

The Most Important Current Affairs OCT-NOV-DEC 2018

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)

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."

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 Mujkva Solar Energy Cooperative Group created with the assistance of the National Dairy development Board.

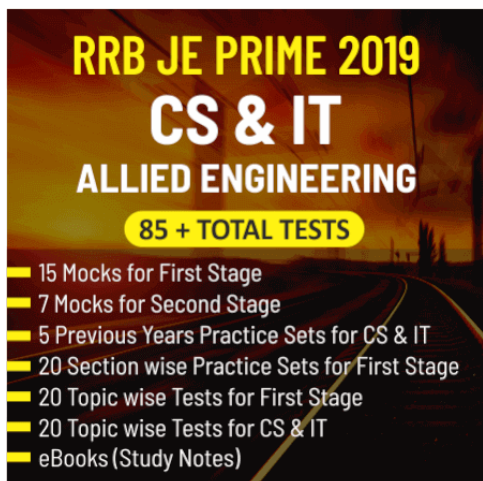
- PM inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot.
- PM inaugurated the Mundra LNG terminal, the Anjar-Mundra Pipeline Project & the Palanpur-Pali-Barmer pipeline project, at Anjar.

G-20 Summit Buenos Aires 2018: Complete Highlights

The G-20 Summit 2018 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. G-20 is a grouping of the world's 20 major economies. This year, the theme of the summit was 'Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the flagship programmes like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, MUDRA and Start-up India undertaken by Indian government to modernise the economy and promote inclusive growth at the opening session of the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires.

- (i) **PMJDY:** Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is a financial inclusion programme that aims at expanding and making affordable access to financial services to the last man in the row. Since its launch on August 15, 2014 till June 27, 2018, over 31 crore bank accounts were opened and over Rs. 7,92,00 crore were deposited under the scheme.
- (ii) **MUDRA:** It stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency, is a financial institution set up in 2016 for development and refinancing micro units enterprises. It provides funding to the non-corporate small business sector through various last mile financial institutions like banks, non banking financial companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).
- (iii) **Start-up India:** Launched in January 16, 2016, the Startup India is an initiative of the Indian government to promote startups, generate employment and create wealth.



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33rd ASEAN Summit held in Singapore

The 33rd edition of the ASEAN Summit held in Singapore. PM of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong is the Chairman of the Summit. PM Modi and IMF, Managing Director Christine Lagarde will also address the audience.

Note: ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations. | Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia.

Vice President's visit to 3 South African Countries | Complete Highlights

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited 3-South African nation visit to Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. He visited Botswana on first leg, Zimbabwe on second and on the third leg he visited Malawi.

3-day Visit to Botswana

Capital: Gaborone | **Currency:** Botswana pula | **President:** Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi

3-day Visit to Zimbabwe

Capital: Harare | **Currency:** US dollars, South African rand, Euro. | **President:** Mr. Emmerson Mnangagwa

2-day Visit to Malawi

Capital: Lilongwe | **Currency:** Malawian kwacha | **President:** Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika.

President Kovind 2-Nation Visit: Signed 4 MoUs With Vietnam

President of India Ram Nath Kovind was on 2 nation Visit to Vietnam and Australia. On first leg he visited Vietnam. India and Vietnam released a Joint Statement after extensive talks between Vietnam President Nguyen Phu Trong and Indian President Ram Nath Kovind. 4 MoU's were signed between the two nations.

List of Loan Agreements Signed With Asian Development Bank

India and ADB have signed 3 important loan agreements in various fields/projects in New Delhi.

- ✚ A \$300 million Loan Agreement to support lending by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).
- ✚ A \$169 million loan as the First Tranche of a \$500 million multi-tranche financing to develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- ✚ A \$105 million loan to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower to the state and the national grid.
- ✚ After visiting Vietnam, **President of India Ram Nath Kovind was in Australia** on his second leg of 2-Nation visit. He met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Sydney. He became the first Indian President to visit Australia.

- 5 MoUs were exchanged in the field of disability sector, education, trade-investment, scientific cooperation, agriculture and on higher education focussing on PhD by both the nations.
- He also unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Parramatta in Sydney. The President addressed the International Business Summit 2018 organized by Australian Financial Review on Australia-India economic engagement.

Australia Win Women's World Twenty20 Crown

- Australia clinched Women's World Twenty20 title as they attained an easy win over England in the final of the Women's World T20 tournament. This is Australia's 4th title win at Women's World T20 in 6 editions of the tournament.
- West Indies hosted the event. Player of the Match: Ashleigh Gardner. Player of the Tournament: Alyssa Healy.

ATP World Tour Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List Of Winners

- The big three of men's tennis - Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer - were all among the winners at the 2018 ATP World Tour Awards. Djokovic won the 'Comeback Player of the Year Award', voted by the ATP players, on the back of his glorious run during the second half of the season. The complete list of Winners of ATP World Tour Awards 2018:

	Award	Winner
1.	ATP World Tour No 1 (determined by ATP Rankings)	Novak Djokovic
2.	Comeback Player of the Year	Novak Djokovic
3.	ATP World Tour No. 1 Duables Team	Oliver Marach & Mate Pavic
4.	Most Improved Player of the Year	Stefanos Tsitsipas
5.	Newcomer of the Year	Alex de Minaur
6.	Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award	Rafael Nadal
7.	Arthur Ashe Humanitarian of the Year	Tommy Robredo
8.	ATP Coach of the Year	Marian Vajda (Novak Djokovic)
9.	ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favourite presented (Singles)	Roger Federer
10.	ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favourite presented (Doubles)	Mike Bryan & Jack Sock

BWF World Tour 2018 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

- BWF World Tour 2018 concluded in Guangzhou, China. It was the final tournament of the 2018 BWF World Tour. The complete list of winners of BWF World Tour 2018:

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Shi Yuqi (China)	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	P. V. Sindhu (India)	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen (China)	Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe (Japan)
Women's Doubles	Misaki Matsutomo & Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)	Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Wang Yiliu & Huang Dongping (China)	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)

Belgium Beat Netherlands to Win FIH Hockey World Cup 2018

In Hockey, Belgium claimed their first ever World Cup title. They defeated the Netherlands in a dramatic shoot-out in the final of the Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This is Belgium's first ever World Cup title.

Overview of the FIH Hockey World Cup 2018:

- Best Player- Arthur Van Doren of Belgium.
- Goalkeeper of the tournament- Primin Blaak of Netherland.
- Young player of the tournament- Thijs van Dam of Netherland.
- Top goalscorer- Blake Govers of Australia and Alexander Hendrickx of Belgium.
- Fair play award- Spain.

10 Monuments Adopted Under 'Adopt A Heritage' Project

- The 'Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan', scheme is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), to enhance tourism potential and cultural importance in a planned and phased manner. No fund is given by Ministry of Tourism.
- The list of monuments/sites identified and adopted by companies under the adopt a heritage scheme are:

Sl.	Agency/ Monument Mitras	Sl.	Name of Monument	State
1.	Dalmia Bharat Ltd.	1.	Red Fort	Delhi
		2.	Gandikota Fort	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Adventure Tour Operators Association of India	3.	Area surrounding Gangotri Temple and Trail to Gaumukh	Uttrakhand
		4.	Mt. Stok Kangri Trek, Lakakh	Jammu and Kashmir
3.	Apeejay Park Hotels	5.	Jantar Mantar	Delhi
4.	Bliss Inns (V-Resorts)	6.	Surajkund	Haryana
5.	Yatra Online	7.	Qutub Minar	Delhi
		8.	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
		9.	Leh Palace, Leh	Jammu & Kashmir
		10.	Hampi (Hazara Rama Temple)	Karnataka

Lokmat Parliamentary Awards Announced: Complete List of Winners

Eight parliamentarians were honoured by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu for their contribution in strengthening parliamentary democracy.

Complete list of winners of Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2018:

Category	Winner
Lifetime achievement award	Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar
	Murli Manohar Joshi
Best Parliamentarian Award	Ghulam Nabi Azad BJP MP Nishikant Dubey
Best debut woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha)	Hema Malini
Best woman parliamentarian	Lok Sabha MP Rama Devi
Best woman parliamentarian in the Rajya Sabha	DMK leader Kanimozhi
Best debut woman parliamentarian (Rajya Sabha)	Chhaya Verma

Asian Academy Creative Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List of Winners

Asian Academy Creative Awards (AAA's) have been established to serve the creative industries as the pinnacle of their achievement in content creation and media production. The award ceremony was held in Singapore.

List of winners of Asian Academy Creative Awards 2018

	Category	Show	Winner
Indian Winners			
1.	Best entertainment host/presenter	Bigg Boss	Salman Khan
2.	Best direction (fiction)	Netflix's original series Sacred Games	Anurag Kashyap
4.	Best comedy program	Queens Of Comedy	Discovery Communications India
Winners from Other Asian countries			
10.	Best actress	Critical Eleven	Adinia Wirasti of Indonesia
11.	Best Actor	The Hunter	Yu Hewei of China

Star Screen Awards 2018 Announced: List of Winners

Star Screen Awards 2018 were announced recently in Mumbai. The hosts of the night were Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal. Alia Bhatt won Best Actor for her performance in Raazi and Ranveer Singh was given best actor award for Padmaavat. The list of winners:

Category	Winners
Best Actor	Ranveer Singh for Padmaavat
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt for Raazi
Best Director	Sriram Raghavan for Andhadhun
Best Popular Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao
Best Film	Stree
Lifetime Achievement Award	Shabana Azmi
Best Music:	Amit Trivedi for Manmarziyaan

12.	Best Supporting Actor	Kenapa Harus Bule	Michael Kho of Indonesia
13.	Best Supporting Actress	Roseki	Candy Yang of Taiwan

Sahitya Academy Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List of Winners

- Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Awards for 2018 in 24 languages.
- Seven books of poetry, six novels, six short stories, three of literary criticism and two of essays have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards, 2018.

Complete list of winners of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018:

	Winner	Language
For Collection of Poetry		
1.	Sananta Tanti	Assamese
2.	Paresh Narendra Kamat	Konkani
3.	S Ramesan Nair	Malayalam
4.	Dr Rama Kant Shukla	Sanskrit
5.	Dr Mohanjit	Punjabi
6.	Dr Rajesh Kumar Vyas	Rajasthani
7.	Khiman U Mulani	Sindhi
For short stories		
8.	Sanjib Chattopadhyay	Bengali
9.	Mushtaq Ahmed Mushtaq	Kashmiri
10.	Prof Bina Thakur	Maithili
For Novel		
11.	Inderjeet Kesar	Dogri
12.	Anees Salim	English
13.	Chitra Mudgal	Hindi
14.	Shyam Besra	Santali
15.	S. Ramakrishnan	Tamil
16.	Rahman Abbas	Urdu
17.	Short-story writer, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, bagged the Award for his collection of short stories "AAKH".	

Note: Yogendra Nath Sharma awarded the Bhasha Salman for the North zone; G Venkatasubbiah for South zone; Gagendra Nath Das for the Eastern zone; and Shailaja Bapat for the Western zone.

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GST Council Cuts Rates on 23 items, Rationalises 28% Slab

- In a relief to the common man, the GST Council cut rates on 23 commonly used goods and services, including TV screens, movie tickets and power banks.
- Now, the 28 per cent slab is restricted to only luxury and sin goods, apart from auto parts and cement – tax rates on which could not be cut due to the high revenue implication.
- GST on movie tickets costing up to ₹ 100 was cut to 12 per cent from 18 per cent, while tickets over ₹ 100 will attract 18 per cent tax, against 28 per cent earlier. This will have a revenue implication of ₹ 900 crore.

India's Heaviest Satellite GSAT-11 Successfully Launched

- India's heaviest, largest and most powerful satellite GSAT-11 successfully launched by an Arianespace rocket from the French Guiana.
- The satellite will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country and also be a platform to demonstrate new generation applications.
- As per the ISRO Chairman K Sivan, GSAT-11 is going to be the richest space asset for India and it will provide something like 16 Gbps data link services to the country.

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Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot & Bhupesh Baghel Took Oath As New CMs: Complete Info

- Congress' Ashok Gehlot sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, while party leader Kamal Nath took oath as the CM of Madhya Pradesh, and Bhupesh Baghel as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

RBI Appoints Shaktikanta Das As New Governor

The government has appointed Shaktikanta Das as the new RBI governor, a day after Urjit Patel resigned as RBI Governor. He is the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. A former economic affairs secretary from 2015 to 2017, Das worked closely with the central bank. He is currently a member of the Finance Commission of India, and the government's representative at the Group of 20 summits.

India Announces \$1.4 billion Package for Maldives, Agreements Signed

- India announced a \$1.4 billion package for the Maldives to meet its immediate budgetary as well as some medium-term requirements.
- PM Modi announced the package that includes soft loans after talks with visiting Maldives President Ibrahim Solih in New Delhi.

NITI Aayog Releases 2nd Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts

- The NITI Aayog released the **Second Delta ranking for the Aspirational Districts** which measures the incremental progress made by them between June 1, 2018 and October 31, 2018, across six developmental areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure.
- The Second Delta Ranking was released by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- In the overall ranking, the **most improved districts** are as follows:

Rank	District	State
1	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu
2	Nuapada	Odisha
3	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh
4	Aurangabad	Bihar
5	Koraput	Odisha

The following districts as **Least Improved** over the period of June - October 2018:

Rank	District	State
107	Kiphire	Nagaland
108	Giridih	Jharkhand
109	Chatra	Jharkhand
110	Hailakandi	Assam
111	Pakur	Jharkhand

Economy Current Affairs

- 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.
- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile application and web-based platform for retail investors to buy government securities. The new app - NSE goBID, was launched by Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi.
- Government approved 100% stake sale in state-owned airline Air India's ground-handling company Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). AIATSL is Air India's only profitable subsidiary.
- Govt. will infuse INR 42,000 crores in the state-owned banks by March-end and the next tranche would be released as early as December 2018.
- RBI will soon introduce Rs 20 notes with additional features.
- Govt. will infuse an additional Rs 41,000 crores into cash-starved public sector banks (PSBs). The outlay will go up from Rs. 65,000 crores to Rs. 1,06,000 crores in the current financial year to propel economic growth, cementing India's position as the fastest growing economy of the world.
- Fitch Ratings revised downwards India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2% for current fiscal. In its Global Economic Outlook, It projected that for 2019-20 & 2020-21 financial years, India's GDP growth will be 7% & 7.1%.

- RBI shortlisted six major IT companies, including TCS, Wipro & IBM India, to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) for capturing details of all borrowers & wilful defaulters. The other three shortlisted vendors are: Capgemini Technology Services India, Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India, & Mindtree Ltd.

Business Current Affairs

- 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.
- 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.
- Fertiliser major IFFCO announced that it has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'World Cooperative Monitor' report 2018.
 - Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) rolled out- KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform. It can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.
 - Online fashion retailer Myntra will integrate its sister firm Jabong with itself and the integrated firm will continue to be led by Myntra CEO Ananth Narayanan. The two will, however, continue to operate as separate brands.
 - United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed a strategic partnership to support efforts eliminate hunger globally by 2030.
 - America's IBM has acquired software company Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date.
 - 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.
 - MoU for collaboration in LPG services was signed between Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL & BPCL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.

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.
- Govt. launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages. The initiative, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, was active for the period between 22nd November - 21st December. It is programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages.
- 8 more States have achieved hundred percent household electrification under "Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana- Saubhagya". The states are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana, and West Bengal. 15 States now have 100 percent household electrification, as per Power Minister RK Singh.
- Ms. Preeti Sudan, Union Health Secretary did soft-launch of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states. It will provide near-real-time data to policymakers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.
- Andhra Pradesh launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers. "Bhudaar" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.
- Himachal Pradesh government in the cabinet meeting accorded its approval to implement Sashakt Mahila Yojna in the state with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organization and socio-economic development. It not only envisages to link rural women with sustainable livelihood opportunities but also to improve their skill by imparting training.
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state. Farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' which offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits. Under this free pilgrimage scheme, a Delhi resident above 60 years will be eligible to take free pilgrimage along with his or her spouse.
- Centre included Gangotri & Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh & Parasnath in Jharkhand under a central scheme to develop pilgrimage & heritage destinations in the country. With the new additions, the number of sites under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation & Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) become 41 in 25 states.
- Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik launched the ambitious "Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)" scheme which would benefit over 31 lakh residents in the state. He distributed golden cards among 10 eligible beneficiaries for availing the annual health cover facility, marking the launch of the scheme in the state.

National Current Affairs

- Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met PM Modi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
- 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.
- 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.
- India and China signed a protocol on hygiene and inspection requirements for the exports.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 100% strategic disinvestment of the government's equity in the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. Presently, the government of India holds 73.44% shares in Dredging Corporation of India Limited.
- Union Cabinet gave its approval to Amendment to the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- Govt. decided to set up a domestic Gold Council in India. Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu stated this while inaugurating the 2nd Edition of India Gold and Jewellery Summit in New Delhi.
- PM Modi laid the Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Projects in 65 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 129 Districts under the 9th CGD Bidding Round awarded by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), remotely from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- India & Russia sealed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy, sending a clear signal of continuing with high-level defence collaborations notwithstanding the US warnings of sanctions.
- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Institution's Innovation Council through video conferencing in New Delhi. The purpose is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.
- PM Modi inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar section of the Western Peripheral Expressway. He also inaugurated the 3.2-kilometer long Escorts Mujesar-Ballabgarh corridor of the Delhi Metro. He also laid the foundation stone for Vishwakarma Kaushal Vishwa Vidyalaya.
- Winter session of Lok Sabha will commence on 11th of December. Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement said that the Session will conclude on 8th January next year.
- India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 105 million dollar loan agreement to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower.
- Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed in New Delhi a \$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.
- India's first specialized hospital for elephants has been opened by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar at Farah block's Churmura village, Mathura.

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- 20 Section wise Practice Sets for First Stage
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- 20 Topic wise Tests for Electrical
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- Cabinet approved leasing out six airports, namely Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for operation, management, and development under Public Private Partnership.
- Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) signed an agreement with US-based Research Institute for Fragrant Materials (RIFM) for improving the quality of fragrant oils.
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation several projects including two National Highways and an Inland Waterways Terminal on River Ganga at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The total cost of these projects is 2413 crore rupees. He inaugurated an Inland Multi-Modal Terminal Port constructed at the cost of 207 crore rupees on river Ganga at Ramnagar in Varanasi.
- Government has set up a state-of-the-art National Data Repository.
- As part of the European Union (EU) project 'International Urban Cooperation', Kochi Corporation and Vilnius, Lithuania, have signed an MoU.
- 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).
- 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.
- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda". Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
- PM Modi launched a historic support and outreach programme for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. Rs 1 cr loan in 59 minutes loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs. Mandatory 25% procurement from MSMEs by CPSEs.
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated Delhi's Signature Bridge, the first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge in India.
- India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union-ITU Council for another four-year term from 2019 to 2022.
- Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalized farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
- VP Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Dera Baba Nanak Kartarpur Sahib corridor for Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. The ceremony was held at village Mann of district Gurdaspur near Indo Pak border.

- The High-Level Committee (HLC) chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh approved additional assistance of Rs 1,146.12 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Tamil Nadu, which was affected by cyclone 'Gaja'.
- PM Modi unfurled 150-foot tall tricolor to mark Netaji's hoisting of the national flag 75 years ago in Port Blair. The three renamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar are: Ross renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep | Neil renamed as Shaheed Dweep | Havelock renamed as Swaraj Dweep.
- Union government declared the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), a banned organization. Home Ministry order stated the decision was taken under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.
- Union Cabinet approved the Gaganyaan project under which a three-member crew will be sent to space for at least seven days. The project will cost INR 10,000 crores. PM stated that the mission will be undertaken by 2022.
- PM Modi announced Rs. 4,500 crore financial assistance to Bhutan for its 12th five-year plan after holding wide-ranging talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering.
- PM Modi inaugurated the Bogibeel bridge in Assam. The 4.94-kilometer long Bogibeel bridge on Brahmaputra river will connect the two northeast states of Assam & Arunachal Pradesh.

Important Facts about the Bogibeel bridge:

1. The 4.9 km-long Bogibeel Bridge on the Brahmaputra river is India's only fully welded bridge for which European codes & welding standards were adhered to for the first time in the country.
 2. The bridge is constructed at an estimated cost of 5,800 crore rupees.
 3. The bridge has a two-line railway track on the lower deck & a three-lane road on the top deck.
 4. For the first time in Indian Railways, the girder has steel floor system for railway tracks & concrete for road.
 5. The bridge reduces travel time from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh to four hours & will cut out the detour of over 170 km via Tinsukia.
- National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), India's national accreditation body, secured equivalence for its accreditation programme for Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) Certification Bodies in Asia-Pacific region. It has signed the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC).
 - The 20-year old Indian woman Vedangi Kulkarni becomes the fastest Asian to cycle the globe. She had completed 29,000 kilometres' distance required to qualify as bicycling across the globe.

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change launched the “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” to protect & conserve the population of Asiatic Lion & its associated ecosystem.
- Lok Sabha passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 that seeks to replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Bill enforces consumer rights & provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding deficiencies in goods & services. It seeks to establish Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions at District, State & National levels.
- India’s largest cancer institute, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has been soft launched at Haryana’s Jhajjar area. The institute was finalised at a cost of Rs 2,035 crores.
- Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 which is aimed at prohibiting commercial surrogacy & unethical practices relating to it. The Bill has provisions to constitute National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards, & appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of surrogacy. It permits surrogacy only for couples who cannot conceive a child. The intending couple must be Indian citizens & married for at least five years with at least one of them being infertile.
- NITI Aayog unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India titled ‘Strategy for New India @75’, which defines clear objectives for 2022-23. The document was released by FM Arun Jaitley. The Strategy Document advocates empowering & encouraging women to participate across all sectors of the economy, to build a strong & inclusive New India.
- India’ first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) opened at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad. It is built by the Adani Group & Israel-based Elbit Systems.
- Ministry of Power launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R).
- To give a fillip to the medical device sector, which is a sunrise sector, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, announced setting up of a National Medical Devices Promotion Council under the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Council will be headed by Secretary, DIPP. Note: 4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices, at Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone, in Vishakhapatnam.
- Delhi High Court ordered a ban on the sale of online medicines by e-pharmacists across the country.
- India’s first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence established by the European Union was inaugurated at the Department of European Studies (DES) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal by Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India & Bhutan, Tomasz Kozlowski.

- In a bid to make retirement income scheme more attractive for central government employees, govt. agreed to chip in a higher 14% of the basic salary of an individual as its contribution to the National Pension System (NPS). Currently, the minimum employee contribution in NPS is 10% of basic pay.
- Government sanctioned 254 projects worth over 24 thousand crore rupees under National Mission for Clean Ganga. Announcement was made at the India Water Impact Summit 2018 in New Delhi.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be the Chief Guest at the 2019 Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.

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%.
- Himachal Pradesh has become first Indian state to launch a single emergency number "112". This will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in the state. Under this project, an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in Shimla along with 12 district command centres (DCCs), covering the entire state.
- Uttarakhand govt. decided to rename Dehradun airport i.e. Jolly Grant airport after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- United Nations selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative. The twin-cities in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, adjoining the national capital, have been selected in the "University City" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- Jharkhand Day is being celebrated at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Jharkhand is the focus state at this year's IFFI.
- Governor of Tripura Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki inaugurated the 7th International Tourism Mart for the North-East States in the presence of Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism K.J Alphons and CM of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb in Agartala, Tripura.
- West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal, ending an era of uncertain future for the people residing in those enclaves.
- Kerala state government signed an MoU with Airbus BizLab to open a state-of-the-art innovation center. This center will be the nodal body for planning and executing all the activities to help start-ups.
- Andhra Pradesh is building a world-class and India's first 'Justice City' within its new capital Amaravati with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem built on latest technology for supporting the judicial system in the state.
- Odisha government announced a new Biotechnology Policy 2018 to attract investments in the sector at the concluding day of the Make in Odisha Conclave, held in Bhubaneswar.
- Meghalaya Government announced Rs378 crore investment in the second phase of the State's flagship aquaculture mission aimed at cutting down fish imports into the hill State.
- Tamil Nadu received the nod from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.
- Uttar Pradesh government has approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched the 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools' for students in rural areas.
- 'Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana' launched in Uttarakhand. Under the scheme, each household in the state will be able to avail medical treatment of up to 5 lakh rupees annually. The scheme will benefit 23 lakh households & cover 1,350 critical diseases. CM Trivendra Singh Rawat stated that all the households have been included under the scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh State government has declared Kuno wildlife sanctuary as a national park.
- The separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh will start functioning from January 1. Ministry of Law & Justice notified the constitution of the High Court in Amaravati. Andhra Pradesh High Court will be the 25th High Court in the country.
- In Assam, the third Dwijing Festival held on the bank of Aye river at Chirang district.

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 19th Hornbill Festival in Nagaland on 55th Nagaland Statehood Day.
- In a move to reinforce brand Naveen & give it a national perspective after the success of the Hockey Men's World Cup, Odisha Government launched an initiative, Peoples Empowerment - Enabling Transparency & Accountability of Odisha Initiatives (PEETHA). The Scheme is aimed at creating awareness about various schemes & improving transparency in the distribution of individual & social benefits. This is part of the 3T initiative of Technology, Transparency & Team Work model.
- Maharashtra State government launched an ambitious project State of Maharashtra Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) in 10,000 villages with an objective to achieve sustainable farming within the next three years. The project SMART will be assisted by the World Bank.
- Kannur international Airport-KIAL in Kerala began its operations.
- Jammu & Kashmir has become the first state in the country to enact a law banning sexual exploitation of women "by those in positions of authority, having a fiduciary relationship or a public servant", Under Section 354E of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).
- Assam government announced three schemes for the welfare of farmers. The schemes are the Assam Farmers' Credit Subsidy Scheme (AFCSS), Assam Farmers' Interest Relief Scheme (AFIRS) & Assam Farmers' Incentive Scheme (AFIS). State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that all three schemes will cover five lakh farmers in the first phase. **Under AFCSS**, whatever amount of loan the farmers took from banks & whatever amount they repaid, 25% of the money will be reimbursed by the state government. **On AFIRS**, the Minister Stated that currently 3% of the 7% interest against farm loan is paid by the Central government & the remaining 4% is required to be paid by farmers. State govt. decided to pay the remaining 4% loan. **About AFIS**, the government is focusing on bringing back the defaulting farmers into the banking system.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announced a Rs. 10,000 crore scheme for the overall development of farmers. Named Krushak Assistance for Livelihood & Income Augmentation (KALIA), the scheme will provide farmers with Rs. 10,000 a year at the rate of Rs. 5,000 each for Kharif & Rabi season. Additionally, crop loans of up to Rs. 50,000 will be interest-free under the scheme.
- Manipur Assembly passed a bill which recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence if it results in the death of a person.

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.

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- 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.
- Arvind Saxena has been appointed as the new Chairman of Union Public Service Commission. UPSC is the institution responsible for conducting examination for selection bureaucrats, diplomats and police officers. Saxena will be serving in the office till August 7, 2020, when he attains the age of 65 years.
- LG Electronics has announced that it has appointed Brian Kwon as the new president. He is replacing Hwang Jeong-hwan after one year.
- WhatsApp's Chief Business Officer Neeraj Arora resigned from the post after 7-years in the company.
- Sunil Arora appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India. He succeeds Om Prakash Rawat.
- Hospitality startup OYO appointed Max Healthcare Executive Director Rohit Kapoor as the CEO of its new real estate business.
- Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights. It engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as agents of change in society.
- Facebook Inc.-owned messaging service WhatsApp on it has appointed Abhijit Bose as head of WhatsApp India, the local entity that is expected to begin operations next year amid calls to check the spread of fake messages.
- Tanzanian national Joyce Msuya was appointed as acting Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) following the resignation of the executive director Erik Solheim.
- South Korea's Kim Jong-yang has been elected as Interpol's next president, edging out a longtime veteran of Russia's security services, Alexander Prokopchuk.
- United Nations children's agency UNICEF appointed Millie Bobby Brown, the star of hit Netflix series "Stranger Things", as its youngest ever goodwill ambassador on Tuesday and the 14-year-old had a message for world leaders: "Listen to us."
- Voreqe Bainimarama has Sworn in as Fiji's Prime Minister for four more years after winning an election with a reduced majority.
- UN's environment chief, Erik Solheim, has resigned following severe criticism of his global travels and internal rule-breaking which led some nations to withhold their funding.
- R. Chandrashekhkar, an independent director at Yes Bank Ltd resigned saying he was concerned about recent events at the company.
- Jalaj Srivastava, a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new revenue secretary. He will succeed current Finance and Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia.

- Oracle's ex-product chief Thomas Kurian will head Google's cloud division. He will replace Diane Greene.
- United Nations Children's Fund-India (UNICEF) appointed Asian Games gold-medalist sprinter Hima Das as India's first ever Youth Ambassador.
- The ACC has approved the appointment of S. S. Deswal, IPS as Director General, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He took charge from R K Pachnanda. Also holds the additional charge of the post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Former IAS Officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Gupta has replaced Sudhir Mittal.
- Co-founder Binny Bansal has resigned as CEO of Flipkart Group. This was announced by Walmart, the new owner of the e-commerce company.
- After the demise of Union Minister Ananth Kumar, Union Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has got the additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Narendra Singh Tomar was assigned the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced a new addition to its team, with Siddharth Tiwari joining as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific. He succeeds Eli Remolona.
- Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Mishra was appointed as the new Enforcement Directorate Director (ED) in an additional capacity for three months. He has replaced Karnal Singh.
- 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.
- HDFC Bank had announced that the RBI had approved the re-appointment of Aditya Puri as MD and CEO of the bank for another two years.
- Olympic bronze medalist and five-time World Champion, MC Mary Kom has been named as the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Championship in New Delhi.
- Atul Kumar Goel assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (UCO) of UCO Bank.
- Uzbekistan's businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) despite fears that his appointment could lead to the sport's ejection from the Olympic Games.
- Government has appointed Sudhir Bhargava as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), along with four information commissioners.
- Dronacharya awardee C A Kuttappa has taken over as India's chief boxing coach at the ongoing national camp. He took over from veteran coach SR Singh.
- P V Bharathi has been appointed as managing director & chief executive officer of the Corporation Bank. She will replace Jai Kumar Garg.
- BVP Rao has been elected as the president of the Archery Association of India in the polls held under a High Court-appointed administrator.
- US President Donald Trump announced that he would replace Defence Secretary Jim Mattis with his deputy Patrick Shanahan as acting Pentagon chief. Shanahan to assume charge of Acting Secretary of Defence from 1 January.
- W V Raman has been appointed the new coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) appointed Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the new Ambassador of India to the United States of America. He would be succeeding Navtej Singh Sarna.
- Senior bureaucrat Pranab Kumar Das has been appointed as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes. He will succeed S Ramesh.
- CBI's Joint Director M Nageswara Rao, who is currently the interim CBI Director, was promoted to the rank of Additional Director by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel has resigned amid pressure on his government over his support for the UN global compact on migration. The pressure increased after his biggest coalition partner, the right-wing N-VA party, quit the government over the issue.
- Star India's Chairman & CEO Uday Shankar has been elected Vice President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2018-19.
- Central government has appointed advocate Madhavi Divan as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) to represent it in the Supreme Court. Divan is the third woman to be appointed as ASG in the top court.
- Government appointed Ramphal Pawar as the new Director of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB).
- Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Prime minister of Sri Lanka by President Maithripala Sirisena thus bringing an end to the weeks-long political crisis in the country. Mr. Wickremesinghe was removed as Prime minister in October & was replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa who resigned after failing to garner a majority in Parliament.
- Ashok Kumar Singh, Lok Sabha Secretariat Service, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat has assumed charge as Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).
- Producer-director Brijendra Pal Singh was appointed as the new president of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) & chairman of the institute's governing council. He succeeds Anupam Kher.

- CAG announced that Comptroller & Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi has become the Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of Auditors.
- In Mizoram, the new government of Mizo National Front (MNF), headed by Mr. Zoramthanga sworned & he becomes the CM.
- Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Chief K Chandrasekhar Rao was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Telangana, for the second time.
- Flipkart-owned Myntra's CEO Ananth Narayanan has resigned from his role with his position set to be abolished. Flipkart's Amar Nagaram has been given the responsibility to head Myntra.
- Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) Chief Upendra Kushwaha resigned as Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Atul Sahai has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the country's largest general insurance company New India Assurance.
- US President Donald Trump nominated State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert as the US Ambassador to the United Nations. Nauert will replace Nikki Haley.
- Government appointed Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian as the new Chief Economic Advisor. Dr. Subramanian will have a tenure of three years.
- A former senior Indian diplomat, Preeti Saran, has been elected unopposed to an Asia Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (CESCR). Saran was elected to the CESCR for a four-year term beginning on the 1st of January 2019.
- Leading Investment Bank Axis Capital announced that its MD & CEO Dharmesh Mehta has stepped down. The bank has elevated Salil Pitale & Chirag Negandhi as Joint Managing Directors & Co-Chief Executive Officer.
- State Bank of India has roped in Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for its digital app YONO.
- The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) announced the appointment of Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO.
- Private sector lender Yes Bank Ltd appointed former IRDAI chief T.S. Vijayan as an additional director (Independent) for five years with immediate effect.
- Pawan Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of seven member's of the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
- Ajay Narayan Jha, the Secretary of Department of Expenditure, appointed as new Finance Secretary to succeed Hasmukh Adhia..
- NATHEALTH announced the appointment of Siddhartha Bhattacharya as Secretary-General.
- State-owned Bank of Maharashtra announced that AS Rajeev has joined the lender as its managing director & chief executive officer.

- Leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been sworn in as the new Mexican President following his landslide victory in the July 2018 presidential election.
- Raninder Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation. The 51-year-old Raninder also heads the National Rifle Association of India.

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 cricketer 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.

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- In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.
- India's 13-year-old shooter Esha Singh won the Women's, Youth Women's and Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol competitions at the National Shooting Championship at Thiruvananthapuram. She beat Manu Bhaker and Heena Sidhu to win three gold medals in women's air pistol events at the 62nd National Shooting Championships.
- 19th edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in Monaco on February 2019. Considered the 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports Awards celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.
- Odisha is hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup 2018. It took place at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. India is hosting the FIH Hockey World Cup for the third time.
- Sameer Verma won the Syed Modi International Badminton Championships, men's singles final against China's Guangzu Lu, to retain the title. Former champion Saina Nehwal lost to Han Yue of China in women's singles summit clash and won silver.
- Australia clinched Women's World Twenty20 title as they attained an easy win over England in the final of the Women's World T20 tournament. This is Australia's 4th title win at Women's World T20 in 6 editions of the tournament.
- MC Mary Kom created history by becoming the first woman to win six boxing world titles by clinching the 48 kg gold at the 2018 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi. She defeated Ukrainian Hanna Okhota. Mary overtakes Ireland's Katie Taylor as the first female boxer to win six gold medals.
- Former Chelsea striker Didier Drogba announced his retirement, calling time on a 20-year career in which the bullish center-forward won four Premier League titles and the 2012 Champions League.
- Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy.
- Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) won the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament beating Amini School, Afghanistan by a solitary goal at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.
- India's top junior shuttler Lakshya Sen (17 years old) won bronze medal at Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018 held at Markham, Canada.
- Alexander Zverev has won ATP World Tour finals in London. Alexander Zverev defeated world number one Novak Djokovic in straight sets to claim the season-ending ATP Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career. Zverev also became the first player to beat both Djokovic and Federer in the same ATP Finals.
- Former Australia all-rounder John Hastings has retired from all cricket, citing the risks posed by a bleeding lung condition.
- Nineteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won the second leg of the Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China. He became the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.
- Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was announced as an official partner of the men's hockey World Cup 2018 to be staged at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- Senior Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali announced his retirement from limited overs cricket in order to concentrate fully on Test cricket.
- In Badminton, Subhankar Dey has won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany. In the summit clash, the unseeded Indian defeated fifth-placed Rajiv Ouseph of Britain, in straight games, in what was the first encounter between the two shuttlers.
- Simone Biles made history by picking up her record 13th career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships in Doha, Qatar. Simone Biles became the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals.
- Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia touched a new high in his career by achieving the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category.
- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the Brazilian Grand Prix after Red Bull's Max Verstappen lost the lead in a collision with backmarker Esteban Ocon (Force India).
- India's stylish opener Smriti Mandhana named as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Cricketer of the Year. She is also named as the ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year. The Other Awards Conferred are:
- Smriti Mandhana has won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.
- Australia's wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy voted ICC T20I Player of the Year.
- England's Sophie Ecclestone named ICC Emerging Player of the Year.
- The third edition of women's national boxing championships begins in Vijayanagara, Karnataka.
- Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting was formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- Spain's Real Madrid won the Club World Cup for a third consecutive year, & record fourth in total, by beating Abu Dhabi side Al Ain in the final.
- Renowned Kabaddi Player, Anup Kumar announced his retirement from Kabaddi ending a 15-year iconic career.
- 37th Senior National Rowing Championship held in the Army Rowing Node in Pune. Around 500 rowers & coaches from various rowing associations across the country are taking part in the Championship.

- PV Sindhu made history, becoming the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals tournament. Sindhu defeated Nozomi Okuhara in the title clash.
- Cricket Australia (CA) & the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) announced to rebrand its Allan Border Medal to Australian Cricket Awards from 2019 onwards.
- Steel Authority of India's Hockey Academy beat Army XI Danapur to clinch the 115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament held at Major Dhyan Chand hockey stadium in Pune.
- Khelo India Youth Games-2019 will be held in Pune of Maharashtra in January. Under Khelo India programme, the government is providing scholarships to 1500 students from across the country.
- Team Italy won the Admiral's Cup 2018. The ninth edition of 'Admirals Cup' Sailing Regatta (2018) concluded with a glittering closing ceremony at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala. Team Singapore was the Runners-Up.
- Kenyan distance runner Eliud Kipchoge & Colombian long & triple jumper Caterine Ibarguen named male & female world athletes of the year. The pair were honoured by the IAAF (The International Association of Athletics Federations) at a ceremony in Monaco.
- Gautam Gambhir has announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. The 37-year-old announced his retirement on social media.
- Ullas Narayan became the first ever Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra-running event by clinching a bronze in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei. Narayan bagged the third position.
- Indian star wrestlers Vinesh Phogat & Sakshi Malik successfully emerged champions in the 57 kg & 62 kg title respectively in the Tata Motors Senior Women's National Championship.
- 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 community.
- 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.

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 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.
- European Commission is the first major economy to set its sight on achieving climate neutrality by 2050.
- Ukraine's parliament imposed martial law in the country to fight what its president called "growing aggression" from Moscow after a weekend naval confrontation off the disputed Crimean Peninsula in which Russia fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels amid renewed tensions between the neighbors.
- Nepal government launched a Social Security Scheme for formal sector workers of the country. People of all ages and categories would be included in the scheme. The scheme is contribution based and it will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, accident, and physical incapacity security, security to dependent family members and security at old age.
- Embassy of India in Nepal & Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized an exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018 in Bhaktapur near Kathmandu, Nepal. Ambassador of India to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri will be the Guest of Honour.
- Maldives cabinet approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping. The announcement was made by New President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa. Known as the LGV, it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of up to 320 kph (199 mph) instead of almost 5 hours on a regular train.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu was on a three-day visit to France. He inaugurated Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain. Earlier the Vice President attended the Indian community reception in Paris.
- Palau has become the first country to ban reef toxic sunscreen by 2020 in an attempt to protect its coral reefs after the president of the country signed a bill into law.
- The 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting was held in Singapore as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summit Meetings.
- PM Modi addressed the world's largest financial technology festival Fintech in Singapore.
- 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.
- 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.
- Republic of Seychelles launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.
- During the visit of VP Naidu, India has agreed for the deputation of experts in five fields to assist Zimbabwe. Around 6 agreements in various fields were signed in areas including Mining, Visa waiver, Broadcasting and Culture.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's alliance won Bangladesh's election with a thumping majority, the country's Election Commission announced. It gave her a third straight term. The alliance dominated by her Awami League, won 287 of the 298 seats.
- Pakistan's cabinet approved the issuance of first-ever renminbi-denominated 'Panda Bonds' to raise loans from China's capital markets, as the country moved a step forward to give the Chinese currency status at par with the US dollar.
- A 33-year-old man Colin O'Brady from the United States has become the first person to complete a solo trek across Antarctica without any assistance. He finished the 1,500km journey across the frozen continent in 54 days.
- Nepal imposed a monthly limit on the amount of Indian currency its citizen can spend in India. A spokesperson of the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) stated that a Nepali citizen would be unable to spend more than INR 1 lakh per month.
- Turkmenistan launched its first messaging app BizBarde. It will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos & videos.
- In a landmark policy shift, Japan formally announced that it would withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) & resume commercial whaling in its territorial waters next year for the first time in more than 30 years.
- Indian firm India Ports Global Limited formally took over the operations of Chabahar's Shaheed Behesti port in Iran, which opens a trade route between India & central Asia bypassing Pakistan.

- Burundi declared the small central city of Gitega the country's new political capital, in line with a presidential promise, made a decade ago.
- UN General Assembly adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly & Regular Migration, the first-ever negotiated global framework on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions.
- U.N. General Assembly voted nearly unanimously to adopt a framework to strengthen the international response to the global refugee crisis. The United States & Hungary were the only two nations that voted against the Global Compact on Refugees, while 181 countries voted in favor.
- UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan declared 2019 as the Year of Tolerance, an extension of the Year of Zayed which has run this year.
- Akademik Lomonosov, the world's first "floating" nuclear power plant (FNPP) for installation in remote areas, has been started & brought to 10% of its capacity, Russian state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom announced.
- Israel became a full member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international body set up to combat money laundering, terrorist financing & other threats to the international financial system.
- The second-largest Ebola outbreak in history has spread to a major city in eastern Congo.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has launched a new framework, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to combat the scourge of international terrorism & coordinate efforts across the peace & security, humanitarian, human rights & sustainable development sectors. It will replace the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.
- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a credit facility of USD 500 million to Tanzania for water supply projects in the country.
- Luxembourg is set to become the first country in the world to make all public transport free, implementing the move in 2020.

- Qatar has announced its decision to leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019 & focus more on the production of natural gas.
- World Bank unveiled 200 billion US Dollars in climate action investment for 2021 to 2025, adding that this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding. The move coincides with a UN climate summit in Katowice.
- Australia has become the first country in the world to recognise 'orphanage trafficking' as a form of modern slavery.

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.

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- 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.
- Naval exercise between India and the United Kingdom, KONKAN held in Goa this year. Both Navies have, over the years, undertaken bilateral activities such as training exchanges and technical cooperation.
- Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti', in New Delhi. It showcased salient inventions and innovations achieved by DRDO, Defence PSUs & Ordnance Factories (OFs) which resulted in the successful filing of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) applications. Department of Defence Production instituted a new framework titled 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' which aims to provide a boost to the IPR culture in the indigenous defence industry.
- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Indian Navy is on a visit to Russia. It aims to consolidate bilateral defence relations with Russia, as also to explore new avenues for defence cooperation.
- Joint military exercise between India and the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur.
- Saudi Arabia & United Arab Emirates, which lead a military coalition against the Huthi rebels in Yemen, announced USD 500 million in aid to the country on the brink of famine. Saudi Arabia and the UAE will each give USD 250 million in response to the food crisis to support more than 10 million people.
- The joint military exercise between India and Russia EXERCISE INDRA 2018 on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) conducted at Babina Military Station in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Air forces of the United States and India are set to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in West Bengal. The exercise will be held from December 3 to 14, at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh).
- The militaries of China and India, set to hold a joint 14-day drill 'Hand in Hand' in southwest China's Chengdu city to improve their capabilities in fighting terrorism and promote mutual understanding.
- Indian Army inducted new artillery guns and equipment, including K9 Vajra and M777 howitzers, at Deolali artillery centre in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- India and Singapore have started the 25th edition of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- The inaugural edition of Indian Navy -Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' began at Surabaya, Indonesia.
- India has signed a \$950 million contract with Russia for two upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates
- Armies of India and Japan began their first-ever joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian- 2018' at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation.
- INS Arihant, India's first nuclear ballistic missile submarine, has completed its first "deterrence patrol".
- The opening ceremony for the 7th Sino-India joint exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018, was held at Chengdu, China. Company size contingents of 11 SIKHLI from Indian Army & a regiment from Tibetan Military District of People's Liberation Army participated in the exercise.
- Indian Coast Guard conducted the Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled 'Clean Sea - 2018' at sea off Port Blair.
- Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) held a bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 with Indian Air Force at A F Station Agra. The theme is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.
- The indigenously built Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-5 test-fired successfully from Abdul Kalam island under Chandipur Interim Test Range. It can carry both nuclear & traditional weapons. Having 17 meters length & 2 meters diameter the missile can hit the target from a distance of 5 thousand kilometers.
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded approval for the acquisition of defence equipment worth nearly Rs. 3000 crore which includes BrahMos Missiles, & Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs) for Battle Tank Arjun.
- Ex Cope India-18 is the fourth edition in the series of Bilateral Joint exercise held between IAF & USAF, which is conducted in India. This is the first time, the exercise is being planned at two Air Force bases, Kalaikunda & Panagarh (West Bengal).
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC) in Gurugram that aims to collaborate with partner countries & multi-national agencies to develop maritime awareness & share information on vessels.

- India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable long-range ballistic missile Agni-IV, with a strike range of 4,000 km, as part of a user trial by the Army.

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 Maharashi 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.
- 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.
- Andhra Pradesh topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana, as per the India Skills Report 2019. The employability levels of B.Tech/B.E have increased across all the sectors, touching a new high of 63.11%. The employability levels of MBA and polytechnic stand low between 47.18% and 45.90%. It was conducted jointly by Wheebox, PeopleStrong, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The 'UK India Business Council Ease of Doing Business Report' has been released. It highlighted that UK businesses' perceptions of corruption as a barrier to operating in India has halved since 2015. The report found only 25% of UK businesses saw corruption as a major barrier in 2018, as opposed to 51% in 2015.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report stated that India is the only country to have recorded a substantial decline in malaria cases in 2017 out of the 11 highest burden countries worldwide. India registered a 24% reduction in cases over 2016. As per the report, India accounted for 4% of global malaria cases in 2017.
- Switzerland topped the list of the IMD World Talent Ranking 2018 for the fifth year in a row, followed by Denmark (2nd) and Norway (3rd). Among the BRICS countries, South Africa remains in the middle position (50th) performing better than India (53rd).
- Indian-American Shantanu Narayen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adobe, has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list. Narayen ranks 12th on the list, which has been topped by CEO of insurance company Progressive Tricia Griffith.

- Unemployment rate in the country rose to 6.9% in October, the highest in two years, according to a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The estimated number of people employed during October 2018 was 397 million.
- Bangalore tops the index for the most congested city, and Mumbai in the second position, while Pune follows in the seventh place, according to a recent research published under the US-based organization, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Kolkata has been found to be the slowest city.
- India jumped 23 positions in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2019 and is now ranked 77 out of 190 countries in 2018, a development that could help the country attract more foreign investments. It was ranked 100 in 2017. New Zealand topped the list, followed by Singapore, Denmark, and Hong Kong.
- The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation was awarded Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management in the Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh released the list of best performing police stations across the nation during the ongoing DGP conference. On the top of the rank-list stands Kalu police station of Rajasthan.
- Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh were the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- NITI Aayog released the Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States & Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.

Overall Findings

Particular	State	UT
SDG India Index Score Range	42-69	57-68
Top Performer/s	Himachal Pradesh & Kerala	Chandigarh
Aspirant	Uttar Pradesh	Dadra & Nagar Haveli

- US regulator Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) retained the highest aviation safety ranking for India. FAA formally confirmed that India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) rating remains 'Category 1'.
- Gujarat emerged as the best-performing state in the Startup Ranking 2018. The National Report on States' Startup Ranking unveiled by DIPP, Ministry of Commerce & Industry in New Delhi.
- India has been ranked 108th in World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index 2018, same as 2017 while recording improvement in wage equality for similar work & fully closing its tertiary education gender gap for the first time. Iceland topped the list.

- As per the UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP) report, FDI inflows to South & South-West Asia decreased by 6% in 2017. India remains the largest investment destination in the sub-region.
- International Monetary Fund announced that the global debt reached an all-time high of 184 trillion US dollars with the United States, China & Japan accounting for more than half of it. As per the IMF report, the amount in nominal terms, is the equivalent of 225% of the world GDP in 2017.
- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2019 released on the sidelines of a UN summit on global warming. As per the Index, Sweden has topped the list while India was on 11th position. Saudi Arabia came last.
- Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) announced that Russia has emerged as the world's second-largest arms producer after the United States.
- India will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances in 2018 with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 80 billion back home, as per the World Bank report. India is followed by China.
- The number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017, keeping up a trend of steep increases, as per UN's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). The patents granted by India increased from 8,248 in 2016 to 12,387 in 2017.
- The UAE now has the world's most powerful passport, achieving the top ranking in an achievement hailed as a tribute to the legacy of the Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed, & the country's diplomacy. The index, compiled by Arton Capital. India was ranked 140th in the list.

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ELECTRONICS
ALLIED ENGINEERING
85 + TOTAL TESTS

- 15 Mocks for First Stage
- 7 Mocks for Second Stage
- 5 Previous Years Practice Sets for Electronics
- 20 Section wise Practice Sets for First Stage
- 20 Topic wise Tests for First Stage
- 20 Topic wise Tests for Electronics
- eBooks (Study Notes)

- Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is the richest Indian celebrity, as per the 2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list, which he has topped for the third consecutive year.
- Four Indian-origin technology executives have made it to the Forbes' list of America's 50 women in technology space in 2018. The list includes Neha Narkhede, chief technology officer & co-founder of streaming platform Confluent; Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan, CEO, & founder of identity-management company Drawbridge; Padmasree Warrior, former chief technology officer (CTO) of Cisco, & Komal Mangtani, senior director at Uber.

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.
- 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).
- Indian Organ Donation Day: 27 November
- Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju inaugurated the 14th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 27th November in New Delhi. The theme is Formation Day is 'Early Warning for Disasters'.
- United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- The purpose of Africa Industrialization Day (AID), marked each year on 20 November, is to raise global awareness of the challenges faced by the continent with regard to industrialization.

- The World Toilet Day is organized around the world on 19th of November. The theme for WTD 2018 is 'When Nature Calls'.
- Qaumi Ekta Week observed across the country from November 19th-25th to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony and national integration.
- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). The theme of 2018 Ayurveda Day was: "Ayurveda for Public health". This year Ayurveda Day is being observed on 5th November 2018.
- November 7 is observed as National Cancer Awareness Day in India each year.
- World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year on 10 November. The theme for 2018 is "Science, a Human Right".
- The World Diabetes Day is organized on 14 November throughout the world. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018 and 2019 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.
- National Cadets Corps (NCC) day is celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday in the month of November. The NCC in India was formed by the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948 on 15th July 1948. The motto is "Unity and Discipline".
- National Milk Day is celebrated on November 26 to mark the birth anniversary of India's most successful dairy entrepreneur Dr. Varghese Kurien, the founder of dairy firm Amul.
- 26 November is celebrated as Indian Constitution Day. On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India.
- Every year on 16 November, the international community celebrates the International Day for Tolerance with activities that target both educational institutions and the general public. UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence. The 2018 winners are social entrepreneur and filmmaker Manon Barbeau (Canada) and the Coexist Initiative, a non-profit organization working to end violence against women(Kenya).
- Bharat Ratna & former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday is celebrated as Good Governance Day across the country on 25 December.
- Every Year 24th December is observed as National Consumer Day with a specific theme in India. This year the theme was "Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints".
- National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) 2018 was celebrated all over India on 23rd of December. It is celebrated in the honour of the former Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- Every year, the country celebrates National Mathematics Day on December 22 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- International Human Solidarity Day is organized across the world on 20th December.
- The UN's (United Nation) International Migrants Day (IMD) is observed every year on 18th December to protect the rights of migrant workers & members of their families. The theme for this year's IMD is 'Migration with Dignity'.
- National energy conservation day is celebrated every year by the people all over India on 14th of December.
- International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) is celebrated globally on 12 December. The theme was "Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action".
- International Mountain Day is held every year on 11 December, which was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003 to encourage sustainable development in mountains. The theme was "Mountains Matter".
- Since 1949, 07 December is observed as Armed Forces Flag Day throughout India to honour the martyrs as well as men & women in uniform, who valiantly fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.
- Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. This year, Human Rights Day marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. #StandUp4HumanRights is the global campaign launched.
- World Soil Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of December. #StopSoilPollution is the objective of this World Soil Day.
- Navy Day is being celebrated in India on 4th December. The day is celebrated in honour of the maritime force's role during the war with Pakistan in 1971 when Indian warships attacked Karachi port & successfully hurt Pakistani operations in the western coast.
- World AIDS Day is designated on 1 December every year since 1988. The theme was "Know Your Status".
- Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world. The theme was "Empowering persons with disabilities & ensuring inclusiveness & equality".

Agreement Signed

- ✚ India & China signed a protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ✚ Centre & ADB signed a 200 million dollar loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.
- ✚ India's premier National Research Laboratory CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) announced a new partnership with Merck to establish a 'High End Skill Development Centre' in CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh.

- ✦ IIM Calcutta Innovation Park and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) signed an MoU for energising the startup ecosystem in East and Northeast India.
- ✦ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its partnership with Google to offer the fans a great viewing experience of the upcoming semi-finals and final of the ICC Women's World T20 to be held in West Indies.
- ✦ Airports Authority of India (AAI) inked an agreement with the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to develop a roadmap for modernization of its air traffic services.
- ✦ NITI Aayog partnered with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to host a South Asian regional conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi to discuss the key issues, perspectives and the way forward in the Urban Infrastructure. The conference on "Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public & Private Partnerships and Municipal Finance Innovations" was inaugurated by CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant.

Important Cabinet Approvals | December 2018

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the following set of approvals. The Cabinet has approved-

- ✦ Setting up of the National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) Bill, 2018.
- ✦ Apprised of two Bilateral MoUs between India & Cuba, & India & Korea in the area of Biotechnology.
- ✦ Setting up of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2018.
- ✦ Amendment in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- ✦ Hike in MSP for Copra by more than Rs.2000 per quintal for 2019 season.
- ✦ Establishment of two new AIIMS at Tamil Nadu & Telangana under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.
- ✦ Amendment of the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.
- ✦ Implementation of Shahpurkandi Dam (National Project) on river Ravi in Punjab
- ✦ National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems.

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.
- IT czar and philanthropist Azim Premji was bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour). Premji, who is the chairman of Bengaluru-headquartered IT major Wipro, received the distinction from the Ambassador of France to India Alexandre Ziegler in Bengaluru.
- Donbass directed by Sergei Loznitsa won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa on November 28, 2018.
- Asia Pacific Screen Award (APSA) 2018 for Best Performance by an Actor (Male) went to Nawazuddin Siddiqui for Manto. Nandita Das, director of the movie herself received the prestigious International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award for achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region. The 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) given in Brisbane, Australia.
- 8th Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA) was released in Mumbai. The theme of the Award was-"Celebrating Achievers and their remarkable journeys against all odds".

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- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.
- JNU's Hispanic Studies professor Shyama Prasad Ganguly won Mexico's highest civilian honor "Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca" (Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle) accorded to foreign nationals.
- UN Environment awarded Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 for excellent work done by the Bureau in combating transboundary environmental crime.
- Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro, has won Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018, Lifetime Achievement. Wipro is India's fourth-biggest software services company by revenue and Ajim Premji is the second richest Indian.
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education won silver in the International Green Apple Award for Environmental best practice 2018.
- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has won this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, an award conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.
- Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma capped a dream season on the European Tour by becoming the first Indian to win the tour's 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year' award.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha has launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- One of India's greatest sarod masters, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' at the Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, for his "immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music".
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated National Press Day (16 November) celebrations in New Delhi. Eminent journalist & Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram selected under prestigious award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy award.
- Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.
- Jawahar Lal Sarin, president of the governing body of Alliance Francaise, was conferred with France's highest civilian honor by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler at an event.
- The renewal of the early 20th-century 'Shijo-cho Ofunehoko Float Machiya' has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- An Indian freelance journalist, famous for her investigative reports, has bagged the 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage. Swati Chaturvedi, author of the book 'I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army', beat shortlisted journalists from Italy, Turkey, and Morocco.
- The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
- Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi.
- Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.
- Croatia captain Luka Modric was named Balkan Athlete of the Year, becoming only the second soccer player to scoop the prize after Bulgaria's former European Footballer of the Year Hristo Stoichkov in 1994.
- The Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale was held in Delhi & Divya Patidar Joshi was crowned with the prestigious honor. She is from Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam.
- Noted sitar player Manju Mehta has been conferred with the 'Tansen Samman' for 2018 by the Madhya Pradesh government for her contribution in the field of music.
- Aadi Sai Vijaykaran created history by winning the Junior Debate Championship at the World Scholar's Cup held at Yale University, the USA. It is the first time an individual from India has won the coveted title.
- The Mohammed Rafi Award has been bestowed upon late music composer Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar & playback singer Usha Timothy.
- Suresh Prabhu conferred the Skoch Golden Jubilee Challenger Award at the 55th Skoch Summit in New Delhi. The Skoch Challenger Awards are the highest independently instituted civilian honours. For its inclusive banking & expansion in rural areas with the establishment of 35 easy payment units in Himalayan district of Leh in Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Bank was conferred with SKOCH Award in 'Banking & Finance (B&F) Silver Category'. Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award: Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee. SKOCH Sprinter of the Year: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu
- Indian Railways bagged 17 awards at the 'National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018' held in New Delhi. **Under 'transport' category,** Indian

Railways obtained 10 awards for the subsector railway station. Vidisha railway station in Madhya Pradesh won the first prize. Under 'building' category, Indian Railways got three awards for subsector Railway hospitals. Railway hospitals of Izzatnagar division won the first prize.

- PM Modi announced the institution of 'Sardar Patel Award for National Integration', which would be given for "outstanding efforts to further national integration".
- The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that Serbia's Novak Djokovic & Romania's Simona Halep have been named the 2018 ITF World Champions. Djokovic receives the honour for the sixth time, while it is the first year Halep has been recognized.
- Actress Sonam Kapoor, a vegan, has been named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018.
- 'Period. End of Sentence' has made it to the Oscar shortlist in the Documentary Short Subject category. This is a film about women in India fighting against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation & delving upon the work of real-life 'Pad Man' Arunachalam Muruganatham.
- Producer Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit.
- Indian-American Shree Saini crowned Miss India Worldwide 2018 at a pageant held in the Fords City of New Jersey. India's Mandeep Kaur Sandhu, who hails from Haryana, was crowned Mrs. India Worldwide 2018.
- Jharkhand has been selected for "Krishi Karman" award in the rice category from the Union Ministry of Agriculture.
- Noted English author Amitav Ghosh has been honoured with Jnanpith Award for 2018, an award for outstanding contribution to literature. Ghosh, one of the most prominent contemporary Indian writers, is known for a series of novels such as "Shadow Lines", "The Glass Palace", "The Hungry Tide", & Ibis Trilogy – "Sea of Poppies", & "River of Smoke". He has become the first English author to be honoured with the award.
- Manika Batra won the 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' award at the prestigious International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Star Awards in Incheon, South Korea. India coach Massimo Costantini won Table Tennis Star Coach award.
- Sascha Bajin, coach of the world number five Naomi Osaka, become the first-ever recipient of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award.
- Manipur Government honored AIBA World Women Boxing Gold medalist MC Mary Kom with the title "Meethoileima" (par excellent queen). He also declared that the Imphal West DC Road towards Game Village will be named as MC Mary Kom Road.

- Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was murdered in October 2018 at his country's Istanbul consulate, has been named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" alongside several other journalists.
- Goa's Prathamesh Maulingkar created history by becoming the first Asian/Indian to win Mister Supranational title in a competition held at Krynica-Zdroj, Poland.
- Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon won the coveted Miss World 2018 crown at a grand event held in the Chinese city, Sanya.
- Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, GOI conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance. The award was received by Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable Energy Shri Anand Kumar.
- Delhi Minister of Food Supplies, Environment & Forest & Elections Imran Hussain was awarded by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)-India for banning the Chinese Manjha, or the glass-coated kite strings, across Delhi.
- The city of Paris will strip Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary freedom of the Paris award over her failure to speak out against a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.
- India's Olympic & world champion shooter Abhinav Bindra conferred the sport's highest honour for his outstanding services as the chairman of the International Shooting Sport Federation's Athletes Committee.

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.
- 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.

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85 + TOTAL TESTS

- 15 Mocks for First Stage
- 7 Mocks for Second Stage
- 5 Previous Years Practice Sets for Mechanical
- 20 Section wise Practice Sets for First Stage
- 20 Topic wise Tests for First Stage
- 20 Topic wise Tests for Mechanical
- eBooks (Study Notes)

- President Kovind, inaugurated the 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave in New Delhi as part of the commemoration of Constitution Day.
- NITI Aayog begun a series of Development Dialogues to engage experts, thought leaders and government stakeholders across key avenues of long-term social and economic development. The first event was a conference on “Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks”.
- National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- “Hausla 2018” of the Ministry of Women & Child Development inaugurated. It is witnessing participation of more than 600 Children drawn from CCIs from 18 states.
- G-20 Summit 2018 to held at Buenos Aires, Argentina. PM Modi will attend the summit. During the visit, he will also attend a trilateral meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- 4th edition of annual “Aadi Mahotsav”, a National Tribal Festival organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with TRIFED and Ministry of Culture to celebrate and cherish the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce held at Dilli Haat, Shri Aurobindo Marg, INA, Delhi.
- 2nd Edition of the India-UAE Strategic Conclave will be held in the capital city of Abu Dhabi on 27th of November. It will initiate a dialogue to widen the scope of bilateral investments. Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Navdeep Suri will inaugurate.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the 9th Meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission on Bilateral Co-operation with her counterpart Saleumxay Kommasith in Vientiane, Capital of Laos.
- 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine started in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. The theme was “Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas”.
- 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change held in New Delhi, India. It was chaired by H.E. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.
- 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) held at Versailles(Paris), France. Members voted for the redefinition of 130 years old “Le grand K - the SI unit of kg” in terms of the fundamental Planck’s constant(h). The new definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019. The definition of the kilogram has been changed from being the mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to the Planck constant which is a physical constant.
- Indo-Japan Business Council's Business Festival held in Pune. The Indo-Japan Business Council (IJBC), hosted KONNICHI WA PUNE - a first of its kind business festival in Pune.
- 49th edition of the International Film Festival of India opened with the gala opening ceremony at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Goa. Chaitanya Prasad is the Director of Festival. Israel is the focus country, Jharkhand is the focus state this year. Veteran Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award this year.
- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinean capital. This is the first time Papua New Guinea (PNG), the poorest of the 21 countries in APEC, has hosted the summit.
- 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) was held in New Delhi.
- 26th edition of Central and State Statistical Organizations(COCSO) Conference was organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The theme was “Quality Assurance in Official Statistics”.
- Nongkrem dance festival, an annual event during which prayers are offered for good harvest, peace, and prosperity of the community was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm by the inhabitants of the Khasi Hills in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- 3rd Edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 was held in Shillong. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma in the presence of Japanese Ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu.
- 2-day summit to mark the World Tolerance Day was inaugurated in Dubai, the UAE. Held for the first time in UAE, the theme of the Summit was ‘Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration’.
- India- Taiwan SME Development Forum held at Taipei, Taiwan. Indian Delegation was led by Secretary MSME Dr. Arun Kumar Panda.
- The 33rd edition of the ASEAN Summit has begun in Singapore. Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong is the Chairman of the Summit, which will continue till 15th November along with other related summits like East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) and ASEAN plus summits.
- Mr R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy inaugurated the International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2018) in New Delhi.
- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, led the Indian delegation to the 7th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting in Singapore.

- The two-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Councils was held in Dubai, the UAE.
- 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. The congress was held under the theme of NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS.
- The Fourth Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, Peoples' Republic of China was held in Mumbai.
- Tourism minister KJ Alphons along with a delegation of senior officials attended the 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama, Bahrain.
- The first ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property has been launched in Delhi to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.
- Indian Air Force has organised a two day seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Aviation Engineering and Logistics' (AVIAMAT-2018) at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi.
- The First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health took place at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting was held in Durban, South Africa. Gen.(Dr.) VK Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, attended the IORA Council of Ministers Meeting.
- The 42nd Indian Social Science Congress inaugurated by Manipur governor Dr Najma Heptulla at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The theme of the Congress was 'Human Future in Digital Era.'
- Odisha CM Patnaik inaugurated 26th edition of National Children's Science Congress in Bhubaneswar. This year's theme is 'Science, Technology & Innovations: For clean, green & healthy nation'.
- SPJIMR hosted the 12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) Conference at SPJIMR, Mumbai. The theme was "Data-Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age".
- 41st meeting of the Central Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee held in New Delhi. In the meeting, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs approved the construction of another 3,10,597 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). A total of 864 projects with a project cost of Rs 14,662 crore with central assistance of Rs 4,658 crore has been approved in the meeting.
- The first meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementation of the Trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan & Iran was held in the port city of Chabahar in Iran. India Ports Global Limited company opened its office & took over operations at Chabahar.
- 15th edition of Global SME Business Summit organised by the Ministry of MSME & Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Government e-marketplace in New Delhi. The theme was 'Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains.'
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj & her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi co-chaired the first-ever meeting of India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural & People-to-People Exchanges in New Delhi.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj & Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea Kang Kyung-wha co-chaired the 9th India-ROK Joint Commission meeting. Ms. Kyung-wha arrived in New Delhi for a visit to India.
- The UN Climate Conference 2018 held in Katowice, Poland.
- India's Minister of Defense Nirmala Sitharaman met with Russian Federation General Sergei Shoigu in New Delhi, marking the 18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC).
- 39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit inaugurated by the King Salman of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. It was announced at the conclusion of the summit that the 40th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit will be held in the United Arab Emirates.
- PM Modi inaugurated the fourth Partners' Forum in New Delhi. The objective is to improve knowledge, alignment & accountability to accelerate action on women's, children's & adolescents health.
- The first International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' held at Indian School of Business (ISB) in Mohali, Punjab. The theme of the conference was 'Sustainable Water Management'.
- DIPP & the Government of Goa, hosted the annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit in Goa. The theme was 'Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.'
- The second meeting of the NITI Forum for the North East is being held in Guwahati, Assam.
- The first India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit held in New Delhi. It was organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in association with the Department of Science & Technology (DST) & Ministry of External Affairs.
- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India Water Impact Summit 2018, being jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) & the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management & Studies (cGanga) in New Delhi.

- Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Seven countries, including China, Israel & Malaysia are participating in the Summit. The aim of the Summit is to promote Jharkhand as a key player to attract investment in the agriculture sector.
- The UN climate summits, i.e. so called COP (Conference of the Parties) are global conferences, in the course of which action for climate policy is negotiated. The Climate Change Conference 2018 was held in Katowice, Poland. This year's summit included: 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), 14th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 14) & the 1st Conference of Signatories to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1).
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited United Arab Emirates to co-chair the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic & Technical Cooperation with UAE Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
- Asia Pacific Summit-2018 held in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. The theme was "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, & Universal Values".
- President Kovind, inaugurated the 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018 in Chandigarh.

Committees

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

- University Grants Commission, UGC has decided to set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines. CARE will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Soura Jananidhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
- The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has formed a new industry expert committee to develop and promote an augmented reality/virtual reality (AR/VR) ecosystem in India. The committee is chaired by Namrita Mahindro, Senior General Manager, digital transformation, Mahindra Group.
- NITI Aayog constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region. It will be chaired by the Dr. VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog.
- RBI appointed former governor Bimal Jalan as the chairman of the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) committee formed to address the issue of excess reserves with the central bank. Former RBI deputy governor Rakesh Mohan has been appointed the vice-chairman of the committee.
- Government has constituted a seven-member panel to select managing directors of public sector insurance companies. The panel would be headed by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) chairman B P Sharma.
- Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to vet the recommendations of a high-level panel on stressed power projects.

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.

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- 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 years' 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.
- Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu is on an official visit to India. EAM Swaraj held delegation-level talks with her Romanian counterpart in New Delhi.
- Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid arrived in New Delhi for visit to India. Mr. Shahid and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will hold extensive talks on issues of mutual interest.
- President Kovind met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Sydney. He became the first Indian President to visit Australia. 5 MoUs were exchanged in the field of disability sector, education, trade-investment, scientific cooperation, agriculture and on higher education focussing on PhD by both the nations. He also unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Parramatta in Sydney.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is on a 2-day visit to Laos. During her visit, Ms Swaraj will co-chair the 9th Meeting of India-Laos Joint Commission on Bilateral Co-operation with her counterpart Saleumxay Kommasith. She will also call on the Prime Minister of Laos, Mr Thongloun Sisoulith.
- President Kovind is on 2 nation visit to Vietnam and Australia. He reached Da Nang in Vietnam on the first leg of his two-nation visit. On the second leg of his visit, he will reach Australia.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu was on a seven-day 3-South African nation visit to Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.
- Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering arrived in New Delhi for an official visit to India. The visit of the Bhutanese Prime Minister is taking place during the Golden Jubilee year of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark Anders Samuelsen arrived in New Delhi for an official visit to India. Mr. Samuelsen met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- PM Modi visited Varanasi & Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh. During the visit, he laid the foundation stone of medical College in Ghazipur. He also dedicated the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) to the nation. Note: The One District, One Product Regional Summit was held at Deendayal Hastakala Sankul (Trade Facilitation Centre & Crafts Museum) in Varanasi.

- PM Modi launched infrastructure & housing projects worth about Rs. 41,000 crores in Maharashtra. During his visit, he laid the foundation stone for two important metro corridors in Kalyan (Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan Metro & the Dahisar-Mira-Bhayander Metro). He also launched mass housing scheme worth 18,000 crore rupees which offers around 90,000 affordable homes for economically weaker sections under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- PM Modi inaugurated several projects worth over Rs. 14,500 cr during his visit to Odisha. He also dedicated the new campus of IIT-Bhubaneswar at Aragul & launched a slew of projects related to higher education, health, road & highways, & culture. He laid the foundation of Paradip-Hyderabad Pipeline Product Project by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & Bokaro-Angul section of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Gas Pipeline Project by Gas Authority of India Limited.
- President Kovind visited Myanmar. He dedicated - India assisted project 'Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research & Education' (ACARE) - to the people of Myanmar.
- Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Japan. During his visit, he met Japanese Minister of Defence Takeshi Iwaya, Chief of Staff of Japan Air Self Defence Force General Yoshinari Marumo, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Admiral Katsutoshi Kawano.
- President Ram Nath Kovind & first lady Savita Kovind left for a 4-day visit to Myanmar. During his stay, the President will visit capital Nay Pyi Taw & Yangon, & interact with his counterpart U Win Myint & State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. The president will also hold a high-level delegation meeting. Myanmar is a country where India's "Act East" & "Neighbourhood First" policies intersect.

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).

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched PSLV-C43. This launch took place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. ISRO also launched its latest Earth-mapping satellite, HysIS, as part of the mission.
- NASA's InSight spacecraft landed on Mars after nearly a 7 months, 458-million-kilometre journey, and a 6.5-minute parachuted descent through the Red Planet's atmosphere.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has designed and boot up 'Shakti', which can be used for wireless and networking systems, as well as mobile computing. 'Shakti' is India's first and indigenous microprocessor.
- Xinhua, China's state-run press agency, recently unveiled virtual newsreaders that combine the images and voices of human anchors with artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
- GSAT-29 communication satellite, which is being carried by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-Mk III) was launched into space from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- The GSLV F 11 carrying GSAT 7A successfully launched from the Space research Centre Sriharikota by ISRO. It is a dedicated mission for updating & increasing the capability of the Country's defence forces. GSLV F 11 carries the 2250 kilogram GSAT 7A from Sriharikota. The rocket, GSLV F 11 is the fourth generation launch vehicle with three stages.
- China launched the first-ever spacecraft, Chang'e 4, that will attempt landing on the far side of the Moon, which always shows the same face to Earth.
- German firm BigRep claims it has produced the world's first fully functioning e-motorbike NERA using a 3D printer.

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- SpaceX successfully launched 64 small satellites, including India's ExseedSAT-1 in the company's largest-ever "rideshare" mission on a twice-reused Falcon 9 rocket that lifted off from a California launchpad. This is a new US record. The Falcon 9 rocket carried 15 micro-satellites & 49 CubeSats belonging to 34 different clients.

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.
- President Kovind, received the first copy of the book "Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government", from Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs. The book is edited by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Dr. Anirban Ganguly and Shri Kishore Desai.
- Oscar-winning musician A.R. Rahman, whose biography Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman was launched in Mumbai says the book has been a journey for him and took him to those corners of his life which have remained candid for a long time.
- Dr Murali Mohan Chuntharu, a Dental Surgeon and also DK Home Guard Commandant has written a book named "Arivu", which explains about Mouth Cancer and prevention of the disease.
- Famous yoga exponent and author, Mansi Gulati's book, 'Yoga and Mindfulness' was launched by VP of India, Mr M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C) Dr Jitendra Singh released a book titled 'Radio Kashmir-In Times of Peace & War' written by Dr Rajesh Bhat.
- The book titled "Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors & Where We Came From" written by Tony Joseph was released.
- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released his book titled "Changing India".
- VP Naidu released Compilation of Selected speeches of the President, Ram Nath Kovind titled, "The Republican Ethic" in English & "Loktantra ke Swar" in Hindi at a function in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, released a book titled 'Blue Waters Ahoy!' - chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10. It authored by Vice Admiral Anup Singh.

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.

- Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik launched the force's e-learning portal NIPUN and training division website.
- Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences has launched a campaign to spread a pan-India awareness about hepatitis disease. Empowering People Against Hepatitis: The Empathy Campaign was launched at Metro Bhawan, New Delhi in presence of Managing Director of DMRC. Dr. Mangu Singh, and Director ILBS. Shiv Kumar Sarin.
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- Malayalam film Olu will be the opening film at the 49th International Film Festival of India, IFFI 2018. This was decided by the jury for the Indian Panorama. The IFFI will be held in Goa in November 2018.
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the conversion of decommissioned carrier INS Viraat into a floating museum.
- Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of I&B Shri Ashok Kumar Parmar inaugurated the India Pavilion at Videocittà, 2018 in Rome Film Festival.
- The Ministry of Railways launched the 'Unreserved Mobile Ticketing' facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways, wiping out the need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing the tickets.
- The newly-built Ekana International Stadium of Lucknow was renamed after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The stadium will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.
- Odisha government has launched a new initiative named 'Mo Bus' services in the Bhubaneswar ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup.
- Ayodhya Deepostav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records.
- Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe, the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
- The 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) has begun at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The 14-day annual event will continue till 27th of November. This year the theme of the fair is 'Rural Enterprises in India'. Afghanistan is the Partner Country.
- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The changes prescribe stringent punishment, including the death penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault of children. Further, hefty fine would be imposed for not deleting, not destroying child pornographic material or not reporting child pornography.
- India's first locomotive-less train, known as Train 18, breached the 180 kilometres per hour speed limit during a test run at Kota-Sawai Madhopur section in Rajasthan. Train 18 is capable of touching 200 kilometres per hour.
- Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a new mass media campaign calling for the elimination of industrially produced trans fat in the food supply. It is called as "Heart Attack Rewind". The first mass media campaign of its kind - will support FSSAI's global target of eliminating trans fat in India by the year 2022.
- "PAiSA - Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access", a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) was launched. It has been designed & developed by Allahabad Bank which is the Nodal bank.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced a pan-India single-number emergency mobile app '112 India' & stated that it will have a special women safety feature 'SHOUT' to get immediate assistance from police & volunteers. It is connected to the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- Nagaland became the first state in the Northeast & second in the country, after Himachal Pradesh, to launch a pan-India single-number (112) emergency mobile application which will have a special women safety feature for immediate assistance from police & volunteers.
- Cabinet approved an export policy for agriculture, lifting all restrictions on organic & processed food, to help the government's efforts to double farmers' income by 2022. The 'Agriculture Export Policy, 2018' seeks to double farm exports to \$60 billion by 2022 from \$30 billion currently & will invest 1,400 crore to set up specialised clusters in different states for different produce to push exports.
- Kolkata-Patna is India's new Inland Water Transport (IWT) origin-destination pair for containerised cargo movement on the National Waterway-1.
- FAO Council approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023. FAO Council also approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program for 2020 & 2021.
- Home Ministry launched a Twitter account named '@CyberDost' to spread awareness about cybercrimes & normal precautions to be taken.

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched a portal 'ENSURE'-National Livestock Mission-EDEG developed by NABARD & operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries. NABARD developed an online portal "ENSURE" (ensure.nabard.org) so that the information related to beneficiary & processing of the application can be made readily available.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) developed by Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The Right to Information (RTI) Portal on Judgments/Orders of Supreme Court, High Courts & CIC developed by the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM), New Delhi. This Portal will provide a learning environment for all stakeholders under which a repository on the landmark cases on the RTI will be available at one place.
- The indigenously developed Kaiga Atomic Power Station in Karnataka has set a new world record, with one of its units operating uninterrupted for more than 940 days.
- Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha launched an official mobile application for Global Aviation Summit 2019. It is scheduled to be held in January 2019 in Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases a 100 rupees commemorative coin in honour of former Prime Minister & Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary, which falls on 25th December, is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day'.
- 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.
- Italian filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci, who won Oscars with "The Last Emperor" and whose erotic drama "Last Tango in Paris" enthralled and shocked the world, has passed away.
- Singer Mohammed Aziz has passed away aged 64 following a cardiac arrest in Mumbai. He was returning from Kolkata when he collapsed at the airport.
- Stephen Hillenburg, the creator of SpongeBob SquarePants, has passed away at the age of 57.
- Former Indian hockey player, Sandeep Michael, who captained the Indian junior team to a gold at the Asia Cup 2003, died at the age of 33 after battling an unspecified neurological problem.
- Classical music stalwart Ustad Imrat Khan, who dedicated his life to propagating the Sitar and the surbahar worldwide, has died in the US after a brief illness. He was 83.
- Oscar-winning screenwriter and best-selling author William Goldman, known for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All The President's Men", passes away. He was 87.
- Padma Shri awardee and revered saint Narayan Das Maharaj of Triveni dham near Jaipur passed away.
- Dr. TS Kanaka, the continent's first woman neurosurgeon, passed away after a brief illness at the age of 86. She was the third woman neurosurgeon in the whole world.
- 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. He was 85. Abdussattar was awarded Padma Shri in 1974.
- Playwright, poet and author Ntozake Shange, whose most acclaimed theatre piece is the 1975 Tony Award-nominated play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf," had passed away.
- Vice-Admiral M.P. Awati (retd.), who commanded a naval unit of the Eastern Fleet in the 1971 India-Pakistan war and whose actions led to the destruction of an enemy submarine, passed away.
- Veteran theatre and Marathi film actor Lalan Sarang had passed away in Pune where she was hospitalized for a month for multiple ailments.
- Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers H.N. Ananth Kumar, also a senior BJP leader from the State passed away in Bengaluru. He was 59.
- American comic-book writer and Marvel Comics co-creator Stan Lee passed away aged 95.

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.

- Popular ad filmmaker and theatre personality Alyque Padamsee passed away in Mumbai.
- Decorated war veteran Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri passed away in a private hospital in Mohali, Punjab. He was 78.
- Norman Gimbel, the Oscar & Grammy-winning lyricist passed away at the age of 91.
- Legendary filmmaker Mrinal Sen passed away at the age of 95 in Kolkata. He was a Padma Bhushan & Dada Saheb Phalke awardee.
- Dr. Hamidi Kashmiri, the tallest literary figure in the world of Urdu language, literature & literary criticism passed away.
- Social worker & Padma Shri awardee Sulagitti Narasamma passed away in Bengaluru. She was 98 years old.
- Centrist politician Paddy Ashdown has died aged 77 after a short illness.
- Legendary Assamese singer Dipali Borthakur popularly referred to as the "Nightingale of Assam" passed away. She was 77.
- Former Prime Minister of Nepal Tulsi Giri has passed away in Kathmandu. He was 93. He twice served as the prime minister of Nepal first from 1962 to 1964 & again from 1975 to 1977.
- Senior Congress leader & former Kerala minister CN Balakrishnan passed away in Kochi due to pneumonia. He was 87.
- Professor Mushirul Hasan, a renowned historian, & former vice-chancellor Jamia Millia of Islamia, passed away at the age of 71.
- Public Relations Officer (PRO) in the prime minister's office & senior journalist Jagdish Thakkar passed away in New Delhi.
- The 41st President of the US, George HW Bush has passed away on at the age of 94.

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