gold at Asian Games
- India won gold in the women's 4X400 metre event. India clinched the silver medal in the men's 4X400 metre event.
- India's Jinson Johnson claimed the gold medal in the men's 1500m event.

- Bajrang Punia won gold medal at wrestling in Men's Freestyle 65.
- India defeated Bangladesh in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship in Thimpu, Bhutan.
- Teen cyclist Esow Alben has created history by claiming India's first ever medal – a silver- at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland.
- Indian golfer Viraj Madappa became the youngest Indian to win the Asian Tour title.
- Rafael Nadal clinched his fourth Canadian Masters 1000 title at the Rogers Cup in Toronto. He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas.
- The 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will be held in the North Korean capital Pyongyang.
- The U-20 Japan Women's National Team won against the Spain at the final of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018.
- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Roger Federer (Switzerland) at the 2018 Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati.
- The Indian women chess team at the Asian Nations Cup 2018 clinched the gold in the Blitz event held in Iran.
- Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his maiden European Tour title at the Fiji International in Natadola Bay.
- Netherlands won 2018 women's hockey World Cup defeating Ireland.
- World Badminton Championships 2018
- Men's Singles: Kento Momota (winner), Shi Yuqi (Runner)
- Women's Singles: Carolina Marin (winner) P. V. Sindhu (runner).
- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the Hungarian Grand Prix for the 6th time, at the Hungaroring circuit, in Hungary.
- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland.
- Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy defeating Japan's Koki Watanabe.
- In Wrestling, Bajrang Punia has won his second consecutive international gold medal at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Indian driver Jehan Daruvala won the FIA Formula 3 European Championship in Belgium.
- The Indian women's compound archery team created history by scaling to the top of the world rankings in the recently published chart.
- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that the rate of pension for sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions and have retired from active sports has been doubled.
- According to the revised rates, Olympic and Para Olympic medallists will get a sum of Rs 20,000 per month each, while gold medallists at World Cups and World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will receive Rs 16,000 per month.
- Lewis Hamilton won the German Grand Prix 2018 held at Hockenheimring track in Germany.
- The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee officially launched its Olympic mascots 'Miraitowa' and Paralympic mascot 'Someity' at a ceremony.
- Sprinter Muhammed Anas Yahya once again entered the record books as he broke his own national record to win the 400 metres race at the Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji meet in the Czech Republic.
- Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen bagged the gold medal after defeating Indonesia's top-seeded Kunlavut Vitidsaran in the final match of the Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- India won 8 medals in the two day Junior Asian Wrestling Championship which concluded in New Delhi. The medals comprised 2 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze. Sachin Rathi won the gold after winning the bout in the 74-kilogram category. Deepak Punia then won the gold in the 86 kilogram category.
- Alisson Becker of Brazil has become the World's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has added seven medal events to the 2022 Beijing Winter Games. The next Winter Olympics will now include: women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerobics and snowboard cross.
- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has clinched a gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics Meet in France.
- Honda's Marc Marquez (of Spain) cruised to his ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory to extend his MotoGP lead.
- Nozomi Okuhara of Japan has won the Thailand Grand Prix defeating P V Sindhu.
- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, conceding just one point in five bouts en route to the title victory in the women's 50kg freestyle category
- Indian boxers ruled the ring at the 36th Golden Glove of Vojvodina youth tournament, ending with seven gold medals to claim the overall top spot in the event in Subotica, Serbia.

#### FIFA 2018

France won the FIFA world cup 2018 defeating Croatia.

- Golden Ball Award: Croatian captain Luka Modric
- Golden Glove Award: Belgium's Thibaut Courtois won the Golden Glove award for the best goalkeeper
- Young Player Award: France's Kylian Mbappe
- Fairplay Award: Spain was awarded the Fairplay Award for being the most disciplined team in the tournament.
- Man of the Match in Final: Antoine Griezmann (France).

The 2018 Wimbledon Championships is a Grand Slam tennis tournament which takes place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom.

- Men's Singles : Novak Djokovic ( Winner)  
Kevin Anderson ( Runner)
- Women's Singles : Angelique Kerber ( Winner)  
Serena Williams( Runner)
- Hima Das created history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman to win an athletics gold on the international stage.
- India has bagged four medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei, Taiwan.
- India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched a gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin in Turkey.
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been renamed as Sports India.
- Australia has won the 2018 Hockey Champions Trophy defeating India.
- Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events.
- Major General VD Dogra became the first serving Indian Army officer and the only General across the world to have completed a gruelling 'Ironman' competition held in Austria.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

- October 1- World Habitat Day
- International Day of Older Persons
- October 2 – International Day of Non Violence
- October 4- World Animal Day
- October 5- World Teachers Day
- October 8- Indian Air Force Day
- October 9- World Post Day
- October 10- World Mental Health Day
- October 11- International Day of Girl Child
- October 13- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
- October 15-International Day of Rural Women
- October 16- World Food Day
- October 17- International Day for Eradication of Poverty
- October 24- United Nations Day
- World Development Information Day
- October 27 – World Day for Audio Visual Heritage
- October 31- National Unity Day
- September 5 – International Day of Charity
- September 8- International Literacy Day
- September 10- World Suicide Prevention Day
- September 12 – United Nations Day for South South Co-operation
- September 14 – Hindi Diwas
- September 15- National Engineers Day
- September 16 - International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer

- September 5 – International Day of Charity
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- September 12 – United Nations Day for South South Co-operation
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- September 15- National Engineers Day
- September 16 - International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer
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- September 21 – International Day of Peace
- September 23 – International Day of Sign Languages
- September 26 – International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- September 27 – World Tourism Day
- ( Last Thursday of September) – World Maritime Day
- September 28- International Day for Universal Access to Information
- September 28 – World Rabies Day
- September 29 – World Heart Day
- September 30 – International Translation Day
- August 7 – National Handloom day
- August 9 – International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- August 10- World Biofuel Day
- August 12- International youth Day
- August 19- World Humanitarian Day
- August 21- International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the victims of terrorism
- August 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of the slave Trade and its Abolition
- August 29 – International day Against Nuclear Tests
- National sports Day
- August 30 – International Day of the victims of Enforced Disappearance
- July 1 – Goods and Services Tax Day
- July 7(first Saturday of July) – International Day of Co-operatives
- July 12- NABARD Foundation Day
- July 15- World Youth Skills Day
- July 18- Nelson Mandela International Day
- July 28 – World Hepatitis Day
- July 29 – International Tiger Day
- July 30 – International Day of Friendship
- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior- Rima Hooja
- 'Building a Legacy, biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems and construction techniques in the Indian construction sector was authored by V Pattabhi Ram.
- The Rule Breakers – Preeti Shenoy

- Washington Black – Esi Edugyan
- Treasured Epistles – K Natwar Singh
- Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is the book on the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi.
- VVS Laxman, has penned down his autobiography titled, "281 and Beyond".
- Spin legend Shane Warne will talk about his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography titled 'No Spin'
- Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948) – Ramachandra Guha
- Winning Like Saurav : Think and Succeed like Ganguly - Abhirup Bhattacharya
- India Moving: A History of Migration – Chinmay Tumbe

**Thank You!**

