

## **GENERAL AWARENESS–CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **MONTH OF OCTOBER–2018**

#### **List of Important Days**

- October 1** - World Vegetarian Day
- October 1** - International Day of Older Persons.  
(Theme - “Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions”)
- October 1** - National Voluntary Blood Donation Day
- October 2** - International Day of Non-Violence
- October 4** - World Animal Day
- October 5** - World Teachers' Day  
(Theme - “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher”)
- October 7** - World Day for Decent Work. (Theme - “Change the Rules”)
- October 9** - World Post Day (Theme - “Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?”)
- October 10** - World Mental Health Day  
(Theme - “young people and mental health in a changing world”)
- October 11** - International Day of the Girl Child. (Theme - “With Her: A Skilled Girl Force”).
- October 11** - World Obesity Day. (Theme - “End Weight Stigma”)
- October 12** - World Egg Day. (Theme - “Protein for Life”)
- October 13** - International Day for Disaster Reduction  
(Theme - “Reducing the economic loss of disasters”)
- October 13** - (Second Saturday of October) World Migratory Bird Day  
(Theme - “Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation”)
- October 14** - World Standards Day/International standards day. (Theme - “Innovation Nation”)
- October 15** - International Day of Rural Women. (Theme - “Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”)
- October 15** - Global Hand-washing Day. (Theme - “Clean hands - a recipe for health”)
- October 15** - World Student's Day
- October 16** - World Food Day  
(Theme - “Our Actions Are Our Future. A#Zero Hunger World By 2030 Is Possible”).
- October 16** - World Spine Day. (Theme - “Love Your Spine!”)
- October 17** - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. (Theme - “Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity”)
- October 21** - Police Commemoration Day
- October 24** - World Polio Day. (Theme - “End Polio Now”)
- October 24** - United Nations Day
- October 24** - World Development Information Day
- Oct 20–26** - United Nations Week
- Oct29–Nov3** - Vigilance Awareness Week (Theme - “Eradicate Corruption–Build a New India”)

- October 27** - World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. (Theme - "Your Story is Moving")
- October 29** - International Internet Day
- October 31** - World Savings Day
- October 31** - World Cities Day (Theme - "Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities")
- October 31** - Halloween

### Reserve Bank of India

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that it would inject **Rs.36000 crore liquidity** into the system through **purchase of government bonds** in October amid fears of a potential credit crunch.
  - The central bank's move comes after the government recently announced that it will cut gross borrowings by **Rs.70000 crore** in the second half of the current fiscal.
- The 6 member **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in its 4th bi-monthly policy statement kept the **Repo rate unchanged at 6.50%** after hiking it by 25 bps two times in a row.
  - Reverse repo rate - 6.25%
  - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate - 6.75%.
  - Bank Rate - 6.75%.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued final **guidelines** aimed at promoting **money transfer** between **e-wallets and digital transactions**.
  - These new guidelines will allow transfer of funds between **different mobile wallets**.
  - The rules will allow mobile wallets to issue cards in partnership with card networks like **Mastercard** and **Visa**.
  - The RBI said that interoperability will be enabled through card networks and the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** platform.

### State Bank of India

- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **reduced the cash withdrawal limits** on its **Classic and Maestro debit cards** from **Rs.40000** to **Rs.20000** per day with effect from October 31.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has asked users to **register mobile numbers** with the bank by 1st December 2018.
  - Failing which their access to **Internet banking accounts** may be **blocked**.
- The government of India has notified the sale of **electoral bond** by the **State Bank of India (SBI)** through its 29 authorized branches from 1st to 10th November 2018.

### Other Banks

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign titled **Udyam Abhilasha**.
- India's first **cryptocurrency ATM**, which was not operational yet, was closed down within a week of its installation in **Bengaluru** and its owner Harish BV, the co-founder of Unocoin was arrested because the kiosk was set up without requisite permissions from the government.
  - India does not recognize cryptocurrency as legal tender.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed **Fino Payments Bank** (one of India's first payments banks) to open new accounts after it submitted a compliance report.
  - Fino payments bank has been barred by the central bank from adding new customers since the end of May because an RBI audit revealed that some Fino accounts had deposits in excess of the stipulated amount of Rs.1 lakh.
- Indian banking company **IDFC Bank**, has proposed to change its name to '**IDFC First Bank Ltd**' as it is in the process of amalgamating non-banking financial company **Capital First** with itself.

## Insurance

- The **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board** approved enhancement of **free accident insurance cover** for **pilgrims** visiting the shrine to Rs.5 lakh besides free treatment to trauma victims from nearby areas.
  - The decision was reportedly taken at the 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the board under the chairmanship of Jammu and Kashmir Governor and the board's Chairman Satya Pal Malik.

## Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court prohibited the plying of **15-year-old petrol vehicles** and **10-year-old diesel vehicles** in **Delhi-NCR** region.

## Election Commission

- The **Election Commission of India** announced Assembly poll dates for **five states**– Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana.
  - **Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh**: 28th November 2018
  - **Telangana and Rajasthan**: 7th December 2018
  - **Chhattisgarh**: 12th & 20th November 2018

## Central Government

- The government is going to auction over **100 Mineral blocks** by **March 2019**.
  - **Jharkhand** will auction the highest number of blocks at 20, followed by **Rajasthan** at 16.
- The Union Government has decided to cover **damages to crops** in **wild animal attacks** under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna** in select districts on an experimental basis.
- The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT)**.
  - It will be set up by **merging** existing regulatory institutions in the skills space – **National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT)** and **National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)**.
- The **Union Home Ministry** has advised the **Chandigarh** administration to **exempt Sikh women**, including non-turbaned, from wearing helmets while riding two-wheelers.
  - Sikh men, who wear turban, have already been exempted from the rule.
- The government **hiked** the interest rate for **General Provident Fund (GPF)** and other related schemes by 40 bps to **8%** for the October-December quarter.
  - Last month, the government raised interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) to **8%**.
- The Central Government launched a new scheme titled **IMPRESS**, to promote research in Social Sciences.
  - **IMPRESS**: Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences

## States

- **Haryana** government notified that all **bureaucrats** in the state will be charged **Rs.1000** for non-official journeys up to 1000 km every month and the amount will be deducted from their salaries.
  - Earlier, the bureaucrats used to pay Rs.400 per month and 400 km was the total limit.
  - All ministers have been exempted from the hike.
- The **Bihar** government **prohibited** all **principal secretaries** and **police officials** from carrying **cell phones** to "**high-level**" meetings.
- To provide financial assistance to the **children of construction workers** for their technical education in the state, the **Odisha** Government has launched a new scheme titled '**Nirman Kusuma**' programme'.
- The **Punjab** government launched **3 android mobile applications** aimed at checking **crop residue burning** and creating awareness about its ill-effects.
  - They are: i-Khet Machine, e-PEHaL and e-Prevent.

- The **Arunachal Pradesh** government has launched two farmer welfare schemes.
  - **CMSKY**: Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana - This scheme would subsume 3 programmes - CM's Employment Generation Scheme, CM's Agri-Mechanization Programme and the CM's Flagship Programme on Tea and Rubber.
  - **CMKSY**: Chief Ministers Krishi Samuh Yojana - This scheme aims at empowering farmers through cooperative approach, by providing them timely support and marketing intervention for better price realization and income.
- **Haryana** Government launched an Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) '**Kavach**', to deal with security challenges.
- **Delhi** government has launched **Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme** that seeks to attract **young leaders** across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges.
  - This programme was announced by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister **Manish Sisodia**.
- In a first-of-its-kind move, **Uttar Pradesh** government has announced that Man-Animal conflicts will now be considered a '**State Declared Disaster**'.
  - Now onwards, **Rs.5 lakh** will be given within 24 hours to the family if its member is **killed by a wild animal**.
- In a bid to prevent cheating at examination centres, **Rajasthan** government is considering a ban on social messaging apps like **WhatsApp** around **exam centres**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Governor **Ram Naik** has approved the renaming of **Allahabad** as **Prayagraj** with immediate effect.
  - The name 'Prayagraj' derives from a place in the city called Prayag, where three rivers flowing across the state meet.
- Days after **Uttar Pradesh** government renamed Allahabad to Prayagraj, **Himachal Pradesh** government has announced that it is considering renaming its capital **Shimla** to '**Shyamala**'.
- **Kerala** government owned financial institution, **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)** has announced that it is going to issue Masala bonds worth **Rs. 5,000 crore** to mobilize funds for various development works.
- Amid deteriorating air quality levels, **Delhi** is going to observe '**Clean Air Week**' between November 1-5 in collaboration with **UP and Haryana** governments.

#### Place in the News

- **India's longest river bridge** with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on **Brahmaputra River** (Assam).
  - This bridge will connect Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya.
  - At present, India's largest river bridge is **Dhola-Sadia bridge**, its length is 9.15 kilometers.
- The world's longest sea-crossing opened in southern **China**.
  - The 55-kilometre (34-mile) crossing, connects Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China.

#### Personalities

- The Nation pays homage to the **Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi** on his **149th Birth anniversary**.
- Nation pays homage to **former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri** on his **114th Birth anniversary**.
- **Canada** stripped Myanmar leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** of her **honorary citizenship** in response to crimes committed against the Rohingya minority.
  - Suu Kyi is the first person to have her honorary Canadian citizenship revoked.

- The **Netherlands** has issued its 1st **gender-neutral passport** to 57-year-old Leonne Zeegers.
  - The 57 year old received a passport with the gender designation **X**, instead of M for man or V for woman.
- Nation was observed **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)** to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

### **Defence and National Security**

- The **6th edition of IBSAMAR**, a joint multi-national maritime exercise between **Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies** was held at **Simons Town, South Africa**.
  - **IBSAMAR - India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime**
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has successfully undertaken series of flight trials of **Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM)** from September 26 to October 3, 2018.
  - The tests were conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR), **Balasore, Odisha** as part of final development trials of the missile.
- The maiden joint exercise of Coast Guards of **India and Vietnam “Sahyog HOP TAC -2018”** was held in the Bay of Bengal off the **Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu**.
  - **Aim:** Strengthening the working level relationship between coast guards of both navies.
- **India** has launched massive humanitarian operation **Samudra Maitri** to provide assistance to **earthquake and tsunami** victims in **Indonesia**.
  - Under this operation, India has dispatched **two aircrafts** (C-130J, C-17) and **three naval ships** (INS Tir, INS Sujatha, INS Shardul) carrying relief material and personnel to the country.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** was celebrated its 86th anniversary on October 8.
  - Indian Airforce is the **World's 4th largest Airforce**.
- The **Indian Navy** began the third edition of **JIMEX**, a 9-day bilateral maritime exercise with **Japan**, after a gap of five years.
  - The exercise, being held in **Visakhapatnam**, shows an "upswing" in defence relations between the two nations.
- **Pakistan** has successfully test-fired **Ghauri ballistic missile** capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1300 kilometres.
- After India signed an over **\$5-billion** deal to buy **Russia's S-400** aerial-defence system, **China** has announced it will sell 48 high-end military **drones** to its "all-weather ally" **Pakistan**.
- **Japan** joined joint exercise '**Kamandag' (venom)** with the **United States** and **Filipino troops** in **Philippines** for first time since World War II.
- **Indian Navy** inducted its 1st Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV).
  - DSRV can be used to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines in sea.
- **India** is going to host the **1st India-United States tri-services exercise** in 2019.
  - US is the **second** country after Russia with whom India conducts tri-services exercise.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** Pilots have started training to operate the **CH-47F Chinook** heavy-lift helicopters at Delaware in the **US**.
- The **Indian** and **Chinese** armies are going to resume their annual bilateral military exercise '**Hand-in-Hand**' in December 2018.
- The 1st joint military exercise between **India** and **Japan** titled "**Dharma Guardian**" will be held at the Army's Counter-Insurgency Warfare School at **Vairengte, Mizoram** from 1st to 14th November 2018.

- **India** and **US** have agreed to elevate their bilateral '**Cope India**' Air Exercise to trilateral format by including **Japan**.
  - The next edition of this exercise is scheduled to be held in December 2018 for which final planning conference to finalize its modalities will held in **Kalaikunda, West Bengal**.
- **China's** first home-grown amphibious aircraft **AG600 (code-named Kunlong)** successfully carried out its first take-off and landing on **water**.
- The **US Air Force's** unmanned space plane **X-37B** has completed 400 days in Earth's orbit as part of its fifth secretive mission.
  - The aircraft is orbiting at a height of around 320 km and is powered by solar cells with lithium-ion batteries.
- The **Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018)** joint bilateral military exercise between **Pakistan** and **Russian** Special Forces has begun in **Pakistan**.
  - "Druzhba" is Russian word, which means "friendship".
- The joint military exercise between **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **United States (US)** titled **Iron Magic 19** kicked off near **Dubai**.
- A **Chinese** company tested the '**world's largest**' cargo drone **Feihong-98 (FH-98)** which is said to carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1500kg).

### Committees/Commissions

- The government is probing the **Competition Act 2002** to check if the big discounts offered by **online retailers** like Amazon, Flipkart promote competition.
  - **Head of this Panel:** Injeti Srinivas (corporate affairs secretary)
- **Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered **Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)**.
  - **Chairman of reconstituted EPCA:** Bhure Lal (Former IAS officer)
- The **13th Convention of Central Information Commission** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The government appointed a parliamentary panel to examine the functioning of the **Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**, its coverage and recovery of arrears.
  - **Head of this Panel:** Kirit Somaiya (BJP MP)
- The government has constituted a **Group of Ministers (GoM)** to strengthen the legal framework to deal with and **prevent sexual harassment at workplace**.
  - **Head of this GoM:** Rajnath Singh (Home Minister)
  - **Members:** Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Maneka Gandhi.
- A new **Supreme Court bench** has been formed to hear the pleas in **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute**.
  - **Head of the Bench:** Ranjan Gogoi (Chief Justice of India)
  - **Members:** Justice S K Kaul, K M Joseph

### Schemes/Initiatives

- To commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, PM **Narendra Modi** released a rendition of **Gandhiji's favorite bhajan 'Vaishnav Jan To'** by artists from 124 nations.
  - Artists from nations like Pakistan, China and Germany are a part of the video.
- Indian IT industry's apex body **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** has launched its **Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE - IoT)** at **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- To provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has launched a mobile health app '**MedWatch**'.

- To commemorate the **150th** birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi** and honor of his service to humanity, the **Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has launched **India for Humanity** initiative.
  - It will feature year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning globe.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader **Sir Chhotu Ram** at his native village **Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated and dedicated to the nation a newly-refurbished **National Police Memorial** and a newly-built **Police Museum** in **Delhi**.
- The Indian government's flagship **Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme** has crossed the one-lakh beneficiary mark within a month of its launch on September 23.
- **Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has launched a campaign titled **Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali**.
- To enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes and service to society on one platform, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched a '**Main Nahin Hum**' portal and app.
  - The portal, based on the theme '**Self4Society**', is expected to generate wider participation of interested people motivated to work for the benefit of society.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the world's tallest statue, the "**Statue of Unity**", to the Nation in **Gujarat**.
  - The **182-metre** statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadiya in Narmada district will be dedicated to the nation on his birth anniversary.

#### **Summit/Conference**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in **New Delhi**.
- 21 countries in **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** adopted **Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy** in Indian Ocean Region.
  - It was adopted at 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held at 2nd Global Re-Invest India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investor's Meet & Expo in **Greater Noida**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the maiden **Uttarakhand Investors Summit** in **Dehradun**.
- US President **Donald Trump** and North Korean leader **Kim Jong-un** are going to meet for a **second** summit between the two countries soon.
- The **32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** was held in **Belawan, Indonesia**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is going to meet Chinese President **Xi Jinping** at the **G20 Summit** in **Argentina** in November.
- The **12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit** was held in **Brussels, Belgium**.
  - This summit was chaired by **Donald Tusk** (European Council President).
  - India was represented by **M. Venkaiah Naidu** (Vice President).
  - **Theme** - 'Global Partners for Global Challenges'.
- The **27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018)** was held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
  - The six-day event is organized by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based **Institute of Plasma Research**.

- The **International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018)** was concluded at Bangaram Island, Union Territory of **Lakshadweep**.
  - This conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**.
  - **Theme** - "Reef for Life".
- The 2nd edition of **India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018)** was concluded at **New Delhi**.
  - **Theme** - "New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate".

### **Agreement/Deal/Signed**

- The **United States** and **Canada** confirmed they had reached a deal on a "new, modernized trade agreement", which is designed to replace the **1994 NAFTA pact**.
  - The two nations said the new deal would be called the **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**.
- Realtors body **National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** to provide **skill training and jobs** in construction sector for 2.5 lakh poor people.
  - The partnership will strengthen skill trainings and employment opportunities in construction sector for urban poor under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission**.
- **India** and **Uzbekistan** have inked **17 agreements**.
  - These agreements were signed after delegation level talks Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Uzbekistan's President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** in **New Delhi**.
- **India** has signed an over **\$5-billion** deal to buy **Russia's S-400** aerial-defense system.
  - India earlier approved the deal to buy five units despite the US imposing sanctions against the country after Russia invaded Crimea in 2014.
- **Russian** chemical holding company **PhosAgro** has signed a deal to supply **2 million tonnes of fertilizer** worth **\$1 billion** to **Indian Potash** during 2019-2021.
  - India fulfils nearly 90% of its demand for phosphate-based fertilizers from imports.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and the **UN Environment** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- Union Cabinet has approved **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between **India** and **Finland** on **Environmental Cooperation**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Central University of Jammu (CUJ)**, for setting up of **Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science** in the University.
- Government's premier think tank **NITI Aayog** has inked agreement with **Microsoft India** to deploy **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** technologies to address challenges in **agriculture** and **healthcare** and promote adoption of local language computing among others.
- **India** and **Azerbaijan** have signed protocol on **trade and economic, science and technology** cooperation.
  - It was signed at 5th meeting of **India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC)** held at **New Delhi**.
- The **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**, **Dehradun** has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)** and **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)** to launch a programme titled '**Prakriti**' to provide platform for **school children** to learn **practical skills** towards sustainable use of resources.



- **India** and **China** inked their 1st-ever **internal security cooperation** agreement aimed at strengthening assistance in counter-terrorism, organized crimes and exchange of information.
- **India** and **Myanmar** inked MoU for appointment of private port operator for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of **Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal** and associated facilities included in **Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project**.
- **India** has signed a **\$777-million** deal (₹5,683 crore) with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** to obtain **Barak 8 long-range Surface-to-air Defence Missiles** and Missile Defence Systems for **seven** Indian Navy ships.
  - State-owned **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** will be IAI's Indian manufacturing partner.
- On the 2nd day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan, **India** and **Japan** signed a **\$75 billion** bilateral currency swap agreement in **Tokyo**.
  - "The agreement should help bring greater stability to **foreign exchange and capital markets** in India,"
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** and payments solution provider **Hitachi Payment Services India** entered into an agreement to form a **Joint Venture** for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.
- **India** has signed a **\$950-million** deal with **Russia** to buy two **Admiral Grigorovich-class guided-missile frigates** for service in the Navy.

#### **Meet/Visit**

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** was visited to **India** for a 2 day tour.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** was on a 3-day visit to **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
  - During the visit, she met her Kazakh counterpart and Minister of Defence and Aerospace Industry Mr. Beibut Atamkulov.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** visited to **Tajikistan** for a 3-day tour.
  - He will meet his Tajik counterpart **Emamoli Rahmon**, Speaker of Parliament **Shukurjon Zuhurov**, and Speaker of the Lower House (Majlisi Namoyandagon) of Parliament.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** was visited to **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.
  - During this visit she was attend a **2-day conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** was visited to **France** for a 3 day tour.
  - During this visit, she will hold wide-ranging talks with her French counterpart **Florence Parly** on ways to deepen strategic cooperation between the two countries and also deliberate on major regional and global issues of mutual interests.
- A **Malaysian** delegation led by the Human Resources Minister **M. Kulasegaran** visited to **India**.
- President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** of the **Republic of Uzbekistan** was on a visit to **India**.
- The **6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM)** was recently held at **Singapore**.
  - **India was represented by:** C. R. Chaudhary (Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)
- The 6th meeting of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** was recently held at **New Delhi**.
  - The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- **India** is going to host the 4th edition of **Global Partners' Forum** during 12th and 13th December 2018 in **New Delhi**.
  - The **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)** will unite over 100 countries' representatives to discuss issues, strategies and solutions to women's, children's and adolescents' health.

- **Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe** arrived in India on a three-day visit.
- The **12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)** and **5th ADMM-Plus** were held during 19th and 20th October 2018 at **Singapore**.
- The **7th meeting of Education Ministers of Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- The **1st high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation** between **India** and **China** was held in **New Delhi**.
- **Britain's Prince Harry** and his wife **Meghan** arrived in **Fiji** for the 1st royal visit to the South Pacific nation since a military coup in 2006.
- **Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** has arrived in **Israel** on a 3-day visit.
- **India, Iran and Afghanistan** held their 1st **trilateral meeting**.
  - The Indian delegation at the trilateral meeting was led by **TS Tirumurti**, Secretary (Economic Relations).
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Japan** on a 2-day visit.
  - During this visit, Modi will attend the **13th Annual India-Japan Bilateral Summit**.
- **Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte** was visited to **India**.
  - The highlight of the visit will be the Italian prime minister's participation at the **24th edition of the India-Italy Technology Summit** which is being organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The **22nd National Level Meeting** between **India** and **Myanmar** was held in October, 2018.

#### **Bills**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to **Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016**.
  - This law will ensure that good samaritans are not harassed in any manner and face any criminal or civil liability while helping accident victims.
  - With this, **Karnataka** became first state give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accidents victims with emergency medical care within golden hour.
- To benefit the 25 lakh poor people who were left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the **Odisha Government** has launched **State Food Security Scheme (SFSS)**.
  - The beneficiaries of the SFSS will get cheap rice at the cost of Rs 1 as availed by the people covered under the NFSA.
  - Each poor man will get 5 kg of rice per month as per the provision of the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- **Bangladesh** approved controversial **Digital Security Bill, 2018**, by enacting it as a law.
  - This bill deals with cyber crimes, including spreading content that hurts religious sentiments or is negative propaganda against the Liberation War and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (founding father of the People's Republic of Bangladesh).
  - Illegal activities in e-transactions and spreading defamatory data are also covered under the law.

#### **Fund**

- **Saudi Arabia** has announced a grant of **\$200 million** to **Yemen** to help stabilize the country's economy and increase the value of the Yemeni rial.
  - The Yemeni rial has lost nearly half its value this year amid the ongoing civil war.
- **India** and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **US \$150 million** loan agreement for establishing India's first **Global Skills Park** in **Bhopal**.

- **India** signed **\$240 million** loan agreement with **ADB** for **West Bengal Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project** to provide **safe drinking water** to people in three districts of West Bengal.
- Government has inked **\$110 million loan agreement** with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to upgrade all-weather rural roads in **Madhya Pradesh** under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**.
- **Saudi Arabia** has agreed to provide **\$3 billion** in foreign currency support for a year to **Pakistan** to help address the country's balance of payment crisis.

### Economy

- The **Indian rupee** plunged 21 paise to hit a fresh lifetime low of **74.27** against the US dollar.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** forecasted a growth rate of **7.3%** for **India** in the year 2018 and **7.4%** in 2019.
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has announced its new Centre for **Fourth Industrial Revolution** in **India** (Maharashtra).
  - It will be fourth center in chain-ones as part of WEF's global network along with **San Francisco** (US), **Tokyo** (Japan) and **Beijing** (China) are already functioning.
- **India's trade deficit** for the month of **September** hit its lowest level in five months at **\$13.98 billion**.

### Companies/Industry

- After foraying into India with its **first** store in **Hyderabad**, **Swedish** furniture giant **IKEA** is going to open its **second** store in **Mumbai** later this year.
- **American** multinational technology company **Google** has announced that it is going to **shut down** its social network platform **Google+** for consumer use over the next 10 months after a bug exposed the personal data of up to 5 lakh users.
- **American** multinational technology company **Google** has added support for 13 new languages including Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Punjabi, Arabic and Vietnamese on the camera mode of its **Google Translate app**.
- **Google** has launched its new **cloud storage** subscription plan **Google One** in **India**.
- **American** online social media and social networking service company **Facebook** is testing '**Unsend**' feature for **chats** on **Messenger**.
- Indian multinational information technology service, **TCS** has displaced Accenture as the world's largest pure-play IT firm servicing **BFSI Sector**.
  - **BFSI** - Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI).
- **Indian** e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company, **Paytm** has forayed into the **Japanese** market for the first time with its wallet service '**PayPay**'.
  - The service, which is a joint venture with **SoftBank** and **Yahoo Japan**, enables users to transfer money from a bank account to their PayPay wallet and make payments with it.
- US-based ride-hailing startup **Uber** is going to launch its drone-based food delivery service titled '**UberExpress**' by **2021**.
- **Swiss** digital technology company **ABB** announced it's investing **\$150 million** to build a new factory in **Shanghai, China**, where robots will make robots.
- The **International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)** has acquired the software company **Red Hat** in a **\$34 billion** cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date.

## Stock Market

- India's leading stock market **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** became 1st stock exchange in the country to launch **commodity derivative contracts**.

## Taxation/Trade

- Following an 18-year campaign by women's groups, **Australia** has decided to **scrap** a **10% tax** on **tampons and sanitary pads**.
  - The tax, which would be removed from **January 2019**, was levied on the products as they were categorized as non-essential items.
- In a bid to narrow the current account deficit, the government **raised** the **basic customs duty** on several **electronic items** and **communication devices**.
  - Customs duty on items like smart watches and Voice over Internet Protocol equipment, among others has been hiked to **up to 20%**.
- The **Income Tax Department** is working on a policy that would **reward** honest and consistent **taxpayers** by giving them priority while availing **public services** at airports, railway stations and highways.
- The **Ministry of Finance** has imposed anti-dumping duties of up to \$185.51 per tonne for 5 years on certain **Chinese steel products**.

## Agriculture/Production

- **Shahi Litchi** from **Bihar** has received **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag from Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.

## Space

- **American astronomers** have discovered a new extremely distant **object**, spotted **2.5 times** farther beyond Pluto from the Sun in 2015.
  - Nicknamed '**The Goblin**', the dwarf planet has a 40,000-year orbit with the closest distance to Sun at 65 astronomical units (AU) and farthest at 2,300 AU.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has announced that the 1st **crewed test flight** by a SpaceX rocket to the **International Space Station (ISS)** is expected to take place in **June 2019**.
  - SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket for launch with a Crew Dragon capsule attached on top.
- Elon Musk-led **SpaceX** has successfully launched and landed its Falcon 9 rocket on a ground base in **West Coast, California** for the first time.
- The **European** and **Japanese** space agencies have launched a 7-year mission to **Mercury** titled **BepiColombo**.
  - The mission comprises two satellites launched together: the **Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO)** and **Mio** (Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter, MMO).
- **Russia** has successfully sent an unmanned **Soyuz rocket** into space weeks after a failed launch endangered the lives of **two astronauts**.
- **Pakistan's** Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Fawad Chaudhry** announced that the country is going to send a **Pakistani astronaut** to space for the first time in **2022**.
  - An agreement in this regard has been signed between Pakistan's space agency **SUPARCO** (Space and **Upper Atmosphere Research Commission**) and a **Chinese** company.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has successfully conducted a test for the safe and precise landing of **Vikram**, the lander aboard Chandrayaan-2 for India's second Moon mission.
- **Virgin Orbit** has unveiled the first pictures of its **LauncherOne rocket** that can travel at more than 20 times the speed of sound.
  - Attached to Virgin's 747 aircraft Cosmic Girl that was converted to launch rockets, LauncherOne is designed to carry small satellites into orbit around the Earth.

- **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** and **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries** launched the **United Arab Emirates'** (UAE) 1st locally made satellite **KhalifaSat** into orbit.
  - The Japanese rocket also carried an **IBUKI-2 greenhouse gas observation satellite** for Japan.
- NASA's **Parker Solar Probe** became the closest human-made object to the **Sun**, surpassing the closest approach of 42.72 million kilometres set by German-American **Helios 2** spacecraft in April 1976.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** retired its 1st planet-hunting mission as the **Kepler Space Telescope** ran out of fuel.

### Science and Technology

- A team of scientists has developed a new font titled "**Sans Forgetica**"
  - This font has been designed using principles of cognitive psychology and design to help people retain more information.
- The **Madras Institute of Technology (MIT)** has announced plans to create a **\$1-billion** college for **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** focusing on "responsible and ethical" uses of the technology.
- For the 1st time in the world, Scientists are planning a mission to explore the deepest parts of the five oceans.
  - The project, '**Five Deeps Expedition**', will use a two-person craft designed to withstand intense pressures around 9 km below the surface.
- World's first robot citizen **Sophia** has been granted the world's first **robot visa** for a world tour on behalf of her Hong Kong-based developer **Hanson Robotics**.

### Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **UNICEF** and the **WHO** reiterated **India's** status as a **polio-free country** after some oral polio vaccine vials were found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus last month.

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- **Odisha** has become the 1st state in India where **Diesel** is costlier than **Petrol** as diesel was sold at Rs.80.69 per litre in Bhubaneswar while petrol at Rs.80.57 per litre.

### Environment

- The **India Meteorological Department** has issued a **red alert** in **Odisha** and **Andhra Pradesh** for a very severe cyclone named '**Titli**', which was hit the states on October 11.
- **India's** first ever **National Environment Survey (NES)** will be kicked off in **January, 2019** to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 Union Territories.

### Education

- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** is going to establish India's first **AICTE Training And Learning (ATAL) Academy** in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
  - Moreover, three more **ATAL** academies will come at **Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)**, **Guwahati (Assam)** and **Baroda (Gujarat)** by next year.
- **Idiocracy**, **Fam**, **Alt-right** and **Nothingburger** are among new words added to the latest **Oxford English Dictionary (OED)** for the year 2018.

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

- The **Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has launched **Youth Road Safety Learners License** programme in **New Delhi**.
  - This programme will help Government to achieve its target of reducing road accidents by 50% by **2020**.
  - It is **Public-private partnership (PPP)** initiative in collaboration with **Diageo India** and **Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE)**.

- The **Indian Railways** has decided to install the **Loco Cab Voice Recording (LCVR) devices** (also known as **Black Boxes**) in the train engines to facilitate investigators trying to identify the cause of accidents and assess crew performance.
- To help its users answer various queries, the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot named **Ask Disha**.
  - It has gone live on IRCTC's **next-gen e-ticketing website** and soon will be integrated on the IRCTC Rail Connect Android app.
  - **DISHA - Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime**
- **Indian Railways** has started the work to construct **Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway line**, which will be the **world's highest rail network** at 5360 metres above the sea level.
  - The **Keylong station** in Himachal Pradesh will be the 1st railway network to be inside a tunnel.
- The **North Central Railways (NCR)** launched two mobile apps for locating assets and stations.
  - **NCR RASTA App:**
  - **RASTA - Railway Assets Summarized Tracking Application.**
  - This app will enable railway staff to reach desired asset using Google Navigation in case of any emergency.
  - **Yatri RASTA App:**
  - **RASTA - Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application.**
  - It will allow general public to locate railway stations easily.
- The **Indian Railways** announced that it has decided to refer to its cleaning staff as '**housekeeping staff**' instead of 'safaiwalas'.
- '**Train 18**', Indian Railways' 1st-ever engineless train that travels at 160 kmph, began trials.

#### **Films and Film Festival**

- Bollywood Actor-director **Pankaj Kapur** was honored with '**Icons of Indian Cinema**' Award at the closing ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of **Jagran Film Festival**.
  - **Varun Dhawan** received '**Best Actor**' for the film, **October**.
  - **Zoya Hussain** won '**Best Actress**' award for her impressive performance in **Mukkabaaz**.
  - **Victor's History** was honored as the **Best Foreign Feature Film**.
  - **Village Rockstars** was honored as the '**Best Indian Feature Film**'.
- **Blooming Buds**, a film about a mother and daughter's relationship after the former's divorce, won **Best film award** at GD Goenka University's film and photography festival '**Fotographia 2018**'.
  - **Theme - 'Beautiful Lives: Human Dignity, Human Rights.'**
- Bollywood Actor **Ranbir Kapoor** was honored with '**Vogue Man of the Year 2018**' Award.
  - **Vicky Kaushal** won the '**Vogue Trends Disruptor of the Year 2018 (Male) Award**'.
  - **Ayushmann Khurrana** won the '**Vogue Man of the Moment 2018**' award.
  - **Kareena Kapoor Khan** was named '**Vogue and IWC Schaffhausen Style Icon of the Year 2018**'.
  - **Alia Bhatt** won the award for '**Vogue and Lamborghini Youth Icon of the Year 2018**'.
  - **Radhika Apte** won the award for '**Vogue Trends Disruptor of the Year (Female)**'.
  - **Meghna Gulzar** was named '**Vogue Filmmaker of the Year 2018**'.

#### **Festival**

- The 4th **India International Science Festival 2018 (IISF 2018)** started at **Lucknow** (Uttar Pradesh).
  - **Theme - "Science for Transformation"**.
- For the first time ever, Indian festival **Diwali** will be celebrated at **Canada's** iconic **Niagara Falls** this year.
  - It is being organized by the **Indo-Canadian Arts Council (ICAC)** with support from the Niagara Parks Commission.

- The **46th** edition of world's largest **IHGF-Delhi Fair** was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.
  - This fair was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles **Ajay Tamta**.

#### **Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?**

- India-born Harvard University professor **Gita Gopinath** has been appointed as the **Chief Economist** of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
  - She is going to replace **Maurice Obstfeld**, who is going to retire in December 2018.
- Former Facebook VP of News Feed **Adam Mosseri** has been appointed the new head of **Instagram** following the resignation of Instagram Co-founders Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger.
- **Jayant Mammen Mathew**, Executive Editor of Malayala Manorama, was elected as the **President** of the **Indian Newspaper Society (INS)**, an apex body of India's print media industry.
  - He is going to replace Akila Urankar of Business Standard.
- Senior diplomat **Vikram Misri** has been appointed as India's next ambassador to **China**.
  - He will replace Gautam Bambawale.
- Justice **Ranjan Gogoi** took oath as the 46th **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. Gogoi is the 1st CJI from a North East state.
  - He has replaced Dipak Misra.
- Senior judge of Supreme Court **Madan Bhimarao Lokur** has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of **National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)**.
  - He was appointed by President Ramnath Kovind in exercise of power conferred under Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the **Legal Authorities Act, 1987**.
- **Iraq's parliament** elected the moderate Kurdish politician **Barham Salih** as the country's new **President**.
- Nearly nine months after the **Supreme Court** collegiums recommended his name, **Justice Surya Kant** was appointed as the **Chief Justice** of the **Himachal Pradesh High Court**.
- **R N Ravi**, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, has been re-designated as the **Deputy National Security Advisor**.
- The government appointed **Rakesh Sharma** as Managing Director and CEO of **IDBI Bank** for a period of six months or until further orders.
  - He is going to replace **B Sriram**, who retired on 1st October 2018.
- The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has appointed **Ravi Venkatesan** as its special representative of **young people**.
- **Saudi** businesswoman **Lubna Al Olayan** will chair a new bank being formed out of a merger between the **Saudi British Bank (SABB)** and **Alawwal Bank**.
- US President Donald Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court **Brett Kavanaugh** was won.
- **Pankaj Sharma** has been appointed as India's Ambassador and permanent representative to **United Nations Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva.
- Aerospace company **Boeing** has appointed its India President **Pratyush Kumar** to lead the **F-15 fighter aircraft programme** in the US.
- **Esha Bahal**, a student at Noida's Amity University, became **UK's High Commissioner to India** for a day after she won a video presentation contest held to celebrate International Day of the Girl Child.
- The government has appointed senior advocate **Tushar Mehta** as the **Solicitor General of India**.

- Lieutenant General **Asim Munir** has been appointed as the new chief of **Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)**.
- **UK PM Theresa May** has appointed the country's first minister for suicide prevention, handing over the new role to mental health minister **Jackie Doyle-Price**.
- The PM **Narendra Modi** government has decided National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** will replace Cabinet Secretary as the head of the **Strategic Policy Group (SPG)**.
- **AirAsia India**, the joint venture between **Tata Sons** and **Malaysia's AirAsia Group**, has named Tata Steel's **Sunil Bhaskaran** as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO).
- The former Chairperson of India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, has joined homegrown private equity firm **ChrysCapital** as an **Adviser**.
  - Besides Bhattacharya, former HCL Technologies CEO **Vineet Nayar** is also an adviser at the private equity firm.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed **Pravin Srivastava**, Additional Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, as **Chief Statistician of India, and Secretary of the Statistics Ministry**.
- **Yes Bank** has appointed US-based advisory firm **Korn Ferry** to assist the bank's '**Search and Selection Committee**' in finding a successor to MD and CEO Rana Kapoor.
- The government extended the **Bank of Baroda's** Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) **PS Jayakumar's** tenure for 1 year.
- **American** motorcycle manufacturer **Harley-Davidson** has announced the appointment of **Sajeev Rajasekharan** as **Managing Director (MD)** of the manufacturer's India operations.
- **Dr. Shekhar Mande** has been appointed as the **Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR)**.
- The High Commissioner of India to Kenya **Suchitra Durai**, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of **India** to the **Kingdom of Thailand**.
- Election strategist **Prashant Kishor** was appointed the Vice-President of **JD(U)** by party chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- Lieutenant General **Laura J Richardson** has become the 1st woman to head the US Army's largest command **FORSCOM** which is based out of Fort Bragg in North Carolina.
  - **FORSCOM** - United States Army Forces Command
- **ICICI Bank** announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as MD & CEO of the bank for three years.
- **Aisha Mohammed** was named as **Ethiopia's 1st female Defence Minister**.
- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has appointed former Chairperson of State Bank of India, **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, as an Independent Director for a period of five years.
- Bollywood actor **Alia Bhatt** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for **Nokia** phones in **India**.
  - Earlier this year, the mobile brand had appointed **Parineeti Chopra** as the face of its mobile phones.
- **Canara Robeco Mutual Fund** has appointed **Nimesh Chandan** as the Head – Investment, Equity.
- **Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed** was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister of Yemen**.
- **Indian** news website **The Wire** has appointed an external committee headed by former Supreme Court judge **Aftab Alam** to probe the sexual harassment allegation leveled against its consulting editor Vinod Dua by filmmaker Nishtha Jain.



- **American** online social media and social networking service company **Facebook** has hired former UK deputy Prime Minister **Nick Clegg** as Head of its global policy and communications team.
- Global body **World Steel Association** has elected JSW Steel CMD **Sajjan Jindal** as its **Treasurer**.
  - The association has also appointed Tata Steel MD **T V Narendran** and ArcelorMittal Chief **L N Mittal** as its members.
- **Rajput** group **Karni Sena** has appointed Team India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's wife **Riva Solanki** as the head of its women's wing in **Gujarat**.
- **Cameroon's** 85-year-old **Paul Biya** has won the presidential elections for the seventh time after securing 71.3% of the vote.
- 1986 batch IPS officer of Odisha cadre, **M Nageshwar Rao**, has been appointed as the Interim Director of **CBI**.
- IT firm **Cyient** has appointed **Vikas Sehgal** as an **independent director**.
  - The firm also appointed **Peter F. Longo** as the **chairman** of Cyient Inc.
- The government appointed new Chief justices for 5 **High Courts**.
  - **Bombay High Court** - NH Patil
  - **Calcutta High Court** - DK Gupta
  - **Uttarakhand High Court** - Ramesh Ranganathan
  - **Gauhati High Court** - A S Bopanna
  - **Sikkim High Court** - Vijai Kumar Bist
- IT services giant **Wipro** has appointed former SBI Chairperson **Arundhati Bhattacharya** as an Independent Director for a period of five years.
- **One97 Communications'** subsidiary **Paytm Payments Bank** appointed **Satish Kumar Gupta** as the MD & CEO of the bank.
- The **Ethiopian** parliament elected 68-year-old veteran diplomat, **Sahle-Work Zewde** as new **President**.
- Home rental startup **Airbnb** announced it has appointed Google's former Vice President of Engineering, **Aristotle Balogh**, as its new **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**.
- **US** President Donald Trump has appointed Indian origin **Neil Chatterjee** as the **Chairman** of the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** which oversees electricity transmission and interstate natural gas pipelines and facilities.
- **Iraq's** new Prime Minister **Adel Abdul Mahdi** was sworn in October 26.
- 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, **Saurabh Kumar** has been appointed India's ambassador to **Myanmar**.
- Former President **Mahindra Rajapaksa** has been appointed as the new **Prime Minister** of **Sri Lanka**.
  - This came after the President **Maithripala Sirisena** sacked current Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe following months of tension between the two leaders that led to a political crisis.
- **BBC's Digital Launch Editor** in Indian languages, **Trushar Barot**, is joining Facebook to fight **fake news** in **India**.
  - Barot, who joined BBC in 2001, will "lead and develop integrity initiatives for Facebook" in the country.
- 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, **Sanjay Kumar Mishra** took charge as the Interim Director of **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**.

- Former **New Zealand** coach **Mike Hesson** has been appointed as the head coach of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** franchise **Kings XI Punjab** ahead of the 2019 edition of the Indian Premier League.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **Aditya Puri** as Managing Director and CEO of **HDFC Bank** for another two years.
- **Michael D Higgins** has been re-elected **Irish president** after winning a landslide victory with 8,22,566 votes.
- Far-right candidate **Jair Bolsonaro** won the **Presidential** elections of **Brazil**.

#### **Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit**

- **ICICI Bank's** CEO **Chanda Kochhar** quit as the bank's Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect after her resignation requesting an early retirement was accepted by the board.
- Chelsea legend and ex-England captain **John Terry** has **retired** from **football** at the age of 37 after being without a club since leaving Championship side Aston Villa this summer.
- Indian seamer **Praveen Kumar** ended his 11-year-long cricket career by announcing his retirement from the sport.
- All-rounder **Dwayne Bravo** (35), who won World T20 in 2012 and 2016 with Windies, has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- **German** chancellor **Angela Merkel** has announced that she will step down from the position in **2021**, following recent election setbacks.

#### **Arrests/Jailed**

- A **South Korean** court sentenced former President **Lee Myung-bak** to **15 years** in **prison** for corruption.
  - He was found guilty of embezzlement, abuse of power and receiving illegal funds from Samsung Electronics in return for presidential pardon of its Chairman Lee Kun-hee.
- A **Bangladesh** court sentenced former Prime Minister **Khaleda Zia** to **7 years** in **jail** on corruption charges.

#### **Deaths**

- Late actor and filmmaker Raj Kapoor's wife **Krishna Raj Kapoor** (87) passed away.
- **American** scientist **Leon Lederman** (96), who won the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physics died.
  - Leon Lederman coined the phrase "**God particle**", a shorthand description of the then-theoretical Higgs boson, in his 1993 book of the same name.
- Oscar-winning animator **Will Vinton** (70) passed away.
  - Having worked in more than a hundred films, Vinton won an Oscar for the 1975 short animated film '**Closed Mondays**'.
- Eminent Gandhian social worker **Natwar Thakkar** (86) passed away.
  - He is popularly known as '**Nagaland's Gandhi**'.
- Singer **Nitin Bali** (47) passed away.
- Environmentalist **G D Agrawal** (86), who was on 'fast unto death' since June 22 to urge the government to clean river Ganga, passed away due to heart attack.
- Hindustani classical musician **Annapurna Devi** (91) passed away.
- The do-founder of American multinational technology company **Microsoft** along with Bill Gates, **Paul Allen** (65), passed away after battling cancer.

- Veteran politician **N D Tiwari** (93), the only Indian to serve as the Chief Minister of two states, (Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand), passed away.
- **Joachim Rønneberg** (99), the leader of a World War II raid to foil Nazi Germany's nuclear plan has passed away.
- Delhi's former Chief Minister **Madan Lal Khurana** (82) passed away.

### Awards/Honours

- The **2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** has been awarded jointly to **James Allison** (America) and **Tasuku Honjo** (Japan).
  - They are being honored with this prestigious award "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation".
- The **2018 Nobel Prize in Physics** has been awarded for inventions in **laser physics** with one half to **Arthur Ashkin** and the other half to **Gérard Mourou** and **Donna Strickland**.
- Badminton player and Olympian **P V Sindhu** is the only sportsperson featuring in the **Forbes India's maiden 'tycoons of tomorrow'** list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.
  - Other prominent names:
  - **Karan Adani**, chief executive of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone;
  - **Anant Goenka**, group executive director of Indian Express;
  - **Ashni Biyani**, managing director of Future Consumer; and
  - The Birla scion **Ananya Birla**, founder of Svatantira Microfinance, co-founder, CuroCarte and co-founder of Mpower.
- The **2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** has been awarded to **Frances Arnold** (US), **George Smith** (US) and **Gregory Winter** (UK).
  - Arnold was awarded for the directed evolution of enzymes, while Smith and Winter won the accolade for drug research that can neutralize toxins, counteract autoimmune diseases and cure metastatic cancer.
- **Nobel Prize in Physics 2018** winner American physicist **Arthur Ashkin** (96 years), became the oldest-ever person to win the Nobel Prize.
  - With this Ashkin surpassed late **economist Leonid Hurwicz**, who won the 2007 Prize in Economic Sciences as a 90-year-old.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** presented with **United Nations' highest environmental honor 'Champions of the Earth'** in **Delhi** by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
  - PM Modi was recognized for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single-use plastic in India by **2022**.
  - He was among **six** winners of this prestigious award including **French President Emmanuel Macron**.
- The **Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2018** has been jointly awarded to **Denis Mukwege** (Congolese gynecologist) and **Nadia Murad** (German-based Yazidis-Iraqi human rights activist) for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of warfare.
- **Evan Atar Adha**, a surgeon who runs a remote hospital in South Sudan, received the prestigious **2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award**.
- **American** economists **William D Nordhaus** and **Paul M Romer** were awarded the 50th **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences** in Memory of Alfred Nobel (also known as **Nobel Prize in Economics**) for the year **2018**.
  - While William was recognized for his work on **climate economics**, Romer was awarded for his work on **endogenous growth theory**.

- The **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** was honored with '**ISSA Good Practice Award**' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and Pacific held at **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
  - **ISSA: International Social Security Association**
- Former Miss **Chhattisgarh Veena Sendre** has been chosen as India's first '**Miss Trans Queen**'.
  - She defeated **Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu** to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organized in **Mumbai**.
- Guadeloupean author **Maryse Conde** (81) was awarded **New Academy Prize in Literature**.
  - This is an alternative award formed in protest to Nobel Literature Prize.
- **Sikkim** was awarded **UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award (Gold Prize)** for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state.
  - Policies from **Brazil, Denmark and Quito** (Ecuador) were jointly **Silver Awards**.
- **Tova Ringer**, a 93-year-old great-grandmother has been crowned '**Miss Holocaust Survivor 2018**'.
  - This in an annual Israeli beauty pageant designed to honor women who survived the Holocaust.
- National Award winning music director **Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi**, famously known as '**Khayyam**', has been named for this year's **Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement 2018**.
- Northern **Irish** author **Anna Burns** has won the **Man Booker Prize 2018** for her novel '**Milkman**'.
- **Kererū**, a native green and bronze wood pigeon, known to fall from trees after consuming rotten berries, has been named the **2018 Bird of the Year in New Zealand**.
- '**Beeg Ani Beegath**', a collection of Konkani short stories in by well-known writer, journalist and critic **H M Pernal** has bagged the prestigious '**Vimala V Pai Vishwa**' **Konkani Best Book Award 2018**.
  - Konkani poet **Sharathchandra Shenoy** has won the **Vishwa Konkani Best Poetry Award 2018** for his book '**Idam Na Mama**'.
  - **Vishwanath M. Shet** from **Uttara Kannada** bagged the **Vishwa Konkani Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- An Indian-American woman **Minal Patel Davis** has won the prestigious **US' Presidential Medal** at a White House ceremony attended by President Donald Trump.
- **Arshdeep Singh**, a 10-year-old boy from **Punjab**, has won the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year award** in 10 Years and Under category given by **UK's Natural History Museum**.
  - He won the award for the picture titled '**Pipe Owls**'.
- Actor **Ruhaan Rajput**, won the **Mid-day Young Achiever Icons Award** for the year 2018.
- **4 peaks of the Himalayan range** near Gangotri glacier have been named after three-time Prime Minister of India, **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** who passed away in August.
- US-based writer **Sujatha Gidla** has won **Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2018**.
  - She was honored with this award for her debut book "**Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India**".
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced a **National award in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** for police personnel who do "exemplary" work in rescue and relief operations during disasters.
- Union Minister for Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs **Piyush Goyal** received the prestigious **Carnot prize** for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions.
  - The award in the energy sector is named after French physicist **Nicolas Sadi Carnot** who recognized that the power of the steam engine would "produce a great revolution" in human development.

- Eminent jurist **Fali S. Nariman** (89) was awarded the **19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been awarded the **Seoul Peace Prize 2018**.
- **Invest India**, the country's investment promotion body, has won the **UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development**.
  - The award was presented by **Armen Sarkissian** (Armenian President) to **Deepak Bagla** (CEO of Invest India) at the World Investment Forum, **Geneva**.
- A young woman from **Haryana**, **Nishtha Dudeja** has won the **Miss Deaf Asia 2018** title at an international pageant held in **Prague**.
- **Agricultural** scientist **M. S. Swaminathan** will receive the **1st World Agriculture Prize** instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in **New Delhi**.
- 3 Indian-Americans have been named in the **Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people** whose work is transforming **healthcare** in the US.
  - They are: Divya Nag, Dr Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande.
- **India** has won the **Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award 2018**.
- The **Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony** for the years **2014, 2015 and 2016** were recently awarded.
  - **2014: Rajkumar Singhajit Singh** (doyen of Manipuri dance who is also a teacher, performer and choreographer).
  - **2015: Chhayanaaut** (Bangladesh's leading cultural outfit), established in 1961, it has played a leading role in promoting Tagore's works in Bengali culture.
  - **2016: Ram Vanji Sutar** (sculptor), his first notable work was the 45-feet Chambal monument at the Gandhi Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh.
- Miss Paraguay **Clara Sosa** has won the beauty pageant **Miss Grand International 2018**.
  - India's **Meenakshi Chaudhary** became the first runner-up.
- **Winners of UN Human Rights Prize 2018:**
  - **Asma Jahangir** (Pakistan's late human rights activist)
  - **Rebeca Gyumi** (A Tanzanian human rights activist)
  - **Joenia Wapichana** (Brazil's first indigenous lawyer)
  - **Front Line Defenders** (A human rights organization of Ireland)
- Former West Indies batsman **Shivnarine Chanderpaul** received the **Honorary Doctor of Laws** by the University of the West Indies.
- **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)**, a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence, received the prestigious '**Top Challengers Award 2018**' for the excellent performance during financial year 2017-18.
- Former **England** women's cricket team bowler **Eileen Ash**, the oldest living Test cricketer, turned 107 years old.
  - In 2011, Ash had become the first ever female Test cricketer to turn 100.
- Prof **Ashis Mukherjee**, a senior faculty member of Tezpur University was awarded the prestigious **Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award 2018**.

### **Sports/Game**

- After scoring 87 runs and taking 10 wickets in Asia Cup, **Afghanistan's** 20-year-old cricketer **Rashid Khan** has become the **top-ranked all-rounder in ODI cricket**, as per the latest ICC rankings.
  - Rashid is the top-ranked T20I bowler as well.

- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** brought Indian cricket governing body **BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)** under the **RTI (Right to Information) Act**.
- **Indian** cricketer and former India national under-19 cricket team captain **Prithvi Shaw** has become the **youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut**, achieving the feat aged 18 years and 329 days against Windies in **Rajkot**.
  - Shaw broke the 59-year-old record set by **AA Baig** (20 years and 126 days).
  - Shaw is only the **second** Indian after Sachin Tendulkar to score a Test ton before turning 19.
- **Manipur** claimed victory in the final of the **24th Senior Women's National Football Championships**, by defeating hosts **Odisha** in the finals held at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
- The **Indian cricket team** beat the **Windies** to register their **100th Test win** at **home**, becoming the fourth cricketing nation to reach the landmark figure in Test cricket history.
- Chinaman bowler **Kuldeep Yadav** has become the 1st-ever **Indian spinner** to take a **five-wicket haul** in all three formats in international cricket.
  - Kuldeep is the **third** spinner and **seventh** bowler overall to take a five-wicket haul in all three international formats.
- **India**, who had won the Under-19 World Cup in February this year, defeated Sri Lanka to win the **Under-19 Asia Cup** for a record-extending sixth time.
- Weightlifter **Jeremy Lalrinnunga** has become India's **first-ever gold medallist** in the history of **Youth Olympics Games** in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**.
  - He achieved the feat by lifting a total weight of 274 kg in the men's 62 kg category at the 2018 Youth Olympic.
- Indian para-athlete **Sandeep Chaudhary** smashed the world record in the **javelin throw** event to clinch **Gold** medal at the **Asian Para Games** in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- **Thangjam Tababi Devi** became India's first judo medallist at the **Olympic level**.
  - She achieved this feat after winning **silver** medal at ongoing Youth Olympics Games.
- The **Odisha** government along with the **Department of Sports and Youth Services**, launched the **official mascot** of the 2018
  - Men's Hockey World Cup named '**Olly**', at the **Puri** beach.
- 16 year-old Indian shooter **Manu Bhaker** clinched **gold** medal in the 10m air pistol event in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Indian shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** won the **Men's 10m Air Pistol** event to bag India's second shooting and overall third **Gold** medal at **2018 Youth Olympic Games** in Argentina's Buenos Aires.
- The '**W Series**', an All-female Formula One-like driving competition, to encourage female drivers towards Formula One racing will start next year.
  - In the history of Formula One racing, over 900 drivers have competed since the championship began in 1950, with only two of them being female drivers.
  - The last official female driver's Formula One appearance was **Lella Lombardi** in 1976.
- World number two **Caroline Wozniacki** won her 30th WTA singles title with victory over Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in the **China Open 2018** final in **Beijing**.
- **India** took over the podium claiming all the medals in the **Men's high jump T42/63 event** at the **Asian Para Games 2018** in Indonesia.
  - Defending champion **Sharad Kumar** won the Gold medal while **Varun Bhati** and **Thangavelu Mariyappan** picked up Silver and Bronze respectively.

- The **Indian women's cricket team** has been ranked **5th** in the newly launched **ICC Global Women's T20I Team Rankings**.
  - **Top 5:** Australia, New Zealand, England, West Indies and India.
- India captain **Virat Kohli** has become the **highest scoring Asian Test captain** of all time, achieving the feat during his 45-run knock in the first innings of the second Windies Test.
  - Overall, Kohli has scored 6,331 Test runs.
- **Arsenal's** former World Cup-winning French player **Thierry Henry** has been named the head coach of **French club AS Monaco**, where Henry played from 1993 to 1999.
- India's Rio Paralympics medallist **Deepa Malik** bagged her second medal as she clinched a **bronze** medal in the women's F51/52/53 discus throw event at the Asian Para Games.
- Indian sport shooter **Manu Bhaker** bagged a **Silver** medal after her Gold medal finish in 10m air pistol event at Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires.
- Great **Britain** lifted the **2018 Sultan of Johor Cup (Hockey)** in **Johor Bahru, Malaysia**.
  - The 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup is the 8th edition of the Cup, a field hockey tournament.
- **India's** 17-year-old shuttler **Lakshya Sen** settled for a **Silver** medal after he lost the men's singles final against Li Shifeng of China in straight games in the Youth Olympics.
- The **Indian Under-18 Men's and Women's Hockey teams** won **Silver** Medals at the **2018 Youth Olympic Games** held at Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **Suraj Panwar** won India's first medal in Athletics at the **Youth Olympic Games 2018** after claiming the **Silver medal** in the Men's 5000m race walk event.
- **Akash Malik**, the 15-year-old son of a cotton farmer, won India's maiden **silver** medal in **Archery** at the **Youth Olympics**.
- The **2018 World Wrestling Championships** began at **Budapest, Hungary**.
- **Portuguese** professional footballer **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the 1st player to score 400 goals across the top-five European football leagues after getting on the scoresheet in his side's match against Genoa.
- Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** won the **Silver** medal at the **World Championships**.
- India captain **Virat Kohli** has become **the fastest batsman** to score **10000 runs** in the history of **ODI** cricket.
  - With this, Kohli overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10000 ODI runs in his 259th innings, against Australia in 2001.
- India's **Pooja Dhanda** won a **Bronze** medal in the women's freestyle 57kg weight class in **Wrestling World Championships** held at Budapest, Hungary.
- The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has announced that it is going to **raise the prize money** for the **Women's World Cup** from \$15 million to **\$30 million** starting with next year's edition in **France**.
- India's **Sourav Kothari** defeated **Peter Gilchrist** of **Singapore** to clinch the **2018 WBL World Billiards Championship** title in **England**.
- **India and Pakistan** have been declared as **joint winners** of the **Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2018** after the final was forfeited due to heavy rain in **Oman's Muscat**.
  - Malaysia's **Faizal Saari** was the top scorer of the tournament with 8 Goals.
  - India's **Harmanpreet Singh** finished the edition as the second-highest scorer with six goals.
- Mercedes' British driver **Lewis Hamilton** won his 5th Formula 1 world championship after finishing fourth at the **Mexican Grand Prix**.

- Indian professional tennis player **Divij Sharan** overtook Rohan Bopanna to become India's highest ranked Tennis doubles player in the latest ATP rankings.
  - Sharan is ranked on **38**, one place higher than the veteran Bopanna.
  - **Top 5:** 1. Rafael Nadal, 2. Novak Djokovic, 3. Roger Federer, 4. Juan Martin Del Potro, 5. Alexander Zverev
- Steel manufacturing giant **Tata Steel** was named as an official partner for the prestigious **Men's hockey World Cup 2018** to be held here from 28th November to 16th December 2018.

## Report

- **India** was ranked **5th** among 206 countries in **Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018** released by Canadian Cancer Society.
  - Top 5: Timor-Lest, Nepal, Vanuatu, New Zealand and India.
- **Reliance** Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has topped **Forbes India's 100 Richest People** list for the 11th straight year with a net worth of **\$47.3 billion**.
  - Top 5: Mukesh Ambani, Azim Premji, Lakshmi Mittal, Hinduja brothers and Pallonji Mistry.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** conferred **Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018** to **top ranked states** and districts.
  - **Top 3 State:** Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
  - **Top 3 Districts:** Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana), Pedapalli (Telangana).
  - **States with Maximum Citizen Participation:** Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
  - **Districts with maximum citizens' participation:** Nashik (Maharashtra), Solapur (Maharashtra), Chittorgarh (Rajasthan).
- The **Government E-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR)**, compiled by The Economist Intelligence Unit commissioned by payments company **Visa** ranked **India** as **28th** country to progress in the digital transformation journey.
  - **Top 3:** Norway, France and Denmark.
- **Japan's** passport has been named the **most powerful** in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the recently released **Henley Passport Index 2018**.
  - **Singapore** is now at the **2nd** place in the Index.
  - **Germany, South Korea and France** jointly stood at the **3rd** spot.
  - **Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden and Spain** all came in joint-**4th**.
  - **United States** and the **United Kingdom** are at the **5th** position of the index.
  - The **Indian** passport has secured the **81st** rank in the Index.
- The **World Bank** has released its **1st-ever Human Capital Index report**.
  - **Singapore topped** the poll after it was highly rated for its universal healthcare system, education exams results and life expectancy figures.
  - Top 5: Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland.
  - **India** ranked at **115** out of 157 countries, lower than Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh, however the Indian government has rejected the findings.
- **Uttar Pradesh** was perceived as the **most corrupt state** in India according to a survey titled **India Corruption Survey 2018**.
  - This survey was conducted by the **Transparency International India** in 15 states and Union Territories.
  - According to this survey, **Gujarat, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh** named as the least corrupt states.
  - **Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu** named as the most corrupt states.



- **Stanford University** was named as **World's Most Innovative University** by Reuters news agency rankings.
  - No Indian University was able to make it to the list.
  - Top 5: (1) Stanford University, US, (2) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, (3) Harvard University, US, (4) University of Pennsylvania, US and (5) University of Washington, US.
- **India** was ranked **103rd** out of 119 qualifying countries in recently released **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2018**.
  - Top 5: Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica and Croatia.
- According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, **India** is the **world's most depressed country**, closely followed by China and the US.
  - **Top 7:** India, China, United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Russia and Pakistan.
- **India** has been ranked as the **58<sup>th</sup> most competitive economy** in recently released **World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index 2018**.
  - On the list of 140 economies, the **United States** topped the list followed by **Singapore** and **Germany**.
  - **Top 5:** United States, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland and Japan.
- **India** has lost one spot to rank as the **9th most valuable nation brand** in the world, according to UK-based consultancy Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2018 report.
  - However, India's brand value increased by 5% to \$2,159 billion.
  - **USA** topped the list with a 23 per cent increase in brand value (to \$25,899 billion from \$21,055 billion).
  - **China** came in **second** with a 25 per cent increase in brand value (to \$12,779 billion from \$10,209 billion).
- **Telugu** is the fastest growing language in the US, a study by US-based **Centre for Immigration Studies** claimed.
- **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** has announced that, **India** will become the world's **3rd** largest aviation market around **2024** surpassing the **United Kingdom**.
  - India is at present, the world's **7th** largest aviation market.
- According to the **Asian Economic Integration Report 2018** by the **Asian Development Bank**, most of the outbound migrants were from **India** in 2017, followed by **China** and **Bangladesh**.
  - The report also reveals that the outward migration in Asia has outpaced inward migration.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay)** has topped the **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings** from India followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Madras.
  - 8 Indian universities (IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras, IISC Bangalore, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Kanpur, Delhi University and IIT-Roorkee) have figured among the top 100 in the list of Asia's top 50 universities.
  - **Top 3:** (1) National University of Singapore, (2) University of Hong Kong, (3) Nanyang Technological University
- **American** multinational technology company **Apple Inc** topped the list of **World's Most Valuable Companies 2018**.
  - Software giant **Microsoft** has reclaimed its spot as the world's **second** most valuable company by overtaking e-commerce giant **Amazon**.
- As many as 1,01,788 children under five years of age died in India in 2016 from exposure to **Toxic Air**, according to World Health Organization, making **India** the worst affected country.
  - Top 3: India (1,01,788), Nigeria (98,001), Pakistan (38,252).

### **National Parties/Regional Parties**

- Communist revolutionary **Mao Zedong** officially proclaimed the existence of the **People's Republic of China** on 1st October in the year 1949.
- One of the four registered political parties in Bhutan, **Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT)** is going to form new government in **Bhutan**.

### **General - National**

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has allowed the government to take control of **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)** by replacing all its board members.
  - **Uday Kotak** (Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank) and **G C Chaturvedi** (ICICI Bank Chairman) are part of a new 6-member board that will prepare a turnaround plan.
- The Civil Aviation Minister **Suresh Prabhu** announced that passengers can soon use **facial recognition biometrics** to enter airports under the government's **DigiYatra initiative**, which will become operational by **February 2019**.
- India's and Asia's 1st Dolphin research centre titled **National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)** is going to be set up on the banks of the **Ganga river** in **Patna University campus** in **Patna, Bihar**.
- **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has sanctioned **5 new battalions** of anti-riot and crowd control **Rapid Action Force (RAF)**.
  - With these, the total number of RAF battalions in the country has gone up to **15**.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**, which has served as a "watchdog of democracy" and been part of some landmark cases in which its intervention had significant impact, has completed 25 years.
  - The commission was established on **12th October 1993** under the Protection of the Human Rights (PHR) Act, 1993.
- **India** elected to the **United Nations' top human rights body** for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019.
- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has announced that soon passengers on board trains will be able to file a '**zero FIR**' through an app which will be immediately investigated by the force.
  - **Zero FIR** means that an FIR can be filed in any police station.
- To sensitize people about eating safe food and be healthy, the Union Government has launched a national campaign titled '**Swasth Bharat Yatra**'.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** unfurled **India's highest tricolour** installed on the terrace of any building at **Haj House, Mumbai**.
- Aadhaar-issuing authority **UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India)** has asked **digital wallets** and registrars of **mutual funds** to stop authentication using the **12-digit unique identification number**.
  - This comes after Supreme Court in September termed Aadhaar authentication by private companies as "unconstitutional".
- PM Narendra Modi hoisted the Tricolour at Red Fort to mark the **75th anniversary of Azad Hind government** constituted by **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
  - Azad Hind Government was founded in Singapore on 21st October 1943.
- The **Home Ministry** announced that a foreign-origin spouse of any Indian national or an **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholder is now eligible for obtaining the OCI card.
- Union Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** announced that **Declaration of criminal record** has been made **mandatory** for those applying for an **Indian visa**.
- The **Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** was celebrating its **57th Raising day** on October 24.

- The **Union Ministry of Human Resource Development** has launched a new scheme titled **SPARC**, which aims to improve the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
  - **SPARC: Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration**

### General - International

- **Macedonia** held a referendum on whether to change its name to the '**Republic of North Macedonia**'.
  - Greece and Macedonia had signed a deal in this regard in June.
- **United States** and **Morocco** have launched **GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative** under auspices of **Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)**.
  - It was launched on sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- The **International Court of Justice** has ordered the **United States** to lift sanctions on **Iran** which are linked to humanitarian goods and civil aviation.
- **Bangladesh** abolished a **controversial quota system** for **civil service jobs** that had been the target of major street protests that paralyzed parts of the country earlier this year.
  - Now the recruitment for the most sought-after jobs would be determined by examination only.
- **China** has launched a game show to teach young people about President **Xi Jinping**.
  - The **five-episode** show has been titled as '**Studying Xi in the New Era**'.
- Amid domestic opposition to the practice, **Malaysia's** cabinet has agreed to abolish the **death penalty**.
- **North** and **South Korea** have agreed to begin **reconnecting rail and road links** that have been cut since the 1950-53 Korean War.
  - Later this month, the two countries will discuss plans to co-host the 2032 Olympic Games.
- The Prime Minister of **Ethiopia**, **Abiy Ahmed** appointed new 20-member cabinet comprising a record **50% Women**.
  - This cabinet comprises the country's 1st female Defence Minister **Aisha Mohammed**.
- **Canada** has become the 2nd country to legalize possession and use of **recreational cannabis**.
  - Canadians can now grow up to four plants in their own home and carry up to 30 grams of dried cannabis for personal use.
  - The 1st country in the world to allow the sale of cannabis for recreational use is **Uruguay**.
- 10 years after the abolition of monarchy, **Nepal** has put the crown, sword and other valuable items used by former kings on display.
- **Hungary** imposed a **ban** on rough **sleeping in public spaces** as its law on homelessness came into force.
- **Venezuela** announced that it is abandoning the **US dollar**, with all future transactions on the Venezuelan exchange market to be made in **euro**.
- **Queensland** voted in favor of a bill to **legalize Abortion**.
  - With this it became the 5th Australian state to do so.
- US President **Donald Trump** announced that the country is going to withdraw from the Cold War-era **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty** with **Russia**.
- Members of the **European Parliament** have voted in favor of a proposal to **ban single-use plastics** in a bid to curb marine pollution.
  - The ban is likely to take effect by **2021**.

- In a recently held referendum, **Ireland** voted to **remove** the offence of **blasphemy** from the constitution, with 64.85% of the voters supporting the move.
- **Pakistan's** Supreme Court reintroduced the **ban** on airing **Indian movies** and TV shows on local channels, overturning an earlier verdict by the Lahore High Court (LHC).
- **China** and **Pakistan** will in November launch a Bus service through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project**.
- **US President Donald Trump** has turned down **India's** invitation to be the chief guest at next year's Republic Day parade.
- **China** is going to build the country's 1st permanent **airport** in the **South Pole** which will provide logistical support to the scientists' research there.
- **Austria** has announced that it is withdrawing from the **United Nations' (UN) Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Agreement** which is due to be formally approved in December in **Morocco**.
- **China** eased the ban on the trading of **tiger bones** and **rhinoceros horns**, allowing it for scientific, medical, educational and cultural use.
- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers has been officially opened in **Istanbul**.

## Books and Authors

### Book's Name

### Author's Name

- Congress MP **Shashi Tharoor** announced his latest book titled '**The Paradoxical Prime Minister**', describing it as more than just a 400-page exercise in "floccinaucinihilipilification" on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - **Meaning of 'floccinaucinihilipilification'**: the action or habit of estimating something as worthless.
- **Bihar** Deputy CM **Sushil Modi** released a 200-page book titled '**Lalu-Leela**', which documents alleged illegal dealings by RJD supremo **Lalu Prasad Yadav** and his family members.
- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** released the Biography of late Industrialist, **Dr. Anumolu Ramakrishna** titled '**Building a Legacy**'.
  - This book has been authored by **V. Pattabhi Ram and R. Mohan**.
- The Hindi Version of the Biography of **Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** titled '**Yoddha Yogi: Yogi Adityanath Ki Jeevan Yatra**', was recently released.
  - The book is written by **Pravin Kumar**, Deputy Resident Editor, Times of India and Lucknow.
  - The English version of the book "**Yogi Adityanath: The Rise of A Saffron Socialist**" was released last year.



## TO THE POINTS: OCTOBER-2018

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in **Rajkot**.
- **Jharkhand** state government is constructing India's biggest war memorial.
- Recently **Goa** has inked A Memorandum of understanding with Portuguese Environment Ministry on water management.
- **Jayant Mammen Mathew** has been elected president of Indian Newspaper Society.
- **Chiranjiv Patel** has won Business World's '40 Under 40' title.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred **Bandhan Bank** from opening new branches.
- Union Railway Ministry has launched Rail Heritage Digitization Project in collaboration with **Google Arts and Culture Association**.
- **N Ravi** has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI).
- **Tripura** would set up flute performance research institute.
- India's first flood forecast system inaugurated in **Kolkata**.
- **Assam** is the first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens.
- **James P Allison and Tasaku Honjo** won 2018 Nobel Medicine or Physiology Prize.
- **Walmart** has announced that it is to invest Rs.180 crore in India to improve farmers' livelihood.
- **Maharashtra** tops in the list with the maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM).
- **Ministry of cows** replaces Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan (MPGEPS) Board.
- **Uzbekistan** joins hands with India for developing ICT Sector.
- **3400** cities have been Locate Public Toilets On Google Maps With LooReview Campaign.
- AICTE to establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in **Jaipur**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham aims at creating more employable youth.
- India's first Corn Festival started in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **BSE** became first stock exchange in the country to launch commodity derivative contracts.
- The Indian embassy in the **Netherlands** released commemorative stamps in honor of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- **Karnataka** became first state give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accidents victims.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has expected India's economy to grow **7.0%** in calendar year 2018.
- **Arun Kumar** was appointed as new Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- **Evan Atar Adaha** won 2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.
- Sustainable Mountain Development Summit VII was held in **Shimla**.
- India was ranked **5th** among 206 countries in Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018 released by Canadian Cancer Society.

- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the **Indian, Brazilian and South African** Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa.
- **Manpreet Singh** will be captain of Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018.
- Union Cabinet hikes the minimum support prices (MSP) of wheat by **Rs.105 per quintal**.
- **IDBI Bank** approved a proposal for issuance of preferential shares in favor of LIC.
- **State Bank of India** to become a plastic-free organization in the next 12 months as part of its sustainability commitment.
- Aditya Birla Finance, the NBFC arm of Aditya Birla Group, has received a Rs.1,000- crore term loan for seven years from **International Finance Corporation**.
- Justice RanjanGogoi took oath as the **46th** Chief Justice of India.
- **Uber** has hired former Expedia executive Nikki Krishnamurthy as the ride-hailing startup's Chief People Officer (CPO).
- **SandeepBakhshi** has been appointed as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Bank.
- **NarendraModi** has been presented with United Nations' highest environmental honor 'Champions of the Earth'.
- Scientists Frances **Arnold**, **George Smith** and **Gregory Winter** won the 2018 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.
- **Prithvi Shaw** has become the first-ever cricketer to smash a century each on Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Test cricket debut.
- **Manu Bhaker** was named as the flag bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 6-18.
- India launched a massive operation "Samudra Maitri", to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in **Indonesia**.
- India's first National Dolphin Research Centre will soon be opened in **Patna**.
- **SIDBI** has launched a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign "Udyam Abhilasha" in 115 aspirational districts.
- **Maharishi Dayanand University** has been declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry in "Swachh Campus Rankings".
- **Rajasthan** has inaugurated the city's "Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project" executed by Tata Projects Ltd.
- **Barham Salih** is the new President of Iraq.
- India and Asian Development Bank signed a \$240 million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of **West Bengal**.
- The UNICEF has appointed **Ravi Venkatesan** has its special representative of young people.
- India has aiming to generate 40 percent power from non fossil fuel by **2030**.
- MobiKwik launched an instant loan approval and disbursal product called '**Boost**'.
- The Cabinet approves to set up the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- As per the Trade and Development Report of UNCTAD, the GDP growth of India for 2018 to be at 7%.

- **IIT-Kharagpur** was named the national coordinating institute of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC).
- Vikram Limaye has been appointed the chairman of the working committee and director for **World Federation of Exchanges** (WFE).
- A joint exercise between **Vietnam and India** 'Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018' commenced off Chennai coast.
- **Pankaj Sharma** has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD).
- **Apple** becomes the top brand in the world in 2018.
- Ramon Laguarta took charge as the chief executive officer (CEO) of **PepsiCo**.
- Union Government has decided to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna**.
- National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) unveils the Centre of Excellence for Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report said the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by **2030**.
- **Haryana** going to set up anti-terror force Kavach.
- Arunachal Pradesh launched **Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana** (CMSKY) and the **Chief Minister's Krishi Samuh Yojana** (CMKSY) schemes.
- Centre has released Rs.450 crore as special grant to **Telangana** government as it took up the developmental work in the former nine backward districts of the State.
- **Sultan A. Pradhan** was conferred the prestigious Dhanvantari Award.
- Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in **Guwahati**.
- National Housing Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of **RBI**.
- **Pankaj Sharma** has been newly appointed as India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament.
- **Srilanka** recently dedicated Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium.
- China is to sell 48 high-end armed drones to **Pakistan**.
- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in **Tamilnadu**.
- According to IMF, the GDP of India in 2018 is **7.3%**.
- The current interest rate for the non-government provident, superannuation, and gratuity funds is **8%**.
- **Bhure Lal** is the chairman of Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).
- India got **81st rank** in the world's Powerful Passport.
- **Ajit Doval** is the head of the Security Policy Group under NSA to assist National Security Council.
- **Jharkhand** has to become partner state at Goa International Film Festival.
- **Pakistan** has successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1300 kilometres.
- The 29th edition of Accountants General Conference was held in **New Delhi**.
- India offered a grant of USD 20 million to **Tajikistan** for financing development projects.

- **Uttarakhand** has flagged off the test run of its first electric bus.
- India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be kicked off in January, 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 Union Territories.
- **Union Ministry of External Affairs** (MEA) has launched India for Humanity initiative to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honor of his service to humanity.
- Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for the development of National Waterway 40 (river Ghaghra) in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Delhi government has signed a twin city agreement with **Moscow**.
- **Titli**, is the name of cyclone has intensified into a "very severe cyclonic storm" and will make a landfall in areas bordering Odisha and Andhra Pradesh along the eastern coast.
- **Indian Air Force** has launched 'MedWatch' mobile health app to provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics.
- The Organics and Millets International Trade Fair 2019 will be held in **Bangalore**.
- **UNICEF** and NASSCOM Foundation have signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions."
- **Shashi Tharoor** is the author of the book "The Paradoxical Prime Minister: Narendra Modi and His India".
- **Pullela Gopichand** has been honored with the Ramineni Foundation's outstanding person award.
- **NITI Aayog** has recently organized Workshop on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' in New Delhi.
- **Veena Sendre** has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.
- India ranked **147th** among 157 countries in Oxfam World Inequality Index 2018.
- Rakesh Sharma has taken charge as the MD and CEO of **IDBI Bank**.
- **British** scientists created a 3D-printed meals.
- **Rajasthan** state health ministry confirms 22 Zika cases.
- Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for financial year 2017-18 for all eligible non-gazetted **Railway employees**.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is set to launch a Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) service in **Assam**.
- NITI Aayog has signed pact with **Microsoft** India to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges various sectors such as agriculture and healthcare.
- India's first-ever India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC) has launched in **Bangalore**.
- **V Pattabhi Ram** is the author of the biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna titled 'Building a Legacy'.
- **IIT Kharagpur** has signed pact with Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in research and education.
- **Sikkim** has won the FAO's Future Policy Gold Award for 100% organic farming.
- The World Bank has ranked India at **115th** position in its first-ever Human Capital Index (HCI).
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has recently signed pact with **Uttarakhand** government to fuel MSMEs growth in state.



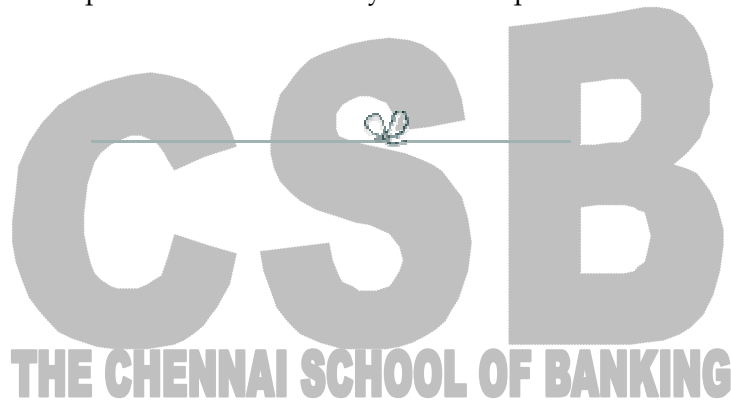
- **Vikku Vinayakram** has recently won the special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy.
- **Meghalaya** government to launch a new scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'.
- **OYO** partners with payments platform PhonePe.
- **China** launch first joint programme with India to train Afghanistan diplomats.
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is to implement an emergency action plan called the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**.
- Central Government to Provide Rs.7.8 Crore Textile Tourism Complex in **Meghalaya**.
- **India** was elected to UNHCR securing Maximum Votes.
- **Prema Gopalan** wins Social Entrepreneur of the Year award 2018.
- **Novak Djokovic** has won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament.
- The book "Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior" is authored by noted historian **Rima Hooja**.
- The governments of **Germany and the UK**, with support from the World Bank, are establishing a new Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF).
- Vaishno Devi shrine board enhanced the free insurance cover to pilgrims to **Rs five lakh**.
- A delay in procurement of raw material for coins has forced Reserve Bank of India to cut its demand for **Rs.10 coins** by half, raising the specter of shortage in circulation.
- **Nimesh Shah** has elected new chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- **S B Zaware** is the head of the committee to study issues at IL&FS.
- **Great Britain** lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey tournament in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.
- 6th India International Silk Fair held in **New Delhi**.
- The 4th edition of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays 2019 will be hosted by **Japan** Association of Athletics Federations (JAAF) at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama (near Tokyo).
- **Paul Allen** (65), who co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates, has passed away.
- India's first Agri and Food Business online learning platform has launched in **Warangal**.
- Government committed to achieving goal of zero hunger by **2030**.
- **Canada** is the second country to legalize use of cannabis.
- India will soon set up a special **UAE desk** to facilitate investments and resolve any business issues between the two nations.
- Electric auto rickshaws are set to be launched in **Kerala**.
- RBI approved the license for **Kreditech**, the Germany-based company to operate as a Non- Banking Financial Company (NBFC) license for digital lending business and app-based financing.
- **SS Mundra** is appointed as advisor of BankBazaar.
- **45** Indian companies participating in Expo Cihac in Mexico City.
- **Arundhati Bhattacharya** is appointed as additional director, designated as independent director, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).

- **India** is the world's most depressed country.
- India has been ranked as the **58th** most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018.
- Ministry of Rural Development and Lady Irwin College, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing **ROSHNI** – Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action.
- Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, **Bihar** has got official recognition as it receives the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- **Karnataka** has announced formation of Kodagu Development Authority.
- India's first Cryptocurrency ATM opens in **Bangalore**.
- **MJ Akbar**, Minister of State for External Affairs, has resigned from his post in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment made by several women against him.
- **TCS** is the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing megabanks and insurers.
- **S.Mathur** is the head of the IRDA panel to study feasibility of paying claims in installments.
- World Diamond Council 14th Annual general meeting was held at **Mumbai**.
- **4** Himalayan Peaks have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- India has secured **9th rank** out of top 50 valuable national brands, according to a report titled 'Nation Brands 2018' released by Brand Finance.
- **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay** tops in the "QS India University Rankings 2019".
- **Piyush Goyal** will receive the prestigious Carnot Prize from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania.
- The book titled "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections" has been authored by **Vijayan Bala**, the veteran commentator and cricket statistician.
- **European and Japanese** space agencies stated that an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury.
- **China** has successfully tested world's largest unmanned transport drone "FH-98".
- **Punjab** signs MOU with Centre for implementation of PMJAY, recently.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIRIITR), Lucknow, has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" with the trade name "**OneerTM**".
- **China** is working on creating an artificial moon.
- As per the report of US, **India** is removed from the currency monitoring list.
- The first-ever joint maritime exercise will be conducted between ASEAN and **China** in the South China Sea.
- **European Space Agency and JAXA** have successfully launched an unmanned Bepi Colombo spacecraft to Mercury.
- **Vishwa Mohan Bhatt** won Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Uttar Pradesh** state government stated Man-animal conflict as a 'State Declared Disaster'.
- BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh government is considering a proposal to rename state capital Shimla to **Shyamala**.

- **National Association of Software and Services Companies** (NASSCOM) has signed a MoU with the Dubai Internet City (DIC) to help small and medium-sized Indian enterprises expand their operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- **State Bank of India** is the first bank to introduce wealth business services for its customers.
- Green Climate Fund approves **\$1 billion** to assist poor countries to tackle climate change.
- **Krti 4.0** is the name of Artificial Intelligence launched by Finnish firm Pöyry and Infosys.
- **India** will be the global host of UNICEF's Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health stakeholders meeting.
- The book "Nehru and Bose: Parallel Lives" has been authored by **Rudrangshu Mukherjee**.
- Indian IT industry's apex body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) entered into a partnership with the **Hiroshima** government for co-creating a Japan-India IT Corridor in Hiroshima.
- **Syndicate Bank** obtained Seven hundred and twenty eight crores capital infusion from union government.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 to get foreign labor certification.
- Tea Board of India is planning to launch an app **Chai Sahay** (tea help).
- 4-Day International Dance Festival was held in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Environment Ministry** has launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign.
- **Mumbai** beat Delhi to lift Vijay Hazare Trophy title for 3rd time.
- **Bajrang Punia**, Indian wrestler who won the silver medal of the Wrestling World Championships in Hungary.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three-day Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan in **Maharashtra**.
- Druzhba-III is a Joint Military Exercise between Pakistan and **Russia**.
- The first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation was held in **New Delhi**.
- Spain's **Marc Marquez** won MotoGP world champion for the fifth time in six years in the Japanese MotoGP.
- The first trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place on in **Tehran, Iran**.
- **Narendra Modi** has been conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018.
- Nishtha Dudeja won the Miss Deaf Asia 2018. She hailed from **Haryana**.
- **M.S.Swaminathan** will receive the first World Agriculture Prize.
- Paul Biya elected as the President of **Cameroon**.
- **Facebook** has hired former British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg to lead its global affairs and communications team.
- M Nageshwar Rao was appointed as a Director of the **Central Bureau of Investigation** (CBI).
- **Rajnath Singh** is the head of four members Group of committee to crackdown on workplace sexual harassment.
- North East Olympics begins in **Imphal**.

- **Athletics Federation of India** will be awarded with the 2018 FICCI.
- TECH 2018 will organize by UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **China** tested the world's largest cargo drone Feihong-98 (FH-98).
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched "Main Nahin Hum" in New Delhi.
- **Train 18** is the name of India's first made-in-India engineless train.
- 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) was held in **Dubai**.
- India Mobile Congress 2018 was held in **New Delhi**.
- **Sri Lanka** was chosen as the best travel destination among the list of countries to visit in 2019 with Germany and Zimbabwe just behind.
- **IDFC First** is the new name of IDFC Bank.
- **Saurabh Kumar** has been appointed as India's ambassador to Myanmar.
- Soyuz-2.1B rocket is successfully launched by **Russia**.
- **Reliance Naval and Engineering** launched a 3000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- The Punjab government has banned **Glyphosate**, chemical compound which is consider as a Group 2A cancer-causing material.
- China and Japan are partnering to develop **Infrastructure in Asia**.
- Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in **Gujarat**.
- Kerala will need about **Rs.31,000 crore** for recovery and reconstruction following the century's worst floods, according to a UN report.
- **Asma Jahangir** is posthumously awarded UN Human Rights Prize.
- Maneka Gandhi inaugurates 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018 in **New Delhi**.
- India got **97<sup>th</sup>** place in FIFA ranking released by Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
- **Mumbai's** METRO INOX is now South Mumbai's largest cinema and India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema.
- **Roopam Sharma**, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award.
- **Bharat Earth Movers Limited** (BEML) won the Best Mining Equipment Seller Award.
- The Information Commissioner Office (ICO) found that between 2007 and 2014, **Facebook** processed the personal information of users unfairly by giving app developers access to their information without informed consent.
- India and the **United Kingdom** will collaborate on research on different aspects of the Ganga delta region and the Bay of Bengal.
- **India** has donated \$300,000 to a programme to train commanders for UN peacekeeping.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government signed a MoU with The **British** Council in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- **Meghalaya** has launched Blue Revolution for Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries.

- **Wipro** has appointed former SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya independent director.
- North East Festival and Experiencing the North East held in **New Delhi**.
- **India** and European Union (EU) decided to cooperate on Digital communications, Digital economy and society.
- As per the report of market capitalization, **Microsoft** is the second most valuable U.S. Company.
- **Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi** is the first to get Taxibots which can be used to reduce the use of air turbine fuel during taxiing.
- Indian Railways to build world's highest railway line in **Ladakh** region.
- Researches from **University of Michigan** have developed a web-based tool to monitor fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.
- **Paraguay Clara Sosa** bagged the 2018 Miss Grand International title.
- **WTO** sets a panel is to examine the India-U.S. export case.
- The Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in **Kerala**.
- **Tata Steel** is the official partner of men's hockey World Cup 2018.



**CURRENT AFFAIRS: OCTOBER-2018**  
**MODEL QUESTIONS**

1. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day of the Girl?  
(1) With Her: A Skilled Girl Force  
(2) Empower Girls: Before, during and after crises  
(3) Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls  
(4) The Power of Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030  
(5) None of these
2. What is the theme of the 2018 World Mental Health Day (WMHD)?  
(1) Mental health in the workplace  
(2) Psychological First Aid  
(3) Dignity in Mental Health  
(4) Young people and mental health in a changing world  
(5) None of these
3. What is the theme of the 2018 World Egg Day (WED)?  
(1) Eat & Run  
(2) Protein for Life  
(3) Put an Egg On It  
(4) Protein for Good Health  
(5) None of these
4. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day for Disaster Reduction?  
(1) Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement  
(2) Reducing Disaster Economic Losses  
(3) Home Safe Home  
(4) Resilience is for Life  
(5) None of these
5. On which date, the 2018 World Trauma Day (WTD) is observed recently?  
(1) October 15  
(2) October 19  
(3) October 16  
(4) October 17  
(5) None of these
6. On which date, the 2018 World Students' Day (WSD) is observed recently?  
(1) October 15  
(2) October 16  
(3) October 19  
(4) October 18  
(5) None of these
7. What is the theme of the 2018 Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW)?  
(1) Combating Corruption – Technology as an enabler  
(2) Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India  
(3) My Vision-Corruption Free India  
(4) Promoting Good Governance: Positive contribution of vigilance  
(5) None of these
8. What is the current repo rate, as per RBI's 4th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2018-19?  
(1) 6.0%                      (2) 6.75%                      (3) 6.5%                      (4) 6.25%                      (5) None of these
9. Which of the following banks has become the India's first PSU bank to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients?  
(1) SBI                      (2) PNB                      (3) BOB                      (4) Dena Bank                      (5) None of these
10. ICICI was formed in 1955 at the initiative of which International organization?  
(1) WEF                      (2) IMF                      (3) UN                      (4) World Bank                      (5) None of these

11. As per which section of the Representation of the People Act 1951, the Election Commission of India (ECI) to fill casual vacancies in Karnataka but not in Andhra Pradesh?  
(1) Section 153A (2) Section 154A (3) Section 151A  
(4) Section 152A (5) None of these
12. Which of the following has become the India's first state to give legal protection to good Samaritans?  
(1) Odisha (2) Assam (3) Karnataka (4) Punjab (5) None of these
13. Which of the following states police have decided to conduct joint operations and share information to combat Left Wing Extremism (LWE)?  
(1) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka (2) Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh  
(3) Chhattisgarh and Odisha (4) Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these
14. Which state government has recently launched the Sashakt Kisan Yojana (SKY) & Krishi Samuh Yojana (KSY)?  
(1) Arunachal Pradesh (2) Odisha (3) Punjab  
(4) Haryana (5) None of these
15. Which state Prison department has rolled out a smart video-calling facility for female prisoners and inmates lodged at open jails?  
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Chhattisgarh (3) Maharashtra  
(4) Odisha (5) None of these
16. The 2018 Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan (VSAS) has started in which state?  
(1) West Bengal (2) Maharashtra (3) Gujarat  
(4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
17. Which state government has decided to ban the sale of glyphosate formulations?  
(1) Meghalaya (2) Assam (3) Punjab (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
18. The 17th century 'Oonth Kadal' bridge, which is in news recently, is located in which state?  
(1) Punjab (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Himachal Pradesh  
(4) Jammu & Kashmir (5) None of these
19. The Coffee Day Malnad Ultra Marathon 2018 has started in which state?  
(1) Odisha (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Karnataka (4) Kerala (5) None of these
20. India's first-ever India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC) has launched in which city?  
(1) Bengaluru (2) New Delhi (3) Pune (4) Chennai (5) None of these
21. Which of the following cities is the venue of the India International Silk Fair (IISF-2018)?  
(1) Guwahati (2) Pune (3) New Delhi (4) Lucknow (5) None of these
22. The ancient city "Prayaga" was renamed as "Allahabad" by which Mughal emperor?  
(1) Akbar (2) Aurangzeb (3) Humayun (4) Shah Jahan (5) None of these
23. Sittwe Port, which is in news recently, is located in which country?  
(1) Sri Lanka (2) Myanmar (3) India (4) Bangladesh (5) None of these
24. Which of the following cities is the venue of the 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition)?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Dubai (3) Paris (4) New York (5) None of these

25. Sanya Richards-Ross, who will be event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon, is from which country?  
 (1) Germany (2) United States (3) France (4) Italy (5) None of these
26. Sahyog HOP TAC-2018 is held between India and which country?  
 (1) Sri Lanka (2) South Africa (3) Thailand (4) Vietnam (5) None of these
27. The first-ever joint maritime exercise will be conducted between ASEAN and which country?  
 (1) Brazil (2) China (3) Japan (4) Russia (5) None of these
28. Who will head the Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine modalities for 'calamity tax' under GST?  
 (1) Ravi Shankar Prasad (2) Narendra Singh Tomar (3) Suresh Prabhu  
 (4) Sushil Modi (5) None of these
29. Who heads the parliamentary standing committee on labor to examine the functioning of Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)?  
 (1) Vikram Usendi (2) Kirit Somaiya (3) Radheshyam Biswas  
 (4) Santosh Kumar (5) None of these
30. Who will chair the High Level Steering Committee to review National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?  
 (1) Chief Statistician of India (2) Finance Secretary (3) Home Secretary  
 (4) Chief Economic Adviser (5) None of these
31. The nationwide Action Research Project of Gram Panchayat development scheme has been launched from which city?  
 (1) Agra (2) New Delhi (3) Jaipur (4) Gwalior (5) None of these
32. India's first 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' has launched in which state?  
 (1) Jammu & Kashmir (2) Assam (3) Himachal Pradesh  
 (4) Manipur (5) None of these
33. Which of the following is the project implementing agency of the scheme "Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)"?  
 (1) TRAI (2) NDMA (3) ICSSR (4) ICCR (5) None of these
34. The first-ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' has recently held in which city?  
 (1) Dehradun (2) Shimla (3) Guwahati (4) Patna (5) None of these
35. The 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference "India Chem 2018" was held in which city?  
 (1) Mumbai (2) New Delhi (3) Chennai (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
36. Which of the following cities is the venue of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) of Indian Region?  
 (1) Patna (2) Shimla (3) Indore (4) Guwahati (5) None of these
37. The Government of India (GoI) with the support of which organization is organizing the '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products - Achieving the SDGs 2030'?  
 (1) WHO (2) UNO (3) FAO (4) UNICEF (5) None of these
38. Which country to host four nation summit on Syria crisis?  
 (1) Turkey (2) Russia (3) Israel (4) Iran (5) None of these



39. The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) has started in which city?  
 (1) Lucknow (2) Gandhi Nagar (3) Jaipur  
 (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
40. The International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR 2018) was held in which union territory of India?  
 (1) Dadra & Nagar Haveli (2) Puducherry (3) Daman & Diu  
 (4) Lakshadweep (5) None of these
41. Which of the following cities is the venue of the 11th Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018?  
 (1) Jaipur (2) Pune (3) New Delhi (4) Kochi (5) None of these
42. The Transforming Education Conference for Humanity (TECH 2018) will be organized by UNESCO MGIEP in association with which state government?  
 (1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Karnataka (3) Kerala  
 (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
43. India signed \$240 million loan pact with ADB for safe drinking water in which of the following districts of West Bengal?  
 (1) North 24 Parganas (2) Bankura (3) Purba Medinipur  
 (4) All of the above (5) None of these
44. BSNL has recently signed pact with which technological giant to leverage Industry 4.0 for manufacturing excellence?  
 (1) Microsoft (2) Samsung (3) Nokia (4) Lava (5) None of these
45. India and it's which neighboring country have recently signed pacts for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity?  
 (1) Myanmar (2) Sri Lanka (3) Nepal (4) Bangladesh (5) None of these
46. Which of the following cities is the venue of the 17th CHG of meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?  
 (1) Dushanbe (2) Sochi (3) New Delhi (4) Moscow (5) None of these
47. Which UN organization is supporting the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which has recently approved \$43 million for India's coastal communities?  
 (1) UNHCR (2) WHO (3) UNCTAD (4) UNDP (5) None of these
48. India has recently donated 3 lakh Dollars for peacekeeping initiative of which organization on issues of conduct & discipline?  
 (1) UN (2) International Peace Bureau (3) WHO  
 (4) International Committee of the Red Cross (5) None of these
49. What is the India's GDP growth forecast for 2018, according to UNCTAD's latest report "Trade and Development Report"?  
 (1) 6.7% (2) 7.2% (3) 7.0% (4) 7.4% (5) None of these
50. Which of the following space agencies have successfully launched an unmanned Bepi Colombo spacecraft to Mercury?  
 (1) European Space Agency and JAXA  
 (2) ISRO and NASA  
 (3) JAXA and NASA  
 (4) ISRO and European Space Agency  
 (5) None of these

51. The team of scientists has recently identified regions in the wheat genome responsible for density of which micro-nutrient in wheat grain?  
 (1) Iron (2) Zinc (3) Calcium (4) Nitrogen (5) None of these
52. What is "poly-Oxime", which was developed recently by Indian researchers and was making news?  
 (1) A skin gel (2) A pesticide (3) A coolant  
 (4) A very strong nano-material (5) None of these
53. Under which sea, the world's oldest known intact shipwreck has been discovered by an international team of maritime archaeologists?  
 (1) Red Sea (2) Caribbean Sea (3) South China Sea  
 (4) Black Sea (5) None of these
54. The researchers of which IIT has launched India's first indigenously-developed microprocessor?  
 (1) IIT-Kharagpur (2) IIT-Indore (3) IIT-Bombay  
 (4) IIT-Madras (5) None of these
55. Which alcohol control initiative has been launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), recently?  
 (1) SAFER (2) TRUST (3) UNITE (4) HAWK (5) None of these
56. Which new initiative has been launched by the Government of India (GoI) to promote use of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG)?  
 (1) CBG-U (2) SATAT (3) STAAR (4) AMOKSH (5) None of these
57. Which of the following is the venue of the 17th edition of Old World Theatre festival 2018?  
 (1) Guwahati (2) Pune (3) Kolkata (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
58. The 5th edition of the Women of India Organic Festival will be held in which city?  
 (1) Guwahati (2) New Delhi (3) Pune (4) Agartala (5) None of these
59. Recently, Arun Kumar was appointed as new Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF). Which of the following is the Motto of RPF?  
 (1) Bahujana Hitaya Bahujana Sukhaya  
 (2) Service and Loyalty  
 (3) Duty Unto Death  
 (4) Service, Security and Brotherhood  
 (5) None of these
60. Who has been appointed the first-ever female major general in the 47 years history of Bangladesh?  
 (1) Nasreen Jahan (2) Selina Hossain (3) Monica Ali  
 (4) Susane Giti (5) None of these
61. Who has been appointed the Chief Statistician of India (CSI)?  
 (1) T A Vina (2) Nipun Singh (3) Pravin Srivastava  
 (4) Malti Saxena (5) None of these
62. Who has been appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament?  
 (1) T S Vijayan (2) Narmada Kapoor (3) Pankaj Sharma  
 (4) Vijay Seth (5) None of these

63. Which Indian personality has been appointed the Chairman of the Working Committee (WoCo) and Director on the Board of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)?  
 (1) Rajnish Kumar (2) M K Sharma (3) Girish Chaturvedi  
 (4) Vikram Limaye (5) None of these
64. Who heads the reconstituted Pollution watchdog Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)?  
 (1) Bhure Lal (2) Ajay Mathur (3) Navroz K. Dubash  
 (4) Arunabha Ghosh (5) None of these
65. Who will chair the high-level Strategic Policy Group (SPG) to assist National Security Council (NSC) to review the security affairs of the country?  
 (1) Ajit Doval (2) Amitabh Kant (3) V K Saraswat (4) Sanjay Mitra (5) None of these
66. Who has been appointed Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)?  
 (1) Shekhar C Mande (2) Girish Sahni (3) Aman Saxena  
 (4) Jagdish K Paul (5) None of these
67. Who has been appointed the new Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)?  
 (1) Stuti Kacker (2) Priyank Kanoongo (3) Shanta Sinha  
 (4) Kushal Singh (5) None of these
68. Who has been elected as new Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)?  
 (1) M S Jha (2) Nimesh Shah (3) Kailash Kulkarni  
 (4) A Balasubramanian (5) None of these
69. Who is the head of IRDA panel to study feasibility of paying claims in installments?  
 (1) Suresh Mathur (2) Injeti Srinivas (3) Vinod Paul  
 (4) Rakesh Srivastava (5) None of these
70. Jasdev Singh, who passed away recently, was associated with Doordarshan for 48 years as \_\_\_?  
 (1) Legal Expert (2) Marketing Advisor (3) Content Manager  
 (4) Hindi Commentator (5) None of these
71. Thampi Kannanthanam, who passed away recently, was associated to which of the following regional cinemas?  
 (1) Tamil (2) Malayalam (3) Telugu (4) Odia (5) None of these
72. M N Paloor, who passed away recently, was the modernist poet of which language?  
 (1) Odia (2) Telugu (3) Tamil (4) Malayalam (5) None of these
73. Kishour Giri, who passed away recently, was the noted singer and music director from which state?  
 (1) Arunachal Pradesh (2) Assam (3) Jharkhand  
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these
74. Annapurna Devi, who passed away recently, was the renowned Hindustani musician of which gharana?  
 (1) Mewati Gharana (2) Kirana Gharana (3) Gwalior Gharana  
 (4) Maihar gharana (5) None of these
75. Former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana has recently passed away. He also served as Governor of which state?  
 (1) M.P (2) Rajasthan (3) Uttar Pradesh (4) Jharkhand (5) None of these

76. Dr. Evan Atar Adaha, who is the official winner of the 2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award, is from which country?  
(1) Egypt (2) South Sudan (3) Spain  
(4) Brazil (5) None of these
77. Which of the following union ministries has won the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' award, recently?  
(1) Ministry of Law and Justice  
(2) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
(3) Ministry of Defence  
(4) Ministry of Railways  
(5) None of these
78. Which of the following has been declared the cleanest government university in the Swachh Campus ranking 2018?  
(1) Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak  
(2) Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar  
(3) Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi  
(4) Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur  
(5) None of these
79. Which of the following women scientists has won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry?  
(1) Christiane Volhard (2) Ada Yonath (3) Frances H. Arnold  
(4) Carol W. Greider (5) None of these
80. Which Indian company has recently announced Rs 1.5 crores Aarohan Social Innovation Awards (ASIA) to push innovation in social work?  
(1) Tata Motors (2) Mahindra & Mahindra (3) Infosys  
(4) Reliance Industries (5) None of these
81. Which Indian organization has won the 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & The Pacific 2018'?  
(1) SBI (2) ESIC (3) RBI (4) NABARD (5) None of these
82. Which sports personality has been honored with the Ramineni Foundation's outstanding person award?  
(1) Sakshi Malik (2) Pullela Gopichand (3) Dipa Karmakar  
(4) P V Sindhu (5) None of these
83. Which Indian folk artist has won the 2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize?  
(1) Ila Arun (2) Swaroop Khan (3) Teejan Bai  
(4) Malini Awasthi (5) None of these
84. Who has won the 2018 New Academy Prize in Literature, which is formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize?  
(1) Haruki Murakami (2) Maryse Conde (3) Neil Gaiman  
(4) Kim Thuy (5) None of these
85. Who has been honored as the India Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEYO) 2018?  
(1) Prema Gopalan (2) Smita Ram (3) Ramakrishna N.K.  
(4) Rajiv Kumar (5) None of these
86. Which US-based Dalit writer has won the 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize?  
(1) Deepak Unnikrishnan (2) Aanchal Malhotra (3) Sujatha Gidla  
(4) Sanam Maher (5) None of these

87. Who has been honored with the 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration?  
 (1) Fali S. Nariman (2) Bindeshwar Pathak (3) D K Srivastava  
 (4) Ajit Doval (5) None of these
88. Which Indian personality has been chosen for the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize?  
 (1) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (2) Kailash Satyarthi (3) Narendra Modi  
 (4) Sonam Wangchuk (5) None of these
89. Which Indian scientist will be honored with the ICFA's first-ever World Agriculture Prize?  
 (1) M. S. Swaminathan (2) Jayant Narlikar (3) C. N. R. Rao  
 (4) Mitali Mukerji (5) None of these
90. Which noted author has bagged the first-ever JCB Prize for literature?  
 (1) Shubhangi Swarup (2) Benyamin (3) Anuradha Roy  
 (4) Perumal Murugan (5) None of these
91. Which Indian journalist has won the first place in the English category of Schizophrenia Research Foundation's (SCARF) media for mental health reporting award?  
 (1) Vikram Chandra (2) Jyoti Shelar (3) Nalini Singh  
 (4) Radhika Roy (5) None of these
92. Which country has topped the list of countries for travel destination in 2019, as per Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2019?  
 (1) Sri Lanka (2) Germany (3) Zimbabwe (4) Jordan (5) None of these
93. Which IIT has recently organized the 'Young Innovators Programme YIP 2018'?  
 (1) IIT-Bombay (2) IIT-Kharagpur (3) IIT-Madras  
 (4) IIT-Kanpur (5) None of these
94. Who will lead India at the 2018 Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in Muscat?  
 (1) Manpreet Singh (2) Rupinder Pal Singh  
 (3) Somwarpet Vittalacharya Sunil (4) Harendra Singh (5) None of these
95. Which Indian sportsperson has won the Girls title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships 2018?  
 (1) M S Jyoti (2) Anupama Ramachandran (3) Manasvini Sekar  
 (4) Keerthana Pandian (5) None of these
96. Who has been adjudged man-of-the-tournament at the 2018 Under-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament?  
 (1) Harsh Tyagi (2) Ayush Badoni (3) Prabh Simran Singh  
 (4) Yashasvi Jaiswal (5) None of these
97. Which Indian javelin thrower has won silver in the men's F46 category of the 2018 Asian Para Games?  
 (1) Devendra Jhajharia (2) Rinku (3) Sundar Singh Gurjar  
 (4) Sandeep Chaudhary (5) None of these
98. Which of the following African countries will host the 2022 Youth Olympic Games?  
 (1) Senegal (2) Nigeria (3) Morocco (4) Kenya (5) None of these
99. Who has won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament?  
 (1) Roger Federer (2) Bornha Coric (3) Novak Djokovic  
 (4) Andy Murray (5) None of these

100. Which country to host the 2019 IAAF World Relays?  
(1) Indonesia (2) South Korea (3) Japan (4) China (5) None of these
101. Which Indian social entrepreneur has been conferred with the IOC Sports and Active Society Development Grant award for 2018?  
(1) Hanumappa Sudarshan (2) Harish Hande (3) Suheil Tandon  
(4) Ajaita Shah (5) None of these
102. Which Indian player has clinched the 2018 World Billiards Championship title at Leeds in UK?  
(1) Subhash Agarwal (2) Geet Sethi (3) Sourav Kothari  
(4) Pankaj Advani (5) None of these
103. Which Indian woman table tennis player has won silver at Under-21 Belgium Open?  
(1) Archana Kamath (2) Ayhika Mukherjee (3) Moumita Dutta  
(4) Poulomi Ghatak (5) None of these
104. India has been ranked 5th along with which of the following countries in pictorial warnings on cigarette packets, according to latest Canadian Cancer Society report?  
(1) Indonesia and Malaysia (2) Nepal and Vanuatu  
(3) Hong Kong and Thailand (4) Timor Leste and Brazil (5) None of these
105. Which of the following national parties will form new government in Bhutan?  
(1) Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (2) People's Democratic Party  
(3) Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party (4) Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (5) None of these
106. India's tallest National flag from the average city elevation has recently installed in which city?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Guwahati (3) Gandhi Naga (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
107. Which IIT has decided to establish an 'Academy of Leadership'?  
(1) IIT Bombay (2) IIT Indore (3) IIT Madras (4) IIT Kharagpur (5) None of these
108. Which IIT has collaborated with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance?  
(1) IIT-Bombay (2) IIT-Madras (3) IIT-Indore (4) IIT-Kanpur (5) None of these
109. India has recently elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The headquarters of UNHRC is located at \_\_\_\_?  
(1) Geneva (2) Paris (3) New York (4) Berlin (5) None of these
110. India and which country have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats?  
(1) Australia (2) Russia (3) Sri Lanka (4) China (5) None of these
111. Under which article of the Constitution, the President of India can accept resignation of Council of Ministers?  
(1) Article 76 (2) Article 73 (3) Article 74 (4) Article 75 (5) None of these
112. Which of the following has become the first and only government corporation in India to launch a chat-enabled help-desk service program 'Ask Disha'?  
(1) India Post (2) SEBI (3) IRDA (4) IRCTC (5) None of these
113. Which of the following is the India's first domestic cruise?  
(1) Dhruv (2) Angriya (3) Parry (4) Tarangini (5) None of these

114. The political party registered under which section of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) of 1951 shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds?  
 (1) Section 29A (2) Section 38A (3) Section 21A  
 (4) Section 24A (5) None of these
115. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) works under which union ministry?  
 (1) Ministry of External Affairs (2) Ministry of Finance (3) Ministry of Defence  
 (4) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (5) None of these
116. Which of the following G7 countries has officially legalized recreational use of marijuana?  
 (1) France (2) Germany (3) United States (4) Canada (5) None of these
117. The 73rd Anniversary of which of the following events was observed recently on 2018 United Nations Day (UND)?  
 (1) Adoption of UN flag  
 (2) UN Charter coming in force  
 (3) Establishment of UN Security Council  
 (4) First Election to UN General Assembly  
 (5) None of these
118. Which noted historian has authored the book "Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior"?  
 (1) Irfan Habib (2) Sumit Sarkar (3) Rima Hooja (4) Uma Chakravarti (5) None of these
119. Who is the author of the book "Half the Night is Gone", which is shortlisted for The Hindu Prize 2018?  
 (1) Meena Kandasamy (2) Nidhi Dugar Kundalia (3) Amish Tripathi  
 (4) Amitabha Bagchi (5) None of these
120. Who is the author of the book "Nehru and Bose: Parallel Lives"?  
 (1) Sudip Bandyopadhyay (2) Abhijit Mukherjee (3) Arpita Ghosh  
 (4) Rudrangshu Mukherjee (5) None of these

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

