

# GK DIGEST

JULY 2018



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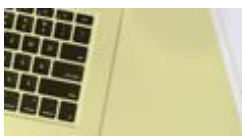
## Monthly Digest July -2018

Dear readers,

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

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has developed and launched a mobile app to protect interest of consumers **GST Verify**.  
**Note:** The application is to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not. It also provides the details of the person / company collecting GST.
2. The **YES Bank** has received final approval from the capital markets regulator SEBI (Securities & Exchange Board of India) to start mutual fund business.  
**Note:** YES Asset Management (India) Limited (YAMIL) will launch fund offerings across the spectrum in both debt and equity markets over the next 6-12 months. It has recruited a team to establish the operations under the guidance of the Board of Directors and trustees.
3. India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector -- **Reliance**  
**Note:** Reliance has become the first Indian company to record PBDIT (Profit Before Depreciation Interest and Taxes) of over USD 10 billion with each of our key businesses (refining, petrochemicals, retail, and digital services). The company's consolidated revenue stood at Rs 1,29,120 crore (up 39% during Q4 FY 18) compared to the Rs 92,889 crore posted in the corresponding quarter a year ago.
4. The policy-making body of the tax department **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has extended the deadline for the PAN-Aadhaar linking till 31st March 2019.  
**Note:** This is the fifth time the government has extended the deadline for individuals to link their Permanent Account Number to biometric ID Aadhaar. Existing Pan card holders were also required to complete the process to link their Aadhaar numbers. The **Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC)** is the nodal national agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India. The Customs & Central Excise/CGST department.
5. Independent asset management companies (AMCs) and steering committees will be set up for faster resolution of the non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans, of **state-run banks**.  
**Note:** The union Govt has accepted the NPAs resolution plan put forward by a committee headed by the Punjab National Bank Chairman Sunil Mehta. The panel has recommended the creation of an AMC under the framework of an alternative investment fund (AIF) to deal with NPA cases of more than Rs. 500 crores. There are about 200 such accounts with a total exposure of about Rs. 3.1 lakh crore.
6. **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited** has announced its tie-up with Oxigen Services India Pvt. Ltd., to establish the distribution of its insurance products at Oxigen retail outlets.  
**Note:** IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and Legal and General (UK). Oxigen is one of the leading providers of money transfers and prepaid recharges as low as Rs. 10.
7. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of **14 Kharif crops**.  
**Note:** The government's price advisory body CACP has calculated production cost of paddy at 1,166 rupees per quintal. The MSP of paddy (common grade) by 200 rupees to 1,750 rupees per quintal for 2018-19 season. The support price of Grade A variety of paddy has been raised by 180 rupees per quintal to 1,770 rupees. The hike in the MSP will cost the exchequer over 15,000 crore rupees.
8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a license to the International bank **Bank of China** to launch operations in India.



- Note:** This will be the second Chinese bank (first Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd) to be operating in the country. Bank of China was founded in 1912 by the Republican government to replace the Daqing Bank. Bank of China is one of the four biggest state-owned commercial banks (the Farmers Bank of China, Bank of Communications and Central Bank of the Republic of China) in China.
9. The Indian Army has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the bank on defence salary package -- **State Bank of India (SBI)**.  
**Note:** This MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army personnel who are having their accounts with SBI. According to the Indian Army, the revised MoU is tailor-made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners, and their families.
10. **HDFC securities** has announced the launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, Arya.  
**Note:** HDFC securities (a subsidiary of HDFC Bank) rolled out a theme called "The Pace of Innovation" which is structured to innovate and provide intuitive, relevant digital solutions to customers.
11. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has made it compulsory to incorporate the purchaser's name on the face of demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments.  
**Note:** This directive will come into effect from 15th of September this year. The RBI took the decision to address concerns arising out of the possible misuse of anonymous DDs (Demand Drafts) for money laundering.
12. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of a Co-operative Bank, as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons **Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank (Rajasthan)**,  
**Note:** According to RBI, the cancellation of the licence is effective from the close of business on July 5 this year. Due to licence stands cancelled, the bank has been prohibited from conducting the business of banking, which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits with immediate effect.
13. The Committee has decided to continue the practice of a three-day meeting format, which decides on the key interest rate -- **Monetary Policy Committee**  
**Note:** The MPC used to meet for two-days, but last the meeting was stretched to three days owing to "certain administrative exigencies". The Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2018-19 will be issued on 1st August 2018. In October 2016, the six-member MPC headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel was set up to bring transparency and accountability for making key monetary policy decisions.
14. The 'Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited' has appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & CEO -- **T Latha**.  
**Note:** She has taken over from G Sreeram. Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd is an old private sector bank headquartered in Thrissur City, Kerala, India.
15. India surpasses France to become world's sixth-largest economy in terms of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.  
**Note:** According to World Bank figures for 2017, India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to USD 2.597 trillion at the end of last year, whereas France clocked \$2.582 trillion. The first place is taken by U.S.A.
16. **State Bank of India** will organize a nation-wide 'Kisan Mela' as an outreach programme for farmers and to impart financial literacy.  
**Note:** SBI will expect to cover 10 lakh farmers through nearly 14,000 rural and semi-urban branches across the country in this Kisan Mela that is to be held on July 18. As part of Kisan Mela, bank also offers farmers with Kisan Credit Card (KCC) an enhancement of 10 per cent to their credit limit on renewing the account.
17. The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has approved the acquisition of up to 51% stake in debt-ridden **IDBI Bank**.  
**Note:** As stated by economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, this deal would take place through preferential shares. It will get about 2,000 branches through which it can sell its products, while the bank would get massive funds of LIC. The bank would also get accounts of about 22 crore policy holders and subsequent flow of funds.
18. **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi** has been appointed non-exec Chairman of ICICI Bank.  
**Note:** The **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as non-executive (part-time) Chairman of the ICICI bank till June 30, 2021. The private lender had appointed the former petroleum secretary as the company's non-executive chairman on 29th June.
19. Finmin approved the Rs 11,336 cr capital infusion in 5 -PSU Banks.  
**Note:** The **Punjab National Bank** will get the maximum amount at Rs 2,816 crore, followed by Corporation Bank, which will see an infusion of about Rs 2,555 crore. The others are **Indian Overseas Bank** (Rs 2,157 crore), **Andhra Bank** (Rs 2,019 crore) and **Allahabad Bank** (Rs 1,790





- crore).The capital infusion would come out of the Rs 65,000 crore remaining from the Rs 2.11 lakh crore announced by the government in October 2017.
20. The **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** has e-inaugurated the first 'All-Women Branch'.  
**Note:** The 13 women staffers of the newly inaugurated branch were presented badges of distinction.
  21. A non-banking finance company '**Repc Micro Finance Ltd**' has received NABARD 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.  
**Note:** The NBFC has disbursed loans amounting to Rs 2,500 crore to over 10 lakh beneficiaries through 50,000 SHGs. Repco Micro Finance Limited (RMFL) incorporated in the year 2007 as Repco MSME Development & Finance Ltd and registered as NBFC with Reserve Bank of India in year 2010.
  22. The State Bank of India and **NABARD** have joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Telangana.
  23. The union Government has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) to **Rs. 250**.  
**Note:** The interest rate on **Sukanya Samriddhi account** is revised every quarter (for the July-September quarter fixed at 8.1%). Under the **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** scheme, a parent or legal guardian can open an account in the name of the girl child until she attains the age of 10 years.
  24. **NABARD** has launched the South East Asia's first-ever Centre for Climate Change (CCC) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.  
**Note:** The purpose of the centre is to accelerate concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial, and non-government actors.
  25. The Central Government has extended the due date for filing income tax returns for certain taxpayers till **31st August,2018**.  
**Note:** Earlier the date for filing income tax returns for assessment Year 2018-19, was 31st of this month.
  26. **IRDAI** has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20.  
**Note:** This is for the first time the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has formed such a committee.IRDAI Member P.J. Joseph will be the chairman of the committee.
  27. **HDFC bank** has been awarded for the best performing primary lending institution in credit linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) for the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) and LIG (Low Income Group) category.  
**Note:** During FY18, HDFC bank has approved 38% of home loans in volume terms and 19% in value terms to customers from the EWS and LIG segment. CLSS was introduced in June 2015 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for home loans to customers.
  28. **Oxigen and Fincare Small Finance Bank** has signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxigen's flagship Point of Sale device.  
**Note:** The event graced by Brand Ambassador Grand Master Viswanathan Anand.
  29. Private Sector Lender **Federal Bank** has received the regulatory nod to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore, but is awaiting local clearances before it starts operations.  
**Note:** Federal Bank already has representative offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and its desire to expand comes even as a majority of its larger peers are downsizing their overseas presence.

## Obituaries

1. Former chief of naval staff **Admiral JG Nadkarni** passed away at a naval hospital in Mumbai.  
**Note:** Nadkarni was the Navy chief from December 1987 to November 1990.
2. Former Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court **V. A. Mohata** passed in Nagpur.  
**Note:** Mohata served as Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court from 28th September 1994 to 25th April 1995.He also recommended the name of current Chief Justice of India, Dipak Mishra as a judge.
3. Former Meghalaya Governor & Senior Congress leader **Mundakkal Mathew Jacob** passed away due to age-related ailments.  
**Note:** Mr. Jacob also served as deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha in the 80s.



4. The famous Kumaoni folk singer **Kabutari Devi** passed away in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

**Note:** Devi's songs depicted the struggles in the life of Pahari women. Devi is remembered by folk historians as an original voice that represented the culture of the hills.

5. Actor **Kavi Kumar Azaad** known for playing the character of Dr Hansraaj Hathi passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest.

**Note:** Mr Azaad is known for playing the character of Dr Hansraaj Hathi on the popular sitcom "Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashma".

6. Veteran journalist **Kalpesh Yagnik** passed away in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

**Note:** He was both an excellent writer and editor who wrote on social issues.

7. Former Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) **Kanu Gohain** passed away after a brief illness.

**Note:** Gohain was the last technocrat to head the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), retired from services in 2008.

8. Senior editor of 'Dainik Bhaskar' newspaper **Kalpesh Yagnik** passed after suffering a cardiac arrest.

**Note:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan condoled the death of the senior journalist.

9. Veteran Bollywood and TV actress **Rita Bhaduri** passed away.

**Note:** Actress Rita Bhaduri featured in as many as 70 movies like Beta, Raja, Julie among others. She was also a prominent face on television through her roles in Khichdi, Kumkum, Choti Bahu and Sarabhai vs Sarabhai etc.

10. Lakshmiwara Tirtha Swami **Shiroor Mutt** passed away at the Kasturba Hospital at Manipal.

**Note:** He was initiated into 'sanyasa ashrama' at the age of eight years. He was also known for decorating the idol of Lord Krishna at the Sri Krishna Mutt/Temple in different styles in a beautiful manner.

11. Noted activist from Konkan region passed away at Sawantwadi due to prolonged illness -- **Rajmata Satvashila Devi Bhosle**.

**Note:** She was the wife of the last King of the Sawantwadi Kingdom 'late Shivramraje Bhosle' who was coronated before the merger of the princely state into Union of India.

12. Indian Information Service officer **Mohammed Munawar** passed away due to massive heart attack in New Jalpaiguri.

**Note:** He was posted as the Assistant Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity. He is survived by his two sons and wife.

13. Famous Hindi poet **Gopal Das Neeraj** passed away in New Delhi after prolonged illness.

**Note:** Neeraj created name for his lyrics for films like Prem Pujari, Tere Mere Sapne, Chanda Aur Bijli and Sharmili. He won 3 Filmfare awards and conferred with Padma Shri (in 1991) & Padma Bhushan (in 2007).

14. Former Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh **Ramchandra Singhdeo** passed away in Raipur.

**Note:** He was the first Finance Minister in the cabinet of the then Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh 'Ajit Jogi'. Singhdeo was born in Baikunthpur in the Koriya district of Chhattisgarh.

15. Pulitzer Prize-winning restaurant critic passed away due to pancreatic cancer -- **Jonathan Gold**.

**Note:** In 2007, when he was writing for L.A. Weekly, Gold became the first restaurant critic to win the Pulitzer Prize for criticism.

16. Veteran sports journalist passed away due to diabetic complications\_\_ **Swapan Sarkar**.

**Note:** In mid 1990's, he was the Delhi sports correspondent of Ananda Bazaar Patrika (ABP).

17. The world's oldest person Japanese woman has passed away at her home state south of Tokyo **Chiyo Miyako**.

**Note:** Miyako (2nd May 1901) became the world's oldest person in April after Nabi Tajima from the Kikai island in southern Japan died at age 117.

18. Veteran filmmaker and former director of Film and Television Institute of India passed away in Thiruvalla, Kerala\_\_ **John Sankaramangalam**.

**Note:** Mr. Sankaramangalam had directed a handful of films and documentaries in his career. "Aval Alpan Vaikippoyi", "Janmabhoomi" and "Samantharam" were among his directorial ventures.

### New Appointments

1. **Vijay Srinivas** has been appointed Director & GM of United India Insurance.

**Note:** Earlier, he was serving National Insurance Company Ltd as its Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) and General

- Manager (GM). Srinivas has also contributed articles in journals of insurance, tax and other subjects.
2. Indian journalist has become the new president of Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) -- **Rajat Sharma**.  
**Note:** He beat former cricketer Madan Lal by 517 votes in the DDCA election 2018.
  3. Payments Council of India (PCI) has appointed as its new Chairman -- **Vishwas Patel**.  
**Note:** The Payments Council of India (PCI) was formed under the aegis of IAMA in the year 2013 catering to the needs of the digital payment industry. PCI works closely with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Finance Ministry and any similar government, departments, bodies or Institution to make 'India a less cash society'.
  4. Former Patna HC CJ appointed as CAT Chairman -- **L. Narasimha Reddy**.  
**Note:** The union cabinet has approved the appointment of Justice L. Narasimha Reddy (former chief Justice Patna HC) as the Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). He was the one-man judicial commission appointed by the Centre to look into the implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme. It was established in 1985 under Section 29 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.
  5. **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for a term of five years.  
**Note:** National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (NGT) is an Act of the Parliament of India which enables the creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.
  6. Former I&B secretary **Uday Kumar Varma** has been appointed as a member of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).  
**Note:** The BCCC is an independent self-regulatory body set up by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) to look into complaints pertaining to all non-news general entertainment channels in India.
  7. **Justice TBN Radhakrishnan** is the Chief Justice of the Hyderabad High Court.  
**Note:** He was appointed judge of the Kerala High Court in 2004 and worked as Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court in 2015. In 2017, He was elevated as Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
  8. **Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan** has appointed as the Director General, ex officio Member-Secretary of the Council (ICWA).  
**Note:** Earlier, Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan has served as India's High Commissioner to Islamabad and Singapore. Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of Indian intellectuals as a think tank. It was established as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organization under Registration of Societies Act 1860.
  9. **Dr. Sandeep Sancheti** has assumed charge as the 97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).  
**Note:** The AIU was founded in 1925, and initially it was known as the Inter-University Board of India.
  10. **Analjit Singh** has been appointed non-executive Chairman of Max Financial Services.  
**Note:** Max Financial Services has named its sponsor and founding shareholder Analjit Singh as non-executive chairman of the company. Max Life Insurance Company is the largest non-bank private life insurer in India and contributes over two-thirds of Max Group's revenues.
  11. The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) has appointed as its executive director -- **Arman Ali**.  
**Note:** He would assume charge from 1st October 2018. The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) is trust established in 1996.
  12. The Union government has set up a high-level committee headed by **Rajiv Gauba** to formulate appropriate measures to deal with mob lynching incidents.  
**Note:** The committee will make its recommendations to the Government in four weeks.
  13. **Justice Tahira Safdar** was named as the first-ever woman Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court.  
**Note:** In 1982, Justice Safdar had made history when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan. Currently, Justice Tahira Safdar is a member of the three-judge special court conducting the trial of former President Pervez Musharraf for committing treason by proclaiming a state of emergency (November 2007).
  14. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for HSBC India -- **Surendra Roshia**.  
**Note:** Roshia succeeds Jayant Rikhye, who is taking a leave of absence for medical reasons. Currently, Roshia is the HSBC's Head of Financial Institutions Group (FIG) for Asia-Pacific.
  15. Haryana governor took the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh as the incumbent, Acharya Devvrat -- **Kaptan Singh Solanki**.  
**Note:** Solanki was administered the oath of office by acting Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh Justice Sanjay Karol in a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan in Shimla. According to an official release, Devvrat is on leave till August 2 due to his personal visit to the US.
  16. **Navin Agarwal** has been re-appointed as whole-time director of metals and mining giant Vedanta Limited.  
**Note:** Agarwal's re-appointment as whole-time director is for another five-year period starting from August 1, 2018 and subject to shareholders' approval at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the company.



17. **Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe** has been reappointed the chairman of the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.  
**Note:** AICTE comes under the aegis of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources

Development (HRD) established in November 1945. It is a national-level council for technical education responsible for planning and coordination of technical education and management of education system in the country.

### Important News – India

- The Union Govt. forms panel to upgrade norms for computation of economic data -- **Ravindra H Dholakia**.  
**Note:** The panel has been asked to review the concepts, definitions, classifications, data conventions, data sources and data requirements for preparation of State Domestic Product (SDP) and District Domestic Product (DDP) and to lay down revised guidelines. It will also suggest measures for improving SDP and DDP in the country taking into consideration availability of data and requirements of the Centre and states/union territories.
- The first meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from Karnataka as per the schedule and duly complying with all aspects of the judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard.
- Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) has signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to implement fertilizer subsidy disbursement through Blockchain Technology -- **NITI Aayog**.  
**Note:** They will jointly develop the use case, under take research, interact with multiple stakeholders, develop Blockchain solutions, exchange learnings, organize forums, and disseminate learnings across their networks.
- The Chief Election Commissioner 'O P Rawat' has inaugurated a two-days National consultation on Accessible Elections in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The event is a part of the ECI's pursuit of its mission to leave no voter behind, with a special focus on Persons with Disabilities. A dedicated portal for the ECI's Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation initiative has been launched.
- The first 'Khadi Mall' of the country will be opened in the state -- **Jharkhand**.  
**Note:** The mall would come up in the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) campus area which is also giving way for the Ranchi Smart City. The artisans would be provided technological aid for value addition in their products, while rural, urban and tourism 'haats' will provide the markets for their goods.
- Assam's Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) has become the first oil **public sector undertaking (PSU)** to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing -- **Legatrix**.  
**Note:** 'Legatrix' is a one-stop solution for effectively managing the organisation's legal and regulatory compliances through monitoring control at different level. It encompasses the requirements of laws such as labor, taxation, IT, commercial, export-import, corporate laws and other industry-specific laws.
- Century's longest total lunar eclipse seen in Dubai on -- **27th July**.  
**Note:** According to the Dubai Astronomy Group, the moon has entered in the shadow of the earth for about four hours on the night 27th July 2018. The eclipse will last for about one hour and 43 minutes (the longest in the century) and will also feature a "blood moon". "Blood moon" is a non-scientific term used to refer to the red tinge on a fully eclipsed moon.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust** will purchase Air India's iconic 23-storey building at Nariman Point in Mumbai.  
**Note:** The valuation of the building will be worked out between the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Shipping. The building would continue to be called 'Air India' with the carrier's emblem, which is visible from the Arabian Sea.
- The Khadi and village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched single- umbrella e marketing system named 'KIMIS' in -- **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The system can be accessed from anywhere in the country for the sale & purchase of Khadi and Village Industries products. This software will give real-time data of sales and give the updated status of stocks of khadi bhavan and god owns.
- National Health Agency (NHA)** has launched a formal process to empanel public and private hospitals to achieve universal health coverage.





- 11. Note:** The objective is to improve access for the most vulnerable and unreached sections of the population and holistically address healthcare by covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. National Health Agency (NHA) is the apex body for implementation of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Scheme.
- 12.** The Union Minister Dr. Mahesh Sharma has inaugurated an exhibition "Arth - art for earth" at **IGNCA, New Delhi**.  
**Note:** 'ARTH - ART FOR EARTH' by Manav Gupta consists of "Excavations in Hymns of Clay"-a suite of environmental art installations by Manav Gupta weaving all of them with a storyline and poetry. It is an evolving site, specific and dynamic engagement with the space it has an interface with - whether it be the Travelling or the Permanent editions.
- 13.** The Election Commissioner of India has launched an Android-based mobile application for Indian citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections -- **cVigil**.  
**Note:** The app will help voters to share malpractice proof with the authorities. It will be made available for use during forthcoming state's assembly elections Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan. The app 'cVIGIL' will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls.
- 14. National Security Guard (NSG)** will be the first paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.  
**Note:** This system will eliminate the need for carrying railway warrants by the NSG personnel. A railway warrant is a voucher issued for train travel for certain categories such as government employees, security force personnel and retirees at subsidised rates or free of charge, exchangeable for a ticket. The IRCTC is also developing an e-ticketing-cum-warrant management system for the Central Reserve Police Force.
- 15. Railway Ministry** will accept soft copies of Aadhaar and driving licence as proof of identity when they are issued from the digital locker account of the passenger.  
**Note:** Digital locker (around 1.2 crore registered users) is a service offered by the IT Ministry allowing users to keep digital records of various documents like birth certificate, mark sheets, driving licenses. The documents uploaded by the user himself/herself the documents in 'Uploaded Documents' section of digilocker will not be considered as a valid proof of identity.
- 16. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** setting up a joint venture (JV) in with the Zorya Mashproekt (Ukrainian manufacturer) to overhaul turbines in India.  
**Note:** Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is an engineering and manufacturing company owned and founded by the Government of India, in 1964. BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer.
- 16.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the South Korean President jointly inaugurated the world's largest mobile phone factory in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The new 35-acre Samsung Electronics facility can manufacture nearly 120 million mobile phones.
- 17.** The Union Human Resource Development Ministry has extended the term of K. Kasturirangan Committee to draft a new education policy till -- **31<sup>st</sup> August**.
- 18.** The first India Tourism Mart (ITM) 2018 will be organized at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The India Tourism Mart will provide a platform for stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality industries to interact and transact business opportunities. The objective of the event is to create an annual Global Tourism Mart for India in line with major international travel marts being held in countries across the world.
- 19. Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved 'Son canal' project in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.  
**Note:** The estimated cost of the project is 503 million dollars (Rs 3272.49 crore) out of which 352 million dollars is being provided by ADB. Son River of central India is the second largest of the Ganges' southern tributaries after Yamuna River. The Son originates near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh.
- 20.** The Union Government has shortlisted Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) -- **Six**.  
**Note:** Public Sector: (i) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Karnataka; (ii) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Maharashtra; and (iii) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Private Sector: (i) Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation), Pune under Green Field Category; (ii) Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani, Rajasthan; and (iii) Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka.
- 21. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has issued an order allowing photography within the premises of all centrally





- protected monuments or sites, except at Ajanta Caves, Leh Palace and Taj Mahal.
22. The union Govt. plans to build a port at Vadarevu in Andhra Pradesh's district -- **Prakasam**.  
**Note:** 3,000 acres of land will be allocated for the proposed port at Vadarevu.
23. **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has launched a mobile help centre "Saathi" to reach out to people undertaking the annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath.
24. **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has launched 'The Eat Right Movement' to empower the citizens by improving their health and well-being.  
**Note:** It is a platform to provide credible information to help make informed and healthful eating choices. It is built on two broad pillars – "Eat Healthy and "Eat Safe". "
25. Indian naval ship INS Sumitra has become the first-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in -- **Indonesia**
26. The University has discovered a pigment in wild edible mushroom that may help fight against cancer \_\_\_ **Goa University**.
27. The India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre has been established at the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) premises in -- **New Delhi**.
28. The **Sunil Mehta committee** has submitted its report to Finance minister Piyush Goyal with some recommendations to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and creating credit capacity.  
**Note:** The Sunil Mehta panel presented project 'Sashakt' and recommended a five-pronged strategy to deal with stressed assets. The plan focuses on turning around assets in a manner that will create additional jobs by reviving businesses and prevent job losses from foreclosures.
29. Facebook is working on a new satellite project to provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas --**Athena**.  
**Note:** In 2016, Facebook's internet satellite for Africa was lost when SpaceX's rocket exploded. Facebook appears to have filed with the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the name Point View Tech LLC.
30. According to the **Public Affairs Index 2018** released by the think tank **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)**, The **Kerala** state stands as the best-governed state in the country.  
**Note:** Telangana, Karnataka, and Gujarat are ranked third, fourth and fifth respectively among the top five states delivering good governance. Public Affairs Index 2018
- released annually (since 2016), the index examines governance performance in the states through a data-based framework.
31. The **19th Kargil Vijay Diwas** celebrated at the Drass War Memorial in **Jammu and Kashmir**.  
**Note:** 500 war heroes paid tributes to the War Heroes by laying wreath at the memorial in Kargil town. The Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year for three days till 26th July to commemorate India's emphatic victory against Pakistan. It remembers the supreme sacrifice of 500 heroes who laid down their lives and those who are still alive.
32. Renowned historian and author **Ramachandra Guha** has penned a new book on Mahatma Gandhi "Gandhi: the years that changed the world (1914-1948)".  
**Note:** The book will not only tell the story of Gandhi's life, from his departure from South Africa to his dramatic assassination in 1948, but also the history of our freedom movement and its many strands.
33. The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference of young Superintendents of Police (SP) in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme of the conference is, '**Predictive Policing and Contemporary Challenges for Indian Police Forces**'. The objective is to generate awareness among young SPs and commandants in the areas of artificial intelligence, cyber-crime and surveillance tracking for effective delivery of services to citizens.
34. President Ram Nath Kovind has launched the Chhattisgarh government's Yojna at Jagdalpur, Bastar -- **Sanchar Kranti Yojna**.  
**Note:** Under the scheme, 50 lakh smartphones will be distributed free of cost to the people.
35. The Human Resources Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar has chaired a three-day National Conference of Vice-chancellors and Directors in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It is time to show India's prowess to the world in the field of education. The country hosts many world-class educators who are working in silos and they need to break walls and come forward to share their knowledge.
36. India's Union Minister **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has attended the Global Disability Summit in London, UK.  
**Note:** The motto of the Conference was to firm up the commitments of the country leaders towards the cause of persons with disabilities. The participants in the summit appreciated the efforts of the Government of India towards empowerment and inclusion of PwDs.



- 37.** The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has organized 2nd meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) in New Delhi.  
**Note:** September-2018 will be celebrated as National Nutrition Month and this will be celebrated every year.
- 38.** India's first three-day International Blockchain Congress (IBC) in India will be held at **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:** The objective of the IBC is to bring thought-provoking conversations on blockchain for next-generation financial services. The first two days of the IBC will be organized at Hyderabad and the third day will be hosted in Goa.
- 39.** The Department of Telecom (DoT) has given final approval to the merger of **Vodafone India & Idea Cellular**.  
**Note:** Idea Cellular and Vodafone India jointly paid Rs. 7,268.78 crore 'under protest' to the DoT. The entities will approach Registrar of Companies (RoC) for stipulated filings for approval, completing the last leg of formalities. Now, Vodafone Idea will create India's largest mobile-phone company and help the firms compete with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.
- 40. National Green Tribunal (NGT)** formed a monitoring committee on the cleaning of the Yamuna River.  
**Note:** The green panel has appointed B S Sajwan (retired expert member) and Shailaja Chandra (former Delhi chief secretary) as members of the committee. The Committee will submit a detailed report on the issue by 31st December 2018.
- 41.** The Indian Railways has launched a '**Mission Satyanishtha**' at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.  
**Note:** To train every employee to understand the need and value of ethics in Personal and Public life. To deal with ethical dilemmas in life and Public Governance. To help understand the policies of Indian Railways on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.
- 42.** Electronics and IT (Information Technology) Secretary has launched a desktop software to enable editing of text printed on scanned documents -- **e-Aksharayan**.  
**Note:** "e-Aksharayan" is a desktop software for converting scanned printed Indian language documents into a fully editable text format in Unicode encoding. The software supports editing in seven Indian languages (Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese).
- 43.** The ministry of women and child Development (WCD) has launched a contest to share images of the Childline -- **#Childline1098**.  
**Note:** The contest invites people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations and send it with a tagline. The contest has been organized to mark 'World Day against Trafficking in Persons' on 30th July.
- 44.** The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched a rural cleanliness programme to rank all states and districts on the basis of qualitative and quantitative evaluation -- **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018**.  
**Note:** Top performing states and districts will be awarded on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (2nd October). According to ministry officials, the information would be obtained from its Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).
- 45.** The Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has proposed a cruise route from **Mumbai-Bali cruise route**.  
**Note:** The cruise service between Mumbai and Goa is likely to start operational in September 2018. Mumbai gets 80 cruise ships. We have constructed a state-of-the-art terminal for ships.
- 46.** **ISRO** successfully conducted Vikas Engine Test in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.  
**Note:** ISRO successfully conducted a ground test of its high thrust version of the Vikas Engine which will improve the payload capability of the space agency's launch vehicles. The Vikas Engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine used to power the second stage of the ISRO's trusted Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- 47.** The Government of India has decided to form a committee headed by **Anil Swarup** to address issues such as 'manpower deficiency' in the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).  
**Note:** The Committee will deal with issues like expansion, strengthening training infrastructure, rationalizing resources, reducing manpower deficiency affecting NCC and NSS (National Service Scheme). The Committee will also submit recommendations for building "synergy" between these two institutions.
- 48.** **Isro Satellite Centre (ISAC)** has signed an agreement with a consortium led by Alpha Design Technologies Pvt Ltd, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Tatas to assemble satellites.



- Note:** This will be the first set of agreements signed by Isro, which is trying to rope in private partners to overcome its own constraints. The space agency is encouraging private players to form a small consortium to undertake satellite and rocket manufacturing work so that it can remain focused on research and development.
49. The theme of this year 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue -- **Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Co-operation.**  
**Note:** The theme has been chosen aptly this time in view of focus that government wants to put on ASEAN India maritime cooperation. The Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN.
50. The union government has formed **C K Mishra committee** to look into the issue of industrial pollution around the iconic Taj Mahal.  
**Note:** A high-level inter-ministerial meeting was held in Delhi to deliberate on the issues and action to be taken to conserve the iconic Mughal monument. The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra.
51. Senior Officers Meeting on Homeland Security Dialogue between India and USA was held in **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The meeting focused on issues relating to security cooperation, customs and immigration, aviation security, capacity building etc. Both sides agreed to work out the modalities to address these issues.
52. The Reserve Bank of India will soon issue new notes in lavender colour and bear a motif of "RANI KI VAV" on the reverse -- **Rs. 100.**  
**Note:** It also bears Swachh Bharat logo with slogan on the reverse. The dimension of the banknote will be 66 mm and 142 mm and come with signature of RBI Governor Urjit R Patel. Rani Ki Vav (located banks of Saraswati River) is an intricately constructed stepwell situated in the town of Patan in Gujarat.
53. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate with fighter aircraft in Exercise Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18), which is scheduled from 24 Jul to 18 Aug 18 in Australia.  
**Note:** Pitch Black 2018 is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The IAF contingent consists of 145 air-warriors including Garud team, 04 X Su-30 MKI, 01 X C-130 and 01 X C-17.
54. The 'two-plus-two dialogue' between India and the United States will be held in **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** India and US will discuss strengthening of strategic, security and defense cooperation as both the nations jointly address challenges in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. The dialogue is seen as a vehicle to elevate the strategic relationship between the two countries.
55. The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has constituted a **Prof. R.C. Deka** Committee to regulate the fees chargeable by self-financed Deemed to be Universities in Medical and Dental Courses.  
**Note:** Prof. R.C. Deka was Director of AIIMS, New Delhi.
56. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a committee to look into the matters related to examination reforms -- **Prof. M.M. Salunkhe.**  
**Note:** Prof. M.M. Salunkhe is the former Vice Chancellor, Central University, Rajasthan. The Committee will submit its report by October 2018.
57. The board of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has approved exiting its helicopter service provider Pawan Hans by selling its entire -- **49% stake.**  
**Note:** The move will cut debt and consolidate resources in this core oil and gas business. ONGC wants its interest to be clubbed with the 51% government stake that is already on offer for sale. Pawan Hans owns a fleet of 46 helicopters.
58. The five central oil PSUs have signed an agreement for executing the North - East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid -- **IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL, and NRL.**  
**Note:** As per the agreement, Joint venture company will develop, build, operate, and maintain the Natural Gas Pipeline Grid connecting Guwahati to the other major North-Eastern cities and major load centres and integrate with gas producing fields in the region.
59. The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the national Student Police Cadet (SPC) programme in **Gurugram.**  
**Note:** The programme seeks to build a bridge between the Police and the larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside. Students will study about the law and Constitution, communication skills, disaster management, and health and hygiene.

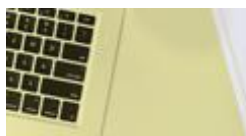


## Important Day

1. The National Doctors' Day is celebrated every year in India on -- **1st July**.  
**Note:** This is a vital day for doctors as it provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their career and remind them about practicing the art and science of Medicine and Surgery in an ethical manner. Dr. Roy was honored with the country's highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna'.
2. The International Day of Cooperatives was observed across the world on -- **7th July**.  
**Note:** It contains aspects of sustainable development at its core and is based on ethical values and principles. The theme of 2018 is 'Sustainable societies through cooperation'.
3. The World Population Day is observed across the world every year on -- **11th July**.  
**Note:** The theme of this year is 'Family Planning is a Human Right'. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights, where family planning was, for the first time, globally affirmed to be a human right.
3. Nelson Mandela International Day is an annual international day in honor of Nelson Mandela on -- **18 July (Mandela's birthday)**
4. Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated to honour the Kargil War's Heroes -- **26th July**.  
**Note:** On 26th July, 1999, India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistani intruders. The three-day celebrations already began (on 24th July) at the Drass War Memorial in Kargil town in Jammu and Kashmir. The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days, 527 soldiers from Indian Armed Forces sacrificed their lives during the war.
5. The World Hepatitis Day is being observed worldwide to raise global awareness of Hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis, and treatment -- **28th July**.  
**Note:** The Theme of this year is "Test. Treat. Hepatitis". World Hepatitis Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the WHO.
6. The International Tiger Day (ITD) is observed globally to raise awareness for tiger conservation -- **29th July**.  
**Note:** The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues. In 2010, 29th July was decided to be celebrated as Tiger day during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
7. The World Day against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on **30th July**.  
**Note:** The day raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights. The 2018 theme "Responding to the trafficking of children and young people" highlights the fact that almost a 3rd of trafficking victims are children.

## States News

1. The Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh attended the famous four days annual Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam" at **Jowai, Meghalaya**.  
**Note:** "Khlam" means plague (or pestilence) and 'beh dien' means to drive away with sticks.
2. The state govt. has launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidized power scheme 'Sambal' for labors and poor families -- **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Under the scheme, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of 200 rupees per month, while Power connection would be provided free of cost to the beneficiaries.
3. The Airport will be named after Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishor Manika Bahadur -- **Agartala Airport**.  
**Note:** Maharaja Bir Bikaram Kishor Manikya Bahadur sowed the seeds for development of a modern Tripura. Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur, who ascended the throne of the erstwhile Tripura Princely State in 1923, was an enlightened and benevolent ruler.
4. The state govt. has launched a state-wide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres -- **Poshan Abhiyan**.  
**Note:** The government has also allocated Rs 270 crore to control malnutrition among those girls who he said would become mothers in future. On 8th March 2018, the nationwide 'Poshan Mission' was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Rajasthan.





5. The **Uttar Pradesh** govt. has issued an order to ban use of plastic in the state from 15th July 2018.  
**Note:** The latest ban comes following the footsteps of Maharashtra government which enforced a similar ban in March 2018. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath urged everyone to stop use of plastic cup, glass and polythene after 15th July.
6. Maharashtra's 700 years old tradition in which devotees of Lord Vitthala called Varkari trace the route to Pandharpur -- **Pandharichi Wari**.  
**Note:** For this holy function Devotees from all over state gathers in Dehu and Alandi, the native places of Sant Tukaram Maharaj and sant Dnyaneshvar Maharaj in Pune district and the procession starts for its final destination, Pandharpur.
7. The **Tripura** State government will distribute free ration to about 62,000 BPL families in ten tribal dominated blocks for two months.  
**Note:** Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in ten tribal dominated blocks will get this facility because they face a shortage of foods. Each family will get 20 kg of rice per month.
8. The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a two-day plenary meeting of the North-Eastern Council (NEC) in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.  
**Note:** The North Eastern Council (NEC) was constituted as a statutory advisory body under the NEC Act 1971 and came into being on the 7th November 1972 at Shillong.
9. The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur has inaugurated the state-level program Van Mahotsav at **Rajgarh, Sirmaur district**.  
**Note:** The three-day plantation campaign will be carried out during the festival.
10. The **Gujarat** Government has granted religious minority status to Jews in the state.  
**Note:** Gujarat is the third state in India (earlier, West Bengal and Maharashtra) to grant religious minority status to Jews. Judaism is one of the oldest religions of the world, evolved in Egypt about 3,700 years ago.
4. **N Chandrababu Naidu** has launched the much-awaited 'Anna Canteens' in various parts of the state.  
**Note:** The canteen would serve breakfast (3 idlis/ 3 pooris/ upma/ Pongal), lunch, and dinner with rice, dal/sambar, pickle, curry and curd at the same rate (5 rupees). The Akshaya Patra Foundation will run these canteens.
5. The **Madhya Pradesh** govt. will appoint girls as a district Brand Ambassador, who have recorded significant achievements in any field under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme.
6. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chauhan** has inaugurated National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) 250 MW Solar Power Plant in **Mandsaur**.  
**Note:** This project has been set up mainly on non-land and the generation of electricity has been achieved without affecting the natural eco-system with zero carbon emission at an investment of about Rs 1,500 crore. This is one of the biggest solar plant developed using domestically manufactured Solar cells and modules under the Make in India initiative.
7. The **Indore** city hosted the 4th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals to strengthen mineral auction regime.  
**Note:** The aim of the conclave was to carry forward the efforts of the Union Government for strengthening the mineral auction regime as well as help in expediting auctions and bring in greater participation from the stakeholders.
8. The **Odisha** state government has constituted Heritage Cabinet to preserve the history and culture of state.  
**Note:** The Heritage Cabinet will maintain coordination between the institutions and departments working to preserve and spread Odia language, culture, and literature.
9. The **Maharashtra** state govt will launch 'One farmer one transformer' scheme from **15th August** to curb electricity losses.  
**Note:** Under this scheme, the state Government will provide electrical connection for high voltage distribution line to about two lakh farmers of the state. It will ensure uninterrupted power supply in the state.
10. India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and Light Bullet Proof Vehicles (LBPV) will be set up in --- **Kota**.
11. The **Haryana** state has topped tops in per capita revenue collection under Goods & Service Tax.  
**Note:** Haryana has widened the tax base by 82.22% and logged 19% hike in revenue collections. About 1.12 crore e-way bills were generated in Haryana between April 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018, catapulting the state to the position of 4th highest generator of e-way bills in the country.
12. Rath Yatra is the 'Festival of Chariots', in honour of Puri's Lord -- **Jagannath**.  
**Note:** This is one of the most awaited festivals of Odisha. The festival is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, his sister Goddess Subhadra and elder brother Balabhadra. All the three deities of the temple - Jagannath, Subhadra and Balabhadra - travel in three different chariots during this festival.



13. The Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched the campaign to increase the green cover in the state -- **Paudhagiri**.  
**Note:** Under this campaign, 22 lakh students from class 6 to 12 of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each during three months of monsoon.
14. The news Channel '**BBC**' has launched the first Gujarati language news bulletin that will broadcast five days a week from Delhi.  
**Note:** The bulletin will bring insightful global and national stories to the Gujarati-speaking audience in India and around the world. Four new language services launched online in India namely, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi & Telegu.
15. The Union Govt. has sanctioned financial assistance to the Three Municipal Corporations of Delhi for effective solid waste management and dust control -- **Rs. 300 crores**.  
**Note:** The execution of proposals was on fast-track so that there was effective implementation of solid waste management. The **Municipal Corporation of Delhi** (MCD) is a municipal corporation (an autonomous body) that governs 8 of the 11 Districts of Delhi (India).
16. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh 'Dr. Raman Singh' has launched an online portal and mobile app called to provide transparency in the pension facility -- **Aabhaar-Aapki seva ka**.  
**Note:** It is under e-governance, fulfilling the dream of Digital India plan of India and Digital Chhattisgarh. Through this application around 80,000 pensioners of the state will get all the information related to pension and payment online.
17. The **Maharashtra** govt. will implement the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission for its employees in November 2018.  
**Note:** The decision will benefit 19 lakh government employees across the state and put a financial burden of Rs. 21,530 crores on the state exchequer. In March 2018, the finance department has made provisions of Rs. 10,000 crores in its annual budget.
18. The **Andhra Pradesh** state govt. has launched 'e-Pragati core platform' to connect all departments and stand alone to resolve the issues.  
**Note:** e-Pragati is aimed at connecting the citizen to 34 departments, 336 autonomous organisations and 745-plus services. Through this project, the State government intends to realise the vision of 'Sunrise AP 2022'.
19. The **Odisha** state police launched drive to bust an international smuggling racket of pangolin.  
**Note:** The Odisha police has launched a drive to bust an international syndicate that peddles "endangered" pangolin, one of the world's most illegally traded mammals.
20. The **Bihar** state assembly has passed a bill to amend some of the stringent provisions of the prohibition law in order to prevent its misuse and make the quantum of punishment proportionate to the nature of offence.  
**Note:** Changes in the excise law enacted in 2016 are being brought after the state received complaints of widespread misuse of the provisions by police and excise officials. Now, first-time offenders will have to pay a fine of 50,000 rupees, failing which, they will have to undergo a prison term of three months.
21. The **Assam** state govt. has decided to set up a separate directorate for the 'Divyangs'.  
**Note:** According to the Social Welfare minister Pramila Rani Brahma, the Social Welfare department to give 1 thousand rupees per month to all Divyangs as stipend. Divyang is a Hindi word meaning the one with a divine body.
22. The **Rajasthan Govt.** has decided to introduce a mobile app for farmers to register their complaint regarding defunct transformers.  
**Note:** The transformer would be replaced within six hours of the complaint. Earlier, the scheme was being launched on a pilot basis from Jhalawara.
23. **Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC)** will launch India's first public sector hotel 'Hostess' run entirely by women for women in Thiruvananthapuram.  
**Note:** The hotel will come up at the KTDC complex at the main bus station in the heart of Thiruvananthapuram. Hostess's will offer state-of-the-art facilities, including automated security features, technology-oriented check-ins and check-outs, laundry service, complimentary breakfast, microwave oven and fitness centre.
24. The Odisha govt. has launched a plantation drive to stop soil erosion on river banks and recharge the groundwater reserve -- **Green Mahanadi Mission**.  
**Note:** Under the 'Green Mahanadi Mission' around 2 crores saplings will be planted along the Mahanadi river and its tributaries.
25. The West Bengal Governor 'K N Tripathi' has inaugurated the 18th International Children's Film Festival in **Kolkata**.  
**Note:** Bouquet of 32 offerings from 17 countries would be screened. The Governor also called for screening of one children's film in every cinema hall of the state every month.
26. The **Madhya Pradesh** Govt. will observe Independence Day eve as Shahid Samman Divas to honour 'martyrs'.  
**Note:** It will be a comprehensive program and spread across all the villages, blocks and districts of Madhya Pradesh, where rallies will be organized. The martyrs will be paid homage and the relatives of the martyrs will also be honored on the day.



27. The **Gujarat** Government has announced an 'Urban Sanitation and Cleanliness Policy' for better management of solid and liquid waste in cities.  
**Note:** The policy aims at complete abolition of manual scavenging. The policy also puts a thrust on recycling of drainage water.
28. The **Arunachal Pradesh** Government has announced to replace the health insurance scheme conceived by the previous regime with a new one.  
**Note:** The new Chief Minister's Arogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) will enable citizens to avail cashless health

services in empaneled hospitals. The vision is to accord quality and cashless healthcare services to the people of the state envisaging universal health care to all by 2020.

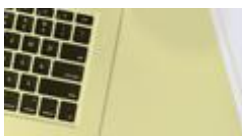
29. The **Rajasthan** Govt. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gausala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary'.  
**Note:** In June 2018, the state government introduced a 20 percent surcharge on liquor to use the proceeds for protection of cows in the state.

### Important News – World

- The two-day final meeting of the 'Eminent Persons Group' (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations concluded in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.  
**Note:** The Representatives from Nepal & India deliberated upon various bilateral issues including 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty, trade, transit, and border during the meeting. The EPG is a joint mechanism consisting of experts and intellectuals from India & Nepal.
- As per US State Department's 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report, the country has been tagged "worst human trafficking nation ---**North Korea**.  
**Note:** North Korea has been included in the Tier 3 category, which is the lowest ranking, along with China, Russia and Iran.
- India will host the International union of food Science and technology 2018.  
**Note:** The International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) has announced the five days 19th edition global event will be held in Navi Mumbai, India (in October 2018). IUFoST is the global voice of food science and technology in association with Indian National Science Academy (INSA) as adhering body.
- NITI Aayog will organize 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' in New Delhi in September 2018.  
**Note:** The objective of the Summit is to bring together and engage with key stakeholders within the rapidly transforming global mobility landscape and to evolve a public interest framework for a shared, connected, zero emission and inclusive mobility agenda for the future.
- Bhutan's Prime Minister **Dasho 'Tshering Tobgay** visited India.  
**Note:** India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, which are characterized by utmost trust and mutual understanding. This year both countries are commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.
- The UNESCO delegation has entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) to set up 'Design University for Gaming' in -- **Visakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** The Design University for Gaming will help UNSECO to develop edutech gaming in state, with the target of providing 50,000 jobs in 10 years. Earlier, UNESCO has requested Andhra Pradesh Govt. to provide 100 acres of land in Visakhapatnam for developing the city as International Gaming and Digit learning hub.
- The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in -- **Tokyo, Japan**.  
**Note:** Attendees are able to move freely through the 9,000-square meter interactive gallery. The exhibition itself is linked in real-time to the real-world seasons, which means that no two trips to the museum will be the same.
- USA boycotted an informal UN Security Council meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of the statute that created the International Criminal Court (ICC).  
**Note:** US noted concerns about any potential ICC investigation of American personnel related to the situation in Afghanistan. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister **Prakash Javadekar** has inaugurated the five-day 17th World Sanskrit Conference in **Vancouver, Canada**.  
**Note:** The objective of this conference is to promote, preserve and practice the Sanskrit language all over the world by the people. The World Sanskrit Conference is being held in various countries across the globe once in every three years.
- The 6th edition of biennial World Cities Summit (WCS-2018) was held in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** It is an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts to address sustainable city challenges,



- share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships.
11. **China** successfully launched two remote sensing satellites for Pakistan.  
**Note:** The satellites (a) PRSS-1 and (b) PakTES-1A - were launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
  12. Nepal's Prime Minister 'K.P. Sharma Oli' has inaugurated the three-story Library building of Nepal Academy in **Kathmandu**.  
**Note:** The library has been built as part of India's development partnership programme. More than 500 projects have been undertaken so far focusing on infrastructure development and capacity building in the areas of Education, Health, Roads, Bridges, Electrification, Railways and Cross Borer linkages.
  13. **NASA** has announced to give funds to a California-based 3D printing company for finding ways to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecraft, which could fly to outposts in space.  
**Note:** The project is named as RAMA (Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata). The company is considering sending an advanced robotic "Seed Craft" out to rendezvous with a succession of near-Earth asteroids in space, as part of its long-term project.
  14. **South Korea** has decided to scrap an annual government mobilization drill this year as part of a suspended joint exercise with the United States.
  15. The **Canada** will assume command of a new NATO training and capacity building mission in Iraq for its first year.  
**Note:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries.
  16. Integrated Indian Visa Application Centre was inaugurated in **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** The new IVAC in Jamuna Future Park will be a model visa centre which is located in an 18,500 square feet commercial area will have facilities like computer generated token vending machines, comfortable seating arrangements in an air-conditioned waiting area, coffee and soft drinks vending machines, food kiosks.
  17. President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will hold their first summit meeting to discuss bilateral relations in **Helsinki**.  
**Note:** Trump will raise the subject of 12 Russians indicted for alleged hacking during the 2016 US election while Russia has denied the hacking allegations.
  18. **Peru** has declared a 60-day state of emergency on its Colombian border to ensure security from the menace of drug trafficking in the region.  
**Note:** The state of emergency has been declared in Peru's Amazonian province of Putumayo, which is separated from Colombia by the river of the same name.
  19. **India** has become the vice-chair (regional head) of the Asia Pacific region of the World Customs Organization (WCO) for a period of two years.  
**Note:** Each of the regions is represented by an elected vice-chairperson to the WCO council. WCO represents 182 customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98 per cent of world trade.
  20. **Turkey** has ended the nationwide state of emergency that was imposed two years ago after a failed coup attempt.  
**Note:** In 20th July 2016, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared emergency in Turkey. The state of emergency saw the detention of some 80,000 people and about double that number sacked from jobs in public institutions.
  21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the country-wide Emergency Ambulance service through video conferencing for **Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:** The service was introduced in two provinces of Sri Lanka with grant assistance from India and will be expanded to the remaining seven provinces. India has given a grant of 22.8 million US dollars first phase (7.6 million) and for the country-wide expansion (15.2 million).
  22. The fourth BIMSTEC Summit will be held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.  
**Note:** The main-focus of the summit will be to increase connectivity between the BIMSTEC nations including roads, airways and transmission lines. The First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation was held in New Delhi, India (on 10-11 May 2018).
  23. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J P Nadda addressed the 8th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting at **Durban (South Africa)**.  
**Note:** The union government has announced the ambitious programme called 'Ayushman Bharat' which is to be rolled out across India next month.
  24. The first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats was held in **Agartala, Tripura**.  
**Note:** Both sides noted the positive impact of Border Haats on the livelihoods of the people living in areas adjoining the Haats. They agreed that the next meeting would be held in Bangladesh on mutually agreed dates.
  25. India and Rwanda signed eight agreements after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paul Kagame in Kigali.  
**Note:** Two countries signed agreements in the fields of Defence, Trade, Agriculture, Leather and allied products and Dairy. India also extended two Lines of Credit of 100 million US dollars each - one for development of industrial parks and Kigali Special Economic Zone, and the other for three agricultural projects in Rwanda.





26. An Indian Air Force contingent landed at the Darwin Air Force Base in Australia to participate in a multinational air exercise **Ex Pitch Black**.  
**Note:** The IAF contingent comprised of Su-30 MKI fighter jets (4), C-130 (1) and C-17 transporter aircraft (1). The objective the exercise is to practice Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Defensive Counter Air (DCA) combat, in a simulated war environment. The first Pitch Black exercises took place on 15-16 June 1981 between different RAAF units.
27. The country will host the next Asean Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM) in October this year to boost its education sector **Myanmar**.  
**Note:** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) partner countries include India, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia, the US, and Australia. The first ASEM was held in Singapore (in 2006) and last in Malaysia.
28. Under the Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme, Prime Minister Modi has gifted 200 cows to Rwanda's villagers **Rweru Model**.  
**Note:** Under this scheme, poor families are gifted dairy cows and the first female calf born of the cow is gifted to the neighbor. The word Girinka can be translated as 'may you have a cow' and describes a centuries-old cultural practice in Rwanda.
29. **Ireland** will organize the International Congress of Parliamentary Women's Caucuses (IWPC).

- Note:** The event will be attended by an estimated 300 delegates from over 27 countries and regions. The conference will conclude with a Dublin Declaration.
30. The BRICS Summit 2018 held in **Johannesburg**.  
**Note:** The theme for the summit is "BRICS in Africa - collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th industrial revolution. The BRICS Summit has been attended by the heads of the five BRICS nations that comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
31. According to a report led by Italian researchers in the US journal Science, a massive underground lake has been detected for the first time on **Red Planet Mars**.  
**Note:** It is the largest body of liquid water ever found on the Red Planet. It is believed that the planet was home to plenty of liquid water and lakes at least 3.6 billion years ago. Scientists are eager to find signs of contemporary water because such discoveries are key to unlocking the mystery of whether life ever formed on Mars in its ancient past.
32. The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held to discuss a range of issues on S&T cooperation in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The union minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Mr. Sam Gyimah (Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, UK) led the Indian and UK delegations respectively.

### Honor & Awards

1. Indian cricketer **Rahul Dravid** has inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.  
**Notes:** Former India captain Rahul Dravid and former Australian captain Ricky Ponting have been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame for their stupendous achievements in international cricket. Retired England woman wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor was also named in the 'Hall of Fame'.
2. The **Madhya Pradesh Govt.** has conferred prestigious **National Kalidas Samman** to the noted artist 'Anjolie Ela Menon' for her contribution to visual arts.  
**Note:** Menon is India's most accomplished artists and recipient of the Padma Shri. The Kalidas Samman is a prestigious arts award presented annually (from 1980) by the Madhya Pradesh government.
3. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has placed Chiribiquete national park on its list of world heritage sites -- **Colombia**.  
**Note:** The park is the country's largest and has one of the highest rates of plant diversity in the northern Amazon. It is also famous for its table-top rock formations known as tepuis, which rise out of the forest. Chiribiquete was first

declared a national park in 1989, located on one of the world's oldest rock formations, the Guiana Shield.

4. **Mark Zuckerberg** has become the 3rd richest person in the world.  
**Note:** Facebook's co-founder Mark Zuckerberg (34-year) has overtaken 'Warren Buffett' (chairman and chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway Inc) as the world's third-richest person. Now, Zuckerberg worth USD 81.6 billion is trailing only Jeff Bezos (Amazon.com Inc. founder) and Bill Gates (Microsoft Corp. co-founder)
5. The **The English Patient** novel has won the 2018 Golden Man Booker Prize.  
**Note:** The English Patient' has won the Golden Man Booker Prize at the closing event of the Man Booker 50 Festival in Royal Festival Hall at Southbank Centre in London
6. Amazon's founder becomes the richest person in modern history -- **Jeff Bezos**.  
**Note:** According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Bezos's net worth topped 150 billion US Dollars, making him the world's richest person in decades.



7. As part of the 2108 World's Best Awards survey, readers of Travel and Leisure magazine, the City is on the 3rd place among the 15 of the world's best cities **Udaipur**.  
**Note:** The top ranked two cities are both in Mexico: San Miguel de Allende (1) and Oaxaca (2). The heritage-city 'Udaipur' built by the Maharanas of Mewar in the 16th century.
8. Indian personality has been crowned the Miss Asia (Deaf) 2018 -- **Deshna Jain**.
9. Two Indians among six who have been declared winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award -- **Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk**.  
**Note:** Bharat Vatwani (psychiatrist) who works for mentally-ill people living on the streets. Sonam Wangchuk, known for his reforms in the education sector in Ladakh, started a movement to help poor village student clear examinations. Youk Chhang (Cambodia), Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz (East Timor), Howard Dee (Philippines) and Vo Thi Hoang Yen rom (Vietnam) are other winners of the award.
10. The West Bengal Assembly has passed a resolution to rename the state as -- **Bangla**.

**Note:** The move is aimed at climbing the alphabetical sequence of State names in which West Bengal appears last in the list now. The State will have to wait for the nod from the Union Home Ministry for the final approval of the resolution.

11. According to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, the **Karnataka** state is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.  
**Note:** It has overtaken Tamil Nadu that had long been India's top renewables market. Karnataka has a sum of 12.3 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity installed till March 2018, after having added five GW in 2017-18 alone.
12. **GCMMF** has been awarded the 'Marketer of the Year' award by the International Advertising Association of India\_\_\_\_  
**Note:** Amul is marketed by the GCMMF (Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.), the biggest cooperative owned by 36 lakh farmers of Gujarat with the brand worth Rs 41,000 crore. Amul also known for its marketing and advertising strategies.

### Sports News

1. **India** clinched 'Kabaddi Masters title 2018' defeating Iran 44-26 in the summit clash in Dubai.  
**Note:** The '2018 Dubai Kabaddi Masters' was a six nation Kabaddi Masters series which was held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 22-30 June 2018. The tournament featured defending world champions India, Pakistan, Iran, **Republic of Korea**, Argentina, and Kenya.
2. The elegant midfielder of Spain **Andres Iniesta** retired from international soccer.  
**Note:** Iniesta had also been key for Spain when it won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships with its tiki-taka style modelled on Barcelona's ball-possession game. Overall, Iniesta played 131 matches for Spain.
3. **Lee Chong Wei** has won the **Malaysian Open Badminton singles title** for a historic 12th time in the men's final in **Kuala Lumpur**.  
**Note:** He defeated young Japanese shuttler **Kento Momota** in straight games 21-17 23-21. Lee executed a sensational attack strategy that left the rising star Momota confused and flat footed. In the women's singles final, top seed Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan) saw off China's He Bingjiao 22-20, 21-11.
4. **Australia** won the Hockey Champions Trophy 2018.  
**Note:** India lost 1-3 to Australia via penalty shoot-off in the summit clash of the final edition of the prestigious Champions Trophy title at Breda, the Netherlands. The tournament will be replaced by the **Hockey Pro League** (HPL) in 2019.
5. The International Cricket Council (ICC) will impose a ban minimum on ball tampering offenders **6 Tests or 12 ODIs**.  
**Note:** Now, Ball tampering has been upgraded as a Level 3 offence as per ICC's new code of conduct. The ball tampering incident involving Steve Smith and David Warner has forced ICC to upgrade it as Level 3 offence which will carry 12 suspension points.
6. **Max Verstappen** won the Austrian Grand Prix 2018 title in Austria.  
**Note:** While Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was second spot and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished in the third spot. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton retired from the race due to a mechanical issue in his car. Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian-Dutch racing driver who competes under the Dutch flag in Formula One with Red Bull Racing.
7. **Aaron Finch** slammed 172 runs against Zimbabwe to register the highest-ever individual score in T20Is in Harare.  
**Note:** He smashed 10 sixes and 16 fours in his knock before getting out hit-wicket. Finch and D'Arcy Short shared a 223-run opening stand, which is the highest-ever partnership for any wicket in T20Is. Currently, Chris Gayle holds the record for the highest score in T20s with the West Indian scoring 175 runs in the Indian Premier League 2013.
8. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced **524-member** contingent of athletes for the Asian Games in **Indonesia**.  
**Note:** The IOA has decided against sending the men and women football teams this time as they are ineligible under



- the existing criteria set by the Olympic body. The 18th Asian Games (Jakarta Palembang 2018) is a pan-Asian multi-sport event scheduled to be held from 18 August to 2 September 2018 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.
9. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is set to be renamed as -- **Sports India**.  
**Note:** The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is an apex National Sports body established in 1984 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of Government of India for the development of sport in India. SAI has 2 Sports Academic institutions, 10 - SAI Regional Centres (SRC), 14 - Centre of Excellence" (COE/COX), 56 -Sports Training Centres (STC) and 20 - Special Area Games (SAG).
  10. Former India captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** reached the coveted milestone of playing 500 international matches during the second T20 International against England.  
**Note:** Now, Dhoni became the third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar (664) and Rahul Dravid (509) to breach the 500 matches barrier in international cricket. Dhoni has played 92 T20 International, 90 Test matches and 318 One Day Internationals.
  11. India's premier gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** clinched a gold medal (Scored 14.150) in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup in Mersin, Turkey.  
**Note:** Dipa Karmakar is the first Indian female gymnast ever to compete in the Olympics. She is the recipient of the fourth highest civilian award 'Padma Shri' in the Republic of India and Khel Ratna award in August 2016.
  12. India's oldest woman **Anju Khosla** to complete an Ironman Triathlon in Carinthia, Austria.  
**Note:** Ironman Triathlon involves 3.86 km swimming leg, 180.25 bike leg and marathon of 42.2 km, all of which is to be completed without a break. Anju completed her first full triathlon in 15 hours, 54 minutes and 54 seconds and ranked 38th out of the 41 competitors in her age category (W50).
  13. Indian lifter **Jhilli Dalabehera** bagged the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent.  
**Note:** She lifted 167 kg in the 48 kg category to finish third on the podium. Jhilli is the second woman lifter after Saikhom Mirabai Chanu in 2013 to win a medal in the Junior World Championships.
  14. Indian shuttler **Ajay Jayaram** finished runners-up at the White Nights International Challenge after losing in the finals against Pablo Abian (Spain) in Gatchina, Russia.  
**Note:** He had an impressive run at the tournament before losing 21-11, 16-21, 17-21 to Pablo in a 55-minute summit clash.
  15. **Satyarup Siddhanta** has become the 2nd Indian mountaineer to climb the highest volcano in the world, Mt Ojos del Salado\_\_
  16. Pakistan opening batsman **Ahmed Shehzad** has been provisionally suspended and charged with violating anti-doping regulations after he tested positive for a prohibited substance.  
**Note:** Earlier, Shehzad's urine sample was collected during the domestic Pakistan Cup tournament in May, tested positive. In April 2009, Ahmed Shehzad made his One Day International and T20I debut for Pakistan against Australia.
  17. **Hima Das** has become the 1st Indian woman to win gold at IAAF World U-20 Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland.  
**Note:** She clocked 51.46 seconds to clinch the top spot in the women's 400 meters race. Now, she joins the illustrious company of star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won a gold in Poland in the last edition in 2016.
  18. The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) of the Sports Ministry approved a monthly allowance of **50 thousand rupees** for each of the 18 members of the men's hockey team under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).  
**Note:** Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme was formulated by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports within the overall ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF). The aim of the scheme is to identify and support potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games.
  19. Indian Cricketer **Mohammad Kaif** announced his retirement from all forms of the game.  
**Note:** Mohammad Kaif (37-year-old) bid adieu to the game, almost 12 years after he last played for the Indian team. Mohammad Kaif played 13 Tests and 125 ODIs for India and will be remembered for his match-winning knock of 87 at the Lord's during the epic Natwest Trophy final in 2002.
  20. **Angelique Kerber** has won the 2018 women singles' Wimbledon tennis tournament.  
**Note:** Kerber has become the first German woman to win the title since Steffi Graf in 1996.
  21. India's ace squash player **Dipika Pallikal** has been appointed as Asia's representative in the prestigious Athletes Advisory Commission of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).
  22. **PR Sreejesh (Goalkeeper)** will lead the 18-member Indian men's hockey squad in the 18th Asian Games.  
**Note:** 18th Asian Games is scheduled to begin in Jakarta and Palembang from August 18.
  23. **France** won the won FIFA World Cup 2018 final against Croatia (4-2) in an epic final in **Moscow**.  
**Note:**
    - France's **Kylian Mbappé** won the best youngest player of the tournament.
    - Croatia's **Luka Modric** won the **Golden ball**.



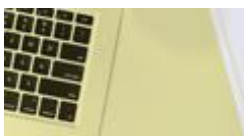
- England's **Harry Kane** Wins Golden Boot.
  - Belgium's **Thibaut Courtois** won the Golden Glove award for the best goalkeeper.
24. **Novak Djokovic** won the Wimbledon championship 2018 title by beating South African's **Kevin Anderson**.  
**Note:** Djokovic won 6-2 6-2 7-6 (7-3) to claim a 13th Slam, his first major since the 2016 French Open. German's Angelique Kerber won the Women's Singles title by defeating Serena Williams.
  25. **Okuhara** won Thailand Open final by defeating PV Sindhu.  
**Note:** Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu lost to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in straight games in the Thailand Open final. Second seed Sindhu lost the tie against the fourth-seeded Japanese 21-15 21-18 in 50 minutes.
  26. Australian footballer **Tim Cahill** retires from international soccer after fourth World Cup tournament in Russia.  
**Note:** Australia's leading goal scorer Tim Cahill has retired from international soccer after fourth World Cup tournament in Russia. The 38-year-old Cahill scored 50 international goals in 107 caps.
  27. **Brij Bhushan Saran Singh** has been named as the Chef de Mission of the Asian Games-bound Indian contingent.
  28. **Viresh Kunda** won the Bronze medal in Greco Roman category of the Asian Junior Championships in New Delhi.  
**Note:** He defeated Jeongyul Kwon (South Korea) 14-5 in the 97 kg Bronze medal play-off to win his first international medal. On the opening day of the Championships, India had clinched 4 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze).
  29. India's javelin star **Neeraj Chopra** struck Gold in the Meeting International de Sotteville-les-Rouen in France.  
**Note:** Neeraj Chopra threw 85.17 metres to bag the top prize & Moldova's Andrian Mardare took the silver medal after he covered distance of 81.48m. The bronze medal went to Edis Matusevicius of Lithuania whose best (79.31 m).
  30. **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has added seven medal events to the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.  
**Note:** The next Winter Olympics will now include: women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials and snowboardcross. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a Swiss private non-governmental organisation based in Lausanne, Switzerland.
  31. Brazil's footballer **Alisson Becker** has become the world's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record USD 84 million.  
**Note:** He surpasses Ederson Moraes (USD 61.4 million, Manchester City).
  32. The Sports India (SI) has shortlisted **734 youngsters** for scholarship under the talent Development Scheme to nurture sporting talent -- **Khelo India**.  
**Note:** Through this programme, the athletes will get training at government-accredited residential academies. An annual stipend of Rs. 1.2 lakhs will be given to each selected player (quarterly basis) to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses.
  33. **American Steve Johnson** beat first-time ATP finalist Ramkumar (India) to win Newport title 2018.  
**Note:** Steve Johnson defeated Ramkumar Ramanathan (from Chennai) 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 on Newport's grass court for his fourth career ATP title.
  34. India won 8 medals in the Junior Asian Wrestling Championship in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Sachin Rathi (74-kilogram category) Deepak Punia (86-kilogram category) won the gold. Iran (189 points) topped the team championship. India (173 points) finished second while Uzbekistan (128 points) came third.
  35. Senior national champions retained the men's doubles title at the Lagos International badminton tournament in Nigeria -- **Manu Attri & Sumeeth Reddy**.  
**Note:** They defeated Vaibhav and Prakash Raj 21-12, 21-12 in the finals. The Lagos International is an annual open international badminton tournament held in Lagos, Nigeria. The Lagos International organized by the Lagos State Badminton Association (LSBA) and Badminton Federation of Nigeria.
  36. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced Rs. 10 lakhs cash reward for young shuttler **Lakshya Sen**.  
**Note:** Lakshya Sen has become the third Indian shuttler to secure a gold medal at the Badminton Asia junior championships.
  37. Indian football **Sunil Chhetri** was named the 2017 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player of the Year in the men's category.  
**Note:** Kamala Devi was adjudged the 2017 AIFF Woman Player of the Year. Young Anirudh Thapa was declared as the 2017 Emerging Player of the Year. Goalkeeper E Panthoi was named as the 2017-woman Emerging Player of the Year.
  38. The Men's team event of the World Junior Squash Championships held in **Chennai**.  
**Note:** A total of 24 countries (divided into eight groups) are taking part and two teams from each group will advance to the knock-out phase. India, placed in Group-E alongside Switzerland and Saudi Arabia, is seeded fifth.
  39. Indian sprinter **Muhammad Anas** has broken his own 400m national record at the Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji event.  
**Note:** He achieved the feat while winning gold with a time of 45.24 seconds in the tournament (earlier national record of 45.31 seconds).
  40. Pakistan batsman has become the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day international (ODI)-- **Fakhar Zaman**.





- Note:** Fakhar Zaman also became the quickest player in history to reach 1,000 runs in the ODI format. Fakhar Zaman (takes 18-innings) has broken the record of West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards (takes 21 matches).
41. British racing driver **Lewis Hamilton** has won the German Grand Prix 2018 held at Hockenheimring track in Germany.  
**Note:** Hamilton's recovery drive from P14 to the top step of the podium is already being hailed as one of his best wins in Formula 1. The 2018 German Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held in **Germany**.
42. The union Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore has sanctioned a financial assistance of five lakh rupees to former archer **Ashok Soren**.  
**Note:** Currently he is living in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) in poor conditions. The financial assistance has been given from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons.
43. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Hungarian Grand Prix for the sixth time of his career.  
**Note:** He finished with 17.123-second lead over Sebastian Vettel (Mercedes), 20 seconds ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Finland (Ferrari). 2018 Hungarian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held at the Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary.
44. Stunning strike against Argentina has been voted the best goal of the FIFA World Cup 2018 -- **Benjamin Pavard**.  
**Note:** Stuttgart defender ran onto a left-wing cross from Lucas Hernandez and sent a right-footed half-volley spinning into the top corner to level eventual champions France's last-16 tie with Argentina. Colombian Juan Quintero's free-kick against Japan was the second-best goal.
45. Indian shuttler **Sourabh Verma** has lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy-2018 at Vladivostok.  
**Note:** In the title clash, Sourabh beat Japan's Koki Watanabe, 18-21, 21-12, 21-17, and win his first title of the season. Indian mixed doubles pair Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg, suffered a 19-21, 17-21 loss to Russia's Vladimir Ivanov and Min Kyung Kim of Korea to settle for runners-up.
46. The 2018 World Badminton Championships (XXIV) kicked off in **Nanjing**, China.  
**Note:** The BWF World Championships (also known as the World Badminton Championships) is a badminton tournament sanctioned by Badminton World Federation (BWF).
47. **Egypt** won the boy's title at the WSF-World Junior Squash team championship in Chennai.  
**Note:** Czech Republic and US finished third and secured the bronze medal.
48. **Bajrang Punia** won his second consecutive international gold at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey.  
**Note:** Sandeep Tomar had to be content with a silver medal. Indian wrestlers returned with 10 medals (Women-7, Men-3) from the ranking event. In the women's competition, Pinki was the lone gold medallist in the 55kg category.

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