



Monthly GK Digest

October 2018



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Monthly Digest
October -2018

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

- The **Reserve Bank of India** in its fourth Bi-Monthly statement 2018-19 has made the following announcements -
 - Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5 percent.
 - Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 6.25 percent,
 - The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75%.
 - The decision of the MPC is consistent with the stance of calibrated tightening of monetary policy in consonance.
 - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at 4%.

Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	6.50 %
Reverse Repo Rate	6.25 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.75 %
Bank Rate	6.75 %
CRR	4%
SLR	19.5%

- America's **IBM** has acquired software company **Red Hat** in a USD 34 billion cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date.

Note: The open source, enterprise software maker 'Red Hat' founded 25 years ago, valued at about USD 20.5 billion at the end of trading.
- Republic of Seychelles** has launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond.


Note: Sovereign Blue Bond is financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. The bond demonstrates the potential for countries to harness capital markets for financing the sustainable use of marine resources. The bond raised USD 15 million from international investors.
- Corporation Bank** has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank - Winner 2018' award instituted by the Assocham.

Note: The '6th Assocham SMEs Excellence Award – 2018' was held in New Delhi. The award was conferred based on the bank's performance in SME (small and medium enterprise) segment.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) slashed the daily withdrawal limit on its classic debit card from Rs 40,000 to **Rs 20,000**.

Note: There is no change in the daily withdrawal limits on other cards. The new limit will be effective from October 31st this year. A senior bank official said that bank has been receiving many complaints regarding cloning and the decision is taken to reduce the withdrawal limit on these cards to check fraudulent transactions.
- RBI** will inject 36,000 crore rupees into the system through purchase of government bonds in October to meet the festival season demand for funds.

Note: In a release, RBI said the decision to conduct purchase of Government securities under OMOs was based on an assessment of the durable liquidity needs. The auctions to purchase government bonds as part of the Open Market Operations will be conducted in the second, third and fourth week of October.
- The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of five crore rupees on **Federal Bank** for non-compliance of certain RBI directions among other deficiencies.

Note: According to RBI, Federal Bank had failed to report large borrower exposure for assessment under risk-based supervision. The bank had also failed to pay compensation to customers for the delay in resolution of ATM related complaints. Besides, the bank was also found lacking in following know your customer and anti-money laundering norms.



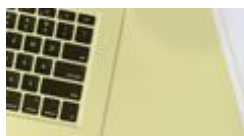
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8. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched a six-days national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign in 115 aspirational districts -- **Udyam Abhilasha**.
Note: SIDBI has partnered with Common service centres, e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT for implementing the campaign.
9. The Government of India has signed with a regional development bank **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** with USD 150 million loan agreement to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh.
Note: It will be the First Multi-Skills Park in India to enhance the quality of Technical and Vocational Education And Training (TVET) System in the State and create a more skilled workforce.
10. **The Reserve Bank of India** has allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital from overseas.
Note: RBI relaxed the policy on borrowing up to 10 billion US dollar from the overseas by the state-owned fuel retailers. Earlier, oil marketing companies including Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd, were not allowed to raise external commercial borrowing (ECB) for working capital needs on a long-term basis. Now, the RBI has allowed them to raise ECB of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.
11. The total gross GST revenue collected in September is **Rs. 94,442 crores**.
Note: State GST is 21,061 crore rupees while Integrated GST is over Rs. 50,000 crore. Sixty-seven lakh GSTR 3B Returns have been filed for the month of August so far.
12. **Reliance Health Insurance** has received the final nod from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to begin operations.
Note: Reliance Health Insurance has received R3 approval from IRDAI for its new health insurance business. The health insurance in India has been amongst the fastest-growing insurance sectors, rising at 20% annually and is expected to double to over Rs 1,00,000 crore by 2021. The company has on board nearly 3,500 hospitals as partners and plans to extend the partnership with 5,000 hospitals across 100 cities by March.
13. India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments in 2018 -- **28th**.
Note: India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018 (36th in 2011). The country holds the top ranking on B2G and G2B transactions and comes third on C2G transactions jointly with Argentina. Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark.
14. **State Bank of India** has signed an MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for the development of human resources of the NBI.
Note: SBI signed the three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NBI to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance for development of NBI's human resources by imparting education, training and research.
15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its nod to start **Kerala Bank**.
Note: It will be Kerala Cooperative Bank (referred to as Kerala Bank). It will have all the facilities of a commercial bank, including ATMs.
16. The union Govt. in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to issue **Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19**.
Note: The 2018-19 Series II tranche will be issued on 23rd of this month and the period of Subscription is 15th to 19th of this month. The Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, designated post offices and recognized stock exchanges National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.
17. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts a growth rate for India in 2018 -- **7.3%**.
Note: In China, growth is projected to 6.6% in 2018 and 6.2 % in 2019. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. It consists of 189 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade.
18. As part of the World Development Report 2019, The World Bank has released the **Human Capital Index (HCI)** at the World Bank-IMF annual meetings in **Bali, Indonesia**.
Note: Singapore topped the poll, highly rated for its universal health care system, education exams results and life expectancy figures. It is followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland. The broader theme of the World Development Report (WDR) 2018 is "The Changing Nature of Work". India was ranked at the 115th position (in 157 countries) lower than Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh.



- 19. Liberty** will acquire European assets of ArcelorMittal.
Note: The assets include integrated steelworks in Romania and the Czech Republic as well as rolling mills in Macedonia and Italy and will take Liberty's steel rolling capacity in Europe to about 10.5 million tonnes a year. The deal currently subject to a conditional agreement following a binding offer from Liberty — would also be an important step for ArcelorMittal.
- 20. Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** has signed an agreement with the Department of Posts (DoP) for distribution of energy-efficient appliances under the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme.
Note: EESL will distribute the LED lights (bulbs and tube lights) and BEE 5-star rated fans through DoP's network of post offices across India, a statement said. "Under this initiative, the post office centres will provide the additional facility of replacement of non-functional LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans that are within their technical warranty period under the UJALA programme,". Currently, under the UJALA Scheme, over 310 million LED bulbs, 6.6 million LED tube lights and around 20 lakh energy-efficient fans have been distributed in the country.
- 21. India's** ranks in Oxfam world inequality index -- **147th**.
Note: India has been ranked among the bottom 10 countries in a new worldwide index on the commitment of different nations to reduce inequalities in their populations. The index is topped by Denmark, based on its high and progressive taxation, high social spending and good protection of workers.
- 22. India** ranks among 119 Countries in Global Hunger Index 2018 -- **103rd**.
Note: Welt hunger life and Concern Worldwide has been issuing reports on hunger levels in the world since 2006. The main area of focus for this year's report has been "Forced Migration and Hunger".
- 23. Indian** electronic commerce company has tied up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer customized insurance to leading mobile brands being sold on the e-commerce major's platform -- **Flipkart**.
Note: This marks decade-old Flipkart's foray into insurance after it secured a corporate agent licence from the insurance regulator, IRDAI. The insurance will be available from October 10 when Flipkart's Big Billion Days (TBBDD) begins.
- 24. The** union Government granted a year's extension to Bank of Baroda's MD (Managing Director) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) -- **PS Jayakumar**.
Note: This extension comes in the backdrop of the amalgamation between Bank of Baroda (BoB), Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to form India's second largest public sector bank being set in motion.
- 25. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has formed a panel under the chairmanship of Suresh Mathur, ED (Health), IRDAI to examine the feasibility of payment of general and health insurance claims in installments.
Note: The concept of the settlement of claim benefits in installments will enable the beneficiaries/claimants receive payments in a series of pre-determined installments. The regulator 'IRDAI' has constituted a working group with Suresh Mathur, ED (Health), IRDAI, as its chairman.
- 26. The** union government has increased the rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes by 0.4% points for the October-December quarter to **8%**.
- 27. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** is entering a strategic investment partnership with **Den Networks Limited and Hathway Cable and Datacom Limited**.
- 28. Who** will examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears -- **A parliamentary panel**.
Note: The parliamentary standing committee on labour has also decided to review the implementation of labour laws, social security and welfare scheme for workers. The panel will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya and has selected a wide range of subjects related to laborers.
- 29. RBI** has released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among **prepaid instruments (PPI)** such as mobile wallets.
Note: According to the notification, inter-operability among mobile wallets, and between bank account and e-wallet would be enabled through the UPI system.
- 30. Inflation-based** wholesale prices rose to a two-month high of in September -- **5.13%**
Note: The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation stood at 4.53% in August and 3.14% in September last year.
- 31. International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has launched USD 1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe.



- Note:** These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas. IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments. IFC pioneered the masala bond programme in October 2013.
- 32.** As per Nation Brands 2018 report by Brand Finance, India's rank in most valuable nation brand in the world -- **9th**.
Note: India's brand value is USD 2,159 billion in 2018. US topped in the list with brand value of USD 25,899 billion.
- 33. International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has launched its USD 1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe.
Note: These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India. Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees. IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments. Masala (means spices) term was used by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to evoke the culture and cuisine of India.
- 34.** RBI has lifted the prohibition on **Fino Payments Bank** to open new accounts, after it submitted a compliance report.
Note: Earlier, Fino Payment Bank had been unable to enrol new customers (since the end of May) after RBI found the bank to be non-compliant with its operational guidelines. According to RBI's operating guidelines for payments banks (India Post Payments Bank Ltd, Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank, Airtel Payments Bank and Jio Payments Bank), a customer can make deposits of up to Rs. 1 lakh per account in a year.
- 35. Paytm** has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
Note: It is a smartphone-based settlement service that allows users to store money from a bank account in their 'PayPay' wallet and make payments with it. It is built around its QRtech which it has deployed in India to allow customers to make offline payments.
- 36.** PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app **Khushi**.
Note: The app is designed to be a one-stop shop providing insurance-related information, anytime, anywhere, such as policy features, premium due details besides providing fund value and portfolio details. Khushi app has ability to understand customer intent and provide tailored responses.
- 37. State Bank of India (SBI)** and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd have signed a definitive agreement to enter into a joint venture for the establishment of a latest card acceptance and future ready digital payment platform for India.
Note: Now, India's largest bank will have a majority stake in the proposed joint venture. Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd, Japan.
- 38. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced to inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November through the purchase of government securities as it looks to meet festive season demand for funds.
Note: The central bank had already injected Rs 36,000 crore into the system in October through open market operation (OMO). Open market operations (OMO) refer to the buying and selling of government securities in the open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in the banking system.

Important Dates

- The International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on **1st October**.
Note: The day raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. The theme of the 2018 commemoration is "Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions".
- The World Habitat Day is celebrated annually on **1st October (first Monday)**.
Note: The event focuses on the state of human settlements and people's right to sufficient shelter. This year theme is "Municipal Solid Waste Management".
- Nation pays homage to Father of Nation on his 149th birth anniversary -- **Mahatma Gandhi**.
Note: The UN General Assembly had on 17 June 2007 voted to establish 2nd October as the International Day of Non-Violence. A Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha was organised at Rajghat on this occasion. The day also marks the launch of 150th-anniversary celebrations of the



- Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention is also being organised at Rashtrapati Bhavan to mark the occasion.
4. The World Animal Day is celebrated annually on -- **4th October**.
Note: The day raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe. The World Animal Day was originated by Heinrich Zimmermann, organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at the Sports Palace in Berlin, Germany.
 5. The World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2018 is being observed across the world on **5th October**.
Note: For 2018, the UNESCO adopted the theme: "The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher." According to UNESCO, World Teachers' Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding, and appreciation displayed for the vital contributions that teachers make to education and development.
 6. Indian Air Force Day is being observed annually across India on **8th October**.
Note: The Indian Air Force displayed various Aircraft at Air Force Station Hindan air base near Delhi with parade and air display. The Indian Air Force (IAF) established on 8th October 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire and the prefix Royal was added in 1945 in recognition of its services during World War II.
 7. The World Post Day is celebrated each year on **9th October**.
Note: It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since then, countries around the world participate annually in the celebrations. The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.
 8. The Union Govt. will commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh Guru next year with events across the globe -- **Guru Nanak Dev**.
Note: The union government decided to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev as 'universal brotherhood year'. Guru Nanak was born on 15th April 1469 at Rai Bhoi Ki Talvaṇḍi (present day Nankana Sahib, Punjab, Pakistan) near Lahore. His birth is celebrated worldwide as Guru Nanak Gurpurab on Kartik Pooranmashi. Guru Nanak's words are registered in the form of 974 poetic hymns in the holy text of Sikhism (the Guru Granth Sahib).
 9. The World Mental Health Day is observed every year on -- **10th October**.
Note: The World Mental Health Day raises awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The theme for this year is " Young people and mental health in a changing world".
 10. The International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) is observed every year across the world on -- **11th October**.
Note: The theme of 2018 is "With Her: A Skilled GirlForce ". On December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution to declare 11th October as the International Day.
 11. The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is observed every year on **13th October**.
Note: The theme for the year 2018 is "Reducing the economic loss of disasters".
 12. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India organized "World Egg Day" on ___ **13th October**.
 13. The International Day of Rural Women is observed across the world on **15th October**.
Note: The theme of 2018 is "Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".
 14. The 'World Food Day' is observed every year globally on **16th October**.
Note: The Theme for 2018 World Food Day is "OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE".
 15. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year throughout the world on **17th October**.
Note: The theme of 2018 is 'Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity'.
 16. World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on **20th October**.
Note: The World Osteoporosis Day launched a year-long campaign dedicated to raising global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. The theme of World Osteoporosis Day 2018 calls for global action in order to improve bone health and prevent fractures caused by osteoporosis.
 17. The United Nations Day is being observed globally on -- **24th October**.
Note: The theme of this year's concert, which is sponsored by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, is "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence".



18. World Development Information Day is being observed every year on **24th October**.
Note: In 1973, The United Nations General Assembly decided to institute a World Development Information Day coinciding with United Nations Day on 24th October.
19. Valmiki Jayanti (Pragat Diwas) is being observed and people pay their respects towards the first poet of Sanskrit literature -- **Maharishi Valmiki**.
Note: He authored the epic Ramayana. The processions called Shobha Yatra is also taken out to mark the occasion.
20. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage observed by the United Nations on -- **27th October**.
Note: The General Conference of UNESCO approved the commemoration of a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in 2005 as a mechanism to raise general awareness of the need to preserve and safeguard important audiovisual material for future generations.

21. International Animation Day is celebrated on **28th October**
Note: The International Animation Day (IAD) commemorating the day in 1892 when Charles-Emile Reynaud's Theatre Optique made its first public appearance in Paris. The day recognises and celebrates the artists, technicians and scientists behind the art of animation in all its forms and avatars.
22. The 'National Unity day' (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is being celebrated every year in India on **31st October**.
Note: The objective of this event is to pay tribute to the Iron man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his birth anniversary by remembering his extraordinary works for the country. In 2014, National Unity Day was introduced by the Government of India with the aim of celebrating this event every year on 31st October.

Obituaries

1. Renowned harmonium player **Pandit Tulsidas Borkar** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Borkar was conferred the Padma Shri in 2016 for his contributions to Indian music. He was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
2. Legendary Chicago blues guitarist **Otis Rush** passed away.
Note: Otis Rush won a Grammy for Best Traditional Blues Recording in 1999 for "Any Place I'm Going." Rush was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984.
3. Noted Gandhian **Natwar Thakkar** passed away after brief illness in Guwahati.
Note: Mr. Thakkar (Padma Sri awardee) hailed from Maharashtra but made Nagaland his home ever since he had landed in the state in 1955. Thakkar had founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang.
4. Well known Malayalam poet **M N Paloor** passed away due to age-related ailments at Koor, Kozhikode.
Note: Paloor received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his autobiography 'Kathayillathavante Katha' in 2013. He also won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for his collection 'Kalikalam'.
5. Bollywood Singer **Nitin Bali** passed away in a car accident.
Note: Bali shot to fame in the 1990s for remixing popular songs 'Neele neele ambar par' was a chartbuster. Earlier,
- He was injured when his car hit a divider on SV Road in suburban Borivali.
6. Legendary Hindustani classical musician **Annapurna Devi** passed away.
Note: Annapurna Devi passed away at Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai. She was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan award. She was married to sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar.
7. The co-founder of Microsoft **Paul G. Allen** passed away due to cancer in Seattle, Washington.
Note: Paul had helped usher in the personal computing revolution and then channeled his enormous fortune into transforming Seattle into a cultural destination.
8. Environmentalist **Professor G.D. Agarwal** was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga passed away in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
Note: He was a former IIT-Kanpur professor.
9. Veteran Congress leader **Narayan Dutt Tiwari** passed away on his birthday after a prolonged illness.
Note: Tiwari had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of two states (Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand). He was a three-time chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Tiwari was also the Uttarakhand chief minister from 2002-2007. He served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh (from 2007 until 2009).



10. Senior BJP leader sitting Member of Parliament (MP) **Bhola Singh** from Begusarai (Bihar) passed away in Delhi.
Note: Mr. Singh was a two-time member of Lok Sabha member of Nawada (In 2009) & Begusarai (2014) in Bihar. Veteran leader reached the Bihar assembly eight times from Begusarai assembly seat.
11. Japanese-born Marine biologist **Osamu Shimomura** passed away in Japan's southern city of Nagasaki.
Note: Shimomura, one of three scientists who won the 2008 Nobel Prize in chemistry for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that contributed to cancer studies. Shimomura was born in Kyoto and studied in Nagasaki, where he survived the Aug. 9, 1945, U.S. atomic bombing.
12. Former Delhi chief minister & BJP leader **Madan Lal Khurana** passed away after a prolonged illness.
Note: Khurana was the chief minister of Delhi from 1993 to 1996 and was appointed the governor of Rajasthan (in 2004).
13. Senior composer and lyricist **Yashwant Dev** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: He had composed and written many popular Marathi songs. He was honored with many awards including Gan-samradni Lata Mangeshkar Award and Gadima puraskar.
14. Noted Urdu writer **Professor Qazi Abdussattar** passed away in Delhi due to illness.
Note: He was former head of Aligarh Muslim University's Urdu department. Abdussattar was awarded Padma Shri in 1974.

New Appointments

1. **Ajit Mohan** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Vice President of the Facebook (its India wing).
Note: Earlier, Mr Ajit has served as chief executive of Hotstar, a streaming platform owned by Twenty-First Century Fox's Star India arm, since April 2016.
2. **Jayant Mammen Mathew** has been elected as the president of the prestigious Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2018-19.
Note: He succeeds Akila Urankar of Business Standard. Mr Mathew is the Executive Editor of Malayala Manorama.
3. **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** sworn in as the new Chief Justice of India.
Note: He succeeds Justice Dipak Misra. Justice Gogoi is the 46th Chief Justice of India. He will have a tenure of a little over 13 months and will retire on November 17, 2019.
4. **Navin Gurnaney** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of Tata Starbucks.
Note: He will replace Sumitro Ghosh who will return to the US parent company after a three-year stint. Tata Starbucks, a joint venture between Tata Group and Starbucks, posted its first positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) after its sales growth nearly doubled during FY17-18.
5. Iraq's parliament elected a veteran Kurdish politician **Barham Salih** as the country's new president.
Note: The new president will have 15 days to task the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc with forming a new government. Newly elected Iraqi President Barham Salih has named veteran Shi'ite politician Adel Abdul Mahdi as prime minister-designate and tasked him with forming a new government.
6. **Lisa Borders** became the first CEO of Time's Up.
Note: The Time's Up movement set up by Hollywood actresses to counter sexual harassment in the workplace announced that it has appointed its first president and CEO, previous WNBA leader Lisa Borders.
7. The first woman to be appointed as head of IMF's research department -- **Gita Gopinath**.
Note: She is also the second Indian after former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan to hold the position. Gopinath, who hails from Kerala's Kannur district, grew up in Mysore and went on to study at Delhi's Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR). Gita is also the co-director of the International Finance and Macroeconomics program at the National Bureau of Economic Research.
8. ICICI Bank board has elevated Chief Operating Officer (COO) as the new managing director and CEO for five years -- **Sandeep Bakhshi**.
Note: ICICI Bank managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) Chanda Kochhar (56-year) quit the bank. She quit the post six months before her current tenure was to end (31st March 2019). Kochhar has also resigned from all subsidiaries of the bank including ICICI Securities where she had sought reappointment as the chairperson.
9. Senior diplomat **Sanjay Verma** has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Spain.



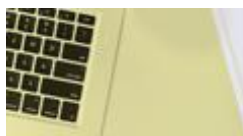
- Note:** Currently, He is Additional Secretary in the ministry. Arindam Bagchi (IFS official -1995 batch) has been appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia.
- 10. Pankaj Sharma** has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland.
Note: Mr. Sharma will replace Amandeep Gill. Currently, he is the joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- 11. Rakesh Sharma** has been appointed as managing director (MD) and Chief executive officer (CEO) of IDBI bank for a period of six months.
Note: Mr. Sharma is the former MD and CEO of Canara Bank (till July 2018) and was among the few bankers hired in 2015 from the private sector to lead big state-run banks. He will have the task of ensuring a smooth transfer of majority ownership from the government to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- 12. Justice Surya Kant** sworn in as the chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
Note: Justice Suruya kant was administered the oath of office by the Governor Acharya Devvrat in a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan.
- 13. Srinivasan Swamy** has been appointed as the chairman of the International Advertising Association (IAA).
Note: He is the first Indian to hold the prestigious seat at the 80-year old institution, which is considered the world's most influential network of marketing and communication leaders.
- 14. US Ambassador to the United Nations resigned directly to US President Donald Trump -- Nikki Haley.**
Note: At United Nations, she has been a vocal critic of Russia and a supporter of US sanctions. According to US President Donald Trump, Nikki Haley will continue as the US Ambassador to the United Nations until the end of the year.
- 15. Senior Advocate has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India -- Tushar Mehta.**
Note: Currently, He is serving as the Additional Solicitor General (since 2014). The Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General advise the Government and appear on behalf of the Union of India in terms of the Law Officers (Terms and Conditions) Rules, 1972.
- 16. The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) chief resigns amid detention in China -- Meng Hongwei.**
Note: Senior Vice-President of Interpol's Executive Committee, Kim Jong Yang of South Korea, will be instated as the acting president.
- 17. Dr. Shekhar Mande** has been appointed as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
Note: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is an autonomous body and India's premier research & development (R&D) organisation, established in 1942. It operates as an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860.
- 18. The Minister of State for External Affairs Mobashar Jawed Akbar** has resigned from his post in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment made by several women against him.
Note: The resignation comes in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment against him. Mr. Akbar has already filed a criminal defamation case in this regard.
- 19. The new chief of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for a period of three years -- Priyank Kanoongo.**
Note: Kanoongo will be the fifth NCPCR chief since the commission was formed. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- 20. M Nageshwar Rao** has been appointed as interim Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director with immediate effect.
Note: Mr. Rao (1986 batch Odisha cadre officer) joined the CBI as Joint Director and was promoted as Additional Director in 2018 itself. Earlier, 'Alok Verma' (CBI Director) and Rakesh Asthana (Special Director-CBI) were sent on leave.
- 21. Veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as managing director (MD) and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank.
Note: Previously, Mr. Gupta had stints as the chief product officer at National Payments Corporation of India and deputy general manager at State Bank of India. The Paytm Payments Bank is a separate entity in which founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma will hold 51% share,



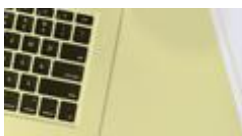
- One97 Communications holds 39% and 10% held by a subsidiary of One97 and Sharma.
22. The four-member GoM headed by the union minister will examine the existing provisions for dealing with sexual harassment of women in offices -- **Rajnath Singh**.
Note: The other members of the GoM are Nitin Gadkari (road transport and highways minister), Nirmala Sitharaman (defence Minister) and Maneka Sanjay Gandhi (women and child development minister).
23. Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya has been appointed as an independent director of IT company -- **Wipro**.
Note: Bhattacharya graduated from Kolkata's Lady Brabourne College in 1977 and picked up banking as a career option for supporting the family following her father's retirement from Bokaro Steel plant as an engineer. On 7th October 2013, Bhattacharya became the first woman to be appointed as chairman of SBI.
24. Justice Naresh Harishchandra 'Patil' sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the **Bombay High Court**.
Note: Bombay High Court is one of the oldest High Court of India located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Its jurisdiction covers the states of Maharashtra, Goa and Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
25. Ethiopian members of parliament have elected as the country's first female president -- **Sahle-Work Zewde**.
Note: She will replace Mulatu Teshome who resigned in unclear circumstances.
26. Who has been appointed as new Prime minister of Sri Lanka--**Mahinda Rajapaksa**.
27. Far-right candidate has won the presidency of Latin America's largest nation Brazil -- **Jair Bolsonaro**.
Note: Mr Bolsonaro bagged around 55% votes against 45% for Fernando Haddad from the left-wing Workers Party. His campaign slogan was "Brazil above everything, God above everyone".
28. The government has appointed Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra as -- **Enforcement Directorate chief**.
Note: He will replace current ED director Karnal Singh's whose term ended on 25th Oct 2018.

Important News - India

1. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi museum in **Rajkot, Gujarat**.
Note: This Museum captures every nuance of Bapu's philosophy and puts it in the context of history, spread across 40 rooms on two floors. He witnessed the e-Gruh Pravesh of 240 beneficiary families.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' in **Delhi**.
Note: The aim of this conference is to further strengthen the education system in the country. It widens the ambit of education from all round development of an individual to make the youth agents of nation-building. According to PM Modi, his government has set up Atal Tinkering labs to encourage innovations and involve students in creating a New India.
3. The National Khadi Festival 2018 is being organized by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote -- **Khadi products**.
Note: The main objective of the festival is to promote the products of cottage industry and create awareness regarding the art of states.
4. The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops for the current financial year **all Rabi crops**.
Note: The MSP of wheat has been raised by 105 rupees per quintal, Safflower by 845 rupees per quintal, Barley by 30 rupees a quintal, Masur by 225 per quintal, Gram by 220 per quintal & rapeseed and mustard by 200 rupees per quintal. The decision will give additional return to the farmers of 62,635 crore rupees by way of increasing the MSP of notified crops to at least 50% return over cost of production.
5. The National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC), India's and Asia's first, would be set up in **Patna (Bihar)**.
Note: The NDRC is likely to be set up next month on the banks of the Ganga river in the Patna University premises. It will play an important role in strengthening conservation efforts and research to save the endangered mammal.
6. A four-day Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2018 was held in **Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**.
Note: The theme of this year's festival is 'science for transformation'. IISF 2018 is being organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati.



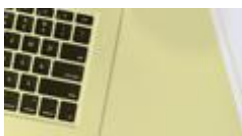
7. The sustainable mountain development summit VII held in **Shimla**.
Note: Integrated Mountain Initiative in New Delhi and Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment in Shimla have joined hands with Shoolini University of Solan to organise the summit. More than 150 delegates from across India are expected to participate.
8. The union minister Suresh Prabhu has released the policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called **Digi Yatra**.
Note: The DigiYatra central platform will be operational by end of Feb 2019. Bangalore & Hyderabad International Airports will be ready with pilot implementation by end of Feb, 2019. Airport Authority of India (AAI) intends to roll out the programme initially at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune & Vijayawada by April, 2019.
9. The first Regional Conference on 'women in Detention and access to justice' in **Shimla**.
Note: The BPR&D organises the conferences on newly emerges issues. The Parliamentary committee on Environment of women on the subject "Women in Detention and Access to Justice" has made several recommendations.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first Uttarakhand Investors Summit in **Dehradun**.
Note: The key objective of the Investors Summit is to share the investment opportunities and to seek active participation from the business leaders. All the leading business firms and industrial houses participated in the two-day event to explore investment opportunities in the hill state in 12 major sectors, including tourism and hospitality.
11. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind visited to Central Asian Country **Tajikistan**.
Note: He visited the Tajik National University and addressed 'countering Radicalization: Challenges in Modern Societies'.
12. Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPA) of Indian Region (Zone III) in **Guwahati (Assam)**.
Note: Speakers and Deputy Speakers of state assemblies and MPs from the North-East states are taking part in the conference.
13. Railway Minister Piyush Goyal laid the foundation stone of two key railway projects in **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: The construction of a new railway line connecting 'Katghora-Mungeli-Kawardha-Dongargarh' would accelerate the growth of the mineral-rich region and bring prosperity. The 295 kilometers project will be built at a cost of Rs 6,000 crore. The foundation stone of a railway gauge conversion project connecting Kendri (Raipur) to Dhamtari and Abhanpur to Rajim, cumulatively a 67 km long project.
14. The Textiles minister **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** has inaugurated the exhibition "Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti" in New Delhi.
Note: The exhibition organized as part of Gandhi Parv realizes what Gandhi inspired and put into action, self-transformation, with the ultimate goal of the total transformation of society.
15. The Indian Postal Services honored the Udaipur-based non-profit organization by launching their postal stamps **Narayan Seva Sansthan**.
Note: The stamp of Rs 5 includes the official logo of the Narayan Seva Sansthan in bright colors along with the picture of NGO's Polio Hospital which is situated in Udaipur. The stamp launched to showcase the organization's work for differently-abled and underprivileged individuals by empowering them physically socially and economically.
16. Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Japan and India to Commence at **Visakhapatnam**.
Note: The ships participating are INS Satpura, a multipurpose stealth frigate, INS Kadmat, Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, Missile Corvette, and INS Shakti, the Fleet Tanker.
17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-Foot tall statue at Sampla in Rohtak district, Haryana -- **Deenbandhu Sir Chhotu Ram (messiah of farmers)**.
Note: PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the Rail Coach Repair Factory at Badhi in Sonapat district. Prime Minister also visited the museum set up in memory of Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram which depicts and gives glimpses of his life.
18. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the two days Accounts General conference in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is a constitutional body mandated to keep a watch on the system of governance in the country to ensure the best use to taxpayer's money. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is an authority, established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India



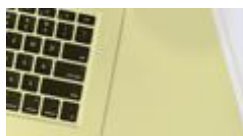
19. The chairman of Infosys Sudha Murthy has inaugurated the ten- days Mysuru Dasara 'Nada Habba' at the Chamundi Hills in **Mysuru**.
Note: Ms. Sudha Murthy (chairman of Infosys) lighting lamp and offering flowers to the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru, placed inside a silver chariot in the temple premises.
20. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched an innovative mobile health App named for citizens of India **MedWatch**.
Note: The app is conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with ZERO financial outlay. 'MedWatch' will provide correct, Scientific and authentic health information to air warriors and all citizens of India.
21. NASSCOM has signed an MoU with the United Nations (UN) agency to strengthen child rights through meaningful business interventions **UNICEF**.
Note: Now, the two organizations will work collaboratively on two key areas including national sensitization on child online protection and encouraging innovations for child rights' in the country.
22. **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** has commissioned a second generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery at Baulsingha village in Odisha's Bargarh district (by December 2020).
Note: It will be the first biofuel plant in the country at which ethanol will be produced from rice straw. The refinery will have a capacity to produce 30 million litres (3-crores) of fuel-grade ethanol annually. The ethanol produced at the plant will be blended with petrol and used as fuel.
23. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 13th annual convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Convention deliberated on three specific subjects:
- Data privacy and Right to Information
 - Amendment in the RTI Act and
 - Implementation of the RTI Act.
24. The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in **Bengaluru**.
Note: The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries. It will provide an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship, a partnership with vendors, mentoring and non-formal community development that will assist the growth of the companies in different verticals and covers business, technology, investors and customers.
25. The Ministry of Textiles will release 7.8 Core rupees for the construction of a textile tourism complex in **Nongpoh, Meghalaya**.
Note: The Textiles ministry will also provide all necessary infrastructure and machinery to the apparel centres so that local garments can be exported throughout the world.
26. The fifth edition of the annual Dilliseminar on 'Geopolitical Impact of Sea Power' commenced at the **Indian Naval Academy (INA)**.
Note: The two-day seminar is being attended by several serving senior Naval officers, eminent academicians and distinguished luminaries.
27. NITI Aayog's AIM and IBM announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**.
Note: The internship will see 38 students receive a two-week paid internship, and 14 teachers from Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) across the length and breadth of the country including from states such as Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar and others, to come together and ideate, collaborate and innovate.
28. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced a unique Internet- based mobile app in the upcoming assembly polls to help citizen to give information regarding electoral malpractices **C-vigil**.
Note: The 'C-Vigil' (stands for 'citizens' vigil') will be operationalized for the first time as a pilot project.
29. The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta has inaugurated the 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair at India Expo Centre & Mart **Greater Noida**.
Note: This Fair has played a vital role in increasing exports of handicrafts from the country and acquired a special importance for the handicrafts sector. The fair is participated by 3200 exhibitors from over 110 countries, organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
30. **NITI Aayog** has signed an agreement with Microsoft India to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) based solutions across various sectors such as agriculture and healthcare.
Note: Microsoft India will support NITI Aayog by combining the cloud, AI, research and its vertical expertise for new initiatives and solutions across several



- core areas including agriculture and healthcare and the environment.
- 31. Mahila Kisan Diwas** has been celebrated to increase the active participation of women in **Agriculture**.
Note: Women farmers, women entrepreneurs, farming organizations, agricultural scientists and researchers from different states are participating in the event. They are contributing in every field of agriculture - from sowing to planting, drainage, irrigation, fertilizer, plant protection, harvesting, weeding, and storage.
- 32. The Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** dedicated a DRDO website to former president Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in New Delhi **The Kalam Vision - Dare to Dream**.
Note: The website focuses on subjects such as artificial intelligence, robotics, autonomous systems and cybersecurity. It will also facilitate an open competition for students and startups, and it is available at drdo.gov.in/drdo/kalam/kalam.html.
- 33. The Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani** has inaugurated the three days 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF) in **New Delhi**.
Note: Around 108 exhibitors of silk and blended silk products manufactured in different parts of the countries are displaying their product. India is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world. India International Silk Fair organized by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC).
- 34. The Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh** has announced an award scheme -- **Saubhagya**.
Note: The scheme felicitates the DISCOMs / Power Department of the States and their employees for achieving 100% household electrification in their area of operations. Awards would be provided for achieving **100% household electrification** at DISCOM/Power Department level of the States. Eight States (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu) which have already achieved more than 99% household electrification prior to the launch of Saubhagya are ineligible for participation under the award scheme.
- 35. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** has released a biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna titled -- **Building a Legacy**.
Note: The biography is authored by Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram. Ramakrishna (former president and Managing Director at Larsen and Toubro)
- is the pioneer of the application of innovative systems and construction techniques in the Indian construction sector.
- 36. India** has ranked as the 58th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) global competitiveness index for 2018.
Note: On the list of 140 economies, the US (1st) is followed by Singapore (2nd) and Germany (3rd). India's rank rose by five places from 2017.
- 37. Ministry of Rural Development** and a college have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing ROSHNI – Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action - **- Lady Irwin college**.
Note: ROSHNI is technically and financially supported by UNICEF India serving as a technical support unit at the national level.
- 38. IRCTC** has launched a new (artificial intelligence) AI-based assistant, 'Ask Disha' for its website.
Note: This new assistant will be prompt in answering generic queries about most frequently asked questions on the ticket booking platform. 'Ask Disha' is powered by CoRover (Bengaluru-based startup) that owns the platform which is built on artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- 39. Indian film actor** has launched a safety app 'Raudram' to ensure the safety of women in the city -- **Kamal Haasan**.
Note: If the person feels any trouble, she should press the power button thrice within a minute. Once this is done, the emergency contacts, the call centre and the nearby police station will receive an instant alert. One can store three contact numbers upon registration in the app. The alerts are generated via the mobile net as well as SMS.
- 40. NITI Aayog** has launched the model guidelines for Public-Private partnership in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
Note: As per the guidelines, the private partner will invest in upgrading, building and deploying human resources, responsible for operational management and service delivery. The guidelines will help streamline private participation and encourage world-class infra & patient care in the health sector.
- 41. A book on Maharana Pratap** authored by historian Rima Hooja has been released -- **Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior**.



- Note:** The book narrates the life of Maharana Pratap, the great Rajput warrior and talks about the famous battle of 'Haldighati'.
42. India will host the 4th edition of Global Partners' Forum (GPF) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The PMNCH (The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health) will unite over 100 countries dedicated to Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement. The forum will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and PMNCH. The previous chapters of the forum have been held in Johannesburg (2014) and Delhi (2010) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2007).
43. The union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolor on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in -- **Mumbai**.
Note: The national flag measured 20x30 feet and stood 350 feet above the ground level. The flag atop a 20-meter high mast on top of the iconic building is near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai. The tricolor is made of non-fading polyester and manufactured by The Flag Company, which is famous for manufacturing big flags.
44. Stephen Hawking's final work has been launched -- **Brief Answers to the Big Questions**.
Note: It has been completed by the theoretical physicist's family and academic colleagues, with material drawn from his vast personal archive. It tackles various issues including the existence of God, potential time travel and human intelligence during the next 100 years.
45. Ministry of AYUSH will organize the first National Summit on Invest in AYUSH at Ambedkar International Centre in **New Delhi**.
Note: The summit is to encourage public sector undertakings (PSUs) under different Ministries/Departments of the Government and private companies to invest in AYUSH. NITI Aayog and Department of Industrial and Policy and Promotion are the partner organizations of this National summit in AYUSH.
46. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) to the nation in **New Delhi**.
Note: It has been built in recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by police personnel since independence. The memorial has been erected on 6.12 acres of land in Chanakyapuri, at the northern end of Shanti Path. The central sculpture of the NPM is a 30 feet monolith made of a single piece of granite, weighing 238 tonnes.
47. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a seven-day visit to three South African countries **Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi**.
48. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a three-day 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' in **Maharashtra**.
Note: The conference has been organised by Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirmaan Samiti. President Kovind also released a book, titled 'Sarvoccha Digambar Jain Pratima', on the occasion. The award carries a cash prize of 11 lakh rupees, a memento and a citation.
49. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the National Police Memorial to the nation on **Police Commemoration Day**.
Note: Every year, 21st October is observed as the Police Commemoration Day in memory of the 10 policemen killed in an ambush by Chinese troops in 1959 in Ladakh's Hot Spring area.
50. NITI Aayog has organized the 4th edition of NITI Lecture Series in **New Delhi**.
Note: The theme this year is "AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth".
51. A railway station will be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres, on the strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the **Sino-India border**.
Note: The Keylong station in Himachal Pradesh will be the first on the railway network to be inside a tunnel. Once completed, Keylong (26 km from Manali) is the administrative centre of Lahaul and Spiti district, and 120 km from the Indo-Tibetan border.
52. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus has been officially selected for 2018 Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival -- **Padmaavat**.
Note: The film is Bhansali's re-imagining of the story of Queen Padmavati, her king consort Maha Rawal Ratan Singh and Sultan Alauddin Khilji. Actors Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh featured in the movie, which was 2018's first blockbuster.
53. India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra, connecting **Dhubri (Assam) to Phulbari (Meghalaya)**.
Note: The 19.3 km (four-lane bridge) will be built by 2026-27, cut road travel by 203 km as also travel time. At present, vehicles take an over-200 km-long detour using the Naranarayan Bridge. The new bridge will complete the missing link of NH127B from Assam to Meghalaya.
54. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has interacted with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals & key industry leaders from across the country in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Prime Minister Modi also launched the "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App on the occasion. The portal which works on the theme "Self for Society" will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their

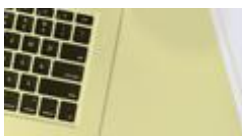


- efforts towards social causes, and service to society on one platform.
- 55. Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated the International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) at Bangaram coral Island of Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
Note: The theme of the conference is “Reef for Life”. About 150 delegates both International and National, are participating in this mega event.
- 56.** The Indian Mobile Congress 2018 (second edition) has opened in **New Delhi**.
Note: The digital forum is organized by the COAI and brings together industry partners, OEMs, service providers, policymakers and experts to discuss and deliberate on emerging technology, issues, policy guidelines. The theme for this year is "New Digital Horizons Connect, Create, Innovate."
- 57.** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has declared open the first edition of North East Olympic Games (NEOG) 2018 at **Imphal**.
Note: Around 2000 thousand athletes will compete in 12 disciplines including Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Judo, Karate-Do, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Wushu. The NEOG games is being organized by the MOA under the aegis of the North East Olympic Association.
- 58.** The Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) Prakash Javadekar has launched the web portal in New Delhi -- **www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in**.
Note: SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- 59.** The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh attended the Raising Day Parade of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh -- **57th**.
Note: The ITBP jawans are deployed in North East and Left Wing Extremism affected areas. On this occasion, 1 Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak, 05 President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service, 23 Police medals for meritorious service and 1 Jeevan Raksha Padak were awarded.
- 60.** The Union minister Maneka Sanjay 'Gandhi' has inaugurated the Women of India National Organic Festival (5th edition) in -- **New Delhi**.
- Note:** The objective of the ten days long 'Organic Festival' is to boost organic culture and promote women, organic farmers and entrepreneurs. The WOI Festival will have producers and manufacturers of organic products from 26 states.
- 61.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated three-day farmers' conclave 'Krishi Kumbh 2018' in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: The 'Krishi Kumbh' is being organized to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmers income. The Kumbh will witness Israel & Japan (as official partners) while Haryana & Jharkhand (as partner states).
- 62.** The union Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at -- **Cochin Shipyard, Kerala**.
Note: The Dry Dock will give an impetus to Make in India initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to two percent. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) is the largest shipbuilding and maintenance facility in India.
- 63.** Who has inaugurated the 'Statue of Unity' (world's tallest Statue) on birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Surat, Gujarat__ **Narendra Modi**.
Note: The Statue of Unity (bronze statue) is the tallest statue (182-metre) in the world, taller than China's Spring Temple Buddha statue (153-metre) and almost double the height of the Statue of Liberty (93 metres) in US. The statue of unity located on the Sadhu Bet island (near Rajpipla) on the Narmada river, located between the Satpura and the Vindhya mountain ranges. The project cost was Rs 3,050 crore and fully funded by the Gujarat government, built within three-and-a-half years from infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- 64.** The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan – 2018 in **Delhi**.
Note: The President noted that around 10,000 units of Arya Samaj are engaged in welfare activities across the world. Swami Dayanand Saraswati had worked for the eradication of discrimination in society on the basis of caste, creed, and sect and motivated everyone to become Arya – that is - the best. It is our duty to take the work of Swami Dayanand Saraswati further.
- 65.** The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) inaugurated 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in **New Delhi**.

States News

- 1.** The state Govt. has launched Wage Compensation Scheme for Pregnant Women in tea gardens -- **Assam**.
Note: The scheme will provide better health and nutrition supplements to the pregnant women. An amount of Rs.

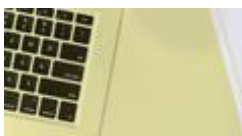
12,000 (in 4 instalments) will be given to the pregnant woman so that she could take care of herself and unborn baby without compromising the livelihood of her



- family. Over 60,000 women are likely to be benefited by the scheme.
2. The Municipal Corporation (MC) with the support of the Asian Development Bank has launched the country's first flood forecasting and early-warning system -- **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)**.
Note: It will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data. This is expected to help policy-makers make informed decisions during disasters.
 3. The state government is constructing India's biggest war memorial in **Jharkhand**.
Note: Stories of the slain soldiers' bravery will be written in the war memorial which will have a replica of the Kargil War so that the youth can understand their duties towards the nation. Jharkhand government has hiked compensation amount to the kin of the soldiers who died while serving the country from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
 4. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved implementation of **Bhopal Metro Rail Project & Indore Metro Rail Project**.
Note: Bhopal Metro Rail Project comprising two corridors of total length 27.87 Km, Karond Circle to AIIMS (14.99 Km) and Bhadbhada Square to Ratnagiri Tiraha (12.88 Km). Bhopal Metro Rail Project will be partly from GoI and GoMP on an equal equity basis and partly as a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB). Indore Metro Rail Project comprising Ring Line of length 31.55 Km from Bengali Square - Vijay Nagar - Bhawarsala - Airport - Patasia - Bengali Square.
 5. The **Assam** state government will provide 1 lakh shallow tube wells to small and marginal farmers to help in irrigating farmland.
Note: 11 thousand solar, 60 thousand diesel and 30 thousand electric shallow tube wells to be distributed within this year. These shallow tube wells would help in irrigating farmland. The Assam government decided to give the premium of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna on behalf of the farmers.
 6. The union govt. and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement for the up gradation of 2,800 kilometers in Madhya Pradesh -- **110-million dollar**.
Note: The loan is a part of 500-million-dollar Second Rural Connectivity Investment Program, Tranche 2, approved by the ADB Board December last year. The two projects, Tranche 1 and Tranche 2, facilitates the improvement of about 12,000 kilometers rural roads across the states of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal. The overall program is aimed at improving rural connectivity, facilitating safer and more efficient access to livelihood and soc
 7. The **Odisha** state govt. has launched its own food security scheme to benefit the 25 lakh poor people who were left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
Note: The Odisha Chief minister Naveen Patnaik has launched its own food security scheme to benefit the 25 lakh poor people who were left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Under the scheme, the beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of Rs 1 per kg, the same as availed by people covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The government will spend Rs 442 crore per year for implementation of the scheme.
 8. Madhya Pradesh election commission will establish how many pink booths in the state for the assembly election -- **500**.
Note: These polling booths will run by only women officers and workers. Madhya Pradesh elections will be held on 28th November and counting will be held on 11th December 2018.
 9. The **Jharkhand** has become the partner state at 2018 Goa International Film Festival.
Note: The Goa International Film Festival will be held from 20th to 28th November 2018.
 10. Cyclone 'Titli' over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and is moving towards the **Odisha & Andhra Pradesh coast**.
Note: The cyclonic storm is likely to make a landfall between Gopalpur in Odisha and Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh at a wind speed of 145 kmph.
 11. The **Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh 'Rawat'** flagged off the test run of the state's first electric bus to encourage the operation of pollution-free vehicles.
Note: In this connection, a bus has been provided by a Hyderabad based company for test run on Dehradun-Mussoorie and Haldwani-Nainital road for one month. The low floor bus with 30 seats is equipped with CCTV, GPS, Panic Button and Air Suspension.
 12. The Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated a three-day Silk Expo and workshop on Silk Samagra in **Imphal, Manipur**.
Note: The Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has inaugurated a three-day Silk Expo and workshop on Silk Samagra in Imphal, Manipur. The union govt. has announced a package of 6000 crore rupees for the development of apparel and make-up sector in the country.
 13. The Maharashtra government has approved the Tarli Irrigation Project in **Satara district**.
Note: The project will bring 6,507 hectares in the Tarli Valley and 8,876 hectares in the Maan and Khatav talukas of Satara district under irrigation. This is the fourth time that the state government has given a revised administrative approval for the project.



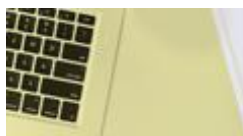
- 14. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University in Jammu.
Note: Another MoU was signed between CUJ and the Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO). The objective of the centre to create awareness about space research and motivate young minds to take up researches related to space, astronomy, geology, atmospheric sciences and related fields.
- 15.** The four day long mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF-2018) concluded in **Lucknow**.
Note: IISF-2018 witnessed a footfall of more than 10 lakh people and more than 22 thousand registrations, the highest in its four-year history making it the largest festival of its kind in Asia. IISF-2018 with its focal theme "Science for Transformation" had more than 23 special events in its 4th edition. The fifth edition of the science festival will be held in eastern India.
- 16.** The Karnataka Department of Social Welfare has launched a scheme to foster entrepreneurs working on rural and social impact technologies from SC/ST background -- **Unnati**.
Note: As part of the scheme, the department will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for start-ups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background. The first stream of Unnati is technology innovation.
- 17.** Who has approved the enhancement of free accident insurance cover for pilgrims visiting the shrine to five lakh rupees__ **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board**.
Note: The board has also approved additional life insurance cover of five lakh rupees to pilgrims who avail the service of the upcoming passenger ropeway between Bhawan and Bhairon Ghati. The main objective of the act was to provide for better management and governance of the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and its endowments including the appurtenant lands and buildings.
- 18.** The Uttar Pradesh government rechristened the name of Allahabad city to its old name of **Prayagraj**.
Note: Now all the departments like Railways and others would be asked to change the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj in their records. Earlier, Prayagraj' name has been accepted by the state government before the coming Kumbh Mela to be held early next year.
- 19.** The Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched Air Quality Early Warning System for **Delhi**.
Note: It will provide information three to four days prior to any large-scale air pollution events before the situation gets worse. The System is designed to predict extreme air pollution events and give alerts to take necessary steps as per Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Government of India.
- 20.** According to the Home Ministry Source, Now, Foreign tourists can visit island states without any restrictions -- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
Note: Home Ministry has modified its earlier order which made it mandatory for Foreigners to register with the Foreigners Registration Officer within 24 hours of their arrival. This step has been taken on the suggestion made by the Tourism Ministry to boost the foreign tourist arrivals in the Union Territory.
- 21. Shahi litchi** has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan from Bihar.
Note: GI is a name (sign) used on products to certify that they possess certain qualities for being made or produced as per traditional methods or enjoy a certain reputation due to its geographical origin. A total of 3 lakh metric tonnes of different varieties of litchi were produced in Bihar in 2017-18, out of which 60 percent were Shahi litchis.
- 22.** Maharashtra CM Fadnavis & Nitin Gadkari inaugurate new domestic cruise terminal in **Mumbai**.
Note: The Goa cruise service ' Angriya' will be operated between Mumbai and Goa on alternate days. The rates for the luxury Mumbai-Goa ride begin from Rs 7,000 dorm room per person and goes up to Rs 11,000 family suite per person. India's first ever passenger cruise ship service is a joint venture between Mumbai Port Trust and Angriya Sea Eagle Pvt Ltd.
- 23.** 3rd Himachal Pradesh Science Congress to boost to rural innovation sector held at Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) **Mandi**.
Note: During the event, scientists and researchers will discuss recent progress and future trends in technologies relevant for rural transformation. The theme of Himachal Pradesh Science Congress is "Rural Upliftment through Science and Technology Interventions".
- 24.** The **Maharashtra Govt.** has extended benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) as well as insurance schemes to those cutting, harvesting and transporting sugarcane.
Note: The state has around eight lakh labourers engaged in these works in 168 cooperative and private sugar factories. It has been proposed to extend benefits of EPF, insurance schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, financial assistance for children's education and housing to these labourers.
- 25.** Uzbekistan Ambassador to India Farhod Arziev has inaugurated a four-day international dance festival in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh -- **Udbhav Utsav -2018**.
Note: Dance troupes from India (25 teams), Bulgaria, Turkey and Sri Lanka are taking part in the event. The main objective of the competition-festival is to give opportunity to performers for creative communications,



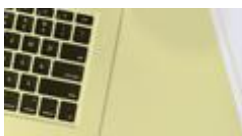
- to present new talents and to facilitate acquaintance with pieces of national culture and arts in different countries.
- 26.** Arunachal Pradesh Information and public relation (IPR) Minister 'Bamang Felix' has inaugurated the two days Children's Film Bonanza begins in -- **Naharlagun**.
Note: The film festival is being organized by the Children's Film Society, India, in collaboration with Arunachal Pradesh Information and Public Relation Department.
- 27.** The three-day 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems at -- **Kaziranga, Assam**.
Note: The main objective of the Summit is to share and learn the good practices and innovations being implemented by several states and organizations for the betterment of the health sector.
- 28.** The Supreme Court (SC) has banned the petrol (15-year-old) & diesel vehicles (10-year-old) to curb pollution in **Delhi-NCR**
Note: The apex court directed that a list of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles be published on the website of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and transport departments of the NCR area.
- 29.** Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the Gujarat's first mega food park inaugurated in **Surat**.
Note: This Mega Food Park has been set up in 70.15 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 117.87 crore. Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

Important News – World

- 1.** India and Russia seal defense deal during the annual bilateral summit of USD 5 billion for defence system at Hyderabad house --**S-400 air defence system**.
Note: The S-400 Triumf is an anti-aircraft weapon system developed in the 1990s by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau as an upgrade of the S-300 family. India wants to procure the long-range missile systems to tighten its defence mechanism, particularly along the nearly 4000 Km-long Sino-India border
- 2.** A joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa -- **IBSAMAR (6th edition)**.
Note: The objective of the exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies, building interoperability and mutual understanding as well as sharing of best practices. The last edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR V) was conducted off Goa, from 19 – 26 Feb 16.
- 3.** The 46th edition of Cervantino International Festival, to be held in **Mexico**.
Note: India will participate as a guest of honour. The festival, started in 1953 with a focus on theatre, had India participating regularly since 1979. However, it will be India's first time as a guest of honour country.
- 4.** The Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium built with Indian grant assistance of 30 crore Sri Lankan rupees has been dedicated to the people in a special function in **Sri Lanka**.
Note: The auditorium is largest in any of the universities in Sri Lanka at the University of Ruhuna, Matara in Southern Province. The state of art auditorium with 1500 seating capacity has been designed by the famous Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa to conform to the philosophy of "Tropical Modernism".
- 5.** **Sushma Swaraj** has launched the 'India for Humanity' initiative, a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps.
Note: The limb fitment camps aim to provide physical, economic and social rehabilitation of the differently-abled around the world. The camps will help such individuals regain their mobility and dignity in order to become self-respecting and productive members of society.
- 6.** According to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, **Japan's** passport has been declared the most powerful passport across the world in this year.
Note: The Japanese people can travel without a Visa (or on-arrival Visa) across 190 countries. The passport of Singapore allows visa-free or on-arrival visa travel to 189 countries. Japanese citizens do not need a visa to enter any of China, India, Uzbekistan, Vietnam or Myanmar, while Americans need a visa for all of them. The Henley Passport Index is the only passport index that is based on IATA (International Air Transport Association) data, enhanced by extensive in-house research, supported by expert commentary, and updated regularly throughout the year.
- 7.** The union External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.
Note: This was the second CHG meeting since India became a full member of SCO in June 2017. The SCO CHG meeting is a forum that enables India to engage with SCO member countries and Observer states of Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- 8.** The Southeast Asian country decided to scrap capital punishment following strong domestic opposition to the practice -- **Malaysia**.



- Note:** Currently, Capital punishment in Malaysia is mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.
9. The defense minister Sitharaman addressed the 'India-France Defence Engagement in a Multipolar World' in -- **Paris**.
Note: The defense minister Smt Sitharaman addressed 'India-France Defence Engagement in a Multipolar World' at the Institute of Strategic Research (IRSEM) in Paris.
 10. The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference was held at Temple Trees, in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
Note: It is aimed to explore strongest challenges in the Indian Ocean region.
 11. India was elected to the United Nations' top human rights body for a period of three years from **1st January 2019**.
Note: India got 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category. The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections for new members to the UN Human Rights Council. The 18 new members were elected by the absolute majority through a secret ballot. UNHRC is made up of 47 UN member states which are elected by UN General Assembly (UNGA) with a specific number of seats allocated for every five regions of the globe.
 12. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the two-day Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit at **Brussels (Belgium)**.
Note: The theme of this year's ASEM Summit is "Global Partners for Global Challenges". ASEM Agenda for 2018 will prioritize issues related to connectivity, trade and investment, sustainable development, climate change, terrorism, migration, maritime security and cyberspace.
 13. **Canada** has become the second country (first Uruguay) to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis__
Note: Now, Canadians can grow up to four plants in their own home and carry up to 30 grams of dried cannabis for personal use. Cannabis possession first became a crime in Canada in 1923 but medical use has been legal since 2001.
 14. UK-built spacecraft will set off for Mercury to determine whether the planet, which is the closest to the Sun (contains water) -- **BepiColombo mission**.
Note: The European Space Agency's (ESA) BepiColombo mission will send two orbiters to explore the planet where the surface temperatures reach about 450 degrees Celsius. The space agency hopes to get answers to the questions raised by the previous missions such as whether the planet holds water. On 20th October, Spacecraft will launch from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
 15. According to Bhutan's election commission, who won 30 of the 47 national assembly seats (lower house of the parliament) -- **Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT)**.
Note: According to the commission, 71.46% polling was recorded in the third general election. This is the first time in Bhutan's decade-old parliamentary democracy that a new party has been chosen to form the government.
 16. First-ever India and Japan joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' to promote Military cooperation will be held in **Mizoram**.
Note: The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while the Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force.
 17. The 7th meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in -- **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
Note: The Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr. Satya Pal Singh participated on behalf of Government of India. The objective of SCO is military cooperation between members. It also works towards intelligence-sharing, counter-terrorism operations in Central Asia.
 18. China's President Xi Jinping has officially opened the world's longest sea-crossing bridge **connecting Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China**.
Note: The bridge connects Hong Kong to Macau and the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. The bridge spans 55km including its access roads and has cost about USD 20bn. About 30km of its total length crosses the sea of the Pearl River delta. The bridge, designed to withstand earthquakes and typhoons, was built using 400,000 tonnes of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.
 19. **China** has successfully tested the world's largest cargo drone Feihong-98(FH-98), carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.
Note: This commercial drone 'Feihong-98' has been developed and modified by the China Academy of Aerospace Electronics Technology. The FH-98 has a maximum take-off weight of 5.25 tonnes (flight height of 4,500 metres) a cruising speed of 180 kmph, and a maximum range of 1,200 kms.
 20. The NATO's (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) biggest military maneuvers (since the Cold War) begins in **Norway**.
Note: The wargames bring together around 50,000 personnel from all 29 NATO allies, plus partners Finland and Sweden. Around 65 vessels, 150 aircraft and 10,000 vehicles will also participate in the drill, which takes place in central and eastern Norway, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea. It will go on till November 7.
 21. India collaborate with the country to research different aspects of the Ganga delta region and the Bay of Bengal -- **the United Kingdom (UK)**.
Note: The Bay of Bengal is also critical to India in terms of resources and also has an impact on the Southwest Monsoon, the lifeline of the country. According to the British High Commissioner to India Dominic Asquith, the partnership through the UKRI has generated innovative



scientific and technological solutions that will “transform both our societies and economies”.

22. An Indonesian plane carrying 188 passengers and crew crashed into the **Java sea**.
Note: The jet vanished from radar just 13 minutes after taking off from the capital Jakarta, plunging into the ocean. The plane lost contact with air traffic control around 6.30 am, en route to Pangkal Pinang on the island of Bangka.
23. Germany's chancellor (since 2000) Angela Merkel, she will step down as chancellor in **2021**.

Note: She is the first female chancellor of Germany. Angela Merkel, who is serving her fourth term in office and is widely regarded as one of the most powerful people in the world.

24. The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" has been officially opened in **Istanbul**.
Note: It has capacity to serve 90 million passengers. The airport has been envisioned to have a total capacity of up to 200 million passengers (once all four phases are completed) in next 10 years.

Honor & Awards

- Three scientists won the Nobel Physics Prize 2018 -- **Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou & Donna Strickland**.
- scientists won the 2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize -- **Arnold, Smith, Winter**.
Note: Two American scientists (Frances Arnold & George Smith) and a British researcher (Gregory Winter) have won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for evolution research. Arnold (California Institute of Technology) was recognized for performing the first-ever "directed evolution" of enzymes. George P. Smith (University of Missouri, Columbia, USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK) for the phage display of peptides and antibodies.
- The United Nations highest environmental honor award "Champions of the Earth" -- **PM Narendra Modi & Emmanuel macron**
Note: The two leaders were recognized in the Policy Leadership category "for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action".
- As per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018, the state was ranked as the best State__ **Haryana**.
- As per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018, the best district of the country__ **Satara District (Maharashtra)**.
Note: The award commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- The UNHCR (UN refugee agency) honored with the 2018 Nansen Refugee Award at a ceremony in Geneva -- **Dr. Evan Atar Adaha**.
Note: Atar received the award for his outstanding 20-year commitment in providing medical services to people forced to flee conflict and persecution in Sudan. Evan Atar Adaha is a surgeon from South Sudan. He has been chosen for his 20-year commitment in providing medical services to people forced to flee conflict and persecution in Sudan and South Sudan.
- Denis Mukwege & Nadia Murad** won 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.
Note: Murad was captured by ISIS militants in 2014 and has spoken out about the abuse she suffered at their hands. In November 2017 Murad published her story in The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State. The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five Nobel Prizes (Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature) established by the will of Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments manufacturer Alfred Nobel.
- The 2018 Nobel Prize for economics has been awarded to **William Nordhaus & Paul Romer**.
Note: The 2018 Nobel prize for economics has been awarded to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer of the United States for their work on sustainable growth. Prof Nordhaus (from Yale University) was the first person to create a model that described the interplay between the economy and the climate. The duo will receive nine million Swedish krona (equivalent to 7 crores and 32 lakh rupees).
- Sports Australia Hall of Fame** has announced the cricketer great 'Richie Benaud' will become the 40th Legend of Australian Sport.
Note: The Sports Australia Hall of Fame was established on 10 December 1985 to recognize the achievements of Australian sportsmen and sportswomen. The National Sports Museum located at the Melbourne Cricket Ground houses the Sports Australia Hall of Fame. He is only the third cricketer behind Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller to be given Legend status.
- The world's largest telecom tower company (outside China) has won the Deming Prize for 2018 -- **Indus Towers**.
Note: Indus Towers is the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in the world to achieve this. The Deming Prize was established in 1951 and was originally designed to reward Japanese companies for their major advancements in quality improvement.



- 11. Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" in Malaysia ____
Note: The award recognizes the measures taken by ESIC for extension of coverage-SPREE (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees), reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas and raising the wage limit for coverage under the ESI Act, etc.
- 12.** The small Himalayan state has won 2018 UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Future Policy for Gold Award for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state -- **Sikkim**.
Note: Pawan Chamling (Chief Minister of Sikkim) will receive the award in a ceremony at FAO headquarters during the celebrations of the World Food Week in Rome. Brazil, Denmark, and Equador won Silver for their policies. Sikkim was declared a fully organic state in 2016 after phasing out chemical fertilizers and pesticides and substituting them with sustainable alternatives.
- 13.** The veteran composer, lyricist and writer **Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi** has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
Note: The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a memento and shawl be conferred by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a function in Mumbai on 26th October 2018. Padma Bhushan Khayyam (91-years), started his music career in Ludhiana in 1943 at the age of 17 and later teamed up as Sharma of the music-director duo 'Sharmaji-Varmaji' to compose music for films like 'Heer Ranjha' (released 1948). In 1981, Khayyam composed music for the sensitive blockbuster film 'Umrao Jaan'.
- 14.** British writer Anna Burns has won the prestigious Man Booker for her Novel -- **Milkman**.
Note: Milkman is a vibrant, violent story about men, women, conflict, and power set during Northern Ireland's years of Catholic-Protestant violence. Ms. Burns won the 50,000-pound (\$66,000) prize. The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the UK.
- 15. H M Pernal** won the prestigious 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for the year 2018.
Note: He has conferred this award for 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani.
- 16. Suheil F. Tandon** has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports development.
Note: Social Entrepreneur Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sports Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation. The International Olympic Committee redistributes more than 90% of its income to the wider sporting movement, to help athletes and sports organizations at all levels around the world.
- 17.** The Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** will receive the prestigious Carnot Prize from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his work for rural electrification.
Note: The Carnot Prize is the Kleinman Center's annual recognition of distinguished contributions to energy policy through scholarship or practice. The award in the energy sector is named after French physicist Nicolas Sadi Carnot who recognized that the power of the steam engine would "produce a great revolution" in human development.
- 18.** Hindustani classical music instrumentalist will be honoured with the annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award -- **Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**.
Note: Pandit Bhatt best known for his Grammy award winning album "A Meeting by the River". The award founded in 1940 by Ustad Chand Khan Sahab to conserve and promote an awareness of both the rich and heterogenous cultural tapestry through focus on the classical arts.
- 19.** US-based Dalit writer has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India" ____ **Sujatha Gidla**.
Note: The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation, set up in 2008 in memory of young writer and editor Shakti Bhatt. It carries cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.
- 20. Narendra Modi** has been awarded prestigious Seoul Peace Prize 2018 for contribution to high economic growth in India.
Note: According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Mr. Modi's contribution to world peace and improving human development of the people of India were the reasons for him getting the award. The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 21. Invest India** has received the top UN Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India.
Note: The award was presented by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to Deepak Bagla, the CEO of Invest India, in Geneva, Switzerland. Invest India is the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Union Government, mandated to facilitate investments in the country.
- 22.** Sanjay Agrawal (Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation) has inaugurated the two-days Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 in ____ **New Delhi**.



- Note:** The theme of the summit is, 'Connecting Farmers to Market'. Pioneer of India's green revolution Professor MS Swaminathan was also present on the occasion.
- 23. M.S. Swaminathan** has received the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi.
Note: The prize will be presented by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan at a special session. The prize has been instituted by the ICFA with an aim to recognise individuals who have served humanity through agriculture.
- 24. Tagore award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 announced:**
Note:
- 2014: **Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh** (doyen of Manipuri dance).
 - 2015: **Chhayanaut** (cultural organization of Bangladesh).
 - 2016: **Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar** (one of India's greatest sculptors).
 - The chairman of the Jury was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the jury comprised of the Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
 - Tagore award for Cultural Harmony has been instituted by Government of India (GoI) in 2011 to commemorate 150th Birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941).
- 25. India** has won the prestigious 2018 Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award_
Note: This award celebrates the spirit of innovation in the public service by recognizing organizations that have made significant contributions to improve governance and services in the public sector. The union Government had sent entries for 2018 CAPAM International Innovations Awards, under various categories.
- 26. Michael D Higgins** has been re-elected as Irish president after receiving 56% of the country's election vote.
Note: Peter Casey came second with 23.1%, while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10%.
- 27. Clara Sosa (Miss Paraguay)** has won the Miss Grand International 2018 title (6th edition) of the beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar.
Note: Clara Sosa succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 Maria Jose Lora of Peru. FBB Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2018 Meenakshi Chaudhary was named 1st runner-up.
- 28. Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai** will be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.
Note: Yousafzai will be conferred with the Gleitsman Award 2018 at a ceremony on 6th December this year. The Gleitsman Award provides 125,000 US dollars for activism that has improved quality of life around the world. Now, Yousafzai is a student at Oxford University in England.
- 29. Indian scientist** has won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention -- **Roopam Sharma**.
Note: Manovue eliminates the need for Braille language to decipher a printed text and instead combines vision intelligence to help the visually impaired people read. Manovue was also awarded the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015 and Yahoo Accenture Innovation Jockeys season 4.
- 30. Malayalam author** has won the inaugural JCB Prize for literature for his book 'Jasmine Days' -- **Benyamin**.
Note: 'Jasmine Days', his second book, tells the story of a young woman in a city where the promise of revolution turns into destruction and division.
- 31. Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer** has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners -- **Asma Jahangir**
Note: Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organization Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize. The award ceremony will take place on December 10 on World Human Rights Day in New York. Before Jahangir three Pakistani women, Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, Benazir Bhutto and Malala Yousufzai have been accorded the honor.

Sports News

- 1. Yuvraj Wadhvani** has won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title in Chennai.
Note: He defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan by 13-11, 11-5, 6-11, 12-10 in the final. Yuvraj has become the second Indian (first Veer Chotrani in 2014) to win the Under-13 title. The bronze medals came in the other age categories through Kavya Bansal, Tiana Parasrampuria, Sanya Vats and Tushar Shahani.
- 2. India** has clinched three medals at the Archery World Cup Final in **Samsun, Turkey**.
Note: Ace Indian Recurve archer Deepika Kumari won a bronze medal. This was India's second bronze medal in the competition after Abhishek Verma had bagged a bronze medal in men's compound event. Abhishek Verma had also won a silver in the mixed team event after teaming up with Jyothi Surekha Wennem.
- 3. The 31st All India Railways Chess tournament** will begin at Trichy in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The four-day tournament will be formally inaugurated by General Manager, Southern Railway, SM Kulshreshtha.

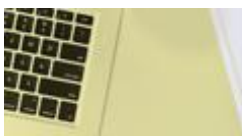


- Winners of this tournament will represent the Railways in the National Chess tournament which will be held next month.
4. The 36th National Games in March-April 2019 will be held in **Goa**.
Note: The Opening and Closing ceremonies will be held at P.J.N Stadium, Fatorda. Shooting and cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports. Five sports (Rugby, Wushu, Modern Pentathlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker) will be added in the Games programme.
 5. **Manipur** won the 24th Senior Women's National Football Championships at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
Note: The result marked the 19th occasion that the state from the northeast of India won the trophy.
 6. The Sultan of Johor Cup Junior Men's Hockey tournament 2018 (eight edition) begins in **Malaysia**.
Note: The Sultan of Johor Cup Junior Men's Hockey tournament 2018 (eighth edition) begins in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. This is the tournament in which a total of six teams will compete for the title. United States (competed previously) is not taking part this year, replaced by New Zealand.
 7. The 3rd Youth Olympic Games has officially begun at **Argentina**.
Note: India is represented with a contingent of 68 members will compete in 13 sports during the prestigious event. Indian sport shooter Manu Bhaker (16-years) is leading the Indian team in the opening ceremony as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games. The event will see thousands of athletes (aged 15-18) compete in various categories.
 8. **Keerthana Pandian** has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships, in St Petersburg, Russia.
Note: Keerthana outclassed her Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk 3-1.
 9. **Caroline Wozniacki** has won the WTA singles title with victory over Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in the China Open final in Beijing.
Note: She was imperious against the unseeded Sevastova, winning 6-3, 6-3. The China Open is an annual men's and women's professional tennis tournament held in Beijing, China.
 10. **India** has won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title (7th edition) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Note: India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title (7th edition) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The 2018 Under-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament was held in Bangladesh at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. Eight teams participated in the tournament, including 5 full members and three qualifiers.
 11. **Tushar Mane** bagged a silver in the men's 10-metre air rifle event in the Youth Olympic Games.
Note: Grigorii Shamakov took the gold with 249.2. India is being represented by 46 athletes in 13 sports in the prestigious event.
 12. **Ekta Bhyan** won Gold medal at the Asian Para Games by topping the women's club throw event in Jakarta.
Note: Bhyan produced her best throw of 16.02m in her fourth attempt to win the F32/51 event. Bhyan had come into the competition on the back of a gold in the Indian Open Para Athletics Championship earlier this year.
 13. **Jeremy Lalrinnunga** has become India's first-ever gold medalist in the history of Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Weightlifting.
Note: He achieved the feat by lifting a total weight of 274 kg in the men's 62 kg category at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Earlier, Jeremy had won silver at last year's Youth World Weightlifting Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.
 14. The fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games will be held in -- **Dakar, Senegal**.
Note: The IOC selected the Dakar candidacy by acclamation based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Commission. The Dakar 2022 Youth Games will be the first-ever Olympic event in Africa.
 15. **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won the Gold Medal in the 10-metre air pistol event in the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina.
Note: He finished a massive Seven and a half points ahead of his closest rival. It is India's third gold medal in the history of Youth Olympic Games.
 16. **Archer Harvinder Singh** has won gold medal for India in the men's individual recurve category in the Asian Para-Games in Jakarta.
Note: Harvinder defeated Zhao Lixue (China) 6-0 in the W2/ST category final. Monu Ghangas claimed the silver in the men's discus throw F11 category, while Mohammed Yasser fetched a bronze in the men's shot put F46 category.
 17. Serbian tennis star beat Croatia's Borna Coric (21-years) in the final 6-3, 6-4 to claim his fourth Shanghai Masters Tennis title -- **Novak Djokovic**.
Note: The Shanghai Masters (also known as Shanghai Rolex Masters) is a men's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena in the Minhang District of Shanghai (China).
 18. Who beat India to lift Sultan of Johor Cup 2018 -- **Britain**.
Note: Britain edge Sultan of Johor Cup (2nd time) after beating India 3-2 at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium Malaysia. Meanwhile, Malaysia finished fifth after a 6-3 win over New Zealand. The 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup (hockey tournament) held in Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia (6 to 13 October 2018). Participated nations: Australia,



- Great Britain, India, New Zealand, Malaysia (host nation) and Japan.
19. Indian Triple Jumper has won the Bronze medal at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Argentine -- **Praveen Chitravel**.
Note: Praveen ended at the third spot with a combined effort of 31.52 meters. Cuba won the Gold, while Nigeria won the Silver.
20. **Akash Malik** has become India's first silver-medallist in archery at the Youth Olympic Games.
Note: Akash Malik lost one-sided final to Trenton Cowles of the USA 0-6. Currently, Akash is enrolled by the Olympic Gold Quest and trains under South Korean coach Kim Hagyoung at the Army Sports Institute in Pune.
21. World Wrestling Championships held in -- **Budapest, Hungary**.
Note: The 2018 World Wrestling Championships are the 15th edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events and are to be held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest, Hungary.
29. Who won the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon men's race -- **Ethiopian Belihu**.
Note: Andamalak Belihu (19-year) improved on his personal best timing to clock 59.18 seconds (last year he finished second). Walelegn clinched the Silver (59.22-seconds), while Kenya's Daniel Kipchumba grabbed the third spot (59.48-seconds). Among the Indians, runners Abhishek (1:4:14) and Sanjivani Jadhav topped in the men's and women's category (1:13:58).
30. India's medium pacer has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket -- **Praveen Kumar**.
Note: Mr. Kumar played six Tests, 68 ODIs and 10 T20Is for India, picking up 112 wickets across the formats. Praveen Kumar made his limited-overs debut in 2007 and Test debut against West Indies cricket team at Kingston in June 2011.
31. **Mumbai** has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy title 2018 at M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
Note: The Vijay Hazare Trophy 2018 (17th-season) has been contested by the 37 domestic cricket teams of India. The Vijay Hazare Trophy was started in 2002-03 as a limited-overs cricket domestic competition.
32. **Serbia** won the 2018 Women's Volleyball World Championship.
Note: The Serbian women earned their 2nd World Championship medal, and first-ever World Championship title, on in Yokohama, Japan.
33. Indian wrestler bagged silver at Wrestling World Championship 2018 of 65 kg category -- **Bajarang punia**.
Note: Sushil Kumar is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the World Championships, achieving the feat in 2010 in Moscow in the 66kg category.
34. West Indies all-rounder has announced his retirement from international cricket -- **Dwayne Bravo**.
Note: He will continue to play franchise T20 cricket around the world. Bravo played 40 Tests, 164 ODIs & 66 T20Is for the Windies, made 2986 runs in ODIs and took 199 wickets.
35. **Virat Kohli** has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI cricket.
Note: He overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs (259th innings) in 2001.
36. **Pooja Dhanda** has won bronze medal in the women's freestyle (57kg weight class) in Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
Note: Dhanda defeated Grace Bullen of Norway 10-7. Before Pooja, only three Indian women grapplers (Alka Tomar, Geeta Phogat and Babita Phogat) had won a bronze medal each at the Worlds Championships.
37. Indian table tennis player has won a silver medal in the under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open -- **Ayhika Mukherjee**.
Note: She lost to Korea's Youjin Kim in the final. In the semifinals, Ayhika had defeated Hong Kong's Chengzhu Zhu to enter the finals.
38. The joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy Men's Hockey at Muscat in Oman -- **India and Pakistan**.
Note: As the turf was completely waterlogged, it was decided that the honours will be shared. Before this edition, both India and Pakistan had won the tournament twice each. The Asian Hockey Champions Trophy is an event held annually by the Asian Hockey Federation (since 2011).
39. **Sourav Kothari** has won the 2018 World Billiards Championship title at Leeds in UK.
Note: The former national and Asian Billiards champion Kothari was pipped at the post for the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years, including a loss to Gilchrist in 2016 final in Bengaluru.
40. Indian golfer has won the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club -- **Khalin Joshi**.
Note: Now, Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title in the last eight editions of the tournament.
41. Kenyan distance runner has won the Valencia race -- **Abraham Kiptum**.
Note: The previous best time was set eight years ago by Ethiopia's Zersenay Tadesse who ran the Lisbon half-marathon in 58 minutes and 23 seconds in March 2010.
42. Indian Grandmaster **B Adhiban** finished third at the Isle of Man International tournament after beating Michael Adams (England) in the final round in Isle of Man, United Kingdom.

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