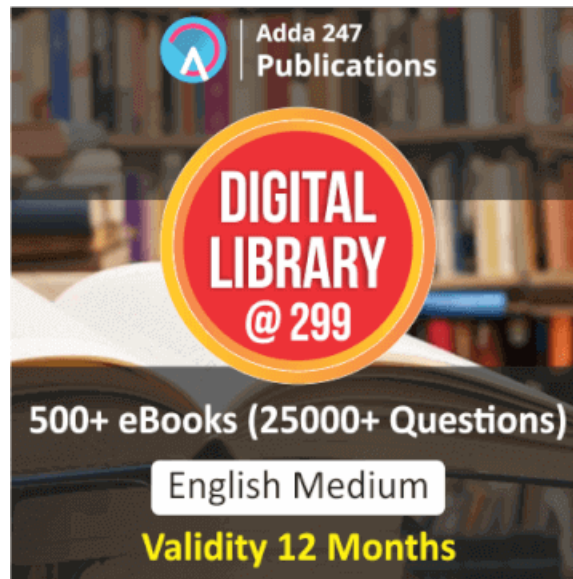


The Most Important Current Affairs OCTOBER 2018

Complete List of Announcements/Agreements Signed Between India and Japan

- Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) submitting the instrument of ratification. As of now, there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it. Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.
- Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of seven Yen loan projects including the Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, Project for Renovation and Modernization of Umiam-Umtru Stage-III Hydroelectric Power Station, Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 3), North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project, Project for the Construction of Turga Pumped Storage, Project for the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road and Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management in Tripura (total loan provision of up to 316.458 billion yen)



- Here is the Complete table of Agreements/ MoUs/ Treaty Signed:

Sl.	Name of the MOU/Agreement/Treaty	Description
A. Defence and Strategic		
1.	Implementing arrangement for deeper cooperation between Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and Indian Navy	For greater cooperation and exchange of information in Maritime domain awareness between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force
B. Digital and New Technologies		
2.	MoC between Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry on Japan-India Digital Partnership	To tap into the synergies and complementarities between Japan's "Society 5.0" and India's flagship programmes like "Digital India", "Smart City" and "Start-up India" in areas of next generation technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and IoT (Internet of Things), etc.
3.	Statement of Intent between NITI Aayog and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI), Japan on Artificial Intelligence (AI)	To encourage and develop cooperation on Artificial Intelligence technologies
C. Healthcare and Wellness		
4.	MoC between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and Japan	To establish a mechanism to identify potential areas for collaboration between India and Japan in common domains of primary healthcare, prevention of non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health services, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and elderly care
5.	MoC between The Ministry of AYUSH of India and the Kanagawa Prefectural Government of Japan	_____
6.	MoU on Food Safety between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) & The Food Safety Commission of Japan, The Consumer Affairs Agency of Japan, The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan.	For furthering cooperation between the agencies from India and Japan in area of food safety
D. Food Value Chain and Agriculture Areas		
7.	MoC between Ministry of Food Processing & Industries and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry	Aims at developing India's food processing industry with involvement of relevant stakeholders such as local

	and Fisheries, Japan	governments, private companies, etc.
8.	The Program for Promoting Investment into India by Japan in the Field of Agriculture and Fisheries between Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, India & Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan.	To promote development of agricultural value chain and fisheries, including aquaculture, by improving the investment environment for Japanese companies.
9.	MoC on Development of Food Value Chain in Maharashtra between State Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan.	To facilitate investment of Japanese companies in food value chain in State of Maharashtra
10.	MoC on Development of Food Value Chain in Uttar Pradesh Between The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, India.	To facilitate investment of Japanese companies in food value chain in State of Uttar Pradesh
E. Economic		
11.	MoU between Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India and NEXI, Japan	For stimulating trade and investment between India and Japan and strengthening cooperation in projects in third countries.
F. Postal		
12.	MOC in Postal Field between the Ministry of Communications, Government of India and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan.	To strengthen cooperation in postal field including through setting up of Postal Services Dialogue between Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
G. S&T, Academic Exchanges and Environment		
13.	MoU between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Hiroshima University, Japan for Research Partnership.	To promote research partnership in areas such as Electronics, Sensors, High Speed Vision, Robotics, Advanced Manufacturing including Mechatronics, Environmental Research, Intelligent Transportation, etc.
14.	MoU between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Research Centre for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo, Japan for Research Partnership	To promote research partnership in areas like Renewable Energy, Electronics including Robotics/IoT, Advanced Materials, etc.
15.	Agreement for Cooperation between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology (IIT), Japan for joint research in interdisciplinary areas for application in Industrial Research.	To establish research partnership between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology (IIT) in areas such as Advanced Materials, Bioscience and Information Technologies.
16.	MoC between India and Japan in the field of Environment Cooperation.	To promote greater cooperation between India and Japan for protection and improvement of environment
17.	MoU between National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), India, and Shizuoka University, Japan for Academic and Research exchanges.	To promote academic linkages between the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research S.A.S Nagar, and Shizuoka University
18.	MoU on Further Cooperation toward Indo-Japan Global Startup between Nagasaki University and IIITDM Kancheepuram, India.	Information Technology and Human Resources development along with Indo-Japan Global Startup.
19.	MoU on Academic and Educational Exchange between Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India and Hiroshima University, Japan.	Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.
20.	MoU between Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and National Institute of Advanced	Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.

	Industrial Science and Technology.	
H. Sports		
21.	MoU between Sports Authority of India (SAI), India and University of Tsukuba, Japan for academic exchanges and sports cooperation	To strengthen cooperation in the field of sports development and excellence through joint programmes.

DANISA Denmark Open 2018: List of Winners

It was held at Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark.

Event	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)	Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei)
Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Saina Nehwal (India)
Men's Doubles	Marcus Fernaldi Gideon, Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)	Takeshi Kamura, Keigo Sonoda (Japan)
Women's Doubles	Yuki Fukushima, Sayaka Hirota (Japan)	Shiho Tanaka, Koharu Yonemoto (Japan)

CBDT releases Direct Tax Statistics: Key Highlights

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released time-series data & key statistics relating to direct tax collections & administration in public domain, as updated up to FY 2017-18 & income-distribution data for AY 2016-17 & AY 2017-18.
- Constant growth in direct tax-GDP ratio over last three years & the ratio of 5.98% in FY 2017-18 is the best DT-GDP ratio in last 10 years.
- Growth of more than 80% in the number of returns filed in the last four financial years from 3.79 crore in FY 2013-14 (base year) to 6.85 crore in FY 2017-18.
- Number of persons filing return of income increased by about 65% during this period from 3.31 crore in FY 2013-14 to 5.44 crore in FY 2017-18.
- Average tax paid by corporate taxpayers increased from Rs.32.28 lakh in AY 2014-15 to Rs.49.95 lakh in AY 2017-18 (growth of 55%).
- Increase of 26% in the average tax paid by individual taxpayers from Rs.46,377/- in AY 2014-15 to Rs.58,576/- in AY 2017-18.

Vice President Naidu visit to Belgium: Key Points

- VP Naidu commenced his visit to Belgium by attending the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Brussels, Belgium. The theme was "Global Partners for Global Challenges". It was hosted by the European Union & was chaired by the President of the European Council Donald Tusk. He also held bilateral meeting with Mr.

Alexis Tsipras, PM of Greece, Mr. Antonio Costa, PM of Portugal & Pedro Sanchez, PM of Spain in Brussels.

Asian Para Games 2018 Concludes: Medal Winners

- 3rd Asian Para Games took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. Around 3000 athletes from 43 countries took part in 15 Paralympic & three non-Paralympic sports.
- It took place in Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in central Jakarta. Total 18 sports were played during the Games.
- The official mascot was Bondol eagle named MOMO. India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games with 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, & 33 bronze medals). China were at the top of the pecking order with 172 gold.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	172	88	59	319
2.	South Korea	53	45	46	144
3.	Iran	51	42	43	136
9.	India	15	24	33	72

Complete List | Nobel Prize Winners 2018

- 2018 Nobel Prize were announced in 5 different fields viz. Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Peace, & Economic Sciences. This is for the first time that no Literature Prize was given in 70 years because of a #MeToo scandal.

Field	Winner	Description
Physiology or Medicine	James P Allison (USA) & Tasaku Honjo (Japan)	"for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation"
Physics	Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada)	"for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics"
Chemistry	(a) one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) (b) Other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) & Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK)	(a) "for the directed evolution of enzymes" (b) "for the phage display of peptides & antibodies"
Peace	Denis Mukwege (Congo) & Nadia Murad (Iraq)	"for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war & armed conflict"
Economic Sciences	(a) William D. Nordhaus (USA) (b) Paul M. Romer (USA)	(a) "for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis" (b) "for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis."

- MoU between the Russian Ministry of Transport & Indian Railways in the Development Cooperation in Transport Education
- MoU between the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), of India & the Russian Small & Medium Business Corporation (RSMB), on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- Cooperation Agreement in the Fertilizers Sector between the Russian Direct Investment Fund ("RDIF"); PJSC Phosagro (PhosAgro) & Indian Potash Limited (IPL).

PM Modi Inaugurated various projects in Gujarat: Key Points

- PM Modi inaugurated various projects in Gujarat. Various Projects launched/Inaugurated are as follows:
- PM was in Anand to inaugurate a state-of-the-art Amul chocolate plant set up with an investment of about Rs. 190 crore.
- PM launched Mujkuva Solar Energy Cooperative Group created with the assistance of the National Dairy development Board.
- PM inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot.
- PM inaugurated the Mundra LNG terminal, the Anjar-Mundra Pipeline Project & the Palanpur-Pali-Barmer pipeline project, at Anjar.

Banking Current Affairs

- RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of its directives.
- State Bank of India has slashed the daily withdrawal limit on its classic debit card from Rs 40,000 to Rs 20,000. There is no change in the daily withdrawal limits on other cards. The new limit will be effective from October 31st 2018.
- On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, SIDBI launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.
- RBI allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital from overseas. RBI relaxed the policy on borrowing up to 10 billion US dollar from the overseas by the state-owned fuel retailers. RBI has allowed them to raise ECB of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.
- RBI kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 6.25%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75%. RBI's objective is of achieving the medium-term target for consumer

List of Agreements/MoUs Exchanged Between India & Russia

- Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India. Following are the set of agreements signed.
- Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & MEA for the period 2019-2023.
- MoU between the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation & the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).
- MoU between ISRO & the Federal Space Agency of Russia 'ROSCOSMOS' on Joint Activities in the field of Human Spaceflight Programme.

price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth. Growth projection for 2018-19 has also been retained at 7.4%.

- RBI issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control. As per the norms issued by the central bank ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments.
- As per the IMF's latest report, India is projected to grow at 7.3% in 2018 and 7.4% in 2019.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) decided to increase the Refinance Limit from Rs. 24,000 crore to Rs.30,000 crore for the Current Year (July 2018-June 2019) towards refinancing eligible institutions.
- SBI signed an MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for the development of human resources of the latter. Under the MoU, the strategic training unit of SBI will impart education, training and development to facilitate transformation of NBI's HR department.
- An ATM for deposit and withdrawal of money for cryptocurrencies has been installed in Bengaluru's Kemp Fort Mall by virtual currency exchange Unocoin.
- In a move aimed at promoting digital transactions, RBI released operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets. Inter-operability among mobile wallets, and between bank account and e-wallet would be enabled through the UPI system.
- RBI announced more measures to increase liquidity flows to the non-banking financial companies. It permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit to them as on October 19, to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements.
- Fino Payments Bank, one of India's first payments banks, has been allowed to open new accounts by RBI after it submitted a compliance report.
- Life insurer PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'. The app is designed to be a one-stop shop providing insurance-related information, anytime, anywhere.
- IDFC Bank proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.
- RBI announced that it will inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November through the purchase of

government securities as it looks to meet festive season demand for funds.

Economy Current Affairs

- As per the RBI, India's external debt declined 2.8% to USD 514.4 billion at June-end over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits.
- Economic Affairs Secretary SC Garg announced a reduction in gross borrowing estimate for the current fiscal by 70,000 crore rupees and maintained that the government will contain fiscal deficit target at 3.3%.
- CCEA increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the current financial year which will be marketed in 2019-20 season. The MSP of wheat raised by 105 rupees per quintal, Masur by 225 per quintal, and Gram by 220 per quintal.
- Centre in consultation with RBI decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19. The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued every month from October to February 2019. The Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.
- Govt. increased the rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes by 0.4% points to 8% for the October-December quarter. The rate is in line with that for Public Provident Fund (PPF). The interest rate on GPF was 7.6% for the July-September quarter of 2018-19.

Adda 247
Test Series

अब हिंदी में

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2018 प्रीलिम्स

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Business Current Affairs

- Alibaba and SoftBank-backed Paytm registered over 137 million UPI transactions in September, becoming the leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface

(UPI) payments with over 33% of the overall market share.

- Reliance Health Insurance, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has received final approval from IRDAI for its new health insurance business.
- Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally, as per the Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report.
- Google will shut down Google+ for consumer use over the next 10 months after a bug exposed the personal data of up to 5 lakh users.
- Coal India and NLC India (NLCIL), formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation, will jointly set up 5000 MW of power generation capacity of which 3000 MW would be solar powered while the rest 2000 MW would be coal-fuelled.
- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries made it official that it is entering a strategic investment partnership with Den Networks Limited and Hathway Cable and Datacom Limited, which will be a 'win-win' outcome for customers, local cable operators, content producers, and the companies.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd's quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc, which is nearly double its size, making company the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing megabanks and insurers.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018.
- Paytm launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- Thirty-eight pacts worth \$5 billion were signed among 20 technology providers, capital goods manufacturers and steel producers, which will give impetus to the manufacturing of capital goods for the iron and steel industry. MoUs were signed at a conclave on Capital Goods for Steel Sector, manufacture in India.
- Fertiliser major IFFCO announced that it has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'Word Cooperative Monitor' report 2018.
- America's IBM has acquired software company Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date. Founded 25 years ago, Red Hat was valued at about \$20.5 billion at the end of trading.
- SBI & payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India has entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.

- WhatsApp partnered with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to train small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs on using the messaging platform to connect with customers and growing their businesses.

Schemes/ Portals/ Missions/ Apps/ Missions Launched by the Union & State Govt.

- Assam Government become the first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby. The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments - Rs 2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched an innovative initiative titled SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation).
- Odisha government launched the State's own food security scheme to cover the poor people. As per the provisions of the scheme, 25 lakh poor people left out from the benefits of the National Food Security Act, will get rice of 5 kg per month for one rupee.
- Karnataka Govt. unveiled 'Unnati Scheme' to help entrepreneurs from SC/ST Communities. State government, under the Unnati scheme, will invest up to Rs. 20 crores to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their technical education in the state. The children of construction workers would get financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- IRCTC has launched a new AI-based assistant, 'Ask Disha' for its website. This new assistant will be prompt in answering generic queries about most frequently asked questions on the ticket booking platform.
- Environment Ministry launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign. It is now merged with "Green Good Deed" movement that has been initiated as a social mobilization for conservation and protection of the environment.
- PM Modi interacted with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals and key industry leaders from across the country in New Delhi. He launched the "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and app on the occasion. It

works on the theme "Self for Society" will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.

- Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal (www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in) of the Scheme "Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)" in New Delhi. SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions.

National Current Affairs

- Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met PM Modi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. 17 agreements and MoUs were signed in the field of law, tourism, military education, agriculture, science and technology, commerce and industry, pharmaceutical, national security and illicit trafficking besides others. Uzbek President supported India's bid for permanent membership of UN Security Council.
- India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.
- PM Modi inaugurated the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) 25th anniversary and said that it has an important role to play in government's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals. NHRC was set up on the 12th October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act, passed by Parliament. NHRC Chairman: Justice HL Dattu.
- India and Azerbaijan agreed to take measures to enhance bilateral trade relations. Both countries signed a protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation at the 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation which concluded in New Delhi.
- India and Sri Lanka signed two MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Sri Lankan rupees.
- India and Tanzania signed two MoUs in presence of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Tanzanian Foreign Minister Dr. Augustine Mahiga. The MoUs are between Foreign Service Institute of India and Centre for Foreign Relation, Tanzania and National Research Development Corporation and Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Corporation.
- Government launched a national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' on the World Food Day (16th October) under which a pan-India cycle rally is being organized to sensitise people about eating safe food and be

healthy. It was announced by the FSSAI chief executive Pawan Kumar Agarwal.

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai.
- India will host the fourth edition of Global Partners' Forum in December 2018 in New Delhi.
- PM Modi dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) to the nation in New Delhi. It has been built in recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by police personnel since independence. It has been erected on 6.12 acres of land in Chanakyapuri, at the northern end of Shanti Path.
- India & Croatia signed 2 agreements to strengthen cultural & diplomatic cooperation between the two countries.
- The first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism and welcomed increased cooperation between India and China in the area of security. Agreement on security cooperation was also signed.
- India and Bangladesh signed several agreements for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity between the two countries for trade and cruise movements. The two countries have signed an agreement to use Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India.
- PM Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial on the leader's 143rd birth anniversary in Gujarat's Narmada district. Called the Statue of Unity, the bronze sculpture is the world's tallest statue measuring 600 feet (182m) and overshadows China's Spring Temple Buddha (153m).
- India's first engine-less train, "Train 18", developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and seen as a successor to the prestigious Shatabdi Express, was unveiled by Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani. The Rs. 100-crore train is the first long-distance train, without a separate locomotive (engine). As per the ICF, the train is capable of running at a speed of up to 160 kmph and comes with technical features for enhanced quick acceleration.
- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST - CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019, announced Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

States Current Affairs

- Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS)

for Kolkata City. It is also India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS.

- In a historic day for India, Northeast and Assam Petrochemicals launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program".
- Election Commission announced the poll schedule for Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. Chief Election Commissioner, OP Rawat stated the counting of votes in all states will take place on 11th of December.
- Centre has assured Karnataka government that nearly 450 crore rupees will be reimbursed to it in connection with the expenditure incurred for procuring cereals and coarse cereals.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for Rs 1,224 crore highway projects in Uttar Pradesh. Besides, the highway projects, Gadkari also laid the foundation stone for the development of National Waterway 40 (river Ghaghra).
- Severe Cyclonic Storm 'TITLI' over the west-central Bay of Bengal moved northwards with a speed of about 14 kmph over Westcentral Bay of Bengal near latitude 16.5°N and longitude 85.8°E, about 320 km south-southeast of Gopalpur (Odisha) and 270 km southeast of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.
- Leading stock exchange NSE has signed a pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to MSMEs, which will fuel the growth of such entities in the state.
- Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta stated that the Ministry will release 7.8 crore rupees for the construction of a textile tourism complex in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet led by CM Yogi Adityanath has approved the proposal to rename Allahabad, which will be called Prayagraj with immediate effect. The new name derives from a place in the city called Prayag, where three rivers flowing across the state meet.
- Minister of state for culture, Mahesh Sharma and Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri jointly laid the foundation stone for proposed Museum on Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Estate, New Delhi.
- Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, inaugurated at Mumbai. It will operate between Mumbai and Goa. Named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre and the Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg, the luxury ship has 104 rooms, divided into eight different categories.
- PM Modi inaugurated a farmers' conclave 'Krishi Kumbh 2018' in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh via video

conferencing. It is being organized to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmers income. It witnessed two of the world's top economies, Israel and Japan, as official partners while Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states.

- Punjab government has signed four MoUs with Israeli institutions to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in the state.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat. It is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.
- State government of Arunachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation, in order to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of the state.
- Nitin Gadkari and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala. The Dry Dock will give an impetus to "Make in India" initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to 2%.



New Appointments (National & International)

- Centre has appointed former IAS officer Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), an entity which will

function as an independent regulator for the auditing profession.

- India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath appointed as the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by IMF's Managing Director Christine Lagarde. She will succeed Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld.
- Justice Ranjan Gogoi has sworn-in as new Chief Justice of India. President Ram Nath Kovind administered him the oath of office. He is the 46th Chief Justice of India & will have a tenure of a little over 13 months.
- Iraq's Parliament has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician Barham Salih as the country's new President. He has named Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi as Prime Minister of the country.
- Chanda Kochhar has quit as CEO of ICICI Bank with immediate effect. ICICI appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as managing director and chief executive officer for five years, subject to regulatory approval.
- National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been appointed the chairman of the working committee and director on the board by the international industry body-World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).
- Sanjay Verma, a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Spain.
- Pankaj Sharma appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland. He will replace Amandeep Gill.
- In USA, President Donald Trump's controversial nominee Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in as the 114th Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Indian-American Nikki Haley has resigned as the US Ambassador to the United Nations. US President Donald Trump has accepted her resignation.
- State-run IDBI Bank has announced that Rakesh Sharma has taken charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank. He has replaced B Sriram.
- PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has announced that Mahesh Y Reddy has taken over as its Secretary General with immediate effect.
- The government has appointed 58-year-old Pravin Srivastava, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as the Chief Statistician of India (CSI).
- Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India. The senior lawyer will assume the office of the Solicitor General till June 30, 2020.
- Nimesh Shah, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, has been

elected as Chairman of trade body, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

- Priyank Kanoongo appointed to the post of Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India for a period of 03 years.
- Online financial services marketplace BankBazaar has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor (DG) S S Mundra as an advisor to the company. BankBazaar Co-Founder & CEO is Adhil Shetty.
- Former editor MJ Akbar has resigned from his post of Minister of State for External Affairs amid sexual harassment allegations against him by over sixteen female journalists.
- JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal was elected as the Treasurer of the World Steel Association (worldsteel).
- Union Government has sent CBI Director Alok Verma on leave. It also issued an order appointing M Nageshwar Rao as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as its new Managing Director and CEO.
- Ethiopia appointed diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde as its first-ever female President. The position of the President is largely ceremonial in the nation.
- Former President Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime minister of Sri Lanka. He has replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as the President of Ireland after receiving 56 percent of the country's votes in the elections.
- Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Brazil's presidential election.
- Actor Anupam Kher has resigned as the chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India citing commitments to an international TV show for which he has to be stationed in the U.S.

Sports Current Affairs

- Yuvraj Wadhvani has won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title. He defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan.
- Central Information Commission (CIC) brought the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act.
- Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Goa Olympic Association Secretary Gurudutta D Bhakta will be the Chef-de-Mission of the contingent.
- Australian midfielder Mile Jedinak announced his retirement from international football.

- Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev has also retired from international soccer.
- Prithvi Shaw has become the youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut, achieving the feat aged 18 years and 329 days against Windies in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- 36th National Games in Goa will be held from March 30 to April 14 next year. Shooting and Cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports. Rugby, Wushu, Modern Pentathlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker will be added to the Games programme.
- Former England batsman Nick Compton announced his retirement from cricket.
- The 3rd Youth Olympic Games begun at Buenos Aires, Argentina. 16-year-old Manu Bhaker is leading the Indian team in the opening ceremony as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games.
- Sport Australia Hall of Fame has announced cricketing great Richie Benaud, who died in April, 2015, will become the 40th Legend of Australian Sport.
- India's Keerthana Pandian has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships. In the final in St Petersburg, Russia, Keerthana outclassed her Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk 3-1.
- Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi, died in a private hospital after a brief illness. He was 86.
- Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary produced a stunning world record effort as India bagged 11 medals, including three gold, at the Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. Chaudhary clinched India's first gold of the Games in the men's category. Middle distance runner Raju Rakshitha in women's 1500 meters and swimmer Jadhav Suyash Narayan in men's 50-meter butterfly added the yellow metals.
- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga become India's first-ever gold medallist in the history of Youth Olympic Games (YOG). He achieved the feat by lifting a total weight of 274 kg in the men's 62 kg category at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.
- 16-Year-old Thangjam Tababi Devi became India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level, claiming a silver at the ongoing Youth Games. She was defeated by Venezuela's Maria Giminez in the finals of the women's 44kg category.
- Indian under-19 cricket team has defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs in the summit clash of the 2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Sixteen-year-old shooter Manu Bhaker has become the first-ever Indian woman to win gold at Youth Olympics. She achieved the feat after winning the women's 10m Air Pistol event.
- Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-meter air pistol event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games in Argentina.
- Archer Harvinder Singh notched up the men's individual recurve gold, while track-and-field athletes added a silver and a bronze to India's tally in the Asian Para-Games in Jakarta.
- International Olympics Committee (IOC) has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal. Senegal will host the youth games in three places: Dakar; a new city of Diamniadio, close to the capital; and the coastal resort of Saly.
- Former Pakistan left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman announced his retirement from international cricket.
- In Hockey, Great Britain lifted the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup. In Johor Bahru, Malaysia, Great Britain defeated India in the final.
- Indian tennis legend Leander Paes has won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.
- The third Asian Para Games took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. The official mascot of the 2018 Asian Para Games is a Bondol eagle named MOMO, which was chosen to represent motivation and mobility. India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games by ending the 2018 edition with 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze medals). Continental giants, China were at the top of the pecking order with 172 gold.
- Suraj Panwar won India's first medal in athletics at the Youth Olympic Games 2018 after claiming the silver medal in the men's 5000m race walk event Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Akash Malik became India's first silver-medallist in archery at the Youth Olympic Games, providing a fitting finale to the country's best-ever campaign at the marquee event Buenos Aires.
- Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sports, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million with streaming service DAZN.
- World Wrestling Championship held in Budapest, Hungary.
- Mumbai defeated Delhi to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
- Denmark Open is an HSBC World Tour Super 750 tournament. Kento Momota of Japan won in the Men's Singles category and Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei won in the women's singles category.
- Wrestler Bajrang Punia won the silver medal after he went down against Japan's Takuto Otoguro in the 65kg final of the Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. It is his second medal at the Worlds.
- Former India fast bowler Praveen Kumar has retired from all forms of international cricket.

- India captain Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI cricket, achieving the feat in his 205th innings, against Windies. He overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs in his 259th innings.
- All-rounder Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket.
- In Wrestling World Championships, Pooja Dhanda won a bronze medal in the women's freestyle 57kg weight class in Budapest, Hungary.
- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.
- Swiss tennis star Roger Federer won his 99th career title after winning the Basel Open for the ninth time in his career.
- Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee has won a silver medal in the under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open.
- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club.
- In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.

International Current Affairs

- Canada agreed to sign a trade deal with the United States & Mexico, revamping the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new deal named as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).
- Ministry of AYUSH has set up an AYUSH Information Cell at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Romania to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and encourage Ayurveda practice in Romania.
- Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became the first person to be stripped of the honorary Canadian

- citizenship for her role in gross human rights violations against the Rohingya people.
- In Malaysia, the cabinet decided to abolish the death penalty.
- India has been elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council with the highest vote among all candidates. It secured 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019. India's win with the highest number of votes reflects the country's standing in the international comity.
- India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats. Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Vinay Kumar hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will be travelling to India for the 1st India-China joint training programme for Afghan diplomats under the aegis of the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan.
- Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu is in Brussels, Belgium to attend the 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit. The theme of this year's ASEM Summit is "Global Partners for Global Challenges".
- Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) will form new government in Bhutan. The party has won 30 seats in 47 member National Assembly.
- A UN-backed fund approved more than 1 billion dollars for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change. South Korea-based Green Climate Fund stated the funding approved is for the projects that linked to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and West Asia, and protection for coastal communities in India.
- IFC, International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's lending arm, launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe. These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.
- China opened the longest sea-crossing bridge ever built, nine years after construction began. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge connects Hong Kong and Macau to the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. The \$20-billion bridge spans 55 kilometers.
- The first trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran, Iran. The next meeting will be held in India in 2019.
- A Chinese company has tested the 'world's largest' cargo drone Feihong-98 (FH-98) which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1,500kg). The FH-98 has a maximum takeoff weight of 5.25 tonnes (5,250 kg) and maximum range of 1,200 km.
- 13th Annual Summit between India and Japan held in presence of PM Modi and his Japanese counterpart

Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan. Issues of mutual interest, including forging ties in newer areas were discussed during the talks. The areas include health, digital technologies, agriculture and food processing and disaster risk reduction.

- India has donated three lakh Dollars for a peacekeeping initiative at the UN.
- Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) submitting the instrument of ratification. As of now, there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it. Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.
- Germany's Angela Merkel has announced that she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks.
- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers has been officially opened on October 29 in Istanbul, which marks the Republic Day of Turkey.
- Republic of Seychelles launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. The bond raised USD 15 million from international investors.

Defence Current Affairs

- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, held at Simons Town, South Africa.
- A Vietnam Coast Guard ship, on its maiden visit to Chennai, undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018', off the city coast aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between them.
- Indian Air Force celebrated its 86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018. To mark the occasion and in keeping up with the tradition, IAF has planned a grand Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at Air Force Station Hindan (Ghaziabad). Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff reviewed the parade.
- Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer and Inazuma - a Guided Missile Destroyer arrived at Visakhapatnam to participate in Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India 'JIMEX 18'.
- Pakistan successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometres.
- On the occasion of 86th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch'. 'MedWatch' is the first mobile

health app in the three Armed Services and was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.

- Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries. The "Clear Sky 2018" war games are being held in western Ukraine.
- To promote Military cooperation, India and Japan are all set to hold the first-ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Mizoram, India.
- India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format. The next edition is scheduled to be held in December 2018 in Kalaikunda, West Bengal.
- A contingent of the Russian Army arrived in Pakistan to participate in joint training exercise 'Druzhba-III'.
- State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) won an additional \$777 million contract to supply LRSAM air and missile defence systems to seven ships in the Indian navy. The contract is with the Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), which is the main contractor in the project.
- ICGS Varuna, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched in Pipavav.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) biggest military manoeuvres since the Cold War began in Norway. Russia, which shares a border with Norway, was briefed by NATO on the Trident Juncture 2018 drill and invited to monitor it, but Moscow is still angered by the exercise.
- The 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force in Maharashtra's Nashik district handed over its first indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet to the IAF at a ceremony held at the Air Force Station Ojhar.

Ranks/ Indexes Released

- As per the Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops the chart for state with the maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM).
- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the "Swachh Campus rankings" under various categories. Cleanest 'Government University' is Maharashtra Dayanand University, Haryana. Cleanest Residential Campuses of 'Private Universities' is Symbiosis International University, Pune. The Cleanest Technical Institutions' is Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore.
- Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani emerged as the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of USD 47.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine. As per the 'Forbes India Rich List

2018', Wipro Chairman Azim Premji has retained the second spot.

- As per an international survey, India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018. Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking.
- Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018. Indian passport has secured the 81st rank with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations.
- UK-based charity 'Oxfam International's report named 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index released. India ranked 147th among 157 countries. Denmark topped the list.
- World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the World Development Report 2019. HCI has been constructed for 157 countries. Singapore topped the poll. India was ranked at the 115th.
- The 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicates that the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide falls into the serious category, at a value of 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000. As per the index, India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.
- World Economic Forum released the Global Competitiveness Report 2018. According to the report, India has jumped five spots to become the 58th most competitive economy on the Global Competitiveness Index 2018 (GCI 4.0). The United States ranked number one again with a score of 85.6.
- India secured ninth rank out of top 50 valuable national brands, as per the report titled 'Nation Brands 2018' released by Brand Finance. US topped the list.
- Engineering & construction major Larsen & Toubro is the only domestic firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the Forbes' global 2000 best employers list that is led by Google parent Alphabet.
- India will become the world's third largest aviation market around 2024 surpassing the UK, as per the International Air Transport Association (IATA). It projected total air passenger numbers to touch 8.2 billion in 2037. According to the IATA, China would displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market in the mid-2020s.
- Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, as per Asian Development Bank (ADB) report titled 'Asian Economic Integration Report 2018'.
- India installed 4.9 GW of solar power, consolidating its position as the second largest solar market in the world, during the first half of the calendar year 2018, according to a report by Mercom Communications India. As per the report, China topped the list.
- According to a report named QS Asia University Rankings 2019 by Quacquarelli Symonds, India

doubled their presence in the ranking. India has the third largest number of universities and institutes (75), after mainland China (112) and Japan (89). National University of Singapore has been assessed as Asia's best university. IIT-Bombay remains the highest ranked institution.

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Important Days

- United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day. The theme for World Habitat Day 1 October 2018 was Municipal Solid Waste Management.
- International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year. Theme was "Celebrating Older Human Rights champions".
- World Animal Day is celebrated at various parts of the world on 4th October to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.
- World Teachers' Day is celebrated globally on 5th October. The theme was "The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher".
- World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
- World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10 October every year. Theme is 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'.
- Since 2012, 11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl. The theme for

International Day of the Girl Child 2018 is 'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'.

- The International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed across the world on October 13 to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Theme was 'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'.
- International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15th October. This year's theme is "Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".
- Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated on 15th of October.
- World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October. Theme is "Our Actions Are Our Future".
- United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 each year since 1993. Theme was "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity".
- 2018 United Nations Day (24th October) Concert was held in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Soulful music from the strings of the sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan reverberated in the iconic Assembly hall. The theme of this year's concert, which is sponsored by Permanent Mission of India to UN, is "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence".
- The United Nations Day is celebrated on 24th of October every year. The Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.
- The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them. It is also observed on 24th October.
- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated all over the world on 27th of October. Theme was "Your Story is Moving".
- Vigilance Awareness Week will be observed across the country from 29th October to 3 November to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society. The theme is, 'Eradicate Corruption - Build A New India'.
- National Unity day (also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated every year on 31st of October by the people all through India. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who really unified the country.

Agreement Signed

- MoU between the Portuguese Environment Ministry and Goa Public Works Department (PWD) was signed. It will help Goa manage its water resources better.

- GOI & ADB signed \$240 million loan for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of the state of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.
- ADB & GOI signed a \$150 million Loan Agreement in New Delhi to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh, the First Multi-Skills Park in India, to enhance the quality of Technical and Vocational Education And Training (TVET) System in the State and create a more skilled workforce.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) to launch a month-long rafting expedition of a team of 40 members which will be led by the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest Ms. Bachendri Pal.
- GOI & ADB signed a \$110 million loan to finance the upgrade of 2,800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in the State of Madhya Pradesh under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY).
- To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, an MoU was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation.
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed an MoU with the UN Environment for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- MoU signed between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Transport of Russian Federation for development of cooperation in transport education.
- UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions."
- IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance.
- NITI Aayog and IBM announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

Awards & Recognition

- PM Modi was honoured with United Nations' highest environmental award- UNEP Champions of the Earth, along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi.
- PM Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.
- Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won the Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in the world to achieve this.
- North-eastern state Sikkim won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100% organic state. The Gold Prize of the Future Policy Award 2018 are also known as "Oscar for Best Policies".
- Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), was awarded the 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship at the grassroots and ensuring rural livelihood.
- Northern Irish author Anna Burns has won the 2018 Man Booker Prize for her novel 'Milkman', which is her third full-length novel.
- 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani by the well-known writer, journalist, and critic H M Pernal bagged the prestigious 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for the year 2018. H M Pernal is the pen name of Henry M Mendonca. Konkani poet Sharathchandra Shenoy from Kochi won the Vishwa Konkani best poetry award for his book 'Idam Na Mama,'.
- Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development.
- National Award winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famous as 'Khayyam', has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- Arshdeep Singh, a 10-year-old boy from Punjab, has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal will receive the prestigious Carnot Prize from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his work for rural electrification while he held the power and renewable energy portfolios.
- Minal Patel Davis won the US' Presidential Medal for her work against sex slavery and labor exploitation.
- PM Modi announced an annual award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces for commendable contributions in disaster relief operations. He announced this while dedicating the National Police Memorial to the nation in New Delhi on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day (21st October).
- The 'Invest India' initiative of the Union Government won the top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India. It was presented to Deepak Bagla, the CEO of Invest India.
- India's legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.
- PM Modi conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.
- Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 is being conferred on the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (For 2014); Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh, for 2015) and on one of India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar (for 2016).
- India has won the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award, 2018. The initiative entitled "Unnayan Banka"-Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District, State of Bihar awarded under the Category "Innovation Incubation". "Unified Agriculture Markets" of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has been awarded the overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards, 2018.
- Prof Ashis Mukherjee, a senior faculty member of the prestigious Tezpur University awarded the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018).
- Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners. Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize.
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence, received the prestigious 'Top Challengers Award 2018' for the excellent performance during the financial year 2017-18 and Best Seller in Crawler Equipment- Dozers and Rigid Dump Truck segment for mining sectors.
- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue - the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
- Prof. MS Swaminathan, chief architect of India's Green Revolution was awarded the World Agriculture Prize for 2018.

- Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa won the Miss Grand International 2018 title at the 6th edition of the beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar.
- World number one Simona Halep has become the first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy, named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.
- Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education. Harvard's Kennedy School stated that Yousafzai will be conferred with the 2018 Gleitsman Award at a ceremony on 6th December.

Summits/Events Held

- Kalahandi Dialogue, a global conclave on development launched by Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik. Using the platform, CM launched several projects for the district of Kalahandi. Sujeet Kumar was the Chairperson of Kalahandi Dialogue.
- PM Modi, inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi. It also marked the inauguration of the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, and the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo).
- National Khadi Festival 2018 is being organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote Khadi products.
- Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh.
- India Chem 2018, the 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference held in Mumbai. It is the largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India.

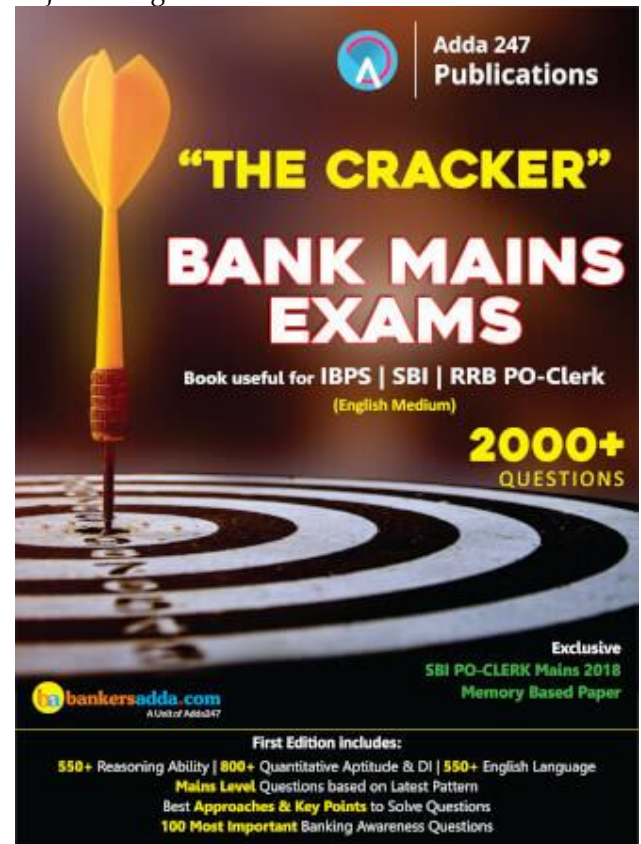
- The mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF-2018) concluded in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. IISF-2018 with its focal theme "Science for Transformation" had more than 23 special events in its 4th edition.
- The country's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 has concluded in New Delhi. The 164 winners were awarded by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Anant Kumar Hegde.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Uttarakhand Investors Summit in Dehradun.
- Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary led the Indian delegation to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)- EXIM Bank, Regional Conclave on India-West Africa Project Partnership being held in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda inaugurated '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030' in New Delhi.
- Goa International Film Festival that will be held in November 2018 will have Jharkhand as a partner state.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 13th Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta, inaugurated the 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair at India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida.
- Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution C. R. Chaudhary, attended the 6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM) in Singapore.
- Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, inaugurated the 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF) in New Delhi. Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta was also present on the occasion.
- The sixth meeting of the UAE - India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments ('the Joint Task Force') was held in Mumbai to review the progress being made in addressing the agreed actions of the previous meeting held in Abu Dhabi in January 2018 and to elaborate a number of new key issues of mutual importance.
- NITI Aayog organized the 4th edition of NITI Lecture Series at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. PM Modi attended the 4th edition of NITI Lecture series in which the keynote address was delivered by Jensen Huang, President and Co-Founder, NVIDIA Corporation.
- Uzbekistan Ambassador to India Farhod Arziev inaugurated the international dance festival titled "Udbhav Utsav" in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- 27th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) held in

Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.

- Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi with the theme 'Connecting Farmers to Market'.
- UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces TECH 2018, an international conference which aims to showcase the role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from "transmissive pedagogies" to "transformative pedagogies" to create peaceful and sustainable societies. It will be held at Novotel, Vizag City, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on the theme: 'Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy'.
- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan - 2018 in Delhi.
- J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the 'Second Plenary Session of '2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC) towards UHC & SDGs', at Astana, Kazakhstan.
- 5th edition of the 'Women of India National Organic Festival' was inaugurated by Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- 22nd National Level Meeting between India and Myanmar was held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rajiv Gauba, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
- The second edition of the Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF 2018) began in Assam. The theme of GIFF 2018 is: 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.
- 20th Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2018 was held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India has begun at Kaziranga in Assam.
- India Mobile Congress is one of the biggest marquee Mobile, Internet, and Technology event for South-East Asia organized by COAI and DoT. IMC 2018 was held in Aerocity, New Delhi.

fundamentals, govt. has constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review the Competition Act. It will be headed by Injeti Srinivas, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

- Govt. constituted a seven-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.
- Centre has reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority or the EPCA, which is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. Former secretary Bhure Lal continues to be the chairman.
- A parliamentary panel will examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears. The panel will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
- Union Government constituted a four-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine and strengthen the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace. It will be headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.



Committees

- In pursuance of its objective of ensuring that Legislation is in sync with the needs of strong economic

Visits

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived in New Delhi for a visit to India. He participated in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

at the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre, in New Delhi. He also attended the joint inaugural ceremony of the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance, 2nd RE-INVEST Conference and Energy Ministers Meet of Indian Ocean Rim Association of States member countries.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India. He will attend the 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi.
- Nirmala Sitharaman visited Astana, Kazakhstan at the invitation of Minister of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nurlan Yermekbayev. India and Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation includes military-technical cooperation, military education and training, joint military exercises, bilateral exchange of visits and cadet youth exchange programs.
- President Ram Nath Kovind reached Tajikistan on a three-day visit to Central Asian Country. He arrived in Dushanbe and was received by Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Zokirzoda Mahmud Toir.
- President Kovind had a meeting with his Tajikistan counterpart Mr. Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe. Both countries signed MoUs in fields including political relations, strategic research, agriculture, renewable energy, traditional medicine, space technology, youth affairs, Culture and Disaster Management. Indian grant of 20 million US dollars announced for Tajikistan to finance development projects.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited France. She has wide-ranging talks with her French counterpart Florence Parly on ways to deepen strategic cooperation between the two countries.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu commenced his visit to Belgium to attend the two-day 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Brussels, Belgium. The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium. Indian delegation was led by Mr Venkaiah Naidu. The theme of this year's ASEM Summit was "Global Partners for Global Challenges".
- PM Modi embarked on a three-day visit to Japan. During his stay, Mr Modi will attend the 13th India-Japan Annual summit with his counterpart Mr Shinzo Abe. This will be the fifth Annual Summit meeting between Mr Modi and Mr Abe and their 12th meeting overall.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj reached Doha, Qatar on the first leg of her 2-nation visit to West Asia.
- Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte arrived in New Delhi. During the visit, the Italian Prime Minister will

hold bilateral talks with PM Modi. Both leaders will also attend the India-Italy Technology Summit.

- VP Naidu embarked on his first Africa visit. In his weeklong visit, he will visit Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi where he is scheduled to interact with heads of state of the three nations, business fora and address Indian Community. On the 1st leg, he will reach Botswana's capital Gaborone to attend the Official opening of the 13th Annual Global Expo where 25 Indian companies are participating for the first time showcasing India's economic and Industrial prowess. On the 2nd leg, he will visit Zimbabwe and on the last leg, he will visit Malawi.

Science & Technology Current Affairs

- ISRO signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University. MoU was also signed between CUJ and the Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO) to create awareness about space research.
- European and Japanese space agencies stated that an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun. The unmanned BepiColombo spacecraft successfully separated and was sent into orbit from French Guiana to begin a seven-year journey to Mercury.
- Russia launched a Soyuz-2.1B rocket for the first time since the failure of a similar rocket aborted a manned take-off to the International Space Station (ISS).

Books & Authors

- Biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems and construction techniques titled 'Building a Legacy' is authored by Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram.

- A new book on Maharana Pratap named “Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior” authored by historian Rima Hooja has been released.
- Stephen Hawking’s final work “Brief Answers to the Big Questions” was launched.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and other adjoining areas in Maharashtra, finally gets a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- As many as 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA, adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region. These nations adopted the Delhi Declaration post the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Greater Noida. The Delhi Declaration calls for collaboration among IORA member states in meeting the growing demand for renewable energy in the Indian Ocean littorals.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will complete commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.
- Union Cabinet approved the merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space - National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) into the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.
- The country’s first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare released 12th edition of Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018. It was prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI).
- An emergency action plan has been implemented in the national capital to combat air pollution that has begun to show a trend towards poor category. Under the emergency plan called Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), stringent actions will be implemented based on the air quality of the city.
- After huge efforts for a year, now Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, Bihar has got official recognition as it receives the geographical indication (GI) tag. The sweet, pulpy and juicy Litchi of Bihar is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur.
- Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Located near Sudarshan

and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.

- Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. The Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country.

Obituaries

- Renowned harmonium player Pandit Tulsidas Borkar passed away in Mumbai. He was 84.
- Legendary Chicago blues guitarist Otis Rush, whose passionate, a jazz-influenced sound influenced generations of musicians, has died. He was 84.
- Well-known Malayalam poet M N Paloor passed away at the age of 86-year due to age-related ailments.
- Legendary musician Annapurna Devi has passed away in Mumbai. She was 91. She was suffering from age-related issues.
- Environmentalist G.D. Agarwal, who was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga, died after a heart attack in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
- Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft in 1975 passed away aged 65 after battling cancer. Allen was the childhood friend of Microsoft Co-Founder Bill Gates.
- Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, N D Tiwari, passed away after a prolonged stint of hospitalization in New Delhi.
- Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died.
- Former Delhi chief minister Madan Lal Khurana passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 82.
- Padma Shri Professor Qazi Abdussattar, a noted Urdu writer and former head of Aligarh Muslim University's Urdu department, passed away in Delhi following a protracted illness.

Countries | Capital | Currencies

- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka, Currency: Bangladeshi Taka.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem, Currency: Israeli New Shekel.
- Russia Capital: Moscow, Currency: Russian ruble.
- Ethiopia Capital: Addis Ababa, Currency: Ethiopian birr.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo, Currency: Japanese yen, PM: Shinzo Abe.
- The UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi, Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Currency: Sri Lankan rupee, President: Maithripala Sirisena.
- Qatar Capital: Doha, Currency: Qatari riyal.
- Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City, Currency: Kuwaiti dinar.
- Ireland Prime Minister: Leo Varadkar, Currency: Euro, Capital: Dublin.
- Brazil Capital: Brasília, Currency: Brazilian real.
- Italy Capital: Rome, Currency: Euro.
- Germany Capital: Berlin, Currency: Euro, Present Chancellor: Angela Merkel.
- Seychelles Capital: Victoria, Currency: Seychellois rupee.
- Botswana Capital: Gaborone, Currency: Botswana pula.
- Malawi Capital: Lilongwe, Currency: Malawian kwacha.
- Zimbabwe Capital: Harare, President: Emmerson Mnangagwa.
- Afghanistan Capital: Kabul, Currency: Afghan afghani.
- Iran Capital: Tehran, Currency: Iranian rial.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul, Currency: South Korean won.
- Portugal Capital: Lisbon, Currency: Euro.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa, Currency: Canadian dollar, PM: Justin Trudeau.
- Romania Capital: Bucharest, Currency: Romanian leu.
- Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent, Currency: Uzbekistani som.
- Iraq Capital- Baghdad, Currency- Iraqi dinar
- Kazakhstan Capital: Astana, Currency: Kazakhstani tenge.
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi, Currency: Vietnamese dong.
- Spain Capital: Madrid, Currency: Euro.
- Nigeria Capital: Abuja, Currency: Nigerian naira.
- Pakistan PM- Imran Khan, Currency- Pakistani Rupee
- Argentina Capital: Buenos Aires, Currency: Argentine peso.
- Ukraine Capital: Kiev, Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia
- France President: Emmanuel Macron, Capital: Paris, Currency: euro, CFP franc.
- Senegal Capital: Dakar, Currency: West African CFA franc.

- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur, Currency: Malaysian ringgit.
- Azerbaijan Capital: Baku, Currency: Azerbaijani manat.
- The capital of Dominican Republic: Santo Domingo, Currency: Dominican Peso.
- Tanzania Capital: Dodoma, Currency: Tanzanian shilling
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi, Currency: UAE Dirham.
- Belgium Capital: City of Brussels, Currency: Euro.
- Croatia Capital: Zagreb, President: Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Currency: Croatian kuna.
- China Capital: Beijing, President: Xi Jinping, Currency: Renminbi.

International Organizations/Companies in News

- IATA Headquarters: Montreal, Canada, Founded: 19 April 1945.
- NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- Asian Development Bank is a regional development Bank established in 1966. Headquarters of ADB is in Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.
- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN Headquarters in New York, United States. UN was established on 24th October 1945.
- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN Headquarters in New York, United States.
- Managing Director of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in- Washington DC, USA.
- Michael Møller is the 12th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UN Geneva).
- Google CEO-Sundar Pichai, Parent company- Alphabet Inc.
- UNICEF stands for United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF Headquarters in New York, USA.
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters in Italy, Rome.
- N. Chandrasekaran is the present Chairman of TCS.
- WHO was established on 7th April 1948. Headquarter of WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland. Tedros Adhanom is Director general of the World Health Organisation.

Financial Organizations in News

- IDFC Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.
- Urjit Patel- 24th Governor of RBI, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 1st April 1935, in Kolkata.

- Association of Mutual Funds of Indian (AMFI) Headquarters in Mumbai. A. Balasubramanian is the present Chairman of AMFI.
- Karur Vysya Bank Headquarters: Karur, Tamil Nadu, MD & CEO: PR Seshadri.
- SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai.
- Mohammad Mustafa is the present CMD of SIDBI. SIDBI Headquarters in Lucknow.
- ICICI Bank stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. Headquarters of ICICI Bank: Mumbai.
- NHB was set up on July 9, 1988, under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. Head Office of NHB is at New Delhi.
- Dakshita Das is the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of National Housing Bank.
- IDBI Bank was established in 1964. IDBI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.

States | CMs | Governors | Capital | Ministers | Static General Awareness

- Radha Mohan Singh is the present Agriculture Minister of India.
- CM of Andhra Pradesh: Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: E. S. L. Narasimhan.
- Dr Jitendra Singh also holds the office of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions as the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge).
- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar, Governor: Om Prakash Kohli.
- Arunachal Pradesh CM: Pema Khandu, Governor: Brigadier BD Mishra (Retd).
- Jagdish Mukhi is the Present Governor of Assam. Dispur is the Capital city of Assam.
- Arun Jaitley is the Present Minister of Corporate Affairs of India.

- Goa CM: Manohar Parrikar, Governor: Smt. Mridula Sinha.
- Assam CM- Sarbanand Sonowal, Governor- Jagdish Mukhi.
- Karnataka CM: H. D. Kumaraswamy, Governor: Vajubhai Vala.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh- Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Chief Minister of Telangana- Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh- Raman Singh
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan- Vasundhara Raje Scindia
- Chief Minister of Mizoram- Lal Thanhawla
- Sunil Arora is Election Commissioner of India.
- Ashok Lavasa is Election Commissioner of India.
- Om Prakash Rawat is Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- Dehradun is the capital of Uttarakhand. Trivendra Singh Rawat is Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Baby Rani Maurya is Governor of Uttarakhand.
- UP CM: Yogi Adityanath, Governor: Ram Naik.
- Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi, Chief Minister: Raghubar Das, Governor: Draupadi Murmu.

Other Static General Awareness Current Affairs

- IFFCO Stands for Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative. IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi, Chairman: Mr. B. S. Nakai.
- BCCI President: Vinod Rai, Headquarters in: Mumbai.
- Vinai Kumar Saxena is the present chairman of KVIC.
- CII President: Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Headquarters: New Delhi
- National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) was established in 1988. NASSCOM Chairman: Rishad Premji.
- KK Venugopal is the present Attorney General of India.
- Chairman of ISRO: Dr. K Sivan. Headquarters of ISRO- Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- NITI- National Institution for Transforming India. NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant.
- National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas/Chaudhary Charan Singh Jayanti)- 23rd December.