

GENERAL AWARENESS–CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF JULY-2018

List of Important Days

- July 1** - National Doctors' Day
- July 2** - World Sports Journalists Day
- July 4** - Independence Day of United States
- July 6** - World Zoonosis (also spelled zoönosis and zoonoses) Day
- July 7** - Global Forgiveness Day
- July 7** - World Chocolate Day
- July 10** - Bahamas Independence Day
- July 11** - World Population Day (Theme - “Family Planning is Human Right”)
- July 15** - World Youth Skills Day (Theme - “Improving the image of TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)”)
- July 17** - World Day for International Justice (International Justice Day)
- July 17** - World Emoji Day
- July 18** - Nelson Mandela International Day
- July 23** - National Broadcasting Day
- July 26** - 19th Kargil Victory Day (Kargil Vijay Diwas)
- July 28** - World Hepatitis Day (Theme - “Test. Treat. Hepatitis”)
- July 29** - International Tiger Day
- July 30** - World Day against Trafficking in Persons
(Theme - “Responding to the trafficking of children and young people”)

Reserve Bank of India

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a license to **Bank of China** to operate in **India**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that the license of **Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank** in Alwar, **Rajasthan** has been **cancelled** as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons.
- The **Finance Ministry** has conveyed to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** that it has no objection to allowing the **Tehran-based Bank Pasargad** to open its branch in **India**.
 - Apart from the Iranian Bank, branch license proposals of two South Korean banks, **KEB Hana Bank** and **Kookmin Bank**, have also been approved by the Centre.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that it is going to issue new **Rs.100 denomination banknotes** in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series with **lavender** color.
 - The new denomination has the motif of Gujarat's archaeological site 'Rani ki vav' on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
 - Dimension of the new banknote will be **66 mm × 142 mm**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has decided to **block transactions** made within the **same account** using **different UPI IDs**, effective August 1.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the licenses of as many as 35 **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.
- **Commercial banks in India** will no longer be able to transact in **cryptocurrencies** like **Bitcoin** from in view of an **RBI directive** in April.

State Bank of India

- India's 2nd largest credit card issuer, **SBI Card** announced the launch of a **virtual assistant** for customer support and services titled 'ELA' (Electronic Live Assistant).
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** are planning to introduce a performance-linked salary structure for the senior management.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** hiked its **Fixed Deposit (FD)** interest rates for select tenures.

Other Banks

- Indian banking and financial services company **HDFC Bank** has gone past **Russia's Sberbank** to become the **most valuable bank** in the emerging market **outside China**.
 - HDFC Bank's current market capitalization is **\$78.4 billion** against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion.
 - There are **four** lenders from India that now rank among the **world's 500 most valuable companies**.
 - HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC)**, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- The government has approved **extension of recapitalization scheme** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** for next three years up to **2019-20** with an aim to strengthen their lending capacity.
 - "This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of **9 per cent**," the Cabinet said in a statement.
- India's third largest private-sector bank **Axis Bank** announced it has recommended the names of **three** candidates for the **CEO's** post for approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - The candidate as approved by the RBI, will succeed **Shikha Sharma**, who's term as MD and CEO of the bank, is due to expire on December 31.
- **NABARD** was celebrating its **36th Foundation Day** on July 12.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** received the requisite approvals from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to resume taking new customers.
- **Andhra Bank** has filed a **bankruptcy petition** against apparel retailer **Provogue India** at the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** for non-payment of dues.
 - A group of lenders led by Andhra Bank acquired a 51% stake in Provogue India by swapping debt into equity in 2016.
- The **Finance Ministry** approved infusion of **Rs.11,336 crore** in 5 **state-owned lenders** namely **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, **Allahabad Bank**, **Corporation Bank**, **Andhra Bank** and **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.
 - As per the approval, the Nirav Modi Scam hit **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** is going to get the highest amount of Rs 2,816 crore out, followed by **Allahabad Bank**, which is going to get Rs 1,790 crore.
 - **Andhra Bank** is going to get Rs.2019 crore, and **Indian Overseas Bank** will get Rs.2,157 crore followed by **Corporation Bank** – Rs 2,555 crore.

Insurance

- The **Health Ministry** has clarified it's **not mandatory** for beneficiaries to submit **Aadhaar details** for seeking **Rs.5-lakh health insurance** under the **Ayushman Bharat scheme**, which is also known as 'Modicare'.
- The board of **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** gave its approval to buy up to **51% stake** in public sector lender **IDBI Bank**.
 - LIC's stake buy will help the debt-ridden state-owned bank get a capital support of **Rs.10000-13,000 crore**.

Supreme Court

- The **Supreme Court** upheld the **death penalty** for the convicts of the **2012 Nirbhaya gangrape case**, after hearing a review petition seeking reduction of sentence.
- The Supreme Court ordered that the **Third-party insurance** for a term of **three years** will be mandatory for **Cars** being sold from September 1.
 - The apex court also ruled that **third-party insurance** for a period of **five years** will be mandatory for **two-wheelers**.

High Courts and Sessions Courts

- The **Uttarakhand** high court has declared the entire **Animal Kingdom**, including birds and aquatic animals, as a **legal entity** having rights of a “**living person**”.
- **Madras High Court** has ruled that mentioning **father's name** in **birth certificates** is optional.

Election Commission

- The **Election Commission of India** has launched a mobile application titled “**cVIGIL**” to enable citizens to report any **violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** during **elections**.

Central Government

- The government is celebrating July 1st as '**GST Day**' as the indirect tax regime completes one year.
- The Centre approved the raise in **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for **kharif crops** in line with its budget announcement to ensure that farmers get at least **1.5 times** of the production cost.
 - The MSP for **paddy** has been hiked to around **Rs.1,750** per quintal from previous year's Rs.1,550 and **corn** increased to **Rs.1,700** from Rs.1,131.
- The government has proposed to create a **special group** to keep a check on **e-commerce platforms** like Flipkart and Amazon India so that the foreign investment policy is not violated.
- The government indicated that **25%** of the **ATMs** run by state-owned banks may be **vulnerable** to fraud as they are running on **outdated software**.
- The Union Government has reduced minimum yearly deposit required under popular girl child savings scheme, **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** to **Rs 250** from **Rs 1,000** earlier.
 - In this regard, Government has amended **Sukanya Samriddhi Account Rules, 2016**.

States

- **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** announced that the first '**Khadi mall**' of India will be opened in the state soon.
- **Punjab** Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** announced that the government has decided to seek **Death Penalty** for **drug peddling and smuggling**.
- The **Rajasthan** government announced **1% reservations** for five communities– **Gujjar, Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Raika, and Gadariya**– under the **Most Backward Classes (MBC)** category.
- With an aim to improve **health of school children**, **Rajasthan** Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** launched a scheme titled '**Annapura milk distribution scheme**' to **provide milk** to the students of class 1 to 8.
- **Delhi** CM **Arvind Kejriwal** along with the spiritual leader **Dalai Lama** launched a '**Happiness Curriculum**' for students studying in **Class Nursery to Class 8** in government schools.
- **Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL)**, **Assam** has become first oil Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in India to adopt an **online legal compliance system** by introducing '**Legatrix**'.
- **Punjab** Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** has ordered a **mandatory dope test** for **all government employees**, including police personnel, from the time of their recruitment through every stage of their service. Drug screening will be mandatory in cases of promotions, and also be a part of annual medical examinations.

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has announced a **ban on plastic in the state** effective **July 15**, days after **Maharashtra** announced a plastic ban from June 23.
- In a bid to cut costs incurred by the state government, the **West Bengal** chief minister **Mamata Banerjee** set a “**one person one car**” policy for ministers and bureaucrats and mandated economy class for all domestic air travel.
- The **Himachal Pradesh** government has banned the use and sale of **Thermocol Cutlery** including cups, plates, glasses, spoons or any other item in the state.
- The **Punjab government** has announced that it is going to provide **Rs.5 lakh** to every village that turns free of drugs to purchase sports and gym equipment for the youth.
- **Gujarat** Government has granted **religious minority status** to **Jews** living in the state.
 - With this, Gujarat becomes the **third** state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after **West Bengal** and **Maharashtra**.
- **Odisha** government ordered a **ban** on the use of **plastic bags** and **single-use plastic** in the state starting from **October 2**.
 - The ban will be imposed in **Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Berhampur** and **Sambalpur** municipal corporations and **Puri** town in the first phase.
- **Himachal Pradesh** CM **Jairam Thakur** announced a **Rs.1.55-crore** project to set up a **cow sanctuary** at **Kotla Barog**.
- To reduce **air pollution** in the city, the **Delhi** Cabinet approved the engagement of 1,000 low-floor environment-friendly **electric buses**.
- Drawing inspiration from the highly-successful 'Amma' canteens in Tamil Nadu, the **Andhra Pradesh government** launched its own '**Anna**' canteens across the state.
- The **Haryana** government has announced that the individuals accused of **Rape** and **Molestation** will be **barred** from **government services** including losing their **driving and arms licenses** and **old-age pension** till their trial is completed.
- The **Uttarakhand** government has announced that it will make provisions for awarding **death penalty** to rapists of **minor girls**.
 - Currently, **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana** have approved death penalty for rapists of girls aged up to 12.
- **Maharashtra** Food Supplies Minister **Ravindra Chavan** announced that people will be allowed to **carry food items** along with them in **cinema halls** and **multiplexes** in the state.
- In a first of its kind initiative, the **Madhya Pradesh** state govt. is going to appoint **Girls** as a **District Brand Ambassador** who has recorded significant achievements in any field under the **Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao** scheme.
- Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** has asked **state governments** to make their respective **mother tongues** a **mandatory subject in schools**.
- The **Bihar** government is going to grant **reservation** in promotions to **employees** belonging to **Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST)** categories.
- The **West Bengal** Assembly has passed the resolution to change the state's name to '**Bangla**'.
- The **Assam** government has made it mandatory for its staff to take care of their **elderly parents** and **differently-abled siblings** who don't have an income source.
 - Employees found neglecting their dependent parents and siblings will face a **10% and 15% salary cut** respectively.
- **Rajasthan** will soon have its 1st 'cow sanctuary', a shelter for 10,000 bovines spread over an area of more than 220 hectares in **Bikaner** district.

- The **Bihar** government has raised the **compensation** awarded to **Acid Attack Victims** from Rs.3 lakh to **Rs.7 lakh**, while victims aged **under 14** years will receive 50% more compensation.

Place in the News

- **Thetford**, a small town in the **United Kingdom** will be converted into a **twin city** of **Amritsar** in the memory of the last king of the Sikh Empire, **Maharaja Duleep Singh**.

Personalities

- **Angela Ponce**, who has been crowned **Miss Universe Spain**, will be the **first ever transgender model** competing at the **Miss Universe pageant 2018**.
- Marathon runner **Sameer Singh**, who completed a 13,750-km-run across India over a span of seven months and six days to spread awareness about '**Bharat Ke Veer**', was felicitated at Attari-Wagah border.
 - **Bharat Ke Veer** is a government initiative dedicated towards the welfare of **martyrs' families**.
- The Death Anniversary of 11th President of India, Bharat Ratna **Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (A. P. J. Abdul Kalam)** was observed on July 27.

Defence and National Security

- **India** is in the process of inducting the first batch of its intercontinental ballistic missile system, **Agni-V**, which will bring targets across **China** within its range, and is expected to significantly bolster the country's military prowess.
- **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** was formally inducted into Indian Air Force (IAF)'s '**Flying Daggers**' squadron, which earlier had **Russian MiG-21s**.
- India's latest frontline warship **INS Trikand** has reached **Sri Lanka** in a goodwill visit.
- In a first, **Indian Navy's P-8I long-range Maritime Patrol Aircraft** has been inducted at **Hawaii** for participating in the **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** exercise, which is the world's largest international maritime exercise.
- **India** is going to buy the **Russian S-400 Triumf air defence missile** despite US sanctions on military transactions with Russia, Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced.
- **Turkey** signed a deal to sell **30 T129 ATAK helicopters** to **Pakistan**.
 - The T129 ATAK Multirole Combat Helicopter has been optimized for specific hot and high performance requirements of the Turkish Armed Forces.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** has successfully test-fired **Supersonic Cruise Missile** under extreme **weather** conditions, as part of the service life extension programme for **Indian Army**.
 - The missile was fired from a mobile autonomous launcher from the Integrated Test Range at **Balasore, Odisha**.
- For the first time, the **Indian Air Force** is going to participate in **Exercise Pitch Black**, a three-week multinational warfare exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force**.
 - The IAF contingent will consist of 145 air-warriors including a Garud commando team and four **Sukhoi-30 MKI** fighter planes.
- **Iran** is planning to jointly manufacture **Defence Equipment** with **Pakistan** and present them as a joint achievement of Muslim nations.
 - This announcement came in line with a meeting between Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces **Major General Mohammad Baqeri** and Pakistani President **Mamnoon Hussain**.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** formally handed over two types of **indigenously built high-power multi-fuel engines** to the Army.

- **Indian Army** has awarded Rs.100-crore contract for **81 high mobility 10×10 vehicles** to India's leading vehicle manufacturer **Ashok Leyland**.
- India is going to procure **National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II)**, an advanced air defence system at \$1 billion from **United States**.

Committees/Commissions

- The Union Government has constituted **13-member Committee for Sub-National Accounts** to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in backdrop of plans to revise the base year for **National Accounts or Gross Domestic Production (GDP)** calculation.
 - Head of this Committee: **Ravindra H Dholakia**.
- The **Odisha** government has constituted a '**Heritage Cabinet**' to preserve the **Odia language** and the **state's culture**.
 - The cabinet comprises eight members and will be headed by Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik**.
- The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** launched its in-house developed, single-umbrella e-marketing system named **Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS)** in New Delhi.
- The **high-level committee on restructuring stressed assets** and creating more value for public sector banks (PSBs) has suggested a **transparent market-based solution** with a focus on asset turnaround to ensure job protection and creation.
 - Head of this Committee: **Sunil Mehta** (Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab National Bank)
- The standing committee of **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has recently added **four species** into **Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species**.
 - They are: Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Red Panda.
- The **Kerala** government has set up a panel of **eminent writers and language experts** to choose a '**Kerala Ganam**', an **official song for the state**.
 - Head of this Panel: **Rani George**
- The **Law Commission** has recommended that **gambling and betting on sports** including **cricket** should be **allowed in India** as regulated activities under the **direct and indirect tax regimes**.
 - It further recommended linking **Aadhaar** or **PAN card** of individuals involved in such activities.
- The Union Government constituted a **high-level task force to identify various items and policy interventions** to reduce dependence on **imports**.
 - Head of this Task force: **PK Sinha** (Cabinet Secretary)
- The government has decided to set up a committee to suggest measures to **strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) & National Service Scheme (NSS)**.
 - **Chairman** of this Committee: **Anil Swarup** (former Secretary, School Education)
- The Centre announced a **4-member committee** to suggest laws against **lynching** and **mob violence**.
 - This comes after the Supreme Court asked the Parliament to come up with a law on lynchings.
 - Head of this Committee: **Rajiv Gauba** (Union Home Secretary)
- A panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge **B N Srikrishna** submitted its report to the government on suggestions for a **data protection law** that will also cover **Aadhaar**.
 - It also suggested various penalties for violation of data privacy.
- Insurance regulator **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. **Head of this Committee:** P. J. Joseph

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** formed a monitoring committee on the cleaning of the **Yamuna** and directed it to submit an action plan on the issue.
- Union Government has constituted **High Level Empowered Committee** headed by Cabinet Secretary to address issues of **Stressed Thermal Power Projects**.

Schemes/Initiatives

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** flagged off **India's first taxi ambulance services** in **Delhi**, a service by a Gurugram-based startup **Wagon Cab**.
- PM **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **13 infrastructure projects** worth **Rs.2100 crore** in **Rajasthan**.
 - These include water supply and sewerage projects in several cities like Sikar and Mount Abu, and an elevated road project in Ajmer.
- The **India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre** was inaugurated at **National Small Industries Corporation** premises in **New Delhi**.
 - This centre will create **Technology Data Bank** from each side to encourage technology transfers, production of high quality products in India.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated '**Dharohar Bhawan**' – the new headquarters building of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** at Tilak Marg in **New Delhi**.
- Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** along with his **Bangladeshi** counterpart **Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal** inaugurated **India's largest visa centre** in the world in Bangladesh's capital **Dhaka**.
- **Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS)** has launched **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018)** in **New Delhi**.
- To increase green cover in the state, the **Haryana** Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched a unique program titled '**Paudhagiri campaign**'.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has launched **Centre for Climate Change** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
 - This is first of its kind centre in South East Asia.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** sponsored **Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme** was launched nationally in **Gurugram, Haryana**.
 - **Aim:** To build bridge between Police and larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.
- **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has unveiled state-of-the-art **Air Quality and Weather Forecast System- SAFAR** at **Chandni Chowk** in **Delhi**.
 - **SAFAR** - System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research
- The Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik** launched the '**Green Mahanadi Mission**'.
 - **Objective:** To stop soil erosion on river banks and recharges the groundwater reserve.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched 81 investment projects worth Rs.60,000 crore in a record breaking event in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Bollywood Actress **Kangana Ranaut** and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Raman Singh** launched a smartphone distribution scheme titled '**Mobile Tihar**' under Sanchar Kranti Yojana.
- Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled blueprint of **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**.
 - This mission proposes to explore deep-ocean by emulating success of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in designing and launching satellites.

Summit/Conference

- The **9th Heads of Mission Conference** was held in **New Delhi** from June 30-July 2, 2018.
 - **Theme** - 'Unprecedented Outreach: Unparalleled Outcomes'.

- Policy think tank of the Government of India, **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners, is organizing '**MOVE: Global Mobility Summit**' in **New Delhi** on 7th and 8th September, 2018.
- The two-day **International Round Table Conference on "Data for New India"** was started at **New Delhi**.
 - This conference is being organized by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- **US President Donald Trump** and his **Russian** counterpart **Vladimir Putin** held their first **official summit** at **Helsinki, Finland**.
- The 4th edition of **BIMSTEC Summit** will be held in **Khatmandu** (Nepal's capital) from 30th to 31st August 2018.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** joined fellow BRICS leader at the **10th BRICS Summit**, which was held at **Johannesburg, South Africa**.
 - **Theme:** 'BRICS in Africa: collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'
- Modi arrived in **South Africa** to participate in the **10 BRICS summit**.
 - **India** signed several MoUs in the fields of education, skill, health, and agriculture with **South Africa**.
 - Modi held separate bilateral meetings with Chinese President **Xi Jinping** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin** on the sidelines of the summit.
- The **2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - The 2-day conference was inaugurated by Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**.
 - **Theme:** "Predictive Policing and Contemporary Challenges for Indian Police Forces".
- The **International Conference on strengthening economic ties between India and Vietnam** was recently held at **New Delhi**.
- The 2-day **Unified Commanders' Conference (UCC)** for the year 2018 concluded at **New Delhi**.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- **Germany's** multinational conglomerate company **Thyssenkrupp** and India's **Tata Steel** signed a final agreement to establish a steel joint venture, marking the European steel industry's largest deal in 12 years.
 - The deal will create Europe's second-largest steelmaker after **ArcelorMittal**.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has come into an agreement with the **Andhra Pradesh government** to set up a '**Design University for Gaming**' in **Visakhapatnam**.
- **India's** upper house of parliament **Rajya Sabha** and **Senate of Rwanda** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for promoting **inter-parliamentary dialogue capacity building and cooperation**.
 - This MOU was signed between Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman **Venkaiah Naidu** and visiting President of Senate of **Rwanda, Bernard Makuza** in **New Delhi**.
- **Gujarat Government's Industries and Mines Department** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA)** to strengthen trade, industrial relations.
- **India and United Kingdom** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the sphere of **Law & Justice and establishing Joint Consultative Committee**.
- **Indian Army** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **State bank of India (SBI)** on **Defence Salary Package**.

- **India** is going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bangladesh** to ease visa restrictions for citizens from the neighboring country.
- The member states of the **United Nations** have finalized text of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, marking the first time they came together to negotiate an agreement covering all dimensions of **international migration**.
- State-owned defence electronics company **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Swedish Aerospace** and defence firm **Saab** for jointly marketing **L-Band 3D air surveillance radar (RAWL-03)** which is co-developed by the companies.
- **Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** and **European Union (EU)** leaders signed a **free trade agreement**, eliminating tariffs on a majority of their products to enhance business between the two sides.
- **American** multinational retail corporation **Walmart** has signed a five-year partnership with **Microsoft** to use the **company's cloud services in retail**.
- **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** and **IIT (Indian Institute of Technology)-Delhi** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance research in the field of **Ayurveda**.
 - The MoU was signed on sidelines of two-day conference on '**Raising towards Excellence**' held at **New Delhi**.
- The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has entered into partnership with search engine giant **Google** to **monitor impacts of human activity on global ecosystems** by using sophisticated online tools.
 - The partnership was launched during **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** at United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York.
- **India** and **Sri Lanka** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a **Sanitation Sector Project** under which 3400 toilets would be constructed in **Batticaloa District** of **Sri Lanka**.
- **India's** biggest power producer **NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited** has signed a term loan agreement with **HDFC Bank** for availing a loan of Rs.1500 crore.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amongst **BRICS Nations** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) on **Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation**.
- The **Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID)** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation (UPPCL)** for energy efficiency and agricultural demand side management programme.
- **India** has extended **Rs.1378 crore (\$200 million)** Lines of Credit (LOCs) to **Rwanda** after PM Narendra Modi held talks with the nation's President Paul Kagame. The two countries signed agreements on **industrial** and **agricultural development**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and President of the Republic of Rwanda **Paul Kagame** witnessed signing of **8 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** between the two countries.
- **India** and **Uganda** signed **4 MoUs** in the areas of defence cooperation, visa exemption for official and diplomatic passport holders, cultural exchange programme and material testing laboratory.
- **Invest India** and **Business France** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France.
- **Sri Lanka's** government signed an agreement to sell a 70% stake in a **\$1.5 billion Hambantota port** to **China** in a bid to recover from the heavy burden of repaying a Chinese loan obtained to build the facility.
- **Maharashtra's women commission** signed an agreement with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** for rescue and rehabilitation of women who are victims of sex trafficking, acid attack and domestic violence.

Meet/Visit

- The 42nd session of **World Heritage Committee (WHC) meeting** of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** held in **Manama, Bahrain** has inscribed **four** cultural sites on the World Heritage List.
 - **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai** (India)
 - **Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars region** (Iran)
 - **Hidden Christian Sites in Nagasaki Region** (Japan) and Sansa
 - **Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea** (South Korea)
- The **5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intercessional ministerial meeting** was held in **Tokyo, Japan**.
 - This meeting was co-chaired by **Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing** and his Japanese counterpart **Hiroshige Seko**.
- Prime Minister of **Bhutan Tshering Tobgay** was visited to **India** for a three-day visit.
 - Aim: To discuss about economic cooperation and security ties.
- The **2nd meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism Cooperation** between **India and Nepal** was concluded in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
 - The meeting also decided to set up an industry-led India Nepal Tourism Forum.
- US Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** met with **North Korean** officials in **Pyongyang** to discuss Nuclear disarmament and improving bilateral relations.
- **South Korean President Moon Jae-in** was visited to **India**.
 - **India and South Korea** Sign **5 MoUs** in the fields of **Science & Technology**.
- The **6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers** was held at **Cape Town, South Africa**.
 - The Union Minister of State for HRD, **Dr Satya Pal Singh** represented India in this meeting.
 - **Theme:** "Deepening BRICS Education Partnerships and Exchanges".
- The **1st Meeting of Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on coordination between MGNREGA and Agriculture** was recently held at **NITI Aayog** on 13 July, 2018.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** embarked on a two-day visit to **Manama (Bahrain)**.
 - During this visit, She was co-chair the **second high joint commission meeting** with her Bahraini counterpart **Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa**.
- **India's** first government-sponsored '**Transgender Poets' Meet**' was organized at the **Sahitya Akademi** in West Bengal's **Kolkata**.
 - The meet was chaired by India's first transgender college principal **Manabi Bandyopadhyay**.
- Union home minister **Rajnath Singh** was on a 3-day visit to **Bangladesh**.
 - He also signed **Revised Travel Agreement (RTA - 2018)** with Bangladesh to ease visa restrictions for citizens from the neighbouring country.
- **India** and the **United States** are going to hold the **inaugural 2+2 dialogue** led by India's External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**, Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and their US counterparts in **New Delhi** on September 6.
- The **10th edition of Delhi Dialogue (DD X)** was recently held in **New Delhi**.
 - This dialogue was hosted by Union External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**.
 - **Theme:** "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation".
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited to **Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa** for a 5 day visit from July 23.
 - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was gifted **200 cows** as a contribution from **India to Rwanda's 'Girinka'** (one cow per family) scheme.

- The **8th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** was held at **Durban, South Africa**.
 - Indian delegation was led by **J P Nadda**, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
 - In this meeting, he stated that **India** is committed to eliminating **TB by 2025**.
- **Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou** was on a three-day visit to **Bhutan**.
 - Kong has met Bhutan's King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** and Prime Minister **Tshering Tobgay**.
- The 1st meeting of the **India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats** was held in **Agartala, Tripura**.
 - They also held extensive discussions on issues related to review of operations of four functional Border Haats viz. Kalaichar (Meghalaya), Balat (Meghalaya), Kamlasagar (Tripura) and Srinagar (Tripura).
- After his visit to **Hathras (UP)**, **Yogi Adityanath** became the 1st Uttar Pradesh CM to visit all the **75 districts** in the state in 16 months of his government's rule.
- "**The International Congress of Parliamentary Women's Caucuses**" will be held at **Dublin Castle, Ireland** during 9th and 10th of September 2018.
 - This conference is being organized by the **Irish Women's Parliamentary Caucus (IWPC)**, a cross-party forum for female parliamentarians within the Irish parliament.
- The **6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting** was held at **New Delhi**.
 - **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences & Environment, Forests and Climate Change, India and **Mr. Sam Gyimah**, Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, UK led the Indian and UK delegations respectively.

Bills

- The Union Cabinet has approved The **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018**.
 - The Bill aims at **expanding application of DNA-based forensic technologies** to support and strengthen justice delivery system of the country.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched an **outstanding power bill waiver scheme** and subsidized power scheme titled '**Sambal**' for laborers and poor families.
 - Under the Sambal scheme, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of **200 rupees per month**.
- The **National Board of Wildlife** has recommended that states use **Section 144**, which prohibits the assembly of four or more people, during wildlife emergencies.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has given his assent to **Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015**.
 - The law aims to eliminate superstition from society by making such offences under it as non-bailable, non-compoundable and cognizable.
- Lok Sabha also passed The **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Second Amendment) Bill, 2017** to abolish the 'no detention policy' in schools.
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018**.
 - This bill aims to allow authorities to attach and confiscate properties of economic offenders who flee the country.
- The Lok Sabha passed the **National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill** to grant retrospective recognition to Central/State institutions that are conducting **teacher education** courses without **NCTE approval**.
- Lok Sabha passed **Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill**, a Bill on **cheque bounce** cases.
 - This bill provides for allowing a court trying an offence related to cheque bouncing to direct the drawer to pay interim compensation to the complainant.

- The Parliament passed **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018**.
 - This is an anti-corruption Bill that provides punishment to bribe givers and takers, and extends prior nod for prosecution to former public officials with the Lok Sabha giving its assent to the law.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018**.
 - This bill empowers authorities to confiscate the assets of economic offenders who flee the country.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018**.
 - This bill calls for punishment ranging from 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of not less than Rs.1 lakh to offenders.
- The **Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018**, which provides for stringent punishment including **Death penalty** for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years, was passed in Lok Sabha.
- Lok Sabha has passed **Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018** by voice vote to replace Ordinance promulgated by President in May 2018.

Fund

- The 5 Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) of **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has approved **US \$6.69 billion dollar** budget for **13 peacekeeping operations** for year 2018-19.
 - The budget approved for missions include **MINUJUSTH** (UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti), **MINUSCA** (Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic), **MINURSO** (Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara), **MONUSCO** (Stabilization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo) and **UNIFIL** (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon).
 - The **United States** is the biggest contributor to the United Nations, paying 22 per cent of the \$5.4 billion core budget and 28.5 per cent of the \$7.9 billion peacekeeping budget, followed by **China** (10.3 per cent) and **Japan** (9.7 per cent).
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal to expand the scope of the **Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA)** to mobilize **Rs.1 lakh crore** for **research and academic infrastructure** for higher education institutions by **2022**.
- The Central government is planning to launch **7 Greenfield projects** to construct 3,000km of expressways under the **Rs.5.35 trillion Bharatmala scheme**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **Lining Project of Son canal** in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of **Bihar**.
 - The estimated cost of this project is **US \$503 million** (Rs.3272.49 crore) out of which **US \$352 million** is being provided by ADB.
- The **United States** has released **\$200 million** in military assistance to **Ukraine**.
- The **Maharashtra** government has announced a special package worth over **Rs.21,000 crore** for the development of industries, agriculture and tourism in the **Vidarbha and Marathwada** regions.

Economy

- The **growth rate** of India's **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows recorded a five-year low of 3% to **\$44.85 billion** in 2017-18.
 - The sectors that received maximum foreign inflows include services (\$6.7 billion), computer software and hardware (\$6.15 billion), and telecommunications (\$6.21 billion).
 - **Mauritius** emerged as the **largest source** of FDI in India with **\$15.94 billion** in 2017-18.

- **Karnataka** Chief Minister **HD Kumaraswamy** presented the 1st budget of his Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition government in the Vidhana Soudha.
 - Presenting this budget, he announced a farm loan waiver of **Rs.34,000 crore**.
 - Loans of up to Rs.2 lakh for each farmer will be waived.
 - Farmers who repaid the loan within time will be credited the repaid loan amount or **Rs.25000** whichever is less.
- **Consumer or Retail Inflation** accelerated to **5%** to hit a five-month high in June this year, well above May's 4.87%, majorly due to rise in the fuel prices.
- **India's Trade Deficit** widened to its highest in over five years in June driven largely by a surge in oil imports.
 - It widened to **\$16.6 billion** due to a rise in oil imports that surged **56.61%** to **\$12.73 billion**.
 - Further, merchandise exports last month rose **17.57%** to **\$27.7 billion** from a year ago.
- **Australia** has released a report on its **Economic Strategy for India** recommending that India should be put into its top **three export markets** and made the **third largest destination in Asia** for the country's outward investment.
 - The report titled '**An India Economic Strategy to 2035**' – authored by former Australian high commissioner to India **Peter Varghese** – was welcomed by Australian Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has cut **India's GDP growth** forecast by 10 basis points to **7.3%** in 2018 and **7.5%** in 2019 for India as against **6.7%** in 2017.
- **Inflation in Venezuela** could top **10,00,000%** by the end of the year as the country faces its worst economic crisis, the **International Monetary Fund** has announced.
- **Venezuela** is going to remove five zeroes from its **bolivar currency** rather than the three zeroes originally planned.
- The **Iranian rial** plunged to a record low of **100000** against the US dollar on the unofficial market, as the country faces US sanctions.

Companies/Industry

- **Reliance Industries** Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** announced that **Reliance** is India's largest payer of **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, **Excise and Customs Duty**, and **Income Tax** in the Private Sector.
- **South Korean** multinational conglomerate **Samsung** opened the world's largest mobile phone manufacturing factory in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited** crossed the **\$100-billion** market cap mark.
 - With this, the company will join with **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** as the only **two \$100-billion** companies in India.
- Fertilizer major **Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO)** has launched e-commerce platform **IFFCO iMandi** (a mobile application and web portal) to address all needs of the farming community associated with it.
- Messaging app **WhatsApp** has announced that it is testing a **limit** on **forwarding** messages to **five chats** at one time in **India**.
- **American** online social media and social networking service company, **Facebook** has announced that it is working on a new satellite project, named **Athena**, which will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas.
- **Google** is working on a **new operating system (OS)** titled '**Fuchsia**' which will replace **Android**.

- **Indian** e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company, **Paytm** is going to launch its services in **Japan**.
 - The platform will launch the service in collaboration with Japanese multinational conglomerate **SoftBank**.
 - Last year, Paytm launched its services in **Canada**.
- **Internet** search engine giant **Google** unveiled two new **Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips** aimed at helping customers develop and deploy intelligent connected devices at scale. They are: **Edge TPU** (Tensor Processing Unit), **Cloud IoT Edge**.
- Digital payments major **Paytm's** parent company One97 Communications is going to build the Headquarters of **Paytm** at **Noida's Sector 137**.
- India is going to ask e-commerce and social media firms like **Amazon** and **Facebook** to store customer data locally.
- Homegrown e-commerce startup **Flipkart** is set to enter financial services business and has applied for an **NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company) license** to focus on consumer lending.

Stock Market

- The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has secured a **Trademark** for its iconic building **Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers** at **Dalal Street** in **Mumbai**.

Exports/Imports

- **Iran** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** to become the **2nd largest oil supplier to Indian** state-owned firms during the June quarter.
 - **Iraq** is the largest oil supplier to India.

Taxation/Trade

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT)** extended the deadline for the **PAN-Aadhaar linking** from June 30, 2018, to **March 31, 2019**.
- The **Income Tax Department** has launched instant **Aadhaar-based e-PAN** allotment service for individuals seeking PAN (Permanent Account Number) service for the first time.
- To protect interest of consumers, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has developed and launched a mobile app named '**GST Verify**'.
- Finance Secretary **Hasmukh Adhia** announced that the GST Council is considering bringing **petroleum products** under **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- Union Finance Ministry has hiked **Threshold Monetary Limit** for **tax departments** to file appeals in tax cases.
- The **Goods and Services Tax Council** has cut **GST** tax rates for **88 items** including refrigerators, water coolers, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, small-screen TVs.
 - The GST of these items have been shifted from 28% to 18% slab.
 - The council has also reduced the tax rate on **ethanol** used to **blend petrol** and **diesel** to 5% from 18%.
 - Furthermore, the GST on **e-books** has been reduced from 18% to 5% as a "green initiative."
 - Sanitary napkins, rakhis, and idols made of stone, marble, and wood have been exempted from GST.
- The **Ministry of Finance** has extended the **Deadline** for filing of income tax returns to **August 31, 2018**, for categories of taxpayers who were to file their returns by July 31.

Space

- As part of its preparations to send an **Indian astronaut** into space using an indigenous rocket in the future, the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** successfully tested the **Crew Escape System**, which is critical to ensure safety of the astronauts in case a rocket explodes on the launch pad.
- **China** successfully launched **two** remote sensing satellites **PRSS-1** and **PakTes-1A** of **Pakistan** on board of **Long March-2C** rocket from **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has successfully conducted ground test of its high thrust version of **Vikas Engine** that would improve the payload capability of the space agency's launch vehicles.
 - The test for duration of 195 seconds was conducted by scientists at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in **Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli** district of Tamil Nadu.
- **China** is planning to launch **300 low-orbit satellites** to provide **worldwide communication services**.
 - The first in the 300-satellite array — known as the **Hongyan constellation** — is set to be launched by the end of this year.
- **UK Space Agency** has selected site at **Sutherland** on **A'Mhoine peninsula** on north coast of **Scotland** for its first spaceport to launch rockets vertically and put satellites in orbit.
 - For development of this spaceport, UK Government is going to provide **\$3.3 million** funding and will be built with help of consortium of companies.
- World's richest person **Jeff Bezos**-founded aerospace startup **Blue Origin** successfully launched its space capsule, **New Shepard**, breaking its own record of highest-ever test flight at nearly 120 km.
 - The launch lasted around two and half minutes with the capsule hitting a maximum speed of 3,598 kmph.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has roped in **three partners** to help it assemble **27 satellites** at a quick pace over the next three years.
 - ISRO's nodal satellites division URSC (U.R. Rao Satellite Centre) signed separate three-year contracts with **Alpha Design Technologies P Ltd** and its six consortium members; with defense public enterprise **Bharat Electronics Ltd**; and with **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, Hyderabad**.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has launched '**Remote Sensing Toolkit**' to promote commercial use of **satellite data**.
- Elon Musk-led space startup **SpaceX** launched the **Telstar 19 Vantage satellite** through it's Falcon 9 rocket.
 - Weighing over 7,000 kg, this is the world's **heaviest** commercial communications satellite.
- After tests and configurations spanning three months in space, NASA's latest planet-hunting spacecraft **TESS** (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) has begun science operations.

Science and Technology

- The **National Advisor Bureau Limited (NABL)** of the **UAE** has proposed to tow **icebergs** from **Antarctica** to use them as new sources of water in the **Middle East**.
 - With an estimated cost of \$50-60 million, the project will begin with the pilot phase in 2019.
- **Scientists** from **New Zealand** have performed the first-ever **3-D, colour X-ray** on a human body, using the imaging technology developed for the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN physics lab.
- **South Africa** has unveiled the 64-dish **MeerKAT radio telescope**, slated to be the world's largest and most powerful **telescope** on its completion in **2030**.
- **Trinity supercomputer**, hosted at the **Los Alamos National Lab, US**, has made a world record of creating **1 trillion files** in two minutes.

- American and Spanish scientists have discovered a new 3D shape called '**Scutoid**' while studying human tissue folds which form the skin, cavity and organ linings.
 - The twisted prism-like shape has **5 sides** at one end and **6 sides** at the other end, besides a **triangular surface** on one of its longer edges.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **J P Nadda** confirmed that **fruit bats** are the source of the **Nipah virus infection**, which killed 17 people in **Kerala**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recognized **Sex addiction** as a **mental health disorder** in its **International Classification of Diseases** list.
 - Earlier, WHO declared **gaming** addiction as a mental health disorder.
- To control viral hepatitis C, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched **National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme** on the occasion of **World Hepatitis Day** (July 28).

Energy/Gas/Oil

- **Russia** is going to build **two Nuclear Power Units** in **China** which are expected to be operational by **2026** and **2027** respectively.
 - Russia's state nuclear power corporation **Rosatom** and **China's National Energy Administration** signed a deal to build the two 1,200-megawatt units at the **Tianwan nuclear power plant**.
- The Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** announced that **21 Nuclear Reactors** with a total installed capacity of 15,700 megawatt are currently under construction.
 - Currently, there are **nine nuclear power** reactors at various stages of construction which are expected to be completed by **2024-25**.
- **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has amended **Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959** to include '**shale**' in definition of petroleum.
 - This change will allow private companies to explore and produce the resource in the blocks they already operate.

Environment

- The **Union Environment Ministry** has set **Noise Standards** for **Airports** across the country, excluding defence aircraft, and those that are landing and taking off.
 - According to rules, a civil airport with more than **50,000 aircraft** movements per year should not exceed noise levels beyond **75 dB (A) Leq** (decibels) during the daytime and **65 dBA** during the night.

Education

- HRD Minister **Prakash Javadekar** announced that the national-level engineering and medical entrance examinations, **JEE Main** and **NEET**, will be held **twice** a year from 2019.
 - The examinations will be conducted online by the newly-formed **National Testing Agency (NTA)**.
- The Government has shortlisted **Six Institutions of Eminence (IoEs)** including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.
 - It is expected that these Institutions will come up in **top 500** of the **world ranking** in 10 years and in top 100 of the world ranking eventually overtime.
- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has initiated process of introducing **QR code** (Quick Response code) in their textbooks.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- State-run **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is going to set up state-of-the-art **Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO)** at Hyderabad's **Begumpet Airport**.

- **Richard Branson-led** commercial spaceflight **Virgin Galactic** has announced that it is going to launch its commercial space flights from **Italy**.
 - It has partnered with Italian Space Agency-owned Company **Altec** and **Sitael**, Italy's private space company to develop a framework for how spaceflights will be conducted.
- **Ministry of Railways** approves **Digital Aadhaar** and **Driving License** from Digital Locker as proof of identity of passengers for undertaking journey by Train.
- The 1st cruise service between **Mumbai** and **Goa** will begin from August 1, Road Transport and Shipping Minister **Nitin Gadkari** announced.
- A draft amendment to the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules** has proposed that **driving license** and **pollution control certificates** can be carried in **physical or digital** form, **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has announced.
 - The amendment further proposes that **vehicle tracking systems** and **FASTags** for electronic toll collection will be made **mandatory** for all commercial vehicles obtaining **national permit**.
- In a bid to strengthen expertise and capabilities of the employees of **North-Eastern Railways**, the **Indian Railways** inaugurated **Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI)** at **Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Delhi Metro** recently became the 1st Metro system in the World to go Completely Green.

Films and Film Festival

- Bollywood actor **Irrfan Khan** has been honored with **Icon Award** at the **London Indian Film Festival (LIFF) 2018**.
 - Actress **Richa Chadha** won the **Outstanding Achievement Award**, while **Manoj Bajpayee** was also awarded an **Icon Award**.
- **National Film Archive of India** host **European Union Film Festival 2018** from 6th July to 12th July in **Mumbai**.
 - Opening movie is **9 Month Stretch (French film)**.
- **Puducherry Tourism** has announced the first **Pondicherry International Film Festival (PIFF)**, which will showcase over 100 films from more than 25 countries.
 - **France** is the partner country for the festival and there will be a special focus on French cinema, art and culture.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- The **Department of Telecommunications** has approved **merger** of **Vodafone India** and **Idea Cellular** that will create India's largest telecom operator.
- **India's Department of Telecommunications** has approved **Net Neutrality Rules** that ban blocking, throttling, and zero-rating internet data, with some exceptions.
- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has become the country's first telephone network to launch '**internet telephony**' service, which makes landline work like mobile.
 - BSNL users will be able to call on any network's number by installing BSNL's app '**Wings**' on their devices including smartphone, tablet or laptop.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** has been elected as **Mexico's new President** with over **53%** of the vote.
 - He will replace current Mexican President **Enrique Pena Nieto** on 1st December.
- For the first time in history, **Mexico City** has elected local politician and scientist **Claudia Sheinbaum**, as its **woman mayor**.

- Banking professional **Arijit Basu** has taken over as a new **Managing Director** of **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
 - SBI now has **four MDs**. They are: B. Sriram, P.K. Gupta, Dinesh Khara, Arijit Basu.
- The **Democratic National Committee (DNC)** of **United States** has appointed Indian American **Seema Nanda** as its new **CEO**.
- The **United India Insurance Company** appointed **K B Vijay Srinivas** as its **Director and General Manager** with effect from July 1.
- **Saraswati Prasad**, Special Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Steel, has taken over the additional charge of the **post of Chairman and Managing Director** of the **Steel Authority of India (SAIL)**.
 - He is going to replace **P K Singh** who retired.
- **Online food delivery** startup **Swiggy** has appointed **Vivek Sunder** as the startup's **first Chief Operating Officer (COO)** after four years of being founded.
- TV anchor **Rajat Sharma**, known for his show 'Aap Ki Adalat', has been elected as **President** of **Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)** after winning over 54% of the total votes cast.
- **P.K. Shrivastava** has taken over as the new **Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF)** and **Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** with effect from July 1.
- **Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan**, presently Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court, will assume charge as **Chief Justice** of **Hyderabad High Court**.
- United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has appointed **Major General José Eladio Alcain** of **Uruguayan Army** as **Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer** for **UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**.
 - He is going to replace Major General **Per Gustaf Lodin** of **Sweden**, who completed his two-year assignment.
- The former Chief Operating Officer of **MakeMyTrip** (online), **Mohit Gupta** was appointed as the CEO of **Zomato's** food delivery business.
- **Payments Council of India (PCI)** has appointed **Vishwas Patel**, Director at Infibeam Avenues as its new **Chairman**.
- **Uttam Dhillon**, an Indian-American lawyer has been appointed the **Acting Administrator** of the **US Drug Enforcement Administration**.
- **Indian** origin online transportation network company **Ola** announced that it has appointed **Simon Smith** as the **Managing Director** for its **Australia** operations.
- The Cabinet has approved the appointment of Former Chief Justice of Patna High Court, **Justice L. Narasimha Reddy** as the **Chairman** of the **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)**.
- Supreme Court judge **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** was appointed as the **Chairman** of the **National Green Tribunal**.
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** appointed one of its joint secretaries **Manoj Kumar Pingua** as the acting Managing Director of **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.
- Shareholders of **Reliance Industries** have approved giving **Mukesh Ambani** another five years as the **Chairman and MD** of the company.
- **Girish Pillai** has taken over as the **new Member Traffic, Railway Board**.
- Former Information and Broadcasting secretary **Uday Kumar Varma** has been appointed as a member of the **Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)**, a self-regulatory body for general entertainment channels.

- He has replaced former information commissioner **Wajahat Habibullah**, whose tenure at the BCCC has ended.
- **British Prime Minister Theresa May** appointed **Jeremy Hunt** as **Foreign Secretary** after Boris Johnson resigned in protest at the government's Brexit plan.
 - UK Minister of State for Housing and Planning **Dominic Raab** has been appointed as the **Brexit Secretary**.
- Luxury carmaker **Mercedes-Benz** announced the appointment of **Martin Schwenk** as the new MD and CEO for Mercedes-Benz **India** with effect from November 1.
 - He will replace **Roland Folger**, who will assume a new position for Mercedes-Benz's **Thailand and Vietnam** markets.
- Ex-PNB executive **T Latha** has been appointed as the **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer** (MD & CEO) of **Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited**.
 - She replaced **G Sreeram**, who has retired from the office on July 1, 2018, on completion of his tenure.
- Former Google artificial intelligence (AI) chief **John Giannandrea** has been appointed as **Apple's Chief of Machine Learning and AI Strategy**.
- **US President Donald Trump** appointed **Brett Kavanaugh** as the new Judge of **Supreme Court**.
 - He will replace Justice **Anthony Kennedy**.
- Former careered diplomat **Dr. TCA Raghavan** was appointed as the **Director General** (DG) of **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**.
- **Dr. Sandeep Sancheti**, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has assumed charge as the 97th **President** of the **Association of Indian Universities (AIU)**, New Delhi.
- **Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** has announced that the Indian sprinter **Hima Das** will be named the **state's sports ambassador** after her 400m gold medal at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships.
- Haryana Governor **Kaptan Singh Solanki** has been given the additional charge as the **Governor** of **Himachal Pradesh** during the absence of incumbent Himachal Pradesh Governor Acharya Dev Vrat.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has nominated **Sonal Mansingh** (classical dancer), **Ram Shakal** (farmer leader and former MP), **Rakesh Sinha** (writer) and **Raghunath Mohapatra** (sculptor) to the **Rajya Sabha**.
 - The nominations come after the retirement of four members including Sachin Tendulkar, actress Rekha and businesswoman Anu Aga.
- **Swati B Baruah** became the first **transgender judge** in **Assam**, after she was appointed to mediate cases in a Lok Adalat.
 - **Joyita Mondal** from West Bengal is India's first transgender Judge.
- Six-time English champions **Chelsea** have appointed former international banker **Maurizio Sarri** as their new **manager**.
- CEO and MD of Tata Steel, **T V Narendran** has been appointed as the **Chairman and Non-Executive Additional Director** of **Bhushan Steel**.
- The **Reliance Foundation** has proposed the name of eminent scientist **Raghunath A Mashelkar** as the **Chancellor** of yet-to-be established **Jio Institute**.
 - **Dipak C Jain**, former director of Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration in Bangkok, will serve as the **Vice-Chancellor** of the Institute.
- Former India off-spinner **Ramesh Powar** has been appointed the **interim Coach** of the **National Women's Cricket Team** until the BCCI finds a suitable replacement for Tushar Arothe.

- Ace Indian gymnast **Dipa Karmakar**, who recently bagged the gold medal in the women's vault event at the Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup in Mersin in Turkey, is likely to become **brand ambassador** of Tripura.
- **American** multinational investment bank and financial services company **Goldman Sachs Group** is going to name **David Solomon** as its next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
 - He will replace outgoing CEO **Lloyd Blankfein**, who is expected to retire later in the year.
- The union government has renewed the appointment of **Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe** as the **Chairman** of the technical and professional education regulator **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.
- **Arman Ali** was appointed as Executive Director of **National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)**.
 - He is going to replace **Javed Abidi** in October 2018.
- Senior advocate **D C Raina** has been appointed as **Advocate General** of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Bajaj Auto Ltd.** has appointed **Rakesh Sharma** as its first **Chief Commercial Officer (CCO)** to complement the offices of the ED and the CTO.
- **Tata AIA Life** appointed **Rishi Srivastava** as the new **Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director** starting August 1, 2018.
- **Max Financial Services** has named its sponsor and founding shareholder **Analjit Singh** as non executive chairman of the company.
- **Australian** investment bank **Macquarie Group** appointed **Shemara Wikramanayake** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- Vice-President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has been appointed as the **Chancellor** of **Pondicherry Central University**.
- **Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF)**, the national governing body for football in Brazil, reappointed Coach **Adenor Leonardo Bacchi** (nicknamed as Coach Tite) until the end of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.
- **Mahesh Kumar Malani** of the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) has become the **1st Hindu candidate** to win a general National Assembly seat in **Pakistan**.
- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman **Imran Khan** announced that he will take oath as Pakistan's **Prime Minister** on August 11.
- The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) appointed **Surendra Rosha** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for **HSBC India**.
- Cambodia's ruling party **CPP (Cambodian People's Party)** has won an expected victory in an election widely considered illegitimate after the only credible opposition was silenced.
 - This election ensures that long-ruling Prime Minister **Hun Sen**, who has been in power since 1985, will serve another five-year term.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- **Indian** cricketer **Mohammad Kaif** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

Arrests/Jailed

- Former **Malaysian** Prime Minister **Najib Razak** was arrested by **anti-corruption investigators** over his links to misappropriation of **\$4.5 billion** from the state-run 1MDB wealth fund, which was set up to promote economic development.
- Former **Pakistan** Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif** was **sentenced** to **10 years** in **prison** in a corruption case.

- His **daughter Maryam** and her husband Captain **Safdar** were also **sentenced to seven years** and **one year** in jail respectively.
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** arrested **two** senior retired officers of **Bank of India (BOI)** in connection with alleged loan fraud of Rs.2654 crore by Vadodara-based **Diamond Power Infrastructure Ltd. (DPIL)** in the bank.
 - **V V Agnihotri** and **P K Shrivastava**, retired GM and DGM respectively, had allegedly granted undue favors to the company in granting credit limits, the officials said.
- **Interpol** issued a **Red Corner Notice (RCN)** against fugitive Indian **Nirav Modi**.
 - This Red Corner Notice will enable Modi's arrest in any country for extradition to India.

Deaths

- Former Navy chief **Admiral JG Nadkarni** (86) passed away.
- Rajmata of the erstwhile Marwar principality and former MP, **Krishna Kumari** (92) passed away.
 - Born in a royal family in **Gujarat**, she had married Jodhpur's then-ruler Hanwant Singh in 1943.
- **Steve Ditko** (90), the Marvel Comics artist who co-created the superhero **Spider-Man**, has passed away.
- Actor **Kavi Kumar Azad**, best known for his role of Dr Hansraj Hathi in 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah', has passed away after suffering from a heart attack.
- Veteran Journalist **J N Sadhu** (94) passed away following a long term illness in Shimla.
- **Kalpesh Yagnik** (55), the Group Editor of media house **Dainik Bhaskar** passed away.
- **Dada JP Vaswani** (99), spiritual leader and head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, passed away in Pune.
- Professor **NN Wig** (87), a living legend of Indian Psychiatry, passed away.
- Former Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) **Kanu Gohain** (68) passed away.
- Noted **Hindi** poet and lyricist **Dr Gopaldas Neeraj** (93) passed away.
- **Japanese** screenwriter, director and producer **Shinobu Hashimoto** (100), passed away.
- Pulitzer Prize-Winning food critic, **Jonathan Gold** (57), has passed away.
- **Chiyo Miyako**, a 117-year-old Japanese woman, died, days after her applications for the titles of 'oldest person living' and 'oldest person living (female)' were approved.
- Former Kerala Minister for Local Self Government **Cherkallam Abdullah** (76), died.
- Olympic cross-country skiing gold medalist **Vibeke Skofterud** (38) passed away after a jet-skiing accident.

Awards/Honours

- **Madhya Pradesh** Government has conferred prestigious **National Kalidas Samman** on noted artist **Anjolie Ela Menon** for her contribution to visual arts.
- **Milan Tare**, a fisherman from Satpati village in Palghar, who saved 12 crew members in a two-hour operation, was received the **National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Award** at a function at Vigyan Bhavan on July 5 chaired by Coast Guard **DG Rajendra Singh**.
- Bollywood Actress **Priyanka Chopra** has reached the **25 million** follower mark on **Instagram**.
 - With this, she became the most followed Indian on the photo-sharing platform.
- **Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand**, CMD, NALCO, was honored with the **Knowledge Excellence Award 2018** for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain at the **22nd International Conference on Non-Ferrous Minerals and Metals 2018** at Ranchi.

- **Michael Ondaatje's** bestselling novel '**The English Patient**' was announced as the winner of the **Golden Man Booker Prize** at the Southbank Centre in **London**.
- Bollywood Actress **Anushka Sharma** is set to become the first Indian personality to get a '**talking statue**' at **Madame Tussauds Singapore**.
- **Dr Ravi Mehrotra** CBE, Chairman of Foresight Group International Ltd., was presented with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** by Mr Chris Hayman (Chairman, Seatrade) at the **Seatrade 30th Anniversary Award Ceremony** held at the **Landmark, London** on June 29th.
- **India's Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project** has won the **World Bank's internal award for exceptional performance** in achieving many development goals.
- Renowned Carnatic vocalist **Aruna Sairam** has been selected for **Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2018** for her contribution to Carnatic music.
 - **Sangita Kala Acharya Award 2018** will be conferred on Mridhangist **Thanjavur R. Ramadoss** and vocalist **K. Oman Kutty**.
- **Ishwar Sharma**, an 8-year-old Indian-origin schoolboy who is the under-11 UK national yoga champion has been honored with the '**British Indian of the Year Award**' in the young achiever category for his accomplishments in the field.
- **Repc Micro Finance Ltd**, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repco Bank, has received **Nabard 2018 Award** for its service to Self-Help Group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has won the **Mobile Banking Initiative of the Year (India) Award** at the **Asian Banking and Finance Retail Banking Awards**, held in **Singapore**.
 - The lender won this award for revolutionizing mobile banking with its integrated digital banking platform titled **YONO**.
- **Deshna Jain**, a 20-year-old girl from Tikamgarh was crowned with **Miss Deaf Asia 2018** title.
- **Canada's smartARM** has won **Microsoft's** global competition **Imagine Cup 2018** for creating an affordable, robotic arm prosthetic.
 - Team **iCry2Talk** of **Greece** earned **second** place with a low-cost interface that translates a baby's cry in a text or voice message.
- Two Indians **Bharat Vatwani** and **Sonam Wangchuk** are among the winners of this year's **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2018**, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
 - **Bharat Vatwani** is a psychiatrist who works for mentally-ill people living on the streets.
 - **Sonam Wangchuk** is known for his reforms in the education sector in Ladakh, started a movement to help poor village students clear examinations.
- **Mohun Bagan 'Ratna' Award**, the highest honor of the century-old club will be conferred on former India international **Pradip Chowdhury**.
- Goalkeeper **Shilton Paul** will be awarded the **Best Footballer for the year 2017-18**.
 - The awardees also include **Sudip Chatterjee** (Best Cricketer), **Sourav Das** (Best Youth Footballer Player) and a special award to **Rahim Ali** for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.
- As per recently released **Prime Database Investment Bankers League table for FY 2017-18**, **IIFL Holdings Ltd. (IIFL)** is **India's top investment bank** for equity issuances by private sector companies.

Sports/Game

- The **Indian kabaddi team** beat **Iran** to lift the **Kabaddi Masters 2018 title** in **Dubai**.
- Former Team India captain **Rahul Dravid** has become the 5th Indian cricketer to be inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame**.

- Other 4 Indian Cricketers in ICC Hall of Fame are: Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev.
- The **Indian men's hockey** team lost to **Australia** in penalty shootout to end as **runners-up** in the last-ever **Champions Trophy** held in **Netherland**.
- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** won the **Austrian Grand Prix 2018** title in **Austria**.
- **India's** para-athlete **Yogesh Kathuniya** smashed the world record in the **Men's discus F36** while winning **Gold** in the **Para-Athletics Grand Prix** in **Berlin**.
 - Kathuniya threw 45.18m, which is more than two metres than the earlier world record of 42.96m set by **China's Cuiqing Li** last year.
- More than 34 years after coming into existence, the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** is set to be renamed as **Sports India**, Union Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** announced.
- **P. Karthikeyan** beat former National champion **G. Akash** to become the **Commonwealth chess champion 2018** held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Tania Sachdev** won the **Women's title** by defeating **Shantanu Bhambure**.
- 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist **Bajrang Punia** emerged champion at the **Tbilisi Grand Prix** in the 65kg category by defeating **Iranian** wrestler **Mehran Nasiri** in the final in **Georgia**.
- Striker **Rani Rampal** is going to lead the 18-member **Indian women's hockey team** at the **Asian Games 2018** to be held in **Indonesia** from August 18 to September 2.
 - Goalkeeper **Savita** has been named as the **vice captain** of the team.
- Arjuna-awardee gymnast **Dipa Karmakar**, clinched the **Gold medal** in the vault event of **Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup**.
- **Team India** opener **Rohit Sharma** has become the **first Indian cricketer** to smash **three centuries** in T20I cricket.
 - Rohit is only the second cricketer after **Colin Munro** (New Zealand) to register three tons in T20I cricket.
- **Satyarup Siddhanta** has become the **2nd Indian mountaineer** after **Malli Mastan Babu** to climb **Mt Ojos del Salado**, the highest volcano in the world (6893 metres or 22,615 ft).
- The **Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)** of **Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs** has included entire **Men's Hockey team of India** under the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**.
- Indian sprinter **Hima Das** won the **women's 400m event** at the **IAAF World Junior Championships**.
- **Mumbai** all-rounder **Abhishek Nayar**, who has mentored Rohit Sharma, Dinesh Karthik and Shreyas Iyer among others, has been named as **KKR Academy's Lead Coach and Mentor**.
- Indian sprinter **Hima Das**, who bagged a gold medal at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships recently, has been ensured support by the government till the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**.
- **Belgium** defeated **England** in the third-place playoff to finish **third** at the **2018 FIFA World Cup**.
- **France** has won the **2018 FIFA World Cup** finals by defeating first-time finalists **Croatia**.
 - **Golden Ball Award Winner:** Luka Modric (Croatia).
 - **Golden Boot Award Winner:** Harry Kane (England captain) for scoring six goals across six games.
 - **Golden Glove Award Winner:** Thibaut Courtois (Belgium).
 - **FIFA Young Player Award:** 19-year-old Kylian Mbappe (France).
 - **FIFA Fair Play Award:** Spain for superb disciplinary record.

- Former captain **MS Dhoni** has become the first-ever **Indian wicketkeeper** to take **300 catches** in ODI cricket, achieving the feat against England in the second ODI.
 - Former **Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist** holds the record for taking most ODI catches (417) as wicketkeeper.
- Ex-world number one **Novak Djokovic** clinched his fourth **Wimbledon title** and overall 13th Grand Slam by defeating **Kevin Anderson** in **Men's Singles category**.
 - Former world number one **Angelique Kerber** won the Women's Singles title by defeating seven-time champion **Serena Williams**.
 - **Men's Doubles:** Mike Bryan (United States)/Jack Sock (United States)
 - **Women's Doubles:** Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)/Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
 - **Mixed Doubles:** Alexander Peya (Austria)/Nicola Pietrangeli (United States)
- **India** has won **9 Medals** (4 Silver and 5 Bronze medals) at the **7th World Junior Wushu Championships 2018** in **Brazil**.
- **Indian Skipper Virat Kohli** has become the **fastest cricketer** to score **3000 runs** as captain in ODIs, reaching the milestone against England in his 49th innings as skipper.
- The **USA** won the **first Athletics World Cup** at the **London Stadium**.
 - **Poland** and **Great Britain** finished **second** and **third** respectively.
- **Indian** track and field athlete **Neeraj Chopra** has won **Gold medal** at **Sotteville Athletics meet** in **France**.
- **India** captain **Virat Kohli** achieved a career-high **911 points** to sit on **Top of the ICC ODI rankings** for Batsmen.
 - **England** batsman **Joe Root** stood at **second** place in the rankings list.
 - Meanwhile, Indian spinner **Kuldeep Yadav** broke into the top-10 for the first time.
- **Pakistan** opener **Fakhar Zaman** has become the first Pakistani and overall sixth batsman to smash a **double century** in men's ODI cricket history, achieving the feat against Zimbabwe.
- **Indian** badminton player **Lakshaya Sen** bagged the **Gold medal** by defeating Indonesia's top-seeded **Kunlavut Vitidsaran** in the final match of the **Badminton Asia Junior Championship** in **Jakarta**.
- India's **Muhammad Anas Yahiya** won Gold medal at **400-meter race event** in **Czech Republic**.
 - He completed the race in 45.24 seconds to break his own national record (45.31 sec) for the second time.
- **Indian men's football** team captain **Sunil Chhetri** was named as the **2017 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player of the Year**.
- Four-time world champion **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes) won the **German Grand Prix 2018**.
- **Ukrain's Oleksandr Usyk** beat **Russian** rival **Murat Gassiev** by a unanimous decision to become the first man to hold all four world cruiserweight titles.
 - With the win Usyk also claimed the inaugural **World Boxing Super Series Ali Trophy**.
- The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** has cleared 734 athletes for the scholarship under the **Khelo India Talent Development Scheme**.
- India Under-19 batsman **Pavan Shah** slammed 282 runs off 332 balls against Sri Lanka Under-19 to record the highest-ever score by an Indian in a Youth Test.
 - The 18-year-old overtook **Tanmay Srivastava's** nearly 12-year-old record of 220 runs scored against Pakistan at Peshawar.
- **British Racer Lewis Hamilton** has won the **2018 German Grand Prix**.
- **Indian Women's Compound Archery Team** created history by becoming the **World No. 1**.

- The Sports Ministry has postponed the **National Sports Day** to **September 25, 2018**.
 - Every year, the Sports Day is traditionally celebrated on 29th August. But this year, with the Asian Games going on, the ministry has decided to postpone the event.
- India's **Manu Attri** and **Sumeeth Reddy** won the Men's doubles title at **Lagos International Badminton 2018** in **Lagos, Nigeria**.
- Indian shuttler **Sourabh Verma** won the **2018 Russian Open Men's Singles** title by defeating Koki Watanabe of Japan.
 - **Women's Singles** : Ho Yen Mei (Malaysia)
 - **Men's Doubles** : Mohamad Arif Abdul Latif (Malaysia) and Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub (Malaysia)
 - **Women's Doubles** : Chisato Hoshi (Japan) and Kie Nakanishi (Japan)
 - **Mixed Doubles** : Vladimir Ivano (Russia) and Kim Min-kyung (South Korea)
- India's 1983 Cricket World Cup-winning captain **Kapil Dev** has been selected in the **National Golf team** to take part in the **2018 Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Championship**, which will be held from October 17 to 19 in **Japan**.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, who became the 1st Indian to win gold in javelin throw at Commonwealth Games in April this year, won gold at the **Savo Games** in **Finland**.
- Mercedes' British driver **Lewis Hamilton** won **Hungarian Grandprix 2018**.
- All the **5 participating students from India** have won **Gold medals** at the **49th International Physics Olympiad** held in Portugal this year, in a first since India started competing in 1998.
- **Egypt** defeated **England** to win the Boy's title at the **WSF-World Junior Squash team championship** held in **Chennai**.

Report

- **India** has moved up 15 places to **73rd** in terms of **money parked** by its citizens with **Swiss banks** in 2017, while the **UK** remains on **top**.
 - The **UK** accounted for over 27% (403 billion francs) of the total foreign money while India accounted for 0.07%.
 - Top 5: UK, US, West Indies, France, Hong Kong.
- **Nigeria** overtook **India** as the Country with the **largest number of extreme poor** in early 2018, and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** could soon take over the number 2 spot.
 - This is revealed by a study titled '**The start of a new poverty narrative**', published by the US-based think tank, **Brookings**.
- **Facebook's** 34-year-old CEO **Mark Zuckerberg** has dethroned Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett to become the world's **third-richest person** with \$81.6 billion wealth, according to Bloomberg.
 - **Amazon's Jeff Bezos** remains the **world's richest** followed by Microsoft's **Bill Gates**.
- The **Global Innovation Index (GII)** has ranked **India** as the **57th** most innovative nation in the world.
 - Top 5: Switzerland, The Netherlands, Sweden, The United Kingdom, Singapore.
- According to a recently released World Bank report, **India** is the **6th** largest economy in the world, with a GDP of **\$2.59 trillion** in 2017.
 - India surpassed France and is behind the **US, China, Japan, Germany** and the **UK**.
 - Further, the World Bank estimated the Indian economy to grow by **7.3%** in 2018 and **7.5%** in the next two years.

- **Andhra Pradesh** has topped the **ease of doing business 2016-17 rankings** released by **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** for the second year in a row with a score of 98.42%.
 - **Meghalaya** has been ranked **last** in ease of doing business.
 - Top 5: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Jharkhand, Gujarat.
- **Kylie Cosmetics'** 20-year-old Founder **Kylie Jenner**, with a net worth of **\$900 million**, became the youngest member in **Forbes list of America's richest self-made women 2018** released.
 - Roofing supply company **ABC Supply's Diane Hendricks** topped the list with \$4.9 billion.
 - **Two Indian-origin women** have been featured in the list. They are:
 - Computer networking company Arista Networks CEO **Jayshree Ullal** is ranked 18th with a fortune of \$1.3 billion.
 - IT consulting firm Syntel Co-Founder **Neerja Sethi** was ranked 21st with \$1-billion fortune.
- **Reliance Industries Chairman** and India's richest person **Mukesh Ambani** dethroned **Chinese** e-commerce company **Alibaba's** Co-founder **Jack Ma** to become **Asia's richest person** as RIL shares hit an all-time high.
 - Ambani's net worth now stands at \$44.3 billion as compared to Jack Ma's \$44 billion wealth.
- Undefeated boxing champion **Floyd Mayweather** has been named the **world's highest paid** celebrity by Forbes with earnings of **\$285 million** in the last 12 months.
 - **Irish** professional mixed martial artist and boxer, **Conor McGregor**, stood at **second** position with earnings of \$99 million.
 - With earnings of \$40.5 million (**Rs.276 crore**), **Akshay Kumar** has beat **Salman Khan (82nd)** to become the highest-paid celebrity in **India (76th overall)**.
- The net worth of world's richest person and Amazon Founder **Jeff Bezos** crossed **\$150 billion**.
- **India** ranks **109th** in **overall 4G mobile internet speeds** with an average download speed of 9.12 Mbps which is less than **Pakistan (14.03 Mbps)**, according to data speed tester Ookla.
 - Out of the list comprising 124 countries, **Qatar** ranked **first** in the list with 63.22 Mbps average download speed, followed by **Norway** with 62.14 Mbps download speed.
- The **UK** has **topped 2018 'Soft Power 30' index**, an annual **Global Ranking of Nations' Soft Power** which does not feature **India**.
 - **France** stood at the **2nd** spot followed by **Germany** and **US** in the **3rd** and **4th** spots respectively.
- The heritage city of **Udaipur** has been ranked **3rd** among a list of 15 best cities in the world by Travel + Leisure.
 - The first two cities on the list are **San Miguel de Allende** and **Oaxaca**, both in **Mexico**.
- **Kerala** has been rated as the **best-governed** state in India for the third consecutive time in the **Public Affairs Index 2018** released by Bengaluru-based think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
 - **Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand** and **Bihar** were ranked the lowest.
 - Top 5: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat.
- According to the **US-based Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis (IEEFA)** report, **Karnataka** is the new national leader in **renewable energy** generation.
 - It has overtaken **Tamil Nadu** that had long been India's top renewables market.
- Fast-moving consumer goods giant **ITC** overtook **Hindustan Unilever (HUL)** to become India's **fourth most valued firm** in terms of market capitalization.
- India's richest person **Mukesh Ambani**-led **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** beat **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to become the **Most Valued Company** in India.

National Parties/Regional Parties

- **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister **Raman Singh**-led BJP government has defeated the no-confidence motion that the Congress moved against it in the state assembly.

- Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) led **National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government** has won **No Confidence motion** moved in Lok Sabha.
- **Tamil Nadu** based political party **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** President **M Karunanidhi** became the 1st Indian political figure to lead a party for 50 years.

General - National

- From the Monsoon Session, **Lok Sabha MPs** will be allowed to ask a maximum of **five questions** in the house per day.
- The **Registrar-General of India (RGI)** has recently issued the notification as the process for the **2021 Census** kicks in.
 - The enumerators would start **house listing** in **2020**, and the **headcount** would begin in **February 2021**.
 - The data collected during the 2021 Census will be stored **digitally**, the first time since the decennial exercise was conducted in 1951 in Independent India.
- **India** is going to develop **Sri Lanka's** loss-making **Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport** in **Hambantota**, which is known as the 'world's emptiest airport'.
 - With India's investment, the project is expected to handle 5 million passengers, 50,000-ton cargo, and over 6000 air traffic operations every year by **2028**.
- Indian IT industry apex body **NASSCOM** (National Association of Software & Services Companies) has opened **Centre of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (CoE-DSAI)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
 - **Aim:** To nurture innovation in emerging disruptive technologies such as AI and to leverage the power of data science.
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has launched **Saathi**, a mobile help centre to reach out to people undertaking annual pilgrimage to 3880-metre high holy cave shrine of **Amarnath**.
- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has announced that over **51 lakh houses** have been approved under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** in the three years of its implementation.
- For the first time, **Rajya Sabha members** can speak in any of the **22 languages** listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution, **Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu** has announced.
- **India** formally joined the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**.
 - With this India became **69th member** of the London-based multilateral lender.
- **India** has invited **US President Donald Trump** to be the **Chief Guest** for next year's **Republic Day parade**.
- The **Japan International Cooperation Agency** is going to invest around **Rs.72 crore** in **Bengaluru** to install smart signals that will reduce the waiting time by 30%.
- For the first time in history, the **Lord Venkateswara temple** in **Tirumala** will be **shut** from August 11 to 16 to take up the cleansing of the entire temple complex.
- **India** has become the **Vice-Chair** (Regional head) of the Asia Pacific Region of the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** for two years from July 2018 to June 2020.
 - By becoming the Vice Chair, India will be able to take up the leadership role at the WCO.
- The **Home Ministry of India** has liberalized the process for granting **Long-Term Visas (LTVs)** to **minorities** from **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh**.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is going to create **National Database of Arms Licenses system** from **April 2019**.

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras** has commissioned remotely operable **Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) Microscope**.
- **India** has been elected new **President of Asian Tug of War Federation**.
 - India's **Gautam Kaul** won the prestigious post in the **Federations' Executive Committee** elections held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- Authorities are planning to build a 4.5-km long, 10-storey high '**skyscraper bridge**' by mid-2022 to connect **Worli to Sewri in Mumbai**.
- The month of **September** to be celebrated as **National Nutrition Month** every year.
 - The decision in this regard was taken in the 2nd meeting of **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan**, which was held at **New Delhi**.
- A **Museum** dedicated to all former and future Prime Ministers will be built at Delhi's **Teen Murti Bhavan**, which served as Jawaharlal Nehru's official residence as PM until his death in office.
- As many as 1 lakh students in 100 schools across India will assemble **Solar Lamps** on October 2 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's **150th birth anniversary** and celebrate IIT-Bombay's diamond jubilee.
- To wipe out corruption, the **Indian Railways** has launched a new programme titled **Mission Satyanishtha**.
- The **United States** has granted **Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1)** status to **India**.
- **Bogibeel**, India's longest rail-cum-road bridge, is likely to be inaugurated in **October**.
 - Built over the **Brahmaputra river**, 4.94 kilometres long rail-cum-road bridge connects the North and South banks of river Brahmaputra and is situated in the eastern region of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

General - International

- **Australia's Sydney Airport** is starting to test the first phase of **biometric technology** for check-in alongside **Qantas airlines eliminating** the requirement of a **passport**.
- **Turkey** is going to sell **four corvette warships** to **Pakistan** which will be the country's largest single export deal.
 - Turkey signed an MOU to build four corvettes for Pakistan under the **MiLGEM project** last year.
 - Two of the corvettes will be built in **Istanbul** while the other two in **Pakistan's Karachi**.
- The **United Kingdom** has launched new visas that will be open to overseas scientists and researchers, including **Indians**, to encourage growth of the **country's research sector**.
 - This will enable them to work and train in the UK for **maximum** period of **two years**.
- **Japanese city Tokyo** unveiled the world's first all-**digital art museum**.
- **Russia's Central Bank** has announced that they will mint **Commemorative Half-Rouble Coins** if the host nation reaches the semi-finals stage of the **FIFA World Cup 2018** tournament.
- The leaders of **Ethiopia** and **Eritrea** signed a declaration to fully implement a **peace deal** reached in 2000, ending the 20-year war between the two countries.
- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has adopted **Resolution 2427** aimed at providing **legal framework** for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.
- The **Sri Lankan Cabinet** has unanimously approved a move to bring back capital **punishment** for **drug-related crimes**.

- The 1st-ever land-based communication link between **China** and **Pakistan** was inaugurated.
 - The **Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable project** includes an 820-kilometre underground cable that starts from Pakistan's Rawalpindi and ends at Khunjerab bordering China and connects with optical fibre in the Chinese side.
 - It is a part of the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** project.
- The **UN Security Council** adopted **Resolution 2428** a resolution to impose an **Arms embargo** (an official ban on trade or other commercial activity) on **South Sudan**.
- **United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres** has established first-of-its-kind **Panel on Digital Cooperation** aimed at addressing concerns of **cybersecurity threats** and **rise in hate speech**.
 - The high-level panel on digital cooperation will be co-chaired by US philanthropist **Melinda Gates** and China-based Alibaba founder **Jack Ma**.
 - Senior Indian diplomat **Amandeep Singh Gill** along with former diplomat **Jovan Kurbalija** will be executive directors of panel's secretariat.
- The **International Criminal Court** has brought into effect a **New Law** under which **politicians and military leaders** can be held individually responsible for invasions and other major attacks.
- The **Egyptian parliament** passed an amendment offering citizenship to foreigners who deposit at least **7 million Egyptian pounds** (over Rs.2.5 crore) in the country's Treasury.
- **China** has built an **unmanned automatic weather observation station** in **Tibet** near its border with **India**.
- **Israel's** Parliament approved a controversial piece of legislation that defines the country as the **nation-state of the Jewish people**.
- The **Spanish government** is going to introduce a legislation to **criminalize sex** without consent.
 - The legislation, under which consent would have to be explicit, states that "yes means yes" and anything else, including silence, means no.
- The **Turkish government** has **ended** the **nationwide state of emergency** imposed following a failed coup attempt in July 2016 that killed over 250 people and wounded nearly 2,200.
- **Iceland** was elected to take up the seat left vacant at the **United Nations Human Rights Council** after the **United States** quit the body over what it charges was anti-Israel bias.
- **Hungary** will **withdraw** from the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration agreement** which will be adopted in December.
- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** declared that **Migrants** do not have the unfettered right to choose their host nation.
- **US President Donald Trump** has invited **Russian President Vladimir Putin** to Washington this autumn to discuss several issues, including Ukraine and the Middle East.
- **Japan's** parliament passed a controversial law to legalize **casino gambling** paving way for up to **three** casino resorts to open.
- **London** has launched the '**Walking Action Plan**' in a bid to make London the 'world's most walkable city'.
 - The plan includes introducing **new traffic signal technology** to make it easier and safer to cross roads, among other provisions.
- For the first time, **Cuba** has started providing **internet** on the **mobile phones** of select users as it aims to roll out the service nationwide by year-end.
- **China** has invited **Bhutan** to join the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, in the visit of China's Vice Foreign Minister **Kong Xuanyou** to the country.

- All 50 states of **United States** now allow Breastfeeding in public, with Utah and Idaho recently joining the rest of the country in legalizing it.
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has designated **India** as Nodal Centre for developing customized model to issue **advance warning** of floods to Asian countries, including Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

Books and Authors

Book's Name

Author's Name

- The Dhoni Touch
- Gandhi The years that changed the world (1914-1948)
- The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled '**Two Classical Plays from India**'.
 - This book is an English translation of Hindi plays written by well-known playwright **D.P. Sinha**.
- Bollywood Actor **Sanjay Dutt** will come out with his autobiography next year in which he will reveal many interesting stories that he "never had the chance to tell before".
 - The memoir will be published by **HarperCollins** and will be released on his 60th birthday on July 29, 2019.
- Harry Potter fantasy series author **J. K. Rowling** has announced her next book titled "**Lethal White**".
 - Rowling is writing this novel with the pen name "**Robert Galbraith**".
- The **Odisha** Government has unveiled 1st-ever '**Tribal Atlas of Odisha**'.
 - The book was published by SC and ST Research and Training Institute in collaboration with Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC).

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TO THE POINTS: JULY-2018

- The 63rd foundation day of the State Bank of India has celebrated on **1 July 2018**.
- **Ravindra H Dholakia**, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad, is the head of the panel to upgrade norms for state, district level economic data collection.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the time for linking PAN with Aadhaar till **31 March 2019**.
- Andhra mulls issuing bonds for **Rs.42,000 crore** to fund construction of Amravati.
- **Sathyasri Sharmila** from Tamil Nadu becomes First Transgender Lawyer of India.
- **Nissan** signs MoU with Kerala government for digital hub.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** plans to repeal anti conversion law.
- **Haryana** Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets.
- India has **73rd** places in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017.
- India will increase the money it pays to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the next four years to **\$15 million**, from the \$12 million currently.
- Renewable Energy Dialogue 2018 held in **New Delhi**.
- **Alka Tiwari** is new Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Secretary.
- **Ravi Thapar** is the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Costa Rica.
- **India** clinched the Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 title.
- **Rahul Dravid** becomes the fifth Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- India provides tariff concessions on 3,142 items to **APTA members**.
- **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** has been elected as Mexico's President.
- Interpol issues Red Notice against **Nirav Modi**.
- **Delhi** launches Happiness Curriculum for govt schools.
- **Nine lakh saplings** were planted across 24 river banks in the state as part of the Jharkhand government's initiative to protect the environment.
- **Jharkhand** has announced India's the first 'Khadi Mall'.
- **Jharkhand** aims to plant 2.40 crore saplings by August 15.
- **Himachal Pradesh** gets national award for best performance under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritav Abhiyan (PMSMA).
- Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district of **Odisha**, became largest habitat of Endangered Estuarine Crocodiles.
- **Bharti Infratel** Company Gets CCI nod for merge with Indus towers.
- National Workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities held in **New Delhi**.
- The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intercessional ministerial meeting was held in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- **Vijay Srinivas** appointed as Director and GM of United India Insurance.
- Artist **Anjolie Ela Menon** and **Ramachandran** conferred the Kalidas Award.
- **Max Verstappen** won the Austrian Grand Prix.

- “**cVigil**” is the name of the App launched by Election Commission to report electoral malpractice.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has confirmed that **fruit bats** were the primary source of the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts.
- **Hindi** is the most spoken language in India.
- India and **Pakistan** exchange lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen.
- Hambantota port is located in **Sri Lanka**.
- **Odisha Govt** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) to enhance effective management of all kinds of disasters.
- **Chhattisgarh** government will set up a tribal museum in Naya Raipur.
- World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference held in **Haryana**.
- **Bangalore** will get India’s first government run e-Waste recycling plant.
- **IIFL** is the India’s No. 1 investment bank for Fiscal Year 2017 to 2018.
- The 42nd session of World Heritage Committee (WHC) meeting of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been concluded in **Manama, Bahrain**.
- The first meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) held in **New Delhi**.
- Novel ‘Eleventh Hour’ is authored by **Hussain Zaidi**.
- **Vikram Dogra** becomes the first Indian Army officer to complete world’s toughest Ironman Triathlon.
- Former Indian **Navy** chief, Admiral Jayant Ganpat Nadkarni passed away.
- The Election Commission launched voter identity cards with Braille label to ensure greater participation of persons with **visual impairment** in the electoral process.
- The government would follow the **Sunil Mehta Committee’s** 5 pronged strategies towards resolution of stressed assets.
- The Union Cabinet permitted the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) to mobilize **Rs.1 lakh crore** to fund research and academic infrastructure in higher educational institutions by 2022.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first medical drug made from marijuana named “**Epidiolex**” which will be used to cure severe forms of epilepsies in children.
- **Rs.500** Fine for open defecation in Sambalpur.
- Behdienkhlam Festival celebrated in **Meghalaya**.
- RBI issued license to **Bank of China** to operate in India.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit held in **Qingdao, China**.
- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited** has announced its tie-up with Oxygen.
- Google’s public WiFi project aims to capture 40 million new users in India by **2019**.
- Minimum support price for paddy hiked by **Rs.200** a quintal.
- **P K Shrivastava** was appointed as the new Director-General and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- Australian Internet of Things (IoT) startup Fleet Space Technologies has announced launch plans for its first two nano-satellites, **Centauri I and II**, in the second half of 2018.
- Malabar World Kayak Championship held in **Kerala**.

- Law commission says to allow **gambling** in sports but regulate it.
- **ICAT** has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy duty engine model for M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.
- In **Beijing** Mao tomb, Tiananmen Square is located.
- In **Haryana** 'Chai pe Charcha' campaign is launched.
- **Uttarakhand** accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state.
- NASSCOM launches Centre of Excellence for Data Science and AI in **Bangalore**.
- **UNESCO** will set up Gaming University in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Narla Bambal**, a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, received electricity connection and metalled road for the first time since Independence.
- India's first taxi ambulance services launched in **Delhi**
- Maharashtra government has decided to provide **180 days'** paid leave to women government employees to look after their children during the course of service.
- **Madhya Pradesh** launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for laborers and poor families.
- World Bank Group member IFC (International Finance Corporation) has invested \$100 million in **Mahindra & Mahindra** Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance).
- **Infosys** ink pact with Siemens to develop advanced IoT solutions.
- NITI Aayog is organizing "MOVE: Global Mobility Summit" in New Delhi on 7th and 8th **September**, 2018.
- **Vishwas Patel** has appointed as New Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI).
- **Sustainable consumption and production of goods and services** is the theme of International Day of Cooperatives.
- National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently added **four** critically endangered species.
- The **National Security Guard** will be the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.
- Former **Pakistan** Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sentenced to 10 years in jail.
- **Turkey** signed a MoU to build four corvettes warships for Pakistan.
- India Join hands to promote Tourism with **Nepal**.
- Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport is located in **Srilanka**.
- Tyre major CEAT, the flagship company of the RPG Group, signed a MoU with the **Tamil Nadu** State government to invest Rs.4000 crore in a greenfield plant in Sriperumbudur near Chennai.
- Uttar Pradesh announced ban on plastic bags, cups and glasses across the state from **July 15** onwards.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Begumpet Airport, **Hyderabad**.
- **ICICI** Bank has announced that its mortgage loan portfolio crossed the Rs.1.5-trillion.
- Cabinet approved Umbrella schemes for relief and rehabilitation of Migrants and repatriates to continue up to **2020**.
- Supreme Court judge Justice **Adarsh Kumar Goel** was appointed as the Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for a period of 5 years.

- International Mango Festival was celebrated in Janakpuri, **New Delhi, India**.
- **Train 18** is the name of Semi high speed train built by India's Integral Coach Factory.
- **Bansi Lal Ketki** won the first prize of Rs.50,000 along with a certificate in the logo design contest National Human Rights Commission.
- The Statue of Unity, being built near the Sardar Sarovar dam on the **Narmada River**, at a cost of Rs.2,989, in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the national-level Engineering Entrance Test (JEE Main) and medical entrance examinations (NEET) will be held twice a year from **2019**.
- Small town **Thetford** of England will be converted into a twin city of Amritsar in the memory of the last king of the Sikh Empire, Maharaja Duleep Singh.
- **Uttar Pradesh** state government to ask non performing employees aged above 50yrs to retire.
- **HDFC Bank** is most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China.
- **Reliance Industries limited (RIL)** becomes India's largest taxpayer in the private sector.
- The first meeting of e-commerce Task Force held in **New Delhi**.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will roll out its new internet telephony service with brand name "**Wings**" from August 1.
- **Sebastian Vettel** won British Grand Prix 2018.
- **Dipa Karmakar** wins gold in Gymnastics World Cup.
- **T.K Chand** has awarded Knowledge Excellence Award.
- **Tabrej Qureshi** has bagged the top prize in the slogan/tagline contest National Human Rights Commission.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of **Bihar**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that the license of **Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank** in Alwar, Rajasthan has been cancelled.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in inaugurated Samsung's mobile manufacturing plant in **Noida**.
- **Infosys** Foundation would contribute Rs.200 crore to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
- **UK** launched new visas for overseas scientists, academics.
- 17th World Sanskrit Conference held in **Vancouver, Canada**.
- **Vidya Balan** has appointed as brand ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group.
- Theme for world Population day is '**Family Planning is a Human Right**'.
- Indian Railways will start a special train, 'Shri Ramayana Express' from **November 14**.
- Scientists have discovered the world's oldest color **bright pink**.
- **Satyarup Siddhanta** has becomes second Indian to climb world's highest volcano, Mount Ojos del Salado.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has topped the third edition of the government's 'Ease of Doing Business' index.
- **Odisha** has ban on the use of plastic in the state from October 2.
- Rajasthan has emerged as the first State to sign a memorandum of understanding with **Microsoft** to provide digital training to 9,500 students of government colleges.

- First ever 'India Tourism Mart' was held in **New Delhi**.
- World Cities Summit 2018 held in **Singapore**.
- An **Israeli** plans to land an unmanned spacecraft on the moon in February, 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India in **New Delhi**.
- **Niti Aayog** has proposed a 15-point action plan to combat air pollution in ten most polluted cities in the country, including Delhi, Kanpur and Varanasi.
- **Nepal** returns the dancing bear to India.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has launched 'Anna Canteens'.
- **Gujarat** has given in-principle approval for the 39-crore rupees 'Seema Darshan' project.
- **India** joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), becoming the London-based multilateral lender's 69th member.
- HDFC securities announced launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on **Face book Messenger** through their virtual assistant, Arya.
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited has appointed **T Latha** as the Managing Director & CEO.
- **Dipa Karmakar** is the new brand ambassador of Tripura.
- India ranked as the **57th** most innovative nation in the world.
- India surpasses France to become world's **sixth** largest economy.
- **BSNL** becomes India's 1st network to launch 'internet telephony'.
- **Aurobindo Pharma** gets USFDA approval for manufacturing Azithromycin tablets.
- **Maharashtra** will launch 'One farmer one transformer' scheme from 15th August.
- **SBI** has signed MOU with Defence for salary Package.
- The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is being organized by Ministry of External Affairs in association with the State Government of Varanasi, **Uttar Pradesh** in January 2019 (Jan. 21-23, 2019).
- BIMSTEC Summit will be held in **Nepal**.
- **Abhishek Nayar** is appointed as mentor, lead coach of KKR Academy.
- India finished joint **third** with Iran in Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament in Taipei, Taiwan.
- **Hima Das** becomes first woman to win gold in World Junior Athletics Championship.
- **Spiritual leader** Dada J P Vaswani passes away.
- The United Nations Security Council has passed a resolution to impose an arms embargo on **South Sudan**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** will appoint girls as a district Brand Ambassador who has recorded significant achievements in any field under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme.
- State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups in **Telangana**.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for enrolling new customers.
- Scientists from **New Zealand** have performed the first-ever 3-D, colour X-ray on a human body, using the imaging technology developed for the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN physics lab.

- Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was given the additional charge of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Amitabh Malhotra** has been appointed as the Head of Investment Banking for HSBC India.
- Indian sprinter Hima Das will be named as the state's sports ambassador for **Assam**.
- Mohammad Kaif related to **Cricket**.
- Kalpesh Yagnik, the National Group **Editor** of Dainik Bhaskar passed away in Indore.
- At the 2018 Goodwood Festival of Speed, Vazirani Automotive has unveiled India's first turbine electric hypercar called '**Vazirani Shul**'.
- **India** has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organization (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020).
- Integrated Indian Visa Application Centre inaugurated in **Bangladesh**.
- New Delhi's Connaught Place is the **9th** most expensive location globally to set up or rent an office.
- The **Odisha** government constituted Heritage Cabinet.
- **Haryana** has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST.
- Gujarat government approved **Rs.39 crore** for the 'Seema Darshan' Project for infra development.
- **Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan** is appointed Director-General of ICWA.
- **Narendra Modi** has become third most followed world leader on Twitter.
- Bansagar Canal Project is located in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Nasirul Mulk inaugurated the **Pakistan-China Optical Fiber Cable (OFC)** project that would serve as the first land-based communication link between the two countries, and as a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.
- **Iceland** is the new member of UN Human Rights Council.
- **Bihar** has introduced world's cheapest clean drinking water.
- **Haryana** government launched 'Paudhagiri' campaign to increase green cover.
- **SBI** organized 'kisan melas' at 875 rural and semi-urban branches spread across Karnataka on July 18.
- **Phonepe** has been aggressively expanding its offline merchant network as part of a broader goal of establishing itself as the pre-eminent digital payments brand.
- **Bushan Steel** has approved the appointment of TV Narendran as chairman and non-executive additional director of the company.
- **Alia Bhatt** is new brand ambassador of ITC's Sunfeast Dark Fantasy.
- **China** has launch 300 low-orbit satellites named the Hongyan constellation.
- **ISRO** join hands with J&K to set up telemedicine centre at 12,700 feet.
- Fertilizer major IFFCO launched a mobile application and web portal, **IFFCO iMandi** to address all needs of the farming community associated with it.
- India's current GDP Growth Forecast is **7.3%** according to IMF.
- **Ishwar Sharma** is 8 year old Indian Boy named 'British Indian of the Year'.
- **IIT Madras** unveiled World's First Remotely Operable Microscope.
- The Health Ministry has clarified it's not mandatory for beneficiaries to submit Aadhaar details for seeking **Rs.5-lakh** health insurance under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, dubbed as 'Modicare'.

- **Anil Swarup** is the head of the committee to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).
- **T-Hub** is India's missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries.
- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** (PFRDA) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Actuarial Valuation of Atal Pension Yojana.
- European Union signed major trade deal with **Japan**.
- Under **Adarsh Smarak Scheme** ASI has planned to upgrade seven monuments in Tamil Nadu.
- India's 1st skill training centre is going to setup in **Odisha**.
- Rath Yatra was celebrated in **Odisha**.
- **RBI** has come in for effusive praise by the global banking authority, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- The Union Cabinet has signed MoU on the Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation (RAPC) with **BRICS**.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is planning to create a National Database of Arms Licenses system from **April 2019**.
- Cabinet approve a special package for 81 irrigation projects worth over **Rs.13000 crore** in Vidarbha, Marathwada and other drought-prone areas of Maharashtra.
- RBI issued new Rs.100 notes in a smaller size than the previous version and with **violet colour** as the base.
- Finance Ministry has approved **Rs.11336 crore** for capital infusion in 5 PSU Banks.
- Walmart has teamed up with **Microsoft** for a strategic partnership that will take on rival Amazon in both technology and retail.
- **Facebook** and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) took joint responsibility to train youth and entrepreneurs in the country on digital skills.
- Akshay Kumar has **76th rank** in Forbes Top 100 highest-paid entertainers.
- Next senior women's FIFA World Cup will be held in **France**.
- **National Mission for Clean Ganga** (NMCG) is running "Ganga VriksharopanAbhiyan" in five main stem Ganga basin states namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- **Prof. R.C. Deka** is the Chairperson of a Committee formed by University Grants Commission (UGC) to regulate the fees chargeable by self-financed Deemed to be Universities in Medical and Dental Courses.
- **Hungary** will withdraw from the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" agreement which force countries to shelter migrants and it will be adopted in December, 2018.
- **Prof. M.M. Salunkhe** is the head of the committee constituted by University Grants Commission (UGC) to look into the matters related to examination reforms.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has launched e-Pragati core platform, a forward-looking digital initiative.
- **Jana Small Finance Bank** announced the commercial launch of its banking operations, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank (SFB), three years after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its in-principle approval.
- **Repco Micro Finance Ltd** received Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.

- **Amazon** is the second company to Hit \$900 Billion Valuation.
- **The European Union** (EU) has slapped Alphabet-owned Google with a record 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) antitrust fine for abusing the dominance of its Android mobile operating system.
- WhatsApp Messenger decided to tackle the spread of fake news on its platform, instant messaging application and has limited the users can forward messages to only **five** people at a time.
- **V.K.Tahilramani** is the new Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- India was build **2000 kms** of international roads over the five year period ending 2022 under its flagship Bharatmala scheme.
- United Kingdom chose "**Sutherland**", on the A'Mhoine peninsula on the north coast of Scotland to send satellites vertically into orbit by the early 2020s.
- **Israel** has passed bill defining the country as Jewish state.
- **Myanmar** has joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming the 68th member of the grouping that is aiming at optimum utilization of solar energy.
- **Infosys** has signed with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the construction of a station at Konappana Agrahara in Electronics City.
- NTPC signs Rs.1500 crore loan agreement with **HDFC bank**.
- **Fakhar Zaman** broke the previous 194 run record of Saeed Anwar for Pakistan and also became the first player from Pakistan to score a double hundred in ODI cricket.
- **Virat Kohli** has become No.1 spot in the ICC ODI player rankings.
- **Bharat Electronics Limited** has manufacturing new Electronic Voting Machine.
- **India** has topped the list of skilled visa immigrants in Australia.
- The first international festival of Mizoram 'Mizo Hnahthlak' was organized in **Aizawl, Mizoram**.
- **Tamilnadu** sets up 24-hour helpline for protection of inter-caste couples.
- **Federal bank** gets RBI nod to enter Bahrain, Kuwait, and Singapore.
- The 28th meeting of the GST Council chaired by interim finance minister **Piyush Goyal** was held in New Delhi.
- Facebook is working on a new satellite project, named **Athena**, will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas.
- **Alisson Becker** has become the World's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million.
- In **Srilanka**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated first phase of the India-assisted emergency ambulance service.
- **Himachal Pradesh** has approved implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of apple.
- NABARD launches first ever centre in **Lucknow** for climate change in South East Asia.
- India has planned to buy environmentally friendly TaxiBots, which can be used at the airports, developed by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**.
- According to the Public Affairs Index 2018, **Kerala** is the best-governed state in the country, released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre.
- A total of **734 youngsters** were shortlisted for scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme.

- On **August 31** all states and Union Territories (UT) to submit a Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping offered a gift of \$295 million to **Sri Lanka**, as Beijing tries to expand its influence in the island nation.
- **AIIMS** has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, for collaboration in education, research outreach and medical services.
- Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha inaugurated Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) in **Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Rishi Srivastava** has been promoted and appointed as the new MD & CEO of Tata AIA life insurance.
- The 76th Golden Globe Awards will be presented at a ceremony on **January 6, 2019**.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has created an online tool named **TreadWill**, to help people overcome issues related to mental health.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the National Traders' Conclave at Constitution Club of India, in **New Delhi**.
- Under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, the government has cut the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts to **Rs.250** from Rs.1000 earlier.
- Elon Musk-led space startup SpaceX launched the **Telstar 19 Vantage** satellite, the world's heaviest commercial communications satellite weighing over 7000 kg, through its Falcon 9 rocket.
- The Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee officially presented its Olympic mascots **Miraitowa and Someity** at a massive event.
- **Sunil Chhetri** has awarded as the AIFF Player of the Year in the Federation's Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai.
- **Hima Das** won India's first ever gold in U-20 Athletics championship.
- **Fakhar Zaman** is the quickest player in history to reach 1000 runs in the One Day Internationals format.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won German Grand Prix 2018.
- **Death penalty** awarded to those convicted of raping children below 12 years, according to the proposal of amendment POCSO Act.
- The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 inserts new **Section 143 A** in parent Act to allow court trying offence related to cheque bouncing to direct drawer (person who writes cheque) to pay interim compensation to complainant.
- **India** has become a popular hub of medical tourism.
- **Rajiv Gauba** is the head of 4-member panel to propose measures on mob violence, lynching.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, '**#Childline1098**' to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, 2018.
- Union Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh announced that the government has sanctioned **Rs.1754.14 crore** under National Dairy Plan (NDP).
- Ministry of Tourism has identified **17** sites in the country for development under Iconic Tourist Sites Development Project.
- **Japan** has passed law to legalize casino gambling.
- **20%** of fine or compensation awarded by trial court during conviction because of Cheque bouncing, according to Section 148-A of Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

- **Rakesh Sharma** has appointed as Bajaj Auto Ltd's first Chief Commercial Officer (CCO).
- **Myanmar** will host the next ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM) in October.
- **Swachh Survekshan Grameen** launched in UP, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
- The Men's team event of the World Junior Squash Championships has begun in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- Kargil or **Vijay Diwas** was celebrated on July 26.
- To **Australia**, acting New Zealand PM Winston Peters is demanding to change their flag because the Flag of New Zealand looks similar to that country.
- **Wipro** and Karnataka partnership to jointly combat issues like air pollution.
- **Michael Ondaatje** is the author of the book "Warlight".
- In **Mars**, National Institute for Astrophysics of Italy has spotted salt-laden lake under the ice on the southern polar plain.
- Month of **September** is declared as National Nutrition Month every year by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The Sports Ministry has postponed the National Sports Day to **September 25, 2018**.
- **Assam** government is going to set up separate directorate for Divyangs.
- 'Mukhyamantri Kissan Aaye Badhotri Solar Yojna', a scheme for farmers was launched in **New Delhi** that will be able to lease out a part of their agricultural land for setting up of solar panels to get additional income.
- Invest India has signed MoU with **Business France** to promote investment.
- **Kerala** is all set to launch India's first public sector hotel run entirely by women for women in the state.
- **Infratel** has received clearance from SEBI for its merger with Indus Towers.
- Global Disability Summit 2018 held in **London**.
- **Fincare Small Finance Bank** has signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxigen's flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxigen Micro ATM Super PoS.
- **Venezuela** has removed five zeroes from its currency because of hyperinflation.
- **Ramachandra Guha** is the author of the book "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)".
- The time limit for entire process of closure of a CPSE and disposal of the assets is **13 months**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to build a Gandhi Heritage Centre in **Uganda**.
- **Karnataka** is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.
- **P.J. Joseph** is the head of the committee formed by IRDAI to examine motor third party insurance.
- **West Bengal** passes resolution to change name of state to 'Bangla'.
- **Imran Khan**, Pakistan's cricket star-turned politician who declared victory for his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) in the country's general election.
- Arunachal Pradesh offered **Rs.5 lakh per family** for health insurance under Chief Minister's Arogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY).
- The international festival of photography will held in **Chennai**.

- 2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference 2018 will be organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) held in **New Delhi**.
- The book "The Dhoni Touch: Unravelling the Enigma That Is Mahendra Singh Dhoni" has been authored by **Bharat Sundaresan**.
- India was ranked **11th** in 2018 AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index.
- India was ranked **6th** in the global optimism index with business optimism tepid in second quarter (Q2) of 2018.
- The union government has extended the due date for filing income tax returns for certain taxpayers by one month till **31st August 2018**.
- **BAN2401**, a new drug that reduces plaques in the brain and slows down the cognition for Alzheimer disease has been introduced by Eisai, a Japan-based company and Biogen, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- A society has been set up in **Singapore** to honor of former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and to advance his vision for the world.
- **Parker** is the name of world's first mission to touch the Sun lead by NASA.
- Adenor Leonardo Bacchi is related to **Foot Ball**.
- **India** is the world number one in women's compound archery.
- **Google** bans crypto currency mining apps from its app store.
- **Gujarat** has announced a new urban sanitation policy.
- **Uttar Pradesh** plans to build 108m Ram statue near Queen Ho Memorial on Saryu Bank.
- **Data Protection Authority** recommended by Justice Srikrishna committee.
- **India** has been designated as a nodal centre for preparing flash-flood forecasts by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- **Patiala foundation** has been accorded "Special Consultative Status" by the United Nations.
- **Railway department** has launched 'Mission Satyanishtha'.
- National Rail Museum is located in **New Delhi**.
- **HDFC** bank awarded best performing lending institution in CLSS schemes.
- **DigiYatra** facility is coordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation that aimed to reduce the queues at airports and bring efficiency to the boarding process.
- **Bajrang Punia** won second consecutive international gold at Yasar Dogu International.
- **Sourabh Verma** won Russian Open Badminton Trophy recently.
- International Army Games 2018 started in **Moscow**.
- The CEO and Managing Director of Paytm Payments Bank, **Renu Satti** has resigned from her position to lead the new retail initiative for the company.
- A team of doctors, from the Blood Bank of Kasturba Medical College (KMC) Mangalore, came across a rare blood group and identified it as '**pp**' or '**P null**' phenotype.
- The first Nanoscience and technology (NSTI) Institute for Punjab and only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for **Women**.
- ICC has organized the 'Sano Cricket Curry Festival' in **Japanese city of Sano** to promote cricket in the nation.
- **Shivangi Pathak** has become the youngest woman from India to reach the Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: JULY-2018
MODEL QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of 2018 World Youth Skills Day (WYSD)?
(1) Skills for All
(2) Improving the image of TVET
(3) Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment
(4) World Skills for peace and prosperity
(5) None of these
2. What is the theme of the 2018 World Hepatitis Day (WHD)?
(1) Hepatitis: Think Again
(2) Eliminate Hepatitis
(3) Test. Treat. Hepatitis
(4) Know Hepatitis-Act now
(5) None of these
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon issue new 100 Rupee notes with motif of which UNESCO World Heritage site?
(1) Sanchi Stupa
(2) Rani Ki Vav
(3) Hampi
(4) Konark
(5) None of these
4. The Government of India (GoI) has given 'In-Principle' approval for construction and operation of LIGO-India Laboratory in which district of Maharashtra?
(1) Hingoli
(2) Nagpur
(3) Aurangabad
(4) Kolhapur
(5) None of these
5. Which state government has signed pact with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for effective disaster management?
(1) Assam
(2) Odisha
(3) Maharashtra
(4) Karnataka
(5) None of these
6. Which city is set to host the Monsoon session of the Maharashtra Legislature after a gap of 47 years?
(1) Aurangabad
(2) Nashik
(3) Mumbai
(4) Nagpur
(5) None of these
7. Which state government has launched 'Poshan Abhiyan' to eradicate malnutrition?
(1) Maharashtra
(2) Tripura
(3) Gujarat
(4) Mizoram
(5) None of these
8. The Odisha government has partnered with which organization for development of cancer care facilities in the State?
(1) Apollo
(2) Tata Trust
(3) Vedanta
(4) AIIMS
(5) None of these
9. Which state government has given in-principle approval for 'Seema Darshan' project for border tourism?
(1) Jammu & Kashmir
(2) Rajasthan
(3) Gujarat
(4) Sikkim
(5) None of these
10. Which state government has constituted Heritage Cabinet to preserve the history and culture of state?
(1) Chhatisgarh
(2) Odisha
(3) Assam
(4) Tripura
(5) None of these
11. India's first greenfield skill training centre is proposed to come up in which state?
(1) Odisha
(2) Assam
(3) Tamil Nadu
(4) Manipur
(5) None of these
12. Which state government has launched an online portal 'Aabhaar Aapki Sewa Ka' for pensioners?
(1) Madhya Pradesh
(2) Chhattisgarh
(3) Rajasthan
(4) Uttar Pradesh
(5) None of these

13. Which state police has launched drive to bust an international smuggling racket of pangolin?
(1) Assam (2) Odisha (3) Meghalaya (4) Tripura (5) None of these
14. Which state government has launched e-Pragati Core initiative to provide integrated services to citizens?
(1) AP (2) Rajasthan (3) Karnataka (4) Kerala (5) None of these
15. India's first state-run all-woman hotel "Hostess" will come up in which state?
(1) Kerala (2) Karnataka (3) HP (4) Mizoram (5) None of these
16. Which state government has launched smartphone scheme "Sanchar Kranti Yojna" to the people of the state?
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Chhattisgarh (3) Odisha
(4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
17. Which of the following National parks has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in India?
(1) Jim Corbett National Park (2) Bhitarkanika National Park
(3) Ranthambore National Park (4) Nagarhole National Park (5) None of these
18. India's first-ever state-of-the-art e-waste recycling unit will come up in which city?
(1) Bengaluru (2) Mumbai (3) Delhi (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
19. Pandharichi Wari, which has started recently, is the most important pilgrimage of which state?
(1) Telangana (2) Maharashtra (3) Tamil Nadu (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
20. The Union Government has declared the area around Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). The MTR is located in which state?
(1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) AP (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
21. Which city hosted the 4th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals to strengthen mineral auction regime?
(1) Indore (2) New Delhi (3) Raipur (4) Chandigarh (5) None of these
22. Who has become the world's oldest verified living person?
(1) Kane Tanaka (2) Chiyo Miyako (3) Nabi Tajima
(4) Jeanne Calment (5) None of these
23. Which country to host the biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise "Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18)"?
(1) India (2) Australia (3) Canada (4) Japan (5) None of these
24. The Union government has constituted a ministerial panel to decide on fund allocation from CRIF for infrastructure projects. The panel will be headed by whom?
(1) Minister of Finance
(2) Minister of Information and Broadcasting
(3) Minister of Labour and Employment
(4) Minister of Road Transport and Highways
(5) None of these
25. Recently, the term of K Kasturirangan Committee was extended by the Government of India (GoI). The committee was constituted for which purpose?
(1) To draft new education policy (2) To draft new income-tax policy
(3) To draft new FDI policy (4) To draft new forest policy (5) None of these

26. Which Indian sportsperson will represent Asia in the prestigious Athletes Advisory Commission of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)?
 (1) Dutee Chand (2) Dipika Pallikal (3) Vikas Gowda
 (4) Mary Kom (5) None of these
27. Which committee has been constituted by the Central Government to review Companies Act 2013?
 (1) Injeti Srinivas Committee (2) Avinash K. Srivastava Committee
 (3) Raghvendra Singh Committee (4) Sanjay Mitra Committee (5) None of these
28. Which ministerial committee has been set up by the Odisha government for development of Odia film industry?
 (1) S B Behera committee (2) Prafulla Samal committee
 (3) Ananta Das committee (4) Kirti Patnaik committee (5) None of these
29. IRDAI has constituted which committee to review third party motor cover costs?
 (1) P J Joseph committee (2) S P Chakraborty committee
 (3) Nitin G Dossa committee (4) D R Dharmaraj Bala committee (5) None of these
30. Which state to host the conference of Ministers for Power, New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories?
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Odisha (3) Tamil Nadu
 (4) Himachal Pradesh (5) None of these
31. Which country to host the 19th edition of IUFOST World Food Science and Technology Congress 2018?
 (1) Italy (2) India (3) New Zealand (4) Canada (5) None of these
32. Which country is hosting the 8th International Convention of Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj 2018?
 (1) US (2) Brazil (3) South Africa (4) India (5) None of these
33. Which country is hosting the 17th World Sanskrit Conference (WSC-2018)?
 (1) India (2) Brazil (3) Australia (4) Canada (5) None of these
34. Which country is poised to host the 2018 BIMSTEC summit?
 (1) Nepal (2) Myanmar (3) India (4) Bangladesh (5) None of these
35. The 2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference 2018 will be organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D). Where is the headquarters of BPR&D located?
 (1) Lucknow (2) New Delhi (3) Patna (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
36. Which city hosted the Global Disability Summit 2018?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Paris (3) London (4) Geneva (5) None of these
37. NITI Aayog has partnered with GNFC Ltd. to implement fertilizer subsidy disbursement through which technology?
 (1) Internet of Things (2) Blockchain (3) Cryptocurrency
 (4) Counterparty (5) None of these
38. The Rajasthan government has signed a MoU with which technological giant to provide free digital training to students?
 (1) Facebook (2) Microsoft (3) Infosys (4) Wipro (5) None of these

39. Myanmar has become the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Where is the headquarters of ISA?
(1) Australia (2) France (3) Belgium (4) India (5) None of these
40. Which of the following central oil PSUs has/have signed Joint Venture (JV) pact for North – East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid (N-ENGPG)?
(1) IOCL (2) ONGC (3) GAIL (4) All of the above (5) None of these
41. NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with which pharmaceutical company to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme?
(1) Cipla (2) Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (3) Aurobindo Pharma
(4) Lupin Foundation (5) None of these
42. Who will chair the first meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)?
(1) Kavindra H Dholakia (2) Suryanath Upadhyay
(3) Bhagat Singh Koshyari (4) S Masood Hussain (5) None of these
43. Which city to host the first-ever 'India Tourism Mart (ITM)'?
(1) New Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Pune (4) Panaji (5) None of these
44. Which of the following countries has passed a law to declare that only Jews have right of self-determination?
(1) Palestine (2) Israel (3) Spain (4) New Zealand (5) None of these
45. The Lok Sabha has recently passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018 to attach & confiscate assets of defaulters. The cases involved in economic offences of how much value will come under its purview?
(1) Rs.500 crore or more (2) Rs.100 crore or more
(3) Rs.1000 crore or more (4) Rs.50 crore or more (5) None of these
46. India has pledged how much amount of aid to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)?
(1) \$5 million (2) \$10 million (3) \$25 million (4) \$30 million (5) None of these
47. Which Indian stock exchange has tied up with Bombay Metal Exchange (BME) to develop commodity derivatives markets?
(1) Bombay Stock Exchange (2) Multi Commodity Exchange of India
(3) National Stock Exchange (4) Calcutta Stock Exchange (5) None of these
48. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched 'GST Verify' app to protect interest of consumers. The app is developed by whom?
(1) Sanjukta Parashar (2) Manish Shanker Sharma (3) B Raghu Kiran
(4) Shivdeep Lande (5) None of these
49. Which Indian University has discovered a pigment in wild edible mushroom that may help fight against cancer?
(1) Goa University (2) IISC Bangalore (3) IIT Roorkee
(4) University of Calcutta (5) None of these
50. Which of the following IITs of India has unveiled "world's first" remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope?
(1) IIT Kharagpur (2) IIT Madras (3) IIT Bombay
(4) IIT Delhi (5) None of these

51. The scientists from which IIT institute has created mini-organs that mimic hair growth?
(1) IIT Delhi (2) IIT Kolkata (3) IIT Bombay (4) IIT Indore (5) None of these
52. Which IIT institute has developed an online tool "TreadWill" to help people deal with mental health issues?
(1) IIT Delhi (2) IIT Bombay (3) IIT Kanpur (4) IIT Indore (5) None of these
53. Which of the following is the world's first medicine made from marijuana that has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration?
(1) Aconite (2) Epidiolex (3) Nux Vomica (4) Calendula (5) None of these
54. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched which movement for healthier FMCG food products?
(1) The Eat Right Movement (2) The Eat Healthy Movement
(3) The Eat Safe Movement (4) The Eat Calculative Movement (5) None of these
55. What term has been used for medical professionals assisting patients seeking treatment under the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)?
(1) Ayushman Saathi (2) Ayushman Sahayak (3) Ayushman Sahkari
(4) Ayushman Mitra (5) None of these
56. The Central government has launched the National Viral Hepatitis Control programme in collaboration with which organization to combat the disease by 2030?
(1) UNICEF (2) UNHRC (3) WHO (4) UNISDR (5) None of these
57. The Ministry of Coal has launched which mobile app to curb illegal coal mining activity in the coalfield areas of the country?
(1) Khan Dost (2) Khan Prahari (3) Khan Saviour (4) Khan Rakshak (5) None of these
58. Which of the following will become the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of Railway warrant?
(1) Assam Rifles (2) National Security Guard
(3) Central Reserve Police Force (4) Sashastra Seema Bal (5) None of these
59. Which road suburban railway station in Mumbai has been rechristened as Prabhadevi station?
(1) Boisar (2) Andheri (3) Churchgate (4) Elphinstone (5) None of these
60. Which city is hosting the 18th UNICEF International Children's Film Festival 2018?
(1) New Delhi (2) Chennai (3) Kolkata (4) Pune (5) None of these
61. Which Assamese film bagged the best movie award at the 3rd Love International Film Festival 2018 in Los Angeles?
(1) Amazon Obhijaan (2) Xhoihobote Dhemalite
(3) Calendar (4) Kothanodi (5) None of these
62. The famous cultural festival "Behdienkhlam 2018" was celebrated in which state?
(1) Mizoram (2) Tamil nadu (3) Meghalaya (4) HP (5) None of these
63. The Kutchi New Year is celebrated as which of the following?
(1) Uttrayan (2) Bestu Varas (3) Bishuva Sankranti
(4) Aashadhi Beej (5) None of these
64. Which city to host the 3rd edition of Kabira festival 2018?
(1) New Delhi (2) Mathura (3) Varanasi (4) Udaipur (5) None of these

65. Which telecom company has become the India's first Mobile operator to launch Internet Telephony Services in India?
 (1) BSNL (2) Reliance Jio (3) Vodafone (4) Idea (5) None of these
66. Who has been elected the new Director General (DG) of International Organization for Migration (IOM)?
 (1) Christine A. Elder (2) Abraham Hanson
 (3) Antonio Vitorino (4) George Crennan (5) None of these
67. Who has been appointed new Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad (UoH)?
 (1) Tirath Singh Thakur (2) R. M. Lodha (3) L Narasimha Reddy
 (4) Jagdish Sharan Verma (5) None of these
68. Who has been appointed as new Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI)?
 (1) Naveen Surya (2) Arif Sheikh (3) P Sreelekha
 (4) Vishwas Patel (5) None of these
69. Who has become the first from the minority community to contest assembly elections in Pakistan?
 (1) Sunita Parmar (2) Bishnu Chattopadhyay
 (3) Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry (4) Mukesh Kumar Chawla (5) None of these
70. Who has been appointed as new member of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)?
 (1) Arundhati Nag (2) Mahir Sen (3) Uday K Varma
 (4) Vikramajit Sen (5) None of these
71. Who is the newly appointed President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)?
 (1) Furqan Qamar (2) Ranbir Singh (3) Sandeep Sancheti
 (4) P. B. Sharma (5) None of these
72. Who is the newly-appointed chairman of the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC)?
 (1) Ghan Shyam Verma (2) Shrimat Pandey (3) Tarun Mathur
 (4) Pankaj Pareek (5) None of these
73. Who has been appointed the new vice-chancellor of the Panjab University (PU)?
 (1) Kapil Kapoor (2) Shankarji Jha (3) M Jagadeesh Kumar
 (4) Raj Kumar (5) None of these
74. Mundakkal Mathew Jacob, who passed away recently, was associated with which political party?
 (1) Indian National Congress (2) Bharatiya Janata Party
 (3) Nationalist Congress Party (4) Communist Party of India (5) None of these
75. Cherkallam Abdullah, who passed away recently, was the noted politician from which state?
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Karnataka (3) Kerala
 (4) Telangana (5) None of these
76. Which of the following has been ranked the "Best Dental College" in India?
 (1) Dr. R. Ahmed Dental College and Hospital
 (2) Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences
 (3) King George's Medical University
 (4) Ragas Dental College
 (5) None of these

77. Who has become the first serving Indian Army officer to complete Ironman competition?
 (1) Manoj Pandey (2) Balwan Singh (3) Vikram Dogra
 (4) Udi Adam (5) None of these
78. Which Indian destination has bagged the 4th best tourist spot in Lonely Planet's top five "2018 Best in Asia" list?
 (1) Ajanta Caves (2) Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park
 (3) Western Ghats (4) Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (5) None of these
79. The play script "Hello Farmaish", which is being shortlisted for The Hindu Playwright Award 2018, is written by whom?
 (1) Nayantara Nayar (2) Sneh Sapru (3) Alistair Bennis
 (4) Manjima Chatterjee (5) None of these
80. The play script "Guilt" which is being shortlisted for The Hindu Playwright Award 2018, is written by whom?
 (1) Swetanshu Bora (2) Annie Zaidi (3) Sumit Ray
 (4) Parag Motwani (5) None of these
81. Mohammed Ayazuddin Patel has bagged the Senior Fellowship Award for 2016-17 instituted by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training Centre (CCRT). The CCRT is an autonomous organization under which union ministry?
 (1) Ministry of Minority Affairs (2) Ministry of Human Resource Development
 (3) Ministry of Home Affairs (4) Ministry of Culture (5) None of these
82. Which Bollywood personality has been conferred D Litt (Honoris Causa) by Kazi Nazrul University in West Bengal?
 (1) Sharmila Tagore (2) Aishwarya Rai (3) Rani Mukerji
 (4) Kajol (5) None of these
83. Who has been conferred with the Odisha's highest literary award 'Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman' for 2018?
 (1) P K Kunhalikutty (2) Ramakanta Rath (3) P P Thankachan
 (4) Ramesh Chennithala (5) None of these
84. Under whose captain ship, the Indian Kabaddi team clinched the 2018 Kabaddi Masters Dubai title?
 (1) Ajay Thakur (2) Monu Goyat (3) Surjeet Singh
 (4) Pradeep Narwal (5) None of these
85. Who has won the 2018 men's singles Malaysian Open Badminton tournament?
 (1) Srikanth Kidambi (2) Tommy Sugiarto (3) Kento Momota
 (4) Lee Chong Wei (5) None of these
86. Who has become the 3rd Indian cricketer to reach the coveted milestone of playing 500 international matches?
 (1) M S Dhoni (2) Virat Kohli (3) Rohit Sharma
 (4) Ravichandran Ashwin (5) None of these
87. Who will lead Indian men's hockey squad in the 18th Asian Games 2018?
 (1) Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (2) Birendra Lakra (3) PR Sreejesh
 (4) Rupinder Pal Singh (5) None of these

88. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched historic men's singles gold at Asia Badminton Junior Championship 2018?
 (1) Lakshya Sen (2) Pranav Chopra (3) Sameer Verma
 (4) Kunlavut Jadeja (5) None of these
89. Afghan player Samira Asghari has been nominated for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) membership. She is associated with which sports?
 (1) Football (2) Sprint (3) Basketball (4) Boxing (5) None of these
90. Mansi Ahlawat bagged Silver in which wrestling category at the 2018 Junior Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi?
 (1) 57 kg category (2) 53 kg category (3) 51 kg category
 (4) 54 kg category (5) None of these
91. Which of the following is the official mascot for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games?
 (1) Someity (2) Keito (3) Zabivaka (4) Miraitowa (5) None of these
92. Fakhar Zaman, who has become the fastest player to score 1000 ODI runs, belongs to which country?
 (1) Bangladesh (2) Australia (3) Pakistan (4) South Africa (5) None of these
93. Which city is hosting the men's team event of the World Junior Squash Championships 2018?
 (1) Chennai (2) Kolkata (3) Hyderabad (4) Kochi (5) None of these
94. Who has been declared as the best male athlete in the 15th National Youth Athletics Championships 2018?
 (1) Jaydeep Rathod (2) Navtejdeep Singh (3) Dhanvir Singh
 (4) V.A. Shashikanth (5) None of these
95. Viresh Kundo has won bronze in which Greco-Roman wrestling category at the 2018 Asian Junior Championships in New Delhi?
 (1) 97kg category (2) 86kg category (3) 69kg category
 (4) 78kg category (5) None of these
96. Which country has topped the 2018 'Soft Power 30' index?
 (1) France (2) United States (3) Australia (4) United Kingdom (5) None of these
97. As per the 'Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017' report, what is India's rank among countries with world's largest area under Genetically Modified Crops?
 (1) Third (2) Fifth (3) Sixth (4) tenth (5) None of these
98. Which union ministry has launched technology challenge to eliminate human entry into septic tanks?
 (1) Ministry of Urban Development
 (2) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
 (3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 (4) Ministry of Rural Development
 (5) None of these
99. Which country has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organization (WCO)?
 (1) Malaysia (2) Singapore (3) India (4) Japan (5) None of these

100. Under which Article of the Constitution, the President has recently nominated Classical dancer Sonal Mansingh to the Rajya Sabha?
 (1) Article 84 (2) Article 83 (3) Article 80 (4) Article 81 (5) None of these
101. The NMCG has organized "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan" in which of the following main stem Ganga basin states?
 (1) Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh (2) West Bengal (3) Bihar and Jharkhand
 (4) All of the above (5) None of these
102. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched which Childline contest to spread awareness on human trafficking?
 (1) #Childline1090 (2) #Childline1095 (3) #Childline1098
 (4) #Childline1099 (5) None of these
103. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has adopted which resolution to protect children in armed conflict?
 (1) Resolution 2657 (2) Resolution 2537 (3) Resolution 2347
 (4) Resolution 2427 (5) None of these
104. Which country has taken the seat vacated by United States at the UN Human Rights Council?
 (1) New Zealand (2) South Africa (3) Iceland
 (4) Norway (5) None of these
105. Which country has announced plans to explore concepts to save UNESCO World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef?
 (1) Indonesia (2) Malaysia (3) Maldives (4) Australia (5) None of these
106. Which Indian journalist has authored the book "Eleventh Hour" to pay tribute to the men in uniform?
 (1) Karan Thapar (2) Arun Shourie (3) Hussain Zaidi
 (4) Madhu Trehan (5) None of these
107. Who authored the book "Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly"?
 (1) Mihir Bose (2) Sundeep Misra
 (3) Abhirup Bhattacharya (4) Nirad C. Chaudhuri (5) None of these
108. Which renowned historian authored the book "Gandhi: The Years That Changed The World (1914-1948)"?
 (1) Romila Thapar (2) M G S Narayanan
 (3) Sanjay Subrahmanyam (4) Ramachandra Guha (5) None of these
109. Who is the author of the book "The House of Islam: A Global History"?
 (1) Abdullah Quilliam (2) Maajid Nawaz (3) Ayaan Hirsi Ali
 (4) Ed Husain (5) None of these

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

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