

GENERAL AWARENESS–CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF MAY–2018

List of Important Days

- May 1** - International Workers' Day
(Theme - “Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement”)
- May 1** - (first Tuesday of May) World Asthma Day (Theme - “Never too early, never too late
It's always the right time to address airways disease”)
- May 3** - World Press Freedom Day
(Theme - “Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law”)
- May 4** - International Firefighters' Day
- May 5** - International Midwives Day (Theme - “Midwives leading the way with quality care”)
- May 6** - International No Diet Day
- May 7** - Border Road Organization's (BRO) 58th raising day
- May 8** - World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
(Theme - “Memorable smiles from around the world”)
- May 8** - World Thalassaemia Day (Theme - “Thalassaemia past, present and future:
Documenting progress and patients' needs worldwide”)
- May 11** - National Technology Day (Theme - “Science and Technology for a sustainable future”)
- May 12** - International Nurses Day (Theme - “Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right”)
- May 13** - (2nd Sunday of May) Mother's Day
- May 15** - International Day of Families (Theme - “Families and inclusive societies”)
- May 17** - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD 2018)
(Theme - “Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All”)
- May 18** - International Museum Day
(Theme - “Hyper connected museums: New approaches, new publics”)
- May 21** - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- May 21** - Anti-Terrorism Day being observed across India
- May 22** - International Day for Biological Diversity
(Theme - “Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity”)
- May 23** - World Turtle Day
- May 25** - International Missing Children's Day (Emblem – “forget-me-not flower”)
- May 28** - Menstrual hygiene day (Theme - “#NoMoreLimits”)
- May 29** - International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
(Theme - “UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice”)
- May 30** - Hindi Journalism Day
- May 30** - Goa's 31st Statehood Day
- May 31** - World No Tobacco Day (Theme – “Tobacco and heart diseases”)

Reserve Bank of India

- According to a recent data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Bank **deposit growth fell** to a five-decade low in the financial year ended March 2018.

- The data showed that aggregate deposits in the banking system grew a mere **6.7% in 2017-18**, the lowest since fiscal 1963.
- A total deposit of **Rs.114 lakh crore** was reported in the last fiscal.
- According to a recently released RBI Data, **Indian Banks** closed nearly **2,500 onsite ATMs** between May 2017 and February 2018.
 - As of February 2018, the total number of onsite ATMs of banks had come down to **1, 07,630**.
 - However, the number of **offsite ATMs** saw a slight **increase to 99,029**, an addition of 669 ATMs in the 10 months.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it would buy **Rs. 10,000 crore** (\$1.50 billion) of government **bonds** via **Open Market Operation (OMO)**, after failing to sell all the debt it had offered to bidders.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s **Monetary Policy Committee** will meet for three days in **June** for the second bi-monthly policy review instead of the usual two days for the first time ever.
 - The RBI said the meeting would be held from June **4-6**, instead.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a **penalty of Rs. 50,000/- on Universal Co-operative Urban Bank, Mancheria, Telangana**.
- The RBI imposed a **penalty of Rs. 5 crore** on **South Indian Bank** for non-compliance with directions issued by it.

State Bank of India

- India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to **list its general insurance business and cards business by 2019- 20**.
 - The bank is also looking to bring in a partner for investment advisory businesses **SBI Capital Markets and sell 24-49% stake** in it.
 - Last year, the lender had listed its **life insurance arm SBI Life Insurance**.
- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a **loss of Rs. 7,718 crore** in the January-March quarter, hurt by higher provisions for bad loans.
- Breaking decades-old tradition, the State Bank of India (SBI) has decided **not to hold its annual accounts meet in Kolkata** from 2018.

Other Banks

- The **Bank of India** has an **exposure of Rs.200 crore** in the **Rs.13,900-crore PNB fraud case**, the bank's CEO **Dinabandhu Mohapatra** has announced.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put state-run lender has **barred** the state run lender **Dena Bank** from **extending fresh credit** in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**.
 - With this, Dena bank can disburse loans for credit facilities already sanctioned, but cannot sanction fresh loans.
- The government announced that it has initiated action for **removal of Allahabad Bank CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian** following the CBI's first charge sheet in the \$2 billion fraud at PNB detailing her role.
 - Meanwhile, Punjab National Bank (PNB) was asked to remove executive directors **Brahmaji Rao and Sanjiv Sharan**, who were named in the charge sheet.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked state-owned **Allahabad Bank** to **reduce** its exposure to unrated and high-risk advances in view of deteriorating financial health.
- The shares of **Syndicate Bank** fell as much as **12.35%** to a 9- year low after the bank posted its biggest quarterly loss of **Rs.2,195.12 crore** for March quarter.

- India's third-largest state-run lender **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** posted a net loss of **Rs.3,102 crore** for the quarter ended March 31.
 - **Gross bad loans** as a percentage of total loans rose to **12.26%**, compared with **11.31%** in the preceding quarter.
- To press for higher wage revision, the **union of bank employees** has called for 2-day nationwide bank **strike** on 30th and 31st May 2018.

Insurance

- Former chief secretary of Karnataka, **Subhash Chandra Khuntia** has been appointed as the **new Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

Supreme Court

- Amid protests over the formation of the **Cauvery Management Board**, the **Supreme Court** directed **Karnataka** to release **4 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu** or face strict action.
- Pointing out that live-in relationships are recognized, the Supreme Court observed that **Adult couples** have a **right to live together without marriage**.
- Supreme Court has approved the '**Compensation Scheme for Women Victims, Survivors of Sexual Assault, Other Crimes-2018**'.
 - According to this scheme, a victim of gang rape in any part of the country would now get a minimum compensation of **Rs five lakh up to a maximum of Rs.10 lakh**.
- The Supreme Court approved the **Centre's draft scheme** to distribute the **Cauvery river water** among the four shareholder parties, directing that it be **implemented before monsoon this year**.

High Courts and Sessions Courts

- Justice **Ramalingam Sudhakar** was sworn-in as the **Chief Justice of Manipur High Court**.

Election Commission

- Ahead of the **2019 Lok Sabha** polls, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is going to launch a multi-lingual mobile application titled **Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting App**.

Central Government

- The government announced that the **Aadhaar** is **not mandatory** for getting a **SIM** and that a phone number can be issued using alternative identification cards such as **voter ID** or **Driving License**.
- The **Finance Ministry** has announced it cleared three **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** proposals worth **Rs. 3,250 crore** in April 2018.
 - The proposals included that of **Hindustan Infralog Pvt. Ltd.** which sought approval for foreign investment from **DP World Global Investment BV, Netherlands**.
- The government clarified that **Aadhaar** has **not** been made **mandatory** for getting **pension** for **government employees**.
- The Centre has launched a **clean-up drive** for **24 beaches** and **24 polluted water bodies** with special focus on the **Yamuna** waterfront in **Delhi**.
 - The Union Environment Ministry has allocated **Rs. 10 lakh** for each beach and water body.
- The government is planning to **open up restricted areas** of **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Sikkim** for foreign tourists, Tourism Minister **KJ Alphons** has announced.
- The government has proposed that those clearing the **All India Civil Services Examination** be allotted the **service** as well as the **cadre or state** only after the **three-month foundation course**.
- The **finance ministry** has tied up with **40 entities** including Flipkart, Swiggy, Patanjali and Amul, which are big job creators, for extending **loans** to **small entrepreneurs** under the **Mudra scheme**.

- Last fiscal the government has extended Rs.2.53 lakh crore credit under PMMY, while Rs.5.73 lakh crore has been extended in last 3 years.
- The union Cabinet has approved implementation of **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP)** Project for **North Eastern Region (NER)** in **Meghalaya** to improve mobile services.
 - It will be funded by **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.
- **India** launched its **second IT corridor** in **China** in the southwestern city of **Guiyang** which will focus on **Big Data**.
 - Agreements worth **Rs.38 crore** were signed at the launch of the corridor by **Guiyang Municipal Government** and **India's NASSCOM**.
 - India's first IT corridor in China was established in the port city of **Dalian** last December.
- The government has directed **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** to recognize **diplomas** and **degrees** acquired through **open** and **distance learning** from **UGC-recognized universities** for employment purposes.
- The Cabinet has approved promulgation of an ordinance to amend the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**.
 - The code proposes to classify **home buyers as financial creditors** at par with lenders to help them quickly get refunds from defaulting companies.

States

- The states of **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat** were divided and given statehood under the **Bombay Reorganization Act** on 1st May in the year 1960.
- To monitor government decisions and propose suggestions for better governance, **Kerala's** first **shadow cabinet** took oath on May 1.
 - Shadow Cabinet: a group of members of the principal political party in opposition that are chosen as counterparts of members of the government who hold cabinet positions.
- The **Maharashtra** government is going to **increase** the **height** of the **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial** by **two metres**, making it the tallest statue in the world.
- **Punjab** government along **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**-India are conducting first organized census of **Indus Dolphins**.
- The **Bihar** government has announced an assistance of **Rs.1 lakh** for **SC/ST candidates** who clear the **preliminary UPSC Civil Services** exam **Rs.50,000** for those clearing preliminary **Bihar Public Service Commission Civil Services** exam.
- **Telangana** government has launched **Rythu Bandhu** (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support livelihood of **farmers**.
 - They will get investment support of **Rs.8,000** per acre every year (Rs.4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season) as crop investment support.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has started distributing '**shagun**' to all newlyweds as part of an effort to promote family planning.
- The **Tripura** government has decided to introduce **10% reservation** for women at all levels in the **police department**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government is planning to change the name of **Allahabad** to '**Prayagraj**' before **Kumbh Mela** in the city next year.
- **Manipur** has become the **first state in north east** and **third** in India to get **Solar Toilets**, which were inaugurated at **Ibudhou Marjing Hill, Heingang**.
 - Earlier the installation had taken place in **Tamil Nadu** and **Andhra Pradesh**.

- **Tamil Nadu CM E K Palaniswami** passed an order to permanently **shut down Vedanta's Sterlite copper plant** in **Tuticorin** after at least 13 people were killed in police fire during protests against the plant.
- To protect **elephants** from **Tura in Garo Hills of Meghalaya**, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) rolled out an awareness campaign titled '**Gaj Yatra**'.
- The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has decided to minimize the use of paper and bring **all government offices** under the **e-Office system** by 15th August 2018.
- **Neem** and **black buck** have been declared as the **state tree** and **state animal** respectively of **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - **Rose-ringed parakeet** will be the state **bird** while **Jasmine** is the state **flower**.
- The **Kerala** government decided to **cut** the excise duty on fuel to affect a **Rs.1 per litre** reduction in petrol and diesel prices, starting June 1.
 - This is expected to cause a revenue loss of **Rs.500 crore** annually to the state government.

Place in the News

- The 5th **India-CLMV** (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) **Business Conclave** was held at **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**.
 - This conclave was jointly organized by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** along with Ministry of **Commerce of Cambodia**.
 - The **Confederation of Indian Industry** (CII) is institutional partner of the event.
- **India** will be the host country for this year's celebrations of **World Environment Day**.
- The **4th International Yoga Day** celebrations will be held at **Dehradun** (Uttarakhand) on **21st June 2018**.

Personalities

- Legendary filmmaker **Satyajit Ray**'s 97th birth anniversary was observed May 02.
- Nobel laureate, genius poet and the man behind composing India's national anthem, **Rabindranath Tagore's** 157th Birth Anniversary was observed on May 7.
- Nation Pays Tributes to the great social reformer and freedom fighter **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** on his 152nd Birth Anniversary on May 09.
- Nation pays homage to freedom fighter **Sukhdev Thapar** (15th May 1907 - 23rd March 1931) on his 111th birth anniversary on May 15.
- **UK's Prince Harry** has been given the title '**Duke of Sussex**' by his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II, ahead of his wedding to American actress **Meghan Markle**.
- **BSF Assistant Commandant Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu** has set a national record by scaling **Mount Everest** for the **seventh** time.
- **Sangeeta Bahl**, a 53-year-old former model, has become the **oldest Indian woman** to conquer **Mount Everest**.

Defence and National Security

- The 1st ever bilateral joint military training exercise between **India** and **Malaysia** titled **HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018** began in dense forests of **Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia**.
- The militaries of **India** and **China** have agreed to set up a **hotline** between their **headquarters** after an informal summit between Indian PM **Narendra Modi** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping**.
- **South Western Command** of **Indian Army** is conducting '**Vijay Prahar**' exercise in **Mahajan** area close to **Suratgarh** in **Rajasthan**.

- **Indian and French navies** conducted the final and third phase of **Varuna Naval Exercise 2018** near **Reunion Island** in **Indian Ocean region (IOR)**.
- **India and United States** held the **third** round of the **India-US Maritime Security Dialogue** in **Goa**.
- **India** has sent **Bangladesh** its second relief consignment under **Operation Insaniyat** to help tens of thousands of displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar into Bangladesh following military crackdown in violence-hit Rakhine state.
- For the first time the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has successfully conducted **Scheduled Test for Airmen Recruitment (STAR)** online, taking forward **Digital India** Initiative of Government.
- The **Indian Army** has finalized **Rs.15,000-crore** indigenous ammunition project under which range of ammunition for its critical **weapons** and **tanks** will be produced indigenously.
- **China** aims to deliver its domestically developed world's largest amphibious aircraft, titled **AG600**, by the year **2022**.
- **China** launched its 1st privately developed rocket titled '**Chongqing Liangjiang Star**'.
 - The launch of the rocket developed by '**OneSpace Technology**' marks the first time a non-state Chinese rocket has successfully entered the orbit.
- **Indonesia** has agreed to give **India** strategic and **military access** to its **Sabang seaport**.
- **China's Air Force** has landed **bombers** on **islands** and reefs of South China Sea as part of a training exercise in the disputed region.
 - The bombers include nuclear strike-capable **H-6K** to improve China's ability to "reach all territory and strike in all directions".
 - Countries like **Vietnam** and **Taiwan** also claim parts of the region.
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has commissioned special unit called **Bastariya Battalion** (numbered 241) to combat Naxals activities in **Bastar region** of **Chhattisgarh**.
- **Chhattisgarh** will get specialized **anti-Naxal combat force** called **Black Panther** on the lines of the **Greyhounds** unit of **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **India** successfully conducted the first test of the **BrahMos** cruise missile aimed at increasing its life from **10 to 15 years**.
 - The missile was test fired from a mobile launcher from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at **Chandipur** along the **Odisha** coast.
- Defence Production Secretary **Ajay Kumar** has announced that **India** is going to integrate **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in **defence forces** to improve preparation for "next-generation warfare".
 - A task force led by **Tata Sons** chairman **N Chandrasekaran** has been formed to oversee the project.
- The first **all-woman Indian Navy crew** took 252 days to sail across the globe and was welcomed in Goa by Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**. It has been completed by a six-member crew led by lieutenant commander **Vartika Joshi**.
 - The crew started the voyage onboard 55-foot **INSV Tarini** and travelled over 21,600 nautical miles across three oceans.
- **Chetak corps** of **South Western Command** of Indian Army conducted a military exercise titled **Gandiv Vijay** in **Mahajan** field firing ranges of **Rajasthan**.
- **Israel** claimed to be the first country to have used the **US made F-35 fighter jets** in combat.
- The **United States** has "disinvited" **China** from the '**world's largest international maritime exercise**' **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** over China's continued militarization of the disputed **South China Sea**, according to the Pentagon.
 - The **RIMPAC Exercise** is held every two years in **Hawaii** and involves more than 20 countries from across the world, including India.

- **Surya Kiran-XIII**, the 13th edition of **India-Nepal** joint military exercise was held at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand** during 30th May to 12th June 2018.
- A 2-day offshore security exercise, code named '**Exercise Prasthan**', conducted by the **Eastern Naval Command** in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of **Mumbai**.
- Indigenously developed **Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) will be delivered to armed forces by **2020** as per the contract.
 - Its manufacturing will be done by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd** and **Bharat Electronics Ltd**.
- An upgraded version of the indigenous **Pinaka rocket** was successfully test-fired from **Proof & Experimental Establishment** in **Odisha's Chandipur**.

Committees/Commissions

- The Task Force constituted on "**Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**" has submitted its report to **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
 - Head of this Task Force: **Preeti Saran**, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Rajya Sabha chairman and Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** appointed a 2 member Committee to revise the rules and procedure of **conduct of business** in the **upper House of Parliament**.
 - Head of this Committee: **V.K. Agnihotri** (former Rajya Sabha Secretary General)
- A parliamentary panel headed by veteran BJP leader **Murali Manohar Joshi** is going to study the recovery of **black money** and performance of **public sector banks** among a host of subjects.
- The 15th Finance Commission has constituted **High Level Group** to explore and give recommendations for a **balanced expansion** of the **health sector**.
 - Head of this high level group: **Dr. Randeep Guleria**, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi.
- Amid its increased cooperation with **India** in a range of areas, the **United States** renamed its **Pacific Command to Indo-Pacific Command**.
 - The Command, which has about **3.75 lakh personnel**, is responsible for all **US military activity** in the greater Pacific region.

Schemes/Initiatives

- Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, **Uma Bharti**, launched the **Gobardhan Scheme** from **Haryana's Karnal** district.
 - The scheme focuses on managing and converting **cattle dung** and solid waste from farms and fields to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG.
- The Union Cabinet approved **doubling** the **investment limit** to **Rs.15 lakh** under the government's flagship **senior citizen pension scheme Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)**.
 - This move will enable up to **Rs.10,000 pension per month** for senior citizens based on a guaranteed **8% annual** return.
- **Tamil Nadu** CM **Edappadi K Palaniswami** has laid the **foundation stone** for a 50,422-square-foot memorial of late CM **J Jayalalithaa** in **Chennai**.
 - The memorial, which is set to cost **Rs.50.8 crore**.
- To help **violence affected women**, the Centre has approved setting up of **100 additional One Stop Centres** in **nine** states.
 - These States are Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
 - Purpose of One Stop Centres: To facilitate integrated services for violence affected women such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counseling and legal aid.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has decided to expand **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** in **Tribal Districts** across the country.
 - Aim: To provide skill up gradation and capacity building training to increase the incomes of tribal.

- The **Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY)** has launched the website of **Digital India Internship Scheme**.
- **Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL)** has launched India's first cloud-based **Common Integrated Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC)** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - It is powered by **Hewlett Packard (HP) Enterprise's Universal Internet of Things (IoT) Platform**.
- The **Union Environment Ministry** launched its full fledged **Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)**.
- Environment minister **Harsh Vardhan** also unveiled a related **mobile app (GSDP-ENVIS)**, terming it an ambitious programme of the ministry that will help boost employability and entrepreneurship of the youth in the country.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the 4th edition of **Global Exhibition on services** in **Mumbai**.
- **State run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** has distributed over **30 crore light emitting diode (LED)** bulbs across country under zero-subsidy **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)** scheme.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his **Bangladeshi** counterpart **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the **Bangladesh Bhavan** in **West Bengal's Santiniketan** in the presence of West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee**.
 - The bhavan, which is built at a cost of **Rs.25 crore**, also has a **museum** that showcases **Rabindranath Tagore's** association with **Bangladesh**, the Liberation War of Bangladesh and Indo-Bangla relations.
- The **Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)** launched **Samagra Shiksha** scheme to improve **quality of school education**.
- **India and Netherlands** launched an initiative titled **Clean Air India** in **New Delhi**.
- The **Union Power Minister R K Singh** has launched a web portal and App titled **PRAAPTI** to bring transparency in **power payments** to generators at a function in **New Delhi**.
 - **PRAAPTI - Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators**.

Summit/Conference

- **India** hosted **15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018)** in **New Delhi** from 10th to 12th May 2018.
 - Theme: "Telling our Stories- Asia and More".
- The 3rd edition of **United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP - 03)** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The **First Apex Conference** for CEOs of **Smart Cities** was held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The 1st edition of this year's bi-annual **Naval Commanders' Conference** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The 6th **United States-India Aviation Summit** was concluded in **Mumbai (Maharashtra)**.
 - This summit was formally inaugurated by Union Minister for Civil Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** on 9th May.
- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference** was held in **Wuhan, China**.
 - **K. J. Alphons**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) has represented India in the meeting.
- **Nepal** is going to host the **5th BIMSTEC Summit 2018**.

- **Indian Customs and Department of India Posts** held a 1st ever **Joint Conference** at Vigyan Bhavan in **New Delhi** to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
 - **Commissioners of Customs** from all the States having Foreign Post Offices (FPOs) were present along with their counterpart Post Master Generals.
- The 57-member **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** held extraordinary summit in **Istanbul, Turkey** to discuss recent **Israeli violence against Palestinian** protesters in **Gaza Strip**.
 - The summit was convened at the invitation of Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**.
- The 1st edition of **Global Wind Summit** will be held in **Hamburg, Germany** from 25th to 28th September 2018.
- The 71st **World Health Assembly** held in **Geneva, Switzerland** and it was attended by delegations from all WHO member states.
 - The assembly has adopted resolution on **Digital Health**, which was initiated by India and was co-sponsored by 20 countries.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has entered into **200th Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (UAPA)**, which is aimed at promoting government's resolve of non-adversarial tax regime.
- **NITI Aayog** has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with **IBM** to develop **Crop Yield Prediction Model** using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to provide real time advisory to **farmers in Aspiration Districts**.
- The **Indian Government** has signed a loan agreement worth **200 million dollar** with the **World Bank** for the **National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan)**.
- The **NITI Aayog** has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with search engine giant **Google** to work together to foster growth for India's nascent **artificial intelligence (AI)** and machine learning (ML) ecosystem in India.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has notified **protocol** to amend existing **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** between **India and Kuwait**.
- **India and Panama** have signed **two** agreements. These agreements were signed in the presence of Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** and President of Panama **Juan Carlos Varela Rodrigues** in Panama City.
 - They are: Agreement on exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports
Agreement on strengthening cooperation in the field of agriculture.
- **India and Guatemala** have signed an agreement for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through **Respective Foreign Service Institutes** in **educational** field.
- **India and Peru** signed an agreement in the field of **Renewable Energy** at **Lima**.
- The states of **Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana** and **Uttarakhand** agreed to implement the ambitious **National Health Protection mission**, which aims to provide an annual coverage of **Rs.5 lakh per family**.
 - The four states and the Union Territory of Chandigarh inked MoUs with the **Union Health Ministry** for the implementation of **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU for cooperation in the legal field between **India and Morocco**. This MoU will give an opportunity to the Lawyers.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between **India and Swaziland** on cooperation in the field of **Health and Medicine**.

- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between **India** and **Suriname** on cooperation in the field of **electoral management and administration** including exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of **organizational** and technical development of electoral process.
- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between **India** and **Equatorial Guinea** for cooperation in the field of **Traditional Systems of Medicine**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between **India** and **Colombia** on establishing cooperation on **Traditional Systems of Medicine of India**.
- The **NTPC Limited** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bihar Government** to improve performance of **power sector** in the state.
 - The Union Cabinet has approved, The MoU envisages transfer of **three power generation** facilities (Barauni Thermal Power Station, Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUN) and Nabinagar Power Generating Company (Pvt.) Limited (NPGC)) in Bihar to NTPC.
- The researchers of **IIT-Kanpur** have signed a **Rs.15-crore** MoU with **VTOL Aviation India** to develop **Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL)** craft prototypes, potentially to be used as **flying taxis**.
- **NITI Aayog** and **ABB India** have signed a Statement of Intent to support the Indian government realize its ambitious vision of 'Make in India' through advanced manufacturing technologies that incorporate the latest developments in **robotics and artificial intelligence**.
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** and **Common Service Centres (CSC) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** signed MoU for providing financial support village level entrepreneurs in CSCs.
- **Tata Trusts** has signed MoU with **Indian Government** to provide development support in eight worst **Naxal-affected districts** in **Chhattisgarh**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** and **UN Environment** have signed an agreement to promote 'green' Cricket in India.
- The **Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMO)** of **India** and **Pakistan** agreed to fully implement the **ceasefire understanding of 2003** in letter and in spirit.
- **India** and **Indonesia** signed **15 MoU** in the fields of **defence, scientific and technological cooperation, railways and health**, among others during PM Narendra Modi's visit to the nation.
- **India** has signed a loan agreement with the **World Bank** for **21.7 million dollars** for strengthening the public financial management in **Rajasthan** project.
- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Uttar Pradesh Government** for management of **Home of Widows** at **Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan**.

Meet/Visit

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** is going to preside over the 1st meeting of **National Committee for Commemoration** of 150th **Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** in 2019.
- The **9th India Japan Energy Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi**.
- A Two-day bilateral meeting of **Anti-Narcotics Agencies** of **India** and **Sri Lanka** was held in **New Delhi**.
- In its 27th meeting chaired by **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley**, the **GST Council** has approved making **GST Network (GSTN)** a government entity by taking over stakes held by private entities.
- The 12th **informal meeting** of **SAARC Finance Ministers** was held in **Manila** (Philippines) on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - **Yuba Raj Khatriwada** (Finance Minister of Nepal) chaired the meeting.

- Vice-President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** was visited to the South American countries of **Guatemala, Panama and Peru**.
- The first-ever meeting between the US President **Donald Trump** and North Korean leader **Kim Jong-un** will be held in **Singapore** on **12th June**.
- The **29th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** meeting between **India** and **Sri Lanka** was held onboard **Indian Naval Ship 'Sumithra'** at the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Line off **Kankasanthurai**.
- **North Korean** leader **Kim Jong-un** made his second visit to **China** in two months, meeting Chinese President **Xi Jinping** in the port city of **Dalian**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** visited the **Siachen glacier** base camp in **J&K** to interact with the soldiers posted there.
- The **15th Finance Commission (FCC)** headed by **NK Singh** has constituted Advisory Council to advise and assist Commission on issue or subject related to Terms of Reference (ToR) to quell **strong opposition** from some states over 2011 census.
- Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Nepal** for 2 day visit at the invitation of Nepalese Prime Minister **K P Sharma Oli**.
 - During this visit, Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli flagged off **Indo-Nepal bus service**.
 - The buses will play from **Janakpur**, the birthplace of Sita, to Ayodhya in **Uttar Pradesh**.
 - The two Prime Ministers also underscored the importance of **trade and economic ties** between **India and Nepal**.
- **Netherlands** Prime Minister **Mark Rutte** was visited to **India** for 2 day visit on 24-25 May 2018.
- Army chief General **Bipin Rawat** was visited to **Sri Lanka** for a 4 day visit.
- The 4th meeting of **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)** was held at **Kolkata**.
- The Minister of State for External Affairs General **VK Singh** became the 1st Indian minister to visit **North Korea** in two decades.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Russia** for an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- **French** President **Emmanuel Macron** was scheduled to pay a two day visit to **Russia**, commencing on May 24.
 - The two leaders are set to discuss **Iran, Syria and Ukraine** during their meeting.
- The 26th **BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers** was held in **Durban, South Africa**.
 - The grouping is a bloc of four countries – **Brazil, South Africa, India and China**.
 - **India** was represented by Union Environment Minister **Harsh Vardhan**.
- **Pakistan** hosted its 1st ever **Shanghai Cooperation Organization-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCORATS)** legal experts meeting in **Islamabad**.
- **UK's** Prince **William**, who is second-in-line to the British throne, will visit **Israel** and the **Palestinian** territories in June.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore** for a 5 day visit.
 - He began his tour by laying a wreath at the **Kalibata National Heroes' Cemetery** and paying homage to the martyrs of **Indonesian freedom struggle**.
 - He was scheduled to attend the **India-Singapore Enterprise and Innovation Exhibitions** at the **Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre**.

- **Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Javad Zarif** was visited to **India**.
- Former **North Korean spy chief and the Adviser** to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, **Kim Yong-chol** arrived in **New York**, becoming the most senior North Korean official to visit the US in 18 years.

Bills

- **Pakistan's Parliament** has passed the landmark **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act** granting fundamental rights to trans-genders and outlawing discrimination against them.

Fund

- **Google's** philanthropic arm **Google.org** has announced **\$3 million** in grants for **Teacher training** and **educational** content creation in **India**.
- The **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)**, a top state-run Chinese bank has launched **China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund**.
 - The fund has been named as **Industrial and Commercial Bank Credit Suisse India Market Fund**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved an initial corpus of **5000 crore** rupees for **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)** with NABARD under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**.
- **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's (IIMA's) Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)** has launched \$25 million '**Bharat Inclusion Initiative**' to fund start-ups.
- The Centre has approved **Rs. 685-crore relief funds** for ensuring that **Punjab farmers** do not resort to burning stubble.
 - Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh collectively burn 23 million tonne stubble between October and November.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council** headed by **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** has approved the purchase of military equipment worth **Rs.6,900 crore**.

Economy

- The Economic Affairs Secretary **SC Garg** has announced that the printing of **Rs.500 notes** has been ramped-up to about **Rs.3,000 crore** a day to meet the extra demand.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** in its **Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook** report has reaffirmed that **India** will be the fastest growing major economy in 2018, with growth rate of **7.4%** and **7.8%** in 2019.
- **Venezuela's** envoy to India **Augusto Montiel** has announced that the **South American** country is willing to accept **oil payments** from **India** in rupees.
 - Venezuela will use that money to buy medicines and food from India.

Companies/Industry

- **Instagram** has added an **In-app payments** feature as a test where users can make purchases after adding a credit or debit card with an additional pin.
 - Instagram would reportedly add direct payments for things like **movie tickets** in the future.
- US-based retail giant **Walmart** has closed the largest ecommerce deal in the world (\$15 billion) by acquiring a majority stake (71%) in the Indian e-commerce platform **Flipkart**.
- **American** multinational technology company **Google** has unveiled its next Android operating system titled '**Android P**' in beta version.
 - Android P introduces a single home button instead of three traditional buttons.
 - It also offers **iPhone X-like** navigation swipes and gestures.

- **American** multinational technology company **Apple** and multinational investment bank **Goldman Sachs** are teaming up for a new **Credit card** which could be released in **2019**.
 - The card will be branded with **Apple Pay**, the technology giant's mobile payment and digital wallet platform.
- **Facebook** has introduced a feature called '**Voice Posts**' in **India** which allows users to share voice messages on its platform.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** (TCS) market capitalization surged past the **Rs.7 trillion marks**, making it the first Indian company to achieve this milestone.
 - This comes a month after TCS surged past the **\$100 billion mark**, becoming the **second** Indian company to achieve the milestone.
- In collaboration with State-owned **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** (BSNL), Yoga guru **Ramdev's Patanjali** launched '**Swadeshi Samridhi**' SIM cards.
- With a record profit of **Rs.21,346 crore** in 2017-18, the **Indian Oil Corporation** has emerged as India's **most profitable** state-owned company for the second consecutive year.
 - With the profit of **Rs.19,945 crore**, **ONGC** became the **2nd most profitable** state owned company.
- Yoga guru **Ramdev's Patanjali** has launched a new messaging application titled '**Kimbho**', claiming that it will give "competition" to WhatsApp.
- The **National Commission for Women** has partnered with American online social media and social networking service company **Facebook** to launch a **digital literacy programme** to train 60,000 women in universities across India on safe use of the internet.

Stock Market

- Markets regulator **SEBI** has announced that it is going to consider **penal** action against **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) and **Mehul Choksi's Gitanjali Gems** after the completion of its investigation into suspected disclosure and trading related issues.

Exports/Imports

- India's total **export** of finished **steel** increased by **16 point 7 percent** to **9 point 6 million tonnes** in 2017-18.
 - The country had exported **8.2 million tonnes** finished steel during 2016-17 fiscal.
- The global benchmark Brent crude rose to a **3.5 year high** of **\$77** per barrel after US President **Donald Trump** pulled out of the **Iran** nuclear deal.
- **China** announced that it will **slash** the import duty on passenger **cars** to **15%** starting July 1 from the current 25% which has been in place for over a decade.
- The **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) **banned** the import of **fresh fruits** and **vegetables** from **Kerala** following the outbreak of the **Nipah** virus.

Taxation/Trade

- The **GST Council** has decided to introduce a **single monthly return** for **businesses** in order to simplify the process and increase compliance.
- **India** has told the **World Trade Organization** (WTO) that it proposes to raise duties on **20 products** by up to **100%** if the US doesn't roll back high tariffs on certain steel and aluminium items.
 - India has announced that its tariffs would come into effect by **June 21**.
- The **Finance Ministry** clarified that renting or leasing of land by **farmers** for agriculture, forestry, fishing or animal husbandry is exempt from **Goods and Services Tax** (GST).

Space

- **Pakistan** is going to launch a space programme next year to reduce dependency on **foreign satellites** for **civil and military purposes** and to keep an eye on **India**.
 - The budget for the country's space agency **Suparco** for the year 2018-19 is expected to be **Pakistani Rs 4.70 billion**.
 - **Pakistan** will also planning to establish **space centres** in **Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad**.
- The **NASA** successfully launched a **\$993-million spacecraft** called **InSight** to study quakes on **Mars** and explore the Mar's interior.
- **China** successfully launched "**APSTAR-6C**", a new communication satellite into orbit.
 - It was launched onboard of **Long March-3B** carrier rocket from **Xichang Satellite Launch Center**.
- The **NASA** announced that it is going to launch the 1st-ever **helicopter to Mars** in **2020**, a miniature, unmanned drone-like chopper that could boost our understanding of the Red Planet.
 - Known simply as "**The Mars Helicopter**," the device weighs less than four pounds (1.8 kilograms), and its main body section, or fuselage, is about the size of a softball.
- The **US** government has cancelled **NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (CMS)** programme citing reasons of budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget.
- **Bangladesh's** first communication satellite **Bangabandhu-1** was launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center Launch **Complex 39A**.
- **China** launched relay satellite named **Queqiao** (Magpie Bridge) to establish communication link between **earth** and its planned **Chang'e-4 lunar probe** (rover) that will explore the dark side of moon.
 - It was launched as part of **Chinese Lunar Exploration Program (CLEP)** onboard of **Long March-4C** rocket from **Xichang** launch centre.
- Elon Musk-led **SpaceX** launched **GRACE-FO satellites**, that would track the **Earth's water movement** and **ice melt**.

Science and Technology

- **British and American scientists** have launched a 5-year mission to assess the risk of the **Thwaites glacier collapsing**, already responsible for a 4% sea-level rise.
- **Scientists** have named a new species of beetle '**Grouvellinus leonardodicaprio**' after Hollywood actor **Leonardo DiCaprio** for his environmental activism. It was found in the South Asian island of **Borneo**.
- Professor **Stephen Hawking's** final theory on the **origin** of the **universe**, which he worked on in collaboration with Professor **Thomas Hertog** from **KU Leuven**, has been published in the **Journal of High Energy Physics**.
 - This theory suggests the **universe is "finite"** and far simpler than described by other Big Bang theories.
- A team of surgeons led by Indian-origin professor **Neil Malhotra** from the **University of Pennsylvania** has performed the first-ever robot-assisted **spinal surgery**.
- Scientists have discovered **world's second oldest grain** of **Magmatic Zircon** (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from **Champua** from **Singhbhum** rock sample in **Odisha's Kendujhar** district.
 - It is an estimated **4,240 million years old**, making it world's second oldest rock ever to be discovered.
- Governments of **India, Netherlands** and **Sweden** launched first-of-its-kind collaborative research programme on **HIV/AIDS**.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** has in its 2018 edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia approved **modern, animal-free tests** for **drug** manufacturers.
 - It replaces **pyrogen test** carried out on rabbits with bacterial endotoxin test or monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes.
- United States' prestigious **Stanford University** has agreed to assist **Uttar Pradesh** Government to combat **chronic disease** like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched a comprehensive plan titled '**REPLACE**' to eliminate industrially produced **artificial trans fats** from the **global food supply by 2023**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has published its 1st 'essential diagnostics list', a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose the **most common conditions** as well as a number of global **priority diseases**.
- **US drug regulator** has **approved the sale** of the first-ever medicine that **prevents migraine**, a debilitating **headache** which can last from hours to days, affecting nearly 15% people worldwide.
 - Developed by pharmaceutical firms **Novartis and Amgen**.
- For disease monitoring and strengthening **tele-medicine services** in the government hospitals, the **Rajasthan** Government has launched new software titled **Nidaan**.
- **Kerala** on high alert as rare and deadly **Nipah Virus (NiV)** infection which was detected for the first time in the state.
 - There is no vaccine or medicine for the disease and the only form of treatment is intensive supportive care.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has validated **Nepal** for having **eliminated trachoma**, a contagious bacterial infection of the eye.

Energy/Gas/Oil

- **Venezuela** has offered **India** a **30% discount** on **crude oil** purchases made using the oil-backed Venezuelan crypto-currency **Petro**.
 - The **US** had **banned transactions** involving **Petro**, saying it intended to bypass US sanctions.
- **Nepal** Government has granted **power generation license** to **Indian** government-owned subsidiary **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVNL)** from a 900-megawatt (MW) Arun-3 Hydropower Project located in eastern Nepal.
- According to **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, **India's** installed clean (renewable) energy capacity has already touched **70 Gigawatts (GW)** and **38 GW** is under implementation.
 - This shows that India is progressing fast in areas of renewable energy and it is committed to meeting target of having **175 GW renewable** by the year **2022**.
- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has issued **National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy**.
- **Russia** unveiled **world's first floating nuclear power station** at port city of **Murmansk**.
- **India** received first consignment of **2 million barrels** of crude oil from **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** for its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) at **Mangaluru** (on west coast), **Karnataka**.

Environment

- The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** has ordered the **closure** of the **Sterlite Copper plant** in **Tuticorin** amid ongoing protests by locals.
- **Khajuraho** (Madhya Pradesh) became the **hottest place in India** as the temperature hit 47.5°C.

Education

- The Union Cabinet approved a plan to set up **20 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** and upgrade 73 medical colleges under **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**, which has been extended by two years till **2020** with financial outlay of **Rs.14,832 crore**.
- **Students in Karnataka** will get **extra marks** if their parents cast votes in the upcoming assembly elections.
 - The "**Encouraging Marks**" will be added in the 2018-19 academic year.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a **Central University** in the **Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh**.
 - A provision of **Rs.450 crore** has been approved for the first phase of establishing the university.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur** has set up India's first **Centre for Energy Regulation (CER)** with the help of Government of **United Kingdom**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance to set up **India's first national sports university** in **Imphal (west), Manipur**.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- The **Pakyong Airport (Sikkim)** is set to become **India's 100th operational airport** when it is commissioned in June.
 - Under the government's regional connectivity scheme, **SpiceJet** has been given permission to fly to **Pakyong** from **Kolkata**.
 - **Sikkim** was the only state in the country without an airport.
- The centre is planning to assign **Green Registration Plates for Electric Vehicles**, which will help in distinguishing them from other vehicles and giving them preferential treatment like special parking or discounted tolls.
 - While private electric vehicles may have **green plates with numbers and letters in white**, the **commercial** ones will have numbers and letters written in **yellow**.
- The **Indian Railways** has decided to use an **Artificial Intelligence system** to ensure that **hygienic food** is served.
- To strengthen the **security of women passengers**, the **North Eastern Railway (NER)** has decided to introduce **Panic Buttons** in train coaches.
 - The NER is also planning to deploy **women police** personnel in suburban trains during **night hours** besides recruitment of women in the Railway Protection Force.
- The 1st commercial flight of **Arunachal Pradesh** under UDAN scheme landed at **Pasighat** airport or Advance Landing Ground (ALG) in East Siang district.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the first phase of **Delhi-Meerut Expressway**, India's first 14-lane highway.
 - After completion, the expressway will reduce travel time from **Delhi to Meerut** from 4-5 hours to **45 minutes**.
 - Modi also dedicated the **Eastern Peripheral Expressway**, India's first green and smart highway, to the nation.
- **Delhi Metro's Magenta Line** from **Janakpuri West** to **Noida's Botanical Garden** became fully operational after CM **Arvind Kejriwal** flagged off the 24.8-km **Kalkaji Mandir-Janakpuri West section**.
- **Singapore Airlines** has confirmed it is going to launch the **world's longest non-stop commercial flight** in October, covering about 16,700 km between **Singapore and Newark** (New Jersey) in 18 hours 45 minutes.

Films and Film Festival

- American animated sitcom **'The Simpsons'** has become the **longest-running scripted TV show** ever **in the US** after airing its 636th episode.
- The recently released Malayalam film **'Sudani from Nigeria'** was screened at the **Cannes Film Festival** on 14th May 2018.
 - Late actress **Sridevi** was honored posthumously for her contribution to Indian cinema at the **Titan Reginald F Lewis Film Honors**, held as part of **Cannes Film Festival**.
 - Filmmaker **Subhash Ghai** received the award on behalf of her family.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **65th National Film Awards** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**.
 - Late actress **Sridevi** was posthumously honored with the **Best Actress Award**.
 - Over 50 winners boycotted the award ceremony, upset with President Ram Nath Kovind presenting awards to only 11 awardees and attending the event for an hour.
- Japanese director **Hirokazu Kore-eda's 'Shoplifters'** has won the **Palme d'Or**, the top prize at this year's **Cannes Film Festival**.
 - Grand Prix : **Spike Lee, BlackKkKlansman**
 - Director : **Pawel Pawlikowski, Cold War**
 - Actor : **Marcello Fonte, Dogman**
 - Actress : **Samal Yeslyamova, Ayka**
 - Jury Prize : **Nadine Labaki, Capernaum**
 - Screenplay – TIE : **Alice Rohrwacher, Happy as Lazzaro & Jafar Panahi, Nader Saeivar, Three Faces**
 - Special Palme d'Or : **Jean-Luc Godard**
- **Billboard Music Awards 2018**: **'Shape of You'** singer **Ed Sheeran** won **Top Artist** and **Top Male Artist** awards.
 - American singer-songwriter **Taylor Swift** has won the **Top Female Artist** award.
 - **Khalid** won the **Top New Artist** award.
- The **ASEAN India Film Festival** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - Tagline of **ASEAN India Film Festival 2018**: **'Friendship through Films'**.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- **Telecom Commission** approved a proposal for allowing **phone calls and Internet service** in **flights** within **Indian airspace**.
- The **Department of Telecommunications** approved the merger of **Telenor (India) Communications Pvt Ltd** with **Bharti Airtel Ltd**.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- **UK Prime Minister Theresa May** appointed **Sajid Javid** as the **new Home Secretary**.
- **India's** leading mattress brand **Centuary Mattresses** has appointed **Sania Mirza** as its brand ambassador.
- 1983 batch IIS officer **Sitanshu Ranjan Kar** took over as 27th **Principal Spokesperson** of **govt** and **Director General** of **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** in **New Delhi**.
- Former chief economic adviser **Ashok Lahiri** has been appointed as full-time member of the **15th Finance Commission**. He will be accorded the status of the **Minister of State**.
- Indian-American **Deepa Ambekar** has been appointed as the **Interim judge** to a **US civil court** of **New York City**.

- **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** has been reappointed as **Managing director** and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of **Bandhan Bank** for a period of three years from July 10, 2018.
 - **Harun Rasid Khan**, former deputy governor at Reserve Bank of India, has joined Bandhan Bank board.
- Justice **Ajay Kumar Mittal** has been appointed as the **Acting chief justice** of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**.
- **Vladimir Putin** was sworn-in as the **President** of **Russia** for the **4th time**, renewing another six-year term in office.
- Snapchat-owner **Snap Inc** has appointed Amazon's former Vice President of Finance **Tim Stone** as its new **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
- The **Armenian** parliament has elected opposition leader **Nikol Pashinyan** as the country's **new Prime Minister**.
- **Facebook** has announced that the company's **Vice President of Product Chris Daniels** will be taking over **Whatsapp** after Cofounder Jan Koum announced his departure.
- **Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad** (92) became the **world's oldest Prime Minister**.
- The **Russian State Duma** (the lower house of parliament) has appointed **Dmitry Medvedev** for a new term as the **Prime Minister**.
- The finance ministry announced that the senior bureaucrat **Lok Ranjan** will continue to serve on the board of **ICICI Bank** as **Independent director** despite his transfer to the personnel ministry.
- Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal** was allotted the **additional** charge of the **Finance Ministry** while Arun Jaitley recovers from a kidney transplant.
 - Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** was handed the **I&B Ministry**, replacing **Smriti Irani** who will now handle **only** the **Textile Ministry**.
 - Minister of state for drinking water and sanitation **SS Ahluwalia** has been moved to the **ministry of electronics & information technology** (MeitY).
 - **Alphons Kannanthanam** has been relieved as **Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**. He continues as Minister of State for Tourism.
- **Sarah Mullally** became the **first female Bishop** of **London** at a service held at **St Paul's Cathedral**.
- **Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli** was given the **additional** charge of **Madhya Pradesh** while the state's **Governor Anandiben Patel** is on leave.
- Online classifieds platform **Quikr** has appointed its 1st Chief Financial Officer **Rahul Tewari** since its inception in 2008.
- Former BCCI President **Shashank Manohar** has been re-elected as the independent **Chairman** of **International Cricket Council** after he was the sole nominee put forward by the ICC Board.
- Lieutenant General **Sukhdeep Sangwan** has taken over the charge as the **Director General of Assam Rifles**.
- Artist and sculptor **Uttam Pacharne** was appointed the **Chairman** of the **Lalit Kala Akademi**.
- Online restaurant discovery and food-delivery platform **Zomato** has appointed **Sameer Maheshwary** as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
- Media tycoon **Rupert Murdoch's** eldest son **Lachlan Murdoch** will become **Chairman and CEO** of the proposed new “**Fox**” company once its deal with **Disney** is approved by shareholders and regulators.
 - **Rupert Murdoch** will serve as **Co-Chairman** of the new Fox entity.
- Indian American **Susheela Jayapal** has been elected as a member of the **Board of Commissioners** of **Multnomah County** in **Oregon**.

- Senior advocate **Mukul Rohatgi** has been appointed as an eminent jurist in the selection committee for appointment of the **Lokpal**.
- The **US Senate** voted in favor of appointing US President **Donald Trump's** nominee **Gina Haspel** as **intelligence agency CIA's Director**.
- **Fox News** has named **Suzanne Scott** as its first-ever female **CEO** after **Roger Ailes** was ousted as CEO in 2016 amid sexual harassment allegations.
- **Hindustan Unilever (HUL)** Non-Executive Chairman **Harish Manwani** has been appointed as an **Independent Director of Tata Sons**.
- The **U.S India Business Council** named **Ambika Sharma** as its head for **India**.
- 1985 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, **Amit Khare**, will be the **new Information and Broadcasting Secretary**.
 - He will replace **NK Sinha** who will superannuate on 31st May.
- The Government has appointed **Neelam Sawhney** as **Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary**.
- **Rina Ray** has been appointed as **Secretary Department of School Education and Literacy**. She will replace **Anil Swarup** who will superannuate on 30st May.
- **Deepak Khandekar** will be the new **Tribal Affairs Secretary**.
- **Sailesh** will be the **Secretary, Department of Official language**.
- 1985 batch Gujarat cadre officer **Atanu Chakraborty** will be **Secretary Department of Investment and Public Asset Management**.
 - Heera Lal Samariya will be **Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment**.
- The President of Badminton Association of India (BAI), **Himanta Biswa Sarma** was elected as the **Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC)**.
- **Anil Kumar Jha** has been appointed as full time **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Coal India Limited (CIL)**.
- **Nicolas Maduro** was elected as the **President of Venezuela** for a second term with over 67% votes.
- The **New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)** has promoted **Stacey Cunningham** to **President**, making her the first sole woman head of the 226-year-old exchange.
- Indian-origin lawyer and politician **Gobind Singh Deo** became **Malaysia's first minister** from the **Sikh community** after he was handed the communications and multimedia portfolio in the Malaysian cabinet.
- JD(S) leader **HD Kumaraswamy** took oath as **Chief Minister** of **Karnataka** on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha, the state secretariat. Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office.
 - 5-time Congress MLA **G Parameshwara** was selected as the **Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister**.
 - **Parameshwara** is the first Dalit leader to be appointed to the post.
 - Congress MLA **KR Ramesh Kumar** has been selected as the **Karnataka Assembly Speaker**.
- **Tata Steel** has put in place a new management team at **Bhushan Steel** after its ₹35,200 crore takeover through India's new insolvency process.
 - **Rajeev Singhal**, a Vice President at Tata, has taken over as the new **Managing Director**.
 - **Sanjib Nanda** has been appointed as the **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
 - **Ujjal Chakraborti** has been appointed as the **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**.
- The government has appointed **non-executive chairpersons** for **three** state-run banks based on the suggestions of Banks Board Bureau.
 - **Charan Singh** - Punjab & Sind Bank
 - **Anjali Bansal** - Dena Bank
 - **Tapan Ray** - Central Bank of India

- **Arsenal Football Club** has appointed former **Spanish** football player **Unai Emery** as its new **manager**.
 - He has replaced **Arsene Wenger** who recently stepped down after 22 years with the club.
- Former Supreme Court judge **CK Prasad** has been appointed the **Chairperson** of the **Press Council of India** (PCI) for a second term.
- Power equipment maker **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited** (BHEL) has appointed **Pravin L Agrawal** as the part-time official **director** on its board.
- **BJP Kerala** unit President **Kummanam Rajasekharan** was appointed as the **Governor of Mizoram**.
- Professor **Ganeshi Lal** has been appointed as the **new Governor of Odisha**.
- The **Caribbean island of Barbados** has elected **Mia Mottley** as its first female **Prime Minister** since gaining independence from the UK in 1966.
- Senior bureaucrat **Sushil Chandra** has been given one-year extension as **Chairman** of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes** (CBDT) till May 2019.
- **NITI Aayog** announced the signing of a Statement of Intent (SoI) with **Bollywood Actor Sushant Singh Rajput**, to collaborate and support NITI's **flagship initiative**, the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform** (WEP).
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has appointed **Anubrata Biswas** as its **MD & CEO**.
- **Lt. Gen. Devraj Anbu** has been appointed as the **new Vice Chief of Army Staff** (VCOAS).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Chartered Accountant **Sudha Balakrishnan** as it's first-ever **Chief Financial Officer** (CFO).
- **Balakrishnan** was a **Vice President** with the **National Securities Depository Limited** (NSDL), India's first and largest depository.
- Former **Pakistan** Chief Justice **Nasirul Mulk** was appointed as the interim **Prime Minister** of the country until the general elections are held on July 25.
- **Lebanon's Saad Hariri** has won a new term as **Prime Minister** after he won the backing of the majority of parliamentarians.
- Former Supreme Court Judge Justice **R K Agrawal** has been appointed as the **President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission** (NCDRC).
- Ridesharing company **Uber** has promoted its **India head Amit Jain** as regional general manager for **Asia Pacific region** (APAC).
- Former **International Monetary Fund** official **Carlo Cottarelli** has been appointed as the **Interim Prime Minister** of Italy.
- Senior diplomat **Pankaj Saran** has been appointed as the **Deputy National Security Advisor** (NSA).
 - **Saran** is currently **India's Ambassador to Russia**.
 - In his new role, he will assist NSA **Ajit Doval** along with **Rajinder Khanna** who was appointed as **Deputy NSA** in **January 2018**.
- **Paraguay's Vice President Alicia Pucheta** has been appointed as **Interim President** of the country.
- Former IRDAI member **Radhakrishnan Nair** has been appointed to **ICICI Bank's board** as an **Additional** (Independent) **Director** for a period of five years.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- **Two independent directors** of **IDBI Bank** have resigned after CBI named them in an FIR in connection with a Rs.600-crore loan granted to former Aircel promoter **C Sivasankaran's** companies.
 - **Ninad Karpe** and **S Ravi** step down from the board with effect from May 11 and May 12 respectively.
- **Vodafone Group** announced that CEO **Vittorio Colao** will step down in October after working at the company for a decade.
 - The telecom firm's current CFO **Nick Read** will replace **Colao** as the new CEO.
- **BS Yeddyurappa** resigned 55 hours after taking oath as the **Karnataka CM**, ahead of the floor test.
- **South African cricketer AB de Villiers** announced his **retirement** from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect.
- Batsman **Ed Joyce**, the first-ever cricketer to play T20I cricket for **two countries** (Ireland and England), has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Top Indian discus thrower **Vikas Gowda** retired after competing at the highest level for more than 15 years.

Deaths

- Noted Marxist economist and former West Bengal Finance Minister **Ashok Mitra** (90) passed away.
- Noted detective novelist **Kottayam Pushpanath** (80), who expanded the world of horror fiction in **Malayalam** literature passed away.
- Well-known Gandhian, freedom fighter & writer **Keyur Bhushan** (90) passed away.
- Filmmaker **Arjun Hingorani** (92), who directed Dharmendra's debut film 'Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere' in 1960, has passed away.
- Former Delhi cricketer **Rajinder Pal** (80), who had represented the country in one Test match, passed away.
- Noted Hindi film lyricist, **Nandram Das Bairagi** (87), popularly known as Balkavi Bairagi, passed away.
- Actress **Margot Kidder** (69), best known for playing the role of Lois Lane in the Superman film franchise of the 1970s and 1980s, passed away.
- Eminent Physicist **EC George Sudarshan** (86) passed away. He served as Honorary Advisory Council Member of Houston Sri Meenakshi Temple.
- Acclaimed **Telugu** writer and recipient of Sahitya Akademi award, **Peddibhotla Subbaramaiah** (79), passed away.
- **South Korea's** fourth-largest conglomerate **LG Group Chairman Koo Bon-moo** (73) passed away.
 - The group's holding company LG Corp has nominated **his son Koo Kwang-mo** to the board in preparation for a leadership succession.
- One of the great **American** authors, **Philip Roth** (85) passed away.
- Veteran **Telugu** writer, novelist **Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani** (78) passed away.
- One of India's most decorated Generals, Lieutenant General **Zorawar Chand Bakshi** (97), passed away.
- Actress **Geeta Kapoor** (57) who starred in the 1972 film 'Pakeezah', passed away in an old age home.
- Eminent **Gujarati** writer and **humorist Vinod Bhatt** (80) passed away.

- NASA astronaut **Alan Bean** (86), who became the 4th person to walk on the Moon in 1969, passed away.
- Civil rights attorney **Lewis Myers Jr** (70), who worked on a key lawsuit against racial discrimination in Mississippi's higher education system, has passed away.
- **French** billionaire industrialist and the Chairman of aerospace giant Dassault Group, **Serge Dassault** (93), passed away.

Awards/Honors

- **HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri** is the only Indian to feature in the 'World's Best CEOs' list by financial magazine **Barron's**.
- A **Burson Cohn & Wolfe** study revealed that Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is the **Most Popular World Leader on Facebook** with over 43.2 million likes on his personal page.
 - This is almost twice the 23.1 million likes on US President **Donald Trump's** page.
- Legendary singer **Asha Bhosle** was honored with 26th **PC Chandra Puraskaar** for her contribution in the field of **Indian music**.
- The actor who plays 'The Mountain' in Game of Thrones, **Hafþór Júlíus Björnsson**, was named as the **2018 World's Strongest Man in Philippines**.
- **Israel's Jerusalem** is going to name a city square near the new US Embassy in honor of US President **Donald Trump**.
- **Nisha Bhalla**, a 46-year-old holistic coach and consultant from **Mumbai** was felicitated with the annual 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award by the **Women Economic Forum (WEF)** for her spiritual service.
- Nobel laureate and noted economist **Muhammad Yunus** was honored with the 11th **KISS Humanitarian Award 2018**.
- Leading vaccine maker **Bharat Biotech** has received the **National Technology Award 2018** from the **Central government's Technology Development Board** for its **Rotavac vaccine**.
- The founder of Sulabh International, **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak** was honored with the **Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan** for his contribution to Asia's development.
- US-based **Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam** was honored with the prestigious 'Shri Jayadev Rashtriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018' for outstanding contribution to the field of art.
- Veteran **British** journalist and former BBC India correspondent **Sir William Mark Tully** has been chosen for **2018 RedInk award** for lifetime achievement in **Journalism**.
- The **NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) Limited** has bagged the prestigious **S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018** in **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** category held at **London**.
- Bollywood Actor **Amitabh Bachchan** has been felicitated with a citation by the **European Union** for his contribution to building cultural bridges between **Europe** and **India**.
- Davis Cup player **Prajnesh Gunneswaran** has won the prestigious **T.K. Ramanathan award** for the year 2017-18.
- **Polish** novelist **Olga Tokarczuk** has won this year's **Man Booker International Prize 2018** for her novel 'Flights'.
 - The prize will be split evenly between the writer and her translator, **Jennifer Croft**.
- Late actress **Sridevi** was posthumously conferred with the **BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement** in Indian Cinema.

- **Arunachal Pradesh**-based NGO **Singchung Bugun Community Reserve (SBVCR)** won the **India Biodiversity Award 2018** in the "Conservation of wildlife species" category.
- **CEAT Cricket Ratings awards 2018** Winners: India skipper **Virat Kohli** won the **International Cricketer of the Year Award**.
 - India opener **Shikhar Dhawan** was presented the **International Batsman of the Year Award**.
 - **New Zealand** pace sensation **Trent Boult** won the **International Bowler of the Year Award**.
 - **Afghanistan's** leg-spinner **Rashid Khan** was presented with the **T20 Bowler of the Year Award**.
 - **New Zealand's** opening batsman **Colin Munro** won the **T20 Batsman of the Year Award**.
 - Indian cricketer **Harmanpreet Kaur** has won the **Outstanding Innings of the Year Award**.
- **Indian** botanist **Kamaljit Bawa** received the **Linnean Medal 2018** for his pioneering research on evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation & non-timber forest products.

Sports/Game

- **Indian** shooter **Shahzar Rizvi** became the **world number one shooter** in the **10-metre air pistol category** after having won a silver medal at the recently concluded shooting World Cup in **South Korea**.
- **Hockey India** has named women's hockey coach **Harendra Singh** as **Indian men's team head coach** while incumbent men's team coach **Sjoerd Marijne** returned as the **women's team coach**.
- The oldest tennis tournament in the world, **Wimbledon** announced that it is **increasing** the total **prize amount** for 2018's edition to **\$46.57 million** (approximately Rs.300 crore), a 7.6% increase from last year.
- **England** overtakes **India** for the **top** spot in the **ICC ODI team ranking** following the annual update.
 - England has gained eight points and now has 125 points. **India** stood at **second** spot with 122 points followed by **South Africa** (113 points).
- Former **Australian** cricketer **Justin Langer** has been appointed as **Australian cricket team's Head Coach** for all three formats.
- Three-time Commonwealth gold medalist **Saina Nehwal** climbed **two places** to return into the **top-10** of the **Badminton World Federation women's singles rankings**.
- Indian pugilist **Neeraj Goyat** has been conferred with the **WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award**.
- The Academy **Team Kochi** has won the 3rd edition of **National Blind Football Tournament** by defeating **KWAB Bengaluru** at the **Jogo Football Arena, Kochi** (Kerala).
- Former Liverpool captain **Steven Gerrard** was appointed as the **Manager** of **Scottish football club Rangers**.
- A sports initiative '**Star Khel Mahakumbh**' was launched at **Dharamshala** in **Himachal Pradesh** in the presence of 1500 athletes.
- **Welsh** snooker player **Mark Williams** has won the **2018 World Snooker Championship** final by defeating **John Higgins**.
- **India** has finished on **top** in the **South Asian Junior Athletics Championships** in **Colombo**.
 - On the final day of the meet, Indian athletes won nine more Gold medals, ending with a tally of 20 Gold, 22 Silver and 8 Bronze.
 - Hosts **Sri Lanka** finished **second** behind India, **Pakistan** stood at the **3rd** position.
- In Shooting, Olympian **Gagan Narang** and **Pooja Ghatkar** clinched a Silver medal in the 10-meter Air Rifle Mixed Team event in the Grand Prix of Liberation International competition at **Pilsen** in the **Czech Republic**.

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced a 16-member squad that will play two **T20 Internationals** in **Ireland** as part of Team India's first tour to the country in 11 years.
 - The two T20Is will be held in the country's **capital Dublin** on June 27 and June 29.
- **England's cricket board** has introduced a new '**Rooney Rule**' under which at least **one black**, Asian or minority ethnic candidate will be **interviewed** during the **recruitment** stage for all national coaching positions.
- After **Norway** took the decision for equal pay, **New Zealand's female international football players** are set to be paid the **same** as the **male international football players**.
- The **Cricket Association** for the **Blind** in **India** is planning to conduct a **T20 League** for blind cricketers, similar to the **Indian Premier League**, between mid-November and mid-December.
- **Spanish** professional tennis player, **Rafael Nadal** broke **John McEnroe's** 34-year record by winning his 50th consecutive set on clay at the **Madrid Open**.
- **Indian Judokas** won 3 medals on the opening day of **Asian Cadet Judo Championships** in **Lebanon**.
 - **Rohini S Mohite** (Maharashtra) won a gold medal in the 40kg category while **Tababi Devi Thanjam** of Manipur emerged as a champion in the 44kg category.
- The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** has decided to implement a strict '**No-Needle**' policy at all the national camps and training centers in the country.
- Mercedes' British driver **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Spanish Grand Prix**.
- **Indian wheelchair cricket team** successfully completed its first international tour, winning a three-match series in **Bangladesh**, after cricketing legend **Sachin Tendulkar** donated nearly ₹4.5 lakh.
- **Australian Steve Plain** became the **fastest climber** to scale the **highest peaks** on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he **scaled Mount Everest**.
- Honoring US President Donald Trump, **Israeli football club Beitar Jerusalem** has added **Trump** to its name ahead of the inauguration of the **US embassy in Jerusalem**.
- The **Indian U-16 football team** was crowned **champions** at the **Four-Nation Tournament** held in **Serbia** after they defeated **Tajikistan** in the finals.
 - The four-nation tournament was played between **India, Serbia, Tajikistan and Jordan**.
- **Kami Rita**, a 48-year-old Nepalese Sherpa scaled **Mount Everest** for the 22nd time, setting a record for the **most successful climbs** of the world's highest mountain.
- **Brazilian** professional footballer **Neymar** was named as **France's player of the year** at an awards ceremony in **Paris**.
- Former Indian cricketer **Lalchand Rajput**, who was the manager of the winning Indian cricket team for the 2007 ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa, has been named the **interim coach** of the **Zimbabwe cricket team**.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is planning to **scrap** the **coin toss** in **Tests** for matches contested as a part of the upcoming **Test Championship** in order to reduce home ground advantage.
 - Instead of the coin toss, the **visiting captain** will be allowed to **decide** whether to bat or bowl first.
- **South Africa-born former England** captain **Kevin Pietersen** is set to become the first ever foreign player to deliver the annual **MAK Pataudi Memorial Lecture** on June 12 in **Bangalore**.

- **Chelsea Football Club** defeated **Manchester United** in the **2017/18 FA Cup** (also known as the FA Challenge Cup) final to win the title for the **eighth** time.
 - **Italy's** legendary goalkeeper **Gianluigi Buffon** ended his career at **Juventus** with a win and his ninth Series.
- **Spanish** professional tennis player, **Rafael Nadal** has won the **Italian Open** title for a record **8th** time by defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev.
- Barcelona forward **Lionel Messi** was crowned **Europe's top goal scorer** for the **fifth** time after scoring on 34 occasions in the La Liga for the Catalan side.
- The **Indian women's Hockey team** failed to defend its crown at the **5th Asian Champions Trophy**, as it lost to hosts **South Korea**, 0-1 in the summit clash at **Donghae City, South Korea**.
- **Coimbatore** racer **Bala Prasath** has won the **Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship** in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Chennai** based Indian grandmaster of chess; **Srinath Narayanan** has won the **Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament**.
- The official song for the **2018 FIFA World Cup** titled '**Live It Up**', sung by **American** actor-rapper **Will Smith**, singer **Nicky Jam** and **Albanian** pop star **Era Istrefi**, has been released.
- **Delhi-based I-League** second division club, **Sudeva Football Club**, became the first Indian club to acquire a **European football club** after it bought **Spanish** third division league team, **CD Olimpic de Xativa**.
- **Real Madrid** defeated **Liverpool** in **Kiev, Ukraine** to win the **UEFA Champions League** for the third straight year.
- A **new video campaign** has been launched targeting **football fans** on the occasion of the **World Cup 2018** next month to promote healthier and more active lives.
 - The series of videos have been produced jointly by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **Russia's Ministry of Health** and the **2018 World Cup Russia Local Organizing Committee**.
- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** has won **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2018** by defeating **Sunrisers Hyderabad**.
- **Australian Formula One** racer **Daniel Ricciardo** handed **Red Bull** a victory in their 250th race in the Formula One at **Monaco Grand Prix**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has invited **Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani** for the historic one-off **Test** between India and Afghanistan.
- **Raider Monu Goyat** became the costliest player in **Pro Kabaddi League** history as **Haryana Steelers** acquired his services for **Rs.1.51 crore** on Day 1 of PKL 2018 auction.
 - **Rahul Chaudhari** went to **Telugu Titans** for **Rs.1.29 crore**, becoming the **second** costliest athlete.

Report

- As many as **14 Indian cities** are among the **20 most polluted cities** in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels, according to World Health Organization's latest report on air quality.
 - According to this data, **India's Kanpur** is the **most polluted city** in the world.
 - Top 5: Kanpur, Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna.
- **India** has surpassed **France** to become one of the **world's five largest military spenders**, Swedish arms watchdog **SIPRI** (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) announced in a report.
 - **India** spent **\$63.9 billion** on its military in 2017, an increase of 5.5% compared with 2016.
 - Top 5: USA - \$610 bn, China - \$228 bn, Saudi Arabia - \$69 bn, Russia - \$66 bn, India - \$63.9 bn, and France - \$58 bn.

- **India** was ranked **11th** in the **FDI Confidence Index 2018** released by global consultancy firm A T Kearney. India's last year (2017) rank was 8th.
 - Top 10: United States, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, China, Japan, France, Australia, Switzerland, and Italy.
- **US state California's economy** has **surpassed** that of the **UK** to become the **world's fifth largest**.
 - Top 10: US, China, Japan, Germany, California, UK, India, France, Brazil, Italy.
- SP Rajya Sabha MP **Jaya Bachchan** recently declared assets worth **Rs.1000 crore**, making her India's **richest politician**.
 - Congress MP **Abhishek Singhvi** with assets worth **Rs.860 crore** stood at **2nd** spot. TDP MP **Jayadev Galla** with assets worth **Rs.683 crore** is at the **3rd** position.
- **India** was ranked **4th** out of 25 nations in **Asia-Pacific** region in the inaugural **Asia Power Index 2018** released by Australian think tank Lowy Institute.
 - Top 10: United States, China, Japan, India, Russia, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia.
 - **Nepal, Laos, Mongolia, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka** sat at the bottom end of the ranking.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been ranked **9th** on **Forbes' 2018 list of the world's most powerful people**.
 - Top 3: 1st - **Xi Jinping** (Chinese President) 2nd - **Vladimir Putin** (Russian President) 3rd - **Donald Trump** (US President)
 - Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani**, the Chairman and MD of India's second-largest company Reliance Industries, has been ranked **32nd** in the list.
- According to a survey by Grant Thornton, **India** has slipped to the **6th** position globally in **Business Optimism Index** for the first quarter of this year.
 - Top 5: Austria, Finland, Indonesia, Netherlands, US.
- According to recently released report '**RemitSCOPE - Remittance markets and opportunities - Asia and the Pacific**'.
 - **India** was **largest remittance receiving country** in the world with **US \$69 billion** in 2017.
 - Top five: India (\$69 billion), China (\$64 billion), Philippines (\$33 billion), Pakistan (\$20 billion), Vietnam (\$14 billion).
- Union Government is going to link additional **200 wholesale mandis** to **online trading platform e-NAM** (electronic National Agriculture Market) this fiscal (2018-19) and also encourage inter-mandi transactions.
- **India** emerged as the **3rd largest solar market** in the world in 2017 behind **China** and the **US**.
- With 680 billionaires, the **United States** has more billionaires than **China, Germany** and **India** combined, according to a report by Wealth-X.
 - While China has 338 billionaires, Germany and India have 152 and 104 billionaires respectively.
- According to the Centre's **Swachh Survekshan 2018**, **Indore** has been named the **cleanest city** in India.
 - Top 3: Indore, Bhopal, Chandigarh.
- According to **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, the subscriber base of **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** has crossed **1 crore subscribers mark** since its launch in May 2015.
 - Till date, the scheme has collected **Rs.3950 crore** of contribution from subscribers.
 - It has generated around **9.10% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR)** since inception till March 2018.
 - Top 5 states in APY mobilization: Uttar Pradesh (1,401,631), Bihar (1,061,660), Tamil Nadu (814,917), Maharashtra (758,695), Karnataka (686,504).

- According to a recently released UN report, **Delhi** will surpass **Tokyo** as the **most populous city** in the world by the year **2028**.
 - By then, **India** is also estimated to replace **China** and become the **world's most populous country**, the report added.
- **India** is the **6th wealthiest country** in the world with a total wealth of **\$8,230 billion**, according to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review.
 - Top 5: US (\$62,584 billion), China (\$24,803 billion), Japan (\$19,522 billion), UK (\$9,919 billion), Germany (\$9,660 billion).
- **India** ranked **145th** among 195 countries in terms of **Healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index**.
 - The index was released as part of **Global Burden of Disease** study released by **Lancet**, one of the world's oldest and best known peer-reviewed general medical journals.
 - Top 5 countries: Iceland, Norway, Luxembourg, Finland, and Australia.
- **India** has jumped one spot to **44th** this year in **Global competitive rankings** released by **Switzerland-based IMD World Competitiveness Center**.
 - Top 5: United States, Hong Kong, Singapore, Netherlands, and Switzerland.
- **Real Madrid** forward **Cristiano Ronaldo** has been named as the **World's Most Famous Athlete** for the third straight year in **ESPN's annual rankings**.
 - **NBA star LeBron James** stood at **2nd** spot followed by **Lionel Messi**.
 - Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli** rose to **11th** spot from 13th last year.
- According to the **RSA Quarterly Fraud** report for January-March period, **India** is the **3rd** most targeted country for **Phishing Scams**.
 - Top 5: Canada, United States, India, Brazil, Netherlands.

National Parties/Regional Parties

- With a declared income of **Rs.82.76 crore**, the **Samajwadi Party** is the richest of the 32 regional parties in India, a report by **Association for Democratic Reforms** revealed.
 - Top 3: Samajwadi Party – **Rs.82.76 crore**, Telugu Desam Party (TDP)– Rs 72.92 crore, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) – Rs 48.88 crore.

General - National

- The **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** will be held in holy city of **Varanasi** (Uttar Pradesh) from January 21 to January 23, 2019.
 - Theme: “Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India”.
- Pension fund regulator **PFRDA** has announced that the **National Pension System (NPS)** subscribers will now have the option to **partially withdraw funds** for setting up **new business** or **pursuing higher education**.
 - PFRDA Retirement fund body Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has launched a new service titled **View Pension Passbook** for pensioners on **Umang App**.
 - **UMANG** - Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
- In **Assam**, **97.3-meter** tall **National flag**, the tallest in the country - will be installed under **Guwahati** under Smart City Mission.
- The **Union Women and Child Development Ministry** has proposed allowing **victims of Child Sexual Abuse** to file **police** complaints till the age of 25.
- **Ministry of Tourism** has decided to expand **Buddhist tourism circuit** under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** to **21** more states to make it India’s first trans-national tourist circuit.
 - The new states include Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Goa, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir.
- The **Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** run by an **all-woman team** began its operations **Phagwara, Punjab**.

- PM Narendra Modi laid the **foundation stone** for **India's longest road tunnel** on the **Srinagar-Leh National Highway** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - The over 14-km-long **Zojila tunnel** will shorten the distance between Srinagar and Leh from 3.5 hours to 15 minutes.
 - It will also be **Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel** and will cost around **Rs.6,809 crore** to build.
- Minister of State for Civil Aviation **Jayant Sinha** released the first draft of the **passengers' charter**, spelling out rules for cancellation fee, compensation for missing connecting flight and plans to introduce wifi services in flights.
 - **No charges** if tickets **cancelled** within **24 hrs** of **booking**. Flyers will be compensated if airlines are at fault.
 - Cancellation charges cannot be higher than base fare plus fuel charges.
- To address issues related to security of women comprehensively amid rising concerns over **women safety**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has created **Women Safety Division**.
- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has set up **cloud enabled National Data Centre** at **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
 - This is 4th cloud-enabled National Data Centre of NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has recognized **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)** in **Kerala** as the world's first fully **solar energy-powered airport**.
- The government has decided to extend **Rs.1 lakh** to retired **Presidents** and **Rs.90,000** to retired **Vice Presidents** towards actual charges incurred as **office expenses annually**.

General - International

- **UNICEF Australia** has launched '**The HopePage**', which allows users to make a **donation** by mining crypto-currency **Monero** using the visitor's computer processing power.
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** and his **French** counterpart **Emmanuel Macron** have agreed on the need to **preserve the Iran nuclear deal**.
- The **Afghan** government officially launched the distribution process of "**etezkera**" (Electronic Identity Cards).
- The **Nobel Foundation** has decided to **not award** the **Nobel Prize in Literature** this year (2018) after it was embroiled in a scandal over sexual assault allegations.
 - This year's winner will now be announced with the winner in 2019.
- To match its clocks with those of **South Korea, North Korea** went forward in time by **30 minutes**.
- The **population of children** in **Japan** fell for the 37th consecutive year.
 - Further, the ratio of children to Japan's overall population dropped to a record low of 12.3%.
- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** spoke with three key international leaders including Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, about the **Iranian nuclear archives** acquired by Israel.
- **Lebanese** voters went to the polls to elect their **parliament** for the first time in **nine** years.
- **Switzerland-based St Galler Kantonal bank** ran a pilot project where it replaced seven of its employees with **five** robots.
- **US President Donald Trump** announced the country's **withdrawal** from the **Iran nuclear deal**.
- **Israel** and **Iran** were engaged in their most direct confrontation to date after Iranian forces stationed in **Syria** fired nearly **20 missiles targeting Israel-occupied territory** and **Israel Defence Forces** responded with airstrikes.
- **Iraq** voted in its 1st **Parliamentary election** since declaring **victory** over the **Islamic State group**.
- **Canada** has decided to add a **Third gender** option to its future **government surveys** including the **2021 census** paving the way for an overhauled census.

- **Guatemala** opened its **embassy in Jerusalem**.
 - With this, the country became the **second nation** after the **US** to open its diplomatic mission in the Israeli city.
- The **Scottish Parliament** voted 93 to 30 against the **UK's EU Withdrawal Bill**.
- **Japan** has enacted a new law to promote the participation of **women in politics**.
- **Philippine** President **Rodrigo Duterte** ordered to lift the **ban** on the deployment of **Filipino workers to Kuwait**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has approved steps to allow **100% foreign ownership** in **companies** by year-end.
- The **Syrian** military declared that it has taken full control of the capital, **Damascus**, and all the areas around it, for the first time in nearly seven years.
- **Paraguayan** President **Horacio Cartes** inaugurated his country's **Israel embassy in Jerusalem**, making it the **3rd nation** to make the deeply controversial move after the United States and Guatemala.
- The **United Kingdom** has listed **Pakistan**, along with **Nigeria** and **Russia**, as the top **three sources** of **money laundering** to the country.
- The **United States** has tightened financial **sanctions** against **Venezuela** following President **Nicolas Maduro's victory** in election.
- **Palestine** has become the 193rd nation to join the **Chemical Weapons Convention**.
- **North Korea** completed dismantling its **Punggye-ri nuclear test** site in a ceremony attended by journalists.
- **Ireland** has voted in a **historic** referendum to repeal the **ban on abortions** in the country.
- **Colombia** will next week formally join the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
 - With this the country becomes the only **Latin American nation** in the alliance.

THE CHENNAI SCHOOL OF BANKING

Books and Authors

Book's Name

Author's Name

- Straight Talk

Abhishek Manu Singhvi (Member of Rajya Sabha)
- Across the Bench – Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System

Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan
- One of India's best-known sports journalists, **Boria Majumdar** has written a book titled "**Eleven Gods and A Billion Indians**".
- **Pakistan** has summoned ex-ISI chief **Asad Durrani** over a book he co-authored with **India's ex-RAW chief AS Dulat**, accusing him of 'violating' military code of conduct.
 - The duo wrote the book titled '**The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace**' which released.
 - In the book, Durrani suggested **Pakistan** mishandled the **Kulbhushan Jadhav** case.



TO THE POINTS: MAY-2018

- Maharashtra State will get a new airport which is expected to be functional by September 2018, at Parule Chipi in **Sindhudurg** district.
- The 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue held in **New Delhi, India**.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh and union minister of state for railways Ranjan Gohain flagged off **Antyodaya Express**, which began its service from Raipur, Chhattisgarh on its first day.
- As per data released by Union Ministry of Finance, the total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of April 2018 surpassed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark and stood at **Rs 103458 crore**.
- **Asha Bhosle**, the singer who was conferred the P.C.Chandra Puraskar 2018.
- **Jan Koum**, the WhatsApp co-founder and CEO who has announced his exit from WhatsApp.
- The ISSF World Cup Stage 2 held in **Changwon, South Korea** from 20th to 30th April 2018.
- **China** topped the medals tally in the ISSF World Cup Stage 2.
- **Shahzar Rizvi**, the Indian who won a silver medal in the 10m air pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Stage 2.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.
- Hockey India has named **Harendra Singh** as the chief coach for the Indian men's hockey team.
- The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) conducts the third edition of All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament in **Kochi, Kerala** from 27th April to 1st May 2018.
- Former AIFF Secretary **PP Lakshmanan** died in Kannur, Kerala.
- Gujarat and Maharashtra celebrate their Statehood Day named as Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day on **May 1**.
- 'Sujalam Sufalam Water Conservation Initiative' to increase water conservation capacity was launched by **Gujarat**.
- According to that, under 'National Broadband Mission - Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan' government has set a goal to provide **1 Gbps** of internet speed to all gram panchayats in India by 2020.
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducts a two-day National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database in **New Delhi**.
- **Maharashtra** became the first state of India to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts).
- The Cabinet (CCEA) approved up gradation and expansion of airport infrastructure at Lucknow, **Chennai** and Guwahati airports with a total cost of over Rs 5,000 crore.
- **Kisan Kalyan workshop** that was held at block level across India to discuss increasing farmer's income through adoption of new technology.
- The bilateral trade for 2018 between the traders of India and **China** commenced through the Nathu La border.
- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan for a period 2017-18 to **2019-20** with a cost of Rs. 14,832 crores.
- The India- South Africa business summit held **Johannesburg, South Africa**.
- As per data released by Union Commerce and Industry Ministry, Core Sector growth slowed down to **4.1%** in March 2018.

- **Dalmia Bharat group** has adopted the Gandikota Fort (located in Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh) under Central Government's 'Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan' scheme.
- **Ram Nath Kovind** hosted the meeting of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities and presented the Visitor's Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- **Adarsh Credit** bagged "Best Co-operative Society on digital platform" award in the BFSI leadership Awards 2018, at Hotel Eros in New Delhi.
- Blue Origin, a US aerospace company, launched the suborbital **New Shepard** rocket and space capsule from the Blue Origin's West Texas launch site.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved to provide financial assistance of **Rs. 5.50** per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane.
- 'Vibrant North East 2018' was held in **Guwahati, Assam** on 3rd to 5th May 2018.
- Maharashtra government has decided to rename Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University as '**Kaviyatri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University**' after Bahinabai Chaudhari.
- **Cognizant**, IT firm has acquired Hedera Consulting, a Belgium-based business advisory and data analytics Services Company.
- **Shanti Jiban Chakma**, BJP leader who was sworn-in as chief executive member (CEM) of the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in Mizoram.
- Kottayam Pushpanath who passed away in Kottayam, Kerala was a **Novelist**.
- The World Tuna Day themed "Smart Tuna - Smart Ocean" celebrated all over the world was observed on **May 2**.
- Ivica Dacic, first Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Serbia** was on an official visit to India from 1st to 4th May, 2018.
- Chief Minister of **Manipur** launched 'Go to Village' mission throughout the state.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj chaired an Interactive Session on the Act East Policy with the Chief Ministers of northeastern states in **New Delhi**.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has involved **Survey of India** to strengthen the Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.
- POWERGRID has set Capex target for the year 2018-19 as **Rs. 25,000 crore**.
- **USA** has emerged as the top defence spender in 2017 as per the Defence Spending report released by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) for 2017.
- **Kotak Securities Limited** has launched 'Free Intraday Trading', a facility that allows financial market traders to do intra-day trading without paying any brokerage per trade.
- **Deepa Ambekar** is the Indian-American who has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City, United States.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a day long National Conference on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) in **New Delhi** in which 244 Districts was selected under this scheme.
- The Exhibition called 'India and the World: A History in Nine Stories' was held in **New Delhi**.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone of four national highway projects costing Rs 1,523 crore in **Telangana**.
- The first organized census on Indus dolphins has started in **Punjab**.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's growth as **7.3 %** in Fiscal Year 2018 & **7.6 %** in the next Fiscal.

- **M T Vasudevan Nair** has bagged this year's annual ONV Literary Prize, for his contributions to Malayalam literature.
- Balharshah and Chandrapur stations of **Nagpur** Division of Central Railway have won First Prize in the Awards for beautification of Station premises announced by Ministry of Railways.
- Dakota DC-3 VP 905 aircraft joined the Indian Air Force again, in an induction ceremony at Hindan air force station, Uttar Pradesh. It has been renamed as **Parashuram**.
- Scientists have said that, Tapanuli Orangutan, the rarest **ape** species on Earth, is on the verge of extinction.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, Indian javelin thrower finished fourth in the season-opening IAAF Diamond League, at the Qatar Sport Club, in Doha, Qatar.
- Dave Michener who died on 15th February 2018, due to a virus, at his residence in Los Angeles, United States, was an **Animator**.
- Department of Science & Technology (DST) celebrate its foundation day on **May 3**.
- The 'India and the world: a history in nine stories' exhibition held in **New Delhi**.
- A 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' was held at Huda Convention Centre in **Faridabad**.
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that, LPG penetration has reached 58.55 % by 1st May 2018, in **Odisha**.
- Aajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Melas were held in various parts of India as part of **Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized a Kaushal and Rojgar Mela at New Women's College in Khordha, **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- As per the Press Freedom Index released by Reporters without Borders' (RWB), India secured **138** rank in 2018.
- **Uropeltis bhupathyi**, the new snake species that has been discovered in the Anaikatty hills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- Saina Nehwal's get **10th** rank in women's ranking as per the latest rankings released by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) in New Delhi.
- Arun Date, who died on 6th May 2018, in Mumbai was a **Marathi** singer.
- An important peptide that can be used to create a new preventive vaccine against **leptospirosis** has been found out by researchers from the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Gandhinagar.
- **Israel** announced its withdrawal from the contest for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 2019-2020 term.
- Fiji's Indian-origin former Prime Minister **Mahendra Chaudhry** has been selected for the V K Krishna Menon Award for his contribution to the Indian diaspora.
- **Nokia** said that, it has acquired SpaceTime Insight, a California-based startup, to expand its Internet of Things (IoT) portfolio and IoT analytics capabilities.
- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** said that, it has developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites to measure clear-cut location data.
- Scientists have discovered a mineral named **Moganite**, in a lunar meteorite that points to abundant hidden reserves of water ice under the surface of the Moon, which can be used for future human exploration.
- Delhi Jal Board (DJB) approved its **Rs.5137-crore** annual budget, focusing on expansion of sewage and water supply networks in the uncovered areas.

- The 19th edition of TOONZ Animation Masters Summit held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- **India** will host the 15th Asia Media Summit from 10th to 12th May, 2018.
- **Madhya Pradesh** launched India's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state.
- **Maharashtra** Cabinet decided to provide **Rs.3** subsidy for every litre of milk to the co-operative and private producers to manufacture milk powder.
- The first edition of 2018 Bi-annual Naval Commander's Conference held in **New Delhi**.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the official '**NCBN**' (**Nara Chandrababu Naidu**) App in the Collector's conference held at Amaravati.
- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Anurag Thakur and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar launch 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' in **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The 71st Cannes Festival held in **France** from 8th to 19th May 2018.
- **Nikol Pashinyan** was elected as new prime minister of Armenia.
- Panasonic India has appointed **Manish Misra** as the Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) of its India business.
- **Nitin Bawankule** has been appointed as the country head for Google Cloud India.
- **Tim Paine** has been appointed as Australia's new ODI captain.
- World Cartoonist's Day was observed all over the world on **May 5**.
- The Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War observed on **May 8 and 9**.
- India launched auction for 9th city gas distribution (CGD) licensing round offering permits for selling compressed (CNG) and PNG. PNG - **Piped Natural Gas**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to **Delhi** government's proposed Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act.
- The 2018 World Robot Conference was held in **Beijing** from 15th to 19th August 2018.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced that a climate summit will be held in September 2019 in **New York** to review the Paris Agreement commitments.
- NASA announced its tie up with **Uber** to simulate flying taxis in urban areas in order to make flying cars a reality.
- **Carlos Alvarado** was sworn in as Costa Rica's 48th President.
- **Android Things**, Google's IoT platform that was launched recently.
- **China** successfully launched Gaofen-5, a hyper-spectral imaging satellite, as part of the country's high- resolution Earth observation project.
- Scientists at the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) of **Rajasthan** have come up with a new laparoscope-assisted insemination technique for sheep.
- NITI Aayog will announce the top 30 innovations of **Atal Tinkering Marathon** in Delhi.
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** inaugurated Arunachal Pradesh's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in Itanagar.
- A MoU was signed between **Gujarat** and the Poland government regarding the centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other regions of the world.

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a **Rs.945-crore** deal with **Harris Corporation** of the US for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.
- The Indian tea industry reached the highest ever production of **1,325.05 million kg** and export of 256.57 million kg during the financial year 2017-18.
- **Alibaba** announced that, it has bought Pakistani e-commerce firm Daraz.
- Yahoo has launched its own new group chat app named **Squirrel**.
- Astronomers have discovered an unusual, first of its kind, carbon-rich asteroid in the Kuiper Belt. It has been named as **2004 EW95**.
- The Delhi High Court issued an interim order restoring the ban on publication and sale of a book on **Ramdev**.
- Indian Navy is engaged in conducting a joint exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance of Maldives. For this purpose, Indian Navy has deployed Indian Naval (IN) ship **Sumedha** from 9th to 17th May 2018.
- India's longest road and Railway Bridge "Bogibeel Bridge" is expected to be inaugurated in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It links Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **YES Bank** has planned to launch a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its 'Livelihood and Water Security' CSR (Corporate social responsibility) initiative.
- **Munu Mahawar** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.
- **Rishabh Pant**, player of Delhi Daredevils scored 128*(63) against SunRisers Hyderabad and became the first Indian to reach the highest-ever score in the history of Indian Premier League.
- **Film editor** Anne V. Coates died in California, United States.
- Australia's oldest scientist **David Goodall** ended his own life at a clinic in Switzerland.
- **Hockey Punjab** has emerged as Champions of 8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2018.
- **Punjab** signed a MoU with United Kingdom for setting up of bio-gas and bio- Compressed natural gas (CNG) plants in the state.
- **Kerala** State Electricity Board (KSEB) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the NTPC for increasing solar power generation in the state.
- As per Credit rating agency Fitch, Indian economy is projected to grow at **7.3** percent in current fiscal i.e. 2018-19 and **7.5** percent in next fiscal.
- **Saumya Saxena, Ruchi Shah and Sushant Desai**, three Indian alumni of UK universities who have been awarded by the British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to the country.
- **Mohit Chauhan** has been nominated as the Green Ambassador of the Sikkim by Sikkim government.
- SpaceX launched its most powerful Falcon 9 rocket named **Block 5**, carrying the first high-orbit communications satellite for Bangladesh named "Bangabandhu Satellite-1" from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- A rock sample found eight years ago in Champua, in Kendujhar district of **Odisha** has been declared the world's second oldest rock.
- Ankit Chadha who died in an accident near Pune, Maharashtra, was a **Story-teller**.
- Theme of the World Migratory Bird Day was **Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation**.

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will offer **Rs.10** crore under corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to **Uttarakhand** for the widening of Gaurikund-Kedarnath trek route.
- **Continuous Economy committee** and **Estimate Committee** 30 members, they are constituted under the chairmanship of Mr.MuraliManohar Joshi.
- **Fino Payments Bank** has recently launched a digital services suite consisting of BPay app, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), BHIM app, net banking facility, a Digi Savings Account and FasTag.
- **Lata Mangeshkar** was presented the Swara Mouli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami in Mumbai.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Madhya Pradesh will be declared as open defecation free (ODF) by **October 2018**.
- The First workshop on Ayushman Bharat Program held in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the upgraded 4-lane NH-15 from Amritsar to Bhatinda and NH-64 from Zirakpur to Bhatinda in **Punjab**.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has decided to set up a centre at 'BHAROSA' in **Hyderabad**.
- **Roger Federer** has replaced Rafael Nadal as world no. 1 in the men's singles tennis ATP rankings published on May 14, 2018.
- **Simona Halep** topped the women's singles tennis, WTA rankings published on May 14, 2018.
- Renowned wildlife photographer **Latika Nath** unveiled her book 'Hidden India' in New Delhi.
- Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has said that the Botanic Garden of Indian Republic (BGIR) of **Noida**, will be developed as one of the most distinct botanic gardens with modern-day landscape.
- Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), **Allahabad** has started issuance of electronic-Pension Payment Orders (e-PPOs) to the pensioners.
- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has signed MoU with **Union Ministry of Mines**, setting highest ever target of **Rs.9350** crore revenue for financial year 2018-19.
- Shikdamakha, one of the cleanest villages in **Assam**, along with its neighboring hamlets - Bormarjong, Maulen, Amsai, Langarkhon has taken an initiative to create a rural tourism model.
- As per a report by Mercom Communications India, **India** has emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017.
- RBI has debarred **Allahabad Bank** from high-risk lending and has advised to reduce exposure to unrated and high-risk advances, which is under prompt corrective action (PCA) since January 2018.
- **World Bank** has agreed to provide a grant to Bangladesh for meeting the basic needs of around one million Rohingyas who fled their homeland Myanmar.
- Paytm introduced **My Payments**, an automatic recurring payments feature that lets users of Paytm app to pay for periodic recurring expenses automatically.
- Yes Bank and its think tank YES Global Institute have launched **Agenda 25x25**, aimed at creating a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.
- **Dr Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre** received the DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2016.
- **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak** has been chosen for the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to the development of Asia.
- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** was appointed the brand ambassador of Netmeds.
- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurate the 4th Global Exhibition on Services 2018 in **Mumbai**.

- India's first railway station run by solar power located in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced several development projects aggregating Rs 555 crore for the uplift and up-gradation of the border district of **Tarn Taran**.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Radha Mohan Singh** addressed the National Conference of Fisheries Ministers of Coastal states, in New Delhi.
- Smaller towns are driving growth for SBI Cards (a subsidiary of State Bank of India) which has been increasing its card numbers at a CAGR of **40%**.
- **Indore** has emerged as the cleanest Indian city in Government's Swachh Survekshan 2018.
- The former CEO of Allahabad Bank **Usha Ananthasubramanian** was moved out of the board and loses all her executive powers.
- The first National Para Games as part of National Games for able-bodied athletes be conducted in **Bengaluru** under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018.
- Himachal Pradesh State government will spend Rs.25 crore on renovating and developing the historic British era 'Bantony Castle Estate' in **Shimla** as a major tourist attraction.
- With an objective to conserve water, the Bhusawal Division of Indian Railways has fitted specially designed aerators in basin-taps of **Tejas Express**.
- **Gujarat** will be bearing medical expenses up to Rs.50,000 for each victim of road accident in the state for the first 48 hours.
- DAYNULM - **Deen Antodaya Yojna – National Urban Livelihood Mission**.
- The Delhi cabinet gave their approval for procuring **1000** CNG run standard floor buses under cluster scheme.
- The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs **M.J. Akbar** who was on an official visit to Austria and Slovak Republic from 15th to 17th May, 2018.
- **IIM Calcutta** said that it has received awards in the 2017 edition of the European Foundation of Management Development case competition.
- Indian academic and foreign policy analyst **C Raja Mohan** has been appointed as director of the Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of National University of Singapore.
- Scientists of **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** have founded that, India is one of the places where overuse of water resources has led to a serious decline in freshwater availability.
- Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu released two books namely 'A Treatise on Cleanliness' and 'Waste Management, an Introduction', written by **Rajat Bhargava**, in New Delhi.
- World AIDS Vaccination day also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day celebrated all over the world on **May 18**.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari meets **General (Retd.) Luhut Binser Pandjaitan**, Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs of Indonesia, in New Delhi.
- The Northeast Frontier Railway flagged off its first Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) that will be connecting the northeast to the **west coast**.
- State-run Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited (THCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Spicejet Merchandise Pvt Ltd to boost **pineapple** export.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin reshuffled his Cabinet; he has made **Dmitry Patrushev** as agriculture minister.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) held an emergency meeting to discuss on the outbreak of **Ebola** in Congo.
- **Dr. Guru N Reddy** was presented with the UK & Asia Inspirational Business Leaders Award in London, UK at the Assembly Hall, Westminster.
- The President of the United States Mr. Donald Trump nominated **Harry Harris** to be South Korean ambassador.
- OneSpace, a space startup based in **China** launched its OS-X rocket.
- National Aeronautics Space Association (NASA) spotted a Pac-Man shaped crater on **Mars**.
- **S R Menon**, Air Commodore who has been assumed as the command of Air Force Administrative College (AFAC).
- The chief minister of **Bihar** flagged off the 'Krishi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath' to create awareness among farmers about government schemes for them during Kharif season.
- Government of India's e-Visa scheme has fetched **Rs.1400 crore** as revenue.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister launched the first phase of a massive tree plantation initiative along **Rispana River** by initiating pit-digging work for the campaign.
- According to the Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations, 2018, notified by the **CBEC**, unique identity number Aadhaar and PAN is mandatory for persons seeking a customs broker licence.
- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has received environment clearance for the expansion and optimization of its petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of **Maharashtra**.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) announced that an LPG bottling plant is being set up in Balkhani, Balangir district in **Odisha**.
- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran** won the prestigious T.K. Ramanathan award for the year 2017-2018 at the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) annual day function at the SDAT tennis stadium.
- Scientists have created the world's smallest house that has been built on an area of **300** square micrometres, using a robotic system.
- A new study has stated that, emissions of a banned chemical most responsible for the giant **Antarctic** ozone hole are on the rise.
- **Birju Kishore Salla** has become the first person to be put on the 'National No Fly List' according to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal Khattar said that, 'Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana', developed for the safety of girl students will be launched in **Haryana**.
- Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design (UPID) launched **UPID** mobile app to help weavers in the state to market their products and come up with new design ideas.
- **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** extended \$300 million loan to EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) to scale up energy efficiency program.
- India's GDP for January-March 2017-18 has been expected at **7.4 %** by rating agency ICRA.
- **Asha Bhosle** was awarded the Banga Bibhushan by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at an event in Kolkata.
- Mr. Samaresh Parida and Mr. N Jambunathan were appointed independent directors on the board of **IDBI Bank**.
- **China** have scientists discovered a fossilised body piece of an extinct class of marine animal named Cystoidea or cystoids dating back to 400 million years ago.

- Scientists from Australian National University (ANU) have discovered a **4000** year old human cremation site along with pottery from the 12th or 13th century.
- **May 20** was the World Bee Day 2018, which is also the first World Bee Day celebrated.
- The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) plans to launch Americas Regional Office in **Brazil**.
- **Bank of Baroda** started major operations at GIFT city.
- **Bank Of Baroda** signed agreement with CDSL Commodity Repository (CCRL) for pledge finance under the repository ecosystem for registered / accredited warehouses.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will begin its operations in Nagayalanka block in Krishna District of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Partners Group** agreed to buy ownership stake in GlobalLogic from Funds advised by Apax Partners.
- **Adobe** Company announced its acquisition of Magento for USD 1.68 billion.
- Scientists have discovered the first interstellar immigrant, which is an asteroid named **(514107) 2015 BZ509**.
- Scientists have found out a drug named **PLX5622** that could prevent the brain damage caused by exposure to cosmic radiation.
- Commonwealth medal winner and Table Tennis Star Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu signed multi-year agreement with **IOS Sports**.
- **Harry Kane** was announced as England's captain at the World Cup in Russia.
- **Greenlight Planet** was recognized by Economic Times as the "Most Promising brand 2018".
- According to a Lancet study called "The Global Burden of Disease" India get **145th rank** among 195 countries in terms of health care access.
- **HDFC Bank** launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds in partnership with transfer agent CAMS.
- Ministry of Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MRVC. MRVC is expanded as **Mumbai** Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd.
- **S. D. Moorthy** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan.
- **SpaceX** launched two new Earth science satellites for NASA and five Iridium Next communications satellites into orbit.
- **Belinda Clark** has been made the women's cricket representative of International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee.
- Gujarati writer and humorist **Vinod Bhatt** passed away at his home after a long term illness, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- India gets **44th rank** in terms of competitiveness, in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- **Palestine** recently submitted its instrument of accession to Chemical Weapons Convention to European Union (EU) to join the world's chemical weapons watchdog.
- **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** was awarded the annual Mark Twain award for American Humor from John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts.
- **Mahendra Singh Kanyal** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname.

- **Pradeep kumar Gupta** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- **Tejaswini Sawant** won gold medal in the 50m rifle prone event in the Grand Prix in Munich.
- Theme of Commonwealth Day 2018 - **Towards a Common Future**.
- NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with **Sushant Singh Rajput**, to collaborate and support NITI's flagship initiative, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- The Union Minister of Human Resources and Development Mr. Prakash Javedekar launched the **Samagra Shiksha** scheme for providing education from pre-school till class 12.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of several projects of the Government of India and Government of Jharkhand, at an event in **Sindri**, Jharkhand.
- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated an Incubation centre and Food Testing Laboratory at NIFTEM in **Sonapat, Haryana**.
- Ministry of Culture organized the 9th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2018 in Tehri of **Uttarakhand**.
- The e-Way Bill system for intra-State movement of goods was implemented for **Maharashtra**, Manipur and Union Territories (without legislature).
- **India** has been listed as one of the top three target countries for Phishing and malware-based attacks as per the RSA Quarterly Fraud Report for the period from January 1 to March 31, 2018.
- United States President Donald Trump awarded a Medal of Honor to retired Master Chief Special Warfare Operator **Britt K. Slabinski**, at the White House, United States.
- **Nima Jangmu Sherpa** became the only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal above 8,000 meters in one season within 25 days.
- Vice Admiral GS Pabby, AVSM, VSM, Chief of Materiel commissioned **IN LCU L54** into the Indian Navy at Port Blair.
- **Steve Smith**, the former Australia captain, who was banned due to ball tampering issue, will make a comeback through the inaugural Global T20 Canada event that starts on 28th June 2018.
- **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)** has become the 'first' civic body in India to generate solar energy, selling surplus power.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the 2400MW first phase of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in **Jharkhand**.
- ICICI bank launched its innovation lab for digital business. As a part of the process the bank has acquired fintech **Signzy**.
- Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)'s central board of trustees headed by ministry of Labour has approved **8.55%** interest on PF for 2017-18.
- Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC) have launched a 40 day long cancer screening program and awareness initiative on harmful effects of **tobacco** consumption.
- The boards of Max Financial Services and Max Life Insurance appointed **Sachil Vachani** as the Director.
- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished **6th** in the Diamond League Series third leg with a below-par effort of 80.81m.
- **Lt Gen Zorawar Chand Bakshi**, also known as Zoru Bakshi passed away in New Delhi.
- MobiKwik announced the launch of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its platform through its own Virtual payment address (VPA) handle **@ikwik**.

- The Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) decided to cut its administrative charges by **0.5%**.
- **Ramesh Chand Meena** was elected as the Chairperson of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED).
- The Uber cup (badminton) held at Bangkok was won by **Japan** women team.
- **Akshay Kumar** launched the campaign in the capital for promoting the twin pit toilet technology in Rural India.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Digital Art Gallery of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in **Jakhauli, Haryana**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** Government will promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System.
- The Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh** Launched a week long 'Polythene Hatao, Paryavaran Bachao Campaign'.
- India, US and **Japan** will take part in Malabar exercise in Guam.
- **Qatar** announced that it was banning products from United Arab Emirates (UAE) , Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is joining hands with **Bharat Sanchar Nigam** for sending extreme weather warnings.
- SECI was named as the Nodal Agency to set up 2.5 GW Wind Solar hybrids Project by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. SECI - **Solar Energy Corporation of India**.
- **Ali Jahangir Siddiqui** will take Charge as the Pakistan's Ambassador to US.
- **Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** has taken charge as the Prime Minister of Guinea.
- Madala Ranga Rao Passed away. He was an Actor and Producer of **Telugu** films.

THE CHENNAI SCHOOL OF BANKING



CURRENT AFFAIRS: MAY-2018

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. The 2018 World Athletics Day (WAD) is observed on which date?
(1) May 5 (2) May 6 (3) May 7 (4) May 8 (5) None of these
2. What is the theme of 2018 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)?
(1) Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All
(2) Big data for big impact
(3) ICT entrepreneurship for social impact
(4) Reduce digital divide
(5) None of these
3. What is the theme of the 2018 International Museum Day (IMD)?
(1) Museums for peace and harmony in society
(2) Behind the scenes in museums
(3) Hyper connected museums: New approaches, new publics
(4) Museums and Cultural Landscapes
(5) None of these
4. Which state government has launched 'Go To Village' Mission?
(1) Mizoram (2) Nagaland (3) Manipur (4) Tripura (5) None of these
5. Which state government will launch the 'Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana' to ensure safety of girl students?
(1) Jharkhand (2) Manipur (3) Assam (4) Haryana (5) None of these
6. The Madhya Pradesh government has launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal' as part of which programme to provide jobs to youths?
(1) Pahal (2) Udaan (3) Saveri (4) Ujjala (5) None of these
7. The 9th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' has started in which state?
(1) Karnataka (2) Uttarakhand (3) Gujarat (4) MP (5) None of these
8. Which state government has announced a unique scheme to provide life insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh per farmer in the state?
(1) Telangana (2) Karnataka (3) Odisha (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
9. Which state government has launched the 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana' to promote organic farming?
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Karnataka (3) Punjab
(4) Assam (5) None of these
10. Which state government has submitted a Devika river rejuvenation project to the Union Government for approval?
(1) Uttarakhand (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Punjab
(4) Jammu & Kashmir (5) None of these
11. Which city hosted the national workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database?
(1) Bhopal (2) Surat (3) Udaipur (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
12. Which city is hosting the 4th edition of Vibrant North East 2018?
(1) New Delhi (2) Guwahati (3) Shillong (4) Agartala (5) None of these

13. The 3rd edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) has inaugurated in which city?
 (1) Chennai (2) Indore (3) New Delhi (4) Kanpur (5) None of these
14. Which country to host the 2018 meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and precursor Chemicals?
 (1) Nepal (2) India (3) Thailand (4) Bhutan (5) None of these
15. Which city to host the main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations (IDY-2018)?
 (1) Dehradun (2) New Delhi (3) Nagpur (4) Pune (5) None of these
16. Deepak Joshi, who has been promoted to the FIH Promising List (Outdoor Hockey) umpires, is related to which state?
 (1) Haryana (2) Gujarat (3) Uttarakhand (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
17. Who has become only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal above 8,000 meters in single climbing season?
 (1) Nima Jangmu Sherpa (2) Rojita Buddhacharya (3) Rosha Basnet
 (4) Deuralee Chamling (5) None of these
18. Which of the following is the China's first home-built aircraft carrier that recently started sea trials?
 (1) Type 003A (2) Type 007A (3) Type 005A (4) Type 001A (5) None of these
19. The military exercise of Indian Army "Gandiv Vijay 2018" was concluded in which state?
 (1) Punjab (2) Rajasthan (3) HP (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
20. The 15th Finance Commission has constituted an Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission. It will be headed by whom?
 (1) Neelkanth Mishra (2) Sanjeev Gupta (3) Surjit S. Bhalla
 (4) Arvind Virmani (5) None of these
21. The Parliamentary panel to study the recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks for 2018-19. The panel will be headed by whom?
 (1) Shashi Tharoor (2) Arun Jaitley (3) L. K. Advani
 (4) Murali Manohar Joshi (5) None of these
22. Which eminent personality will chair the panel discussion on 'Future of Governance'?
 (1) J Satyanarayana (2) B N Srikrishna (3) R C Lahoti
 (4) Ajit Doval (5) None of these
23. The Government of India (GoI) has launched which nationwide Karyashala for farmer outreach as part of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan?
 (1) Kisan Kalyan Karyashala (2) Krishi Jyoti Karyashala (3) Kisan Jyoti Karyashala
 (4) Krishi Kalyan Karyashala (5) None of these
24. The GOBAR-DHAN scheme has launched from which state to promote wealth and energy from waste?
 (1) UP (2) Punjab (3) MP (4) Haryana (5) None of these
25. The sports initiative 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' has launched from which state?
 (1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Uttar Pradesh
 (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these

26. Which IIM institute has launched \$25million Bharat Inclusion Initiative for startups?
 (1) IIM-Delhi (2) IIM-Indore (3) IIM-Calcutta (4) IIM-Ahmedabad (5) None of these
27. Which state government has recently introduced a new scheme to help the landless laborers among the Scheduled Castes to acquire agricultural land?
 (1) Goa (2) Gujarat (3) Uttar Pradesh (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
28. Which International organization has launched 'data visualization app' to provide a user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of the education scenario in India?
 (1) FAO (2) WHO (3) UNICEF (4) UNESCO (5) None of these
29. Which Bollywood personality has launched the twin pit toilet technology ad campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)?
 (1) Bhumi Pednekar (2) Akshay Kumar (3) Aamir Khan
 (4) Amitabh Bacchan (5) None of these
30. The first-ever India-South Africa Business Summit (ISABS - 2018) was held in which city?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Johannesburg (3) Pretoria
 (4) Cape Town (5) None of these
31. The 19th edition of TOONZ Animation Masters Summit 2018 was held in which state?
 (1) Tamil Nadu (2) Kerala (3) Maharashtra (4) Telangana (5) None of these
32. Which country to host the 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018)?
 (1) Philippines (2) Singapore (3) Malaysia (4) India (5) None of these
33. The bi-annual Naval Commander's Conference will be held in which city?
 (1) Kolkata (2) Pune (3) Chennai (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
34. What is the theme of the 15th edition of the Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018)?
 (1) Asia - Stories of Pride
 (2) Telling our Stories- Asia and More
 (3) Growing Inspiring Stories of Asia
 (4) Covering Stories: Asia and the World
 (5) None of these
35. Which city is hosting the 6th US-India Aviation Summit 2018?
 (1) Mumbai (2) New Delhi (3) Ranchi (4) Pune (5) None of these
36. Which city hosted the first-ever joint conference of Indian Customs and Department of India Posts?
 (1) Kochi (2) Pune (3) Bangalore (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
37. Which Intellectual Property (IP) mascot has been launched at the conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi?
 (1) IP Dadi (2) IP Neni (3) IP Nani (4) IP Dada (5) None of these
38. Which state government has submitted a Devika river rejuvenation project to the Union Government for approval?
 (1) Uttarakhand (2) Punjab (3) HP (4) Jammu & Kashmir (5) None of these
39. The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) has signed a MoU with MSME Ministry for FY 2018-19. Where is the headquarters of NSIC?
 (1) Kochi (2) Patna (3) New Delhi (4) Ahmedabad (5) None of these

40. India and Peru have recently signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. Who is the Prime Minister of Peru?
 (1) Cesar Villanueva Arevalo (2) Ollanta Humala (3) Mercedes Araoz
 (4) Rene Cornejo (5) None of these
41. Which Indian organization has recently signed a pact with ABB India to benefit country from AI & robotics?
 (1) TRAI (2) ISRO (3) NITI Aayog (4) DRDO (5) None of these
42. Which union ministry has signed MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Government for management of Widows' Home in Vrindavan?
 (1) Ministry of Home Affairs
 (2) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 (3) Ministry of Rural Development
 (4) Ministry of Women and Child Development
 (5) None of these
43. The 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue 2018 was held in which city?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Bangalore (3) Chennai (4) Kochi (5) None of these
44. Which country hosted the 12th informal meeting of SAARC finance Ministers?
 (1) Malaysia (2) Myanmar (3) Philippines (4) India (5) None of these
45. The 2018 BRICS Ministerial on Environment has agreed to include which Indian societal movement in its official agenda?
 (1) Green Peace (2) Green Your Future (3) Green Good Deeds
 (4) Green Village (5) None of these
46. Google.org has granted how much amount of fund for teacher training and educational content creation in India?
 (1) \$2.5 million (2) \$4.0 million (3) \$3.5 million (4) \$3.0 million (5) None of these
47. What is the India's GDP growth rate for 2018-19, as per latest economic data by Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
 (1) 7.3% (2) 7.6% (3) 7.0% (4) 7.2% (5) None of these
48. What will be India's economic growth rate in FY19, as per Fitch's second-quarter Sovereign Credit Overview for Asia Pacific region?
 (1) 7.5% (2) 7.3% (3) 7.4% (4) 7.6% (5) None of these
49. The 12th edition of the bilateral border trade between India and China has resumed through which border post?
 (1) Shipkila (2) Khardung La (3) Nathu La (4) Lipulekh (5) None of these
50. The world's second oldest rock has discovered from which district of Odisha?
 (1) Kendujhar (2) Nuapada (3) Cuttack (4) Kendrapara (5) None of these
51. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently validated Nepal for having eliminated from which disease as a public health problem?
 (1) Polio (2) Trachoma (3) Diabetes (4) Tuberculosis (5) None of these
52. India's first national sports university will come up in which state?
 (1) Assam (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Manipur (4) Sikkim (5) None of these

53. Which movie has won the best film award "Palme d'Or" at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival?
(1) Shoplifters (2) Ayka (3) Cold War (4) Dogman (5) None of these
54. Which state to host the International Children's Theatre Festival 2018?
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) West Bengal (3) Madhya Pradesh
(4) Kerala (5) None of these
55. Which city to host the 5th edition of Kalinga literary festival 2018?
(1) Kalahandi (2) Bhubaneswar (3) Cuttack (4) Paradip (5) None of these
56. Which city is hosting the ASEAN India Film Festival 2018?
(1) Pune (2) New Delhi (3) Kochi (4) Mumbai (5) None of these
57. Who has become the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)?
(1) Nikunj Srivastav (2) Sitanshu Kar (3) Varsha Suri
(4) Devesh Chaturvedi (5) None of these
58. Which Indian-American personality has been appointed as the interim judge to a US civil court of New York City?
(1) Krishna Kaur (2) Priyanka Jain (3) Deepa Ambekar
(4) Jeeva Singh (5) None of these
59. Who has been appointed the new Cabinet Secretary of India?
(1) Pradeep Kumar Sinha (2) Ajit Seth (3) Hasmukh Adhia
(4) K. M. Chandrasekhar (5) None of these
60. Who has been sworn-in as the new President of Costa Rica?
(1) Fabricio Alvarado Munoz (2) Carlos Alvarado (3) Epsy Campbell Barr
(4) Luis Guillermo Solís (5) None of these
61. Who has been appointed as the country head for Google Cloud business in India?
(1) Mohit Pande (2) Nitin Bawankule (3) Roopa Thakur
(4) Shilpa Mathur (5) None of these
62. Who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?
(1) Ashish Bahuguna (2) Pawan Kumar Agarwal (3) K S Sharma
(4) Nidhi Tiwari (5) None of these
63. The Sikkim government has nominated which Bollywood personality as the Green Ambassador of the state?
(1) Shreya Ghoshal (2) Atif Aslam (3) Mohit Chauhan
(4) Sonu Nigam (5) None of these
64. Which Indian American personality has become the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon in the western US State?
(1) Akhil Amar (2) Susheela Jayapal (3) Satya N. Atluri
(4) Mahzarin Banaji (5) None of these
65. Who has been nominated as new Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)?
(1) Iajuddin Ahmed (2) Zafar Sareshwala (3) Jusuf Kalla
(4) Firoz Bakht Ahmed (5) None of these

66. Dilip Tirkey, who is the newly appointed chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC), is the former player of which sports?
 (1) Wrestling (2) Cricket (3) Hockey (4) Boxing (5) None of these
67. Who has been elected as Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC)?
 (1) Himanta Biswa Sarma (2) Devender Singh (3) Omar Rashid
 (4) Ajay Kumar Singhania (5) None of these
68. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi?
 (1) M L Srivastava (2) P Krishna Setty (3) N K Jaishankar
 (4) Uttam Pacharne (5) None of these
69. Who has been appointed as the full time Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited?
 (1) Anil Kumar Jha (2) Sutirtha Bhattacharya (3) Gopal Singh
 (4) Suresh Kumar (5) None of these
70. Which Bollywood personality to promote NITI Aayog's 'Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)'?
 (1) Deepika Padukone (2) Aamir Khan (3) Priyanka Chopra
 (4) Sushant Singh Rajput (5) None of these
71. Who has become the first female Prime Minister of the Caribbean island of Barbados?
 (1) Sonia Browne (2) Mia Mottley (3) Marsha Caddle
 (4) Santia Bradshaw (5) None of these
72. Who has been elected as the new President of Indian Journalists Union (IJU)?
 (1) Amar Devulapalli (2) Sabina Inderjit (3) S N Sinha
 (4) K Sreenivas Reddy (5) None of these
73. Who has been appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)?
 (1) Geeta Shrivastav (2) Manoj Malhotra (3) Pankaj Saran
 (4) Nikunj Khanna (5) None of these
74. Guruji Ravinder Sharma, the renowned artist-philosopher has passed away. He belonged to which state?
 (1) Telangana (2) Kerala (3) MP (4) UP (5) None of these
75. Arun Date, the veteran singer has passed away. He was associated with which language?
 (1) Marathi (2) Tamil (3) Telugu (4) Odia (5) None of these
76. Rajinder Pal, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?
 (1) Tennis (2) Football (3) Cricket (4) Badminton (5) None of these
77. Anne V Coates, the Oscar-winning film editor has passed away. She belonged to which country?
 (1) England (2) Italy (3) Germany (4) France (5) None of these
78. Kalasala Babu, the noted Malayalam film-theatre actor has passed away. He belonged to which state?
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Telangana (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these
79. Balakumaran, the veteran novelist has passed away. He belonged to which state?
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Karnataka (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these

80. Jivya Soma Mashe, the noted tribal artist has passed away. He belonged to which state?
 (1) Tamil Nadu (2) Telangana (3) Maharashtra (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these
81. Yamunabai Waikar, the acclaimed Lavani singer has passed away. She belonged to which state?
 (1) Gujarat (2) Goa (3) Maharashtra (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
82. Raghuvir Singh, who passed away recently, was the freedom fighter from which district of Uttar Pradesh?
 (1) Azamgarh (2) Etawah (3) Jaunpur (4) Muzaffarnagar (5) None of these
83. Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani, the veteran writer & novelist has passed away. She was associated with which literary language?
 (1) Telugu (2) Malayalam (3) Hindi (4) Odia (5) None of these
84. Geeta Kapoor, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?
 (1) Sports (2) Journalism (3) Politics (4) Film Industry (5) None of these
85. Alan Bean, who was the 4th man to walk on the Moon has passed away. He was an astronaut from which country?
 (1) Russia (2) Germany (3) France (4) United States (5) None of these
86. Who has won the 'Miss Koovagam 2018' beauty pageant title?
 (1) Sukanyeah (2) Amita (3) Mubina (4) Nirjara (5) None of these
87. Who has been named the Football Writers' Association (FWA) Footballer of the Year for 2017-18?
 (1) Cristiano Ronaldo (2) Lionel Messi (3) Kevin De Bruyne
 (4) Mohamed Salah (5) None of these
88. Which Indian American professor has received a grant of \$1.6M by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to protect kidneys from obesity?
 (1) Tahir Hussain (2) Vinayak Pandit (3) Sri Pal Sandhu
 (4) Girish Pandey (5) None of these
89. Who has been conferred with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018?
 (1) Dalai Lama (2) Alejandro Toledo (3) R. N. Dash
 (4) Muhammad Yunus (5) None of these
90. Which Bollywood personality has been honored with the Swara Mauli award?
 (1) Jeetendra (2) Lata Mangeshkar (3) Amitabh Bachchan
 (4) Sridevi (5) None of these
91. Who has been chosen for the 2018 RedInk award for lifetime achievement in journalism?
 (1) Faye D'Souze (2) Boris Johnson (3) William Mark Tully
 (4) Hu Shuli (5) None of these
92. Which Indian personality has been honored with the 2018 Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan?
 (1) Narendra Modi (2) Manmohan Singh (3) Nita Ambani
 (4) Bindeshwar Pathak (5) None of these
93. Who has been honored with a LMA special achievement award by England's League Managers Association (LMA)?
 (1) Udanta Singh (2) John Gregory (3) Albert Roca
 (4) Eugeneseon Lyngdoh (5) None of these

94. Who has been honored with the 2018 Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar?
 (1) Ruchi Sharma (2) Manisha Gulyani (3) Anindita Anaam
 (4) Anupam Rai (5) None of these
95. Who has been honored with the DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2017?
 (1) Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre (2) G Satheesh Reddy (3) S Christopher
 (4) V K Saraswat (5) None of these
96. Which Indian iron ore mining company has bagged the 2018 S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award in CSR category in London?
 (1) Steel Authority of India
 (2) National Mineral Development Corporation
 (3) Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd
 (4) Essel Mining & Industries Limited
 (5) None of these
97. Prajnesh Gunneswaran, who has won the T.K. Ramanathan award for the year 2017-18, is associated with which sports?
 (1) Boxing (2) Tennis (3) Badminton (4) Hockey (5) None of these
98. Which Indian charity has won the Charity Clarity award for Outstanding Impact at the 3rd annual Asian Voice Charity Awards in London?
 (1) Road To Freedom (2) Milind Foundation (3) Jagriti Yatra
 (4) Cleft Lip and Palate Association (5) None of these
99. Which IIT institute has won the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Academic Institutions category?
 (1) IIT Delhi (2) IIT Indore (3) IIT Bombay (4) IIT Kolkata (5) None of these
100. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognized which Indian airport as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport?
 (1) Indira Gandhi International Airport
 (2) Goa International Airport
 (3) Cochin International Airport Ltd
 (4) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
 (5) None of these
101. Who has become the first Indian to be honored with the Linnean Medal in Botany?
 (1) Sharachandra Lele (2) Kamaljit S. Bawa (3) R Siddappa Setty
 (4) P S Mathur (5) None of these
102. Which Indian cartoonist has won the international award in the best caricature category at the 2018 World Press Cartoon awards?
 (1) Chackalethu John Yesudass (2) Aseem Trivedi (3) Thomas Antony
 (4) Satish Acharya (5) None of these
103. Anikta Raina, who has been included in the Government of India (GoI)'s Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), is associated with which sports?
 (1) Boxing (2) Tennis (3) Badminton (4) Wrestling (5) None of these
104. Who has won the 2018 Azerbaijan Formula 1 Grand Prix tournament?
 (1) Lewis Hamilton (2) Daniel Ricciardo (3) Sebastian Vettel
 (4) Kimi Raikkonen (5) None of these

105. Which Indian squash player has won the 2018 Abu Dhabi Open squash title?
(1) Cyrus Poncha (2) Harinder Pal Sandhu (3) Ramit Tandon
(4) Mahesh Mangaonkar (5) None of these
106. Which Indian table tennis player has officially signed with German Bundesliga's top division club ASV Grunwettersbach Tischtennis?
(1) Anthony Amalraj (2) G. Soumyajit Ghosh (3) G Sathiyam
(4) Kamlesh Mehta (5) None of these
107. Which Indian shooter has won gold in the women's 10m air pistol event at the International Shooting Competitions of Hannover in Germany?
(1) P Shri Nivetha (2) Manu Bhaker (3) Apurvi Chandela
(4) Heena Sidhu (5) None of these
108. Which country's hockey team has won the 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2018?
(1) Myanmar (2) India (3) China (4) South Korea (5) None of these
109. Who has become the champion of the 3rd Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament?
(1) Srinath Narayanan (2) Dibyendu Barua (3) Shyam Sundar M
(4) Deep Sengupta (5) None of these
110. Which country's team has clinched the 2018 Uber Cup, the Women's World Badminton Championship?
(1) Japan (2) Thailand (3) China (4) South Korea (5) None of these
111. Who has been named the Most Valuable Player in the 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL-11)?
(1) Rishabh Pant (2) Shane Watson (3) Sunil Narine
(4) Kiwi Trent Boult (5) None of these
112. Who has won the girls' singles title at the All India Junior U-19 badminton tournament 2018?
(1) Aakarshi Kashyap (2) S Kavipriya (3) Srithi Jupudi
(4) Mrinal Podile (5) None of these
113. What is the India's rank in the list of doping violations, as per latest report of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)?
(1) 9th (2) 6th (3) 5th (4) 8th (5) None of these
114. What is the India's rank at the 2018 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index?
(1) 8th (2) 5th (3) 16th (4) 11th (5) None of these
115. What is the India's rank in the Lowy Institute Asia-Pacific Power Index?
(1) 5th (2) 7th (3) 6th (4) 4th (5) None of these
116. Which country has become the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017, as per report 'RemitSCOPE - Remittance markets and opportunities - Asia and the Pacific'?
(1) Bangladesh (2) Philippines (3) India (4) Vietnam (5) None of these
117. NITI Aayog has collaborated with which company to develop precision agriculture using Artificial Intelligence?
(1) Tata (2) IBM (3) Reliance (4) Infosys (5) None of these

118. The 2018 Venture Capital Symposium was organized by NITI Aayog to deepen the economic relationships between India and which country?
(1) South Africa (2) France (3) Germany (4) Italy (5) None of these
119. India and Guatemala has recently agreed to support each other for Non-permanent membership of UNSC. Guatemala will support India's candidature for which year?
(1) 2022-23 (2) 2023-24 (3) 2021-22 (4) 2020-21 (5) None of these
120. The Union Cabinet has recently approved USOF to provide mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas. What does "USOF" stands for?
(1) Universal Service Obligation Fund
(2) Universal Service Offering Fund
(3) Universal Service Oak Fund
(4) Universal Service Opacity Fund
(5) None of these
121. Who is the author of the book "Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System"?
(1) Sachin Singh Rawat (2) Gyan Bhushan (3) Bipin Rawat
(4) Birender Singh Dhanoa (5) None of these

Check your Ans: 1-3, 2-1, 3-3, 4-3, 5-4, 6-1, 7-2, 8-1, 9-1, 10-4, 11-4, 12-2, 13-3, 14-1, 15-1, 16-3, 17-1, 18-4, 19-2, 20-4, 21-4, 22-2, 23-1, 24-4, 25-1, 26-4, 27-4, 28-3, 29-2, 30-2, 31-2, 32-4, 33-4, 34-2, 35-1, 36-4, 37-3, 38-4, 39-3, 40-1, 41-3, 42-4, 43-1, 44-3, 45-3, 46-4, 47-1, 48-2, 49-3, 50-1, 51-2, 52-3, 53-1, 54-2, 55-2, 56-2, 57-2, 58-3, 59-1, 60-2, 61-2, 62-2, 63-3, 64-2, 65-4, 66-3, 67-1, 68-4, 69-1, 70-4, 71-2, 72-1, 73-3, 74-1, 75-1, 76-3, 77-1, 78-1, 79-2, 80-3, 81-3, 82-4, 83-1, 84-4, 85-4, 86-3, 87-4, 88-1, 89-4, 90-2, 91-3, 92-4, 93-2, 94-3, 95-4, 96-2, 97-2, 98-3, 99-3, 100-3, 101-2, 102-3, 103-2, 104-1, 105-3, 106-3, 107-4, 108-4, 109-1, 110-1, 111-3, 112-1, 113-2, 114-4, 115-4, 116-3, 117-2, 118-2, 119-3, 120-1, 121-2.

