



Monthly GK Digest

September 2018



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Monthly Digest September -2018

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Indian economy grew in the first quarter of the current fiscal -- **8.2%**.
Note: Manufacturing sector grew by 13.5 percent which signals very good turnaround in the sector. The construction sector also grew robustly at about 8.99 per cent. Non-food credit growth in the system accelerated to 10.6% for July as compared to previous year, driven by loans to the services sector growing at the faster clip.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in **New Delhi**.
Note: 650 branches of the bank along with 3250 customer access points are operational across the country from September 2018. The government aims to link all the 1.55 lakh post offices to the India Post Payments Bank system by 31st December 2018. The Bank will offer a range of products such as savings and current accounts, money transfer, bill and utility payments and merchant payments.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Rajasthan-based Co-operative Bank as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects -- **Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank**.
Note: The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The bank is not in position to pay its present and future depositors in full as and when their claims accrue.
4. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has increased its benchmark lending rate or MCLR (Marginal Cost of funds based Lending rate) by 0.2% with immediate effect.
Note: SBI has increased the lending rate by 20 basis points across all tenors up to three years. Now SBI's overnight and one-month tenor marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) stands at 8.1% as against 7.9%. The marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) refers to the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI.
5. According to RBI's latest annual report for 2017-18, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has bought how many tonnes of gold in financial year 2017-18 -- **8.46 tonne**.
Note: The RBI held 566.23 tonne of gold (as on June 30, 2018), compared with 557.77 tonne (as on June 30, 2017). Earlier, RBI purchased gold in November 2009, when it had bought 200 tonnes of yellow metal from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
6. The union 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**.
Note: Now, the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana. The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years (earlier 18 to 60 years). Accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakhs. Around 32.41 crore accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana with more than 81 thousand 200 crore rupees of deposit balance. More than 7.5 crore Jan Dhan accounts are receiving Direct Benefit Transfer.
7. India's HDFC ERGO has announced the launch of a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals -- **E@Secure**.
Note: HDFC ERGO's E@Secure Insurance policy offers comprehensive protection against cyber risks and frauds carried out from any device and from any location worldwide. Various cyber risks such as unauthorized online transactions, phishing and email spoofing, e-extortion, identity theft, damage to e-reputation and cyber-bullying are covered by the policy.
8. Who will set the timeline to reduce LIC's shareholding in IDBI Bank from 51% to 15% -- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.



- Note:** This move will take place only after looking at LIC's business plan post-acquisition of 51 per cent in debt-ridden IDBI Bank. LIC holds 7.98 % in IDBI bank and is in process of increasing its stake to 51 %, which would help it enter the banking space. Currently, the permissible limit for insurance companies to hold stake in any listed entity is 15 %.
9. Retail inflation fell to a 10-month low in August on the back of easing prices of fruits, vegetables and other food items -- **3.69%**.
Note: The Consumer Price Index based inflation was at 4.17 per cent in July. According to the data of the Central Statistics Office, inflation in the food basket fell significantly to 0.29 per cent in August as against 1.37 per cent in the previous month. Retail inflation means the increase in prices of certain products or commodities compared to a base price.
10. According to data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), The factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production grew in July 2018 -- **6.6%**.
Note: This growth was on the back of good performance by manufacturing sector and higher offtake of capital goods and consumer durables.
11. The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has mandatory for unlisted public companies to issue new shares or transfer of all shares in dematerialised or demat (i.e. in electronic form) form -- **2nd October 2018**.
Note: With this, major benefits of dematerialization of securities will now be available to unlisted Public companies.
12. **IPPB** ties up with FSS (Financial Software and Systems) to create payments network for unorganized retail.
Note: 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.
13. The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a committee, headed by former Reserve Bank of India governor **Bimal Jalan** to select the next Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
Note: The CEA is under the direct charge of the Minister of Finance and is the ex-officio cadre controlling authority of the Indian Economic Service (IES).
14. The **Reserve Bank of India** has released new guidelines through a gazette notification for all notes which were introduced post note ban.
- Note:** With this, the RBI has ended the lack of clarity over the exchange of the Rs 2000 or Rs 200 currency notes, introduced post demonetization.
15. According to Union government, banks will be merged to create the country's third largest lender -- **Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank**.
Note: The merger will make the banks stronger and sustainable as well as increase their lending ability.
16. **PayU India** has received Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to operate its own non-banking financial company (NBFC).
Note: It will help PayU promote inclusive growth in the country by catering to the diverse financial needs of various segments of the society. The approval from the central bank is subject to "certain pending RBI compliance".
17. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd (BALIC)** have entered into a strategic partnership to provide life insurance solutions.
Note: This partnership will leverage IPPB's last mile reach for building awareness about life insurance. The products will be first available across IPPB's network of 3,250 access points, gradually expanding to 155,000 post offices across India.
18. **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.
Note: 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 ESIC also approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses from existing 10 thousand rupees to 15 thousand rupees being paid on the death of Insured Person.
19. The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has bagged the 'Rajbhasha Kirti' award for outstanding performance in implementing the Official Language Policy during 2017-18.
Note: The award was presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu to PNB Chief Executive and MD Sunil Mehta. Under the category of 'Nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions in Region A'.
20. **Federal Bank** has executed MoU (memorandum of understanding) with Infopark Kakkanad for leasing space in their campus.
Note: The Bank has already obtained in principle approval of the Reserve Bank of India for the creation of



a subsidiary company. The proposed company will integrate and handle all the back-end operations of the Bank.

- 21. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued revised **Know Your client (KYC)** norms, providing relief to foreign portfolio investors (FPI).
- Note:** Under new norms residents as well as non-resident Indians have been permitted to hold a non-controlling stake in such entities. There will also be no restriction on them to manage non-investing FPIs, SEBI registered offshore funds as well as registered investment managers. Certain categories of FPIs would be required to maintain a list of beneficial owners and provide the same to the regulator.
- 22.** According to Credit rating agency 'Fitch', India's economic growth will accelerate in the current financial year to -- **7.8%**.
- Note:** According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's projected GDP growth of over 7% for the current fiscal. Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the big three credit rating agencies (other two - Moody's and Standard & Poor's). Fitch Ratings is dual-headquartered in New York (US) and London (UK).
- 23. NABARD** has organized 'Grameena Habba' at Premachandra Sagar Hall near Ashoka Pillar in Bengaluru.
- Note:** Grameena Habba is an exhibition cum sale of rural artisan products to provide a platform for weavers, rural artisans, and craftsmen, rural entrepreneurs to display and sell their products. About 40 artisans from across the state is displaying their products for sale.
- 24. The Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a penalty of Rs. 5 crores on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of its directives.
- Note:** According to an RBI statement on Friday, the penalty was imposed for non-compliance with its directions on

"Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, reporting of frauds, and on the need for discipline at the time of opening of current accounts".

- 25.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred **Bandhan Bank** from opening new branches and also ordered freezing of the bank's CEO salary over failure to stick to shareholding rules.
- Note:** According to the Bandhan bank, is taking necessary steps to comply with the licensing condition to bring down the shareholding of NOFHC in the Bank to 40 percent and shall continue to engage with RBI in this behalf.
- 26. BRICS' New Development Bank** has approved a USD 525-million loan for infrastructure projects in India.
- Note:** The loan will be used by the Indian government for on-lending to the Madhya Pradesh government for rehabilitating major district roads with a total length of about 2,000 km. The loan aims to improve connectivity of the rural interior with the national and state highways.
- 27. Yes Bank** has paid Rs 38 crore in fines to the GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances.
- Note:** Over Rs. 32 crores have been paid to the GST department, while Rs 6 crore has been paid in service tax which has been replaced by GST.
- 28.** Insurance regulator IRDAI has raised the minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs. 15 lakhs for a premium of -- **Rs. 750 per annum**.
- Note:** Currently, the capital sum insured (CSI) under this section for motorized two-wheelers and private cars/commercial vehicles is Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakhs, respectively. The owner-drivers also have the option of a cover over and above Rs. 15 lakhs on payment of additional premium.
- 29.** The union government has cleared the appointment of Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and Managing Directors (MDs) at 10 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

List of MD & CEO at various PSBs

S. No.	MD & CEO	Bank Names
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

Obituaries

- Influential Jain Muni **Tarun Sagar** passed away after prolonged illness in Delhi.
Note: He was popularly known for his sermons titled 'Kadve Pravachan'. He enjoyed a massive fan following even outside the Jain community and was known for his nationalist views. Tarun Sagar was born on 26th June 1967 in a small village Guhanchi in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Former Maharashtra football player passed away in Mumbai -- **Arthur Pereira**.
Note: Pereira toured Russia as a striker with the Indian team in 1971. After his playing career, Pereira became a Physical Education teacher at St Joseph's School in suburban Malad.
- Noted Gujarati author, journalist & poet **Bhagwati Kumar Sharma** passed away in Surat.
Note: Shri Bhagwati Kumar Sharma had received Sahitya Academy award for his Gujarati novel Ashuryalok. Mr Sharma received Gujarati literature awards Ranjitram suvarna chandrak and Kumar paritoshik. He was also honoured by Gujarat Gaurav award, Sahitya Ratna award and Vali Gujarati Ghazal Puraskar.
- Hollywood actor **Burt Reynolds** passed away in a Florida hospital in US.
Note: Reynolds was a huge box office attraction in the 1970s. He shot to fame in 1972's Hollywood film 'Deliverance', and also starred in Smokey and the Bandit, Boogie Nights and The Cannonball Run.
- The veteran artist **Mehli Gobhai** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Gobhai was a student at the Royal College of Art in London and the Art Students League and the Pratt Graphic Centre in New York.
- Renowned agricultural economist Professor **Vijay Shankar Vyas** passed away after a brief illness.
Note: He was the director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur. He was also a member of the PM's Economic Adviser Committee during the previous Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh governments.
- Veteran film writer **Brij Katyal** passed away at a hospice in suburban Bandra.
Note: Mr. Katyal penned the story of Shashi Kapoor-Nanda hit 'Jab Jab Phool Khile'. Katyal also has writing credits to his name in many TV serials such as 'Dillagi', 'Saans' and 'Pal Chhin', both directed by Neena Gupta.
- Noted Malayalam actor **Captain Raju** passed away at his residence near Palarivattom, Kochi.
Note: Some of his popular movies include Nadodikattu, Oru Vadakkan Veeragadha and Pavam Krooran. He had also acted in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada movies. Mr. Raju also directed two movies that include Itha Oru Snehagadha and Mr Pavanai 99.99.
- Well-known wrestler **Ganpatrao Andalkar** passed away at a private hospital in Pune/.
Note: Former Olympian Andalkar (took part in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics) had bagged the coveted "Hind Kesari" title in 1960. Andalkar was also a recipient of the Arjuna award in 1964 and the Maharashtra government's 'Shiv Chhatrapati Award' in 1982 for his contribution to wrestling.
- India's first woman IAS officer (after Independence) **Anna Rajam Malhotra** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Anna Rajam Malhotra joined civil services in 1951 and opted for the Madras cadre under then Chief Minister C. Rajagopalachari. She later married R.N. Malhotra, who served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (from 1985 to 1990).
- Veteran freedom fighter and former Odisha Minister **Dolagobinda Pradhan** passed away in Bhubaneswar.
Note: Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, he had left school in 1942 and joined the Quit India movement. Mr. Pradhan was a minister from 1989 to 1990.
- Vietnam President **Tran Dai Quang** passed away after battling a 'serious illness' in Hanoi.
Note: In 2011, he was appointed Minister of Public Security, serving as Vietnam's de-facto top law enforcement officer. Quang became Vietnam's president following the 2016 Community Party Congress.



13. Renowned filmmaker **Kalpana Lajmi** passed away at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai.
Note: She was known for her women-oriented films like 'Rudaali', 'Daman', 'Darmiyaan'. Lajmi's last movie as a director was "Chingaari" in 2006, based on a novel "The Prostitute and the Postman" by Bhupen Hazarika, who was her partner.
14. Former BCCI president **Biswanath Dutt** passed away after suffering from acute lung infection.
Note: Mr. Dutt was best known in Indian cricket fraternity as Jagmohan Dalmiya's mentor. Dutt was the BCCI president

in 1989 after a six-year stint as the vice-president of the parent body from 1982-88.

15. Renowned Hindi commentator **Jasdev Singh** passed away after prolonged illness.
Note: He started his career in All India Radio in 1955 at their Jaipur station. He also did commentary for the Republic Day celeb for 48 long years (from 1963). Mr. Jasdev Singh was born on 18th May 1931 at Bonli village in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan.

Important Dates

- Teachers' Day is being celebrated throughout the country on the birthday of educationist and former President Bharat Ratna Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan -- **5th September**.
Note: Dr. Radhakrishnan was India's first vice president and second president. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu gave away the National Awards to 45 Teachers in New Delhi, on the occasion of Teachers' day. The awards which were instituted in 1958 carry a Silver medal, a certificate, and fifty thousand rupees.
- The International Literacy Day (ILD) is being observed every year throughout the world on -- **8th September**.
Note: The day raise public awareness to eradicate illiteracy and create environment in favour of adult education programs. This year's theme is 'Literacy and skills development.' The UNESCO in its 14th Session in 26th October 1966, declared 8th September as the International Literacy Day.
- The World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is being observed on -- **10th September**.
Note: The day raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. The WSPD is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). The theme of 2018 is "Working Together to Prevent Suicide".
- The National Hindi Divas is being observed on -- **14th September**.
Note: The Rajbhasha awards were instituted by the Department of Official Language of Home Ministry to recognize the excellent contribution of Ministries, Departments, and Nationalized Banks in the field of Hindi. In 1949, on this day the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.
- The International Day of Democracy is being observed across the world on -- **15th September**.
Note: The theme of 2018 is 'Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World'.
- Engineers' Day is celebrated every year in India commemorating the birthday of one of the greatest engineers in India, Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya -- **15th September**.
Note: Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was an Indian engineer, scholar, statesman and the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918. He is a recipient of the Indian's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna (1955).
- The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is being observed every year on -- **16th September**.
Note: The Ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiation of the sun and thus helping preserve life on the planet. This year, the theme for the Day is 'Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol'.
- The International Day of Peace is observed around the world annually on -- **21st September**.
Note: The theme for 2018 is "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70".
- The World Alzheimer's Day is observed every year on -- **21st September**.
Note: The day raise awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, a group of disorders that impairs mental functioning
- International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world every year on -- **23rd September**.
Note: The first International Day of Sign languages has been celebrated in 2018 under the theme "With Sign Language, Every-one is Included!". The choice of 23rd September is the same date that the WFD was established in 1951.
- The World Tourism Day (WTD) is being observed annually on -- **27th September**.



- Note:** The theme of 2018 is ‘Tourism and the Digital Transformation’.
12. The World Maritime Day is being observed across the world on -- **27th September (last Thursday of September)**.
Note: The theme of 2018 is ‘IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future’.
13. The World Rabies Day being observed across the world to raise awareness about the rabies disease and its preventable measures on -- **28th September**.
Note: The World Rabies Day 2018 theme is Rabies: Share the message. Save a life. Rabies is a viral disease that causes acute inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals.

New Appointments

- Balesh Sharma** has been appointed as Vodafone Idea's first CEO.
Note: Kumar Mangalam Birla heads the merged company as the Chairman. Vodafone India merged into Idea Cellular and was renamed as Vodafone Idea Limited.
- Rana Kapoor** has been reappointment as YES Bank MD.
Note: The bank's shareholders had proposed re-appointment of Kapoor for a three-year term.
- Justice Ranjan Gogoi** is the new Chief Justice of India.
Note: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the head of the judiciary of India and the Supreme Court of India. Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides for the manner of appointing judges to the Supreme Court.
- Justice Tahira Safdar** has sworn in on as the first woman chief justice of a Pakistani high court.
Note: Justice Safdar was sworn in as the chief justice of Balochistan High Court at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Balochistan. She made history in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan.
- R Madhavan** appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) —
Note: Earlier, he was heading the Accessories Division of HAL at Lucknow as an Executive Director. Madhavan has contributed to ‘Make in India’ drive by developing MSME vendors for aerospace manufacturing.
- Dr. Arif Alvi** became the 13th president of Pakistan.
Note: In 1981, he was Chairman of the first Pakistan International Dental Conference and was elected Chairman of the 28th Asia Pacific Dental Congress. The President of Pakistan is the head of state of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the civilian Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Armed Forces, per the Constitution of Pakistan.
- Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh** has been unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
Note: The elections were held at the ongoing regional committee meeting of WHO South-East Asia. Dr Singh is the first woman to have been elected to the position of Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region after an illustrious career in the Indian civil service, World Bank and WHO.
- The Union Government has appointed Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI) -- **Anshula Kant**.
Note: Currently, she is the Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of SBI. With this appointment SBI has four MDs - PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.
- HDFC Life has appointed as its new managing director (MD) and CEO -- **Vibha Padalkar**.
Note: Currently Vibha Padalkar is the executive director and chief financial officer of HDFC Standard Life Insurance. HDFC Life (HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company) is a long-term life insurance provider with its headquarters in Mumbai, offering individual and group insurance.
- Amitabh Chaudhry** has been appointed as its managing director & CEO of the Axis bank for a period of three years.
Note: Mr. Chaudhry has been associated with HDFC Life since January 2010. He will take the charge at India's third largest private sector bank after incumbent Shikha Sharma steps down on December 31, 2018.
- Tajinder Mukherjee** has been appointed as the new chairmen-cum-managing directors of National Insurance Company Limited (NIC).
Note: National Insurance Company Limited (NICK) is a state-owned general insurance company in India, headquartered at Kolkata.
- Moutaz Mousa Abdallah** has become Sudan's new Prime Minister.
Note: A 21-member cabinet was sworn in at the presidential palace in Khartoum. Mousa Abdallah is also holding the finance portfolio in a bid to revive the country's ailing economy.
- Prashant Kumar** has taken charge as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the State Bank of India.
Note: A chief financial officer (CFO) is the senior executive responsible for managing the financial actions of a company.



14. Renowned scientist **Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas** has been appointed the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
Note: The Atomic Energy Commission is the governing body of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.
15. Senior IAS officer **Anindo Majumdar** has been appointed as Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
Note: It also gives financial assistance to autonomous national institutes doing research in the field and has various other organizations under it.
16. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins presidential election of **Maldives**.
Note: The Maldives is a South Asian sovereign state, located in the Indian Ocean, situated in the Arabian Sea. The President of the Maldives is the head of state and government of the Republic of Maldives, and the commander-in-chief of the Maldives National Defence Force.
17. **Anil Kumar Chaudhary** has been appointed as the new chairman and Managing Director of the Steel Authority of India (SAIL).
Note: Currently, Mr. Chaudhary is serving as the Director (Finance) in SAIL. SAIL is the largest steel-making company in India and one of the seven Maharatnas of the country's Central Public Sector Enterprises.
18. Indian actress **Jaya Prada** has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for four years, for the promotion of Nepal tourism.
Note: The Nepal government has decided to observe the year 2020 as the 'Visit Nepal Year' campaign. India is a big source market for Nepal in terms of tourism and the appointment is expected to be helpful in building a strong base towards that end and increasing tourism-related activities between the two countries.
19. The Supreme Court has constituted a committee headed by apex court's Justice (retd.) to look into the problems in prisons across the country and suggest measures to tackle them -- **Justice (retd.) Amitava Roy**.
Note: The Government officials will also assist the committee and submit a report before the top court in a stipulated time period.
20. The Union government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge -- **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**.
Note: A Surya Prakash (Prasar Bharati Chairman), Arundhati Bhattacharya (former SBI Chief) and Justice Sukha Ram Singh Yadav among others will be members of the panel. The panel will recommend the names for the Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal to the Lokpal Selection Committee.
21. **Rajni Kant Misra** has been appointed as the director general of the Border Security Force (BSF).
Note: About two-lakh strong BSF guards India's frontier with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
22. **S S Deswal** has been appointed as the director general of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
Note: The SSB has about 90,000 personnel, guards India's borders with Nepal and Bangladesh.
23. **MC Mary Kom** has been named as the brand ambassador of Tribes India.
Note: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the "Punch Tantra" collection to promote tribal artifacts and named Mary Kom as the brand ambassador of "Tribes India" - an initiative to promote tribal artifacts. Punch Tantra is an exclusive collection, which comprises a range of ethnic and traditional tribal handicrafts and handloom products, was also unveiled during the event.
24. **Ravi** has been elected as the chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
Note: Ravi, 70, succeeds Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group.

Important News – India

1. 7th Meeting of National Medicinal Plants Board held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Seventh meeting of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH was held under the chairpersonship of Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in New Delhi. The Board meeting considered various Agenda Items placed before it for consideration.
2. India and Nepal have signed an MoU on Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey on Broad Gauge Rail Line between -- **Raxaul and Kathmandu**.
Note: Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. has been entrusted to conduct a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey of the new rail line in consultation with the Government of Nepal. In April 2018, India and Nepal had agreed to construct a new electrified rail line with India's financial support connecting the border city of Raxaul in India to Kathmandu.
3. **ITI Limited** has signed agreements with leading startups and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) covering the manufacturing of a wide range of ICT-IOT based solutions.



- Note:** These include civil and military advanced radar systems, advanced edge router systems, next generation 5G technology products, data storage and networking solutions, digital security solutions, advanced metering solutions, and wi-fi products and solutions.
4. The Union Minister for Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu has inaugurated the International Aviation Summit in **New Delhi**.
Note: The seminar has been jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA). The Civil Aviation Ministry is coming up with Vision 2035 under which it plans to build 100 new airports across India in the next 10-15 years with an investment of USD 60 billion.
 5. The first ever India-US two plus two dialogue held in **New Delhi**.
Note: Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs Minister) and Nirmala Sitharaman (Defence Minister) hold the dialogue with Michael Pompeo (US Secretary of State) and James Mattis (US Defence Secretary). Issues like enhancing trade, ways to counter terrorism and India's concerns over the Trump administration's decision to make changes to the H1B visa programme will be the focus of the talk.
 6. **Dr.K Sivan** has inaugurated the 6th edition of the biennial Bengaluru Space Expo.
Note: The Indian Space Research Organisation wants to offer manufacturing of PSLV and small satellite launch vehicles along with small satellites to private industries. Sum of 10,400 crore rupees is earmarked for manufacturing of PSLV launch vehicle out of which 9000 crore rupees worth production will be given to private industries.
 7. The Supreme Court partly struck down Section 377, the penal provision which criminalized -- **gay sex**.
Note: The Court termed part of IPC's Section 377, which criminalizes consensual unnatural sex, irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary. The Supreme Court, other aspects of Section 377 dealing with unnatural sex with animals and children remain in force.
 8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the India's first Global Mobility Summit in New Delhi to make Indian cities pollution free -- **MOVE**.
Note: The objective of the summit is on raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility and bringing various stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility across different platforms. The Global Mobility Summit MOVE being organized by the NITI Aayog.
 9. The Union Home Minister 'Shri Rajnath Singh' has inaugurating the three days Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference – 2018 in **New Delhi**.
Note: The conference has been organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
 10. India & Sri Lanka joint naval exercise started at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka -- **SLINEX-2018**.
Note: Earlier, SLINEX exercise held once in two years and now it has been converted to annual event this year onwards. Sri Lanka Air Force personnel would join in the exercise for the first time.
 11. Ministry of Railways & Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) has organized a seminar in **New Delhi**.
Note: Shri Goyal also launched a new app – "AAPOORTI" mobile App of 'Indian Railways e-procurement system' (IREPS). This App provides information and data related to e-tendering and e-auction related activities of Indian Railways.
 12. According to Defence Ministry (MoD), The 2019 edition of Aero India will be held in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
Note: This event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.
 13. The union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has launched the country's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile app in New Delhi -- **NSP Mobile App**.
Note: This Portal will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students belonging to poor and weaker sections. All the scholarships are being directly transferred into bank accounts of the needy students under Director Benefit Transfer mode, which has prevented duplication and leakage. This portal will prove beneficial for students and will help in strengthening a transparent mechanism for the scholarships.
 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended the commemoration of martyrdom of Imam Hussain in Indore -- **Ashara Mubarak**.
Note: Prime Minister also meet the 53rd religious head of Dawoodi Bohra community Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin. Dr Saifuddin is holding nine-day religious discourse at the Saifi Nagar mosque in Indore.
 15. The country's first tribal circuit tourism project under the Swadesh Darshan scheme has been inaugurated at Gangrel in -- **Chhattisgarh**.



- Note:** It covers 13 sites in Chhattisgarh which are Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot and Tirthgarh. Under the tribal circuit theme of the scheme the Ministry has sanctioned 4 projects to Nagaland, Telangana and Chhattisgarh for Rs. 380 crores.
- 16.** The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference at **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)**.
Note: The theme of the conference “Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility”. Under this scheme the Government will provide affordable healthcare with universal health insurance to poor and needy people and their families, specially the elderly, he added.
- 17.** Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at **New Delhi**.
Note: The World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA) is a biennial Summit organised by NBA, which provides platform to stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation. The focus of WOSA 2018 is on “CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION”.
- 18.** The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) has started operations in **Vadodara**.
Note: The first of its kind university in the country on the transport sector. A total of 103 students formed the first batch of this unique institute. This year it has started with two UG courses.
- 19.** The Minister of Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched a web portal -- **www.railsahyog.in**.
Note: The web portal will provide a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility funds.
- 20.** Samsung opened recently its biggest experience centre in -- **Bengaluru**.
Note: Earlier, the world's largest mobile phone-manufacturing factory has been launched in Noida in July 2018. Opera House (33,000 sq ft iconic building) has been given a facelift to showcase Samsung's mobile devices and other consumer electronic products. A customer will be able to enjoy VR experiences such as the 4D sway chair or the Whiplash Pulsar 4D chair that makes 360 degrees three-dimensional movements.
- 21.** **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched the mega countrywide Swachhata Hi Sewa campaign (fortnight campaign) through video conferencing.
Note: The objective of the campaign is to mobilise people and reinforce the public movement for sanitation to contribute to Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Clean India. The Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign will Culminate with Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention to be Held in New Delhi from 29th September to 2nd of October.
- 22.** **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** successfully launched Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C 42 with two British earth observation satellites 'NovaSAR' and 'S1-4' from Sri harikota.
Note: The satellites were put into sun synchronous orbit just over 17 minutes after lift-off from the first launch pad. With the successful launch of two British satellites on Sunday, the total number of foreign satellites launched by India goes up to 239. India has been sending foreign satellites belonging to international customers from 29 countries through PSLV.
- 23.** The Union Home Minister 'Rajnath Singh' inaugurated pilot project of smart fencing along Indo-Pak Border in **Jammu**.
Note: The 'smart fencing' features will virtually make it impossible for the terrorists to breach it and infiltrate into the Indian Territory, have been installed at two places along the International Border in Jammu.
- 24.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister of Bangladesh) has jointly flag off through video conferencing the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product -- **Pipeline Project**.
Note: The 130-kilometre pipeline will connect Siliguri (West Bengal- India) and Parbatipur (Dinajpur district of Bangladesh). The estimated project cost will be 346 crore rupees and it will be completed in 30-month time.
- 25.** The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile -- **Prahar**.
Note: 'Prahar' is a contemporary weapon system capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and neutralizing a wide variety of targets. 'Prahar' is capable of filling the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system 'Pinaka' and medium-range ballistic missile 'Prithvi'.
- 26.** India & Sri Lanka sign MoU for construction temp-controlled warehouse in **Dambulla**.



- Note:** India and Sri Lanka has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for construction of a 5000-metric ton temperature-controlled warehouse (for fruits and vegetables) in Dambulla of Central Province. The warehouse will be constructed with an Indian grant assistance of 30 crore Sri Lankan rupees.
27. President Ram Nath Kovind has launched the logo and the web portal for the commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi --
https://gandhi.gov.in.
Note: The Logo Branding will be done in Trains, Air India aircrafts, State Roadways Buses, Government websites, Government advertisements besides Public Sector Undertakings. The salient features of the new web portal are to identify visitors from different geography and serve them personalized information.
28. The Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart 2018 in **New Delhi.**
Note: The India Tourism Mart is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) and with support of State /UT Governments.
29. The Union Home Secretary Mr. Rajiv Gauba has launched an online portal for grant of Security Clearance -- **e-Sahaj.**
Note: The online portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and view the status of his application from time to time. The process has become standardized, resulting in a process which will be faster, transparent and easy to monitor.
30. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) in -- **New Delhi.**
Note: The Centre would be a world-class state-of-the-art Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre, with facilities like financial, hospitality and retail services. The project is implemented by India International Convention and Exhibition Centre Limited and estimated cost of the project is Rs.25,700 crores.
31. India signs loan agreement with the World Bank for USD 74 Million for -- **Uttarakhand.**
Note: The objective of the project is to improve the quality and relevance of training at priority Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and to increase the number of labour -market-relevant workers through short term training in Uttarakhand.
32. The ministry and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has signed an MoU for setting up a state-of-the-art integrated control room for emergency response in **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**
Note: ISRO will provide its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER whereas the project will be executed under overall supervision of MHA.
33. Romania will open a consulate in -- **Chennai (India).**
Note: This was decided in a meeting between Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Viorica Dancila (Romania Prime Minister) in Bucharest. Romania will take the lead for negotiations to restart on the early conclusion of India-EU free trade agreement with balanced outcomes.
34. **New Development Bank (NDB)** has approved a USD 525-million loan to Madhya Pradesh for infrastructure projects.
Note:The Board of Directors of the NDB approved a USD 350-million loan for the Major District Roads Project II of Madhya Pradesh and USD 175 million for building and upgrading 350 bridges.
35. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Centre's flagship 'Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) from **Ranchi, Jharkhand.**
Note: Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health assurance worth five lakh rupees each, every year. The scheme will become operational from 25th September on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. A beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.
36. The Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal has inaugurated the two-day National Orientation workshop on **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).**
Note: This digital intervention is a big step to increase transparency, accountability and decreases the scope of corruption in the functioning of House. NeVA is a member-centric, decentralised digital application that makes information available on digital platform about day to day functioning of Legislative Houses.
37. Telecom firm **BSNL** has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things technology in India.
Note: Under the agreement with Softbank, BSNL will look at collaborating with the Japanese firm for its satellite constellation. BSNL has signed agreement with Nokia and Cisco as well for developing 5G ecosystem.



38. The union finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application as a Part of Financial Inclusion (FI) initiative -- **Jan Dhan Darshak**.
Note: This app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country. Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed this app as a part of financial inclusion initiative.
39. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved financing of up to USD 500 million for a multi-tranche financing facility (MFF).
Note: It will develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in Tamil Nadu. The country's first solar-powered sewage treatment plant on a pilot basis will also be part of the programme. The ADB programme will provide direct assistance in these areas as part of its support to the state's Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 to provide universal access to water and sanitation and to develop world-class cities in high-performing industrial corridors.
40. Shri Arun Goel (Secretary, Ministry of Culture) has inaugurated the exhibition "India - Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures" at National Museum in **New Delhi**.
Note: The exhibit will showcase ancient Uzbek manuscripts for onlookers to delve into the historical legacy of the two great nations. The Exhibition was dedicated to the state visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Republic of India.
41. President Kovind clears ordinance to set up a committee to run -- **Medical Council of India**.
Note: The notification also stated that until a new council was reconstructed board would be constituted to take over

the functioning of MCI. Earlier, the union cabinet cleared the Ordinance.

42. Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated three days long 'Smart City Expo India-2018' in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
Note: The object of this expo is to have discussions among different experts and groups to utilize benefits of new technology, town planning, capacity management, challenges before socio-economic development and development of networking in the Smart City sector. About 6000 delegates from MNC's of different countries, researchers, CEO's of different Smart cities, Mayors and corporates are participating in the expo.
43. The indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) has successfully test-fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft Air Force Station, Kalaikunda in West Bengal -- **Astra**.
Note: Astra is the best in class weapon system and has undergone more than twenty developmental trials. This effort for building a state-of-the-art BVRAAM by Defence Research and Development Organisation together with IAF completed the development phase of the weapon system successfully. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited played a role in modifying the aircraft for weapon integration.
44. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 'Parakram Parv' at the Combined Commanders' Conference in **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
Note: The Parakram Parv has commemorated the second anniversary of the surgical strikes and is being organised by the Konark Corps at the Jodhpur Military station. The General public is encouraged to take selfies at all venues and post them on the social networking sites with #ParakramParv.

States News

1. The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju flagged off the Delhi Moveo Cyclothon at **India gate**.
Note: The nine-km Cyclothon aims to create awareness about future of transportation and evolving technologies in the sector. The initiative mainly focuses on urban areas to curb congestion and vehicular pollution.
2. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared the Jharkhand government's proposal to rename a railway station after 'Lord Krishna' -- **Garhwa**.
Note: The state government had proposed that the railway station and Nagar Untari town should be renamed as

Banshidhar Nagar after Bandshidhar Temple. The state government wants to develop the town on the lines of Mathura and Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh to boost tourism in the city.

3. The union minister Piyush Goyal along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the official website of Kumbh Mela, in Lucknow -- **www.kumbh.gov.in**.
Note: The website www.kumbh.gov.in provides detail about location, trains, accessibility, weather and accommodations which will be a great help for pilgrims. It will help pilgrims and tourists to attend the Kumbh mela (in



- January 2019), banks of Sangam Allahabad. Traditionally, four fairs are widely recognized as the Kumbh Melas: the Haridwar Kumbh Mela, the Allahabad Kumbh Mela, the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha, and Ujjain Simhastha.
4. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 335 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to **West Bengal**.
Note: The fund would be used for 158 minor irrigation projects and 23 flood protection projects. The minor irrigation projects are expected to benefit 20,506 hectares, covering 3.09 lakh population in 699 villages of 22 districts.
 5. The **Assam govt.** has made Asian Games medalist Hima Das as the Sports Ambassador of the state ____.
Note: Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal handed over a cheque of 1.6 crore rupees to Hima at a function in Guwahati.
 6. The Iconic 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of the city will be renamed after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as 'Atal Chowk' -- **Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**.
Note: The State Government has also announced to convert Vajpayee's ancestral house in Bateshwar (Agra) into a memorial and develop a tourist circuit there.
 7. The **Assam** government will distribute over 1 lakh pump sets to double the farmers' income by 2022.
Note: The pump sets will be distributed under NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Project. 60 thousand diesel sets, 11 thousand solar and 30 thousand electrical operated pump sets to be distributed and necessary steps are being taken in this direction.
 8. The **Haryana** Govt. has signed a MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat with an outlay of over Rs 900 crore.
Note: The initiative with a proposed capacity of 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day will manage crop residue and prevent straw burning before the upcoming paddy season. The pact will be valid for one year.
 9. The Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu has launched a mobile platform to enable small-scale farmers to market their produce at reasonable prices -- **e-Rythu**.
Note: The platform has been developed by global payments and technology company Mastercard. The objective of the 'E-Rythu' is to digitize agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and provide farmers an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products.
 6. Festival of Nuakhai being celebrated in **Odisha**.
Note: The Nuakhai Juhar is a major ritual of the festival, during which greetings are exchanged with friends, relatives and well-wishers. During this harvest festival of western Odisha, new produce Nabannis offered to presiding deities.
 7. **Delhi Govt.** and the Seoul Metropolitan Government are slated to sign an agreement for cooperation in urban regeneration ____
Note: The agreement will be signed during Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's ongoing trip to Seoul. Kejriwal, along with Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain visited the Cheonggyecheon stream in downtown Seoul to see its transformation.
 8. India's longest rail-cum-road bridge will come up over river Brahmaputra in Assam -- **Bogibeel**.
Note: The Bogibeel Bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra River at Dibrugarh town in Assam. The 4.94km bridge will facilitate road and rail connectivity between the north and south banks of the state.
 10. The **Uttarakhand** state has been ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018.
Note: The state constructed a maximum of 1,839 km roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (target for the year 2017-18 - 1,500 km). Uttarakhand has also been ranked second for connecting 207 habitations with roads (under the scheme target - 172).
 11. Cyclonic storm crossed near the Gopalpur coast in Odisha -- **Daye**.
Note: Under the impact of Daye, heavy rain accompanied by high-speed wind occurred in coastal and southern parts of the state. The cyclone system lay centred over south Odisha, about 40-kilometre west-north-west of Gopalpur coast and 150-kilometre east-south-east of Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district.
 12. The **Punjab** state Cabinet has approved the setting up of a ropeway between Sri Anandpur Sahib and Naina Devi ji in public private partnership (PPP) mode to boost the tourism sector in the state.
Note: The ropeway would facilitate lakhs of devotees visiting Sri Anandpur Sahib in Punjab and Naina Devi ji in Himachal Pradesh.
 13. ISRO's first Space Technology Incubation Centre (STIC) at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) -- **Agartala**.
Note: The Centre was launched at the first edition of 'Spacetrionics' organised by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA). This is a kind of process to develop start-ups by ISRO and the government initiative of Transforming India.
 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first airport of western Odisha in **Jharsuguda**.
Note: The airport will bring western Odisha on the country's aviation map and facilitate regional air connectivity through the government's UDAN scheme.
 15. The state government has doubled the monetary assistance to farmers under the state-run Farmers' Accident Insurance Scheme -- **Gujarat**.



- Note:** If a farmer dies or suffers a permanent disability in an accident, he or his kins would get Rs 2 lakh (Earlier 1 lakh). A farmer will also be entitled to get Rs 1 lakh instead of Rs 50,000 if he loses one eye or one limb in an accident. The insurance scheme covers over 2.5 crore farmers who own agricultural land in the state.
16. The state government has announced a novel scheme for the protection of the exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years -- **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The Neela Kurinju (native to the Western Ghats) is a major attraction to foreign and native tourists and one of the prime foreign exchange earners from tourism. Placards announcing the new initiative has been placed in various vantage points of the Nilagiri district of Tamil Nadu.
17. Prime Minister 'Narendra Modi' has inaugurated the Sikkim's first airport at **Pakyong**.
Note: It will improve connectivity and benefit the people of Sikkim. The Pakyong airport is situated at an elevation of 4,500 feet above the sea level, built at a cost of over 600 crore rupees. Under the Civil Aviation Ministry's Ude Desh KaAam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme, SpiceJet will operate 78-seater Bombardier Q400 flights to and from Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati every day.
18. The Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) for traffic junctions in **Delhi**.
Note: WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) and funded by Department of Science and Technology. It consumes only half a unit of electricity for 10 hours of running and has a maintenance cost of only Rs. 1,500 per month, can purify the air in 500 square meters area.
19. Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) approves procurement of one thousand engines for **T-72 tanks**.
Note: Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army at an approximate cost of over 2,300 crore rupees. The engines will enhance mobility, agility and acceleration of T-72 tanks making them more versatile and effective in the battlefield.
20. Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram has inaugurated a Conference on Empowerment of Women SHGs & Organic Farmers Co-operatives from **Dantewada, Bastar Region**.
Note: NITI Aayog has Organized Conference in collaboration with the Tribal Affairs Ministry and Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). The conference is a part of the visit of the team of entrepreneurs from Dantewada to New Delhi to identify markets opportunity for their products in urban areas
21. President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated a national literary and intellectual conference at Khel Gaon in Ranchi -- **Lok Manthan 2018**.
Note: This four-day event is being organized by Department of Culture of Jharkhand Government in association with a NGO to have discussions on present social and cultural issues facing the country.
22. The Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the International conference on plastics recycling and waste management: Opportunity and Challenges, in **New Delhi**.
Note: Mr. Puri emphasised on solid waste management and said, urban rejuvenation has to be green & sustainable and government's flagship programmes. The Marvel material of one-time plastic is choking the ecosystem and societies must self-regulate before it becomes a menace which could further bring into a mass movement against it.
23. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
Note: The pan-Asian yoga event is being held in the country for the second time, organized by Asian Yoga Federation. Competitions would be held under various age groups in six categories including Asian yogasana sports competition, artistic yoga, artistic pair yoga, rhythmic yoga, free flow dance competition, and professional yogasana sports competition.
24. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor ESL Narasimhan has inaugurated the second corridor of the Hyderabad Metro Rail between -- **Ameerpet and LB Nagar**.
Note: The 16 kms stretch of Metro Rail has 16 stations. With this, the entire 29 kms long corridor between Miyapur- LB Nagar on the first phase of Metro Rail Project will be operational. The mascot of Hyderabad Metro Rail is 'Niz'.

Important News – World

1. **The union minister Shri Shripad Yesso Naik** has inaugurated the 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) at Netherlands.
Note: The congress would focus on promotion and propagation of Ayurveda in Netherlands and its neighboring countries of Europe. The Congress jointly organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and the International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune in association with the Indian Embassy in the Netherlands.



2. President Ram Nath Kovind embarked on a three-nation tour to further strengthen trade and business relations -- **Cyprus, Bulgaria & Czech Republic.**
3. **Singapore** launched next round of free trade agreement review with India.
Note: The review round of the free trade agreement was launched by Suresh Prabhu (Union Commerce and Industry minister) and S Iswaran (Singapore Minister of Trade Relations) in Singapore. The launch of the review signals further deepening of business, economic and trade collaboration between the two countries.
4. Bi-Annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi Border forces held in **New Delhi.**
Note: KK Sharma (Director General of BSF) represented the Indian side while Major General Md Shafeenul Islam (Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh) led the Bangladeshi side in the talks. The objective of the meeting, to increasing bilateral cooperation in checking trans-border crimes such as smuggling of drugs and narcotics, cattle lifting and gun running across the international border between the two countries. This is the 47th DG-level conference between the two sides since it began in 1975.
5. The National Nutrition Month is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against -- **malnutrition.**
Note: During this month, Various programmes have been organized by the Women and Child Development Ministry to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children. The Nutrition Month will also focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to eliminate the deficiencies prevailing in the Health sector. The objective of the program to bring down stunting of children in the age group of 0-6 years from 38% to 25% by 2022.
6. **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)** has set up at India Pavilion at the Food and Drink Technology Africa 2018.
Note: Trade show being organized at Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. The trade show covers the entire value chain related to food and beverages industry and offers solutions to the challenges and demands of the market in Southern Africa. Food & Drink Technology Africa (FDT-Africa) is the premier beverage and food event in Southern Africa, tailored to promote the specific needs of the market.
7. India along with 23 other nations has participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill to enhance the tsunami preparedness at community level -- **IOWave18.**
Note: The mock drill 'IOWave18' is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of December 2004 tsunami. The objective of exercise is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout the region.
8. Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' will be conducted (10 – 23rd Sep 2018) between the two countries in **Kazakhstan.**
Note: This is the third joint military exercise between the two countries which have a history of extensive cooperation in the defence arena. The objective of the exercise is to build and promote bilateral Army to Army relations and exchange skills and experiences between Kazakhstan Army and the Indian Army.
9. In Japan the worst storm to hit the country in 25 years -- **Typhoon Jebi.**
Note: Jebi has left a trail of destruction across the west of the country, hitting major cities like Kyoto and Osaka. Evacuation advisories have been issued for more than 1.2 million people.
10. Indian Air Force (IAF) has participated in Exercise Pitch Black 2018 at Darwin, Australia.
Note: Sixteen different nations from across the globe, including French Air Force (FAF) participated in this exercise. On the return leg, Rafale fighter aircraft and transport aircraft of FAF staged through Air Force Station, Gwalior and Air Force Station, Agra from 01 – 04 Sep 18. During the staging period, FAF and IAF carried out basic joint training, which included fighter sorties by pilots in their respective aircraft with observers onboard each other's transport aircraft supporting the missions.
11. According to Facebook, it will pour in more than USD 1.4 billion to construct its first data centre in Asia -- **Singapore.**
Note: It will be located at Tanjong Kling (formerly known as Data Centre Park) in the west of Singapore, will span 170,000 sq m. The facility was expected to open in 2022 depending on the speed of construction. Data centers are simply centralized locations where computing and networking equipment is concentrated for the purpose of collecting, storing, processing, distributing or allowing access to large amounts of data.
12. 87th Izmir International tradeshow begins in **Turkey.**
Note: India is the Partner Country in the 87th Izmir International tradeshow in Izmir, Turkey.
13. **Embassy of India** held a ceremony in Haifa to mark the Centenary of the Battle of Haifa.
Note: The ceremony was attended by a delegation from India led by Maj Gen VD Dogra and included personnel from the 61st Cavalry. The Battle of Haifa was fought on 23 September 1918 towards the end of the Battle of Sharon which together with the Battle of Nablus formed the set piece Battle of Megiddo.
14. **U.S.** returns two antique statues worth hundreds of thousands of dollars (USD 225,000) stolen from India.



- Note:** Two antique statues worth hundreds of thousands of dollars (USD 225,000) stolen from India and displayed at two American museums have been repatriated to India by the US. The first statue, 'Lingodhbhavamurti', a 12th century granite sculpture depicting an iconic representation of Lord Shiva, dates back to the Chola dynasty. It was stolen from Tamil Nadu and was on display at the Birmingham Museum in Alabama. The second phyllite sculpture depicts the bodhisattva of wisdom, 'Manjusri', holding a sword and painted in gold leaf. This statue was stolen from a temple in Bihar in the late 1980s.
15. Switzerland planning to install statue of veteran Hindi film actor -- **late Sridevi**.
Note: The Switzerland authorities are planning to install a statue of late Sridevi (Hindi film actor) whose superhit movie "Chandni" was shot at the country's picturesque locations. The statue of the renowned filmmaker, Yash Chopra is already there. The 1989 blockbuster 'Chandni' had also put Switzerland on centre stage as almost half the song and dance sequences in the film had a Swiss backdrop.
16. Russia has launched its biggest military exercise since the Cold War named -- **Vostok-2018**.
Note: China is sending 3,200 troops to take part in "Vostok-2018", with many Chinese armoured vehicles and aircraft. Mongolia is also sending some units. The last Russian exercise of similar scale was in 1981, during the Cold War, but Vostok-2018 involves more troops.
17. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a three nation visit to **Serbia, Malta and Romania**.
18. The union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has participated in G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting at Mar del Plata in **Argentina**.
Note: The G20 (founded in 1999) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
19. The UN postal agency will issue special stamps here next month to commemorate the festival of **Diwali**.
Note: The United Nations Postal Administration will issue a New York special event sheet on October 19 to commemorate the Indian festival. The background of the sheet features the United Nations Headquarters building illuminated with the message of "Happy Diwali" to celebrate the spirit of the festival.
20. A two-day India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) will be held in **Dubai**.
Note: Second India-UAE Partnership Summit is being organized by the Business Leaders Forum (BLF). Vipul, the Consul General of India in Dubai, said "I am happy that the second edition of the IUPS is being organised by the BLF this year in partnership with the consulate.
21. A bi-lateral sixth edition of Naval Exercise between India and Sri Lanka -- **SLINEX 2018**.
Note: SLINEX series of bilateral maritime exercises were initiated in 2005 and since then five successful engagements have been conducted. This edition of the exercise will further strength ties between the two maritime neighbours and contribute towards maritime security in the region.
22. A joint military training Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 (14th edition) has been conducted in the foothills of Himalayas at Chaubattia in 3rd week Sep 2018 -- **Uttarakhand**.
Note: The joint exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2018' will simulate a scenario where both nations will work together in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in mountainous terrain under United Nation charter.
23. **Sarbananda Sonowal** has inaugurated the Indo-Bhutan Border Centre at Darranga in Assam's Baksa district to strengthen bilateral trade.
Note: The Centre has decided to construct 264 km of border roads touching four BTAD districts of the state.
24. India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in **Kabul, Afghanistan**.
Note: The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale while the Iranian team was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. The objective of meeting is implementation of the Chabahar port project and a host of other issues including ways to deepen counter-terror cooperation were discussed.
25. The World Cultural Culinary Heritage Committee will hold the first edition of the World Heritage Cuisine Summit and food festival in **Amritsar**.
Note: The summit will celebrate traditional cuisine with live demonstrations, food tasting, presentations, panel discussions, master classes by chefs from around the world in the holy city. It will focus on inculcating appreciation for food culture and traditions, good food habits and sustainable
26. The world's largest free literary gathering Jaipur Literature Festival has begun in **Houston**.
Note: The festival started with a soulful music performance by Indian Sufi singer 'Zila Khan'. The inaugural session also saw Congress leader and writer Shashi Tharoor discuss his book "Why i am a Hindu" with writer Namita Gokhale
27. Super Typhoon slammed into China's southern Guangdong province -- **Mangkhut**.
Note: The typhoon made a landfall into the coast of Jiangmen city in Guangdong province, packing winds up to 162 km per hour after leaving a trail of destruction in Hong Kong. Earlier, more than 400 flights at two airports



- in China's southernmost island Province of Hainan were cancelled and all coastal resorts and schools were closed.
- 28.** India has sign three MoUs with the country in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training -- **Malta**.
Note: India and Malta have signed three MoUs in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training after delegation level talks between Venkaiah Naidu (Vice President) and Ms. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca (President of Malta). India is the main source of affordable generic drugs in the world and can cooperate in Wellness and Ayurveda sectors.
- 29.** **Japan** has carried out its first submarine drill in the disputed South China Sea.
Note: The anti-submarine drill was conducted in the region to improve strategic techniques. China claims most of the resource-rich South China Sea, despite competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- 30.** The world's first hydrogen train is now zooming along a 62-mile stretch of track in **Germany**.
Note: The hydrogen engines can hit a top speed of 140 kilometers per hour (87 miles per hour) and the trains have a range of about 600 miles. The vehicles are powered by fuel cells that combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity. Alstom plans to provide Germany with another 14 hydrogen trains by 2021, and France plans to debut its first by 2022.
- 31.** India and Russia joint Air Force level exercise held in Lipetsk, Russia -- **Aviandra-18**.
Note: The aim of the exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in a bi-lateral scenario. The contingent comprises of 30 officers from different branches and streams of IAF including four women officers of Flying, Admin and Medical Branch.
- 32.** The 3rd edition of acclaimed International Business Conference 'MahaBiz 2018' will be held in -- **Dubai**.
Note: MahaBiz is considered a bridge for business opportunities between Maharashtra state and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. GCC is a political and economic alliance of six middle eastern countries. It includes Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.
- 33.** The neighboring Country of India has launched a massive nationwide three days anti-polio vaccination drive so that no one was left out -- **Pakistan**.
Note: It has been touted as the final push against the crippling disease to cover 38.6 million children less than five years of age. Pakistan is one of only three countries in the world, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, that suffers from endemic polio, a virus that can cause paralysis or death.
- 34.** A statue of Nelson Mandela has been unveiled to honour the late South African leader's birth at **United Nations**.
Note: This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth, and the U.N. is declaring 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace."
- 35.** The famous Indra Jatra festival is being celebrated with gaiety and religious fervor in -- **Kathmandu (Nepal)**.
Note: President Bidya Devi Bhandari and thousands of people attended the Indra Jatra celebrations. The annual festival Indra Jatra is observed to worship the god Devraj Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest. Indra Jatra is mainly celebrated by the Newar community of Kathmandu valley and some other parts of the country.
- 36.** High-Level meeting on Tuberculosis at 73rd Session of UNGA held in **New York**.
Note: The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare minister J P Nadda addressed at the 'High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis at 73rd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York (USA). In the current year India has allocated USD 430 million for implementation of the Plan, which is an increase of 54% over last year.
- 37.** Argentina has received how many billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to boost the country's struggling economy -- **USD 57.1**.
Note: It is a biggest loan package ever from the global body IMF. Earlier, the loan 'USD 15 billion' has already been received by Argentina. It will be disbursed over the next three years.
- 38.** Typhoon Trami hit Japan's southern island of **Okinawa**.
Note: Typhoon Trami hit Japan's southern island of Okinawa with a maximum speed of 216 kilometres per hour today.
- 39.** Social networking company has reported a major security breach in which accounts of 50 million users were accessed by unknown attackers -- **Facebook**.
Note: The attackers stole digital keys, called access tokens, the company uses to keep people logged in. The social media giant added that it did not know who was behind the attacks or where they're based.

Honor & Awards

- 1.** **Dr B.K. Misra** has been named for this year's prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award.
Note: Currently, Odisha's Dr. Mishra is leading the Department of Neurosurgery & Gamma Knife Radio surgery at Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai. The award will be

given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on 1st July 2019 (National Doctors Day). The award is named after Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a former chief minister of the Indian state of West Bengal.



2. **Sunil Mehta** has been elected as the Chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA) for the year 2018-19.
Note: Managing Director and CEO of Bank of India 'Dinabandhu Mohapatra' has been elected as IBA's Deputy Chairman. Indian Banks' Association is managed by a managing committee, and the current managing committee consists of one chairman, 3 deputy chairmen, 1 honorary secretary and 26 members.
3. Indian movie **Gold** has become the first Bollywood film ever to release in Saudi Arabia.
Note: The film Gold is a fictional re-telling of India's iconic win at the 1948 London Olympics. This film is only the second movie after Rajnikanth's social drama "Kala" to hit the theatres in the Gulf country. Saudi Arabia had held a private screening of international cultural phenomenon, "Black Panther" in May this year to herald the launch of movie theatres in the kingdom and opening them to the public.
4. American actress **Anne Hathaway** will be honored with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) National Equality Award for her humanitarian work.
Note: Earlier, Hathaway was also appointed as UN Women's Global Ambassador, where her work involves supporting women's equality in the workplace.
5. **Shri Manoj Jhalani** has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award.
Note: He has been selected for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Jhalani is the Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
6. Poet and writer **Sawai Singh Shekhawat** will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.
7. **Kerala Tourism** has won the two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns at a glittering function in Langkawi, Malaysia.
Note: Sudeshna Ramkumar (Assistant Director, India Tourism Singapore) has received the award on behalf of Kerala tourism. The first gold award came for its 'Yalla Kerala' travel advertisement print media campaign in the Gulf countries. The PATA Awards are presented to outstanding entries in four principal categories: Marketing; Education and Training; Environment, and Heritage and Culture.
8. Bollywood stars have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission -- **Varun Dhawan & Anushka Sharma**.
Note: They will dedicate time to promote India's skilled talent and their fine work by engaging with them across different parts of the country. The objective of the Skill India campaign is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
9. Who has been conferred with the 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle' -- **Dr. Raghupati Singhania**.
Note: 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle' is the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico. Dr. Singhania is the Chairman and MD of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd. The top honor has recognized Dr. Singhania's exemplary leadership and efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Mexico.
10. The airport has won the title of Best Airport to handle over 40 million passengers per annum (MPPA) by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2017 -- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi**.
Note: The award was given by the Airports Council International (ACI). Now, Delhi airport is the seventh busiest airports in Asia and among the top 20 busiest airports across the world.
11. **Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC)** has become the first ever metro rail corporation from India to bag the International 'Royal Society For The Prevention Of Accidents' (RoSPA) Award.
Note: LMRC has been given the Silver Award for its Phase 1A (North-South Corridor) in the Project/Infrastructure category for the year 2018. RoSPA is a British charity organisation that aims for promotion of safety and prevention of accidents in project execution worldwide.
12. Assamese film is India's official entry for Oscars 2019 in the Best Foreign Language film category -- **Village Rockstars**.
Note: Village Rockstars is the story of a young girl Dhunu (10-years) who wants to be a guitarist. Village Rockstars is only the second Assamese film to win the Swarna Kamal for Best Feature Film at the National Film Awards, after Jahnu Barua's 1987 film Halodhia Choraye Baodhan Khai. For the 2018 Oscars, Rajkumar Rao and Pankaj Tripathi starrer 'Newton' had been pitched for the top honour.
13. **Andhra Pradesh state** gets 1st rank in Ease of Living Index under AMRUT.
Note: Andhra Pradesh state has topped the charts among States in terms of "Ease of Living Index-2018" rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. The three States were awarded best performing States at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018.
14. **Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron** has been awarded with the prestigious UN's (United Nations) Highest Environmental Award for championing the International Solar Alliance.



Note: The award also recognizes the efforts for promoting new areas of co-operation on environmental action. Cochin International Airport (the world's first fully solar powered airport- in 2015) has also been honoured this year with the award for Entrepreneurial Vision, for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy. This year's laureates are recognised for a combination of bold, innovative, and tireless efforts to tackle some of the most urgent environmental issues of our times.

15. Who have been selected for prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2018 -- Virat Kohli and Mirabai.

Note: Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

- Virat Kohli (29-years) has 6147 runs in 71 Tests with 23 centuries and 9779 runs in 211 ODIs, including 35 tons.
- Chanu (24 years) was chosen for the prestigious award following her gold medal in 48-kilogram category at the World Championships last year.

- **Arjuna Awards (20):** Neeraj Chopra, Jinson Johnson and Hima Das (athletics), N. Sikki Reddy (badminton), Satish Kumar (boxing), Smriti Mandhana (cricket); Shubhankar Sharma (golf), Manpreet Singh and Savita (hockey), Ravi Rathore (polo), Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal and Shreyasi Singh (shooting), Manika Batra and G. Sathiyan (table tennis), Rohan Bopanna (tennis); Sumit (wrestling), Pooja Kadian (wushu), Ankur Dhama (para-athletics), Manoj Sarkar (para-badminton).
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of 7.5 lakh rupees, a medal and a citation.
- Dronacharya, Arjuna and Dhyana Chand Awardees will receive a cash prize of five lakh rupees, statuettes, certificates.

S. No.	Dronacharya Awards - 2018	Dhyana Chand Award - 2018
1.	S C Achaiah Kuttappa (Boxing)	Satyadev Prasad (Archery)
2.	Shri Vijay Sharma (Weightlifting)	Bharat Kumar Chetri (Hockey)
3.	Shri A. Srinivasa Rao (Table-Tennis)	Bobby Aloysius (Athletics)
4.	Sukhdev Singh Pannu (Athletics)	Chougale Dadu Dattatray (Wrestling)
5.	Clarence Lobo Hockey (Life Time)	-
6.	Tarak Sinha Cricket (Life Time)	-
7.	Jiwan Kumar Sharma Judo (Life Time)	-
8.	V.R. Beedu Athletics (Life Time)	-

Sports News

1. Indian boxer **Amit Panghal** has won the gold medal in Men's 49kg category at Asian Games 2018.
Note: He beats reigning Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov (Uzbekistan). India's Pranab Bardhan (60-years) and Shibhnath Sarkar (56-years) win gold medal in Bridge final event at Asian Games 2018.
2. **Sakshi Choudhary** has won the gold at the World Youth Boxing in Budapest in the 57-kilogram category.
Note: She beat Nikolina Cacic (Croatia). Manisha and Anamika settled for silver medals in the 64 kg and 51 kg categories. The AIBA Youth World Championships is a boxing championship event organised by the AIBA for "Youth" competitors who are between the age of 15-17 years old.
3. Japan's young swimmer **Rikako Ikee** has been named the 2018 Indonesia Asian Games' Most Valuable Player (MVP) after winning 6 gold and 2 silver medals.

Note: She won the 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m and 100m butterfly as well as the 4x100m freestyle and medley relays. Rikako Ikee is the first female winner of the award, which has been presented at every Games since the 1998 edition in Bangkok.

4. England's leading Test run-scorer **Alastair Cook** retired from international at Kennington Oval, London.
Note: Cook is the sixth highest scorer in test cricket with 12,254 runs (32 centuries). He is the youngest player to complete 12,000 Test runs (the 6th overall and the only Englishman). The left-handed opening batsman captained England in 59 tests.
5. Former Indian middle order batsman **Subramaniam Badrinath** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: In first class cricket, he captained Vidarbha and was captain of Tamil Nadu earlier. He scored 10,245 first-class



- runs from 145 First-class games and Tests (2), ODIs (7) and T20Is (1).
6. Indian shooters have become the first set to secure quota places for the 2020 Olympics -- **Anjum Moudgil & Apurvi Chandela**.
Note: Moudgil (24-year) shot a total of 248.4 and won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea.
 7. Former India fast bowler **Rudra Pratap Singh** has announced his retirement from International cricket.
Note: He played 82 matches across all three formats and picked up over 100 wickets. He was one of the heroes of India's 2007 World T20 triumph and played a major role in India's Test win over Australia at Perth in that year.
 8. The union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has rewarded Indian athlete with 10 lakhs to encourage the athlete to keep doing the hard work and strive for the medals -- **Govindan Lakshamanan**.
Note: Earlier, Lakshamanan (long distance) runner's performance in the 10,000 metres race in which he was dramatically disqualified after finishing third.
 9. Indian Shooter picked up his maiden gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Championships in Changwon, South Korea -- **Om Prakash Mitharwal**.
Note: He claimed the gold medal in the 50 metres pistol event. The silver was won by Damir Mikec (Serbia), while the bronze medal went to Daemyung Lee (South Korea).
 10. **Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched the 10 metres Air Pistol Junior gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Championship in Changwon, South Korea.
Note: Arjun Singh Cheema claimed bronze in the same event with a score of 218 while Korea's Hojin Lim clinched silver. India also picked up a silver medal in the junior men's trap team competition.
 11. **Novak Djokovic** has won the US Open men's title 2018.
Note: Serbia's Novak Djokovic (31-years) defeated Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 to claim US Open Men's tennis tournament - 2018 in New York (USA). It was Djokovic's 14th Grand Slam title and the third US Open title.
 12. **Naomi Osaka** won the US Open women's title 2018.
Note: Japan's Naomi Osaka (20 -years) has lifted the Women's singles title of US Open 2018. She won the Grand Slam defeating Serena Williams of US in straight sets 6-2, 6-4.
 13. **Arpinder Singh** has become the first Indian to win a medal in IAAF Continental Cup.
Note: Triple jumper Arpinder Singh (25-year) has become the first Indian to win a medal (bronze medal) in the IAAF Continental Cup at Ostrava in Czech Republic. Two top athletes from the four regions of Europe, Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific were taking part in each of the 36 events in men and women sections taken together.
 14. **Ankur Mittal** won the men's double trap gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea.
Note: The multiple World Cup medallist shot 140 out of 150 to go into a shoot-off for gold with China's Yiyang Yang and Slovakia's Hubert Andrzej. Ankur also won the team bronze in the event along with compatriots Md. Asab and Shardul Vihaan, their tally of 409 points putting them behind China's 410 and the gold-winning team Italy's tally of 411.
 15. **India Blue** beat defending champion India Red to win 57th edition of Duleep Trophy 2018.
Note: India Blue thrashed India Red (defending champion) by an innings and 187 runs in the final to win the Duleep Trophy at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. The Duleep Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket competition played in India between teams representing geographical zones of India. The tournament was contested by three teams, namely India Red, India Blue and India Green
 16. **Luka Modric** has been named the 2017-18 UEFA Men's Player of the Year Award.
Note: Modric surpassed former Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah. The UEFA Men's Player of the Year Award is an association football award given to the footballer playing for a football club in Europe that is considered the best in the previous season.
 17. Former India Hockey captain has announced his retirement from international hockey after an illustrious career spanning 12 years -- **Sardar Singh**.
Note: He (usually plays the center half position) made over 350 international appearances for India and captained the national team from 2008 to 2016. He received the Arjuna award (in 2012) and Padma Shri (in 2015). Sardara was born in Haryana's village Sant Nagar (Sirsa District) to Gurnam Singh, a RMP doctor and Jasveer Kaur, a housewife.
 18. **Udhayveer Singh** has won an individual Gold Medal in Junior Men's 25 metre pistol event in the World Shooting Championships in South Korea.
Note: Udhayveer Singh shot a score of 587 in the individual competition to grab the Gold ahead American Henry Leverett and Korean Lee Jaekyoon.
 16. Indian five-time world boxing champion boxer clinched her third gold medal of the year in 48 kg category -- **M C Mary Kom**.
Note: Mary Kom was up against Kazakhstan's Aigerim Kassanayeva and prevailed 5-0 with a fine tactical performance. 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.



- 17. Maldives** lifted the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Note: Maldives defeated India (defending champions) 2-1. The South Asian Football Federation Championship (SAFF) Championship is the main association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by the South Asian Football Federation. Seven teams (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) compete in the South Asian Football Federation Tournament (SAFE).
- 18. Simranjit Kaur, Monika & Bhagyabati Kachari** claimed gold medals as Indian boxers notched up an impressive seven podium finishes at the Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul, Turkey.
Note: Simranjit (64kg), defeated Turkey's Sema Caliskan to win the Gold. Bhagyabati (48- kg) was declared the most scientific boxer of the tournament. Monika (81- kg) beat Ayse Cagirer (Turkey) to win the gold medal.
- 19. Rio Olympics Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik** won the Silver medal in 62 kg category at the Medved International Wrestling tournament Belarus.
Note: Sakshi lost to Hungary's Marianna Sastin, 2-6 to finish second best. Pooja Dhanda bagged a Bronze medal in the 57 kg category.
- 20. Eliud Kipchoge** set a new marathon world record in Berlin, German.
Note: Eliud Kipchoge (2-01.40) broke the previous world record set in Berlin by fellow Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in 2014 by 1 minute and 18 seconds. Kenyans Amos Kipruto finished second in 2:06:23 and Wilson Kipsang was third in 2:06:48.
- 21. Kevin Mayer** set a new world record in the decathlon with 9,126 points at the Decastar meet at the Decastar event in Talence, France.
Note: Mayer surpassed previous holder American Ashton Eaton's 9045 points recorded at the 2015 world championships in Beijing. The Frenchman threw a personal best of 71.90 metres in the javelin in the penultimate event to leave him with the relatively simple task of needing to finish inside 4 minutes 49 seconds in the 1500 metres to beat the previous record.
- 22. Mercedes' driver** has won the Singapore Grand Prix at Marina Bay Street Circuit, in Singapore -- **Lewis Hamilton**.
Note: The 2018 Singapore Grand Prix is a Formula One Moto race held at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Marina Bay, Singapore.
- 23. Hangzhou (China)** will host the fourth edition of Asian Para Games in 2022.
Note: The confirmation came following a visit to Hangzhou by Majid Rashed (APC President) and Tarek Souei (APC CEO). Hangzhou will be the third Chinese city to play host to the Asian Games after 'Beijing' (1990) and Guangzhou (in 2010). The Asian Para Games is a multi-sport event regulated by the Asian Paralympic Committee that held every four years after every Asian Games for athletes with physical disabilities.
- 24. Women's World Boxing Championships** will be held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The first edition of the women's world championship was held in the United States in Scranton in 2001.
- 25. Deepak Punia** settled for silver medal in 86kg freestyle at junior world wrestling championship.
Note: India ended the championship with seven medals (4-silvers and 3 bronze).
- 26. Anthony Sinisuka** beat Japan's Kento Momota to take the Men's singles China Open Badminton title in Changzhou, **Ginting**.
Note: Spain's Carolina Marin beat China's Chen Yufei 21-18, 21-13 to take the women's singles title. Momota (third seed) who took the Japan Open title on home ground last week, was beaten by world number 13 Ginting 23-21, 21-19. Ginting last beat Momota at the Asian Games in Jakarta last month.
- 27. Croatian footballer** has been named the world's best male player at the Best FIFA Football Awards in London -- **Luka Modric**.
Note: He beat former team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool's Mohamed Salah to the award. Brazil and Orlando Pride forward Marta won the best female player award. Salah received the Puskas award for the best goal, for his effort against Everton in the Premier League at Anfield last December.
- 28. India** lifted the Asia Cup for a record seventh time.
Note: In the final of Asia Cup 2018, India defeated Bangladesh by 3 wickets on the final ball of the match to successfully defend the title. Man-of-the-match: Liton Das, Man-of-the-tournament: Shikhar Dhawan
- 29. India** ended their Asian Games 2018 campaign with the highest medal tally at the tournament ever -- **69 medals**.
Note:
- India have surpassed their previous highest tally of 65 medals which they registered at the 2010 edition of Asiad in Guangzhou
 - Rani Rampal (Indian women hockey captain) was the country's flag-bearer.
 - More than 10,000 athletes gave their best at the Asian Games 2018, winning medals for their respective countries. 465 gold medals were won by the athletes of 28 countries.
 - China finished on top of the medal tally with 132 gold medals.



Ranks	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	132	92	65	289
2.	Japan	75	56	74	205
3.	Republic of Korea	49	58	70	177
4.	Indonesia	31	24	43	98
5.	Uzbekistan	21	24	25	70
6.	Iran	20	20	22	62
7.	Chinese Taipei	17	19	31	67
8.	India	15	24	30	69

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