



GK DIGEST

AUGUST 2018



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Monthly Digest August -2018

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of **August 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. As per United Nation's E-Government Index 2018, India's ranks in the bi-annual United Nation's E-Government Index 2018 among 193 countries -- **96th**.
Note: The 2018 edition was titled as 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'. Denmark (0.9150) topped in the 2018 E-Government Development Survey. The E-Government Development Index (EGDI) is a composite index based on the weighted average of three normalized indices to assesses e-government development at the national level.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hikes repo rate by 25 basis points to -- **6.50%**
Note: The Bi-monthly policy has been released based on the assessment of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to **6.25%**. The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to **6.75%**. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at **4%**.
3. The digital payments market in India is set to become a trillion-dollar industry in the next **five years**.
Note: It will be led by growth in mobile payments which are slated to rise to 190 billion dollars by 2023 from 10 billion dollars (in 2017-18) to USD 190 billion by 2023. This will present huge business opportunities for players in the digital space.
4. **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** beat IT bellwether Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the most valued company in **India**.
Note: Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is an Indian conglomerate holding company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) is an Indian multinational information technology (IT) service, consulting company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
5. The Union Cabinet has cleared the purchase of 51% controlling stake in IDBI Bank by state-run -- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**.
Note: As per the proposal, the debt-laden bank will issue preferential shares to LIC to raise capital. The measure will financially strengthen both LIC and IDBI, as well as their subsidiaries which offer financial products. The IDBI would get an opportunity to tap 11 lakhs LIC agents for doorstep banking services.
6. In the 29th meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) council chaired by Finance Minister Piyush Goyal approves cash incentives to promote -- **Digital transactions**.
Note: According to the Finance Minister Piyush Goyal, 20% Cashback up to Rs. 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay, or USSD mode. It was decided to create a sub-committee headed by MoS Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
7. French company has become the first company to be given the certification to manufacture and personalize RuPay chip contact & contactless cards on the qSPARC v2 platform **IDEMIA**.
Note: The qSPARC is a dual interface open loop payment specification, with the option of loading multiple payment applications on a single card. The certification is issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), after testing all payment scenarios.
8. The General Insurance Company has entered into a bancassurance deal with Vijaya Bank -- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.
Note: It will enable distribution of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance products through the Vijaya Bank's network of

- 2,129 branches across the country. Under this strategic tie-up, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer personal lines of insurance products such as health, personal accident, home, motor and travel along with a commercial line of insurance products.
9. According to a Morgan Stanley report, India's economy is expected to clock GDP growth in this financial year -- **7.5%**.
Note: Morgan Stanley is a leading global financial services firm providing investment banking, securities, wealth management and investment management services. Morgan Stanley, formed by J.P. Morgan & Co. partners Henry Sturgis Morgan (grandson of J.P. Morgan), Harold Stanley and others, came into existence on 16th September 1935.
10. As per **International Monetary Fund (IMF) latest report**, India is projected to clock an economic growth for the year 2019-20 -- **7.5%**.
Note: The Growth is forecast to rise to 7.3% (fiscal year 2018/19) and 7.5% (in 2019/20) on strengthening investment and robust private consumption. The report recommended that continued fiscal consolidation is needed to lower elevated public debt levels, supported by simplifying and streamlining the GST structure.
11. Who has announced entering into a strategic partnership with Reliance Money to offer instant app-based personal loans, via LazyPay -- **PayU India**.
Note: The loan amount will start from as low as Rs. 100 and will extend up to Rs. 1,00,000 with a duration varying from 15 days to 24 months. It is an attempt to reach out to the underserved consumers in India.
12. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Data, the value of transactions made through mobile wallets touched a record high in June -- **Rs14,632 crore**.
Note: The data showed the rise of 4.2% from Rs 14,047 crore in May. The number of transactions fell around 5% to 309.62 million in June after reaching an all-time high of 325.41 million in May.
13. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has estimated that bank credit growth to India's private sector will touch 13.6% by the end of the current financial year.
Note: Bank credit to the commercial sector stands at Rs 92 trillion as of July 20, 2018, which is a growth of 11.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.
14. The State Bank of India (SBI) reported a net loss for the April-June 2018 period (Q1) -- **Rs 48.75 billion**.
Note: Q1FY19 was the first comparable quarter for the merged entity after SBI integrated associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with itself in April 2017. It has been in the red since the third quarter of the last financial year (Q3FY18), when it reported a loss of Rs 24.16 billion.
15. The **Exim Bank of India** has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake "collaborative research" in distributed ledger/blockchain technology.
Note: The BRICS grouping comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Under this umbrella agreement, the signatories have agreed to constitute a joint research working group which will formulate the research agenda and targeted outcome.
16. **Axis bank** in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar -based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
Note: It will boost the bank's financial inclusion efforts by making Aadhaar authentication process hassle-free and offering easier access to digital banking for consumers especially in the rural parts of the country.
17. According to the data released by the ministry of program implementation and statistics, Retail inflation slowed in July -- **4.17%**.
Note: The inflation came down in July due to cheaper food. Food inflation in July stood at a provisional 1.37% (in July 2.91%), the statement from the Central Statistics Office noted.
18. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) 2.0, which among others allows customers to link their overdraft account to UPI.
Note: UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application. In April 2016, UPI version 1 was launched.
19. Private life insurer **Bharti Axa Life Insurance** and Airtel Payments Bank have entered into alliance to offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) to the latter's customers.
Note: With this, Airtel Payments Bank also becomes the first payments bank in India to offer the Government of India-backed life insurance scheme.



20. As per UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov survey, the bank has been ranked as the most patriotic brand **is State Bank of India (SBI).**
21. Digital payments firm Paytm has partnered with China's Alibaba to launch AI-based cloud computing platform -- **Paytm AI Cloud.**
Note: The platform will offer business-centric apps to developers, startups and enterprises that need cloud-computing solutions including customer engagement and easy-to-integrate payments.
22. **PhonePe** has partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments on the IRCTC Rail connect Android app.
23. The Union Government has dismissed former CEO/ MD of Allahabad Bank, from service on the day when she was supposed to superannuate -- **Usha Ananthasubramanian.**
Note: Earlier, Allahabad Bank had divested Ananthasubramanian of all her powers as MD three months back, after she was named in the CBI charge-sheet in the Rs 14,000 crore (PNB fraud case).
24. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised down India's GDP growth for FY19 -- **7.2%.**
25. According to the Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL), who has become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the 'TReDS platform' -- **Hindustan Aeronautics.**
Note: TReDS is an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers. The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) executed its first digitized invoice discounting transaction on RXIL TReDS platform, when it accepted the digital invoice uploaded by Narendra Udyog.
26. **ICICI Bank** has agreed to a multi-year partnership with Manchester United, bringing a range of competitive co-branded credit and debit card to the club's 35 million Indian followers.
Note: The Bank will be offering fans of the club two types of credit card – Manchester United Platinum Credit Card and Signature Credit Card.
27. **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has become the first Indian company to cross Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalization.
Note: The stock gained 1.9% to close at Rs 1,270, valuing the Mukesh Ambani-led firm at Rs 8.05 trillion. Tata group flagship Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) also is nearing the same milestone.
28. Paytm has partnered with China's Alibaba to launch (Artificial intelligence) AI-based cloud computing platform -- **Paytm AI Cloud.**
Note: The platform will offer business-centric apps to developers, startups, and enterprises that need cloud-computing solutions including customer engagement and easy-to-integrate payments. It will process and store all consumer data locally in servers located only in India.
29. The State Bank of India has 'set its house in order' and the credit growth is expected to see growth by the end of the current fiscal -- **10%.**
Note: The bank also bounce back into profits from the current quarter as the major chunk of provisioning for bad loans was done in the first quarter. The headcount would be 2.60 lakh by the end of this fiscal.
30. The World Bank has launched the world's first bond to be created, allocated, transferred and managed by using distributed ledger technology -- **bond-i.**
Note: This two-year bond successfully raised USD 80.48 million. This was the first time that investors supported the World Bank's development activities in a transaction that is fully managed using the blockchain technology from start to finish.
31. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 346 million loans to finance road improvement across a dozen districts in Karnataka.
Note: ADB and the Government of India signed a USD 346 million loan agreement to finance improvement of over 400 kilometers of state highways that will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.
32. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in **New Delhi.**
Note: India Post Payments Bank has been envisioned as an accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man to help speedily achieve the financial inclusion. The payments bank, where the Indian government holds 100 percent equity, will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts (DoP) that has more than three lakh postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks. Earlier this week, the cabinet had approved 80 percent increase in spending for IPPB to Rs 1,435 crore.
33. The bank has changed names and IFSC codes of nearly 1,300 branches across the country -- **state bank of India (SBI).**



Note: SBI branches have been changed across the country as per the SBI list enlisting the old and new IFSC codes after rationalization/merger with associate banks and BMB. The merger of associates and BMB had helped SBI reduce 1,805 branches and rationalize 244 administrative offices.

34. The bank has won the Asia's top bank in May in the magazine's annual World's Best Bank awards -- **DBS Bank**.

Note: This came after DBS was named Asia's top bank in May in the magazine's annual World's Best Bank awards. In July, DBS was named the World's Best Digital Bank and the World's Best Bank for SMEs (small and medium enterprises) by Euromoney magazine.

Obituaries

1. Former Tamil Nadu chief minister **Muthuvel Karunanidhi** passed away due to age-related illness.

Note: Muthuvel Karunanidhi was an Indian writer and politician who served as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five terms and twenty years between 1969 and 2011. He has also made contributions to Tamil literature, having written stories, plays, novels, and a multiple-volume memoir.

2. Noted ghazal singer and composer from Kerala **Umbayee** has passed away at Aluva.

Note: He was a disciple of Ustad Munawar Ali Khan and was known for his reinvention of several old Malayalam film songs in his own natural style. His birth name was PA Ibrahim.

3. Sahitya Academy awardee Bengali writer passed away in Kolkata -- **Ramapada Chowdhury**.

Note: Chowdhury's novel 'Abhimanyu' was based on the life and work of Dr Subhas Mukhopadhyay who created India's first and the world's second test-tube baby in 1978.

4. The former Union Minister and Congress leader has passed away in Noida -- **Dr. Bhishma Narain Singh**.

Note: Dr Singh held various portfolios during the Congress rule led by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He was also the Governor of Assam and Tamil Nadu.

5. Veteran screenplay writer passed away in Mumbai -- **Jalees Sherwani**.

6. Senior Congress leader **Sh. Rajinder Kumar Dhawan** passed away due to age-related ailments in New Delhi.

Note: He was a close aide of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (personal secretary from 1962 to 1984). During the Emergency years (1975-77), Dhawan was among Indira Gandhi's inner circle of leaders. He was appointed Minister of State (independent charge) Housing and Urban Development (1995-1996).

7. Escorts Group chairman passed away after a brief illness -- **Rajan Nanda**.

Note: As a member of the CII National Council, Mr. Nanda had served as chairman of its agriculture committee. Escorts Group is an Indian engineering company that operates in the sectors of agri-machinery, construction and material handling equipment, and railway equipment.

8. Former Tamil Nadu chief minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Chief passed away due to age-related illness -- **M Karunanidhi**.

Note: Muthuvel Karunanidhi was an Indian writer and politician who served as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five terms and twenty years between 1969 and 2011. He has also made contributions to Tamil literature, having written stories, plays, novels, and a multiple-volume memoir. He was popularly referred to as Kalaingar in Tamil Nadu by his supporters.

9. Former Lok Sabha Speaker **Somnath Chatterjee** passed away in Kolkata.

Note: Chatterjee served as Lok Sabha Speaker during the UPA-I rule (2004 to 2009). He was elected to Parliament's Lower House for ten times since 1971. He won the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in 1996.

10. Nobel Prize winner for Literature British author **V S Naipaul** passed away in London.

Note: He has written about 30 books, although it was the novel "A House for Mr. Biswas" that launched him to fame. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature (in 2001) and Booker Prize (in 1971). He was a Trinidadian by birth, an Indian by descent and in terms of citizenship he was British.

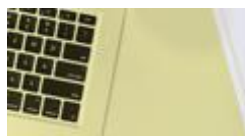
11. Managing director (MD) of Bajaj Electricals **Anant Bajaj** passed away after a heart attack.

Note: Anant Bajaj was associated with the firm for nearly 20 years, becoming joint MD in 2012.

12. Governor of Chhattisgarh **Balram Das Tandon** passed away in Raipur.



- Note:** Tandon was a founding member of the Jan Sangh in 1951. He served as secretary of Punjab Jan Sangh from 1951 to 1957, and as president of the Punjab BJP from 1995-97.
13. Veteran journalist, lawmaker and peace activist **Uri Avnery** passed away at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.
Note: Avnery was also one of the first Israelis to actively advocate for the establishment of a Palestinian state, more than 70 years ago. Avnery was the author of several books about the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, including 1948: A Soldier's Tale, the Bloody Road to Jerusalem (2008); Israel's Vicious Circle (2008); and My Friend, the Enemy (1986).
14. Former United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi Atta Annan** passed away after a short unspecified illness.
Note: Ghanaian diplomat Mr. Annan served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, from January 1997 to December 2006. Mr. Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with the UN in 2001 "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world".
15. English Vinglish actor **Sujata Kumar** passed away in Mumbai's Lilavati hospital.
Note: Sujata played the role of Sridevi's sister in 2012 Bollywood movie English Vinglish. Sujata Kumar also appeared in movies like Raanjhanaa and Guzaarish and TV shows like Anil Kapoor's 24 as Meghna Singhania.
16. Former Prime minister & BJP stalwart **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** passed away in AIIMS, New Delhi.
Note: He served as the Prime Minister of India (BJP-led National Democratic Alliance) three times first (1996 - 13 days), second (1998- 11 months) and then for a full term from 1999 to 2004. In 2015, He was conferred India's highest civilian honour the 'Bharat Ratna'. Vajpayee's birthday (25 December) is celebrated as Good Governance Day. Mr Vajpayee was born to Krishna Devi and Krishna Bihari Vajpayee on 25 December 1924 in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh).
17. US soul singer **Aretha Franklin** passed away at home in Detroit following cancer battle.
Note: She was the first female vocalist to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Franklin performed at the inaugurations of three US Presidents (Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama). She received the Grammy Award 18 times.
18. Asian Games gold medalist athlete **Hakam Singh** passed away at a private hospital in Sangrur, Punjab.
- Note:** The Dhyani Chand awardee Mr. Singh won gold in 20 km race walk event during the 1978 Asiad at Bangkok. He had also served as Havaldar in the 6th Sikh regiment.
19. Former India cricket captain and batsman **Ajit Wadekar** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Wadekar scored 2,113 runs in his Test career and was also the country's first ODI (One Day International) captain. Wadekar is the only cricketer apart from Lala Amarnath and Chandu Borde to have served as captain, manager, and selector in Indian cricket.
20. Veteran journalist, author and human rights activist **Kuldip Nayar** passed away in New Delhi.
Note: Mr. Nayar was the author of 15 books including "Beyond the Lines", "India after Nehru" and "Emergency Retold". In 2015, he was honored with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to journalism at the eighth edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence awards.
21. Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader **Gurudas Kamat** passed away in New Delhi.
Note: Mr. Kamat was the five-time MP from Mumbai North-East Lok Sabha constituency. He had served as Union Minister of State for Home in 2009 and quit in 2011.
22. Veteran Marathi actor **Vijay Chavan** passed away after a prolonged illness.
Note: The actor has featured in more than 350 films. Mr. Chavan is best remembered for his comic roles in Marathi films such as Jatra, Zapatlela, Pachadlele, Mumbaicha Dabewala and Shrimanta Damodar Panta, among others. Moru Chi Mavshi is one of his famous plays in which he was appreciated for portraying a woman.
23. US senator **John McCain** passed away after losing a battle to brain cancer.
Note: McCain was also a Republican presidential nominee in 2008. A fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, he spent more than five years as a prisoner of war after his plane was shot down. While in the custody he suffered torture that left him with lasting disabilities.
24. Noted Malayalam film director **K K Haridas** passed away following some heart related ailments.
Note: Haridas had directed about 20 movies giving more importance to comedy. Haridas born in Mylapra in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala.
25. Former Bengal cricketer **Gopal Bose** passed away in London.



Note: Gopal Bose played 78 first class matches with an average of 30.79. For India, he played a lone ODI (One Day International) against England in Oval where he scored 13 runs.

26. Former Rajya Sabha member and Telugu actor **Nandamuri Harikrishna** was killed in a road accident in Nalgonda district in Telangana.

Note: He was the son of former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. T. Rama Rao. In 1964, Harikrishna entered films as child artiste in Krishnavataram.

New Appointments

1. **Ivan Duque** has been sworn in as the Colombia's 60th president.

Note: Duque is expected to appoint a cabinet consisting largely of little-known technocrats, with the same number of women and men. The President of Colombia is the head of state and head of government of the Republic of Colombia.

2. The Paytm Payments Bank CEO (Chief executive officer) has resigned from the role and will now head Paytm's new retail initiative -- **Renu Satti**.

Note: Under its 'New Retail' model, consumers will be able to discover nearby pharmacies, groceries and other shops to place an order and get instant deliveries. Renu had taken over as the CEO of the Paytm Bank in May 2017.

3. The new CEO of the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd (ULCCS) -- **Raveendran Kasthuri**.

Note: The ULCCS was formed in 1925 by the eminent social reformer Guru Vagbhatananda in a remote hamlet called Uralungal in Kozhikode district.

4. Myanmar Government appointed independent commission to probe human rights against the ethnic Rohingya minority -- **Rosario Manalo**.

Note: The Independent Commission will investigate the allegations of human rights violations and related issues, following the terrorist attacks by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

5. Who has won country's landmark Presidential election -- **Emmerson Mnangagwa**.

Note: The office of the President of Zimbabwe was established in 1980, when the country gained independence from the United Kingdom. The President of Zimbabwe elected by direct universal suffrage using a two-round system and serves a maximum of two five-year terms.

6. **Nikhil Nanda** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of the farm and construction equipment maker company 'Escorts'.

Note: He succeeded his father Rajan Nanda who passed away due to brief illness. The Escorts Group is an Indian

engineering company that operates in the sectors of agri-machinery, construction and material handling equipment, and railway equipment.

7. **Harivansh Narayan Singh** elected as Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha.

Note: Harivansh was nominated for Rajya Sabha in 2014 by the Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United (JDU). The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides over the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha in the absence of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

8. **S Gopakumar** appointed as the Director and General Manager in United India Insurance Company (UIIC).

Note: Earlier, Gopakumar was serving GIC Housing Finance Ltd as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The United India Insurance Company (UIIC) is the 2nd Largest General Insurance company in India. It was incorporated on 18th February 1938 and nationalized in 1972.

9. **Justice Rajendra Menon** takes charge as chief Justice of Delhi.

Note: Earlier, He was the Chief Justice of Patna High Court (in March 2017). The National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has six District Courts (Tis Hazari, Patiala House, Karkardooma, Rohini, Dwarka and Saket) that function under the Delhi High Court.

10. **Rekha Sharma** has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).

Note: The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the apex national level organisation of India with the mandate of protecting and promoting the interests of women.

11. The Union government has appointed part-time non-official Directors on the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for four years -- **Satish Kashinath Marathe & Swaminathan Gurumurthy**.

Note: The appointment proposals were forwarded by the Department of Financial Services of the Union Ministry of Finance.

12. **Justice Gita Mittal** was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.



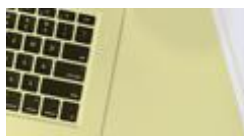
- Note:** Justice Mittal is an alumna of Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, and began practising in 1981. She was appointed as an Additional Judge of Delhi High Court in July 2004 and was confirmed in February 2006.
13. **Paresh Sukthankar** resigned as the HDFC Bank's deputy managing director.
 14. **Justice M R Shah** sworn in as Chief Justice of Patna HC .
Note: Justice Shah was a judge of the Gujarat High Court (in 2004) and confirmed as the permanent judge on 22nd June 2005. The High courts are the principal civil courts of original jurisdiction in each state and union territory.
 15. The new chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (ATE) for a period of 3 years -- **Justice Manjula Chellur**.
Note: Earlier, Chellur was the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. In April 2004, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (ATE) has been established by Union Ministry of Power by the virtue of Section 110 of The Electricity Act, 2003.
 16. Former Deputy Governor of RBI **Shri Subhash Sheoratan Mundra** has been appointed as Independent Director on the Board of India Bulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL).
Note: Presently, Mr. Mundra is on the Board of BSE Limited and DSP Blackrock Investment Managers Private Limited. India Bulls Housing Finance (IBHFL) is the country's second-largest housing finance company.
 17. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has constituted three-member committee to look into the draft food labelling and display regulations -- **B Sesikeran**.
Note: The regulations have proposed making red colour-coded labels mandatory on packaged food products which are high in fat, sugar and salt contents. FSSAI is likely to push more and more companies to make similar voluntary commitments in the coming days.
 18. Former ICC president **Ehsan Mani** will be the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).
Note: Mani has worked in various capacities for the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the PCB. The Pakistan Cricket Board controls and organises all tours and matches undertaken by the Pakistan national cricket team.
 19. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Infosys **MD Ranganath** has abruptly stepped down from his position.
Note: Deputy CFO at Infosys Jayesh Sanghrajka is likely to replace Mr. Ranganath as the company's next finance chief.
 20. Former cricketer & Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief has taken oath as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan -- **Imran Khan**.
 - Note:** Khan bagged 176 votes opponent and Chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif managed to secure 96 votes. The Prime Minister of Pakistan is the head of government of Pakistan and designated as the "chief executive of the Republic".
 21. Indian scientist & academician has been elected as the Chair of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) -- **Nandula Raghuram**.
Note: Now, Raghuram becomes the first Indian and Asian to be elected to the Chair of INI. The International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) has been set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).
 22. **K S Srinivas** has been appointed as the Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority.
Note: MPEDA is a nodal coordinating state owned agency engaged in fishery production and allied activities. It was established in 1972 under Marine Products Export Development Authority Act (MPEDA), 1972.
 23. Malian President has been re-elected for a five-year term after winning a landslide in a runoff ballot -- **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**.
Note: Mali is a linchpin state in the jihadist insurgency raging in the Sahel. Keita picked up 67.17% of the vote against 32.83% for opposition challenger and former finance minister Soumaila Cisse.
 24. Senior bureaucrat has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) -- **Ashish Kumar Bhutani**.
Note: He has been appointed to the post till 9th May 2020. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18 February 2016.
 25. Senior diplomat has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Russia -- **D Bala Venkatesh Varma**.
Note: He will succeed Pankaj Saran who has been appointed deputy National Security Advisor. Currently, he is serving as Indian envoy in Spain.
 26. **Partha Satpathy** has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to Ukraine.
 27. A committee has been constituted by the Central government to coordinate the discharge of floodwaters from Kerala-Tamil Nadu inter-State projects -- **Narendra Kumar committee**.
 28. **Mario Abdo Benítez** has been sworn in as the new President of Paraguay.



- Note:** Mr Abdo Benítez is the son of a close aide to ex-military dictator Alfredo Stroessner & has faced criticism for defending the former leader's record.
29. Baby Rani Maurya has been appointed as -- **Uttarakhand governor.**
 30. Satya Pal Malik (Bihar Governor) has been transferred to -- **Jammu and Kashmir.**
 31. BJP leader Lalji Tandon has been appointed the Governor of **Bihar.**
 32. Tathagata Roy (Tripura Governor) transferred to **Meghalaya.**
 33. Ganga Prasad (Meghalaya governor) will be governor of **Sikkim.**
 34. Seven-time MLA Satyadev Narayan Arya (Prominent Dalit leader) will be governor of **Haryana.**
 35. **Kaptan Singh Solanki** (Governor of Haryana) transferred to **Tripura.**
 36. Australia's new Prime Minister after winning a Liberal party leadership vote -- **Scott Morrison.**
Note: Mr. Morrison won an internal ballot 45-40 over Peter Dutton (former Home Affairs Minister). The Prime Minister of Australia is appointed by the Governor-General of Australia under Section 64 of the Australian Constitution.
 37. **Dr G Satheesh Reddy** has appointed as Chairman of **Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO)** for a period of two years.
- Note:** DRDO was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.
38. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has appointed former bureaucrat as its new Secretary General -- **Uday Kumar Varma.**
Note: He succeeds DS Rawat. Mr. Varma retired from the position of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in 2013. ASSOCHAM was established in 1921 by promoter chambers, representing all regions of India.
 39. **Iram Habib** has become the first Kashmiri Muslim woman to become a pilot.
Note: Habib will join a private airline next month. Iram succeeds Tanvi Raina, a Kashmiri Pandit, who joined Air India as the Valley's first woman pilot in 2016.
 40. **Emmerson Mnangagwa** has taken the oath as Zimbabwe's president after narrowly winning the Zimbabwean general election, 2018.
Note: He took the oath before Chief Justice Luke Malaba and pledged to "protect and promote the rights of Zimbabweans" in his oath. The President of Zimbabwe is the head of state of Zimbabwe, elected by direct universal suffrage using a two-round system.

Important News – India

1. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched a desktop software to enable editing of text printed on scanned documents -- **e-Aksharayan.**
Note: The application is free of cost and supports editing in 7 Indian languages viz. Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese.
2. The 10th International conference on oral implantology was held in **New Delhi.**
Note: The conference will enhance the awareness and knowledge on the latest innovations and technologies in oral implantology world over.
3. The Mughalsarai junction has recently renamed as railway station **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.**
Note: Mughalsarai junction has been formally renamed after RSS ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU), who was found dead near the station in February 1968.
4. **India** has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).
Note: India got elected against Iran during voting which took place at the 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
5. The government organization will host Investors' Conference for the Holistic Development of Islands -- **Niti Aayog.**
Note: The purpose of the conference is to attract investments for the sustainable development of eco-tourism projects on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis in the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.
6. NITI Aayog has launched global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions for future of mobility in India -- **Move Hack.**
7. The **Ministry of Culture** has launched the new scheme 'Seva Bhoj Yojna' with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 Crores for FY 2018-19 & 2019-20.
Note: Seva Bhoj Yojna will provide financial assistance on the purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people. The objective of the scheme to reimburse Centre's share of



Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Interstate GST charged on raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.

8. The ministry has launched the Mission Solar Charkha for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country -- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).**
Note: The scheme aims to generate direct employment to nearly one lakh people. Solar Charkha Units have been classified as village industries.
9. The first cow sanctuary of Rajasthan will come up in the district -- **Bikaner.**
Note: The cow sanctuary will provide shelter for 10,000 bovines spread over an area of more than 220 hectares in Bikaner district.
10. The Union Defence Minister 'Nirmala Sitharaman' has launched defence India startup challenge in **Bengaluru.**
Note: The highlight of the event was the launch of 11 challenges by MoD now thrown open to provide solutions by the start-up ecosystem. Under the SPARK the ministry has invited applications from start up, individual innovators, who fulfill the criteria listed on the website.
11. A joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army begins in Chachoengsao Province of Thailand -- **Maitree 2018.**
Note: Both the armies will undertake joint training in Counter-Insurgency and Counter-Terrorism in the Urban and Rural environment under United Nations Mandate. The exercise will emphasize to hone the tactical and technical skills in joint counterinsurgency and counter-terrorist operations in the rural and urban scenario under UN mandate.
12. **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the NITI Aayog's International Conference on "Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.
Note: The conference brought together a host of experts for identifying policy prescriptions for the development and growth of material recycling in India towards creating more jobs, reduce dependence on exports, protect the environment and take steps towards adopting circular economy concepts.
13. The Union Minister Suresh Prabhu has inaugurated the 4th India International Footwear Fair 2018 (IIFF) in **New Delhi.**

Note: The IIFF -2018 has been organized by India Trade Promotion Organization in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries and support of the Council for Leather Exports, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and Indian Footwear Components of Manufacturers Association.

14. **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has integrated its mobile apps 'DND 2.0' & 'MyCall' with UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) Platform.
Note: UMANG is developed by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). TRAI MyCall is an intuitive and user-friendly application for Crowdsourced Voice Call Quality Monitoring. DND (Do Not Disturb) services app enables smartphone users to register their mobile number under DND and report spam messages or calls to avoid Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC)/Telemarketing Calls/SMS.
15. The world's first -ever thermal battery plant to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation -- **Andhra Pradesh.**
Note: The renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation. It will also be used to store energy for telecommunication, commercial establishments, electric vehicles and highway charging stations.
16. The union Minister Suresh Prabhu has launched mobile app on Android and on IOS platforms -- **Niryat Mitra.**
Note: The app has been developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the largest exporters' organisation of the country. The most interesting part is that all the information is available at tariff line.
17. Sikkim's Biosphere Reserve has been added to UNESCO's list of World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR) -- **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.**
Note: With the inclusion of Khangchendzonga, the number of internationally designated WNBR has become 11 with seven BRs as domestic designated biosphere reserves.
18. The Union government has extended the term of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chairman for two years -- **Ram Sewak Sharma.**



- Note:** As per the government notification, he will remain in the post till 30th September 2020 (when he turns 65 years). The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a statutory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
19. The Ministry of HRD (Human Resource Development) has embarked on a major and new initiative Project -- **SWAYAM**.
Note: It will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. The objective of the 'SWAYAM' is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.
➤ The SWAYAM platform can be reached at "http://swayam.gov.in".
20. The Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released the Book -- '**Bebak Baat**'.
Note: The book authored by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation Shri Vijay Goel.
21. The President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 'One District One Product' Summit in **Lucknow**.
Note: The tagline of the summit was 'Nayi Udaan, Nayi Pehchan'. The Summit was organised by the Uttar Pradesh government to promote traditional industries in every district of the state.
22. The Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a defence industrial corridor in -- **Aligarh**.
Note: The move is part of the government's efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in the state.
23. India will launch its 2nd lunar mission on 3rd January 2019 to land on the moon with a lander and rover -- **Chandrayaan-2**.
Note: It will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-3. It will orbit around the moon and study its lunar conditions to collect data on its topography, mineralogy and exosphere.
24. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dedicated to the nation a bridge at the Hussainiwala border in **Ferozepur (Punjab)**.
Note: It is a permanent bridge as the old one was demolished in 1971 during the Indo-Pak war to stop the advancement of the Pakistani forces. The bridge is the only lifeline for nearly 10 villages connecting Hussainiwala enclave with the rest of the country.
25. The first city in North India to get a full-fledged Space Technology Research Centre devoted to research, academics and post-graduation study -- **Jammu**.
Note: The Centre will function under the aegis of the Central University Jammu. The other town selected for opening a Space Technology Research Centre is in the Northeast in Tripura, where it would function under the aegis of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.
26. The fourth edition of the India Rubber Meet (IRM 2018) will be held in **Kochi**.
Note: The two-day meet will be a forum to evolve new strategies to confront the present challenges of the rubber industry.
27. Shri Hardeep S Puri, Minister has launched the Swachh Survekshan 2019 in **New Delhi**.
Note: Parallely, a slew of new initiatives under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) as well as the Ease of Living Index will also be launched.
28. India has successfully tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile from Pokhran, Rajasthan -- **HELINA**.
Note: The weapon system tested for its full range was released smoothly from the launch platform. The indigenously designed and developed guided bombs Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) has been also successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer.
29. The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched a VOIP based service -- **WINGS**.
Note: The WINGS service offers unlimited free audio/video calling for one year, with a one-time fee of Rs 1,297 with GST. Calls can be made using any data connection such as wired broadband, Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G network of any operator. In WINGS, there is no SIM or cable wiring as is a VOIP service through an app.
30. Indian state hosted to the 2018 International Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology (iCRAFT) -- **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The theme of the conference was "Doubling farmers' income through food processing".
31. First Indian woman wrestler to bag gold at the 18th Asian Games 2018 -- **Vinesh Phogat**.



- Note:** Vinesh Phogat has become the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games.
- 32. NITI Aayog** has launched a mobility pitch competition 'Pitch to MOVE' to provide budding entrepreneurs of India with a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury.
- Note:** The winners of the event will be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the valedictory session of the Global Mobility Summit (8th September 2018). The objective of the competition to identify and reward the startups offering innovative solutions for shared, connected and environment-friendly mobility.
- 33.** The space agency has confirmed presence of ice on Moon using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft ____ **NASA**.
- 34. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative to enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.
- Note:** Around 64 companies at 101 locations have been identified to enable collection of used cooking oil. FSSAI is a nodal statutory agency responsible for protecting and promoting public health in India through regulation and supervision of food safety.
- 35.** President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the International Buddhist Conclave in **New Delhi**.
- Note:** The theme of the conclave is Buddha Path - The Living Heritage which aims to showcase Buddhist Heritage in India and boost tourism to the Buddhist sites in the country. Japan is the partnering country for this year's Buddhist conclave.
- 36.** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed all varsities and higher education institutions to ban sale of **junk food**.
- Note:** According to UGC, banning junk food in colleges will set new standards for healthy food, making the students live better, learn better and reduce obesity levels.
- 37.** Veteran cricketer VVS Laxman has penned down his autobiography titled -- **281 and Beyond**.
- Note:** The autobiography will be released by the Westland Publications, in November 2018. The title has been borrowed from the Hyderabad stylist's fabulous series-turning innings of 281 against Australia at the Eden Gardens in 2001. In 2012, Laxman has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- 38.** According to Supreme Court bench, the 'None of The Above' (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in the **Rajya Sabha elections**.
- Note:** The main objective of the 'NOTA' option is to enable electors who do not wish to vote for any of the candidates to exercise their right not to vote for any candidate without violation of the secrecy of their decision. The symbol for 'None of the Above (NOTA)' option has been designed by National Institute of Design (NID) Ahmedabad.
- 39. Ministry of Women and Child Development** has organized an orientation workshop for various stakeholders participating in the 'Poshan Maah' being celebrated in the month of September. 'Poshan pledge' was administered to all the participants by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI aayog.
- 40.** The **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** has been ranked as the 2nd fastest growing among top 20 major airports in the world during the first half of 2018.
- Note:** The airport recorded 1,58,50,352 passenger transit from the month of January to June 2018. World's fastest growing airport is Tokyo's Haneda Airport.
- 41. Germany** will provide a soft loan of 120 million euros to India as part of its contribution to the ongoing river Ganga cleaning programme.
- Note:** The money will be used in Uttarakhand for various activities including construction of sewerage network, sewage treatment plants, and rehabilitation of existing wastewater systems. "The purpose of the project is to reduce the inflow of untreated wastewater in River Ganga and, thus, to improve the water quality of the river,".
- 42.** Former President Pranab Mukherjee has launched app that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives -- **Neta App**.
- Note:** The objective of the app to foster political accountability and transparency among leaders. The App uses a combination of Artificial Intelligence, one-time password and Aadhaar numbers to ensure that the voters who rate leaders are genuine.
- 43.** The union Government has announced regulations for safe commercial usage of drones, effective from **1st December 2018**.
- Note:** The regulations are intended to enable visual line-of-sight daytime-only and a maximum of 400 feet altitude operations. Airspace has been partitioned into the Red



- Zone (flying is not permitted), Yellow Zone (for controlled airspace) and the Green Zone (for automatic permission).
- 44.** The union govt. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the six Upper Yamuna basin states for the construction of Lakhwar multi-purpose project in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: The states are Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi (UT). The Union Minister for Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari inked the MoU with the Chief Ministers of these states in New Delhi for the project worth 3966.51 crore rupees.
- 45.** The Country's first flight powered by Biofuel lands at **IGI Airport, New Delhi**.
Note: The country's first test flight powered by Biofuel landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) New Delhi. Developed countries (Canada, Australia and US) have already conducted these test flights, India would be the first developing nation to experiment that. Spice Jet is the first Indian airline to fly on biofuel.
- 46.** The latest books on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been launched -- **Atal Ji Ne Kaha**.
Note: The book has been authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi. The 320-page book is a rich repository of the former Prime Minister's select speeches and photographs besides having three interviews by the author.
- 47.** According to the Agriculture Ministry fourth advance estimate, India's food grain production is estimated to grow to an all-time high in the 2017-18 crop year ending June -- **over 284.83 million tonnes (MT)**.
Note: The previous record food grain output was 275.11 million tonnes (MT) achieved in the 2016-17 crop year. Wheat output has been pegged at record 99.70 million tonnes (MT), rice (112.91- MT) and pulses at (25.23 - MT). The ministry also revised upward the total food grain production by 5.3 million tonnes from the previous projection of 279.51 million tonnes for the 2017-18 crop year.
- 48.** The union Minister of Railway 'Piyush Goyal' has inaugurated the Smart Railway Conclave in **New Delhi**.
Note: In his opening remarks, he reiterated Government's commitment to ensure a smart Railway and a smart nation so that every citizen of India gets a better future.
- 49.** **Shri Prakash Javadekar** has launched the world's Biggest Open Innovation Model 3rd edition 'Smart India Hackathon 2019' (SIH-2019) in New Delhi.
Note: SIH-2019 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing problems we face in our daily lives. over 1 Lakh+ students from around 3000 institutions will have the opportunity to work on challenges faced within the Public Sector Organizations and the Union Ministries.

Important Day

- The National Handloom Day is being celebrated in India on **7th August**.
Note: The objective of the day seeks to highlight the contribution of handloom to the socioeconomic development of the country and promote handlooms to increase the income and pride of weavers.
- The nation celebrated the 76th anniversary of the Quit India Movement -- **8th August**
Note: The Quit India Movement was an important milestone in the Indian freedom struggle. The Quit India Movement (India August Movement) was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942 (during World War II), demanding an end to British Rule of India.
- The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed every year on -- **9th August**.
Note: The theme of this year is - 'Indigenous peoples' migration and movement'. On December 23, 1994, The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 9th August as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples through its resolution 49/214.
- The World Biofuel Day is observed every year on -- **10th August**.
Note: The day create awareness about the non-fossil-fuels (green fuels). Biofuels can help to reduce import dependency on crude oil.
- The International Youth Day (IYD) is observed every year on -- **12th August**.
Note: The theme for International Youth Day 2018 is "Safe space for Youth". There are currently 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world.
- The World Elephant Day (WED) is being observed to spread awareness about the animal -- **12th August**.
Note: The goal of International Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants and to share knowledge and management of captive & wild elephants.



7. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed across the world every year on -- **19th August**.
Note: The day provides an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. The 2018 World Humanitarian Day campaign: #NotATarget.
8. The World Photography Day being observed on -- **19th August**.
Note: The World Photography Day' observed to inspire photographers across the planet to share a single photo with the world. On this day, camera persons take stock of the different kind of photography that has come to the fore.
9. The 2018 World Mosquito Day (WMD) was observed on -- **20th August**.
Note: The day raise awareness regarding what all causes malaria and ways to prevent it. The day also observed to mark British doctor Sir Ronald Ross' 1897 landmark discovery that female mosquitoes "Anopheles" transmit malaria to humans.
10. The first-ever International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on -- **21st August**.
11. The 2017 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on -- **23rd August**.

States News

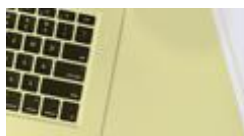
1. The first Indian state to implement the National policy on bio fuels **Rajasthan**.
Note: The desert State will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.
2. The state's Govt. unveiled the world's first -ever thermal battery plant to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation **Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: It will help in mitigating carbon emissions, is best suited for grid balancing and stabilizations. The renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.
3. The **Odisha** government has launched a 360-degree nation-wide publicity campaign for 2018 men's hockey World Cup.
Note: The event will take place at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from 28th November to 16th December. The state is the title partner for the hockey event and Odisha Tourism is the host partner. The maximum players in the national team are also from Odisha.

Note: The day pay tribute to all those who fought for freedom, and, in their name, to continue teaching about their story and the values therein.

12. The Sanskrit Divas is observed every year on -- **Shravan Purnima (26th August)**.
Note: The Special functions are being organised in different parts of the country to mark the day. Special programmes and different competitions on Sanskrit are being organised at Lal Bahadur Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth New Delhi.
13. The 2017 International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) is observed on -- **29th August**.
Note: The International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) is observed every year on 29th August to raise public awareness about the effects of global nuclear weapon tests. The purpose of the day is to end nuclear testing and to promote peace and security.
14. The National Sports day in India is celebrated every year to mark the birthday of hockey player Dhyan Chand -- **29th August**.
Note: Dhyan Chand was an Indian field hockey player, who is considered as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time.



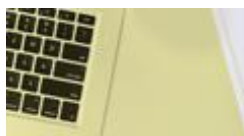
- Note:** The estimated project cost of B-Hub is Rs 60 crore and the facility is to be set up through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Genome Valley.
8. **Manipur** Govt. has constituted two committees to deal with a possible influx of illegal immigrants.
Note: The State Level Monitoring Committee will monitor the entry or presence of illegal immigrants in the state and take steps for creating adequate public awareness to counter the situation.
9. The Chhattisgarh Govt. has launched a smartphone distribution scheme under the Sanchar Kranti Yojna (SKY) -- **Mobile Tihar**.
Note: The scheme is for distribution of smartphones to women and students, covering over 50 Lakh beneficiaries.
10. The **Madhya Pradesh** Government will observe 2018 Independence Day eve as Shahid Samman Divas to honour martyrs.
11. The President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 'Festival of Democracy' to mark the conclusion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the **Kerala legislative assembly**.
Note: Politics, public life and the quality of democracy are reflections of the essential ethos of a society.
12. The **Maharashtra** Govt. has approved over Rs 7,000 crore to complete the drinking water projects in scarcity-hit areas of the state.
Note: The state government has also approved a proposal of Rs 7,952 crore for completing 6,624 water projects in 10,583 villages. The jumbo drinking water proposal is aimed at the completion of works in Konkan, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati, Nagpur and Pune divisions.
13. The state government has observed Adivasi Diwas -- **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: The State government would felicitate achievers from the tribal community and distribute certificates to beneficiaries of various welfare schemes.
14. The **Maharashtra** govt. has announced a special assistance of 500 crore rupees for OBC community to help them develop employment opportunities for the youth.
Note: The state government has recommended to the Centre that the Bharat Ratna be conferred posthumously Jyotiba Phule (19th-century social reformer) and his wife Savitribai Phule (pioneer of women's education).
15. The Chief Minister of Goa Manohar Parrikar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service -- **GoaMiles**.
Note: The 'GoaMiles' would ensure that commuters are not cheated and at the same time would increase the earnings of taxi drivers by 'two to three' times.
16. The state govt. has launched an ambitious scheme which promises to provide Rs. 54,100 from the birth of a girl child till she graduates -- **Bihar**.
Note: Kumar launched the '**Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana**' and expressed his government's resolve for empowerment of women. On the occasion, the chief minister also made several other announcements like increasing the amount under the 'Bicycle Yojna' from Rs 2500 to Rs 3000
17. Andhra Pradesh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with electronics giant -- **Holytech**.
Note: Under the terms of the agreement, Holytech will set up its plant in 75 acres land in Tirupati and Chittoor districts, against an investment of Rs. 1400 crores.
18. The state government has signed an MoU with Amazon India to support MSME entrepreneurs across nine districts as a part of the state's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme -- **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: Amazon India through its Kala Haat programme will help traditional industries. Under the programme, a wide range of benefits will be offered to 300 MSME sellers registered under UP government's ODOP scheme.
19. The **Telangana Govt.** has launched its own Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in Hyderabad to swiftly deal with emergency situations.
Note: DRF vehicles provided to this force will be parked at 24 locations with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). It will help DRF staff to reach the emergency spots in no time. Disaster Response Force (DRF) is a state level dedicated disaster force trained in tackling of urban flooding, tree falls, structural collapses and any other site of normal emergencies.
20. The **Rajasthan** government will observe September as the "month of nutrition" to create awareness among people living in the state.
Note: From September, the students of the state will get milk on daily basis, for which additional funds of Rs 203 crore has been allocated.
21. The **Odisha** govt. has launched Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) for 70 lakh families of the state.
Note: The BSKY will be implemented with the money of the people of the State for "Healthy Odisha, Happy Odisha" regardless of the cooperation or non-cooperation of anyone. The State government went ahead with its own scheme with a coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh per year per



- family. The amount is Rs. 7 lakh per family with women members.
22. The village has organized ten days pineapple festival aimed at encouraging farmers and locals to plant and cultivate pineapples -- **Thayong village (Manipur)**.
Note: The festival aims at encouraging farmers and locals to plant and cultivate pineapples. The village produces approximately 20 to 30 tonnes of pineapples every year. This year, the popular Kew variety of the fruit was being sold at 30 odd stalls that were set up at the festival.
 23. As a mark of tribute to the former prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Naya Raipur as -- **Atal Nagar**.
Note: Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur University will be known as Atal Bihari Vajpayee University and the Narrow-Gauge Line will be called Atal Path. On 1st November (foundation day), The state government will also give 'Atal Sushashan Awards' to honour people who have rendered service to the society. A police battalion will be named as Pokhran Battalion.
 24. Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje opens country's biggest techno-hub in **Jaipur**.
Note: The country's biggest centre equipped with the ultra-modern technology will help around 700 entrepreneurs to work under one roof and realise their dreams.
 25. The **Odisha Government** has tied up with Japan for its mega investment Conclave 2018 in November.
Note: The state has already identified 600 acres near Bhubaneswar (capital city) that could serve as a dedicated industrial park for Japanese investors. SBI is banking partner for the event.
 26. The **Telangana** Government has increased the free electricity supply to the families of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) for domestic purpose up to 101 units.
Note: The state government will pay these charges to the distributary agencies.
 27. **Satya Pal Singh** has inaugurated the 24th Delhi Book Fair at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
Note: The nine-day book fair has been organized by the India Trade Promotion Organization and Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP). The fair is expected to garner substantial footfall as entry is free.
 28. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami has inaugurated the India's tallest Film Studio -- **MGR Centenary Film Studio**.
Note: he 56 feet tall, 361 feet long and 100 feet wide studio was constructed using funds collected by the Federation of Film Employees Union of South India (FEFSI), at Paiyanur.
 29. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a programme, aimed at identifying and giving recognition to the young achievers of the state -- **Mu Hero, Mu Odisha**.
Note: The BYV members are volunteers of the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs of the state government.
 30. A special home to the house around 1,000 widows was inaugurated at **Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: It was constructed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under its "Swadhar Greh scheme" through National Building Construction Corporation
 31. An interactive programme between schools and society was organized in all government schools of the Madhya Pradesh -- **Mil -Banche**.
Note: More than 80 thousand volunteers have expressed their desire to give gifts to the schools like books or any other gifts which will be useful for students. Over 2 lakh volunteers who have registered for the "Mil -Banche Madhya Pradesh" programme include 820 engineers, 843 doctors, 36 thousand employees of private sector, 19 thousand public representatives and around 45 thousand government employees and officers.
 32. The **Assam** government has extended application of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for 6 more months with immediate effect.
Note: Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts (AFSPA), are Acts of the Parliament of India that grant special powers to the Indian Armed Forces in what each act terms "disturbed areas". According to The Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976 once declared 'disturbed', the area has to maintain status quo for a minimum of 3 months.

Important News – World

1. The **UAE** has launched amnesty programme for foreign workers overstaying permits.
Note: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a landmark 3-month visa amnesty programme. It will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers, including Indians, overstaying their permits by allowing them to leave the country without penalties and giving them six months to find a job.
2. The United States has granted Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) to the South Asian country to ease export of high-tech items -- **India**.
3. **China** has successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic aircraft which could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defense systems.



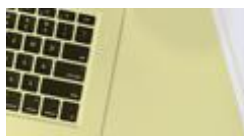
- Note:** The Xingkong-2 (Starry Sky-2) was launched in a target range located in Northwest China, the state-run China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA). The hypersonic aircraft was designed by the CAAA in collaboration with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.
4. The **Saudi Arabia** has announced to freeze all new trade and investment with Canada over its interference in its internal affairs.
Note: The Saudi foreign ministry expelled the Canadian ambassador and recalled its own envoy in Canada.
 5. The three-day 3rd India-Nepal coordination meeting held in **New Delhi**.
Note: Nepal's seven-member delegation headed by Inspector General of Nepal Armed Police Force 'Shailendra Khanal' is taking part in the meeting.
 6. US space agency **NASA** blasted off a USD 1.5 billion spacecraft toward the Sun on a historic mission to protect the Earth by unveiling the mysteries of dangerous solar storms.
Note: The Parker Solar Probe rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The probe is set to become the fastest-moving manmade object in history. It is the first spacecraft to be named after a living person - astrophysicist Eugene Parker, 91, who first described solar wind in 1958.
 7. The two-day Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 was held in **Birgunj, Nepal**.
Note: The festival is aimed at strengthening Indo-Nepal ties. Around 250 participants from India and Nepal, organized by Nepal India Co-operation Forum.
 8. Ten-day festival has begun in Kandy (Sri Lanka) with a grand procession -- **Esala Maha Perehera**
Note: The procession set off from the biggest Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka, Sri Dalada Maligawa. The Esala Perahera is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals in Sri Lanka, featuring dancers, jugglers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants.
 9. The External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in -- **Mauritius**.
Note: The Lab has been gifted by the Government of India to help MGI in teaching of all Indian languages in Mauritius.
 10. The cyber tower which Atal Ji had contributed to set up in Mauritius will henceforth be named as ____ **Atal Bihari Vajpayee tower**.
Note: A tribute was also paid to the late PM in the presence of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the conference. Around 68% of Mauritius's population of nearly 1.3 million is of Indian descent.
 11. The 11th World Hindi Conference held in **Mauritius**.
Note: The main theme of the Conference is 'Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharati Sanskriti'. The first World Hindi Conference was held in 1975 in Nagpur, India. The main objective of the World Hindi Conference is to make Hindi language a medium of service and knowledge and enable it to move forward with the time.
 12. The country hosted the 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) 2018 in **Beijing**.
 13. Fourth BIMSTEC summit held in -- **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
Note: BIMSTEC is a regional economic bloc comprising seven-member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. The group was formed in 1997 and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka Myanmar and Thailand.
 14. The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced at Subang Air Base in **Malaysia**.
Note: India has been eyeing a foothold at the strategically important Subang Air Base. The objective of the exercise seeks to deepen defence and military ties between the two countries.
 15. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018 exercise held at **Chebarkul, Russia**.
Note: In the exercise, the Russian Army has the major participation of 1,700 personnel followed by China with 700 and India with 200 personnel. Russia with military contingents of the all eight SCO member nations participating in this exercise. The SCO Peace Mission Exercise is one of the major defence cooperation initiatives amongst SCO nations and will be a landmark event in the history of SCO defence cooperation.
 16. Australian spin legend Shane Warne's memoir will be release on 4th October 2018 -- **No Spin: My Autobiography**.
Note: "No Spin" is the true story behind the headlines, in Warne's own voice. It will offer true insight and a pitch-side seat to one of cricket's finest eras, making this one of the ultimate must-have sports autobiographies. Warne was named one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year in the 1994 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
 17. **Turkey** has initiated dispute complaint with WTO against US.
Note: Turkey requested dispute consultations on claims that the doubling of duties on steel and aluminium were inconsistent with international trade rules. US has doubled the tariffs in response to Turkey's rejection of a request to release an American pastor detained for the past two years for alleged involvement in an abortive military coup.
 18. Russia will conduct its biggest war games since at least the 1980s, with around 300,000 troops and 1,000 aircraft -- **Vostok-2018**.
Note: The Vostok-2018 exercises will be carried out from September 11 to 15 in the country's east with the participation of China and Mongolia. Vostok-2018 will



- involve the participation of units from the Russian Army, Air Force, and Navy.
19. The union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has inaugurated the two- day 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in -- **Hanoi**.
Note: This conference will serve a platform to the countries to come closer and exchange better views on the economic & strategic importance of the region and neighborhood. The theme for the year is "Building Regional Architectures". Earlier, the conference was held in Singapore (2016) and Sri Lanka (2017).
 20. Fourth Asian electoral stakeholder forum (AESF-IV) held in -- **Colombo**.
Note: The AESF will be attended by more than 250 delegates from 45 countries. The theme is, 'Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together'.
 21. The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum has begun in -- **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
Note: The Forum brings together representatives both from the government and non-governmental entities from the Member States of SAARC as well as from regional & international organizations. The theme of Forum is the 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.
 22. The two days 4th BIMSTEC Summit (Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation) has begun in **Nepal**.
Note: The BIMSTEC is a regional economic bloc comprising seven-member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. In 1997, the group was formed to bring together Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Honor & Awards

1. Indian personality has won the 2018 International Contributions Award -- **K Anvar Sadath**.
Note: K. Anvar Sadath has won the 2018 International Contributions Award given by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), USA. He has been chosen for the award to recognize his outstanding contribution to the field of educational communication and technology in an international setting.
2. Indian-Australian mathematician has bestowed with the prestigious 2018 Fields medal -- **Akshay Venkatesh**.
Note: Renowned Indian-Australian mathematician Akshay Venkatesh has won the 2018 Fields Medal for his profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics. The other three winners are Caucher Birkar (Iranian) Peter Scholze (Germany) Alessio Figalli (Italy). Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize.
3. The **24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** will be given to the former West Bengal Governor -- **Gopalkrishna Gandhi**.
Note: The award carries a citation and a cash award of Rs. 10 lakhs. The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award was instituted by All India Congress Committee of the Indian National Congress Party (INC), in 1992 to commemorate the lasting contribution made by the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
4. Indian developer Ranjit Srivastava has claimed to develop the world's first Hindi speaking realistic humanoid robot and India's first lip-synching robot -- **Rashmi**.
Note: The robot "Rashmi" has developed in 2 years at a minimum cost of Rs 50,000. The robot can speak Hindi, Bhojpuri and Marathi along with English.
5. Indian film bagged the best film award at the 3rd edition of the 2018 BRICS Film Festival -- **Newton**.
Note: The 2018 BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa.
6. Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting held between the two countries in **New Delhi**.
Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Lt Gen Satish Dua (Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the chairman) Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) and Lt Gen Bryan Fenton, Deputy Commander, Indo-Pacific Command. India and the US were also working to have a joint drill of all the three-armed forces of the two countries.
7. Indian-American high school student **Avi Goel** has won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division held in Berlin.
Note: He won a gold medal in seven out of the 10 medal events and a silver medal in two of the events. Avi is at Silver Creek High School in Evergreen, San Jose, California.
8. **Mr. SK Arora** has been awarded the prestigious WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
Note: According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey-2 (GATS 2, 2016-17), the prevalence of tobacco use has reduced by 27% in Delhi as compared to 17% for the rest of India on an average. It is awarded every year by WHO to individuals or organizations alike in each of six WHO regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.



9. The United States government has awarded US 'Legion of Merit' 2018 -- **General Dalbir Singh Suhag**
Note: The award was presented to General Suhag at Pentagon, Washington DC.
10. Oscar-winning director will be one of the recipients of the annual Directors Guild of America (DGA) honour at its ceremony__ **Ang Lee**.
Note: The event will be held at the DGA Theatre in New York City on October 18. Fox Searchlight chairman Nancy Utle, US Senator Amy Klobuchar, SAG-AFTRA senior adviser John McGuire and costume designer Ann Roth will also be honoured at the ceremony.
11. **Major Aditya Kumar & rifleman Aurangzeb** have been conferred the Shaurya Chakra along with 18 others Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces.
Note: **Rifleman Aurangzeb** was brutally killed by terrorists in Pulwama when he was on his way home for Eid. Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh will be awarded with Kirti Chakra posthumously. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved these names on the eve of Independence Day along with

three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry) and, 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry). The President also conferred Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) to Group Captain Abhishek Sharma, Squadron Leader Vernon Desmond Keane and Sergeant Shashidhar P Prasad.

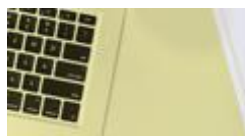
12. European city **Vienna** has been named the world's most liveable city in 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
Note: Melbourne came second and Osaka third. The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Liveability Index ranks 140 cities each year on those topics, as well as stability, culture, and environment.
13. **Indra Nooyi** will be honored with the 2018 Asia Game Changer of the Year award by global cultural organization Asia Society.
Note: The 2018 Asia Game Changer Awards will be given to the individuals or institutions who have broken barriers and inspired their fellow citizens of the world. Nooyi would be stepping down as CEO of PepsiCo after 12 years at the helm.

Sports News

1. Indian golfer has won the 2018 Fiji International Golf title - **Gaganjeet Bhullar**.
Note: It is his first win on the European Tour, ninth Asian Tour and 10th international title overall. He became the most successful Indian player on Asian Tour and the first Indian to win on Australasia Tour.
2. **Sashi Cheliah** has clinched the title of MasterChef Australia 2018.
3. The 2018 Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix tournament -- **Lewis Hamilton**.
Note: It is his sixth Hungarian Grand Prix title and also the 67th career victory.
4. **Netherlands** won the women's Hockey World Cup 2018 at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London (England).
Note: Kitty van Male finished the tournament as the top scorer (eight goals). Spain won the third-place match by beating Australia 3-1 to claim their first ever World Cup medal. India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.
5. **Pradip Choudhury** has won the prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2018 in Kolkata.
Note: Goalkeeper Shilton Paul has been awarded the Best Football Player of the Year prize. Sudip Chatterjee was honoured with the Best Cricket Player of the Year award. Best Youth Football Player: Sourav Das. Special Award: Rahim Ali for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.
6. American professional golfer has won the 2018 RBC Canadian Open at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville in Canada -- **Dustin Johnson**.
Note: Dustin Johnson shot a 6-under par 66 and won his first RBC Canadian Open at 23-under par. The Canadian Open is a professional golf tournament in Canada. It is organized by Golf Canada.
7. **Musaed Aldossary** has been crowned champion of the FIFA eWorld Cup Grand Final.
Note: He battled it out against Belgium's Stefano Pinna to clinch the USD 250,000 prize in the contest held at the O2 in London. FIFA eWorld Cup is the computer-console version of the FIFA football tournament.
8. A facial recognition system will be used across an Olympics for the first time during the -- **2020 Games**.
Note: The NeoFace technology developed by NEC Corp. will be customized to monitor every accredited person including 'athletes, officials, staff and media' at games villages and media centers. Its biometric identification technology is used at airports and elsewhere in 70 countries, including Japan.
9. Veteran German striker has announced his retirement from international football -- **Mario Gomez**.
Note: Mario Gomez scored 31 goals in 78 international appearances. The former Bayern Munich star represented his country at the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and 2018 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012.

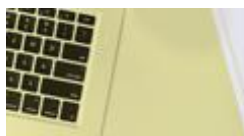


10. Star Javelin thrower is the flag bearer for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia___ **Neeraj Chopra**.
Note: The Asian Games held from August 18 to September 2 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.
11. Indian golfer **Viraj Madappa** has become the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour.
Note: He won his maiden title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru and USD 63,000 cheque.
12. Spanish professional tennis player clinched his fourth Canadian Master 1000 title at the Rogers Cup in Toronto -- **Rafael Nadal**.
Note: He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas.
13. **Nihal Sarin** has become the 53rd Grandmaster of India despite losing his final round game to Richard Rapport (Hungary) in the final round of Abu Dhabi Masters.
Note: Nihal tallied 5.5 points out of a possible nine. Telangana boy E. Arjun (14-year) has become the 54th Grandmaster from India.
14. Indian shooters **Saurabh Chaudhary** bagged one gold and one bronze medal (Abhishek Verma) in the Men's 10-metre Air Pistol event at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia.
Note: Saurabh claimed the Asian Games Record as well with 240.7 points to finish above Japan's Tomoyuki Matsuda.
15. Serbian tennis player became the first player to win all nine Masters 1,000 tournaments with victory over Roger Federer in Cincinnati -- **Novak Djokovic**.
Note: Djokovic beat seven-time champion Federer 6-4 6-4.
16. India's dominating wrestler **Bajrang Punia** won India's first gold at Asian Games 2018.
Note: India's dominating wrestler Bajrang Punia opened India's gold medal account by defeating Japan's Daichi Takatani in the final of Men's freestyle 65 kg. category. Bajrang Punia was born in Khudan village of Jhajjar district in Haryana. He works as Traveling Ticket Examiner (TTE) with Indian Railway.
17. Australian cricketer **Mitchell Johnson** has announced the retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: Johnson played 73 Tests in the Baggy Green, claiming 313 wickets, the fourth most for an Australian.
18. He also played 153 ODIs before retiring from international cricket in 2015. The 18th edition of the Asian Games held in **Jakarta, Indonesian**.
Note: Around 11,000 athletes (from 45 countries) participated in 40 sports and 67 disciplines consisting of 28 Olympic sports, 4 new Olympic sports, and 8 non-Olympic sports. For the first time, eSports (a form of competition using video games) and canoe polo will be contested as demonstration sports. Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra is the India's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony.
19. Teen cyclist **Esow Alben** has won India's first ever medal (silver-medal) at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland.
Note: Alben hails from Andaman and Nicobar, trains in Delhi at the Sports Authority of India's National Cycling Academy. Esow finished just 0.017 seconds behind gold medallist Czech Republic's Jakub Stastny in the thrilling photo-finish of a race.
20. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has handed a 10-year ban for spot-fixing -- **Nasir Jamshed**.
Note: The ban was imposed by the board's Anti-Corruption Tribunal for his involvement in the spot-fixing row during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2016-17 season. He was banned for the second time in the last two years.
21. Former Indian off spinner has been appointed as the head coach of India women's cricket team till the ICC World T20--**Ramesh Powar**.
Note: Powar was appointed interim coach of the team last month after the resignation of Tushar Arothe. During this period, the team will tour Sri Lanka for three ODIs and five T20Is, followed by a T20I series and the World T20 in the West Indies.
22. **Rahi Sarnobat** has become the first Indian female shooter to win a gold in shooting at the Asian Games.
Note: Rahi Sarnobat wins gold in 25 metre air pistol.
23. **Bopanna & Sharan** won tennis maiden doubles gold in Asian Games 2018.
Note: Top seeds India's Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan defeated Aleksander Bublik & Denis Yevseyev of Kazakhstan 6-3 6-4 in 52 minutes and notched up their maiden men's tennis doubles gold medal at the Asian Games 2018. Earlier, Mahesh Bhupathi & Leander Paes having claimed back-to-back gold medals in the 2002 and 2006 Games.
24. India's women's cricket team fast bowler **Jhulan Goswami** has announced her retirement from the Twenty20 Internationals format.
Note: She played 68 T20 Internationals and took 56 wickets at an economy rate of 5.45. Jhulan made her T20I debut against England (in August 2006) and called time on her career as the third most-capped Indian player in T20Is. She had also become the first woman cricketer to take 200 wickets in ODIs earlier this year.
25. **Tejinder Pal Singh Toor** has won the Gold medal in Men's Shot Put at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.
Note: He won the event with an Asian Games record throw of 20.75 meters. It's the eighth men's Shot-Put gold for India in Asian Games history.



26. Pakistan fast bowler **Mohammad Irfan** has set a new world (most economical bowler in the T20 cricket) while playing for Barbados Tridents in the ongoing 2018 Caribbean Premier League (CPL).
Note: He conceded just one run in his 4 overs spell against St Kitts and Nevis Patriots, scalped two important wickets in the match. Earlier, the record was registered to the names of Chris Morris (South African bowler) and Chanaka Welegedara (Sri Lanka) with an economy rate of 0.5 and 0.25, respectively.
27. Indian badminton player **PV Sindhu** has won the historic individual silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games.
Note: She lost 13-21 16-21 to Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying (World No 1) in just 34 minutes. It is the first time that India has won two individual medals at the Asian Games with Saina Nehwal clinching a bronze.
28. Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** has become the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.
Note: Chopra managed a personal best throw of 88.06 to bag the top prize in javelin throw. This was also India's first-ever gold medal in javelin throw at the Asian Games.
29. **Japan** won first ever title at FIFA U-20 women's world cup France 2018.
Note: Japan women's National Team (U-20) has won the U-20 Spain Women's National Team at the final of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018. Takarada Saori was named as the Player of the match with her goal and an assist.
30. **Jinson Johnson** has won gold in the men's 1500 metres at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.
Note: Johnson was pipped for gold by compatriot Manjit Singh in the 800m race but he did not give any chance to his rivals to win the race in 3 minutes 44.72 seconds.
31. **Swapna Barman** has become the first Indian heptathlete to win Asian Games gold.
32. **Arpinder Singh** clinched gold medal in men's triple jump at the Asian Games 2018 with an effort of 16.77m.
Note: Uzbekistan's Ruslan Kurbanov took the silver medal with a personal best jump of 16.62 metres. The bronze medal went to Cao Shuo (China), who jumped 16.56 metres. In 1970, India's last Asian Games gold medal in men's triple jump had come from Mohinder Singh Gill.

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