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GA POWER CAPSULE | NIACL AO MAINS 2019

Interim Budget 2019 Highlights

Finance minister Piyush Goyal (at that time) presented the Interim Budget for 2019-20 amid heightened expectations that he would announce an income support scheme for distressed farmers who have

seen their incomes stagnate because of plunging prices, barely enough to pay for loans and input costs.

Important Highlights:

- Current Fiscal Accounts to be contained to 2.5%.
- Fiscal deficit has been brought down to 3.4% in FY19.

- Rs 60,000 crore allocated for MGNREGA under PM gram sadak yojana for a year.
- Rs 19,000 crore allocated for rural roads under Gram Sadak Yojana.
- PM Kisaan Samman Nidhi announced at Rs 75,000 crore.
- Farmers owing 2 hectares land will get Rs6,000 per year.
- Ayushman Bharat has treated 1 million people so far.
- 22nd AIIMS to come up soon.
- Gokul Scheme allocation increased to Rs 750 crore.
- decided to set up 'Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog' for implementation of policies and schemes for welfare of cows.
- For workers and labourers, a new pension scheme will come up to ensure an increase in centre's contribution by four percent. The pension has been increased from Rs 3,500 to Rs 7,000. Gratuity payment limit has been increased from 10 lakh to 20 lakh.
- 2%- 5 % Interest subvention of farmers struck by natural calamities.
- For workers who receive grievous injuries, they will now get Rs 6 lakh from Rs 2.5 lakh through EPFO.
- Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog to be set up.
- NITI Aayog to set up a committee to identify Nomadic and semi nomadic communities .
- Govt launches mega pension scheme for social security coverage of unorganised labour. Unorganised labour to get Rs. 3,000 per month after age of 60 under mega pension scheme.
- Pradhanmantri Shramyogi Mandhan yogna to be launched for poor people with 500cr INR.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan launched to provide assured monthly pension of 3000 rupees per month, with contribution of 100 rupees per month, for workers in unorganized sector after 60 years of age.
- Government will set up a national centre for artificial intelligence to look into AI programmes.
- 8 crore free LPG connections under the Ujjwala Yojana has been distributed.
- Loans worth Rs 7.23 lakh cr have been given under Mudra Yojana.
- Govt projects to source 25% material from SMEs, 3% from only women-owned SMEs
- defence budget increases to over Rs 3 lakh crore. Additional funds for defence will be provide if needed
- Rs 64,587 crore allocated to Railways for FY20.
- 1 lakh digital villages to be set up soon
- Railway operating ratio is 96.2 % in FY19 Vs 95% in FY 18
- allocation for north eastern states increases to 21%.
- Direct tax collection at 12 lakh Cr INR in FY19 from 6.30 INR Lakh Cr in 2014.

- Average monthly tax collection in current year under GST is Rs 97,000 crore per month.
- Anti-black money measures have brought undisclosed income of Rs 1.3 lakh crore back in circulation
- Allocation for the north eastern region has been proposed to be increased to Rs 58,166 crore
- Businesses with less than Rs. 5 crore annual turnover, comprising over 90% of GST payers, will be allowed to return quarterly returns
- All income tax returns will now be processed in 24 hours and refunds issued simultaneously. Within next 2 years, returns chosen for scrutiny will also be done digitally with anonymity.
- FY22 fiscal deficit target 3 %.
- 18% increase in direct tax collections in 2017-18, 1.06 crore people included in the tax base.
- Fiscal deficit pegged at 3.4% of GDP for FY20
- Capital expenditure for FY20 is Rs 3.36 lakh crore
- FY20 total expenditure seen at Rs. 27.84 trillion.
- fiscal deficit target as a proportion of GDP - 3.4% for the coming year
- Rs 56,619 crore made in budget estimate 2018-19 for welfare of SCs and STs, increased to Rs 62,474 crore in revised estimate 2018-19 has been further increased to Rs 76,800 crore in budget estimate 2019-20

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Announced Tax Exemption for Income upto Rs 5 lakh per Year.

- standard deduction limit increased to INR 50, 000 from INR 40,000 earlier
- TDS threshold on rental income raised from Rs 1,80,000 to Rs 2,40,000
- No tax on bank interest upto INR 40,000
- INR 90,000 crore disinvestment target for next FY.

Highlights of Rural Outreach

- 1) Govt to allocate Rs 75,000 crore per year to support farmers' incomes

- 2) Impact of Rs 20,000 crore in current fiscal year
- 3) Vulnerable farmers to receive Rs 6,000 per year in three equal instalments
- 4) Government to allocate Rs 60,000 crore for UPA's flagship MNREGA in 2019/20
- 5) Allocation of Rs 19,000 crore for construction of rural roads in 2019-20

Must DO Current Affairs for the NIACL AO Mains 2019

Grammy Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List of Winners

The 61st Annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held at Staples Center in Los Angeles. The show was hosted by Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys.

Here is the complete list of winners of Grammy Awards 2019:

Category	Winner
Album Of The Year	Golden Hour, Kacey Musgraves
Record Of The Year	"This Is America," Childish Gambino
Best New Artist	Dua Lipa
Best Rap Album	Invasion Of Privacy, Cardi B
Best R&B Album Winner	H.E.R., H.E.R.
Best Rap Song	"God's Plan," Drake
Best Country Album	Golden Hour, Kacey Musgraves
Song Of The Year	"This Is America," Childish Gambino
Best Rock Album	From The Fires, Greta Van Fleet
Best Rock Song	"Masseduction" St. Vincent
Best Dance/Electronic Album	Woman Worldwide, Justice
Producer Of The Year, Classical	Blanton Alspaugh
Best Music Video	"This Is America," Childish Gambino
Best Country Song	"Space Cowboy," Kacey Musgraves
Best Folk Album	All Ashore, Punch Brothers
Best Comedy Album	Equanimity & The Bird Revelation, Dave Chappelle

Siddhartha Lal Wins The EY Entrepreneur Of the Year For 2018

Siddhartha Lal, managing director and chief executive officer, Eicher Motors, has been awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year for 2018. Lal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 6 – 8 June 2019.

The other EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 winners are:

1. **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro.

2. **Start-up:** Byju Raveendran, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Think & Learn (BYJU'S).
3. **Business Transformation:** Kishore Biyani, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Future Group.
4. **Manufacturing:** Nirmal K Minda, Chairman and Managing Director, Minda Industries.
5. **Services:** Ritesh Agarwal, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Oravel Stays (OYO Hotels and Homes).
6. **Financial Services:** Sanjay Agarwal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, AU Small Finance Bank.
7. **Consumer Products & Retail:** Rajesh Mehra, Promoter and Director, Jaquar Group.
8. **Life Sciences & Healthcare:** Binish Chudgar, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Intas Pharmaceuticals.
9. **Entrepreneurial CEO:** Bhaskar Bhat, Managing Director, Titan Company.
10. **Energy, Real Estate & Infrastructure:** Atul Ruia, Chairman and Managing Director, The Phoenix Mills.

BAFTA Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List Of Winners

Netflix drama 'Roma' won the top prize at the 72nd edition of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts or BAFTA awards. However, with seven BAFTAs in its kitty, director Yorgos Lanthimos's The Favourite emerged top winner in 2019.

Actress Olivia Colman picked best actress BAFTA for her portrayal of Queen Anne in The Favourite. Roma, for which director Alfonso Cuaron also picked a trophy, rounded off with four BAFTAs while Bohemian Rhapsody – the Golden Globes favourite – went home with just one BAFTA for lead actor Rami Malek.

Category	Winner
Best Director	Alfonso Cuaron, Roma
Best Film	Roma
Best Actress	Olivia Colman, The Favourite
Best Actor	Rami Malek – Bohemian Rhapsody
Best Supporting Actress	Rachel Weisz – The Favourite
Best Supporting Actor	Mahershala Ali – Green Book
Outstanding British Film	The Favourite
Best Animated Film	Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse
Best British Short Animation	Roughhouse
Best British Short Film	73 Cows
Best Documentary	Free Solo
Outstanding Debut By A British Writer,	Beast – Michael Pearce (writer/director), Lauren Dark

Director Or Producer	(producer)
Best Film Not In The English Language	Roma
Best Costume Design	The Favourite
Best Make Up & Hair	The Favourite
Best Production Design	The Favourite
Best Editing	Vice
Best Cinematography	Roma
Best Special Visual Effects	Black Panther
Best Original Screenplay	The Favourite – Deborah Davis, Tony McNamara
Best Adapted Screenplay	BlacKkKlansman – Spike Lee, David Rabinowitz, Charlie Wachtel, Kevin Willmott
Best Sound	Bohemian Rhapsody
Best Original Music	A Star Is Born
Outstanding British Contribution To Cinema	Number 9 Films (Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley)
EE Rising Star Award (voted for by the public)	Letitia Wright
BAFTA Fellowship	Thelma Schoonmaker

Padma Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List of Winners

Padma Awards — one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz. art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

‘Padma Vibhushan’ is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; ‘Padma Bhushan’ for distinguished service of high order and ‘Padma Shri’ for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri Awards. 21 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 11 persons from the category of foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 3 posthumous awardees and 1 transgender person. The list also Includes 3 Bharat Ratna Awardees.

The Bharat Ratna Awardees in 2019 are:

1. Pranab Mukherjee
2. Bhupen Hazarika (Posthumously)
3. Nanaji Deshmukh (Posthumously)

Pranab Mukherjee: Mukherjee is an Indian politician who served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.

Bhupen Hazarika: Hazarika was an Indian playback singer, lyricist, musician, singer, poet and film-maker from Assam, widely known as Sudhakantha.

Nanaji Deshmukh: Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh also known as Nanaji Deshmukh was a social activist from India.

Padma Vibhushan (4)

1. Ms. Teejan Bai — Art-Vocals-Folk — Chhattisgarh
2. Shri Ismail Omar Guelleh (Foreigner) — Public Affairs — Djibouti
3. Shri Anilkumar Manibhai Naik — Trade & Industry-Infrastructure — Maharashtra
4. Shri Balwant Moreshwar Purandare — Art-Acting-Theatre — Maharashtra

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Padma Bhushan (14)

1. Shri John Chambers (Foreigner) — Trade & Industry-Technology — USA
2. Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa — Public Affairs — Punjab
3. Shri Pravin Gordhan (Foreigner) — Public Affairs — South Africa
4. Shri Mahashay Dharam Pal Gulati — Trade & Industry-Food Processing — Delhi
5. Shri Darshan Lal Jain — Social Work — Haryana
6. Shri Ashok Laxmanrao Kukade — Medicine-Affordable Healthcare — Maharashtra
7. Shri Kariya Munda — Public Affairs — Jharkhand
8. Shri Budhaditya Mukherjee — Art-Music-Sitar — West Bengal
9. Shri Mohanlal Viswanathan Nair — Art-Acting-Film — Kerala
10. Shri S Nambi Narayan — Science & Engineering-Space — Kerala
11. Shri Kuldip Nayar (Posthumous) — Literature & Education (Journalism) — Delhi
12. Ms. Bachendri Pal — Sports-Mountaineering — Uttarakhand

13. Shri V K Shunglu — Civil Service — Delhi
 14. Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav — Public Affairs — Bihar

Padma Shri (94)

1. Shri Rajeshwar Acharya — Art-Vocal-Hindustani — Uttar Pradesh
2. Shri bangaru Adigalar — Others-spiritualism — Tamil Nadu
3. Shri Illias Ali — Medicine-Surgery — Assam
4. Shri Manoj Bajpayee — Art-Acting-Films — Maharashtra
5. Shri Uddhab Kumar Bharali — Science & Engineering-Grassroots Innovation — Assam
6. Shri Omesh Kumar Bharti — Medicine-Rabies — Himachal Pradesh
7. Shri Pritam Bhartwan — Art-Vocals-Folk — Uttarakhand
8. Shri Jyoti Bhatt — Art-Painting — Gujarat
9. Shri Dilip Chakravarty — Others-Archaeology — Delhi
10. Shri Mammen Chandy — Medicine-Hematology — West Bengal
11. Shri Swapan Chaudhuri — Art-Music-Tabla — West Bengal
12. Shri Kanwal Singh Chauhan — Others-Agriculture — Haryana
13. Shri Sunil Chhetri — Sports-Football — Telangana
14. Shri Dinyar Contractor — Art-Acting-Theatre — Maharashtra
15. Ms. Muktaben Pankajkumar Dagli — Social Work-Divyang Welfare — Gujarat
16. Shri Babulal Dahiya — Others-Agriculture — Madhya Pradesh
17. Shri Thanga Darlong — Art-Music-Flute — Tripura
18. Shri Prabhu Deva — Art-Dance — Karnataka
19. Ms. Rajkumari Devi — Others-Agriculture — Bihar
20. Ms. Bhagirathi Devi — Public Affairs — Bihar
21. Shri Baldev Singh Dhillon — Science & Engineering-Agriculture — Punjab
22. Ms. Harika Dronavalli — Sports-Chess — Andhra Pradesh
23. Shri Joravarsinh Jadav — Art - Dance (folk) — Gujarat
24. Ms. Godawari Dutta — Art-Painting — Bihar
25. Shri Gautam Gambhir — Sports-Cricket — Delhi
26. Ms. Draupadi Ghimiray — Social Work-Divyang Welfare — Sikkim
27. Ms. Rohini Godbole — Science & Engineering-Nuclear — Karnataka
28. Shri Sandeep Guleria — Medicine-Surgery — Delhi
29. Shri Pratap Singh Hardia — Medicine-Ophthalmology — Madhya Pradesh
30. Shri Bulu Imam — Social Work-Culture — Jharkhand
31. Ms. Friederike Irina (Foreigner) — Social Work-Animal Welfare — Germany
32. Shri Joravarsinh Jadav — Art-Dance Folk — Gujarat

33. Shri S Jaishankar — Civil Service — Delhi
34. Shri Narsingh Dev Jamwal — Literature & Education — Jammu & Kashmir
35. Shri Fayaz Ahmad Jan — Art-Craft-Papier Mache — Jammu & Kashmir
36. Shri K G Jayan — Art-Music-Bhakti — Kerala
37. Shri Subhash Kak (Foreigner) — Science & Engineering-Technology — USA
38. Shri Sharath Kamal — Sports-Table Tennis — Tamil Nadu
39. Shri Rajani Kant — Social Work — Uttar Pradesh
40. Shri Sudam Kate — Medicine-Sickle Cell — Maharashtra
41. Shri Waman Kendre — Art-Acting-Theatre — Maharashtra
42. Shri Kader Khan (Posthumous-Foreigner) — Art-Acting-Films — Canada
43. Shri Abdul Gafur Khatri — Art-Painting — Gujarat
44. Shri Ravindra Kolhe (Duo)* — Medicine-Affordable Healthcare — Maharashtra
- Ms. Smita Kolhe (Duo)* — Medicine-Affordable Healthcare — Maharashtra
45. Ms. Bombayla Devi Laishram — Sports-Archery — Manipur
46. Shri Kailash Madbaiya — Literature & Education — Madhya Pradesh
47. Shri Ramesh Babaji Maharaj — Social Work-Animal Welfare — Uttar Pradesh
48. Shri Vallabhbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya — Others-Agriculture — Gujarat
49. Ms. Gita Mehta (Foreigner) — Literature & Education — USA
50. Shri Shadab Mohammad — Medicine-Dentistry — Uttar Pradesh
51. Shri K K Muhammed — Others-Archaeology — Kerala
52. Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee — Medicine-Affordable Healthcare — Jharkhand
53. Shri Daitari Naik — Social Work — Odisha
54. Shri Shankar Mahadevan Narayan — Art-Vocals-Films — Maharashtra
55. Shri Shantanu Narayan (Foreigner) — Trade & Industry-Technology — USA
56. Nartaki Natraj — Art-Dance-Bharatnatyam — Tamil Nadu
57. Shri Tsering Norboo — Medicine-Surgery — Jammu & Kashmir
58. Shri Anup Ranjan Pandey — Art-Music — Chhattisgarh
59. Shri Jagdish Prasad Parikh — Others-Agriculture — Rajasthan
60. Shri Ganpatbhai Patel (Foreigner) — Literature & Education — USA
61. Shri Bimal Patel — Others-Architecture — Gujarat
62. Shri Hukumchand Patidar — Others-Agriculture — Rajasthan

63. Ms. Madurai Chinna Pillai — Social Work-Microfinance — Tamil Nadu
64. Ms. Tao Porchon-Lynch (Foreigner) — Others-Yoga — USA
65. Ms. Kamala Pujhari — Others-Agriculture — Odisha
66. Shri Bajrang Punia — Sports-Wrestling — Haryana
67. Shri Jagat Ram — Medicine-Ophthalmology — Chandigarh
68. Shri R V Ramani — Medicine-Ophthalmology — Tamil Nadu
69. Shri Devarapalli Prakash Rao — Social Work-Affordable Education — Odisha
70. Shri Anup Sah — Art-Photography — Uttarakhand
71. Ms. Milena Salvini (Foreigner) — Art-Dance-Kathakali — France
72. Shri Nagindas Sanghavi — Literature & Education-Journalism — Maharashtra
73. Shri Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry — Art-Lyrics — Telangana
74. Shri Shabbir Sayyad — Social Work-Animal Welfare — Maharashtra
75. Shri Mahesh Sharma — Social Work-Tribal Welfare — Madhya Pradesh
76. Shri Mohammad Hanif Khan Shastri — Literature & Education — Delhi
77. Shri Brijesh Kumar Shukla — Literature & Education — Uttar Pradesh
78. Shri Narendra Singh — Others-Animal Husbandry — Haryana
79. Ms. Prashanti Singh — Sports-Basketball — Uttar Pradesh
80. Shri Sultan Singh — Others-Animal Husbandry — Haryana
81. Shri Jyoti Kumar Sinha — Social Work-Affordable Education — Bihar
82. Shri Anandan Sivamani — Art-Music — Tamil Nadu
83. Ms. Sharada Srinivasan — Others-Archaeology — Karnataka
84. Shri Devendra Swarup (Posthumous) — Literature & Education-Journalism — Uttar Pradesh
85. Shri Ajay Thakur — Sports-Kabaddi — Himachal Pradesh
86. Shri Rajeev Tharanath — Art-Music-Sarod — Karnataka
87. Ms. Saalumarada Thimmakka — Social Work-Environment — Karnataka
88. Ms. Jamuna Tudu — Social Work-Environment — Jharkhand
89. Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi — Others-Agriculture — Uttar Pradesh
90. Shri Ramaswami Venkataswami — Medicine-Surgery — Tamil Nadu
91. Shri Ram Saran Verma — Others-Agriculture — Uttar Pradesh
92. Shri Swami Vishudhananda — Others-Spiritualism — Kerala

93. Shri Hiralal Yadav — Art-Vocals-Folk — Uttar Pradesh
 94. Shri Venkateswara Rao Yadlapalli — Others-Agriculture — Andhra Pradesh
- * indicates duo case. (counted as one award)

Australian Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The Australian Open is a tennis tournament held annually in Melbourne Park, Australia. The tournament is chronologically the first of the four Grand Slam tennis events of the year – the other three being the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. The 2018 Australian Open was the 107th edition of the tournament.

Event	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) and Nicolas Mahut (France)	Henri Kontinen (Finland) and John Peers (Australia)
Women's Doubles	Samantha Stosur (Australia) and Zhang Shuai (China)	Timea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)
Mix Doubles	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) and Rajeev Ram (United States)	Astra Sharma (Australia) and John-Patrick Smith (Australia)

Indonesia Masters Title 2019: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 Indonesia Masters, officially the DAIHATSU Indonesia Masters 2019, is a badminton tournament that takes place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Indonesia. Anders Antonsen won the men's singles title and Saina Nehwal won the women's singles title.

Event	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Anders Antonsen (Denmark)	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	Saina Nehwal (India)	Carolina Marin (Spain)
Men's Doubles	M Fernaldi Gideon (Indonesia) Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)	Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia) Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
Women's	Misaki Matsutomo	Kim So-

Doubles	(Japan) Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)	yeong (South Korea) Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)
Mix Doubles	Zheng Siwei (China) Huang Yaqiong (China)	Tontowi Ahmad (Indonesia) Liliyana Natsir (Indonesia)

International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards 2018

ICC announced the winners of the men's & women's yearly cricket awards. Indian captain Virat Kohli swept the main awards, winning the awards for the ICC Cricketer of the Year, ICC Test Cricketer of the year, and ICC ODI Cricketer of the year. This was the first time he won the award for the Test cricketer of the year and the second time in a row that he won the award for the ODI cricketer of the year. He was also named the captain of the Test and ODI sides. Smriti Mandhana wins Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award.

Men's Awards Winners List

- Emerging Player of the Year: Rishabh Pant (India)
- ICC Umpire of the Year: Kumar Dharmasena
- ICC Spirit of Cricket Award: Kane Williamson (New Zealand)
- ICC Associate Cricketer of the Year: Calum MacLeod
- ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year: Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year: Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Test Cricketer of the Year: Virat Kohli (India)

Women's Awards Winners List

- Australia's wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy voted ICC T20I Player of the Year.
- England's Sophie Ecclestone named ICC Emerging Player of the Year.
- India's stylish left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana has won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year and also been named as the ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year.

Golden Globe Awards 2019 Announced: List of Important Winners

The 76th Annual Golden Globe Awards were announced at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California, the USA. These annual awards honour the best in Motion Pictures and Television for the year 2018.

Category	Winners
Best Motion Picture Drama	Bohemian Rhapsody
Best Motion Picture Musical/Comedy	Green Book
Best Director in Motion Picture-Drama	Alfonso Cuaron (Roma)

Best Actress in Motion Picture-Drama	Glen Close (The Wife)
Best Actor in Motion Picture-Drama	Rami Malek (Bohemian Rhapsody)
Best Actress in Motion Picture Musical/Comedy	Olivia Colman (The Favourite)
Best Actor in Motion Picture or Musical or Comedy	Christian Bale (Vice)
Best Motion Picture - Animated	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language	Roma (Mexico, Alfonso Cuaron)
Best Original Score - Motion Picture	Justin Hurwitz (First Man)
Best Original Song - Motion Picture Shallow (Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando, Andrew Wyatt) - Star Is Born, A (2018)	

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15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas: All You Need To Know.

- PM inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- For the first time, the three-day long convention is being organized in Varanasi.
- The theme of PBD Convention 2019 is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India".

Chief Guests at the Occasion:

- Chief Guest of the PBD convention: Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth.
- Special Guest: Himanshu Gulati, Member of Parliament of Norway
- Guest of Honor: Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of Parliament of New Zealand.

About Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Brief:

- The decision to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) was taken by the former Indian Prime Minister, late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The 1st PBD was celebrated on 9th January 2003 in New Delhi. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD as it was on this day in 1915 that MK Gandhi, had returned to India from South Africa.
- PBD now celebrated once in every two years, provides a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and reconnect with their roots.

PM Modi 3-Day Visit to Gujarat: Complete Highlights

- PM Modi visited Gujarat. He attended/inaugurated various initiatives at the different venues. The complete highlights of the visit of PM Modi to Gujarat:
- He inaugurated the Ahmedabad Shopping Festival-2019 at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. He also inaugurated Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show at Gandhinagar and the Ahmedabad Shopping Festival.
- He inaugurated the 9th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit. The 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit witnessed the participation of Heads of States, Captains of global industry and Thought Leaders.

Know All About Kumbh: Historical Significance

- In Prayagraj, hearing the word "Kumbh", creates the picturesque vision of Triveni Sangam in one's mind. Kumbh is a symbol of peace and harmony amongst all human beings. The Kumbh Mela has been inscribed on the list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO in 2017. This reflects the significance of Kumbh worldwide.
- The Kumbh Mela at Prayag is very different as compared to Kumbh at other places due to many reasons.
- Firstly, the tradition of long-term Kalpvash is practiced only in Prayag. Secondly, the Triveni Sangam is considered as the center of the earth in few scriptures. Thirdly, Lord Brahma performed the Yajna here for creating the universe. Fourthly, Prayagraj is called the shrine of pilgrimages, but the most important reason is that the significance of performing rituals and tapas at Prayagraj is of highest among all pilgrimages and provides one with the highest virtue.
- The Kumbh Mela at Prayag takes place for approximately 55 days, spread over thousands of hectares around the sangam area, and becomes the greatest of ephemeral city in the world.

Important Details & Significance of the 70th Republic Day

- Cyril Ramaphosa was invited by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during the G20 summit which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was especially chosen for this occasion because India is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who had very close association with the people of South Africa.
- The 2019 celebration will be special as this year will mark the 150th birth anniversary of 'Father of the Nation'.
- It will be the first time in history that all women contingent of Assam Rifles, which is one of the oldest paramilitary forces of India, will take part in the Republic Day parade this year. Major Khushboo Kanwar, 30, will lead a contingent of the Assam Rifles. It will also be the first time that a woman officer would be leading the Army Services Corps in the 2019 Republic Day parade. Captain Shikha Surabhi from the Corps of Signals, will perform bike stunts alongside her team mates.
- This year, IAF will be flying an aircraft which will run by blended bio-fuel on the Republic Day 2019 fly-past. The aircraft will fly over Rajpath with a 'V' shape formation resembling 'Victory' sign.

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)

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 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:

1. Best Player- Arthur Van Doren of Belgium.
2. Goalkeeper of the tournament- Primin Blaak of Netherland.
3. Young player of the tournament- Thijs van Dam of Netherland.
4. Top goalscorer- Blake Govers of Australia and Alexander Hendrickx of Belgium.
5. 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.

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

Star Screen Awards 2018 Announced: List of Winners

- Star Screen Awards 2018 were announced recently in Mumbai. 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)	Rajkumar Rao
Best Actor (Critics)	Gajraj Rao for Badhaai Ho
Best Actress (Critics)	Neena Gupta for Badhaai Ho
Best Film	Stree
Best Film (Critics)	Mulk
Lifetime Achievement Award	Shabana Azmi
Best Music:	Amit Trivedi for Manmarziyaan

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		
Best entertainment host/presenter	Bigg Boss	Salman Khan
Best direction (fiction)	Neflix's original series Sacred Games	Anurag Kashyap
Best Editing	Sacred Games	Aarti Bajaj
Best comedy program	Queens Of Comedy	Discovery Communicati ons India
Best telenovela or soap opera series	Porus	One Life Studios
Winners from Other Asian countries		
Best actress	Critical Eleven	Adinia Wirasti of Indonesia
Best Actor	The Hunter	Yu Hwei of China

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. Also, 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.

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'**.

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.**
- As per the announcement made by **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley**, the annual revenue implication of the rate cuts would be ₹ 5,500 crore.
- 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.

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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. Blasting off from the Ariane Launch Complex in Kourou, the Ariane-5 vehicle injected the GSAT-11 into the orbit in a flawless flight lasting about 33 minutes.
- The satellite will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country and also be a platform to demonstrate new generation applications.

About GSAT-11 in Brief:

- ✚ The satellite has 38 spot beams as well as eight sub-beams, which will cover the entire country, including the remote places.
- ✚ Launch Mass: 5854 kg.
- ✚ Mission Life: 15 Years.
- ✚ Power: 13.6 kW Ariane-5 VA-246.
- ✚ Type of Satellite: Communication.
- ✚ Manufacturer: ISRO.
- ✚ Application: Communication.
- ✚ Orbit Type: GTO.

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.
- In Rajasthan, Governor Kalyan Singh administered the oath of the office and secrecy to Mr Gehlot and deputy CM Sachin Pilot in Jaipur. This was Mr Gehlot's third term as the Chief Minister.
- In Madhya Pradesh, Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Kamal Nath. The 72-year-old Kamal Nath was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Kamal Nath is currently Lok Sabha member from Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency.
- In Chhattisgarh, Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Baghel, the State Congress President, in Raipur. Bhupesh Baghel is the third chief minister of the state.

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.

Note: A day before the results of polling in the five states, Reserve Bank of India governor Urjit Patel stepped down from his post.

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.
- 4 agreements that were signed during the state visit of Maldives President Ibrahim Solih:
 1. Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements
 2. MoU on Cultural Cooperation
 3. MoU for Establishing Mutual Cooperation to Improve the Ecosystem for Agribusiness
 4. Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics.

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

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 & 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, & Malawi. He

visited Botswana on first leg, Zimbabwe on second & on the third leg he visited Malawi. Here are the complete highlights of 3 nation visit of M Venkaiah Naidu.

Key Highlights | 3-day Visit to Botswana

- Capital: Gaborone | Currency: Botswana pula | President: Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi
- Botswana decided to join the International Solar Alliance.
 - M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the India-Botswana CEO Roundtable in Gaborone.
 - He visited the state-of-the-art diamond sorting & valuation operating facility 'The Diamond Trading Company Botswana'. It is the second largest Diamond Trading company in the world.
 - MoU was signed for waiving Visa for Diplomatic Passport holders.

Key Highlights | 3-day Visit to Zimbabwe

- Capital: Harare | Currency: US dollars, South African rand, Euro. | President: Mr. Emmerson Mnangagwa
- Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu reached Harare, Zimbabwe for his 2nd leg of the official tour at the invitation of Vice President of Zimbabwe.
 - Vice President announced the US\$ 310 million Line of Credit for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station. It is Zimbabwe's second biggest power plant with an installed capacity of 920 MW.
 - US\$23 million Line of Credit for rehabilitation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant,
 - US\$19.5 million Line of Credit for Deka Pumping & River Water Intake System,
 - Assistance for construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre,
 - US\$2.93 million grant for Up-gradation of INDO-Zim Technology Centre.
 - India, Zimbabwe sign 6 agreements in various fields including Mining & Visa waiver:
 - Mr. Naidu addressed the India-Zimbabwe Business Forum meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Key Highlights | 2-day Visit to Malawi

- Capital: Lilongwe | Currency: Malawian kwacha | President: Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika.
- Attended the Malawi-India Business Meet, in Lilongwe, Malawi.
 - The MOUs are Extradition treaty, MoU on cooperation in the field of atomic energy for peaceful purposes between Global Center for Nuclear Energy in a partnership of the Department of Atomic Energy & the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy & Mining of Malawi, MOU on visa waiver agreement for diplomatic & official passports.
 - Inaugurated a very unique event, India for Humanity to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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

Award	Winner
ATP World Tour No 1 (determined by ATP Rankings)	Novak Djokovic
Comeback Player of the Year	Novak Djokovic
ATP World Tour No. 1 Doubles Team	Oliver Marach & Mate Pavic
Most Improved Player of the Year	Stefanos Tsitsipas
Newcomer of the Year	Alex de Minaur
Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award	Rafael Nadal

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

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

- MOU between Vietnam's Ministry of Information & Communications & the Indian Ministry of Communications on cooperation in the field of Communications.
- MOU on cooperation between Vietnam's Department of Foreign Affairs & the Indian Business Chamber in Viet Nam (INCHAM).
- MOU between the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Ha Noi, Vietnam & the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- Cooperation Agreement between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & Vietnam Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI).
- After visiting Vietnam, **President of India Ram Nath Kovind was in Australia** on his second leg of 2-Nation visit. He met Australian PM 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 & 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.

List of Loan Agreements Signed With Asian Development Bank

- India & 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, & 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 & the national grid.

Announcements Signed Between India & Japan

- Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) submitting the instrument of ratification. As of now, there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) & 47 countries that have ratified it. Japan will be the 71st country to sign & 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.
- The Complete table of Agreements/ MoUs/ Treaty Signed:

DANISA Denmark Open 2018: List of Winners

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

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

CBDT releases Direct Tax Statistics: Key Highlights

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released time-series data & key statistics relating to direct tax collections & administration in public domain, as updated up to FY 2017-18 & income-distribution data for AY 2016-17 & AY 2017-18.

- Constant growth in direct tax-GDP ratio over last three years & the ratio of 5.98% in FY 2017-18 is the best DT-GDP ratio in last 10 years.
- Growth of more than 80% in the number of returns filed in the last four financial years from 3.79 crore in FY 2013-14 (base year) to 6.85 crore in FY 2017-18.
- Number of persons filing return of income increased by about 65% during this period from 3.31 crore in FY 2013-14 to 5.44 crore in FY 2017-18.
- Average tax paid by corporate taxpayers increased from Rs.32.28 lakh in AY 2014-15 to Rs.49.95 lakh in AY 2017-18 (growth of 55%).
- Increase of 26% in the average tax paid by individual taxpayers from Rs.46,377/- in AY 2014-15 to Rs.58,576/- in AY 2017-18.

Vice President Naidu visit to Belgium: Key Points

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

Asian Para Games 2018 Concludes: Medal Winners

- 3rd Asian Para Games took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. Around 3000 athletes from 43 countries took part in 15 Paralympic & three non-Paralympic sports.
- It took place in Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in central Jakarta. Total 18 sports were played during the Games.
- The official mascot was a 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	"for their discovery of

	Honjo (Japan)	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."

List of Agreements/MoUs Exchanged Between India & Russia

- Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India. Following are the set of agreements signed.
- Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & MEA for the period 2019-2023.
- MoU between the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation & the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).
- MoU between ISRO & the Federal Space Agency of Russia 'ROSCOSMOS' on Joint Activities in the field of Human Spaceflight Programme.
- MoU between the Russian Ministry of Transport & Indian Railways in the Development Cooperation in Transport Education
- MoU between the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), of India & the Russian Small & Medium Business Corporation (RSMB), on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

- Cooperation Agreement in the Fertilizers Sector between the Russian Direct Investment Fund" ("RDIF"); PJSC Phosagro (PhosAgro) & Indian Potash Limited (IPL).

National Sports Awards 2018 Announced: Important List of Winners

- **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** is given for the spectacular & most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year, **Arjuna Award** is given for consistency outstanding performance for four years, **Dronacharya Award** for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events, **Dhyan Chand Award** for life time contribution to sports development & **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** is given to the corporate entities (both in private & public sector) & individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion & development.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2018		
	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Ms. S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
2.	Shri Virat Kohli	Cricket
Dronacharya Awards 2018		
	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa	Boxing
2.	Shri Vijay Sharma	Weightlifting
3.	Shri A. Srinivasa Rao	Table Tennis
4.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Pannu	Athletics
5.	Shri Clarence Lobo	Hockey (Life Time)
6.	Shri Tarak Sinha	Cricket (Life Time)
7.	Shri Jiwan Kumar Sharma	Judo (Life Time)
8.	Shri V.R. Beedu	Athletics (Life Time)
Dhyan Chand Award 2018		
	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Satyadev Prasad	Archery
2.	Shri Bharat Kumar Chetri	Hockey
3.	Ms. Bobby Aloysius	Athletics
4.	Shri Chougale Dadu Dattatray	Wrestling

Government Appoints New MD & CEOs at 10 PSBs

- Government of India cleared the appointment of CEOs & MDs at 10 Public Sector Banks (PSBs). The list of people appointed as MD & CEO at various PSBs:
 1. Padmaja Chundru - Indian Bank.
 2. Mrutyunjay Mahapatra - Syndicate Bank.
 3. Pallav Mohapatra - Central Bank of India.

4. Packirisamy - Andhra Bank.
5. Karnam Sekar - Dena Bank. **Note: *All of the above people are currently deputy MDs at SBI.**
6. SS Mallikarajuna Rao - Allahabad Bank - He is currently the ED of Syndicate Bank.
7. AS Rajeev - Bank of Maharashtra - He is currently the ED of Indian Bank.
8. Atul Kumar Goel - UCO Bank - He is currently the ED at Union Bank of India.
9. S Harisankar - Punjab & Sind Bank. He is currently the Executive Director of Allahabad Bank.
10. Ashok Kumar Pradhan - United Bank of India - He is currently the ED of United Bank of India.

IPPB, India's Largest Payments Bank Launched: All You Need To Know

- PM Modi launched the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. IPPB is the **largest payments bank in the country** by network size. **IPPB has 650 Branches & 3250 Access Points** spread across the country. All the 1.55 lakh post offices in the country have been linked to the IPPB system by December 31, 2018.
- **Ten Things You Must Know About India Post Payments Bank:**
 1. IPPB has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, with 100% equity owned by Government of India.
 2. It started operations on 30 January 2017, by opening two pilot branches, **one at Raipur & the other at Ranchi.**
 3. IPPB will offer **4% interest rate** on savings accounts.
 4. Payments banks **can accept deposits of up to Rs 1 lakh per account** from individuals & small businesses, but do not have the mandate to extend loans.
 5. But IPPB will, in alliance with other financial service providers, offer third-party products. For example, in case of loans, IPPB will work as an agent of PNB.

6. IPPB will offer a range of products such as savings & current accounts, money transfer, direct benefit transfers, bill & utility payments, & enterprise & merchant payments.
7. These products & services will be offered across multiple channels (counter services, micro-ATM, mobile banking app, SMS & IVR), using the IPPB's technology platform.
8. IPPB has been **allowed to link around 17 crore postal savings bank (PSB) accounts** with its accounts.
9. IPPB will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts, which covers every corner of the country with more than 300,000 postmen & Grameen Dak Sewaks.
10. The Cabinet has approved an 80% increase in spending for IPPB to Rs 1,435 crore.

Interest Rates On PPF, NSC, Other Small Savings Schemes Raised

- Govt. raised interest rates on Small Savings Schemes (SSS), including National Savings Certificate (NSC) & Public Provident Fund (PPF) by up to 0.4% for the October-December quarter.

	Instrument	Rate of interest (01.07.2018 to 30.09.2018)	Rate of interest (01.10.2018 to 31.12.2018)	Compounding frequency
1.	Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually
2.	1 Year Time Deposit	6.6	6.9	Quarterly
3.	2 Year Time Deposit	6.7	7.0	Quarterly
4.	3 Year Time Deposit	6.9	7.2	Quarterly
5.	5 Year Time Deposit	7.4	7.8	Quarterly
6.	5 Year Recurring Deposit	6.9	7.3	Quarterly
7.	5 Year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.3	8.7	Quarterly & paid
8.	5 Year Monthly Income Account	7.3	7.7	Monthly & paid
9.	5 Year National Savings Certificate	7.6	8.0	Annually
10.	Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.6	8.0	Annually
11.	Kisan Vikas Patra	7.3 (will mature in 118 months)	7.7 (will mature in 112 months)	Annually
12.	Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme	8.1	8.5	Annually

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Governors for 7 States

- President Ram Nath Kovind appointed governors for seven states — Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, & Tripura.
- Governor Satya Pal Malik transferred from Bihar to Jammu & Kashmir to replace NN Vohra.
- Senior BJP leader Lalji Tandon has been appointed the Governor of Bihar, replacing Malik.
- Kaptan Singh Solanki, the Governor of Haryana, has been transferred to Tripura, while Satyadev Narayan Arya will be the new Haryana governor.
- Tripura governor Tathagata Roy has been transferred to Meghalaya, & Ganga Prasad, the Governor of Meghalaya, has been transferred to Sikkim. Baby Rani Maurya will be the new Governor of Uttarakhand.

Independence Day Gallantry Awards Announced: Complete List of Winners

- On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind approved 131 Gallantry Awards to members of Armed Forces personnel & Paramilitary Forces. Defence Ministry said that one Kirti Chakra, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 20 Shaurya Chakras & 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry) will be awarded.
- Braveheart hailing from Jammu & Kashmir, Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh has been shortlisted for the Kirti Chakra award posthumously.
- Major Aditya Kumar's name has been mentioned on the list of 20 armed forces personnel for the Shaurya Chakra award. Rifleman Aurangzeb will also be conferred with the third highest gallantry award.

- Six women officers of the Indian Navy will be awarded Nao Sena medals. They were part of the expedition to circumnavigate the globe. Following gallantry awards have been conferred to Army personnel:

Award	No's	Remarks
Kirti Chakra	01	Posthumous
Shaurya Chakra	14	Including posthumous 02
Sena Medal (Gallantry)	96	Including posthumous 08
Mention-in-Despatches	27	Including posthumous 04

All India Football Federation Awards 2017 Announced: Complete List of Winners

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF), the governing body of football in India named India & Bengaluru FC Captain Sunil Chhetri as the AIFF Player of the Year in the Federation's Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai.
- Kamala Devi bagged the 2017 AIFF Woman Player of the Year.

Award For	Winner
Player of the Year	Sunil Chhetri
Woman Player of the Year	Kamala Devi
Emerging Player of the Year	Anirudh Thapa
Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year	E Panthoi

Ramon Magsaysay Award Winners 2018 Announced

- Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, & pragmatic idealism within a democratic society. Two Indians, **Bharat Vatwani** (for Restoring Health & Dignity to troubled lives) & **Sonam Wangchuk** (for Harnessing nature, culture & education) made the country proud as their names figured in the list of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award winners.

	Winner	Country
1.	Bharat Vatwani	India
2.	Sonam Wangchuk	India
3.	Youk Chhang	Cambodia
4.	Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz	East Timor
5.	Howard Dee	Philippines
6.	Vo Thi Hoang Yen	Vietnam

South Korean President Moon Jae-In's Visit to India: Key Points

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited India. This was his first visit to India. He was accompanied by First Lady Kim Jung-sook.
- President Moon attended the India-Korea business forum.
- Inaugurated World's Largest Mobile Factory In Noida.

- India & South Korea Signed 5 MoUs In Field Of Science & Technology.
- India, South Korea Ink 11 MoUs.
- India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre Inaugurated in New Delhi.
- Note| South Korea Capital- Seoul, Currency- South Korean won.

FIFA World Cup 2018 Concludes | France Emerged as Champions

- 21st edition of the FIFA World Cup concluded in Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital of Moscow.
- France emerged as the champion team of the FIFA World Cup 2018. It has defeated Croatia in a thrilling final by 4-2. It was the second world cup win for France, it first won in 1998.

Important Highlights & Special Awards of the FIFA 2018 World Cup

1. **Golden Ball Award:** Croatian captain **Luka Modric**.
2. **Golden Glove Award:** Belgium's **Thibaut Courtois**.
3. **Golden Boot Award:** England's **Harry Kane**.

Quick Facts:

Zabivaka was the official mascot of the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

FIFA World Cup 2022 will be held in Qatar.

Wimbledon Championships 2018: Complete List Of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
Women's Singles	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Serena Williams (USA)

All about the five-pronged strategy Project 'SASHAKT' to deal with NPAs

- Sunil Mehta Committee, set up to look into the faster resolution of stressed assets, has recommended the creation of an asset management company for the resolution of stressed loans worth more than Rs. 500 crores. It recommended a five-pronged strategy Project 'SASHAKT' to deal with Non-performing Assets in the country's banking system.
- The five-pronged strategy includes:
 1. SME resolution approach,
 2. Bank-led resolution approach,
 3. AMC/AIF led resolution approach,
 4. NCLT/IBC approach, &
 5. Asset-trading platform.
- The Mehta Committee also proposed a Bank Led Resolution Approach (BLRA) for loans between Rs. 50 & Rs. 500 crores. Under the BLRA approach, financial institutions will enter into an inter-creditor agreement to authorise the lead bank to implement a resolution plan in 180 days.

RBI in News

- RBI stated that it will **inject Rs 37,500 crore** into the system through the purchase of government securities in February to increase liquidity.
- RBI released a data on **“Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies, 2017-18”** which shows that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 18% to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore in FY18.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Paytm Payments Bank** to restart opening new accounts for its consumers after almost six months of the ban.
- RBI allowed a one-time restructuring of **existing debt up to Rs 25 crore** for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets.
- RBI released the **18th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR)**. The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability, as also the resilience of the financial system. India’s financial system remains stable, and the banking sector shows signs of improvement. The asset quality of banks showed an improvement with the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of SCBs declining from 11.5% in March 2018 to 10.8% in September 2018.
- The number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices have seen a **25% increase in the fiscal year 2018**, with the majority of these complaints coming from urban centres owing to increased awareness and poor internal redressal mechanisms of banks.
- Banks seen a significant improvement **in recovery of stressed assets** helped by the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) & amendments in SARFAESI Act, during FY18, as per RBI data. In the **fiscal ended March 2018, banks recovered Rs 40,400 crore worth of bad loans** as against Rs 38,500 crore recovered in FY17.
- India’s institutional framework **to support microfinance would get a boost** with RBI clearing a proposal to dig in an **existing Rs. 1000-crores corpus for funding microlenders**. SIDBI had kept this money & sought RBI’s approval for using it **for the microfinance sector**.
- **RBI will capture the payment habits of individuals in six cities Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru & Guwahati**. For this, RBI launched a **‘Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals (SRPHi)’**. Sigma Research & Consulting Pvt Ltd to conduct the fieldwork of the survey on behalf of the RBI.
- RBI in consultation with the govt. decided to have a **rule-based dynamic limit for outstanding stock of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) at 6.5% of GDP** at current market prices.
- RBI imposed a fine of **Rs 1 crores on Indian Bank** for violating cybersecurity norms.
- RBI kept the policy repo rate under LAF unchanged **at 6.5%**. Reverse repo rate remains at **6.25%**, & **MSF rate & the Bank Rate at 6.75%**. The objective is of achieving the medium-term target **for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%**. On the domestic front, GDP growth slowed down to **7.1% year-on-year (y-o-y) in Q2:2018-19**. GDP growth for 2018-19 projected at **7.4% (7.2-7.3% in H2) as in the October policy, & for H1:2019-20 at 7.5%**.
- 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. Other three are: Capgemini Technology Services India, Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India, & Mindtree Ltd.
- RBI relaxed norms for **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** by reducing the mandatory hedging provision **to 70% from the current 100%**. It will apply to the ECBs with a maturity period between 3 & 5 years.
- RBI launched a survey **to gauge their scope with respect to turnover, profitability, & workforce** with an aim to create a profile of India’s startup sector. The survey forms have been mailed to all startup entities registered with DIPP.
- RBI board decided **to set up a high-powered committee to examine issues related to the surplus capital of Rs 9.69 lakh crore with the central bank & advised it to consider a scheme for restructuring stressed assets in the MSME sector**.
- RBI is likely to **establish an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019** to take the load off the increasing number of complaints currently being handled by the banking ombudsman.
- **RBI liberalised the norms governing foreign borrowings** for infrastructure creation “in consultation with the Government”. As per the notification, the minimum average maturity requirement for ECBs **in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers reduced to three years from earlier five years**.
- RBI canceled the **certificate of registrations of as many as 31 NBFCs** for unspecified reasons.
- RBI allowed **banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued** by systemically important non-deposit taking NBFCs registered with **RBI & housing finance companies**

(HFCs) registered with the National Housing Bank.

- RBI initiated the **process to set up a digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture all the details of borrowers**, including wilful defaulters & also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.
- RBI announced **measures to increase liquidity flows to the non-banking financial companies**. It permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit to them as on October 19, **to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements**.
- RBI announced **that it will inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November** through the purchase of government securities.
- RBI allowed **state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital** from overseas. It relaxed the policy on borrowing **up to USD 10 billion from the overseas**. It allowed them to raise ECB of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.
- **RBI kept the policy repo rate under LAF unchanged at 6.5%**. Reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 6.25%, & MSF rate & Bank Rate at 6.75%. RBI's objective is of achieving **the medium-term target for CPI inflation of 4%** within a band of +/- 2%. Growth projection for **2018-19 has also been retained at 7.4%**.
- RBI issued guidelines for operating **Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs)** to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency & risk control.
- RBI released **operational guidelines to facilitate payments among prepaid instruments (PPI)** such as mobile wallets. Inter-operability among mobile wallets, & between bank account & e-wallet would be enabled through the UPI system.
- The Reserve Bank of India has slapped an **Rs1-crore penalty on Syndicate Bank** and Rs20 lakh on Axis Bank for violating norms.
- RBI in the exercise of powers conferred under **Section 47 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** has levied a penalty of Rupees one crore on the State Bank of India (SBI) for not monitoring the end use of funds in respect of one of its borrowers.
- The Reserve Bank of India **raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans to Rs. 1.6 lakh from the current Rs. 1 lakh** with a view to help small and marginal farmers.
- Reserve Bank of India decided to **treat deposits to over Rs.2 crore as 'bulk'** as they doubled the limit for the same from the earlier Rs.1 crore.
- RBI has released 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to:

- Reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points from 6.5% to 6.25% with immediate effect**.
- Consequently, the **reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.0%**, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to **6.5%**.
- On the supply side, the FAE has placed the growth of real gross value added (GVA) at **7.0% in 2018-19 as compared with 6.9% in 2017-18**.

Public Sector Banks in News

- **SBI Card and Etihad Guest**, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, have joined hands to launch a travel-specific Visa credit card for members and Indian travelers. This is the first international co-brand partnership of SBI Card, the country's second-largest credit card issuer.
- **Allahabad Bank and SBI Life Insurance** came together and signed a bancassurance pact, to offer a holistic financial planning solution to consumers.
- The government infused 10,882 crore Rupees in four public sector banks, **including UCO Bank and Syndicate Bank**. It is a part of 28,615 crore rupees capital infusion to be done in about half a dozen public sector lenders. UCO Bank has received 3,074 crore rupees, Bank of Maharashtra got 4,498 crore rupees, Syndicate Bank 1,632 crore rupees and Central Bank of India 1,678 crore rupees.
- Cabinet has approved the **merger of Vijaya Bank & Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda**. After this merger, Bank of Baroda will become the third biggest public sector bank. The merger will be effective from April 1. This is also the first ever three-way merger in Indian banking. As per the Scheme of Amalgamation, shareholders of Vijaya Bank will get 402 equity shares of BoB for every 1,000 shares held. In case of Dena Bank, its shareholders will get 110 shares for every 1,000 shares of BoB.
- **Syndicate Bank and SBI Life Insurance** signed a bancassurance pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers. Note: CEO of SBI Life, Sanjeev Nautiyal.
- Govt. amalgamated three Regional Rural Banks - **Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sulej Gramin Bank - into a single RRB**. The sponsor banks of the RRBs are NABARD, Government of Punjab and Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank.
- **United Bank of India** announced that govt. decided **to infuse Rs. 2,159 crores** in the bank as part of Rs. 28,615 crores capital infusion to be done in about half a dozen banks. Govt. decided to pump **Rs 28,615 crore into seven public sector banks (PSBs)** through recapitalization bonds soon. **Bank of India** is likely to get the highest amount of Rs 10,086 crore.

- RBI approved the **merger of SBM (Mauritius), India with SBM Bank (India)**.
- **SBI increased fixed deposit or FD rates for some select maturity periods**. Now, SBI is offering 6.8% interest rate on FDs with maturity period of one to two years. Interest rate for senior citizens also goes up to 7.30% on SBI FDs with tenure between one year & two years.
- **SBI & payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India** entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance & digital payment platform.
- FM announced that **the sixth tranche of electoral bonds sale** started & will continue for 10 days. **State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue & encash electoral bonds** through its 29 authorised branches.
- SBI slashed the daily **withdrawal limit** on its classic **debit card from Rs 40,000 to Rs 20,000**. There is no change in the daily withdrawal limits on other cards.
- SBI signed MoU with **Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI)** for development of human resources of NBI.
- Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra and Oriental Bank of Commerce have been allowed to exit the PCA framework fully. The three lenders were part of 11 government-owned banks put under the framework in 2017 and 2018.
- Two regional rural banks (RRBs) - Pallavan Grama Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank - will be merged to form the Tamil Nadu Grama Bank as per the Finance Ministry notification. The integration will be effective from April 1.
- Indian Banking Association has issued advisory requesting banks to waive off the processing, documentation, inspection and all other service charges for Kisan Credit Card and crop loans up to 3 lakh rupees.
- State-owned power giant NTPC has announced that it has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with State Bank of India.

Private Sector Banks in News

- Private sector ICICI Bank inducted former SBI Managing Director B Sriram and management consultant Rama Bijapurkar on its board as independent director.
- Axis Bank announced its Managing Director and CEO Shikha Sharma has retired from the post and Amitabh Chaudhry will be the new managing director and CEO of the bank with effect from January 1, 2019.
- ICICI Bank, in a first-of-its-kind programme, signed MoU with Small Business FinCredit India Pvt. Ltd. (SBFC), a systemically important Non-Banking Finance Company for entrepreneurs, to jointly

- provide credit worth up to Rs. 1 crores to MSMEs for a tenure of 15 years.
- As per the data by RBI, between 2015 & 2017, **ICICI Bank penalized the highest number of employees for defrauding bank assets** in the last three year out of 60 scheduled commercial banks operating in India.
- **IDFC Bank & NBFC Capital First** announced the **completion of their merger**, creating a combined loan asset book of Rs 1.03 lakh crore **for the merged entity IDFC First Bank**. The board also approved **appointment of V Vaidyanathan**, founder & chairman of Capital First Ltd, as MD & CEO.
- **Karnataka Bank** launched a special campaign for **opening CASA**. It introduced **as a new SB scheme 'KBL SB - TASC'** a specialized product for Trusts/Associates/Societies/Clubs.
- **IndusInd Bank** announced the launch of **IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card**, which empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card. The bank claims it to be **the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons**.
- **Chanda Kochhar** quit as **CEO of ICICI Bank with immediate effect**. ICICI appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as managing director & chief executive officer for five years.

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Small & Payments Banks in News

- **ESAF small finance bank** got RBI approval to **operate as a scheduled bank**. **Note:** MD & CEO of the ESAF SFB: K Paul Thomas, Headquarters: Thrissur.
- **Fino Payments Bank**, one of India's first payments banks, allowed to open new accounts by RBI after it submitted a compliance report.
- **'Kisan Suvidha loan'** for small and marginal farmers has been launched **by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**. The scheme will attempt to reach the

bottom of the pyramid with products and services. It provides loans to individuals with an amount ranging from Rs. 60000 to Rs. 2 Lakh to fulfill the customized needs of the mass market segment.

- **Fino Payments Bank (FPB)** has announced the launch of a sweep account facility in association with **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)**. This partnership will help FPB address the issue of deposit limits that all the payment banks face at the moment.

International Banks in News

- **Sri Lanka's Central Bank** announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) agreed to provide USD 400 million under a swap arrangement to boost the island nation's reserves.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that India has allowed an **Iranian bank, Pasargad Bank**, to open a branch in Mumbai.
- **European Central Bank** launched a **new system aimed at letting banks settle payments instantly across Europe**. It is the **ECB's TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS) system**.

Other Financial Institutions in News

- **SBICAP Ventures (SVL)** launched **two funds for the small & medium enterprises (SMEs) & affordable housing sectors**. It is expecting to raise a corpus of Rs 400 crores.
- Sunil Mehta announced that **an asset management company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans**

has been formed & will be called as Sashakt India Asset Management.

- **National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** acquired **IDFC Infrastructure Finance (IDFC-IFL)**, an infrastructure debt fund.
- **Kirloskar group** announced that **it has received licence from RBI to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC), Kirloskar Capital**, which will be headed by industry veteran Vimal Bhandari.
- **On occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, SIDBI launched a **National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign**, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts in 28 States & reaching to around 15,000 youth.
- **Alibaba & SoftBank-backed Paytm** registered over 137 million UPI transactions in September, becoming **the leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments** with over 33% of the overall market share.
- NHB decided to **increase the Refinance Limit from Rs. 24,000 crores to Rs. 30,000 crores** for the Current Year (July 2018-June 2019) towards refinancing eligible institutions.
- **An ATM for deposit & withdrawal of money for cryptocurrencies** installed in **Bengaluru's Kemp Fort Mall** by virtual currency exchange Unocoin.
- **Reliance Health Insurance**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Reliance Capital**, received final approval from **IRDAI for its new health insurance business**.
- **HDFC Standard Life Insurance** has changed its name to **HDFC Life Insurance**.

ECONOMY/FINANCIAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Union Cabinet has approved the **recapitalization of EXIM Bank**. The details are as follows:
 1. Issuance of Recapitalization Bonds by the Government of India to the tune of Rs.6,000 crore for capital infusion in Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
 2. The equity will be infused in two tranches of Rs. 4,500 crore in FY 2018-19 and Rs.1,500 crore in FY 2019-20 respectively.
 3. The Cabinet also approved an increase in the authorized capital of Exim Bank from Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 20,000 crore.
- With robust private consumption and 7.4% GDP growth rate in the current fiscal, the **Indian economy is expected to accelerate at a rate of 7.6% in 2019-20**, according to a report by the United Nations titled United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019.
- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)**, a Fitch Group Company, estimated India's GDP growth could touch 7.5 % in the financial year 2019-20 as against 7.2 % during current fiscal i.e. 2018-19.
- The **32nd Meeting of GST Council concluded in New Delhi**. The Limit of annual turnover for

composition scheme increased to 1.5 crore rupees effective from April 1, 2019. The Council decided to increase the GST registration threshold limit to 40 lakh rupees from 20 lakh.

- In its '**Growth Outlook for 2019**', Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) stated that the GDP growth will be in the range of 7.5% in 2019.
- **SEBI allowed custodial services in the commodity derivatives market**. The move is aimed at enabling the participation of institutional investors such as mutual funds and portfolio managers in the commodity derivatives market.
- Releasing the first advance estimates of **National Income for 2018-19**, Central Statistics Office (CSO) stated that the growth in GDP during 2018-19 is estimated at **7.2% as compared to the growth rate of 6.7% in 2017-18**, mainly due to improvement in the performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
- The **income earned by an average Indian doubled in 7 years**, from Rs 63,642 per year in 2011-12 to Rs 1.25 lakh in 2018-19, the first advance estimates of national income released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show. The year-

on-year growth in per capita income had touched its bottom in 2017-18 under the current national accounts series (the base year 2011-12) at 8.6 %. In 2018-19, it has bounced back to 11.1%.

- **India's GDP is expected to grow at 7.3% in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5% in the following two years, the World Bank has forecast.** China's economic growth is projected to slow down to 6.2% each in 2019 and 2020 and 6% in 2021.
- To kickstart listing of start-ups in India, **SEBI lined up a slew of relaxations for new-age ventures.** The proposed changes include **renaming the Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) that the regulator created for such listings as Innovators Growth Platform (IGP).**
- RBI to introduce **Rs 20 notes with additional features.**
- Govt. will infuse **an additional Rs 41,000 crores** into cash-starved PSBs. The outlay will go up **from Rs. 65,000 crores to Rs. 1,06,000 crores** in the current fiscal to propel economic growth.
- **Current account deficit (CAD) widened to 2.9% of GDP** for the July-September quarter due to higher trade deficit compared with 1.1% during the same period of the previous year, as per the RBI.
- **Fitch Ratings** revised downwards **India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2%** for current fiscal. It projected for 2019-20 & 2020-21 financial years, **India's GDP growth will be 7% & 7.1%.**
- In a bid to make retirement income scheme more attractive for central govt. employees, **govt. agreed to chip in a higher 14% from current 10% of the basic salary of an individual as its contribution to the National Pension System (NPS).**
- **SEBI fined brokerage house Anand Rathi Rs. 1 lakh** for violating stock broker norms by transferring funds from the client's account to own account & vice versa on several occasions.
- **SEBI come out with new rules for re-classification of a promoter as a public investor,** wherein an outgoing promoter will have to **relinquish special rights as well as control over the affairs of the listed firm & not be allowed to hold over 10% stake.**
- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile application & web-based platform** for retail investors to buy government securities. The new app - **NSE goBID,** 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** & the next tranche would be released as early as December 2018.
- CBDT released **time-series data as updated up to FY 2017-18** and income-distribution data for AY 2016-17 and AY 2017-18. As per it, there is a **constant growth in direct tax-GDP ratio over last three years** and the ratio of 5.98% in FY 2017-18 is the best DT-GDP ratio in last 10 years. There is a growth of more than 80% in the number of returns filed in the last four financial years from 3.79 crore in FY 2013-14 (base year) to 6.85 crore in FY 2017-18.
- As per the RBI, **India's external debt declined 2.8% to USD 514.4 billion at June-end** over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt & non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits.
- CCEA increased the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the current financial year** which will be marketed in 2019-20 season. **MSP of wheat raised by 105 Rs. per quintal, Masur by 225 per quintal, & Gram by 220 per quintal.**
- **Centre in consultation with RBI decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19.** SGB will be issued every month from October to February 2019. It will be sold through **banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited,** designated post offices & recognised stock exchanges National Stock Exchange of India Limited & Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.
- Govt. increased the **rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) & other related schemes** by 0.4% points to 8% for the October-December quarter. The rate is in line with that for PPF.
- India's new **e-commerce policy** came into effect From February 1, 2019. A new set of policy rules had been formed for the e-commerce companies.
- **National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC)** has released Kharif Crop estimation for the year 2018-2019. According to the report, the basmati rice production is expected to decline by 9.24% to 5.18 million metric tonnes.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has bought a 14% stake in micro-financier Annapurna Finance for Rs 137 crore, reinforcing the belief that India's microfinance sector is on course to attract long-term funds from global lenders and investors.

BUSINESS NEWS (NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL)

Companies	Key Points
Kochi Refinery project and IOCL	PM Modi dedicated Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala.
Bharat Fritz Werner Ltd	a Bengaluru-based machining solution provider partnered with Universal Robots, a

(BFW)	Danish robot maker and a leader in collaborative robots, to co-create robots for MSME sector.
Omega Healthcare Management Services and IIT Bangalore	signed a pact for advanced use of the latest technology in providing healthcare solutions.
Vodafone Idea	announced that its board had approved a rights issue of Rs. 25,000 crores to existing eligible equity shareholders in line with the recommendations of a capital raising committee it had set up in November 2018.
Dell	hosted an interactive hackathon, where teachers focused on their learning journey in New Delhi.
Microsoft India	launched a new e-commerce platform re-weave.in for handloom weavers under its Project ReWeave, part of its philanthropic initiatives.
BHEL and Libcoin	are in dialogue to form a world-class consortium to initially build 1GWh lithium-ion battery plant in India.
Reliance Industries Ltd	Chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani announced that group companies Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio Infocomm would jointly launch a new e-commerce platform in the country. Gujarat - first state to get it.
IRCTC and Bharti-Axa	will offer insurance of up to INR 50 lakh for free for air passengers who book their tickets through its portal. IRCTC has tied up with Bharti-Axa for the offer.
Paisabazaar.com & Karnataka Bank	Strategic partnership to offer the bank's home loan product to customers on the Paisabazaar platform.
Paisabazaar.com	Launched an industry-first feature that will help loan applicants choose their most-suited lender on its platform. It is named as ' Chance of Approval '.
Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)	Approved merger with GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSKCH India) through an-all equity deal.
Paytm	Partnered with LIC to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform.
Kerala Infrastructure & Technology for Education (KITE) rolled out- KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform which can be used to train teachers, students & the general public.	
Myntra	Will integrate its sister firm Jabong with itself & the integrated firm will continue to be led by Myntra CEO Ananth Narayanan.
Paisabazaar.com & Karnataka Bank	Strategic partnership to offer the bank's home loan product to customers on the Paisabazaar platform.
MoU for collaboration in LPG services signed between Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL & BPCL) & CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.	
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)	To complete commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.
Coal India & NLC India (NLCIL)	To jointly set up 5000 MW of power generation capacity of which 3000 MW would be solar powered while the rest 2000 MW would be coal-fuelled.
Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries is entering a strategic investment partnership with Den Networks Limited & Hathway Cable & Datacom Limited. This will create a win-win outcome for LCOs, customers, content producers .	
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd	Quarterly earnings from financial sector was more than Accenture Plc & making TCS the world's largest pure-play IT & consulting firm servicing megabanks & insurers.
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	Only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018.
INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES	
Facebook	announced that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI) with an initial investment of \$7.5 million over a period of 5 years.
Route Mobile Limited (Route Mobile), a cloud-communication platform service provider & a member of Oracle Partner Network (OPN) announced the collaboration with Oracle Marketing Cloud.	
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) & Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group formed a strategic partnership to support efforts eliminate hunger globally by 2030.	

America's IBM	Acquired software company Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash & debt deal.
WhatsApp partnered with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	to train small & medium enterprises (SMEs) & entrepreneurs on using the messaging platform.
Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018, as per Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report.	
Google	To shut down Google+ for consumer use over the next 10 months.
Paytm	has launched hotel bookings on its platform and acquired Night Stay, which offers deals on last-minute bookings at luxury hotels
Food delivery startup Swiggy	Acquired Bengaluru-based AI startup Kint.io for an undisclosed amount

AGREEMENTS/MOU SIGNED

Between Countries States Cities Organizations	
Between Whom	MoU/Agreement Details
Ministry of Coal of India entered and Ministry of Energy, Republic of Poland	to foster relations in the field of coal mining and clean coal technologies through the already established Joint Coal Working Group
India and Germany	for cooperation on Water and Waste Management
India and Bangladesh	for training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Servants at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)
Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Mongolia	for Project Management Consultancy for oil refinery
India and Norway	the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative
India and Sri Lanka	to provide modern infrastructural facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka.
Delhi Govt. with Govt. of Moscow	Signed signed twin-city agreement for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture & education, for the next 3 years.
India & Sri Lanka	Two MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Sri Lankan rupees.
India and Japan-India Cooperative Actions (JICA) signed the loan agreements under the Japanese Official Development Assistance Loan Program in New Delhi. The agreements under the Japanese Official Development Assistance Loan were signed for two projects. (a) Project for the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase 1) for Japanese Yen 40.074 billion (around Rs 2470 Crore). (b) Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals in India for Japanese Yen 15.000 billion (around Rs 950 Crore).	
India and Uzbekistan	for supply of uranium ore concentrates to widen its source base for the nuclear fuel.
India and China	for exports of Indian tobacco leaves to China.
Ministry of Tourism and Resbird Technologies	under the 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme for development of a mobile Audio Guide App for five iconic sites which are Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Kaziranga (Assam), Colva Beach (Goa), Kumarakom (Kerala) & Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).
US President Trump, Mexican President Enrique Nieto, & Canadian PM Justin Trudeau signed new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) that will replace North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) .	
Centre & ADB	85-million-dollar loan to improve skill development eco-system in Odisha.
Economic Development Board, the investment promotion arm of the Kingdom of Bahrain with Maharashtra Govt.	MoU to provide a framework for Co-operation between the two authorities to promote FinTech in their respective markets.
India & UAE	Agreement on Currency Swap.
India & Peru	Agreement for co-operation & mutual assistance in Customs Matters.
GOI & ADB	Loan Agreement for \$31 million to build-up the State Tourism Industry & boost visitor arrivals in Tamil Nadu.
India signed an ascension pact to the 30-member Trans-Regional Maritime Network that will give it an	

access to the information on ships passing through the Indian Ocean Region.	
ADB & GOI	\$60 Million Loan Agreement to continue financing riverbank protection works, renovation of flood embankments, & community-based flood risk management activities in critically flood-prone areas along the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
India & Saudi Arabia	Signed the bilateral annual Haj 2019 agreement at Jeddah.
India & Japan signed Exchange of Notes & Loan Agreements on Japan's Official Development Assistance Loan to India. These were exchanged for three projects: a) Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) b) Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals in India c) Project for Dairy Development.	
India & China	Protocol to amend the DTAA for the avoidance of double taxation & prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) & JNU	MoU to facilitate & enhance research activities & policy formulation aimed at Socio-economic Transformation & Sustainable Development.
Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) signed an agreement with US-based Research Institute for Fragrant Materials (RIFM) for improving the quality of fragrant oils.	
Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU with Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism , Government for Republic of Korea for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.	
As part of the European Union (EU) project 'International Urban Cooperation', Kochi Corporation & Vilnius, Lithuania , signed an MoU.	
Centre Govt. & ADB	Signed a \$200 million loan agreement to finance widening & upgrading of 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 new partnership with Merck to establish a 'High End Skill Development Centre' in CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh.	
IIM Calcutta Innovation Park & Indian Chamber of Commerce	MoU for energising the startup ecosystem in East & Northeast India.
AAI with US Trade & Development Agency (USTDA)	An agreement to develop a roadmap for modernization of AAI air traffic services.
NBCC (India) Limited signed an agreement with Health Ministry to acquire Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC).	
Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) signed MoU with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore the possibility of storing ADNOC crude oil at ISPRL's underground oil storage facility at Padur, Karnataka.	
GOI & ADB	Signed \$240 million loan for providing safe & sustainable drinking water in three districts of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, & salinity.
ADB & GOI	Signed \$150 million Loan Agreement to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh, the First Multi-Skills Park in India
GOI & ADB	Signed \$110 million loan to finance the upgrade of 2,800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in MP under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY).
To promote innovative cooperation between students of India & Russia, MoU was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission & the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation.	
National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF)	To launch a month-long rafting expedition of a team of 40 members which will be led by the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest Ms. Bachendri Pal.
CII with UN Environment	MoU for coherent implementation of environmental dimension of sustainable devt.
IIT-Madras to collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance.	
ISRO with Central University of Jammu (CUJ)	MoU for setting up of Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University.
NSE with Uttarakhand government	Pact to provide access to capital to MSMEs, which will fuel the growth of such entities in the state.

An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project signed in New Delhi among the States of UP, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand .	
Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD)	Signed an MoU, kick-starting cooperation in building energy efficiency.
Airports Authority of India and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)	For joint research programs in the field of Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS).
Ministry of Rural Development with Maruti Suzuki Ltd.	MoU for training rural youth for skill development.
National Film Archive of India & Film & Television Institute of India	MoU for transfer of three acres of land for the construction of storage facility for films & film material.
Indian Coast Guard and the Airport Authority of India (AAI)	to strengthen mutual interactions, interoperability and validating procedures during conduct of search and rescue operations
Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI)	to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace.
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Invest India	to promote foreign investments in the country and Indian investments abroad
The NITI Aayog and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) signed a Sol	to codify, document and share best

NEW APPOINTMENTS: NATIONAL

	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
Constitutional & Other Posts		
1.	Interim Finance Minister and interim Minister of Corporate Affairs	Piyush Goyal
2.	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	Sudhir Bhargava
3.	Ambassador of India to the USA	Harsh Vardhan Shringla (succeeds Navtej Singh Sarna)
4.	Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)	Pranab Kumar Das (succeed S Ramesh)
5.	CBI's Additional Director	M Nageswara Rao
6.	Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).	Ashok Kumar Singh
7.	Chief Minister of Telangana (For the second time)	Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Chief K Chandrasekhar Rao
8.	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) Chief Upendra Kushwaha resigned as Union Minister of State in the Ministry of HRD.	
9.	New Chief Economic Advisor	Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian
10.	New Finance Secretary	Ajay Narayan Jha (succeed Hasmukh Adhia)
11.	MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra	AS Rajeev
12.	New CMO of Mizoram	Mr. Zoramthanga
13.	New Chairman of Union Public Service Commission	Arvind Saxena
14.	New Chief Election Commissioner of India	Sunil Arora (succeeds Om Prakash Rawat)

15.	Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India	Jalaj Srivastava
16.	Director General, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	S. S. Deswal (replaced R K Pachnanda)
17.	Chairman, Competition Commission of India	Ashok Kumar Gupta (replaced Sudhir Mittal)
18.	New Enforcement Directorate Director (ED)	Sanjay Mishra (replaced Karnal Singh)
19.	After the demise of Union Minister Ananth Kumar, Union Minister DV Sadananda Gowda got the additional charge of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers & Narendra Singh Tomar assigned the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.	
20.	Union Government sent CBI Director Alok Verma on leave & appointed M Nageshwar Rao as Director of CBI.	Union Government sent CBI Director Alok Verma on leave & appointed M Nageshwar Rao as Director of CBI.
21.	46 th Chief Justice of India.	Justice Ranjan Gogoi
22.	India's Ambassador to Spain.	Sanjay Verma
23.	Ambassador & India's permanent representative to UN Conference on Disarmament (UNCD)	Pankaj Sharma (replaced Amandeep Gill)
24.	Chief Statistician of India (CSI)	Pravin Srivastava
25.	New Solicitor General of India	Tushar Mehta
26.	Former editor MJ Akbar resigned from his post of MoS for External Affairs amid sexual harassment allegations.	
CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Other Appointments		
27.	Director General of NCC (DGNCC)	Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra
28.	Kerala based private sector lender Federal Bank has appointed Dilip Sadarangani as the part-time chairman.	
29.	Yes Bank new MD & CEO	Ravneet Singh Gill (From 1st March 2019)
30.	MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank	V Vaidyanathan
31.	Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission	IPS Officer Prabhat Singh
32.	chief coach for the country's female boxers	Mohammed Ali Qamar (replaced veteran Shiv Singh)
33.	Indian football team head coach Stephen Constantine has stepped down after the team's shock 0-1 defeat to Bahrain which led to its exit from the Asian Cup.	
34.	Ananth Narayanan has stepped down as CEO of Myntra and Jabong to pursue external opportunities. Amar Nagaram has been named as Head, Myntra and Jabong, reporting to Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO of Flipkart Group.	
35.	TCS additional and independent director	Don Callahan
36.	Ashok Chawla resigned as chairman of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)	
37.	President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), Birendra Prasad Baishya , has been named Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics	
38.	Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani retired. General Manager, South Central Railway, V K Yadav replaced him.	
39.	1st Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court	Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan
40.	Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)	Saurabh Kumar
41.	Life Insurance Corporation of India Acting Chairman	Hemant Bhargava
42.	Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	Kumar Rajesh Chandra
43.	India's Chief Boxing Coach	C A Kuttappa (replaced SR Singh)
44.	MD & CEO, Corporation Bank	P V Bharathi (replaced Jai Kumar Garg)
45.	President, Archery Association of India	BVP Rao
46.	New coach of the Indian women's cricket team.	W V Raman
47.	VP, FICCI	Star India's Chairman & CEO Uday Shankar

48.	Director, National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)	Ramphal Pawar
49.	President of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) & Chairman of institute's governing council.	Producer-director Brijendra Pal Singh (Succeeds Anupam Kher)
50.	Yes Bank Ltd named one of its independent directors Brahm Dutt as the bank's part-time non-executive independent chairman.	
51.	Flipkart-owned Myntra's CEO Ananth Narayanan resigned. Flipkart's Amar Nagaram given the responsibility to head Myntra.	
52.	CMD, New India Assurance.	Atul Sahai
53.	MD & CEO of Axis Capital Dharmesh Mehta stepped down. Salil Pitale & Chirag Negandhi appointed as Joint MDs & Co-Chief Executive Officer.	
54.	State Bank of India roped in Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for its digital app YONO .	
55.	Yes Bank Ltd additional director (Independent)	IRDAI chief T.S. Vijayan
56.	NATHEALTH announced the appointment of Siddhartha Bhattacharya as Secretary-General.	
57.	Pawan Singh become the first Indian to be elected one of seven member's of the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) .	
58.	CEO, Hospitality startup OYO	Rohit Kapoor
59.	Head, WhatsApp India	Abhijit Bose
60.	Independent director at Yes Bank Ltd resigned	R. Chandrashekar
61.	New revenue secretary	Ajay Bhushan Pandey (replaced Hasmukh Adhia.)
62.	Co-founder Binny Bansal resigned as CEO of Flipkart Group.	
63.	Actor Anupam Kher resigned as the chairman of the Film & Television Institute of India.	
64.	HDFC Bank announced that RBI approved the re-appointment of Aditya Puri as MD & CEO of the bank	
65.	Brand Ambassador, 10th edition of the Women's World Championship in New Delhi.	MC Mary Kom
66.	MD & CEO, UCO Bank	Atul Kumar Goel
67.	Chairperson, National Financial Reporting Authority	Rangachari Sridharan
68.	Chairman of the working committee & director of World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).	National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD & CEO Vikram Limaye
69.	MD & CEO, IDBI Bank	Rakesh Sharma (replaced B Sriram)
70.	Secretary General, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Mahesh Y Reddy
71.	Chairman, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)	Nimesh Shah (MD & CEO, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund)
72.	Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)	Priyank Kanoongo
73.	Advisor to BankBazaar Comapny	S S Mundra
74.	BankBazaar Co-Founder & CEO	Adhil Shetty
75.	New chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation	Rishi Kumar Shukla
76.	Yes bank Senior group President and head of retail and business banking, Pralay Mondal resigned	
77.	Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation Bank	P V Bharathi (1st CEO of the Corporation Bank)
78.	Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.	Air India chief MD and Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola (replaced Rajiv Nayan Choubey)
79.	chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	Pramod Chandra Mody (succeed Sushil Chandra)

NEW APPOINTMENTS: INTERNATIONAL

	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations		
1.	Malaysia's new king	Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah (replaced Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan)
2.	Madagascar president	Andry Rajoelina

3.	Prime Minister of Sweden	Stefan Lofven
4.	Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has appointed Su Tseng-chang as Prime Minister of Taiwan	
5.	Venezuela's President	Nicolás Maduro
6.	Brazil's President	Jair Bolsonaro
7.	Bangladesh Prime Minister for the fourth term	Sheikh Hasina
8.	Malaysia's King Muhammad V abdicated after two years on the throne, the first time a monarch stepped down before completing their five-year tenure.	
9.	Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel resigned.	
10.	New Prime minister of Sri Lanka	Ranil Wickremesinghe (replaced Mahinda Rajapaksa)
11.	New Mexican President	Leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador
12.	Interpol's next President	South Korea's Kim Jong-yang
13.	Fiji's PM	Voreqe Bainimarama
14.	Iraq's new President	Kurdish Politician Barham Salih
15.	President of Ireland	Michael D Higgins
16.	President of Brazil	Jair Bolsonaro
17.	Iraq's New Prime Minister	Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi
18.	Chairman of the African Union at the continental body's summit in Ethiopia	Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi
Mayors/Member of Parliament/Envoy/Judges		
19.	Suman Kumari become the first Hindu woman to have been appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan after passing an examination for induction of judicial officers.	
20.	In the United States, Department of Defence, Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Kevin Sweeney has resigned, a month after Defence Secretary James Mattis announced his departure.	
21.	US President Donald Trump replaced Defence Secretary Jim Mattis with his deputy Patrick Shanahan .	
22.	New Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia	Sanjiv Ranjan
23.	Nepal's ambassador to India	Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya
24.	Next Ambassador of India to Argentina	Dinesh Bhatia
25.	Ambassador of India to Bhutan	Ruchira Kamboj
Other Appointments		
26.	Regional Director for World Health Organization South-East Asia	Poonam Khetrapal Singh
27.	CEO of IndiGo owner InterGlobe Aviation	Ronojoy Dutta
28.	CEO of International Cricket Council	Manu Sawhney
29.	World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim resigned	
30.	Chairman of National Solar Energy Federation, Pranav R Mehta , has taken over as the president of Global Solar Council (GSC). 1st Indian to head the GSC.	
31.	Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of Auditors.	Rajiv Mehrishi
32.	CEO, International Association of Athletics Federations	Jon Ridgeon
33.	Elected to Asia Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (CESCR)	Preeti Saran (For 4 Year term)
34.	Raninder Singh become the first Indian to be elected one of the four VPs of International Shooting Sport Federation.	
35.	President, LG Electronics	Brian Kwon
36.	WhatsApp's Chief Business Officer Neeraj Arora resigned from the post.	
37.	1 st 'Youth Advocate' of Northeastern region by UNICEF to fight for child rights	Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam
38.	UNICEF's Youngest ever goodwill ambassador	Millie Bobby Brown
39.	UN's environment chief, Erik Solheim , resigned	
40.	Head, Google's cloud division.	Thomas Kurian

41.	UNICEF appointed India's first ever Youth Ambassador	Hima Das
42.	Bank for International Settlements (BIS) appointed Siddharth Tiwari as the Chief Representative for Asia & the Pacific.	
43.	President, International Boxing Association (AIBA)	Uzbekistan's businessman Gafur Rakhimov
44.	Chief Economist, International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Gita Gopinath (Replaced Maurice)
45.	Treasurer of the World Steel Association (Worldsteel).	JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

	Name of the Award	Winner
Awards for Literature/Journalism		
1.	Saraswati Samman 2017	Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra for his poetry collection in Gujarati named "Vakhar"
2.	"Woman's Voice Award" at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF)	US Based Indian poet Ranjani Murali
3.	Sushila Devi Literature Award	Namita Gokhale for her novel "Things to Leave Behind".
4.	Jnanpith Award for 2018	Noted English author Amitav Ghosh (Become the first English author to be honoured with the award)
5.	Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam	Writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for ' Nirbochon '.
6.	2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage.	Swati Chaturvedi (Author of 'I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army')
7.	'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award 2018	'Beeg Ani Beegath' by H M Pernal
8.	Vishwa Konkani best poetry award 2018	Sharathchandra Shenoy for his book 'Idam Na Mama,'.
Country's Highest Honour Given		
9.	Assam government conferred the Republic Day Journalism Award 2019 to veteran journalist and former editor Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty .	
10.	Three Indian expats from the UAE are amongst those who won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award the highest honor conferred on Indian diaspora. Those are: Girish Pant, Surender Singh Kandhari and Dr. Zulekha Daud .	
11.	President of India, Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019 .	
12.	Centre for Advanced Materials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) chose Eminent Scientist and Bharat Ratna recipient CNR Rao for the first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research	
13.	India born professor Dr. Rattan Lal , University Professor of Soil Science at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A, is the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize for his contributions in the field of "Biological Production, Ecology"	
14.	Chinese rights lawyer Yu Wensheng has won a Franco-German human rights award for his 'exceptional contribution' to the protection and promotion of human rights	
15.	Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award .	
16.	J&K Bank conferred with SKOCH Award in 'Banking & Finance (B&F) Silver Category'. Skoch CM of the Year Award: CM of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee . SKOCH Sprinter of the Year: Andhra Pradesh CM Naidu .	
17.	Indian Railways bagged 17 awards at the 'National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018'. 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.	
18.	Producer Ashok Amritraj honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit .	
19.	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.	
20.	India's Olympic & world champion shooter Abhinav Bindra conferred the sport's highest honour for his outstanding services as the chairman of ISSF's Athletes Committee.	

21.	Azim Premji bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) .	
22.	Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) won this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament & Development .	
23.	Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma becomes the 1 st Indian to win the tour's ' Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year ' award.	
24.	Jawahar Lal Sarin , President, Alliance Francaise conferred with France's highest civilian honor by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler at an event .	
25.	PM Modi conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.	
26.	2018 Nobel Prize in Physics Arthur Ashkin, Gérard Mourou & Donna Strickland "for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics".	
27.	2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Frances H. Arnold (USA)"for the directed evolution of enzymes" & jointly to George P. Smith (USA) & Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK) "for the phage display of peptides & antibodies".	
28.	2018 Nobel Peace Prize Denis Mukwege & Nadia Murad "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war & armed conflict".	
29.	2018 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences William D. Nordhaus "for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis" & Paul M. Romer "for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis."	
30.	PM Modi honoured with United Nations' highest environmental award- UNEP Champions of the Earth , along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi.	
31.	The State Bank of India's Uk chief Mr. Sanjiv Chadha has been honored with the 'Freedom of the City Of London' by the city of London Corporation in recognition of his contribution to promoting the bilateral relations	
32.	Father Francois Laborde , a 92-year-old priest, was conferred the Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour) , the highest civilian award of France, in recognition of his work for specially-abled children.	
Film/Music Awards		
33.	"Black Panther" took home the top award for best performance by a cast in a motion picture at the 2019 Screen Actors Guild Awards. On the TV front, "This Is Us" nabbed the ensemble award for drama, while "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" won the comedy prize.	
34.	The 76th Annual Golden Globe Awards announced at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California, the USA.	
35.	Mohammed Rafi Award bestowed upon late music composer Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar & playback singer Usha Timothy .	
36.	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018.	
37.	'Period. End of Sentence' made it to the Oscar shortlist in the Documentary Short Subject category.	
38.	Noted sitar player Manju Mehta conferred with the ' Tansen Samman ' for 2018 by the MP government for her contribution in the field of music.	
39.	Golden Peacock Award at 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	
40.	Asia Pacific Screen Award (APSA) 2018 Brisbane, Australia Best Performance by an Actor (Male) Nawazuddin Siddiqui for Manto. Nandita Das , director of Manto received International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award for achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region.	
41.	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).	
42.	Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented the ' Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement ' for his "immense contribution to the enrichment & promotion of the Indian classical music".	
43.	Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement	Music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi (Khayyam)
44.	Acclaimed Indo-Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television	
45.	Awarded the 'Oscat' by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)	Awarded the 'Oscat' by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
Other Awards Conferred		
46.	India received the Award of Excellence for ' Best in Show ' at the New York Times Travel Show 2019	
47.	The government has instituted an annual award titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar	

48.	VP Naidu presented the 2nd Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards to students and their mentors and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Awards to institutions at an event organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in New Delhi.
49.	Virat Kohli become the first player in history to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year awards
50.	Himachal Pradesh MP Anurag Thakur bestowed with Sansad Ratna Award
51.	Ace Indian female wrestler Vinesh Phogat become the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award.
52.	Indian-American Sikh Gurinder Singh Khalsa , 45, who lives in Fishers of Indiana, US was presented with the prestigious 2019 Rosa Park Trailblazer award
53.	The Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 has been conferred on the following: 1. For 2015: Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari for their contribution in Rural Development, Education , Development of natural resources. 2. For 2016: Jointly to Akshaya Patra Foundation for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India and Sulabh International for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers. 3. For 2017: Ekal Abhiyan Trust for their contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender and Social Equality. 4. For 2018: Shri Yohei Sasakawa for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.
54.	Industrialist and Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej was conferred the ICSIs Lifetime Achievement Award for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality'.
55.	Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has been named as the 2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year. Houston Dash and South Africa forward Thembi Kgatlang was named Women's Player of the Year.
56.	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, GOI conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance .
57.	Croatia captain Luka Modric named Balkan Athlete of the Year, becoming only the second soccer player to scoop the prize.
58.	Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 was won by Divya Patidar Joshi. She is from MP's Ratlam.
59.	Aadi Sai Vijaykaran created history by winning the Junior Debate Championship at the World Scholar's Cup held at Yale University, USA. (1 st time an individual from India won the coveted title)
60.	PM Modi announced institution of 'Sardar Patel Award for National Integration' , which would be given for "outstanding efforts to further national integration".
61.	International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced Serbia's Novak Djokovic & Romania's Simona Halep as the 2018 ITF World Champions .
62.	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 crowned Mrs. India Worldwide 2018.
63.	Jharkhand selected for "Krishi Karman" award in the rice category from the Union Ministry of Agriculture.
64.	Manika Batra won the 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' award at International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Star Awards in South Korea. India coach Massimo Costantini won Table Tennis Star Coach award.
65.	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.
66.	Manipur Government honored MC Mary Kom with the title "Meethoileima" (par excellent queen) . Govt. declared that Imphal West DC Road towards Game Village to be named as MC Mary Kom Road .
67.	Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi , who was murdered in October 2018 at his country's Istanbul consulate, named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" alongside several other journalists.
68.	Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon won the coveted Miss World 2018 crown held in Chinese city, Sanya.
69.	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, GOI conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance .
70.	8th Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA) was released in Mumbai. Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro won Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018, Lifetime Achievement .
71.	Amitabh Bachchan awarded 3rd Sayaji Ratna Award .
72.	UN Environment awarded Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) , Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GOI with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 for excellent work done in combating transboundary environmental crime .
73.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education won silver in the International Green Apple Award for Environmental best practice 2018.
74.	FM Jaitley inaugurated National Press Day (16 November) celebrations in New Delhi . Eminent journalist & Chairman of Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram selected under award category of Raja Ram Mohan Roy

	award.	
75.	Arunima Sinha , the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.	
76.	Renewal of the early 20th-century ' Shijo-cho Ofune-hoko Float Machiya ' received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation .	
77.	Late Dr. Martha Farrell honoured with " Lifetime Achievement Award " at 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi.	
78.	Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.	
79.	Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa won Miss Grand International 2018 title at 6 th Edition of beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar.	
80.	North-eastern state Sikkim won UN Food & Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100% organic state.	
81.	PM Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District & State based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation. Haryana ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra ranked as best district as per the rankings.	
82.	'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension	
83.	8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018	
84.	Deming Prize for 2018	
85.	Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.	
86.	Arshdeep Singh , a 10-year-old boy from Punjab, won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 10 Years & under categories given by UK's Natural History Museum.	
87.	Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon won the International Olympic Committee's Sport & Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development.	
88.	'Invest India' initiative of the govt. won the top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in renewable energy sector in India. Presented to Deepak Bagla, CEO, Invest India.	
89.	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.	
90.	Union Minister Piyush Goyal to receive the prestigious Carnot Prize from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his work for rural electrification.	
91.	Minal Patel Davis won the US' Presidential Medal for her work against sex slavery and labor exploitation.	
92.	National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) of India has been selected as Winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).	
93.	Urban Local Bodies, Beneficiaries and Housing Finance Corporations (under CLSS), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has instituted the 'PMAY (U) awards for Implementation and Innovation'	
94.	Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018 announced Yes Bank as the winner in ' Innovation in Data Science' category for their industry-first project ' Yes EEE (Engage Enrich Excel) ' at Panaji, Goa	
95.	Indian historian Sanjay Subrahmanyam won the prestigious Dan David Prize 2019	
96.	National Film Development Corporation of India has been declared winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).	
97.	the EY Entrepreneur of the Year for 2018.	Siddhartha Lal, managing director and chief executive officer, Eicher Motors

SUMMITS | EVENTS | FESTIVALS Held (NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

	Name of the Summit	Location/Held in
SUMMITS HELD NATIONALLY (with Theme)		
1.	2nd edition of Global Investor summit	Chennai, Tamilnadu
2.	Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, inaugurated the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing global collaboration'	Goa
3.	India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference begun in	Mumbai
4.	15th edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, Theme, 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India'	Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh

5.	The 2-day Agri Vision 2019 Conference on envisioning Agro solutions for Smart and Sustainable Agriculture was held	Hyderabad
6.	Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare and TRAI Chairman RS Sharma inaugurated the 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, BES EXPO 2019. Theme: Next Gen Broadcasting in the IT World.	New Delhi.
7.	The second World Orange Festival held in	Nagpur
8.	Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo – 2019.	Mumbai
9.	The 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) inaugurated by Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium	, Hyderabad
10.	Ministry of Water resources and River development organized 9th International Micro irrigation conference. Theme: "Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture".	Aurangabad, Maharashtra
11.	Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 'Global Aviation Summit 2019'. Theme: 'Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion'.	Mumbai
12.	Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 at a function. Theme is- 'Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy'.	New Delhi
13.	A 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting between the United States and India Held	New Delhi
14.	Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of United States Chamber of Commerce launched a new innovation strategy at Raisina Dialogue, 2019	New Delhi
15.	Suresh Prabhu, chaired the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP)	New Delhi
16.	25th Edition of Partnership Summit 2019, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India held	Mumbai
17.	The Indian Paint Association (IPA), the apex body of the country's paint industry announced that the 29th biennial Indian Paint Conference held. Theme: 'Paints Pe Charcha - Naye Aayaam'.	Agra, Uttar Pradesh
18.	The First 'National Consultation on Child Protection' for 2019 held at India Habitat Centre, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.	New Delhi
19.	PM Modi inaugurated the 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019). Theme: 'Future: India-Science and Technology'.	Jalandhar, Punjab
20.	27th New Delhi World Book Fair held. Theme 'Readers with Special Needs'.	New Delhi
21.	42nd Indian Social Science Congress held with the theme 'Human Future in Digital Era' in	KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
22.	26th edition of National Children's Science Congress held with the theme Science, Technology & Innovations: For clean, green & healthy nation' in	Bhubaneswar.
23.	12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) Conference with the theme "Data-Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age".	SPJIMR, Mumbai
24.	41st meeting of 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 PMAY (Urban).	
25.	15th Global SME Business Summit organised by Ministry of MSME & CII in association with Govt. e-marketplace with the theme ' Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains ' in	New Delhi
26.	EAM Sushma Swaraj & her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi co-chaired the 1st Meet of India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural & People-to-People Exchanges in.	New Delhi
27.	EAM Swaraj & Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea Kang Kyung-wha co-chaired the 9th India-ROK Joint Commission meeting in	New Delhi
28.	Defense Minister Sitharaman met with Russian Federation General Sergei Shoigu in New Delhi , marking the	

	18th meet of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation.	
29.	1 st International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' with the theme 'Sustainable Water Management' held at	Indian School of Business (ISB) in Mohali, Punjab.
30.	DIPP & Government of Goa hosted the annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit.	in Goa
31.	2 nd Meet of the NITI Forum for the North East held in Guwahati, Assam.	
32.	1 st India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit held	New Delhi
33.	Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India Water Impact Summit 2018 in	New Delhi
34.	Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 in	Ranchi, Jharkhand.
35.	President Kovind, inaugurated the 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018 in	Chandigarh
36.	4th edition of annual "Aadi Mahotsav" , a National Tribal Festival held at	Delhi
37.	50th Union World Conference on Lung Health to be held	Hyderabad
38.	President Kovind, inaugurated the 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave as part of the commemoration of Constitution Day	New Delhi
39.	National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- "Hausla 2018" of the Ministry of Women & Child Development inaugurated	New Delhi
40.	9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) held	New Delhi
41.	26th Central & State Statistical Organizations(COCSO) Conference organized by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) with the theme "Quality Assurance in Official Statistics" held	at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
42.	27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change held in	New Delhi, India
43.	Indo-Japan Business Council's Business Festival held in. (IJBC, hosted KONNICHI WA PUNE - a first of its kind business festival)	Pune
44.	Nongkrem dance festival was celebrated by inhabitants of Khasi Hills in Shillong, Meghalaya.	
45.	14th edition of JashneBachpan , a theatre festival for children held in	New Delhi
46.	49th International Film Festival of India held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium. Israel is the focus country, Jharkhand is the focus state. Veteran Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman to be given Lifetime Achievement Award .	Goa
47.	3rd Edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 held in	Shillong
48.	Mr R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power & New & Renewable Energy inaugurated International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency	New Delhi
49.	India Mobile Congress 2018 under theme NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS held in	New Delhi
50.	Kingdom of Netherlands will be Partner Country for 25th DST-CII Technology Summit to be held in 2019.	
51.	4 th Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, Peoples' Republic of China held in.	Mumbai
52.	1 st ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property launched in Delhi to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.	
53.	Indian Air Force organised seminar on ' Emerging Trends in Aviation Engineering & Logistics ' (AVIAMAT-2018) at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, .	New Delhi
54.	NITI Aayog partnered with the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP) & ADB to host a South Asian regional conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi to discuss the key issues, perspectives & the way forward in the Urban Infrastructure.	
55.	5th National Summit on Good & Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India held at Kaziranga in	Assam
56.	National Khadi Festival 2018 organised by KVIC to promote Khadi products in.	Mumbai
57.	Bureau of Police Research & Development is organising the First Ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention & Access to Justice' in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh.	
58.	India Chem 2018 , the 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference held.	in Mumbai
59.	27th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) held in	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
60.	PM Modi inaugurated the first Uttarakhand Investors Summit	in Dehradun.

61.	Union Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta , inaugurated 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair	at Greater Noida
62.	The country's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 concluded in	New Delhi.
63.	Mega science expo, India International Science Festival (IISF-2018) concluded in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Its focal theme was "Science for Transformation" .	
64.	President Kovind inaugurated 13th Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission .	New Delhi
65.	Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, inaugurated the 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF)	New Delhi
66.	6th Meeting of the UAE – India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments held in	Mumbai
67.	India will host the 4 th Edition of Global Partners' Forum in December 2018 in .	New Delhi
68.	'ICT Academy Bridge 2019 conference (largest Industry-Institute Interaction Event of Asia), Theme: "Fostering India for Industry 4.0"	Tamil Nadu
69.	Indo-Monaco Business Forum in	New Delhi
70.	The Kala Ghoda festival, India's largest multi-cultural street festival begins in Mumbai to celebrate its 20 years of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature, and sculpture. Maneck Davar is Chairman of Kala Ghoda Association.	
71.	The 6-day long music and dance festival 'Sopan 2019', to encourage young artists to take up traditional art took place in New Delhi.	
72.	Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) was held	New Delhi
73.	2019 Asia LPG summit in	New Delhi
74.	Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) organized Parmanu Tech 2019	New Delhi
75.	The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting was held	New Delhi
76.	US-India CEO Forum	New Delhi
77.	The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)	Gandhinagar in Gujarat
78.	2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit	Guwahati
79.	13th International Oil and Gas Conference – PETROTECH – 2019	Greater Noida
80.	The First Annual Conference of Media Units working under I&B Ministry	New Delhi
81.	LAWASIA, in association with the Bar Association of India, hosted its 1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference in	New Delhi
82.	CREDAI YouthCon -19 in	New Delhi
83.	5th International Dam Safety Conference-2019 is being held in	Bhubaneswar
84.	National Conference on Unani Medicine organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM)	New Delhi
SUMMITS HELD INTERNATIONALLY		
85.	1 st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementation of the Trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan & Iran held in the port city of Chabahar in Iran . India Ports Global Limited company opened its office & took over operations at Chabahar.	
86.	The UN Climate Conference 2018 held in Katowice, Poland .	
87.	39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit inaugurated. Note: 40th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit to be held in	UAE
88.	The Climate Change Conference 2018 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).	
89.	EAM Swaraj visited UAE to co-chair the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic & Technical Cooperation in Abu Dhabi.	
90.	Asia Pacific Summit 2018 with the theme "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, & Universal Values" held in	Kathmandu, Capital of Nepal.
91.	Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) Plenary 2018, held in	Brussels, Belgium.

	(Note: Next Interseasonal session to be held in India as Chair)	
92.	G-20 Summit 2018 to held at Buenos Aires, Argentina. PM Modi will attend the summit.	
93.	2nd Edition of the India-UAE Strategic Conclave to be held in	Abu Dhabi
94.	External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired 9th Meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission on Bilateral Co-operation in Vientiane, Capital of Laos.	
95.	12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine held in	Kathmandu, Nepal
96.	26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights & 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.	
97.	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit held in	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinean capital.
98.	2-day summit to mark the World Tolerance Day inaugurated	in Dubai, UAE.
99.	India- Taiwan SME Development Forum held at	Taipei, Taiwan
100.	Suresh Prabhu, led the Indian delegation to the 7th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting in Singapore.	
101.	Annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Councils held in	Dubai, the UAE
102.	Tourism minister KJ Alphons attended the 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in	Manama, Bahrain
103.	1 st WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution & Health held in	Geneva, Switzerland.
104.	18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting held in.	Durban, South Africa
105.	CII- EXIM Bank, Regional Conclave on India-West Africa Project Partnership held in	Abuja, Nigeria
106.	17 th Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held in	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
107.	6 th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM) held in	Singapore
108.	VP Naidu commenced his visit to Belgium to attend 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Brussels, Belgium. The theme was "Global Partners for Global Challenges".	
109.	The second joint secretary level meeting to review the India-Nepal Trade Treaty Held	Pokhara, Nepal
110.	The seventh session of the World Government Summit held in	Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

COMMITTEES IN NEWS

	Purpose for which Committee is formed	Headed by
1.	EPFO notified three new committees on Finance, Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC), the Pension and EDLI Implementation Committee (PEIC) and the Exempted Establishments' Committee (EEC).	
2.	Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a panel to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard.	Praveen Kutumbe
3.	Government constituted a high power committee to monitor the pricing of medicines and healthcare products	a Niti Aayog member (Health)
4.	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) set up an 11-member working group to go into the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework.	former SEBI chief UK Sinha
5.	A ministerial panel will examine uniformity of taxation on lottery under GST or other issues arising out of it.	Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar
6.	Govt. constituted a seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to boost the real estate sector under the GST regime	Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitin Patel is the convener of the GoM
7.	Madras High Court has set up an expert committee to find a solution to root out invasive species of plants from the Western Ghats	Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu

8.	7-member committee to look into revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out and suggest steps for augmenting collections.	Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi
9.	SEBI constituted a "Research Advisory" committee which will assist in formulating policy to undertake research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets	Sankar De
10.	Cabinet took several key decisions including setting up of a high-level committee (HLC) to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord to hold discussions with all stakeholders on the quantum of reservation of seats in Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for Assamese people among other decisions.	
11.	RBI set up an expert committee to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.	former Sebi chairman U.K. Sinha
12.	HRD Ministry constituted a task force to look into the issues of suicides of the students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas	Psychiatrist, Dr Jitendra Nagpal.
13.	Govt. had notified a High-Level committee for implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord	M.P. Bezbaruah is chairman
14.	RBI constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments to encourage digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion	UIDAI's former Chairman Nandan Nilekani
15.	Economic Capital Framework (ECF) committee formed to address the issue of excess reserves with the central bank.	Bimal Jalan
16.	7-member panel to select MDs of public sector insurance companies.	B P Sharma
17.	Govt.constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to vet the recommendations of a high-level panel on stressed power projects.	Finance Minister Arun Jaitley
18.	UGC decided to set up a Consortium of Academic & Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines.	UGC Vice Chairman
19.	Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) formed a new industry expert committee to develop & promote an augmented reality/virtual reality (AR/VR) ecosystem in India.	Namrita Mahindro
20.	NITI Aayog constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region.	Dr. VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog.
21.	Centre reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention & 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
22.	Parliamentary panel will examine the functioning of retirement fund body EPFO, its coverage and recovery of arrears.	BJP MP Kirit Somaiya
23.	On the recommendation of Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha, the government constituted a committee under the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to explore prepaid payments by state electricity distribution companies to power plants.	
24.	The Maharashtra government has set up a committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state	former MLA Vivek Pandit
25.	EPFO notified three new committees on Finance, Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC), the Pension and EDLI Implementation Committee (PEIC) and the Exempted Establishments' Committee (EEC).	

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

INDIA & WORLD


- PM Modi inaugurated the **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas** Convention at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. For the first time, it is being organized in Varanasi. The theme of PBD Convention 2019 is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India".
- PM Modi inaugurated the **National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai**. The development of the Museum was guided by the Museum Advisory Committee headed by Shyam

- Benegal. An innovation Committee headed by Prasoon Joshi provided an upgrade to the NMIC.
- India will host the **14th session of the Conference of Parties** to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to address the issue of land degradation and desertification which will have participation from over 100 countries. It is likely to be held in October 2019.
- The **124th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2019** to award 10% reservation to economically weaker

sections was passed with a majority in Rajya Sabha. It was already passed in Lok Sabha.

- India has taken over operations of the **Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran**, the first time India will operate a port outside its territory.
- **PM of Norway Erna Solberg & PM Modi** held bilateral talks in New Delhi. MoUs were exchanged on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue.
- 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.
- **India's first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence** established by European Union inaugurated at the Department of European Studies (DES) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal.
- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** will be **Chief Guest at 2019 Republic Day** celebrations in New Delhi.
- **India & Malawi** signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes & VISA Waiver for Diplomatic & Official Passports.
- India & China signed a **protocol on hygiene & inspection requirements** for the exports.
- India & Russia sealed a **USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa** for the Indian Navy.
- India & ADB signed a 105 million dollar loan agreement **to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh** for increased supply of hydropower.
- GOI, Govt. of Jharkhand & the World Bank signed in New Delhi a **\$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project** to provide reliable, quality, & affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.
- India & Morocco have signed an agreement on **mutual legal assistance in criminal matters**.
- Morocco & India signed **an agreement to further mutual legal assistance in Civil & Commercial Courts**.
- India & South Korea signed **an MoU on cooperation in sports in New Delhi**.
- **13th Annual Summit between India and Japan** held in presence of PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan. Issues of mutual interest, including forging ties in areas like health, digital technologies, agriculture and food processing and disaster risk reduction were discussed.
- **India & Croatia signed 2 agreements** to strengthen cultural & diplomatic cooperation between the two countries.

- **First India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi.** Agreement on security cooperation was also signed.
- **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.
- **Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met PM Modi** at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. **17 agreements & MoUs** were signed in the field of law, tourism, military education, agriculture, science & technology, commerce & industry, pharmaceutical, national security & illicit trafficking besides others.
- **India & Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal** during the annual bilateral summit between PM Modi & Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.
- **India & Azerbaijan** agreed to take **measures to enhance bilateral trade relations**. Both signed a protocol on trade & economic, science & technology cooperation at 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade & Economic, Science & Technology Cooperation which held in New Delhi.



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BILINGUAL

- **India & China 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.
- The last session of 16th Lok Sabha came to an end on 13th of February 2019.
- Following the attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama that left 44 CRPF personnel dead, India has withdrawn the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status that it had granted to Pakistan.

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) was rolled out in India by the Ministry of Labour and Employment from 15 February 2019.

OTHER NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In commemoration of the **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, PM Modi dedicated grand and iconic 'National Salt Satyagraha Memorial' constructed by the Central Public Works Department at Dandi, Gujarat to the Nation.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi stated that **GST on Haj has been reduced from 18% to 5%** and this will significantly lower the airfare thus saving Haj pilgrims' 113 crore rupees this year.
- PM Modi has dedicated the **Kollam Bypass on the National Highway-66** to the nation. It reduces travel time between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram. This is the first National Highway project in the country taken up on a 50:50 Centre-State partnership.
- India got its **largest startup ecosystem when Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated** a 1.8-lakh-square-feet facility housing incubation set-ups across a string of segments in modern technology. The Integrated Startup Complex under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) includes the ultra-modern facilities of Maker Village that promote hardware startups, the BioNest that promotes medical technologies, BRINC which is the country's first international accelerator for hardware startups.
- **India's longest 300-meter single lane steel cable suspension bridge** inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu. He also laid the foundation stone for a district secretariat building. The bridge across the Siang river at Yingkiong in Upper Siang district named as Byorong Bridge.
- India achieved yet another milestone in the power sector with the completion of electrification in 100% households in 25 states at year end. Now, only about 10.48 lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 states - **Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh**.
- High-Level Committee (HLC) chaired by Union Home Minister Singh approved **additional assistance of Rs 1,146.12 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund** 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. 3 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.
- **Union Cabinet approved the Gaganyaan project** under which a three-member crew will be sent to space. The project **will cost INR 10,000 crores**. PM stated that the mission will be undertaken by 2022.
- PM Modi inaugurated the **Bogibeel bridge in Assam**. The 4.9 km-long Bogibeel Bridge on 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. It is constructed at an estimated cost of 5,800 crore rupees. The bridge **reduces travel time from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh to four hours** & will cut out the detour of over 170 km via Tinsukia.
- **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change** launched the "**Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**" to protect & conserve the population of Asiatic Lion & its associated ecosystem.
- **India's largest cancer institute, the National Cancer Institute (NCI)** soft launched at Haryana's Jhajjar area.
- NITI Aayog unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India titled '**Strategy for New India @75**', which defines clear objectives for 2022-23.
- India's first **private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** opened at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad.
- To give a fillip to the medical device sector, Suresh Prabhu, **announced setting up of a National Medical Devices Promotion Council** under DIPP. The Council to 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.
- Government **sanctioned 254 projects worth over 24 thousand crore rupees under National Mission for Clean Ganga**. Announcement made at the India Water Impact Summit 2018 in New Delhi.
- CCEA approved **100% strategic disinvestment of the government's equity** in the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. Presently, govt. holds 73.44% shares in Dredging Corporation of India Limited.
- 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**. Suresh Prabhu stated this while inaugurating **2nd Edition of India Gold & 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 & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the **Institution's Innovation Council** through video conferencing in New Delhi. The purpose is to **encourage, inspire & 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.
- **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's first specialized hospital for elephants** opened at Farah block's Churmura village, Mathura.
- Cabinet approved leasing out **six airports, namely Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram & Mangaluru** for operation, management, & development under Public Private Partnership.
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation several projects including **two National Highways & an Inland Waterways Terminal on River Ganga** at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. Total cost of these projects is **2413 crore rupees**. He also inaugurated an Inland Multi-Modal Terminal Port constructed on river Ganga at Ramnagar in Varanasi.
- Government has set up a state of -the- art **National Data Repository**.
- 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) & seen as a successor to the prestigious Shatabdi Express, was unveiled by Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani**.
- Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi 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 & outreach programme for 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.
- **India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union-ITU Council** for another four-year term from 2019 to 2022.
- **Central & Andhra Pradesh govt. & the World Bank signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, & climate resilience of poor & 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**.
- **Nitin Gadkari and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan** laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala.
- **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.
- **Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, inaugurated** at Mumbai. It will operate between Mumbai and Goa. It is named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre and the Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg.
- **PM Modi, inaugurated the first Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi**. It also marked the **inauguration of the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, & the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet & Expo)**.
- 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.
- **Election Commission announced the poll schedule for Assembly elections in MP, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh & Telangana**. CEC, OP Rawat stated the counting of votes in all states will take place on 11th of December.
- Centre assured **Karnataka government that nearly 450 crore rupees will be reimbursed** to it in connection with the expenditure incurred for procuring cereals & coarse cereals.
- Union Cabinet approved **merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space - National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) & the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) into the National Council for Vocational Education & Training (NCVET)**. NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education & training.
- **The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, launched in Bengaluru**.
- **PM Modi inaugurated the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) 25th anniversary & 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. NHRC Chairman: Justice HL Dattu.

- Govt. 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 & be healthy. It was announced by the FSSAI chief executive Pawan Kumar Agarwal.

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.

CURRENT AFFAIRS RELATED TO STATES IN INDIA

NORTHERN STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh** state cabinet approved construction of a four-lane Ganga Expressway connecting Prayagraj to Western Uttar Pradesh which would cost about 36,000 crore rupees. Ganga Expressway will be 600 kilometres long and can be expanded to six-lane in future.
- **Uttarakhand's first tulip garden** will come up over 50 hectares of forest land in Pithoragarh district at a cost of Rs 50 crore.
- Union Home Ministry approved the Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.
- Jammu & Kashmir 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".
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated **Delhi's Signature Bridge, the first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge** in India.
- Himachal Pradesh became **first Indian state to launch a single emergency number "112"**. This will connect to police, fire, health & other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in the state.
- Uttarakhand govt. decided to **rename Dehradun airport i.e. Jolly Grant airport after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- **United Nations selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida & Greater Noida** to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative. The twin-cities in Gautam Buddha Nagar district selected in the "University City" category.
- **Uttar Pradesh government approved renaming of Faizabad & Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya & Prayagraj respectively.**
- **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet led by CM Yogi** approved the proposal to rename Allahabad, which will be called Prayagraj with immediate effect.
- **Minister of state for culture, Mahesh Sharma & Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** jointly laid the foundation stone for proposed Museum on Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Estate, New Delhi.
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone for **Rs 1,224 crore highway projects in Uttar Pradesh**. He also laid the foundation stone for the

- **development of National Waterway 40 (river Ghaghra).**
- J P Nadda inaugurated '**2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030**' in New Delhi.
- **An emergency action plan** has been implemented in the national capital to combat air pollution. Under the emergency plan called Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), stringent actions to be implemented based on the air quality of the city.
- The Punjab government approved a **rural development scheme worth Rs 384.40** crore to supplement the ongoing works to build village infrastructure and provide essential amenities.
- Named '**Smart Village Campaign**', the scheme would be financed with funds from the 14th Financial Commission and MGNREGA works.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects, worth nearly 12,000 crore rupees, at Leh. He laid the foundation stone for a 480 crore rupee Terminal Building at Leh Airport. Mr Modi inaugurated the 9-megawatt Dah hydroelectric project. Mr Modi also launched the University of Ladakh, the first-ever in the state's region.
- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced a **high-powered 5-member committee** to prepare a comprehensive action plan to boost the dairy sector with the aim of supplementing the income of farmers in a result-oriented manner.
- The State Government of **Jammu and Kashmir issued a notification of creation of Ladakh as 3rd Division in the state.**
- A **Himalayan Cloud Observatory is set up in Tehri district of Uttarakhand** with a motive to forecast and monitor cloudburst incidents in the Himalayan region and help to minimize the damage.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid foundation stones of several development projects at **Kurukshetra in Haryana**. **1.** Mr Modi dedicated to the nation the National Cancer Institute at Bhadsa in Jhajjar district. **2.** Mr Modi also inaugurated Employees' State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC) medical college and hospital in Faridabad. This will be the first ESIC medical college and hospital in north India. **3.** The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Ayurveda in Panchkula. **4.** Foundation stone of Sri

Krishna Ayush University, Kurukshetra was also be laid by Mr Modi. It will be the first university related to Indian system of medicine in Haryana as well as the first of its kind in India.

EASTERN STATES

- **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.
- **Odisha government announced a new Biotechnology Policy 2018** to attract investments in the sector.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced **"Jiban Sampark"** project in partnership with UNICEF India to generate awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of state government among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of the state.
- Odisha CM Patnaik announced **interest-free loans of up to Rs. 3 lakh** for women self-help groups (WSHG) in the state. The initiative will benefit about 70 lakh women.
- Odisha Government launched **an initiative, Peoples Empowerment - Enabling Transparency & Accountability of Odisha Initiatives (PEETHA)** which is aimed at creating awareness about various schemes & improving transparency in the distribution of individual & social benefits.
- The Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of three major highway projects with an investment worth **Rs 2,345 crores in Odisha**.
- In Bihar, Governor Lalji Tandon and Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh jointly **inaugurated the three-day Krishi Kumbh in Motihari**.

NORTH-EASTERN STATES

- Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu declared **Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)** as the "State Festival" at Seijosa in East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh. Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is only conservation festival of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 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.
- Manipur Assembly passed a bill **which recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence** if it results in the death of a person.
- Governor of Tripura Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki inaugurated **the '7th International Tourism Mart for the North-East States** in Agartala, Tripura.

- **Meghalaya Government announced Rs. 378 crores** investment in the second phase of the **State's flagship aquaculture mission** aimed at cutting down fish imports into the hill State.
- In a historic day for India, Northeast & Assam Petrochemicals launched **Asia's first cannisters based & India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program"**.
- **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.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel, 'DD Arunprabha' for Arunachal Pradesh during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Tripura.
- The Meghalaya Cabinet has decided to rename the Dikkibandi stadium in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A Sangma.

WESTERN STATES

- Gujarat become the first state to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category. This comes a day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bill.

CENTRAL STATES

- Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath launched his government's **Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'**. It is expected to benefit 55 lakh small and marginal farmers. The eligibility cut-off date extended to December 12, 2018, from March 31, 2018.
- Madhya Pradesh State government **declared Kuno wildlife sanctuary as a national park**.
- **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.

SOUTHERN STATES

- A 5.1-km long cable-stayed **"Atal Setu" on the Mandovi river in Goa**, a third such bridge to connect the state capital with North Goa, was opened to the public by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- Telangana government decided to form a **'State Tiger Protection Force'** to save the Big Cat population in the State. The State Forest Protection Committee headed by Chief Secretary S K Joshi took the decision to form the STPF.
- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet decided to cater 5% **reservation each for Kapu community** and the economically backward classes (EBCs) among the forward castes. It also approved the decision of doubling the welfare pensions given under the NTR Bharosa Scheme. Pensions of Rs 1000 and Rs 1500 are doubled to Rs 2000 and Rs 3000 respectively.

- **Nashik in Maharashtra will be the site of the country's second defence innovation hub** after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
- PM Modi launched development projects **worth Rs 1,100 cr at Solapur in Maharashtra**. Referring to the passage of The Constitution (One Hundred And Twenty-Fourth Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, PM, Modi described it as a landmark moment in the nation's history.
- The Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh **entered the Guinness Book of World by pouring 32,100 cubic meters of concrete in a matter of 24 hours**.
- **Separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh** to start functioning from 1st Jan. Ministry of Law & Justice notified **the constitution of the High Court in Amaravati**. Andhra Pradesh High Court will be the 25th High Court.
- 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. It will be assisted by the World Bank.
- **Kannur international Airport-KIAL in Kerala** began its operations.
- Kerala state government signed an **MoU with Airbus BizLab to open a state-of-the-art innovation center**.
- **Andhra Pradesh is building a world-class & 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.
- **Tamil Nadu** received the nod from **SEBI to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments** in the affordable housing segment.
- **State government of Arunachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the British Council** to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- **Goa International Film Festival** that is to be held in November 2018 will have Jharkhand as a partner state.
- **The Severe Cyclonic Storm 'TITLI'** over the west-central Bay of Bengal moved northwards over Westcentral Bay of Bengal & about 320 km south-southeast of Gopalpur (Odisha) & 270 km southeast of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- **Kerala has become the first State** to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation **the 1.33 million metric ton capacity Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility** at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. He also inaugurated Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited's Vashishta and S1 development project located in the Krishna-Godavari Offshore Basin.
- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissioned **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park at Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh** through video conferencing. It is India's 1st Aqua Mega Food Park.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte** along with UN representative launched Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable development. The new center is located near the Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome. The major objective is boosting the agricultural sectors and promoting rural development in Africa.
- In Britain, lawmakers **voted in favor of an amendment in BREXIT plan seeking alternative arrangements to replace the Irish border arrangement** known as the **Irish backstop**. The backstop is aimed at keeping an open border between European Union-member Ireland and British-ruled Northern Ireland after Brexit.
- Central banks of the **UAE and Saudi Arabia launched a common digital currency called "Aber"**, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- Pakistan government declared **sugarcane juice as the "national drink"** of the country.
- **Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro** announced that he is breaking off diplomatic ties with the United States after his American counterpart Donald Trump recognized Opposition leader Juan Guaido as the South American country's interim President.
- **China's economy grew at 6.6% in 2018**, its slowest rate in almost 3 decades.
- **Nepal's central bank** banned the use of Indian currency notes of Rs. 2,000, Rs. 500 and Rs. 200 denominations, a move that could affect Indian tourists visiting the Himalayan nation where Indian currency is widely used.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the **World Capital of Architecture for 2020**.
- The **Arab Economic and Social Development Summit** held in Lebanon's capital Beirut.
- **World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meet begun in Davos, Switzerland. The theme would**

be 'Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'.

- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to protect the interests of all 134 countries in the UN's Group of 77, as Palestine took the chairmanship of the group from Egypt for 2019.
- **Parliament of Macedonia passed the resolution** to amend the constitution of the country to rename it as the Republic of Northern Macedonia. The name change will help resolve a decades-long dispute with neighboring Greece opening the way for Skopje to join NATO and the European Union.
- **Qatar withdrawn its membership from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).** Qatar has been in OPEC for 57 years.
- **United States & Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** with the close of 2018.
- **Finance minister of France Bruno Le Maire** announced that France will introduce its own tax on large internet and technology companies from January 1. The so-called "GAFA tax" -- named after Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon -- to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes.
- **U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA).** The act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Seven-time champions Egypt won the hosting rights for the 2019 edition of the **African Cup of Nations.**
- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's alliance** won Bangladesh's election with a thumping majority. 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 step forward to give the Chinese currency status at par with USD.
- **33-year-old man Colin O'Brady** from US 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 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.
- **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.**
- 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.** US & 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, started & brought to **10% of its capacity,** as per the Russian state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom.
- **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** spread to a major city **in eastern Congo.**
- UN SG Antonio Guterres 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)** 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** 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** become the **first country in the world to recognise 'orphanage trafficking'** as a form of modern slavery.
- **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.
- Nepal government launched a **Social Security Scheme for formal sector workers** of the country. People of all ages & categories would be included in the scheme. The scheme is contribution based & it will cover health & medical facilities, safe motherhood, accident, & physical incapacity security, security to dependent family members & security at old age.
- **Embassy of India in Nepal & CII** organized an exhibition of **construction equipment & 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.
- **French President Emmanuel Macron & Morocco's King Mohammed VI** inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the 1st ever such line in Africa. Known as the LGV, it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier & Casablanca in less time.
- VP Naidu **visited France**. He inaugurated **Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain**.
- **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.
- 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting **held in Singapore as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summit & 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** officially opened 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 & 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 & Culture.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) will form new government** in Bhutan.
- **1st 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.
- **2018 United Nations Day (24th October) Concert** held in the General Assembly Hall at **UN Headquarters in New York**. The theme was "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence".
- **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.
- **India** 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.
- **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.
- **President Trump's controversial nominee Brett Kavanaugh** sworn in as the **114th Justice of the Supreme Court**.
- President Kovind met with Tajikistan's President 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 & Disaster Management**. Indian grant of 20 million US dollars for Tajikistan to finance devt. projects.
- **UNICEF & NASSCOM Foundation** signed an agreement to **strengthen child rights** through "meaningful business interventions".
- **Ukraine** began a series of **large-scale air force exercises with the United States & other NATO countries**. The "Clear Sky 2018" war games held in western Ukraine.
- **Indian-American Nikki Haley resigned as US Ambassador** to the United Nations.

- In Malaysia, cabinet decided to **abolish the death penalty**.
- **Canada** become the second country after Uruguay to **legalize possession & use of recreational cannabis**.
- The United Nations announced 2019 as the **International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements** to highlight its first publication in 1869. The periodic table was first designed by the Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev.
- Macedonia signed an **accord to join NATO to become** the 30th member of the US-led alliance.
- The India Pavilion at the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) 2019 was inaugurated by Mr Matthijs Wouter Knol, Director European Film Market (EFM).
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has raised **5.2204 billion Philippine pesos (\$100 million)** from a new issue of local currency bonds in the international market.
- **Abu Dhabi** has decided to include **Hindi** as the **third official language** used in its courts, alongside

Arabic and English, as part of a move designed to improve access to justice.

- The country, formerly known as **the Republic of Macedonia** officially changed its name to the **Republic of North Macedonia**.

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BILINGUAL

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
Politician (National-International)	
1. George Fernandes	Former Defence Minister
2. Paddy Ashdown	Centrist politician
3. Tulsi Giri	Former Prime Minister of Nepal
4. CN Balakrishnan	Senior Congress leader & former Kerala minister
5. George HW Bush	The 41st President of the US
6. H.N. Ananth Kumar	Former Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, & Chemicals & Fertilizers
7. Natwar Thakkar	Eminent Gandhian, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi
8. N D Tiwari	Former CM of Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand
9. Madan Lal Khurana	Former Delhi chief minister
10. John Dingell	longest-serving congressman in US history
Singer/Musician (National-International)	
11. Michel Legrand	Oscar-winning French composer
12. Dipali Borthakur	Legendary Assamese singer ("Nightingale of Assam")
13. Mohammed Aziz	Famous Singer
14. Ustad Imrat Khan	Classical music stalwart
15. Annapurna Devi	Legendary musician
Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)	
16. Lenin Rajendran	Malayalam director and screenwriter
17. CH Lokanath	Veteran Kannada actor
18. Kader Khan	Veteran actor-writer
19. Mrinal Sen	Legendary filmmaker
20. Bernardo Bertolucci	Italian filmmaker
21. Lalan Sarang	Veteran theatre & Marathi film actor
22. Alyque Padamsee	Popular ad filmmaker & theatre personality
23. Ramesh Bhatkar	Veteran Marathi actor
24. Albert Finney	Oscar-nominated British actor
25. Mahesh Anand	Actor
Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)	

26.	Atin Bandyopadhyay	Sahitya Akademi award winning Bengali writer
27.	Krishna Sobti	Eminent Hindi author and essayist
28.	Russell Baker	the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer
29.	Mary Oliver	the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet
30.	Dibyendu Palit	Renowned Bengali writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee
31.	Norman Gimbel	Oscar & Grammy-winning lyricist
32.	Dr. Hamidi Kashmiri	Literary figure in Urdu language, literature & literary criticism
33.	Jagdish Thakkar	Public Relations Officer (PRO) in PMO & senior journalist
34.	William Goldman	Oscar-winning screenwriter & best-selling author
35.	Padma Shri Professor Qazi Abdussattar	Noted Urdu writer
36.	Ntozake Shange	Playwright, poet & author
37.	Stan Lee	American comic-book writer & Marvel Comics co-creator
38.	M N Paloor	Well-known Malayalam poet
Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)		
39.	Sandeep Michael	Former Indian hockey player
40.	Ragbir Singh Bhola	Former Indian hockey player
41.	Ramakant Achrekar	cricket coach of Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar
42.	Gordon Banks	Legendary Goalkeeper Of England
Others (National-International)		
43.	Nonaka of Japan	The world's oldest man (113 Years)
44.	Sir Michael Atiyah	British mathematician
45.	Sulagitti Narasamma	Social worker & Padma Shri awardee
46.	Professor Mushirul Hasan	Renowned historian, & former vice-chancellor Jamia Millia of Islamia.
47.	Stephen Hillenburg	Creator of SpongeBob SquarePants
48.	Narayan Das Maharaj	Padma Shri awardee & revered saint
49.	Dr. TS Kanaka	Continent's first woman neurosurgeon
50.	M.P. Awati	Vice-Admiral (Retd.)
51.	Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri	Decorated war veteran
52.	G.D. Agarwal	Environmentalist (was on a fast for last 111 days demanding clean Ganga)
53.	Paul Allen	Co-founder of Microsoft
54.	Osamu Shimomura	Japanese-born Marine biologist
55.	Hiten Bhaya	Former Planning Commission member and ex-director of IIMC
56.	Manfred Eigen	German scientist who jointly won the 1967 Nobel Prize for Chemistry

LIST/INDEXES ANNOUNCED RECENTLY

Name of the Index/List	Rank of India	Topped By?
Dubai International Airport (DXB) retained its position as the world's busiest airport for international customer numbers for the fifth consecutive year with annual traffic for 2018.		
As per the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labor force survey (PLFS) India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of 6.1% in 2017-18. It is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after demonetization.		
Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphons has announced that the country's tourism sector fetched revenue of 234 billion US Dollar in 2018 , registering a growth of over 19%. This revenue was contributed by 87% domestic and 13% foreign tourists.		
Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal launched the "The Future of Rail" report of the International Energy Agency (IEA).		
Assam occupied the top slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in the Budget formulation, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, as per a survey by Transparency International.		
Fitch Solutions, the research arm of Fitch Group, projected the government's fiscal deficit to overshoot the budgeted target by 0.2% to 3.6% of GDP in 2019-20 fiscal.		

International Intellectual Property (IP) Index,	36th position	US topped
India has been ranked in Bloomberg's 2019 list of most innovative countries in the world - 2019 Bloomberg Innovation Index	India has grabbed the 54th spot	South Korea has topped the Index
Transparency International released the Global Corruption Index 2018	India ranked 78	Denmark Topped
India has replaced Japan as the world's 2nd largest steel producing country, while China is the largest producer of crude steel, accounting for more than 51% of production, according to the World Steel Association.		
Nearly 65% of Indian organizations are better prepared for the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), making the country the sixth leading nation globally in the GDPR readiness index, global networking leader, according to CISCO.		
global talent competitive index 2019	India Ranked 80th	Switzerland continues to top
Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) , India's premier container port got listed amongst the top 30 container ports globally, as per the latest Lloyds Report. JNPT ranked 28th on the list.		
India is among the most trusted nations globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media. China topped the Trust Index among both the informed public and the general population segments.		
India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, to become the world's fifth largest economy, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.		
World Economic Forum released the 14th edition of its annual Global Risk Report, 2019.		
11th Edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018 released by the Economist Intelligent Unit	India ranked 41st	Norway topped
The Henley Passport Index 2019	India jumped two positions from 81st in 2018 to 79th in 2019.	Japan retained its top spot
A report by World Economic Forum stated that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030. The report was titled as 'Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India'.		
Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI), Singapore's 2018 Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Index ABC rankings for economies of 21 states of India	Andhra Pradesh Topped	
Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation awarded Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management in the Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings.		
Rajnath Singh released list of best performing police stations across the nation during the DGP conference. Kalu police station of Rajasthan topped the rank list.		
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 Baseline Report of SDG India Index , which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States & Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.		
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 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.		
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.		
IMF 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.		
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 World Bank report. India is followed by China.		

Number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017, 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.		
Moody's Investors Service's annual Banking System Outlook on India estimated the country's real GDP for the current financial year & next fiscal to grow at 7.2% & 7.4%, respectively.		
Four Indian-origin technology executives 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.		
World Economic Forum (WEF) Gender Gap Index 2018	India ranked 108 th .	Iceland topped the list
Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2019	India on 11 th Position.	Sweden topped Saudi Arabia came last
Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) announced that Russia emerged as the world's second-largest arms producer after the United States.		
World's most powerful passport. The Index compiled by Arton Capital.	India ranked 140 th	UAE has the world's most powerful passport.
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.		
Indian-American Shantanu Narayen, CEO of Adobe, named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list. The list is topped by CEO of insurance company Progressive Tricia Griffith.		
India Skills Report 2019.	Andhra Pradesh topped the list of states with the highest employability	
'UK India Business Council Ease of Doing Business Report' released. It 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. India registered a 24% reduction in cases over 2016.		
IMD World Talent Ranking 2018	India Ranked 53 rd	Switzerland topped
Unemployment rate in the country rose to 6.9% in October, the highest in two years, as per report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).		
Index for the most congested city, as per recent research published under the US-based organization, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).	Bangalore tops. Kolkata found to be the slowest city.	
World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2019	India jumped 23 positions & ranked 77	New Zealand topped the list
HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar announced "Swachh Campus rankings". Cleanest 'Government University' is Maharshi Dayanand University, Haryana. Cleanest Residential Campuses of 'Private Universities' is Symbiosis International University, Pune. Cleanest Technical Institutions' is Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore.		
Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani emerged as the richest Indian for 11th consecutive year, as per the Forbes magazine's Forbes India Rich List 2018.		
Henley Passport Index 2018	Indian passport ranked 81 st	Japan ranked 1 st
As per an international survey, India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments moved up in 2018.	India ranked 28 th	Norway topped
Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index	India ranked 147 th	Denmark topped
World Bank's Human Capital Index (HCI)	India ranked at 115 th position	Singapore topped the poll
2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI)	India ranked 103 rd out of 119 qualifying countries.	
World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index 2018 (GCI 4.0)	India ranked at 58 th	US ranked at 1 st
Top 50 valuable national brands, as per the report titled 'Nation Brands 2018' released by Brand Finance.	India secured ninth rank	US topped
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.

IMPORTANT DAYS OBSERVED RECENTLY

Date	Day	Theme
2 February	World Wetlands Day	'Wetlands and Climate Change'.
4th February	World Cancer Day	Theme: "I Am and I Will"
4th to 10th February	National Road Safety Week	Sadak Suraksha – Jeevan Raksha
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	
13 February	World Radio Day by UNESCO	"Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace".
30th January	World Leprosy Eradication Day	'ending discrimination, stigma, and prejudice'
28 January	The Council of Europe had launched a Data Protection Day	
25 January	National Voters Day	"No Voter to be left behind".
24 January	National Girl Child Day	"Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow".
24th January	celebrated as the International Day of Education.	
January 15	Army Day In 1949, Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army	
12th January	The National Youth Day 156 th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.	
January 10	World Hindi Day	
25th December	Bharat Ratna & former PM Atal Vajpayee's birthday celebrated as Good Governance Day	
23rd December	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) In honour of former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh.	
22nd December	National Mathematics Day Commemorate birth anniversary of Mathematician Ramanujan.	
20th December	International Human Solidarity Day	
14th December	National Energy Conservation Day	
7th December	Armed Forces Flag Day	
4th December	Navy Day Honour of the maritime force's role during the war with Pakistan in 197	
24th December	National Consumer Day	"Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints".
18th December	UN's International Migrants Day (IMD)	'Migration with Dignity'
12th December	International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day)	"Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action"
11th December	International Mountain Day	"Mountains Matter"
10th December	Human Rights Day	#StandUp4HumanRights Global campaign launched.
5th December	World Soil Day	#StopSoilPollution is the objective.
1st December	World AIDS Day	"Know Your Status"
3rd December	United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)	"Empowering persons with disabilities & ensuring inclusiveness & equality"
27th November	Indian Organ Donation Day	
27th November	14 th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	
20th November	Universal Children's Day	
20th November	Africa Industrialization Day (AID)	
19th November	World Toilet Day	'When Nature Calls'
Qaumi Ekta Week	observed across the country from November 19th-25th to foster & reinforce the spirit of communal harmony & national integration.	
5th November	Ayurveda Day	Theme was: "Ayurveda for Public health".
10th November	World Science Day for Peace & Development	"Science, a Human Right"
7th November	National Cancer Awareness Day	-
14th November	World Diabetes Day	'The Family & Diabetes'
National Cadets Corps (NCC) day	is celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of November .	
26th November	National Milk Day	
26th November	Indian Constitution Day	
16th November	International Day for Tolerance	

4th October	World Animal Day	-
5th October	World Teachers' Day	"The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher"
9th October	World Post Day	--
10th October	World Mental Health Day	'Young People & Mental Health in a Changing World'
11th October	International Day of the Girl	'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'
13th October	International Day for Disaster Reduction	'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'
Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated on 15th of October .		
15th October	International Day of Rural Women	Theme: "Sustainable infrastructure, services & social protection for gender equality & the empowerment of rural women & girls"
16th October	World Food Day	"Our Actions Are Our Future"
17th October	UN's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Theme: "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights & dignity"
24th October	United Nations Day	-
24th October	World Development Information Day	-
31st October	National Unity Day (Known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)	-
Vigilance Awareness Week observed across the country from 29th October to 3 November to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society. The theme was 'Eradicate Corruption – Build A New India'.		

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani **activist Malala Yousafzai** pens a new book, titled '**We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World,**' charting her experiences traveling the world and visiting refugee camps.
- Book titled "**Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors & Where We Came From**" by Tony Joseph.
- 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.
- '**Blue Waters Ahoy!**' – chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10 by **Vice Admiral Anup Singh**.
- "**Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government**" edited by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Dr. Anirban Ganguly & Shri Kishore Desai.
- **Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman** launched.
- "**Arivu**" by Dr Murali Mohan Chuntharu.
- **Famous yoga exponent & author, Mansi Gulati's** book, 'Yoga & Mindfulness' launched.
- '**Radio Kashmir-In Times of Peace & War**' written by Dr Rajesh Bhat.
- **Stephen Hawking's final work "Brief Answers to the Big Questions"** was launched.
- Biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems & construction techniques titled '**Building a Legacy**' is authored by **Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram**.
- **Northern Irish author Anna Burns** won **2018 Man Booker Prize** for her novel 'Milkman'.
- "**Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior**" authored by historian Rima Hooja released
- Former Vice President Hamid Ansari launched the new book of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram named "**Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India**" at Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi.

DEFENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

Indian Defence Forces

- The all-women **Assam Rifles contingent** created history this year by participating for the **first time in a Republic Day (26th January) parade**. Contingents of the Navy, India Army Service Corps and a unit of Corps of Signals were all led by women officers. Capt Shikha Surabhi from the Corps of Signals became the first woman to perform bike stunts. Lt. Bhavana Kasturi, a lady officer, for the first time led the transportable satellite terminal's contingent.
- As a new initiative in sync with the Digital India campaign of the Government, Ministry of Defence had launched a mobile app '**RDP India 2019**' on the Republic Day, with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the **426 meters long Dippo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District of**

- Arunachal Pradesh.** Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the bridge along Indo-China border.
- **Defence Minister Sitharaman** inaugurated **Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC)** in Gurugram.
 - **Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Indian Navy visited Russia.** It aims to consolidate bilateral defence relations with Russia.
 - **India, Japan and the U.S.** are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format.
 - **Indian Air Force celebrated its 86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018.** To mark the occasion & in keeping up with the tradition, IAF has planned a grand Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at Air Force Station Hindan (Ghaziabad).
 - On its 86th anniversary, **Indian Air Force** launched an innovative **mobile health App named 'MedWatch'.** 'MedWatch' is the first mobile health app in the three-Armed Services.
 - The Defence Acquisitions Council, DAC chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved indigenous construction of six submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees. It is the second project under the Ministry's ambitious strategic partnership model aiming to boost the government's 'Make in India' program. DAC has also approved the acquisition of about five thousand MILAN Anti Tank Guided Missiles for the Army.

- **'Kohassa'** at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Indigenously built Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-5** test-fired successfully from Abdul Kalam island under Chandipur Interim Test Range. **Having 17 meters length & 2 meters diameter** the missile can hit the target from a distance of **5 thousand kilometers.**
- **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.
- Indian Army inducted **new artillery guns & equipment, including K9 Vajra & M777 howitzers,** at Deolali artillery centre in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- **India has signed a \$950 million contract with Russia** for two upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates.
- **INS Arihant, India's first nuclear ballistic missile submarine,** completed its first "deterrence patrol".
- **INS Triakand,** the frontline warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multi-national training exercise 'CUTCLASS EXPRESS 2019'. The annual Exercise Cutlass Express is sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) and conducted by Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF).



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International Defence Forces

- **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 & the UAE will each give USD 250 million in response to the food crisis to support more than 10 million people.
- Pakistan test-fired **Ghauri ballistic missile** capable of carrying conventional & nuclear warheads up to 1,300 kms.
- A contingent of the Russian Army arrived in Pakistan to participate in joint training exercise 'Druzhba-III'.

Defence Exercises/Operations Conducted

- The final planning conference to work out the modalities for **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019** was conducted at Pune, Maharashtra. It is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India.
- Ten years after "26/11", the **Indian Navy commenced the largest coastal defence exercise** off the Indian coast. Exercise **SEA VIGIL,** a first of its kind, is being undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and is involving all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders.
- The second edition of the **India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise, IMBEX 2018-19,** commenced at

INS | Missile | Device Inducted/ Decommissioned

- DRDO successfully test fired **Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) from naval warship INS Chennai.** The test was conducted off the coast of Odisha. The LR-SAM hit a low flying aerial target during the test.
- Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba **commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS**

- Chandimandir Military Station, that houses the headquarters of the Western Command, Chandigarh.
- The opening ceremony for **7th Sino-India joint exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018**, held at Chengdu, China.
 - **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**.
 - **Ex Cope India-18 is the fourth edition** in the series of Bilateral Joint exercise held between IAF & USAF, which is conducted in India. 1st time, the exercise is being planned at two Air Force bases, **Kalaikunda & Panagarh (WB)**.
 - Naval exercise between **India & the United Kingdom, KONKAN** held in Goa this year.
 - Joint military exercise **between India & the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar'** commenced in Jaipur.
 - Joint military exercise **between India & 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 & India** are set to participate in **joint exercise 'Cope India 2019'** at two air force stations in West Bengal. The exercise will be held at Air Station Kalaikunda & Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh).
 - **Militaries of China & India, set to hold a joint drill 'Hand in Hand'** in southwest China's Chengdu city.
 - **India & Singapore** started the **25th edition of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise)** off Andaman Sea & Bay of Bengal.
 - The inaugural edition of **Indian Navy -Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'** at Surabaya, Indonesia.
 - **Armies of India & 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.
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- **Armies of India & 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.
- The 5-day multinational maritime exercise **'AMAN-19'** in which 46 nations participated from all over the world was formally commenced at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, with a colorful flag hoisting ceremony.
- Indian Army showcased its artillery firepower by using ultralight Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the annual **"Exercise Topchi"**. The exercise was held at Deolali Camp near Nashik.

Defence Agreements Signed/Defence Summits Held

- An MoU was signed between the **Indian Army and Punjab National Bank** on the Defence Salary Package. Salient features of the improved and updated MoU are free 'RAKSHAK PLUS' Scheme for serving pers and veterans, overdraft facility range from Rs 0.75 to 3.0 lakhs, multicity 'At Par' cheques, instant credit of outstation cheques, preferential allotment of lockers at concessional AMC and free SMS alerts.
- **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** accorded approval for **acquisition of defence equipment worth nearly Rs. 3000 crores** which includes BrahMos Missiles, & Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs) for Battle Tank Arjun.
- Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman formally **launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'**, in New Delhi. It showcased salient inventions & innovations achieved by DRDO, Defence PSUs & Ordnance Factories (OFs). **Department of Defence Production instituted a new framework titled 'Mission Raksha GyanShakti'** which aims to provide a boost to the IPR culture in the indigenous defence industry.
- **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 Indian Government has signed a deal with the US under Fast Track Procurement (FTP) to avail the Indian Army with 72,400 new 'Sig Sauer Assault

Rifles' which will overhaul the army's inventory of frontline rifles.

SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

Cricket {National Game of: Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11 Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carron ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- **Nepal batsman Rohit Paudel** has become the youngest male cricketer to score an international fifty at the age of 16 years and 146 days, breaking Sachin Tendulkar's previous mark.
- **West Indies captain Jason Holder** has become the first player from the country in 45 years to top the list of all-rounders in the International Cricket Council Test Player Rankings after slamming an unbeaten double-century that helped script a memorable 381-run win over England in the first Test in Bridgetown.
- Former South Africa **all-rounder Johan Botha** has announced his immediate retirement from all forms of Cricket.
- **Rishabh Pant** was named the **International Cricket Council's (ICC) Emerging Player Of The Year** following an impressive show in India's first-ever Test series win in Australia.
- **Mohammed Shami** became the **fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets**, during the first one-dayer against New Zealand at Napier. The world record is currently held by Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who needed only 44 games to reach the mark.
- India **defeated Australia in the third ODI** to clinch the three-match series 2-1. With this, India became the first visiting side to win a bilateral series (two or more matches) in all three formats in Australia.
- **Albie Morkel**, the South African all-rounder, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- The 25-year-old fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** became the **highest international wicket-taker** across formats in 2018. He took a total of 78 wickets in the calendar year.
- India's stylish **opener Smriti Mandhana** named as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Cricketer of the Year & 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.

- **Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting** formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- **Cricket Australia (CA) & the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA)** announced to rebrand its Allan Border Medal to Australian Cricket Awards from 2019 onwards.
- **Gautam Gambhir** announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket.
- **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.
- **Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer** became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy.
- **Former Australia all-rounder John Hastings** retired from all cricket.
- **Senior Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali** announced his retirement from limited overs cricket.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Mumbai defeated Delhi to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy** title at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
- **Prithvi Shaw** become the **youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut**, achieving the feat aged 18 years & 329 days against Windies in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- **Former England batsman Nick Compton** announced his retirement from cricket.
- Sport Australia Hall of Fame announced **cricketing great Richie Benaud**, who died in April, 2015, will become the **40th Legend of Australian Sport**.
- **Indian under-19 cricket team defeated Sri Lanka** to win the 2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **Former Pakistan left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman** announced his retirement from international cricket.
- Former India fast bowler Praveen Kumar has retired from all forms of international cricket.
- India captain Mithali Raj has become the first woman cricketer to play 200 ODIs, adding another achievement to her illustrious career.
- Former captain of the Pakistan women team Sana Mir has become the first Asian woman to play hundred T20Is.

- Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana has become the top-ranked batter in women's ODI cricket, as per the latest rankings released by the ICC.
- Indian opener Smriti Mandhana hammered the fastest fifty for India in Women's T20Is.
- Cricket Australia appointed Ricky Ponting as the assistant coach for Australia's cricket team for 2019 World Cup. Ponting was appointed after David Saker's resignation from the post.

Football {National Game of: Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11 Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- **Spain's Real Madrid** won the Club World Cup for a third consecutive year, & record fourth in total.
- **Former Chelsea striker Didier Drogba** announced his retirement.
- **Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP)** won **59th** edition of the **junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament** beating Amini School, Afghanistan at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.
- **Australian midfielder Mile Jedinak** announced his retirement from international football.
- **Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev** also retired from international soccer.
- Qatar defeated four-time champions Japan 3-1 in the final to win their first ever Asian Cup. Qatar forward Almoez Ali broke the record of most goals in a single Asian Cup after netting his ninth goal.
- Midfielder Ki Sung-yueng has announced his retirement from the South Korean national team.

Hockey {National Game of: India, Pakistan No. of Players: 11 Important Terms Associated: Advancing, Bully, Center Pass, Dribble, Drive, Flagrant Foul, Flick, Free Hit, Striker, Tackle, Undercutting, Dodge, Drag Flick, Grip, Hacking, Penalty Corner, Wall Pass}

- Indian men's hockey coach Harendra Singh was removed from the position and offered the task of helping the junior squad by the national federation. In the interim, the team will be overseen by Hockey India High-Performance Director David John and current Analytical Coach, Chris Ciriello.
- **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, Pune.
- **Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel** announced as an **official partner of the men's hockey World**

- **Cup 2018** to be staged at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- In Hockey, **Great Britain** lifted the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup. Great Britain defeated India in the final.
- **In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners** of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman.

Current Affairs related to Tennis

- The **Australian Open** is a tennis tournament held annually in **Melbourne Park, Australia**. Novak Djokovic from Serbia won the Men's Singles event and Naomi Osaka of Japan won the Women's singles event.
- **India's Ankita Raina** has won the **International Tennis Federation's** 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore. In the Final, Ankita defeated top seed Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands.
- **Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic** secured victory over **Germany's Angelique Kerber** and **Alexander Zverev** to win the Hopman Cup for the second year in a row.
- **Alexander Zverev** has won **ATP World Tour finals in London**. Alexander Zverev defeated world number one Novak Djokovic. He also became the first player to beat both **Djokovic & Federer in the same ATP Finals**.
- **Indian tennis legend Leander Paes** won the **Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela**.
- **World number one Simona Halep** become the first recipient of **Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy**, named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.
- **Swiss tennis star Roger Federer** won his **99th career title** after winning the Basel Open for the ninth time in his career.
- **In Tennis, France's Corentin Moutet** has clinched the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament title after beating Andrew Harris of Australia in the singles final.
- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran** has made it to the **top-100** of Men's Singles Tennis rankings with a jump of six places that took him to 97.

Current Affairs related to Grand Prixes

- **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** won the **Brazilian Grand Prix**.
- Jamie Chadwick from England made history by becoming the first female driver to win the MRF challenge title after scoring a triple win in the final round in Chennai.

Badminton

- The **2019 Indonesia Masters**, officially the DAIHATSU Indonesia Masters 2019, is a badminton tournament that takes place at the Istora Gelora

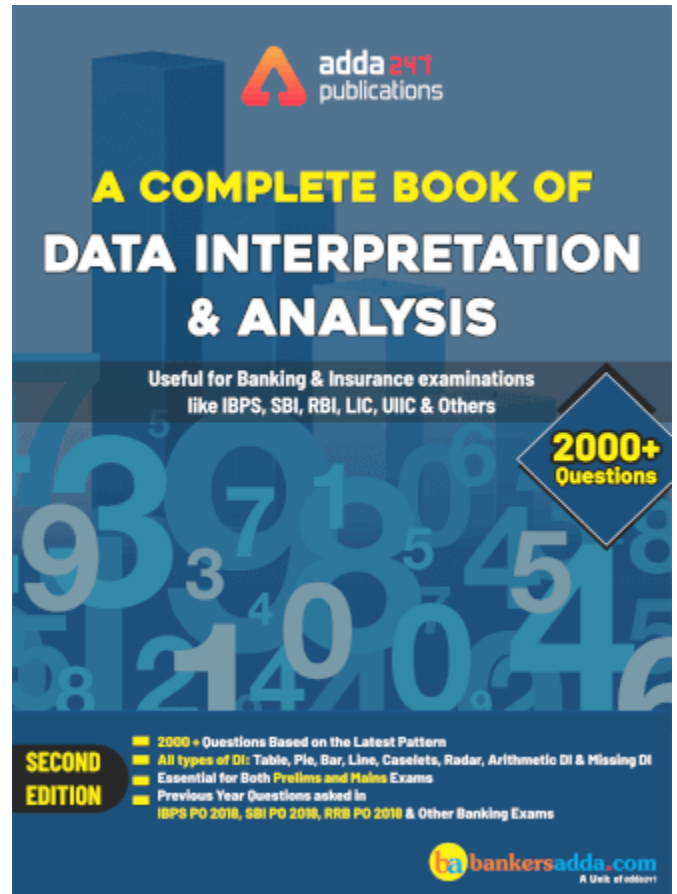
Bung Karno in Indonesia. Anders Antonsen won men's singles title and Saina Nehwal won the women's singles title.

- **Bengaluru Raptors have won their first ever Premier Badminton League, PBL title.** In the title clash played at Bengaluru, Bengaluru edged out Mumbai Rockets, with a 4-3 win.
- **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.
- **Sameer Verma won 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 to win silver.
- **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.
- In Badminton, **Subhankar Dey won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany.**
- 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.**
- The 83rd edition of Senior National Badminton Championships has begun in Guwahati.

Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- M C Mary Kom has attained number one position in the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) latest world rankings. She became the most successful boxer in world championships' history when she claimed the 48kg category top honors in Delhi in November 2018.
- **3rd edition of women's national boxing championships** held in Vijayanagara, Karnataka.
- **Indian star wrestlers Vinesh Phogat & Sakshi Malik** successfully emerged champions in the 57 kg & 62 kg title in the Tata Motors **Senior Women's National Championship.** **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.
- **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.
- **Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez** 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.

- **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.
- Haryana Hammers won the fourth edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) as they outclassed Punjab Royals 6-3 in the summit clash at the Gautam Buddha University indoor stadium, Greater Noida.
- World champion Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu notched up a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand



Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs

- **Tamil Nadu lad D Gukesh became the 2nd youngest Grand Master** in the world and the youngest Indian to achieve the feat at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days, erasing the mark set by his state-mate R Praggnanandhaa in June 2018. Gukesh becomes India's 59th Grand Master.
- **Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 37 golds at the Khelo India Youth Games** in Pune. It had 111 medals in its kitty with 37 gold, 31 silver and 43 bronze. Delhi was at second position.
- **80th National Table Tennis Championship held at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.**
- Australian cities **Sydney and Brisbane announced as the first two host locations for the newest team event in men's tennis for the multi-million**

dollar ATP Cup from 2020. The third Australian city for the tournament is yet to be determined.

- **37th Senior National Rowing Championship** held in the Army Rowing Node in Pune.
- **Kenyan distance runner Eliud Kipchoge & Colombian long & triple jumper Caterine Ibarguen** named male & female world athletes of the year. Pair honoured by the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations).
- **India's 13-year-old shooter Esha Singh** won the Women's, Youth Women's & Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol competitions at the 62nd National Shooting Championship at Thiruvananthapuram.
- **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.
- World Wrestling Championship **held in Budapest, Hungary.**
- **Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker** 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.
- **Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga** become India's first-ever gold medallist **in the history of Youth Olympic Games (YOG)** 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 in women's 44kg category.
- **Sixteen-year-old shooter Manu Bhaker** become the first-ever **Indian woman to win gold at Youth Olympics** in the women's 10m Air Pistol event.
- **Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary** bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-meter air pistol event in Youth Olympic Games.
- **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.
- **Akash Malik** became **India's first silver-medallist** in archery at the Youth Olympic Games.
- **36th National Games to be held in Goa in 2019.** Shooting & Cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports.
- **3rd Asian Para Games took place in Jakarta, Indonesia.** The official mascot is a **Bondol eagle named MOMO**, which was chosen to represent motivation & mobility. **India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games**, ending with 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, & 33 bronze medals). China was at the top of the pecking order with 172 gold.

- **Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary** produced 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 in the men's category, Middle distance runner Raju Rakshitha in women's 1500 meters & swimmer Jadhav Suyash Narayan in men's 50-meter butterfly won Gold.
- **Archer Harvinder Singh** won men's individual recurve gold in the Asian Para-Games in Jakarta.
- The Sports and Youth Ministry in the meeting of Executive Committee of the National Games 2022 has chosen the Smiling Clouded Leopard to be the Mascot for the National Games 2022.

Other Sports Current Affairs

- French sailor Jean-Luc Van Den Heede won the round-the-world yacht race after 212 days alone at sea without modern instruments.
- India's Kartik Sharma won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia.
- Gurgaon's 8-year-old Kartik Singh has won the under-8 category at the Kids' Golf World Championship organized by US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the youngest Indian to win the title.
- Asian Cup gold medallist Shakil Ahmed has set up a world record in indoor rowing by completing 1 lakh meters in above-40 years category in Kolkata.
- **Renowned Kabaddi Player, Anup Kumar** announced his retirement from Kabaddi ending a 15-year iconic career.
- **Team Italy** won ninth edition of **'Admirals Cup' Sailing Regatta (2018).**
- **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.
- 19th edition of the prestigious **Laureus World Sports Awards** to be held in Monaco.
- **Nineteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani** won the second leg of the Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China. He became the **first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.**
- **Simone Biles** made history by picking up **her record 13th career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships in Doha, Qatar.**
- **Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee** 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. With this win, Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title in the last eight editions of the tournament.

- **India's Keerthana Pandian** won the girls' title in the **IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships** held in St Petersburg, Russia.
- **International Olympics Committee (IOC)** picked its **first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal.**
- Golfer Vani Kapoor has become the first Indian to grab Australian Ladies PGA Tour (LPGA) after securing 12th Rank tied with three others in the first-

- ever qualifying tournament at the Ballarat Golf Club in Australia.
- The INS Dronacharya team won the Regatta trophy in the Kochi Area Pulling Regatta 2019 of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) held in the Ernakulam Channel.
- Indian squash player Ramit Tandon defeated Egyptian Mohamed El Sherbini in the finals to win the Seattle Open, a PSA challenger squash Tour event.

Bills passed/proposed in the Parliament

- **Indian Parliament passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018** that seeks to do away with the no-detention policy in schools. The Bill seeks to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act to abolish the "no-detention" policy in schools.
- Indian Parliament passed the **National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018.** It seeks to amend the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993. The bill aims to grant retrospective recognition to Central and State institutions which had conducted teacher education courses without approval by the Council. This will ensure that the future of about 17 thousand students having degrees from such institutions is secured.
- Union Cabinet approved a **10% reservation for 'economically backward' upper castes** in government jobs. Govt. announced reservation in jobs for those belonging to the upper castes and earning less than Rs 8 lakh per year. A bill to amend Article 15 and 16 of the constitution will be moved in Parliament to this effect.
- The **Citizenship Amendment bill** seeking to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill provides for Indian citizenship to such immigrants after six years of residence in India instead of 12 years currently. The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955 in order to grant

- citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan if they have lived in India for six years.
- Lok Sabha passed **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.
- **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.
- 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.** Hefty fine would be **imposed for not deleting, not destroying child pornographic material** or not reporting child pornography.
- **Central Information Commission (CIC) brought the BCCI** under the RTI (Right to Information) Act.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (NASA, ISRO & OTHERS)

- **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.
- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced entering into agreements worth \$93 million for providing Naval Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems to India. The contracts entered with the Indian Navy and the Cochin Shipyard. IAI will provide complementary systems for the air defense system.
- Scientists developed an artificial pancreas smartphone app that will help in regulating blood

- sugar levels in diabetes patients. A clinical trial showed that the artificial pancreas system (iAPS) app is safe.
- ISRO successfully launched the PSLV C 44 carrying Kalam sat and imaging satellite Microsat R. It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Kalamsat is a ten cm cube weighing one-kilogram communication satellite with a life span of two months.
- Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) announced the launch of a full-fledged bachelor's programme in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology

from the new academic session, a first for the country and only the third globally.

- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency launched Tokyo-based startup Star-ALE's mini-satellite aimed to deliver the world's first artificial meteor shower.
- Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Doordarshan (DD), Prasar Bharati launched two science communication initiatives, DD Science and India Science. The initiatives were inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan announced that the organization is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by December 2021. Under Gaganyaan project, India is planning to send three astronauts to outer space for seven days and bring them back. 332 launches are planned this year.
- ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan stated that the Union Government allocated 10,900 crore rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next 4 years.
- **GSLV F 11 carrying GSAT 7A** successfully launched from 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 produced the world's first fully functioning e-motorbike NERA** using a 3D printer.
- **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.

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully **launched PSLV-C43** from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. It 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, & a 6.5-minute parachuted descent through the Red Planet's atmosphere.
- **IIT Madras designed & booted up 'Shakti'**, which can be used for wireless & networking systems, as well as mobile computing. 'Shakti' is India's first & indigenous microprocessor.
- **Xinhua, China's state-run press agency unveiled virtual newsreaders** that combine the images & voices of human anchors with artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
- **GSAT-29 communication satellite**, which is being carried by **ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-Mk III)** was launched into space from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled its Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at ISRO Headquarter campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka for its maiden manned space mission 'Gaganyaan'.
- India's 40th communication satellite **GSAT-31** has been launched successfully from French Guiana.
- NASA announced that its Opportunity Rover mission is complete after the rover failed to respond despite repeated trials since August 2018.

SCHEMES

Schemes launched by Union Govt.

- PM Modi launched the **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana** under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- **Government e Marketplace (GeM) launched "Womaniya on GeM"**, an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (WSHG) to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories and many other products.
- Govt. launched **Web-Wonder Women Campaign** to celebrate the exceptional achievements of women who have influenced and impacted society through social media. The Campaign aims to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the

globe who have used the power of social media to run positive campaigns to steer a change in society.

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched the **'Swachh Survekshan 2019'**, the fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in New Delhi. It aims to evaluate the achievements in the cleanliness level in urban areas of the country.
- Centre included **Gangotri & Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in MP & Parasnath in Jharkhand** under a central scheme to develop pilgrimage & heritage destinations in the country. With this, the number of sites under **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation & Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** become 41 in 25 states.

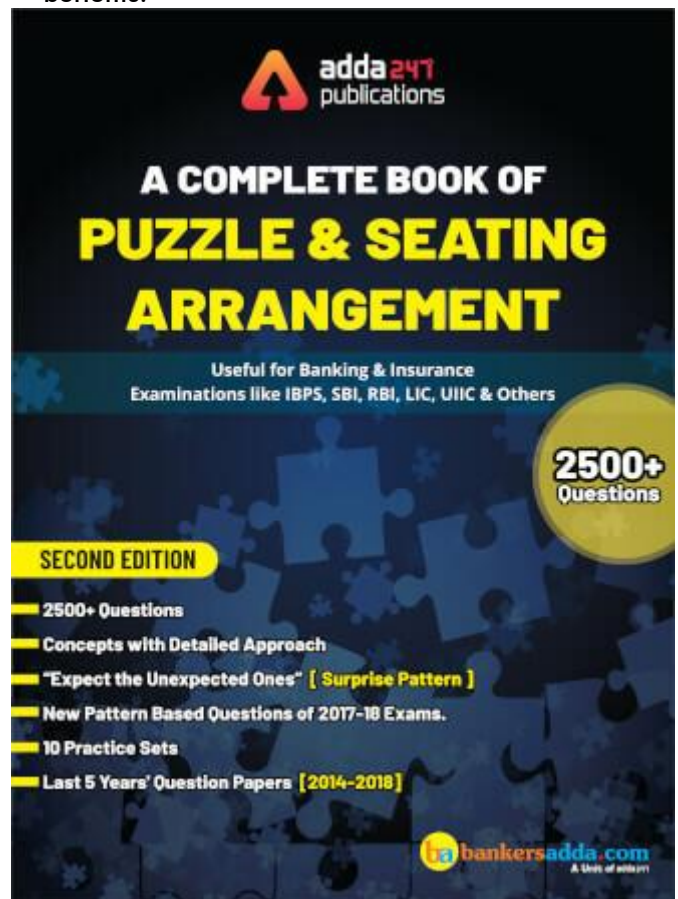
- **“PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access”**, a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) launched. It is designed & developed by **Allahabad 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).
- Govt. launched a unique initiative called **Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages**. The initiative, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat is **programme for schools & educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure** to students in Indian languages.
- **8 more States** achieved **100% household electrification under “Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana- Saubhagya”**. The states are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana, & West Bengal. **15 States now have 100 percent household electrification**, as per Power Minister RK Singh.
- **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.

Schemes launched by State Govt.

- **Maharashtra government** launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths. Child Development Minister distributed baby-care kits to the children born in primary health centers and government hospitals. It is applicable only for the first child & will benefit around four lakh women across the state.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath announced the launch of the **‘Yuva Swabhiman Yojana’** for youths from the economically weaker sections in urban areas. Under this, 100 days of employment will be provided to youths from economically weaker sections in urban areas.
- **Kerala government has floated a ‘Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme’** to provide regular pension to Non-Resident Keralites on a one-time payment of Rs 5 lakh. Governor P. Sathasivam announced the scheme. A non-resident Keralite can invest an amount ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, as a whole or as 6 installments paid within 3 years. Each beneficiary will be entitled to receive

pensions ranging from Rs 5,000-50,000 every month, 3 years after the total amount is deposited, at a dividend rate of 12%.

- **Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb** launched a project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management at State Forest Academy Ground in West Tripura and stated that the project would help develop the quality of forestlands and livelihood of forest dwellers in the state.
- **Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling** launched the **‘One Family One Job’** scheme, under which for every family one government job has been allotted, in Gangtok. New recruits were taken for Group C and Group D posts in 12 departments. Thus, Sikkim became the first state in the country to carry out such a programme for the people entitling them to state government employee benefits.



- **West Bengal government announced two welfare initiatives for farmers**. Both initiatives, are part of the **‘Krishi Krishak Bondhu’** scheme, & will come into effect from 1st January 2019. The first initiative will provide Rs 2 lakh to the family of a deceased farmer. Under the second initiative, farmers would get Rs 2,500 twice a year for growing a single crop on one acre of land.
- **Delhi CM Kejriwal** launched the **‘Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana’** which offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five

religious circuits. Under this, a **Delhi resident above 60 years** will be eligible to take free pilgrimage along with his or her spouse.

- **J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik** launched 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.
- **Maharashtra CM Fadnavis** launched the **‘Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools’** for students in rural areas.
- **‘Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana’** launched in UK. 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.
- **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). 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**. It is named **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood & Income Augmentation (KALIA)**. It will provide farmers with Rs. 10,000 a year at the rate of Rs. 5,000 each for Kharif & Rabi season. Crop loans of up to Rs. 50,000 will be interest-free under the scheme.
- **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.
- **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 & rural & urban properties in the state.
- **Himachal Pradesh government** approved to **implement Sashakt Mahila Yojna in the state** with a vision to empower rural women by providing

them an interface for organization & socio-economic development.

- **Kerala CM 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) & Scheduled Tribe (ST) category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.
- **Odisha government** launched a **new initiative named ‘Mo Bus’ services** in the Bhubaneswar.
- **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik** launched the **Soura Jananidhi scheme** that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
- **Odisha government** launched the **State’s own food security scheme** to cover the poor people. As per 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 govt., under Unnati scheme, will invest up to **Rs. 20 crores to create end-to-end support infrastructure** for startups & entrepreneurs.
- **Odisha CM Patnaik** launched **‘Nirman Kusuma’ programme** for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their technical education in the state.
- Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar announced a Universal Old Age Pension scheme, named Mukhya Mantri Vriddha Pension Yojana (MMVPY), irrespective for all caste, community, religion, except for those who are retired from government organizations.

Schemes/Programme launched by Ministries

- K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated the first project under the **Swadesh Darshan Project** of the Union Ministry of Tourism at the Zero Point, Gangtok, Sikkim. Swadesh Darshan Scheme is one of the flagship schemes of Ministry of tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned manner.
- **Minister of State in Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **UNNATI (Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training) programme** organized by ISRO in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is an initiative by ISRO to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE-50).
- **Environment Ministry** launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** aimed at reducing toxic particulate matter in 102 Indian cities by 2024. The NCAP will be a mid-term, five-year plan with 2019 as the first year, while 2017 will be the base year for comparison of concentration.

- **MSME ministry established an export promotion cell** to create a sustainable ecosystem for MSMEs. It also proposed to formulate a governing council that will be chaired by the secretary of the MSME ministry.
- **Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins' initiative** saying it will go a long way in making Odisha's 2.25 crore women empowered and self-reliant. It will cover 93 blocks in 30 districts of Odisha. Under this, **oil marketing companies (OMC)** will set up 100 manufacturing units at the Common Service Centres (CSC) at an estimated cost of Rs 2.94 crores.
- HRD ministry introduced a **70-point grading index to assess** the quality of school education offered by states. A state performance grading will be done wherein the states will be marked out of 1,000 scores on 70 parameters.
- **Union Minister of State (IC)** for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd.) launched the sharing of All India Radio News with private FM broadcasters. This will be done free of cost. Any Private FM broadcaster which intends to broadcast the news bulletins will first have to register with News Services Division: All India Radio.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)** to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.
- **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 crores to set up specialised clusters in **different states for different produce to push exports.**
- **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 UN World Food Program for 2020 & 2021.
- **Home Ministry** launched a Twitter account named **'@CyberDost'** to spread awareness about cybercrimes & normal precautions to be taken.
- **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 **iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme)** developed by Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. 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.
- **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.
- **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 & mortality & lessening disease burden in the populations & better health systems.
- **Suresh Prabhu, & Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha** has launched **the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal & mobile app in New Delhi.**

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

INDIAN RAILWAYS/ METRO in India

- **India's fastest indigenous train which will run from Delhi to Varanasi** has been named as Vande Bharat Express. Its previous name was Train 18.
- **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.
- **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.

- **MoU signed between Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Transport of Russian Federation** for development of cooperation in transport education.
- **IRCTC** 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.

OTHERS

- Ministry of Textiles and Government of India launched Artisan Speak at **Elephanta Caves (UNESCO heritage site)** to strengthen the handlooms and textiles sector of India.
- Civil Aviation ministry launched the **country's first Geographical Indication (GI) store at Dabolim International Airport** in Goa. The GI stores will promote local products made by the artisans and handicrafts at the airport.
- **Oxford Dictionaries announced 'Nari Shakti'** as the Hindi Word of the Year.
- **'Saksham'**, an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta conquered Antarctica's highest point, Mount Sidley.** With this feat, he became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the 7 highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents.
- **University Grants Commission (UGC) approved a list of journals,** in that the UGC has decided to establish a Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE). The good quality Research Journals in disciplines under Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Arts, Culture, Indian Knowledge Systems etc., will be maintained by CARE and referred to as 'CARE Reference List of Quality Journals'. UGC has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Balram, to review its quality mandate relating to promotion of Research and to review the existing M.Phil/ Ph.D Regulations.
- **Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair declared as an authorized Immigration Check post** for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- Arunima Sinha, the first female amputee to have conquered Mt Everest, **created yet another record as she became world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Vinson,** the highest peak in Antarctica.
- Ministry of Culture announced that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declared 6 monuments as 'protected and of national importance' under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, in 2018. These sites are: 125-year-old Old High Court Building in Nagpur, Maharashtra, The Group of Temples in Ranipur Jharail in Bolangir district of Odisha, 2 Mughal era monuments in Agra- Haveli of Agha Khan and Hathi Khana,
- The **Neemrana Baori in Alwar district of Rajasthan,** The Vishnu Temple in Kotali, Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand.
- **National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of 100 crore rupees on Meghalaya government** for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state.
- **Vijay Mallya became the first tycoon to be charged under a new anti-fraud law,** with a court in Mumbai naming him as an offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- To ensure easier availability of **FASTags, Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL),** a company promoted by NHAI, has signed MoUs with state-run Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPC, and HPC). It will ensure availability of FASTags at petroleum outlets across India.
- **The 20-year old Indian woman Vedangi Kulkarni** becomes the fastest Asian to cycle the globe.
- **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.
- **Kolkata-Patna is India's new Inland Water Transport (IWT) origin-destination pair** for containerised cargo movement on the National Waterway-1.
- Indigenously developed **Kaiga Atomic Power Station in Karnataka** set a new world record, with one of its units operating uninterrupted for more than 940 days.
- **PM Modi releases a 100 rupees commemorative coin in honour of former Prime Minister & Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik **launched the force's e-learning portal NIPUN & training division** website.
- Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences **launched a campaign to spread a pan-India awareness about hepatitis disease.** Empowering People Against Hepatitis: The Empathy Campaign was launched in New Delhi.
- **Malayalam film Olu** will be the opening film at the **49th International Film Festival of India, IFFI 2018.**
- Maharashtra Cabinet 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 newly-built **Ekana International Stadium of Lucknow was renamed after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.** It will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.

- **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.
- **38th India International Trade Fair (IITF)** held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. This year the theme was **'Rural Enterprises in India'. Afghanistan is the Partner Country.**
- **Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district** 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.
- Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg & other adjoining areas in Maharashtra, **finally gets a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.** The first product to get a GI tag in India was the Darjeeling tea in 2004.
- **Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, Bihar** got official recognition as it receives the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi **unfurled India's highest tricolour** on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai.
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health & 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), under the aegis of the Directorate General of Health Services.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App** has been launched on Google play store.
- **'Darwaza Band- Part 2'** campaign launched by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country.
- Actor Vijay **Sethupathi launched the mobile App 'DigiCop'** of the Chennai police department at the Commissioner's office.
- Union Minister of **Textiles Smriti Irani launched the India Size project in Mumbai.** A first-of-its-kind project in the history of the country, India Size aims to arrive at a standard Indian Size for the ready-to-wear clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the USA and the UK.
- The Ministry of Environment launched a **three-year Asiatic Lion Conservation Project** in collaboration with the state of Gujarat.
- Union Environment Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, announced the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB) as the mascot** for the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) to be held in Gujarat in

2020. He also revealed that the bird has been fondly named by the ministry as **'Gibi'**.

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal laid the foundation **stone of a Mega Food Park at Chhata-Barsana road in Mathura.**
- Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise 'Exercise Rahat' concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.

CTET PRIME 2019

PAPER - I & PAPER-II

65 TOTAL TESTS

20 Full Length Mocks for Paper-I & II

10 Previous Year Question Paper eBook

35 Topic wise Test eBooks

INDIA'S GDP REPORTS

- As per the IMF's latest report, India is projected to **grow at 7.3% in 2018 & 7.4% in 2019.**

Person on Visit

- **EAM Swaraj visited Uzbekistan. Mrs. Swaraj will be in Samarkand for the First India-Central Asia Dialogue** which she will co-chair with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.
- **Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg** arrived in New Delhi for state visit to India. She will participate in the Indo-Norwegian Business Conference. She will also deliver the Inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue.
- **PM of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering** arrived in New Delhi for an official visit to India. The visit of him 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.
- PM Modi visited **Varanasi & Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.** During the visit, he laid the foundation stone of medical College in Ghazipur. He dedicated

the **6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC)** to the nation. **Note:** The One District, One Product Regional Summit 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 PMAY.
- PM Modi **inaugurated several projects worth over Rs. 14,500 cr during his visit to Odisha**. He dedicated the **new campus of IIT-Bhubaneswar at Aragul**. 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.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind & first lady Savita Kovind visited Myanmar**. During his stay, the President to visit **capital Nay Pyi Taw & Yangon & interact with his counterpart U Win Myint & State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi**. He also held a high-level delegation meeting. **Myanmar is a country where India’s “Act East” & “Neighbourhood First” policies intersect.**
- **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 & External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will hold extensive talks on issues of mutual interest.
- **President Kovind met Australian PM 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 & 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** visited 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.
- **President Kovind is on 2 nation visit to Vietnam & 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, & Malawi.
- **Uzbekistan Ambassador to India Farhod Arziev inaugurated** the international dance festival titled "Udbhav Utsav" in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte arrived in New Delhi**. During the visit, the Italian Prime Minister will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj reached Doha, Qatar** on the first leg of her 2-nation visit to West Asia. On the second leg of her visit, Ms Swaraj will travel to Kuwait.
- **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** visited India. He participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi. He also attended the joint inaugural ceremony of the First Assembly of ISA, 2nd RE-INVEST Conference & Energy Ministers Meet of Indian Ocean Rim Association of States member countries.
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** visited India. He attended 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** visited Astana, Kazakhstan.
- **President Kovind** reached Tajikistan on a three-day visit. He arrived in Dushanbe & was received by Deputy PM of Tajikistan Zokirzoda Mahmad Toir.
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** visited France where she had wide-ranging talks with her French counterpart Florence Parly to deepen strategic cooperation.
- **VP Naidu visited Brussels, Belgium** to attend the 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit. The theme was “Global Partners for Global Challenges”.
- IIT, Ropar, developed an **app named Roshni** that would help the Visually Impaired to recognise currency notes. The app can recognise both old and new notes and gives audio information as to which note you are holding in your hands.

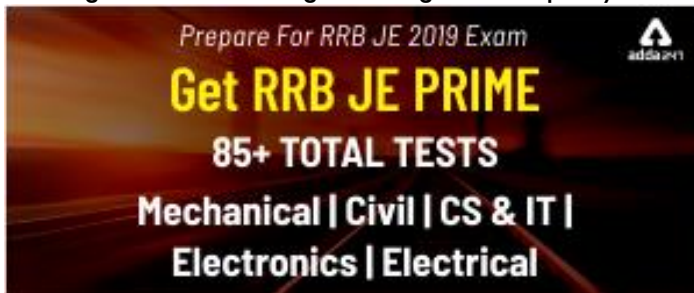
Part 2: Insurance Capsule for NIACL AO Phase-II

What is Insurance?

An arrangement by which a company or the state undertakes to provide a guarantee of compensation for specified loss, damage, illness, or death in return for payment of a specified premium.

What is Insurance Premium?

An insurance premium is the amount of money that an individual or business must pay for an insurance policy. The insurance premium is considered income by the insurance company once it is earned, and also represents a liability in that the insurer must provide coverage for claims being made against the policy.



Topic 1 : History of Life Insurance

1818 saw the advent of life insurance business in India with the establishment of the Oriental Life Insurance Company in Calcutta. This Company however failed in 1834. In **1829**, the **Madras Equitable** had begun transacting life insurance business in the Madras Presidency. **1870** saw the enactment of the British Insurance Act and in the last three decades of the nineteenth century, the **Bombay Mutual (1871)**, **Oriental (1874)** and **Empire of India (1897)** were started in the Bombay Residency.

In **1914**, the Government of India started publishing returns of Insurance Companies in India. The **Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912** was the first statutory measure to regulate life business. In **1928**, the Indian Insurance Companies Act was enacted to enable the Government to collect statistical information about both life and non-life business transacted in India by Indian and foreign insurers including provident insurance societies. In 1938, with a view to protecting the interest of the **Insurance public**, the earlier legislation was consolidated and amended by the Insurance Act, 1938 with comprehensive provisions for effective control over the activities of insurers.

The **Insurance Amendment Act of 1950** abolished Principal Agencies. However, there were a large number of insurance companies and the level of competition was high. There were also allegations of unfair trade

practices. The Government of India, therefore, decided to nationalize insurance business.

An Ordinance was issued on **19th January, 1956** **nationalising** the Life Insurance sector and Life Insurance Corporation came into existence in the same year. The LIC absorbed **154 Indian**, 16 non-Indian insurers as also 75 provident societies—245 Indian and foreign insurers in all.

Topic 2 : History of General Insurance

General Insurance came to India as a legacy of British occupation. General Insurance in India has its roots in the establishment of Triton Insurance Company Ltd., in the year **1850 in Calcutta** by the British. In **1907**, the Indian Mercantile Insurance Ltd, was set up. This was the first company to transact all classes of general insurance business.

1957 saw the formation of the General Insurance Council, a wing of the Insurance Association of India. The General Insurance Council framed a code of conduct for ensuring fair conduct and sound business practices.

In **1968**, the Insurance Act was amended to regulate investments and set minimum solvency margins. The Tariff Advisory Committee was also set up then.

In **1972** with the passing of the **General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act**, general insurance business was nationalized with effect from 1st January, 1973. 107 insurers were amalgamated and grouped into four companies, namely National Insurance Company Ltd., the New India Assurance Company Ltd., the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd and the United India Insurance Company Ltd. The General Insurance Corporation of India was incorporated as a company in **1971** and it commence business on **January 1st 1973**.

In 1993, the Government set up a committee under the chairmanship of **RN Malhotra**, former Governor of RBI, to propose recommendations for reforms in the insurance sector. The objective was to complement the reforms initiated in the financial sector. The committee submitted its report in 1994 wherein, among other things, it recommended that the private sector be permitted to enter the insurance industry. They stated that foreign companies be allowed to enter by floating Indian companies, preferably a joint venture with Indian partners.

Following the recommendations of the **Malhotra Committee report**, in **1999**, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)** was

constituted as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry. The IRDA was incorporated as a statutory body in **April, 2000**. The key objectives of the IRDA include promotion of competition so as to enhance customer satisfaction through increased consumer choice and lower premiums, while ensuring the financial security of the insurance market.

In **December, 2000**, the subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India were restructured as independent companies and at the same time GIC was converted into a national re-insurer. Parliament passed a bill de-linking the four subsidiaries from **GIC in July, 2002**.

Topic 3 : Know About IRDAI

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) regulate the Indian insurance industry to protect the interests of the policyholders and work for the orderly growth of the industry.

Background

1991: Government of India begins the economic reforms programme and financial sector reforms

1993: Committee on Reforms in the Insurance Sector, headed by Mr. R. N. Malhotra, (Retired Governor, Reserve Bank of India) set up to recommend reforms.

1994: The Malhotra Committee recommends certain reforms having studied the sector and hearing out the stakeholders.

Birth of IRDAI

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) set up as autonomous body under the

IRDA Act, 1999

IRDAI's Mission: To protect the interests of policyholders, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

IRDAI's Activities

Frames regulations for insurance industry in terms of Section 114A of the Insurance Act 1938 From the year 2000 has registered new insurance companies in accordance with regulations. Monitors insurance sector activities for healthy development of the industry and protection of policyholders' interests

Functions and Duties of IRDAI

Section 14 of the IRDA Act, 1999 lays down the duties, powers and functions of IRDA.

- Registering and regulating insurance companies.
- Protecting policyholders' interests.
- Licensing and establishing norms for insurance intermediaries.
- Promoting professional organisations in insurance.

- Regulating and overseeing premium rates and terms of non-life insurance covers.
- Specifying financial reporting norms of insurance companies.
- Regulating investment of policyholders' funds by insurance companies.
- Ensuring the maintenance of solvency margin by insurance companies.
- Ensuring insurance coverage in rural areas and of vulnerable sections of society.

Head Office- Hyderabad

Chairman- Subhash Chandra Khuntia

Topic 4 : Indian Insurance Market

The insurance industry of India consists of **53 insurance companies of which 24** are in life insurance business and 29 are non-life insurers. Among the life insurers, **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** is the sole public sector company.

Out of 29 non-life insurance companies, there are six public sector insurers, which include two specialised insurers namely Agriculture Insurance Company Ltd for Crop Insurance and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India for Credit Insurance. Moreover, there are **5 private sector insurers** are registered to underwrite policies exclusively in Health, Personal Accident and Travel insurance segments. They are Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd, Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company Ltd, Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd, Religare Health Insurance Company Ltd and Cigna TTK Health Insurance Company Ltd.

In addition to 53 insurance companies, there is sole national re-insurer, namely, General Insurance Corporation of India. Other stakeholders in Indian Insurance market include approved insurance agents, licensed Corporate Agents, Brokers, Common Service Centres, Web-Aggregators, Surveyors and Third Party Administrators Servicing Health Insurance claims.

Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 provides for enhancement of the Foreign Investment Cap in an Indian Insurance **Company from 26%** to an Explicitly Composite Limit of 49% with the safeguard of Indian Ownership and Control.

Topic 5 :Types of Insurance

- Life Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Motor Insurance
- Property Insurance
- Travel Insurance
- Group insurance

1. Life Insurance

Life Insurance is a financial cover for a contingency linked with human life, like **death, disability, accident, retirement etc.** Human life is subject to risks of death and disability due to natural and accidental causes. When human life is lost or a person is disabled permanently or temporarily, there is loss of income to the household.

2. Health Insurance

The term '**Health Insurance**' relates to a type of insurance that essentially covers your medical expenses. A health insurance policy like other policies is a contract between an insurer and an individual / group in which the insurer agrees to provide specified health insurance cover at a particular "**premium**" subject to terms and conditions specified in the policy.

3. Motor Insurance

Motor insurance gives protection to the vehicle owner against **(i). damages to his/her vehicle** and **(ii). pays for any Third Party Liability** determined as per law against the owner of the vehicle. Third Party Insurance is a statutory requirement. The owner of the vehicle is legally liable for any injury or damage to third party life or property caused by or arising out of the use of the vehicle in a public place. Driving a motor vehicle without insurance in a public place is a punishable offence in terms of the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

4. Property Insurance

Insurance of property means insurance of **buildings, machinery, stocks etc against Fire and Allied Perils, Burglary Risks** and so on. Goods in transit via **Sea, Air, Railways, Roads** and Courier can be insured under Marine Cargo Insurance. Hulls of ship and boats can be insured under Marine Hull Insurance. Further, there are specialized policies available such as Aviation Insurance Policy for insurance of planes and helicopters. Thus Property Insurance is a very vast category of General Insurance and the type of cover that you need depends upon the type of property you are seeking to cover.

5. Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance offers insurance protection while you travel. Travel Insurance may be called by different names by insurance companies. **It is important** for you to check and understand whether the policy covers domestic travel or overseas travel or both. Travel Insurance protects you and/or family against travel related accidents, unexpected medical expenditure during travel, losses such as baggage loss, loss of passport etc and interruption or delays in flights or delayed arrival of **baggage etc.**

6. Group insurance

Another kind of insurance is group insurance. In group insurance, schemes are offered by insurance companies

to provide certain classes of individuals, the benefit of insurance coverage at moderate cost.

Topic 6 : ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan)

ULIP is a life insurance product, which provides risk cover for the policy holder along with investment options to invest in any number of qualified investments such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds. As a single integrated plan, the investment part and the protection part can be managed according to specific needs and choices.

Introduction:- In **Unit Linked Insurance Plans(ULIP)**, the investments made are subject to risks associated with the capital markets. This investment risk in investment portfolio is borne by the policy holder. Thus, you should make your investment choice after considering your risk appetite and needs.

Charges, fees and deductions in a ULIP

ULIPs offered by different insurers have varying charge structures. Broadly, the different types of fees and charges are given below. However it may be noted that insurers have the right to revise fees and charges over a period of time.

Premium Allocation Charge-

This is a percentage of the premium appropriated towards charges before allocating the units under the policy. This charge normally includes initial and renewal expenses apart from commission expenses.

Mortality Charges-

These are charges to provide for the cost of insurance coverage under the plan. Mortality charges depend on number of factors such as age, amount of coverage, state of health etc.

Fund Management Fees-

These are fees levied for management of the fund(s) and are deducted before arriving at the Net Asset Value (NAV).

Policy/Administration Charges-

These are the fees for administration of the plan and levied by cancellation of units. This could be flat throughout the policy term or vary at a pre-determined rate.

Surrender Charges-

A surrender charge may be deducted for premature partial or full encashment of units wherever applicable, as mentioned in the policy conditions.

Fund Switching Charge-

Generally a limited number of fund switches may be allowed each year without charge, with subsequent switches, subject to a charge.

Service Tax Deductions-

Before allotment of the units the applicable service tax is deducted from the risk portion of the premium. Investors may note, that the portion of the premium after deducting for all charges and premium for risk cover is utilized for purchasing units.

Topic 7 : Know About Public Sector Insurance Companies

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- General insurance corporation of India (GIC)
- The new India assurance company limited (NIACL)
- United India insurance company limited (UIIC)
- The oriental insurance company limited (OICL)
- National insurance company limited (NICL)
- Agriculture insurance company of India limited (AICIL)

Topic 8 : Life Insurance Corporation of India

- LIC of India was incorporated on 1st September, 1956 by amalgamating 243 Companies by the Act of Parliament called Insurance Act, 1956.
- LIC is governed by the Insurance Act 1938, LIC Act 1956, LIC Regulations 1959 and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.
- The Corporation has **Branch Offices in Fiji, Mauritius and United Kingdom.**
- **Head Office- Mumbai**
- **Chairman and MD- Hemant Bhargava**

Topic 9 : General insurance corporation of India

- The General insurance industry was nationalized in 1972 and 107 insurers were grouped and amalgamated into four Companies – National Insurance Co. Ltd., The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., The Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and United India Insurance Co. Ltd.
- The GIC was incorporated in the year 1972 and the other four companies became its subsidiaries.
- **In November 2000, GIC** was notified as the Indian Reinsurer, and its supervisory role over its subsidiaries was brought to an end.
- From 21 March 2003, GIC's role as a holding company of its subsidiaries also came to an end and the ownership of the subsidiaries was transferred to the Government of India.
- The Corporation has its head office in **Mumbai and 3 liaison offices in India (Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai)**, 3 branches in foreign countries (London, Dubai and Kuala Lumpur) and 1 representative office in Moscow. It also has 2 foreign subsidiaries

(GIC Re South Africa and GIC Re India Corporate Member Ltd. in UK).

- The authorized capital is Ra.1000 crore while the paid-up equity capital of the company is **Rs.430 crore.**
- **Head office- Mumbai**
- **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)- Alice G. Vaidyan**

Topic 10 : The New India Assurance Company Limited

- ✚ The company was founded by Sir Dorabji Tata on July 23rd, 1919 and nationalized in 1973 with merger of Indian companies.
- ✚ The company provides insurance services to the customers having over 170 products catering to almost all segments of general insurance business.
- ✚ The authorized capital and paid-up equity capital of the company is Rs.300 crore and Rs.200 crore respectively.
- ✚ **Head Office- Mumbai**
- ✚ **Chairman cum Managing Director- Atul Sahai**

Topic 11 : United India insurance company limited

- United India Insurance Company Limited was incorporated in 1938.
- With the nationalization of General Insurance business in India, 12 Indian Insurance Companies, 4 Cooperative Insurance Societies and Indian operations of 5 Foreign Insurers, besides General Insurance operations of southern region of Life Insurance Corporation of India were merged with United India Insurance Company Limited.
- The company provides insurance services to the customers catering to almost all segments of general insurance business.
- The authorized capital and paid-up equity capital of the company is Rs.200 crore and Rs.150 crore respectively.
- **Head office- Chennai**
- **Girish Radhakrishnan**

Topic 12 : Oriental Insurance Company Limited

- Oriental Insurance Company Ltd was incorporated in the year 1947.
- In 2003 all shares of the company held by the General Insurance Corporation of India were transferred to the Government of India.
- The company provides insurance services to the customers catering to almost all segments of general insurance business.
- The authorized capital and paid-up equity capital of the company is Rs.200 crore.
- **Head Office- New Delhi**

- **Chairman cum Managing Director- AV Girija Kumar**

Topic 13 : National Insurance Company Limited

- The Company was incorporated in the year 1906. After nationalization it was merged, along with 21 foreign and 11 Indian companies, to form National Insurance Company Ltd.
- The company provides insurance services to the customers catering to almost all segments of general insurance business.
- The authorized capital and paid-up equity capital of the company is Rs.200 crore and Rs.100 crore respectively.
- **Head Office- Kolkata**
- **Chairman cum Managing Director- Tajinder Mukherjee**

Topic 14 : Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited

- 'Agriculture Insurance Company Of India Limited' (AIC) was incorporated to exclusively cater to the insurance needs of the persons engaged in agriculture and allied activities in India under the Companies Act, 1956 on 20th December 2002.
- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), NABARD and four public sector general insurance companies have contributed towards the share capital of the Company.
- The Authorized Share Capital of the Company is Rs. 1500 crore with initial Paid-up Equity Share Capital of the Company of Rs. 200 crores.
- The Company having received approval from Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) commenced its business operations w. e. f. 1st April, 2003.
- **Head Office- New Delhi**
- **Chairman cum Managing Director- TL Alamelu**

Topic 15 : Glossary of Insurance Terms

- **Actuary-** A professional trained in the mathematics of insurance and risk management, including the calculations of premiums, policy reserves and other values.
- **Agent-** The insurance company representative who sells policies on behalf of the insurer. An independent agent represents more than one company; a captive agent represents only one company.
- **Applicant-** Prospective policyholder; completes and signs the insurance application.
- **Assets-** The items on a balance sheet showing the value of property owned.

- **Assuming Company-** An insurance company that accepts the risk transferred from another insurance company in a reinsurance transaction.
- **Billing Clerk-** Person responsible for revenue billing.
- **Broker-** Represents the interests of the insured in searching for insurance coverage at the lowest cost and highest benefit to the insured. The broker may also be an agent of the insurer for purposes of policy collection and delivery of the policy.
- **Catastrophic-** Event An event that causes loss to many people at once. Also called catastrophe, several examples are tornados, hurricanes and plane crashes.
- **Cede-** To transfer to a reinsurer all or part of the insurance or reinsurance written by a ceding company.
- **Ceding Company-** The company that transfers its risk to a reinsurer. Also called the Cedant.
- **Claim Adjuster-** The person who investigates insurance claims for losses and recommends an effective settlement.
- **Claim Service Representative-** Also called CSR; they are responsible for clerical completion of all claim files.
- **Clause-** A section of an insurance policy dealing with various coverages, exclusions, duties of the insured, locations covered and conditions that terminate coverage.
- **Combined Ratio-** The sum of the loss ratio and the expense ratio.
- **Commercial Lines-** Insurance for businesses, professionals and commercial establishments.
- **Compulsory-** Mandatory or enforced.
- **Contract-** Legally binding agreement between two parties who wish to exchange some sort of consideration (anything of value, e.g. money or goods).
- **Coverage-** The insurance afforded under a contract of insurance.
- **Declaration-** Part of the insurance policy that identifies the named insured, policy period and limit of insurance.
- **Deductible-** The amount of money the policyholder must pay on a loss.
- **Direct Loss-** A loss which is a direct consequence of a peril.
- **Disability Insurance-** Covers wage loss for the disabled person.
- **Earned Premiums-** The portion of the premium for which protection has been provided. If an insured has an annual premium and makes monthly payments, each month the insurer earns 1/12th of the premium.
- **Endorsement-** A written agreement attached to the insurance policy which alters the provisions of the contract.

- **Exclusion-** A provision in the insurance policy that indicates what is denied coverage.
- **Expense Ratio-** The ratio of all operating expenses divided by the premiums written.
- **Exposure to Loss-** The policyholder's possibility of loss.
- **Fire Insurance-** The foundation of today's property insurance. Covers loss to property caused by a fire or lightning.
- **Flood Insurance-** Insurance to reimburse property owners from loss due to the peril of flood.
- **Fortuitous Losses-** Unintentional loss occurring by accident or chance.
- **Frequency of Loss-** Refers to the actual numbers or times the same or similar loss occurs.
- **Frequency-Severity Matrix-** Matrix used to determine which type of risk treatment is appropriate for a risk.
- **General Liability-** Insurance to protect an owner or operator of a business from a wide range of liability exposures.
- **Hazard-** A condition that creates or increases the chance or severity of a loss due to a peril.
- **Homeowners-** Policy Insurance against property and liability perils to which a homeowner or renter is exposed.
- **IBNR-** Incurred but not reported losses. This is for losses which have occurred during a stated period, usually a calendar year, but have not yet been reported to the insurer.
- **Indemnification-** insurance principle which states that the insured, after a loss, should be restored in whole or in part by payment, repair or replacement by the insurer.
- **Independent Adjuster-** An adjuster hired by the insurer to investigate and settle claims on behalf of the insurance company.
- **Indirect Loss-** A loss resulting from a peril but not caused directly by that peril.
- **Insurance-** Economic device whereby the individual or business pays a cost (premium) in exchange for protection against financial loss. The agreement is a contract also known as an insurance policy.
- **Insured-** The policy holder protected in case of a loss or claim.
- **Insurer-** The party who pays for losses in an insurance arrangement.
- **Law of Large Numbers-** States that the larger the number of risks or exposures, the more closely the actual loss experience will approach the expected loss experience.
- **Legal Hazard-** Characteristics of the legal system that increase the frequency or severity of losses.
- **Legislated-** Determined by law.
- **Liability-** The obligation of financial responsibility that may arise by negligence, contract or tort committed.

- **Liability Insurance-** Protects the policyholder against a suit or claim for another's bodily injury and property damage.
- **Loss-** An undesired and unplanned reduction of financial value.
- **Loss Control-** The process of identifying and acting upon situations which may lead to losses.
- **Loss Ratio-** A formula used by insurers to relate loss expenses to earned premiums.
- **Loss Reserve-** Money set aside to pay losses.
- **Marine Insurance-** Covers loss or damage to ships, cargo or injuries to ship crew members.
- **Moral Hazard-** Dishonesty or character defects that increase the chance of loss.
- **Morale Hazard-** Carelessness or indifference to a loss because of the existence of insurance.
- **Negligence-** Failure to use that degree of care which an ordinary person of reasonable prudence would use to protect others from harm.
- **P&C-** Property and Casualty Insurance.
- **Peril-** A cause of loss.
- **Physical Hazard-** A physical condition that increases the chance of loss.
- **Policy-** The written insurance contract that may include all clauses, riders and endorsements.
- **Policy Service Representative-** Also called PSR; they are responsible for premium rating and issuing policy files.
- **Policyholder-** The insured protected in case of a loss or claim.
- **Pooling-** The method by which each member of an insurance pool shares in every risk written by other pool members.
- **Premium-** The price of insurance protection, paid by the policyholder to the insurer.
- **Premium Auditor-** Person that reviews charges to ensure that the premium paid is fair for the coverage furnished.
- **Private Insurance-** Voluntary programs that are available from the government or private firms.
- **Proximate Cause-** The immediate or actual cause of loss or damage.
- **Public Adjuster-** Hired by the insured, an adjuster who operates independently from insurance companies to investigate and settle claims.
- **Re-Inspector-** Person who double-checks the work of the original adjuster.
- **Reserves-** The funds an insurance company sets aside to pay for reported but outstanding claims.
- **Rider-** An endorsement to an insurance policy that modifies its clauses and provisions, including or excluding certain conditions from coverage.
- **Risk-** The uncertainty concerning the occurrence of a financial loss.
- **Risk Avoidance-** Avoiding the risk altogether
- **Risk Control-** Techniques used to control the frequency and magnitude of losses.

- **Risk Control Consultant-** A person with expertise in risk management techniques that reduce the frequency and severity of losses.
- **Risk Management-** The identification of loss exposures and treatments for those exposures.
- **Risk Retention-** Retaining or bearing the risk.
- **Risk Transfer-** Transferring the financial consequences of a loss to another party, such as an insurance company.
- **Severity of Loss-** Refers to the size or cost of the loss to the organization.
- **Tort-** An injury or wrong committed against an individual.
- **Umbrella Policy-** Insurance policy over and above a basic liability policy.
- **Underwriter-** The professional responsible to assess the merits of each risk and decide a suitable premium for accepting all or part of the risk.
- **Underwriting-** The process of scrutinizing a risk to determine whether or not to insure that risk.
- **Underwriting Assistant-** Assists the underwriter. Also called underwriting technician or underwriting associate.
- **Waiver-** Relinquishment of a legal right to act.
- **Workers' Compensation-** Benefits paid to an employee as a result of occupational injury.
- **Written Premiums-** The total premiums on all policies written by an insurer during a specified period of time, regardless of what portions have been earned.

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Topic 16 : Abbreviations related to Insurance Industry

- **IRDA-** Insurance Regulatory and Development
- **NCLT-** National Company Law Tribunal
- **TPA -** Third Party Administration
- **TRAI-** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- **FDA-** Food and Drug Administration
- **FII-** Foreign Institutional Investor
- **TRIM-** Trade Related Investment Measures
- **NSDL-** National Security Depository Limited
- **NAV-** Net Asset Value
- **SEBI-** Securities and Exchange Board of India
- **NASSCOM-** National Association of Software and Services
- **NDS-** Negotiated Dealing System
- **CRISIL-** Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited
- **IPO-** Initial Public Offer
- **SEZ-** Special Economic Zone
- **GIPSA-** General Insurance Public Sector Association Of India
- **BIFR-** Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
- **FDI-** Foreign Direct Investment
- **GNP-** Gross National Product
- **PLI-** Public Liability Insurance
- **EEL-** Electronic Equipment Insurance
- **ULIP-** Unit Linked Insurance Plan
- **LIC-** Life Insurance Corporation
- **GBIC-** Governing Body of Insurance Council
- **IIB-** Insurance Information Bureau of India
- **IGMS-** Integrated Grievance Management System
- **IBAI-** Insurance Brokers Association of India
- **IIRM-** Institute of Insurance and Risk Management
- **UHS-** Universal Health Insurance Scheme

GOVERNMENT INSURANCE SCHEMES IN INDIA

Topic 17 : Rashtiya Swasthiya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

- **RSBY (RashtriyaSwasthiyaBimaYojana)** has been launched to provide health insurance coverage for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

- The objective of RSBY is to provide protection to BPL households from financial liabilities arising out of health shocks that involve hospitalization.

- Beneficiaries under RSBY are entitled to hospitalization coverage up to **Rs. 30,000/-** for most of the diseases that require hospitalization.
- Government has even fixed the package rates for the hospitals for a large number of interventions. Pre-existing conditions are covered from day one and there is no age limit.
- Coverage extends to five members of the family which includes the head of household, spouse and up to three dependents.
- Beneficiaries need to **pay only Rs. 30/-** as registration fee while Central and State Government pays the premium to the insurer selected by the State Government on the basis of a competitive bidding.

Topic 18 : Employment State Insurance Scheme (ESIS)

Employees' State Insurance Scheme of India, is a multidimensional social security system tailored to provide socio-economic protection to worker population and their dependants covered under the scheme. Besides full medical care for self and dependants, that is admissible from day one of insurable employment, the insured persons are also entitled to a variety of cash benefits in times of physical distress due to sickness, temporary or permanent disablement etc. resulting in loss of earning capacity, the confinement in respect of insured women, dependants of insured persons who die in industrial accidents or because of employment injury or occupational hazard are entitled to a monthly pension called the dependants benefit.

Topic 19 : Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)

- The **"Central Government Health Scheme" (CGHS)** provides comprehensive health care facilities for the Central Govt. employees and pensioners and their dependents residing in CGHS covered cities.
- Started in **New Delhi in 1954**, Central Govt. Health Scheme is now in operation in many cities of India.
- It provides comprehensive healthcare to the CGHS Beneficiaries in India.
- The medical facilities are provided through Wellness Centres (previously referred to as CGHS Dispensaries) /polyclinics under Allopathic, Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Sidha and Homeopathic systems of medicines.

Topic 20 : Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY)

- **AamAdmiBimaYojana**, a Social Security Scheme for rural landless household was launched on **2nd October, 2007**.

- The head of the family or one earning member in the family of such a household is covered under the scheme.
- **The premium of Rs.200/- per person per annum** is shared equally by the Central Government and the State Government.
- The member to be covered should be aged between **18 and 59 years**.
- a) **On natural death- Rs 30,000**
- b) **On death due to accident/on permanent disability due to accident (loss of 2 eyes or 2 limbs)- Rs 75,000**
- c) **On partial permanent disability due to accident (loss of one eye or one limb)- Rs 37,500**

Note:

A separate fund called **"Aam Admi Bima Yojana Premium Fund"** has been set up by Central Govt. to pay the Govt. contribution. **Fund is maintained by LIC.** A free add-on benefit in the form of scholarship to children is also available under the Scheme.

Topic 21 : Janashree Bima Yojana

Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) was launched on 10th August 2000. The Scheme replaced Social Security Group Insurance Scheme (SSGIS) and Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme (RGLIS).

Topic 22 : Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS)

- The four public sector general insurance companies have been implementing Universal Health Insurance Scheme for improving the access of health care to poor families.
- The scheme provides for reimbursement of medical expenses **upto Rs.30,000/-** towards hospitalization floated amongst the entire family, death cover due to an accident @ Rs.25,000/- to the earning head of the family and compensation due to loss of earning of the earning member @ **Rs.50/- per day upto maximum of 15 days**.
- **The Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS)** has been redesigned targeting only the **BPL families**. The premium subsidy has been enhanced from **Rs.100 to Rs.200 for an individual, Rs.300 for a family of five and Rs.400 for a family of seven**, without any reduction in benefits.

Topic 23 : Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

India is the land of farmers where the maximum proportion of rural population depends on agriculture. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the

new scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana(PMFBY) on 13th January, 2016.

Topic 24 : Highlights of PMFBY

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid will be only 5%.
- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss in any natural calamities.
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which is low claims being paid to farmers. Now this is removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones, Remote sensing drone and GPS technologies will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in the claim payment.

Topic 25 : Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojana (PMSBY)

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is Indian Government's accidental insurance cover which was announced in the **2015 Budget**.
- This scheme was launched to provide personal accident insurance to the high risk category such as mechanics, labourers, truck drivers which involves a lot of travelling. It is also one of the cheapest insurance cover. The scheme also covers both partial and permanent **disability cover**.
- This scheme is available to those between the ages of **18 and 70 years** and they must have a bank account. The annual premium of the scheme is **Rs.12 excluding** the service tax.
- The premium amount is automatically debited from the bank account of the scheme holder. **Rs.2 lakh** is paid to the nominee if the subscriber dies in an accident or if he is fully disabled.
- If the subscriber meets with an accident and suffers partial permanent disability, then **Rs.1 lakh is paid**.

Topic 26 : Important One-Liners for NIACL AO Phase-II

1. An arrangement by which a company or the state undertakes to provide a guarantee of compensation for specified loss, damage, illness, or death in return for payment of a specified premium. It is called?
Answer- Insurance.

2. An insurance _____ is the amount of money that an individual or business must pay for an insurance policy.

Answer- Premium.

3. In which year the Life Insurance sector and Life Insurance Corporation came into existence?

Answer- 1956

4. In 1993, the Government set up a committee under the chairmanship of _____ former Governor of RBI, to propose recommendations for reforms in the insurance sector.

Answer- RN Malhotra

5. In which year the formation of the General Insurance Council, a wing of the Insurance Association of India?

Answer- 1957

6. IRDA was constituted as an _____ to regulate and develop the insurance industry.

Answer- autonomous body.

7. IRDA stands for-

Answer- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

8. In which year, the IRDA was incorporated as a statutory body?

Answer- April 2000

9. Name the organisation, which is regulate the Indian insurance industry to protect the interests of the policyholders and work for the orderly growth of the industry.

Answer- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

10. What is the mission of IRDAI?

Answer- To protect the interests of policyholders, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

11. Frames regulations for insurance industry in terms of Section _____ of the Insurance Act 1938 From the year 2000 has registered new insurance companies in accordance with regulations.

Answer- section 114A

12. How much percent FDI in insurance sector?

Answer- 49 percent

13. _____ is a financial cover for a contingency linked with human life, like death, disability, accident, retirement etc.

Answer- Life insurance.

14. The term _____ relates to a type of insurance that essentially covers your medical expenses.

Answer- Health Insurance

15. Which type of insurance gives protection to the vehicle owner against damages to his/her vehicle?

Answer- Motor Insurance

16. Insurance of _____ means insurance of buildings, machinery, stocks etc against Fire and Allied Perils, Burglary Risks and so on.

Answer- Property

17. Name the insurance, which offers insurance protection while you travel?

Answer-Travel Insurance.

18. _____ schemes are offered by insurance companies to provide certain classes of individuals, the benefit of insurance coverage at moderate cost.

Answer- Group Insurance

19. _____ is a life insurance product, which provides risk cover for the policy holder along with investment options to invest in any number of qualified investments such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds.

Answer- ULIP.

20. ULIP stands for?

Answer- Unit Linked Insurance Plans.

21. _____ is a percentage of the premium appropriated towards charges before allocating the units under the policy.

Answer- Premium Allocation Charge

22. NAV stands for?

Answer- Net Asset Value.

23. _____ charge may be deducted for premature partial or full encashment of units wherever applicable, as mentioned in the policy conditions.

Answer- Surrender Charge

24. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is which type of insurance company?

Answer- Public sector insurance company.

25. LIC of India was incorporated on-

Answer- 01st September 1956.

26. Where is the head office of LIC?

Answer- Mumbai

Important Topics Related to Insurance Awareness

Topic 27 : Types of Health Insurance

- A Hospitalization policy covers, fully or partly, the actual cost of the treatment for hospital admissions during the policy period. This is a wider form of coverage applicable for various hospitalization expenses, including expenses before and after hospitalization for some specified period.
- Another type of product, the Hospital Daily Cash Benefit policy, provides a fixed daily sum insured for each day of hospitalization. There may also be coverage for a higher daily benefit in case of ICU admissions or for specified illnesses or injuries.
- A Critical Illness benefit policy provides a fixed lumpsum amount to the insured in case of diagnosis of a specified illness or on undergoing a specified procedure. This amount is helpful in mitigating various direct and indirect financial consequences of a critical illness. Usually, once this lump sum is paid, the plan ceases to remain in force.
- There is an exclusive section of the Income Tax Act which provides tax benefits for health insurance, which is Section 80D, and which is unlike the section 80C applicable to Life Insurance wherein other form of investments/ expenditure also qualify for the deduction. Currently, purchasers of health insurance who have purchased the policy by any payment mode other than cash can avail of an annual deduction of Rs. 15,000 from their taxable income for payment of Health Insurance premium for self, spouse and dependent children. For senior citizens, this deduction is higher, and is Rs. 20,000.
- 'Any one illness' would mean the continuous period of illness, including relapse within a certain number

of days as specified in the policy. Usually this is 45 days.

- Family Floater is one single policy that takes care of the hospitalization expenses of your entire family. The policy has one single sum insured, which can be utilised by any/all insured persons in any proportion or amount subject to maximum of overall limit of the policy sum insured.

What is Utmost Good Faith?

Utmost Good Faith is one of the principles that insurance is based on. It denotes a positive duty of the person seeking insurance to voluntarily disclose accurately and fully, all facts material to the risk being proposed whether requested or not.

What is an 'insured peril'?

The purpose of insurance is to compensate you for a loss caused by an insured perils. If your stocks are destroyed in a fire, the cause of loss is fire which is payable under a fire policy. If the stocks are stolen, the loss is not payable under a fire policy as "Burglary" is not a covered peril.

What is the meaning of Co-Insurance?

Corporate clients, who want to oblige more than one insurer, or benefit from the competitive forces among insurers, place their insurance business with more than one insurance company. While doing so, they select one company as the "Leader" who is given higher share of premium and others are given lesser share. Client deals only with the "Leader". The leader will share the premium (in the ratio decided by the client) as well as

claims with other participating insurers who are called Co-insurers.

What is a TPA and what are its functions?

A TPA is a Third Party Administrator. They are commercial entities duly licensed by IRDA. Their services are utilised by Insurance Companies, both Life and Non-Life, to render, on their behalf, post-sales services to health insurance policyholders.

Topic 28 : Insurance Ombudsman

- ✚ Insurance Ombudsman scheme was created by the Government of India for individual policyholders to have their complaints settled out of the courts system in a cost-effective, efficient and impartial way.
- ✚ There are at present 17 Insurance Ombudsman in different locations and any person who has a grievance against an insurer, may himself or through his legal heirs, nominee or assignee, make a complaint in writing to the Insurance ombudsman within whose territorial jurisdiction the branch or office of the insurer complained against or the residential address or place of residence of the complainant is located.
- ✚ The Ombudsman will receive and consider complaints or disputes relating to—
 - (a) delay in settlement of claims, beyond the time specified in the regulations, framed under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Act, 1999;
 - (b) any partial or total repudiation of claims by the life insurer, General insurer or the Health insurer ;
 - (c) disputes over premium paid or payable in terms of insurance policy;
 - (d) misrepresentation of policy terms and conditions at any time in the policy document or policy contract;
 - (e) legal construction of insurance policies in so far as the dispute relates to claim;
 - (f) policy servicing related grievances against insurers and their agents and intermediaries;
 - (g) issuance of life insurance policy, general insurance policy including health insurance policy which is not in conformity with the proposal form submitted by the proposer;
 - (h) non-issuance of insurance policy after receipt of premium in life insurance and general insurance including health insurance; and etc.
- The complaint shall be made in writing on a plain, duly signed by the complainant and shall state clearly the name and address of the complainant, the name of the branch or office of the insurer against whom the complaint is made, the facts giving rise to the complaint, supported documents if any, the nature and extent of the loss caused to the complainant and the relief sought from the Insurance Ombudsman.

Topic 29 : Important Points related to IO

Financial Jurisdiction of an Insurance Ombudsman

- Ombudsman can,
- award any compensation up to the loss suffered by the complainant as a direct consequence of the cause of action; or
 - award compensation not exceeding Rs Thirty lakhs (including relevant expenses, if any).

Within what time shall the Ombudsman dispose of the complaint?

In case both parties agree for mediation, the Ombudsman gives his Recommendation within 1 month; otherwise, he passes an Award within 3 months from the date of receipt of all requirements from complainant.

Are there any fees / charges payable for lodging a complaint?

No fees / charges are required to be paid.

Is there any appeal against an Award of Insurance Ombudsman?

In case a complainant is not satisfied with the Award of an insurance Ombudsman he can exercise his right to take recourse to the normal process of law against the insurance company. However, the award of Insurance Ombudsman shall be binding on the insurers.

Is there any time limit for Compliance of Award by Insurers?

The Insurer shall comply with the Award within 30 days from the date of receipt of the Award and intimate of its compliance to the Insurance Ombudsman.

What is Insurance on Personal Lines?

Insurance on personal lines means an insurance policy taken or given in an individual capacity, e.g. life insurance, personal accident insurance, medi-claim insurance, insurance of personal property of the individual such as motor vehicle, household articles, etc.

Topic 30 : INSURANCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

- HDFC Standard Life Insurance has changed its name to HDFC Life Insurance following the receipt of relevant approvals from regulatory authorities. The change in name is effective right off the bat and the company will henceforth operate under the name HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd.
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the Railways' subsidiary, will offer insurance of up to INR50 lakh for free for air passengers who book their tickets through its portal. IRCTC has tied up with Bharti-Axa for the offer.

- Syndicate Bank and SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers. The pact was signed between Syndicate Bank MD & CEO, Mrutyunjay Mahapatra and MD and CEO of SBI Life, Sanjeev Nautiyal.
- The 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 BP Sharma.
- Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited) has partnered with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform. Softbank-backed Paytm will provide premium payment solutions from over 30 insurance companies including LIC, ICICI Prudential Life, Reliance Life, and Max Life Insurance among others.
- HDFC ERGO, India's third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, announced the launch of 'E@Secure', a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals. This policy aims at providing comprehensive protection to individuals and their families against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss.
- Reliance Health Insurance, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has received final approval from IRDAI for its new health insurance business. The new company will commence operations by the December quarter of 2018.
- Insurance regulator IRDAI has raised the minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs. 15 lakh for a premium of Rs. 750 per annum, a move to provide some succour to road accident victims. Currently, the capital sum insured (CSI) under this section for motorised two-wheelers and private cars/commercial vehicles is Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh, respectively. The owner-drivers also have the option of a cover over and above Rs. 15 lakh on payment of additional premium.
- State-owned India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Private Life Insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd (BALIC) entered into a strategic partnership to provide life insurance solutions, especially at the doorstep of every household in the country.

- The government has incorporated provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). According to the new guidelines, the farmers will be paid 12% interest by insurance companies for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.
- State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the delay in the release of the State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance companies. The Government has also decided to include perennial horticultural crops under the ambit of PMFBY on a pilot basis.

Highlights of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

1. There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.
2. There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.

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Part 3: Static General Awareness Capsule for NIACL AO Phase-II

Topic 1: List of Union Cabinet Ministers & their Constituency

Cabinet Ministers	Portfolio	Constituency
Shri Narendra Modi	Atomic Energy Space Personnel, Public Grievances	Varanasi

	and Pensions All important policy issues and all other portfolios not allocated to	
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	any Minister	
Shri Raj Nath Singh	Home Affairs	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Smt. Sushma Swaraj	External Affairs	Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
Arun Jaitley	Finance & Corporate Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Road Transport & Highways Shipping, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation	Nagpur, Maharashtra
Shri Suresh Prabhu	Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation	Andhra Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda	Statistics & Programme Implementation	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Sushri Uma Bharati	Drinking Water & Sanitation	Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Ramvilas Paswan	Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	Hajipur, Bihar
Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi	Women & Child Development	Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology	Bihar – Rajya Sabha
Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda	Health & Family Welfare	Himachal Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Shri Anant Geete	Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises	Raigad, Maharashtra
Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Food Processing Industries	Bathinda, Punjab
Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & Mines	Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh	Steel	Haryana, Rajya Sabha
Shri Jual Oram	Tribal Affairs	Sundargarh, Odisha
Shri Radha Mohan Singh	Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	Purvi Champaran, Bihar
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	Social Justice & Empowerment	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Smt. Smriti Zubin	Textiles	Gujarat,

Irani		Rajya Sabha
Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Science & Technology Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest & Climate Change	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Shri Prakash Javadekar	Human Resource Development	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Petroleum & Natural Gas Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	Deogarh
Shri Piyush Goyal	Railways, Coal	Maharashtra
Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman	Defence	Rajya Sabha Karnataka
Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minority Affairs	Jharkhand

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Cabinet Ministers	Portfolio	Constituency
Shri Inderjit Singh Rao	Planning	Gurugram, Haryana
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Labour and Employment	Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	North Goa
Dr. Jitendra Singh	Development of North Eastern Region	Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir
Dr. Mahesh Sharma	Culture	Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP
Shri Giriraj Singh	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Nawada, Bihar
Shri Manoj Sinha	Communications	Ghazipur, UP
Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore	Youth Affairs and Sports, Information and Broadcasting	Jaipur Rural, Rajasthan
Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Power, New and Renewable Energy	Arrah
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Housing and Urban Affairs	Uttar Pradesh, Rajya Sabha

Shri Alphons Kannanthanam	Tourism	Rajasthan, Rajya Sabha
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Topic 2: Upcoming Important Sport Events

Summer Olympics	Japan (2020); Paris (2024), Los Angeles (2028)
Winter Olympics	Pyeong Chang, South Korea (2018); Beijing, China (2022)
Common Wealth Games	Queensland, Australia (2018); London (2022)
Asian Games	Indonesia (2018); Hangzhou, China (2022)
FIFA	Russia (2018); Qatar (2022)
Common Wealth Youth Games	Brahmas (2017); Belfast (2021)
Common Wealth Weightlifting Championship	Lima, Peru (2018)

Men Hockey World Cup	2018 (India)
Women Hockey World Cup	2018 (London)
ICC Women Cricket World Cup	2021 (New Zealand)
ICC Men Cricket World Cup	2019 (England); 2023 (India)
FIFA (Women) World Cup	2019 (France) → Dare to Shine

ITTF Table Tennis World Cup	2018 (London)
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ICC World Cup Cricket Venue:

ODI: (One day International): 1. England – 2019 | 2. India – 2023

T20 World Cup: Australia - 2020.

FIFA (Football) World Cup venue:

2018: Russia | 2022: Qatar

Commonwealth Games venues: 2018 – Gold Coast (Australia). | **2022: Birmingham (England)**

Olympics Games venues:

2016 Summer: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
 2018 winter: Pyeongchang (South Korea)
 2020 summer: Tokyo (Japan)
 2022 Winter: Beijing (China)
 2024 Summer: Paris (France)

Asian Games host cities:

- 2014: Incheon (South Korea)**
- 2018: Jakarta, Indonesia**
- 2022: Hangzhou, China**

Topic 3: The Headquarters of the UN Organizations

International Organizations	HQ:
UNO (United Nations Org)	New York
UNICEF	New York
UNCTAD	Geneva
WHO (World Health Org)	Geneva
ILO (International Labour Org)	Geneva
WMO (World Meteorological Org)	Geneva
World Intellectual Property Org	Geneva
International Standards Org.	Geneva
IMF	Washington DC
World Bank	Washington DC
UNESCO	Paris
OECD	Paris
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Dev. Org)	Vienna
IAEA (International Atomic Energy	Vienna

Agency)	
OPEC	Vienna
Amnesty International	London
Commonwealth of Nations	London
International Maritime Organization	London
ICJ (International Court of Justice)	The Hague
Food & Agricultural Organization	Rome
NATO	Brussels
Transparency International	Berlin
SAARC	Kathmandu
ASEAN	Jakarta
APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Forum)	Singapore
Organization of Islamic Cooperation	Jeddah

Topic 4: Revolutions in the field of Agriculture in India

- Black Revolution - Petroleum Production
- Blue Revolution - Fish Production
- Brown Revolution - Leather/Non-conventional (India)/Cocoa production
- Golden Fiber Revolution - Jute Production

- Golden Revolution - Fruits/Overall Horticulture development/Honey Production
- Green Revolution - Food grains
- Grey Revolution - Fertilizer
- Pink Revolution - Onion production/Pharmaceutical (India)/ Prawn production
- Red Revolution - Meat & Tomato Production
- Round Revolution - Potato

- Silver Fiber Revolution - Cotton
- Silver Revolution - Egg/Poultry Production
- White Revolution (In India: Operation Flood) - Milk/Dairy production
- Yellow Revolution - Oil Seeds production
- Evergreen Revolution - Overall development of Agriculture.

Topic 5: A Brief on the Census 2011

- 1) The population of the country as per the provisional figures of Census 2011 is 1210.19 million of which 623.7 million (51.54%) are males & 586.46 million (48.46%) are females.
The major highlights of the Census 2011 (Provisional figures) are as under:
*The population of India has increased by more than 181 million during the decade 2001-2011.
- 2) %age growth in 2001-2011 is 17.64; males 17.19 & females 18.12.
- 3) *Uttar Pradesh (199.5 million) is the most populous State in the country followed by Maharashtra with 112 million.

Some of the highlights

- Slogan - Our census, Our Future
- India's 1st Census - 1872
- 2011 Census is - 15th Census
- Total Population - 1,21,01,93,422
- India's Rank in population - 2nd with 17.5% (1st China with 19%)
- Most Populous State - Uttar Pradesh
- Least Populous State - Sikkim
- Most Literate State - Kerala (93.9%)
- Least Literate State - Bihar (63.82%)

- National Sex Ratio - Female : Male (940 : 1000)
- Highest Sex Ratio (State) - Kerala (1084 : 1000)
- Lowest Sex Ratio (State) - Haryana
- Highest Sex Ratio (UT) - Puducherry
- Least Sex Ratio (UT) - Daman & Diyu (61 : 1000)
- Literacy of Male - 82.14%
- Literacy of Female - 65.46%
- Population Growth Rate - 17.64%
- Highest fertility Rate - Meghalaya
- Most literate union territory - Lakshadweep (92.2%)
- Least literate Union Territory - Dadra Nagar & Haveli
- Most Literate District - Serechhip (Mizoram)
- Least Literate District - Dadra Naga & Haveli
- Highest Density of Population - Bihar (1102 sq.km)
- Lowest Density of Population - Arunachal Pradesh (17)
- Total number of districts - 640
- Highest Populous District - Thane (Mumbai)
- 100% Literacy District - Palakkad (Kerala)
- 100% Banking State - Kerala
- 100% Banking District - Palakkad (Kerala)
- Density of Population in India - 382 sq. km
- Increase in population (during 2001-2011) - 181 million

Topic 6: Current Office Holders List

Important National Officials	
Designation	Name
Chairperson, CBDT	PC Mody
Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	Nand Kumar Sai
Chairperson, UGC	Dhirendra Pal Singh
Chairman, ISRO	K Sivan
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission	K N Vyas
Chairperson, TRAI	Ram Sevak Sharma
Chairperson, NHAI	Shri Yudhvir Singh Malik
Director General, National Cadet Corps	PP Malhotra
Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education	Anita Karwal
Chairperson, IRDAI	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
Chairperson, Press	CK Prasad

Council of India	
Director General, CRPF	Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar
Solicitor General	Tushar Mehta
Attorney General	KK Venugopal
Chairperson, National Green Tribunal	Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
Director, NCERT	Hrushikesh Senapaty
President, ASSOCHAM	Sandeep Jajodia
Chairperson, NASSCOM	Rishad Premji
Chairman, Press Trust of India	Vivek Goenka
DRDO Chairman	G Satheesh Reddy

Designation	Name
National Security Advisor	Ajit Kumar Doval
Chairman, Railway Board	Ashwani Lohani
Director, CBI	Rishi Kumar Shukla
Chief, Intelligence Bureau (IB)	Rajiv Jain

Chief, Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)	Anil Dhasmana
Director General, NIA	YC Modi

Post	Name
Chief Justice, Supreme Court	Ranjan Gogoi (46 th)
Speaker, Lok Sabha	Sumitra Mahajan
Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha	M. Thambidurai
Comptroller & Auditor General of India	Rajiv Mehrishi
Chief Election Commissioner	Sunil Arora
Chairman, Union Public Service Commission	Sh. Arvind Saxena
Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha	Harivansh Narayan Singh

Designation	Name
Secretary-General, United Nations Organisation	Antonio Guterres
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund	Christine Lagarde
President, World Bank	Jim Yong Kim (Resigned Recently)

Director-General, World Trade Organisation	Roberto Azevedo
DG, UNESCO	Audrey Azoulay
President, UN General Assembly	Miroslav Lajcak
Director-General, WHO	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
President, International Court of Justice	Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf
President, Asian Development Bank	Takehiko Nakao
President, International Olympic Committee	Thomas Bach
Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency	Yukiya Amano
Secretary-General, NATO	Jens Stoltenberg
Secretary-General, ASEAN	Lim Jock Hoi
Secretary-General, SAARC	Amjad Hussain B Sial
Secretary-General, Commonwealth	Patricia Scotland
President, FIFA	Gianni Infantino
Chairman, International Cricket Council	Shashank Manohar

Topic 7: Important Ports in India

Port	State
Kolkata	West Bengal
Paradip	Orissa
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Ennore	Tamil Nadu
Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu

Cochin	Kerala
New Mangalore	Karnataka
Mormugao	Goa
Jawaharlal Nehru	Maharashtra
Mumbai	Maharashtra
Kandla	Gujarat

Topic 8: The Most Famous Temples in India

- Badrinath Temple: Chamoli district, Uttarakhand
- The Konark Sun Temple: Puri district of Odisha
- Brihadeeswara Temple: Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu
- Somnath Temple: Saurashtra (Gujarat)
- Kedarnath Temple: Garhwal area (Uttarakhand)
- Sanchi Stupa: Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh
- Ramanathaswamy Temple: Tamil Nadu
- Vaishno Devi Mandir: J&K, near Katra.
- Siddhivinayak Temple: Prabha Devi, Mumbai
- Gangotri Temple: Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
- Golden Temple or Sri Harmandir Sahib: Amritsar
- Kashi Vishwanath Temple: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
- Lord Jagannath Temple: Puri (Orissa)
- Yamunotri Temple: Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
- Meenakshi Temple: Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
- Amarnath Cave Temple: State of J&K
- Lingaraja Temple: Orissa
- Tirupati Balaji: Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh)
- Kanchipuram Temples: Tamil Nadu
- Khajuraho Temple: [Madhya Pradesh](#)
- Virupaksha Temple: Hampi, Bellary, Karnataka
- Akshardham Temple: Delhi
- Shri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir: Oldest Jain temple in Delhi
- Gomateshwara Temple: Shravanabelagola town of Karnataka
- Ranakpur Temple: Pali district of [Rajasthan](#)
- Shirdi Sai Baba Temple: Shirdi town of Maharashtra
- Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple : Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala
- Dwarkadhish Temple: Dwarka city (Gujarat)
- Laxminarayan Temple: In Delhi

Topic 9: List of the Important Airports in India

Airport	City	State/UT			
Kempegowda International Airport	Bangalore	Karnataka	Jee International Airport		
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Intl. Airport	Kolkata	West Bengal	Swami Vivekananda Airport	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	Hyderabad	Telangana	Bagdogra Airport	Bagdogra	West Bengal
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Veer Savarkar International Airport	Port Blair	andaman&Nicobar Islands
Chaudhary Charan Singh Intl. Airport	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	Birsa Munda Airport	Ranchi	Jharkhand
Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Intl. Airport	Guwahati	Assam	Maharana Pratap Airport	Udaipur	Rajasthan
Srinagar Airport	Srinagar	J&K	Raja Bhoj International Airport	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
Biju Patnaik International Airport	Bhubaneswar	Odisha	Jolly Grant Airport	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
Visakhapatnam Airport	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry Airport	Rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh
Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	Silchar Airport	Silchar	Assam
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Intl. Airport	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Lengpui Airport	Aizwal	Mizoram
Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport	Patna	Bihar	Zaruki International Airport	Shillong	Meghalaya
Sri Guru Ram Dass	Amritsar	Punjab	Daporijo Airport	Daporijo	Arunachal Pradesh
			Tezu Airport	Tezu	Arunachal Pradesh
			Kandla Airport	Kandla	Gujarat
			Sonari Airport	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
			Birsa Munda Airport	Ranchi	Jharkhand
			Agatti Aerodrome	Agatti	Lakshadweep

Topic 10: What are the names of the Borders/Boundary Lines?

- **Durand Line:** Afghanistan & Pakistan
- **Hindenburg Line:** Germany & Poland.
- **Mason-dixon Line:** Line of demarcation between four states in the United States.
- **Mannerheim Line:** Russia-Finland border.
- **Macmahon Line:** India & China
- **Medicine Line:** Canada & the United States.
- **Order-neisse Line:** Poland & Germany
- **Radcliffe Line:** India & Pakistan.
- **Siegfried Line:** Germany on its border with France.
- **17th Parallel:** North Vietnam & South Vietnam
- **26th Parallel south:** Africa, Australia & South America.
- **30TH PARALLEL** Equator & the North Pole.
- **38th Parallel:** Separates North Korea&South Korea.
- **39th Parallel north** is an imaginary circle of latitude that is 39 degrees north of the Earth's equatorial plane.
- **40th Parallel north:** formed the original northern boundary of the British Colony of Maryland.
- **42nd Parallel north:** New York - Pennsylvania Border.
- **The Parallel 440 north** is an imaginary circle of latitude that is 44 degrees north of the Earth's equatorial plane.
- **45th Parallel north** is often called the halfway point between the Equator&the North Pole.

● **45th parallel** makes up most of the boundary between Montana&Wyoming.

● **49th Parallel** is the boundary between USA&Canada

Topic 11: List of Schemes & Apps launched by Banks

1. **Airtel money** – AXIS BANK + AIRTEL
2. **Asha Home loan** – AXIS BANK
3. **Branch on Wheel** – ICICI Bank in Odisha
4. **Chillar** – HDFC Bank
5. **China’s first online Banking “webank”** – Tancet Holdings
6. **Digital Banking “POCKET”** – ICICI Bank
7. **Digital Village Project in Akodara Village of Gujarat** – ICICI Bank
8. **eforex** – State Bank of India
9. **E-KYC** – State Bank of India
10. **EMI ON DEBIT CARD** – ICICI Bank
11. **First home grown INDEX “COMPOSITE INDEX”** – State Bank of India
12. **I-Mobile app for windows phone** – ICICI Bank
13. **India’s first” transparent credit card “in association with American Express** – ICICI Bank
14. **Instant money transfer** – Bank of India

15. **Instant Money Transfer (IMT)** – Bank of India
16. **Kisan card** – AXIS BANK
17. **M-Pesa** – ICICI Bank+Vodafone
18. **Student Travel Card** – ICICI Bank
19. **TAB BANKING FACILITY** – State Bank of India
20. **Tap & pay** – ICICI Bank
21. **IMobile app for windows phone** – ICICI Bank
22. **‘Saral Rural Housing Loan’ Scheme** - ICICI Bank
23. **Awareness initiative ‘Dhanchayat** - HDFC Bank
24. **UPI App That Turns Your Smartphone into a Bank for Easy Transfers** – RBI
25. **SBI launches ‘State Bank of India No Queue’ Mobile App** – State Bank of India
26. **UcoPay wallet** - UCO Bank
27. **LIME App** - Axis Bank
28. **PAYZAPP App** - HDFC Bank

Topic 12: Stock Exchanges around the World

- New York Stock Exchange (NYSE): HQ in New York City
- NASDAQ OMX: HQ in New York City.
- Tokyo Stock Exchange: HQ in Tokyo
- London Stock Exchange: HQ in London.
- Shanghai Stock Exchange: HQ in Shanghai.
- Hong Kong Stock Exchange: HQ in Hong Kong.
- Toronto Stock Exchange: HQ in Toronto.
- BM&F Bovespa: HQ in Sao Paul
- Australian Securities Exchange: HQ in Sydney
- Deutsche Börse: HQ in Frankfurt.
- Taiwan Stock Exchange – HQ in the city of Taipei
- JSE Limited HQ in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- American Stock Exchange (AMEX) HQ in New York, USA
- Borsa Italia HQ in Milan, Italy
- London International Financial Futures&Options Exchange (LIFFE) HQ in London, Great Britain
- Montreal Exchange (MSE) HQ in Montreal, Canada
- Nordic: Baltic market (OMX) HQ in Stockholm, Sweden
- Bolsa de Madrid (Madrid Stock Exchange) HQ in Madrid, Spain
- Afghanistan Stock Exchange HQ in Kabul
- Chittagong Stock Exchange HQ in Chittagong

- Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan HQ inThimphu
- Maldives Stock Exchange HQ in Malé
- Nepal Stock Exchange HQ in Kathmandu
- Sialkot Stock Exchange HQ in Sialkot
- Colombo Stock Exchange HQ in Colombo

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Topic 13: Dams in India

Dam	River	State
Tehri Dam	Bhagirathi	Uttarakhand
Lakhwar Dam	Yamuna	Uttarakhand
Idukki (Eb)/Idukki	Periyar	Kerala

Arch Dam		
Bhakra Dam	Satluj	Himachal Pradesh
Pakal Dul Dam	Marusudar	J&K

Sardar Sarover Gujarat Dam	Narmada	Gujarat
Srisaillam (N.S.R.S.P) Dam	Krishna	Andhra Pradesh
Ranjit Sagar Dam	Ravi	Punjab
Baglihar Dam	CHENAB	J&K
Pong Dam	Beas	Himachal Pradesh
Nagarjuna Sagar Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Salal (Rockfill& Concrete) Dam	Chenab	J&K

Supa Dam	Kali Nadi	Karnataka
Koteshwar Dam	Bhagirathi	Uttarakhand
Rihand Dam	Rihand	Uttar Pradesh
Indira Sagar (NHDC) Dam	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
Pillur Dam	Bhavani	Tamil Nadu
Madupetty (Eb) Dam	Palar	Kerala
Parbati II Dam	Parbati	Himachal Pradesh
Chakra Dam	Chakra	Karnataka
Ukai Dam	Tapi	Gujarat

Topic 14: CLASSICAL DANCES & FOLK DANCES IN INDIA
Indian Classical Dances

- ✦ **Bharatnatyam: Tamil Nadu & Karnataka**
- ✦ **Kathak: North India**
- ✦ **Kathakali: Kerala.**
- ✦ **Kuchipudi: Andhra Pradesh.**
- ✦ **Manipuri: Manipur**
- ✦ **Mohiniattam: Kerala.**
- ✦ **Odissi: Orissa state.**
- ✦ **Gaudiya Nritya: West Bengal**
- ✦ **Sattriya: Assam**
- ✦ **Ghoomar: Rajasthan**
- ✦ **Thang Ta: Manipur**

North India

- ✦ **Dumhal:** Rauf tribe of Jammu & Kashmir
- ✦ **HurkaBaul:** Uttarakhand
- ✦ **Chholiya:** Kumaon region, Uttarakhand
- ✦ **Bhangra:** Punjab
- ✦ **Dhamilyal - 'Dhamilyal' or 'Dhuph':** Haryana
- ✦ **Mayur Nritya:** Uttar Pradesh
- ✦ **Charkula:** Braj region of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ **Giddha:** State of Punjab
- ✦ **Haryana:** Swang, Naqqal, Dhamal
- ✦ **Himachal Pradesh:** Nati, Kariyala, Bhagat

Central India

- ✦ **Gaur Dance:** Chhattisgarh
- ✦ **Muria Dance:** Bastar district of Chhattisgarh
- ✦ **Saila Dance:** Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh
- ✦ **Kaksar Dance:** Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh
- ✦ **Jawara Dance:** Madhya Pradesh
- ✦ **Bhagoria Dance:** Madhya Pradesh
- ✦ **Suwa Dance:** Chhattisgarh
- ✦ **Grida Dance:** Madhya Pradesh

East India

- ✦ **Brita Dance:** 'Brita' or 'Vrita' dance: West Bengal

- ✦ **Dalkhai:** Odisha.
- ✦ **Gotipua:** Odisha
- ✦ **Bihar:** Jadur, Kathaputli, Bhako, Jhijiya

North East India

- ✦ **Hojagiri:** Tripura
- ✦ **Nongkram Dance:** Meghalaya
- ✦ **Bagurumba:** Assam
- ✦ **Bhortal Dance:** Assam
- ✦ **Cheraw Dance:** Mizoram
- ✦ **Chang Lo:** Nagaland
- ✦ **Bardo Chham:** Arunachal Pradesh
- ✦ **Bihu:** Assam

South India

- ✦ **Padayani:** Kerala
- ✦ **Kolannalu:** Andhra Pradesh
- ✦ **Parai Attam:** Tamil Nadu
- ✦ **Karagattam:** Tamil Nadu
- ✦ **Paampu Attam:** Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ **Poikal Kudirai Attam:** Tamil Nadu
- ✦ **Theyyam:** Kerala
- ✦ **Andhra Pradesh:** Veethi Natakam, Burrakatha, Lambadi, Koya.
- ✦ **Telangana:** Bathukamma
- ✦ **Dollu Kunitha:** Karnataka
- ✦ **Ghodemodni:** Goa
- ✦ **Lava Dance:** Lakshadweep
- ✦ **Fugdi:** Goan dance performed in the Konkan region
- ✦ **Veeragase:** Karnataka
- ✦ **Koli:** Maharashtra

West India

- ✦ **Dandiya:** Gujarat and Rajasthan
- ✦ **Garba:** Gujarat
- ✦ **Padhar Dance:** Gujarat
- Rajasthan:** Khyal, Rasdhari, Rammat, Gauri, Ghoomar

Topic 15: The Headquarters of the important Public-Sector Undertakings

- Agriculture Insurance Company of India: New Delhi
- Air India Limited: New Delhi
- Airports Authority of India: New Delhi
- Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Bharat Earth Movers (BEML): Bangalore, Karnataka
- Bharat Electronics Limited: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited(BHEL): New Delhi
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Coal India Limited: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Damodar Valley Corporation: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Electronics Corporation of India: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Food Corporation of India: New Delhi
- General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC): Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- India Infrastructure Finance Company: New Delhi
- Indian Oil Corporation: New Delhi
- The Jute Corporation of India Limited: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited: Sambalpur, Odisha
- Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited: Nagpur, Maharashtra
- NHPC Limited: Faridabad, Haryana
- National Aluminium Co Ltd: Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
- National Aviation Company of India: New Delhi
- National Buildings Construction Corporation: New Delhi
- National Fertilizers Limited: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- National Handloom Development Corporation Limited: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- National Insurance Co Ltd: Kolkata, West Bengal
- National Textile Corporation: New Delhi
- New India Assurance Company: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited: Tamil Nadu
- North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation: Assam
- Numaligarh Refinery Limited: Assam
- Oil & Natural Gas Corporation: Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Oil India Limited: New Delhi
- Oriental Insurance Company: New Delhi
- Pawan Hans Limited: New Delhi
- Shipping Corporation of India Limited: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- United India Insurance Company: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Uranium Corporation of India: Jaduguda, Jharkhan.

COMBO

15 TOTAL TESTS

- 10 prelims Full Length Mocks
- 5 Mains Full Length Mocks

BILINGUAL

Topic 16: Nick Names of Important Indian Places

Nick Names	City
Golden City	Amritsar
Manchester Of India	Ahmedabad
City Of Seven Islands	Mumbai
Queen Of Arabian Sea	Cochin
Space City	Bangalore
Garden City Of India	Bangalore
Silicon Valley Of India	Bangalore
Electronic City Of India	Bangalore
Pink City	Jaipur
Gateway Of India	Mumbai
Twin City:	Hyderabad, Secunderabad
City Of Festivals	Madurai
Deccan Queen	Pune
City Of Buildings	Kolkata

Dakshin Ganga	Godavari
Old Ganga	Godavari
Egg Bowls Of Asia	Andhra Pradesh
Soya Region	Madhya Pradesh
Manchester Of The South	Coimbatore
City Of Nawabs	Lucknow
Venice Of The East	Cochin
Sorrow Of Bengal	Damodar River
Sorrow Of Bihar	Kosi River
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri
Queen Of The Mountains	Mussoorie (Uttarakhand)
Sacred River	Ganga
Hollywood Of India	Mumbai
City Of Castles	Kolkata
State Of Five Rivers	Punjab

City Of Weavers	Panipat	Heaven Of India	J&K
City Of Lakes	Srinagar	Boston Of India	Ahmedabad
Steel City Of India	Jamshedpur (Called Tatanagar)	Garden Of Spices Of India	Kerala
City Of Temples	Varanasi	Switzerland Of India	Kashmir
Manchester Of The North	Kanpur	Abode Of The God	Prayag(Allahabad)
City Of Rallies	New Delhi	Pittsburg Of India	Jamshedpur

Topic 17: Important Defence Exercise Conducted in the World

- **Garuda:** India-France
- **HAND-HAND:** India-China
- **Indra:** India-Russia
- **Jimex:** India-Japan
- **Malbar:** Us-India-Japan
- **Shade:** Naval Forces Of India, Japan&China
- **Surya Kiran:** India&Nepal
- **Varuna:** France&India
- **Simbex:** Indian Navy With Republic Of Singapore Navy
- **Ibsamar:** India with Brazil&South African Navy
- **Konkan:** Indian Navy&Royal Navy Of Britain
- **Ausindex:** Indian&Australian Navy
- **Indradhanush Or Rainbow:** India-Uk Air Exercises
- **Nomadic Elephant:** Indian Army Exercises with Mongolia
- **Ekuverin:** Maldives&India
- **Garuda Shakti:** India&Indonesia
- **Mitra Shakti:** India-Sri Lanka
- **Naseem Al-Bahr:** India-Oman
- **SLINEX:** Joint exercise in Navy between India&Sri Lanka
- **Sahyog-Kaijin** -Joint exercise of Coast Guards of India&Japan
- **Malabar:** India&US
- **Yudh Abhyas:** India&US
- **Red flag:** India&US
- **Cope:** India&US
- **SAMPRITI** – India&Bangladesh

Topic 18: Stadiums Around the World

Stadiums in Australia

- ✚ Adelaide Oval- **Adelaide**
- ✚ Bundaberg Rum Stadium- **Cairns**
- ✚ Telstra Dome- **Melbourne**
- ✚ Manuka Oval- **Canberra**
- ✚ Marrara Cricket Ground- **Darwin**
- ✚ Melbourne Cricket Ground- **Melbourne**
- ✚ Sydney Cricket Ground- **Sydney**
- ✚ W.A.C.A. Ground- **Perth**

Stadiums in Bangladesh

- ✚ Bangabandhu National Stadium- **Dhaka**
- ✚ Chittagong Stadium- **Chittagong**

Stadiums in England

- ✚ Edgbaston- **Birmingham**
- ✚ Headingley- **Leeds**
- ✚ Lord's- **London**
- ✚ Old Trafford- **Manchester**
- ✚ Sophia Gardens- **Cardiff**
- ✚ St Lawrence Ground- **Canterbury**
- ✚ The Brit Oval- **London**
- ✚ Trent Bridge- **Nottingham**

Stadiums in India

- ✚ Barabati Stadium -**Cuttack**
- ✚ Barkatullah Khan Stadium -**Jodhpur**
- ✚ Barsapara Cricket Stadium: **Guwahati**

Greenfield International Stadium:

- ✚ Thiruvananthapuram
- ✚ Brabourne Stadium -**Mumbai**
- ✚ Eden Gardens -**Kolkata**
- ✚ Feroz Shah Kotla -**Delhi**
- ✚ Gandhi Stadium -**Jalandhar**
- ✚ Green Park -**Kanpur**
- ✚ Indira Gandhi Stadium -**Vijayawada**
- ✚ Rajiv Gandhi Port Silver Jubilee Stadium - **Visakhapatnam**
- ✚ Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium -**New Delhi**
- ✚ Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium -**Hyderabad**
- ✚ M.Chinnaswamy Stadium -**Bangalore**
- ✚ MA Chidambaram Stadium -**Chennai**
- ✚ Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground -**Rajkot**
- ✚ Moin-ul-Haq Stadium -**Patna**
- ✚ Sardar Vallabhai Patel Motera Stadium -**Ahmedabad**
- ✚ Sawai Mansingh Stadium -**Jaipur**
- ✚ Vidarbha CA Ground -**Nagpur**
- ✚ Wankhede Stadium -**Mumbai**
- ✚ Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium: **Kochi (Kerala)**
- ✚ Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium: **Guwahati (Assam)**
- ✚ Dhyan Chand National Stadium: **Delhi**

Stadiums in New Zealand

- ✚ Basin Reserve-**Wellington**
- ✚ Eden Park-**Auckland**
- ✚ Jade Stadium-**Christchurch**

- ✦ John Davies Oval-**Queenstown**
- ✦ McLean Park-**Napier**

Stadiums in Pakistan

- ✦ Arbab Niaz Stadium-**Peshawar**
- ✦ Ayub National Stadium-**Quetta**
- ✦ Gaddafi Stadium-**Lahore**

Stadiums in South Africa

- ✦ Kingsmead-**Durban**
- ✦ New Wanderers Stadium-**Johannesburg**
- ✦ Newlands-**Cape Town**

- ✦ St George's Park-**Port Elizabeth**
- ✦ Centurion Super Sport Park-**Pretoria**

Stadium in Sri Lanka

- ✦ Colombo Cricket Club Ground-**Colombo**
- ✦ Galle International Stadium-**Galle**
- ✦ P.Saravanamuttu Stadium-**Colombo**
- ✦ R.Premadasa Stadium-**Colombo**
- ✦ Sinhalese Sports Club Ground-**Colombo**

Stadiums in West Indies

- ✦ Sabina Park Kingston-**Jamaica**
- ✦ Antigua Recreation Ground St John's-**Antigua**
- ✦ Guyana Cricket Stadium Georgetown-**Guyana**
- ✦ Kensington Oval Bridgetown-**Barbados**
- ✦ Mindoo Phillip Park Castries-**St Lucia**
- ✦ Albion Sports Complex Berbice-**Guyana**

Stadiums in Zimbabwe

- ✦ Bulawayo Athletic Club-**Bulawayo**
- ✦ Harare Sports Club-**Harare**
- ✦ Kwekwe Sports Club-**Kwekwe**
- ✦ Queens Sports Club-**Bulawayo**

Stadiums in United Arab Emirates

- ✦ Sheikh Zayed Stadium-**Abu Dhabi**
- ✦ Sharjah Cricket Stadium-**Sharjah**

Topic 19: List of Important Days

Important Days: April	Important Days: October
2 April - World Autism Awareness Day	First Monday of October-World Habitat Day
5 April - National Maritime Day	5th October- World Teachers Day
7 April - World Health Day	9th October- World Post Day
10 April - World Homoeopathy Day	10th October- World Mental Health Day
11 April - National Safe Motherhood Day	11th October- International Day of the Girl Child
18 April - World Heritage Day	13th October- International Day for Disaster Reduction
22 April - World Earth Day	15th October- International Day of Rural Women
24 April - National Panchayati Day	16th October- World Food Day
25 April - World Malaria Day	17th October- International Day for Eradication of Poverty
26 April - World Intellectual Property Day	21st October- Police Commemoration Day
29 April - International Dance Day	24th October- United Nations Day, World Polio Day,
Important Days: May	31st October- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)
1 May - International Labour Day	
2 May - World Asthma Day	Important Days: November
3 May - Press Freedom Day	9 Nov: World Legal Services Day
8 May - World Red Cross Day	
11 May - National Technology Day	
17 May - International Telecommunication Day	
22 May - International Day for Biological Diversity	
24 May - Commonwealth Day	

<p>31 May - Anti Tobacco Day</p> <p>Important Days: June</p> <p>4th June: World Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression</p> <p>5th June: World Environment Day</p> <p>8 June: World Oceans Day</p> <p>12 June: World Day Against Child Labor</p> <p>14th June: World Blood Donor Day</p> <p>15th June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day</p> <p>3rd Sunday of June: World Father's Day</p> <p>21st June: International Yoga Day</p> <p>23rd June: International Olympic Day</p> <p>26th June: International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking</p> <p>Important Days: January</p> <p>4th Jan: International World Braille Day</p> <p>9th Jan: NRI Day</p> <p>10th Jan: World Laughter Day</p> <p>12th Jan: National youth day (India)</p> <p>15th Jan: Army Day (India)</p> <p>24th Jan: National Girl child day (India)</p> <p>25th Jan: Tourism Day & National Voters Day (India)</p> <p>Important Days: February</p> <p>2nd Feb: World Wetlands Day</p> <p>4th Feb: World Cancer Awareness Day</p> <p>21st Feb: International Mother Language Day</p> <p>23rd Feb: World Peace & Understanding Day</p> <p>28th Feb: National Science Day (India)</p>	<p>10 Nov: World Immunization Day</p> <p>12 Nov: World Pneumonia Day</p> <p>16 Nov: International Day for Tolerance</p> <p>17th Nov: International Students Day</p> <p>19 Nov: International Journalist's Remembrance Day</p> <p>20th Nov: Universal Children's Day</p> <p>21st Nov: World Television Day, World Fisheries Day</p> <p>25th Nov: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</p> <p>26th Nov: National Law Day (India)</p> <p>Important Days: December</p> <p>1st Dec: World Aids Day</p> <p>2nd Dec: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</p> <p>4th Dec: Indian Navy Day</p> <p>7th Dec: Indian Armed Force Flag Day, International Civil Aviation Day</p> <p>9th Dec: International Day against Corruption</p> <p>10th Dec: Human Rights Day</p> <p>14th Dec: National Energy Conservation Day (India)</p> <p>18th Dec: International Migrants Day</p> <p>23rd Dec: Farmers Day (India)</p> <p>29th Dec: International Biodiversity Day</p> <p>Important Days: March</p> <p>8 Mar: International Women's Day</p> <p>15 Mar: World Consumer Rights Day, World Disabled Day</p> <p>16 Mar: National Vaccination Day</p> <p>World Forestry Day: 21Mar</p> <p>World Day for Water: 22Mar</p> <p>World TB Day: 24 Mar</p>
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Topic 20: Summits & the Meetings to be held recently

S.no	Name of the Summit/Meeting	Venue
1.	Summit of the Americas 2018	Lima, Peru
2.	G7 Summit 2018	Canada
3.	Euro Summit 2018	Brussels
4.	NATO Summit 2018	Brussels
5.	10th BRICS Summit 2018	Johannesburg
6.	Our Ocean Summit 2018	Bali
7.	13th G20 Summit 2018	Buenos Aires, Argentina
8.	UNFCCC COP 24 {UN Framework Convention on Climate Change}	Katowice, Poland
11.	44th G7 Summit 2018	Canada
12.	51st ADB Annual Meeting 2018	Manila
13.	18th NAM Summit 2019	Azerbaijan
15.	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM): CHOGM 2018	London, United Kingdom
16.	7th OPEC International Seminar 2018	Vienna, Austria
17.	33rd ASEAN Summit 2018	Singapore
18.	East Asia Summit 2018	Singapore
19.	30th APEC Summit 2018: Papua, New Guinea Port Mores 31st APEC Summit 2019: Chile	
20.	SCO Summit 2018	Qingdao, China

Topic 21: List of Indian Cities on Rivers Banks

	City	River	State
1.	Agra	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Gujarat
3.	Allahabad	At the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Ayodhya	Saryu	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Badrinath	Alaknanda	Uttarakhand
6.	Banki	Mahanadi	Odisha
7.	Brahmapur	Rushikulya	Odisha
8.	Chhatrapur	Rushikulya	Odisha
9.	Bhagalpur	Ganga	Bihar
10.	Kolkata	Hugli	West Bengal
11.	Cuttack	Mahanadi	Odisha
12.	New Delhi	Yamuna	Delhi
13.	Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	Assam
14.	Ferozpur	Sutlej	Punjab
15.	Guwahati	Brahmaputra	Assam
16.	Haridwar	Ganga	Uttarakhand
17.	Hyderabad	Musi	Telangana
18.	Jabalpur	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
19.	Kanpur	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
20.	Kota	Chambal	Rajasthan
21.	Kottayam	Meenachil	Kerala
22.	Jaunpur	Gomti	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Patna	Ganga	Bihar
24.	Rajahmundry	Godavari	Andhra Pradesh
25.	Srinagar	Jhelum	Jammu & Kashmir
26.	Surat	Tapi	Gujarat
27.	Tiruchirapalli	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
28.	Varanasi	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
29.	Vijayawada	Krishna	Andhra Pradesh
30.	Vadodara	Vishwamitri	Gujarat
31.	Mathura	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
32.	Mirzapur	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
33.	Auraiya	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
34.	Etawah	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
35.	Bangalore	Vrishabhavathi	Karnataka
36.	Farrukhabad	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh

37.	Fatehgarh	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
38.	Kannauj	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
39.	Mangalore	Netravati, Gurupura	Karnataka
40.	Shimoga	Tunga River	Karnataka
41.	Bhadravathi	Bhadra	Karnataka
42.	Hospet	Tungabhadra	Karnataka
43.	Karwar	Kali	Karnataka
44.	Bagalkot	Ghataprabha	Karnataka
45.	Honnavar	Sharavathi	Karnataka
46.	Gwalior	Chambal	Madhya Pradesh
47.	Gorakhpur	Rapti	Uttar Pradesh
48.	Lucknow	Gomti	Uttar Pradesh
49.	Kanpur	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
50.	Shuklaganj	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
51.	Chakeri	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
52.	Malegaon	Girna River	Maharashtra
53.	Sambalpur	Mahanadi	Odisha
54.	Rourkela	Brahmani	Odisha
55.	Pune	Mula, Mutha	Maharashtra
56.	Daman	Daman Ganga River	Daman
57.	Madurai	Vaigai	Tamil Nadu
58.	Thiruchirapalli	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
59.	Chennai	Cooum, Adyar	Tamil Nadu
60.	Coimbatore	Noyyal	Tamil Nadu
61.	Erode	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
62.	Tirunelveli	Thamirabarani	Tamil Nadu
63.	Bharuch	Narmada	Gujarat
64.	Karjat	Ulhas	Maharashtra
65.	Nashik	Godavari	Maharashtra
66.	Mahad	Savitri	Maharashtra
67.	Nanded	Godavari	Maharashtra
68.	Kolhapur	Panchaganga	Maharashtra
69.	Nellore	Pennar	Andhra Pradesh
70.	Nizamabad	Godavari	Telangana
71.	Sangli	Krishna	Maharashtra
72.	Karad	Krishna, Koyna	Maharashtra
73.	Hajipur	Ganga	Bihar
74.	Ujjain	Shipra	Madhya Pradesh