

GENERAL AWARENESS–CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF NOVEMBER-2018

List of Important Days

- November 1 - World Vegan Day.
- November 5 - World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- November 6 - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.
- November 7 - National Cancer Awareness Day.
- November 9 - National Legal Services Day.
- November 10 - World Science Day for Peace and Development (WSDPD) / World Science Day. (Theme - "Science, a Human Right")
- November 11 - National Education Day.
- November 12 - Public Service Broadcasting Day.
- November 13 - World Kindness Day.
- November 14 - World Diabetes Day. (Theme - "The Family and Diabetes")
- November 18 - 291st Foundation Day of Jaipur.
- November 19 - International Men's Day. (Theme - "Positive Male Role Models")
- November 19 - World Toilet Day. (Theme - "When nature calls")
- November 19 - National Integration Day.
- November 19-25 - Qaumi Ekta Week (Communal Harmony Week) was observed across India.
- November 20 - Universal Children's Day. (Theme - "Children are taking over and turning the world blue").
- November 20 - Africa Industrialization Day.
- November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. (Theme - "Orange the World: #HearMeToo")
- November 26 - Constitution Day.
- November 26 - National Milk Day.
- November 29 - International day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.
- November 29 - Albanian Liberation Day.
- **10th anniversary** of the **26/11 Mumbai terror attacks** observed on November 26.

Reserve Bank of India

- To capture loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has initiated steps to set up wide-based digital **Public Credit Registry (PCR)**.
 - In this regard, RBI has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for developing PSC from companies with turnover of over Rs.100 crore in last three years.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** agreed to inject **Rs.8,000 crore** into the market by purchasing government bonds by November 22.

State Bank of India

- India's largest bank **State Bank of India (SBI)** has increased **Fixed Deposit (FD)** interest rates for select maturity periods with effect from November 28.
 - FDs below Rs.1 crore with maturity period of one to two years will fetch 6.8% as compared to 6.7% earlier.
 - The interest rate on FDs with maturity period of two to three years has been hiked from 6.75% to 6.8%.
- Ahead of the official release of the second-quarter GDP figures, **State Bank of India (SBI)** estimated India's economy to expand by **7.5-7.6 percent**, slower than the prior quarter, mainly on account of a slowdown in rural demand.

Other Banks

- State-run **Allahabad Bank** announced that it will receive a capital infusion of **Rs.3,054 crore** from the government.
- Mumbai based **IndusInd Bank** has launched 1st **interactive Credit Card** in **India** with buttons titled **Nexxt Credit Card**.
 - This Card has been created in partnership with Pittsburgh USA headquartered Dynamics Inc., which designs and manufactures intelligent, battery powered payment cards.
- **Financial Performance of Public Sector Banks for July - September 2018 (Q2 2018 - 19)**
 - **Net Profit**
 - **State Bank of India** - Rs.944.87 Crores
 - **Bank of Baroda** - Rs.425.38 Crores
 - **Canara Bank** - Rs.299.54 Crores
 - **Net Loss**
 - **Allahabad Bank** - Loss of Rs.1822.71 Crores
 - **IDBI Bank** - Loss of Rs.3602.49 Crores
 - **Punjab National Bank** - Loss of Rs.4532.35 Crores
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Limited, launched **personal loan** facility for **salaried professionals** making it the 1st small finance bank in India to offer this.

Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court has allowed candidates aged above 25 to take **National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2019**.
 - The National Testing Agency (NTA) is going to conduct the NEET 2019 in the month of May.

Election Commission

- Voting for 230-member **Madhya Pradesh** Assembly and 40-member **Mizoram** Assembly was held on November 28.
- **Twitter India** has launched **#PowerOf18** campaign aimed at encouraging youth to contribute in public debates and participate in civic engagement for the **2019 general elections**.

Central Government

- The Centre has amended its **Haj policy** to make the **differently-abled people** perform the annual pilgrimage.
 - A person with special needs can perform Haj if he or she can undertake the journey on their own.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Support and Outreach Programme**.
 - As part of this programme, PM unveiled 12 key initiatives which will help the growth, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country.

- PM Narendra Modi-led government's **Demonetisation move** marked its **Second Anniversary**.
 - The BJP led government is celebrating this day as **Anti-Black Money Day**.
- Union Cabinet has approved setting up of **Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh**.
 - The proposed university will come up after necessary amendment in the Central Universities Act, 2009.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved strategic disinvestment of **100%** Government of India's shares in **Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL)** to consortium of four ports.
 - The consortium of four ports consists of: Vishakhapatnam Port Trust (Andhra Pradesh)
 - Paradeep Port Trust (Odisha)
 - Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust (Maharashtra)
 - Kandla Port Trust (Gujarat)
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for **leasing out 6 Airports** for operating, managing and developing under the **Public Private Partnership (PPP) model**.
 - The 6 airports chosen are: Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Trivandrum, and Guwahati.
- Union Government has approved 3 proposals under **Nirbhaya Fund**. They are:
 - Setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)
 - Procurement of forensic kits for sexual assault cases
 - Setting up video surveillance system at 50 Railway Stations
- The **Indian** government is going to release a **Rs.75 coin** on the occasion of 75th anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** hoisting the Tricolour for the 1st time at **Port Blair**.
 - This coin will weigh **35 grams**.
 - This coin will bear the portrait of 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose' saluting the flag on the background of Cellular Jail in Port Blair.
- The Centre has cleared the building of **Kartarpur corridor** from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur to the International Border to provide pilgrims easy access to **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a **Medical college** at **Silvassa** in the Union Territory of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli**.
- Union Cabinet has approved extension of term of Commission to examine issue of Sub-categorization of **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** in Central List for six months beyond 30th November, 2018 and till 31st May 2019.

States

- **6 States- Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh** and Union Territory of **Lakshadweep** celebrate their Foundation day on November 1.
- Fulfilling the long-standing demand of the **Odisha** government, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the renaming of **Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha** as "**Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda**".
 - Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
- To encourage use of solar energy in irrigation by farmers, the **Odisha** Government has launched **Saura Jalnidhi scheme**.
 - Under this scheme, farmers will be given 90% subsidy and 5,000 solar pumps.
- **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** announced that the state government is going to provide **mobile phones** to **28 lakh farmers** of the state.
- **Odisha** Government launched **Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Policy 2018**.

- The **Maharashtra** government has approved the **hyper loop** project between **Pune** and **Mumbai** as a public infrastructure project.
- **Gujarat** Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel announced the state government is ready to change the name of **Ahmedabad** to **Karnavati** if it gets the required support of the people to overcome legal hurdles.
- **Bihar** government has approved a proposal to pay **Rs.25000** to every **girl** graduating in 2018 and onwards.
- The **Karnataka** government has proposed to build a 125-foot tall statue of **Mother Cauvery** in Krishnarajasagara Reservoir in **Mandya** district.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Government has approved renaming of **Faizabad** and **Allahabad** divisions as **Ayodhya** and **Prayagraj** respectively.
- **Delhi Police** has launched an e-learning portal titled '**Nipun**' to impart training and provide up to date information to police officers.
- Nearly 5 years after the bifurcation of **Andhra Pradesh**, the state has finalized its **new emblem** for official use.
 - This emblem consists of "**Dhamma Chakka** (The Wheel of Law)" embellished with a ring of Triratnas alternating with pinnate leaves and precious stones.
 - The state emblem was inspired by the Amaravati School of Art.
- The **Gujarat** government announced that the **Statue of Unity** will get air and railway connectivity soon.
- **Punjab** became 3rd state in the country after **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat** to ban **Hookah bars** or **lounges**.
- To develop leadership capacities in women and make them vocal for their rights, the **Uttar Pradesh** Government recently launched **Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign**.
 - This campaign was launched by **Yogi Adityanath** (Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister) in Lucknow.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** state has finalized the design 250-metre-high assembly building, which will make it taller than the world's tallest statue, Gujarat's '**Statue of Unity**' (182 meters), by 68 metres.
- **Andhra Pradesh** state is also building a world-class and India's first '**Justice City**' within its new capital **Amaravati** with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem built on the latest technology for supporting the judicial system in the state.
- The **Himachal Pradesh** government accorded its approval to implement **Sashakt Mahila Yojna** in the state with a vision to empower **rural women** by providing them an interface for organization and socio-economic development.
- The **Uttarakhand** government has approved a proposal to rename capital Dehradun's **Jolly Grant Airport** after late Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** government launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with **unique identification** numbers just like **Aadhar number**.
 - The "**Bhudaar**" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.
- **Tamil Nadu Police** has banned officials below the rank of sub-inspector from using **mobile phones** while on an important duty.
- **Himachal Pradesh** became the 1st Indian state to launch a single emergency number "**112**".
 - This number will connect to Police (100), Fire (101), Health (108) and Women help lines (1090) through an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the state.

- The **Maharashtra** assembly has unanimously approved **16%** reservation for the **Maratha community** in jobs and educational institutes.

Place in the News

- India's first specialized hospital for **Elephants** was inaugurated by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar in **Mathura** district of **Uttar Pradesh**.

Personalities

- **Pari Singh**, a 22-year-old year girl from **Jharkhand**, headed the **Australian High Commission** for a day.
 - She got the opportunity after winning an annual programme held to mark the United Nations' International Day of the Girl Child.
- **Asia Bibi**, the Pakistani Christian woman acquitted of blasphemy, has been released from prison.
- Democratic Congressman **Jared Polis** has become the 1st openly **gay** person to be elected as a **Governor in the US**.
- **London**-based non-governmental organization **Amnesty International** has **withdrawn** a prestigious human rights award from **Aung San Suu Kyi**, following what it described as a "shameful betrayal" of the values she once stood for.
- 129th birth anniversary of 1st Prime Minister of the country Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was observed as **Children's Day** on November 14.
- **Jharkhand** was celebrated the birth anniversary of noted freedom fighter **Birsa Munda** & **17th State Formation Day** on November 15.

Defence and National Security

- **India** has successfully carried out night user trial of **Agni-I short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile**.
 - The test flight was conducted by Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command off Abdul Kalam Island in Bay of Bengal, off the coast of the Indian state of **Odisha**.
- The **Defence Ministry** has signed contract worth **Rs.2,435.15 crore** with public sector **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** for manufacturing of four survey vessels aimed at boosting to capabilities of **Indian Navy**.
- **Maharashtra** state cabinet approved plan for conversion of Indian Navy's longest-serving aircraft carrier **INS Viraat**, into India's first-ever moored **maritime museum**-cum-marine adventure centre.
- India's first nuclear-powered submarine **INS Arihant** has completed its first deterrence patrol.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** launches new Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) **ICGS Varaha** at L&T Kattupalli shipyard near **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
 - It is 4th in the series of 98 M OPVs designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- **China** disclosed the technical details of its supersonic cruise missile, **HD-1**, leading military experts to believe that it has the potential to compete with the **BrahMos missile** jointly developed by India and Russia.
 - This missile uses a solid-propellant ramjet that can reach targets 290 kilometres away at a speed of Mach 2.2 to 3.5.
- 25th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise "**SIMBEX**" was held in **Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**.
- Army Chief Gen. **Bipin Rawat** announced that **Indian Army** is observing the year **2018** as the **Year of the Disabled Soldier**

- **Indian Army** inducted 3 major globally combat proven artillery gun systems at **Deolali Field Firing Range** in **Maharashtra**.
 - They are: M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzers (ULH), K-9 Vajra-tracked self-propelled guns, and Composite Gun Towing Vehicle.
- The inaugural edition of **India, Indonesia** Bilateral Naval Exercise '**Samudra Shakti**' was started at the Surabaya port, **Indonesia**.
- The joint military exercise between India and Russia "**INDRA 2018**" was held on 18th November 2018 at Babina Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station Jhansi, **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue** between **India** and **China** recently held in **Beijing**.
 - **India's** defence delegation was headed by: **Sanjay Mitra** (Defence secretary)
- **Indian Navy** has successfully completed refitted **Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee** at Naval Dockyard **Visakhapatnam** and was formally handed over.
- The 12-day long joint military exercise between **India** and the **United States** titled '**Vajra Prahar 2018**' commenced in **Jaipur**.
- **India** and **Russia** signed a **\$500-million** deal to build **two warships** in **Goa** for the Indian Navy.
 - The Goa Shipyard Limited and Russia's Rosoboronexport signed the agreement for the Grigorovich-class '**Project 11356**' frigates with technology transfer from Russia.
- **Indian Army** has picked **Russia's Igla-S missile system** as choice for its multibillion dollar contract for **MAN-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)**.
 - Igla-S bid around **\$1.47 billion** from Russia's Rosoboronexport had emerged lowest bidder for Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) deal.
- **Konkan 18**, a Naval Exercise between **India** and **United Kingdom** was held at **Goa**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **US Air Force (USAF)** are going to participate in bilateral exercise '**COPE INDIA 2019**' – scheduled to be held during 3rd to 14th December 2019 in **West Bengal**.

Committees/Commissions

- To ensure sustainable development of Indian Himalayan region, **NITI Aayog** has constituted **Himalayan State Regional Council**.
 - **Head of this Council:** Dr VK Saraswat (Member, NITI Aayog)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted **National Implementation Committee (NIC)** to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in the country and abroad.
 - **Head of the committee:** Rajnath Singh (Union Home Minister)
 - **Members:** Arun Jaitley (Union Finance Minister), Dr. Mahesh Sharma (Minister of State for Culture)
- The **Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD)** has nominated 3 people to be **Members of the National Commission for Women (NCW)**. They are: Chandramukhi Devi, Soso Shaiza, and Kamlesh Gautam.

Schemes/Initiatives

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the **1st Gyan Kumbh**, billed as a premier event of **higher education** in **Uttarakhand**.
 - This event was jointly organized by the **Higher Education Department** of the **Uttarakhand Government** and the **University of Patanjali in Haridwar**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched a **59-minute approval portal** for loans of up to **₹1 crore** to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
 - Further, the mandatory sourcing limit by state-run companies from MSMEs has been increased to 25% from the previous 20%.

- **Delhi's Signature Bridge**, built over the **Yamuna River**, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal**, 14 years after it was announced in 2004.
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **Indian Armed Forces Memorial** in **France**, as a tribute to Indian soldiers who lost their lives during World War I.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 1st of the four multi-modal '**Inland Waterways Terminal**' at **Varanasi**, which is being built on **Ganga**.
- **Union Ministry of Human Resource Development** has launched two new initiatives titled LEAP and ARPIT for higher education faculty.
 - **LEAP - Leadership for Academicians Programme**
 - **ARPIT - Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching**
- **Union Ministry of Tourism** has inaugurated 2 important projects as part of **Development of North East Circuit** under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Bhalukpong- Bomdila - Tawang Project**
 - **Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for **City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects** across 129 districts.
- The cabinet has approved continuation of 9 sub-schemes of umbrella scheme "**Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modeling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)**" during 2017-2020.
- **Bihar** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled a 70-foot-tall statue of **Lord Buddha** in Bihar's Rajgir.
 - The statue has been installed above a 16-metre radius pedestal in the middle of the lake **Ghora Katora**.
- To boost **Intellectual Property Right (IPR)** culture in indigenous defence industry, the Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched '**Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti**' in **New Delhi**.
- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched a centralized electronic platform titled '**PaiSA**', for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**.
 - It has been designed and developed by **Allahabad Bank**.
 - **PAISA - Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access**

Summit/Conference

- The **1st ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP)** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Aim:** To deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.
- A **2-day National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The **1st Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health** was recently held at WHO Headquarters in **Geneva**.
- The **33rd ASEAN Summit** was held in **Singapore**.
 - The summit chaired by Singapore's Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong**.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to attend the East Asia Summit and Associated meetings on 14th and 15th November.
- The annual **Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC)** was held at **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**.
 - **India** was represented by: **Dharmendra Pradhan** (Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas)
- The 2nd edition of **International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2018)** launched in **New Delhi**.
 - It was jointly organized by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** and **World Bank**.

- The **6th Indian Social Work Congress** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - It was jointly organized by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) and Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work), University of Delhi.
 - **Theme:** “Human Development and Social Inclusion: Imperatives for Social Work Education and Practice”.
- The 2 day **South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Municipal Finance Innovations** was recently held in **New Delhi**.
 - This conference was organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The **Summit of APEC Countries** was recently held in **Port Moresby**, Capital of Papua New Guinea.
- The **7th edition of the ‘International Tourism Mart’** was held in **Agartala**, Tripura.
 - **Theme** - “Adventure Tourism”.
- The 1st-ever **India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue** was held at St. Petersburg in **Russia**.
 - **India** was represented by **Rajiv Kumar** (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman)
 - **Russia** was represented by **Maxim Oreshkin** (Economic Development Minister).
- The **1st Sustainable Blue Economy Conference** was held in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
 - This conference was organized by **Kenya** and co-hosted by **Japan** and **Canada**.
 - **Theme:** ‘The Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.’
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** met **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** on the sidelines of the **G20 Summit** in Argentina with an aim to further boost economic, cultural and energy ties between the two countries.
- The 3 day **South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference** was held in **New Delhi** as part 150th birth anniversary celebrations of father of nation Mahatma Gandhi.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- The Cabinet has cleared the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **South Korea** for strengthening cooperation in the field of **tourism**.
- **India** and **Japan** signed a loan agreement of **Rs 18.17 bn** for the construction of the **Turga Pumped Storage** in **West Bengal**.
- **India** and **Malawi** have signed 3 MoUs. They are: Extradition Treaty, Cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes, and VISA Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports.
 - India will also extend a new Line of credit of **215 million US dollars** to Malawi for **18 water projects**.
- United Nations **World Food Programme (WFP)** and **Chinese** e-commerce giant **Alibaba Group** signed an agreement to support efforts **eliminate hunger globally** by **2030**.
- **China** and **Myanmar** have signed an agreement to build a port in **Myanmar's Kyaukpyu town** along the Bay of Bengal.
 - China will fund 70% of the project, while the remaining 30% will be funded by Myanmar.
- The **Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP)** has signed MoU with US-based **Research Institute for Fragrant Materials (RIFM)** for improving the quality of **fragrant oils**.
 - This agreement was signed at the conclusion of **2-day annual conference of International Fragrance Association (IFA)** in **Paris, France**.
- **India** and **Morocco** signed an agreement to help each other in **criminal matters** and provide legal assistance wherever required.

- **India** signed an MoU with **ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company)** for storage of crude oil at Padur in **Karnataka**.
- **India** and **United Kingdom** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in **cancer research**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and **Maldives** President **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** expressed confidence in renewal of bilateral ties and maintaining **security and peace in the Indian Ocean**.
- **IIM Calcutta Innovation Park** and **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for energizing start-up ecosystem in **East and Northeast India**.
- **India** and **China** signed protocol on hygiene and inspection requirements for exports of fish meal, fish oil imports from India to China.
- **India** and **China** signed a protocol to amend the existing **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** between the two countries.

Meet/Visit

- The **Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan** was on the 1st official visit to **China**.
- The **19th meeting of FSDC (Financial Stability and Development Council)** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - This meeting was chaired by **Arun Jaitley** (Union Finance Minister).
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** visited to **Lilongwe** (Capital of Malawi) on November 5.
 - Mr Naidu reached Malawi on the final leg of his 6 day 3 nations visit of **Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi**.
- **South Korea's First Lady Kim Jung-sook** was visited to **India**.
- The **18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting** was held in **Durban, South Africa**.
 - India was represented by the Minister of State for External Affairs, **V K Singh**.
- **India** participated in **Moscow-format meeting on Afghanistan**.
 - This meeting was hosted by **Russia**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attends the swearing-in ceremony of **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**, the Maldives' President-elect on November 17.
- **US Vice President Mike Pence** meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 4 nation tour to **India**.
 - Pence traveled to **Japan, Singapore, Australia** and **Papua New Guinea** from Nov 11 to 18.
 - He is scheduled to attend the **US-ASEAN Summit, East Asia Summit** and **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meet**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Singapore** for a 2- day tour.
 - During this visit, he will participate in **ASEAN-INDIA informal meet, 13th East Asia Summit** and **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit**.
 - PM also to deliver the keynote address at the **Singapore Fintech Festival**.
- A 4-day regional meeting of **World Customs Organization (WCO)** was recently held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
 - The meeting was jointly chaired by WCO Deputy Secretary General **Ricardo Travino** and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman **S Ramesh**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** was visit to **Vietnam** and **Australia**.
 - He was unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parramatta, a prominent suburb of Sydney, in the state of New South Wales.
 - The statue, which is designed by Indian sculptors **Ram and Anil Sutar**, is a gift from the Indian government.

- 27th **BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **BASIC countries** - Brazil, South Africa, India and China
- Romanian Foreign Minister **Teodor Melescanu** was visited to **India**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited to **Argentina** to attend the **G20 summit**.

Bills

- **Maharashtra** CM Devendra Fadnavis-led government passed the **Maratha Reservation Bill** and created a new category titled **SEBC** (Socially and Economically Backward Category) as per the recommendation of **Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission**.
- To give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal, the **West Bengal** Assembly unanimously passed **West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2018**.
- The government has approved to expand the scope of mandatory packaging norms under **Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987**.
 - It has approved that 100% of the food grains and 20% of sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

Fund

- **India** announced contributions of **\$13.36 million** (over Rs.97.2 crore) for various **United Nations (UN)** agencies and development activities at the **2018 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities**.
 - Around 19 countries pledged a total of **\$425.69 million** at the conference.
- **Union Home Ministry** has released more than **Rs.113 crore** to six border states under **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** as part of its plan to ameliorate the problems of people living in isolated locations.
 - **These six states are:** Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- **The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments** and the **World Bank** have signed the loan agreement for a **\$172.20 million** project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalized farmers in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- To promote efficient energy usage in India, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is going to provide **US \$13 million** loan to **Energy Efficiency Services (EESL)**.
 - It will be provided by Global Environment Facility (GEF) as part of **US \$200 million** ADB-financed Demand-Side Energy Efficiency Sector Project.
- **China's** largest lender **ICBC's** Indian unit has set up a **\$200-million fund** for investing in small and medium-sized Indian businesses.
 - **ICBC** - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
- The **Indian** government has signed **3 agreements** with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. They are:
 - **\$105 million** loan agreement to continue financing transmission system upgrades in **Himachal Pradesh** for increased supply of hydropower to state and national grid.
 - **\$300 million** loan agreement to support lending by **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)**.
 - **\$169 Million** loan agreement for **Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program**.
- **Saudi Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have pledged **\$500 million** in aid to war-torn **Yemen** as millions of people in the country face starvation.
 - According to the United Nations, **Yemen** is facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis, where over 22 million people rely on humanitarian assistance.

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$200 million** loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in **Bihar** to all-weather standards with road safety features.
- **Indian Government** has inked \$75 million loan agreement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for **Karnataka Integrated Urban Water Management Investment Program**.

Economy

- The rating agency **Crisil** has recently announced that the **state-owned banks** will need **Rs.1.2 lakh crore** in fresh capital by **March 2019** to meet regulatory requirements.
- The **Indian rupee** registered its biggest single-day gain in more than five years, surging by **101 paise** to close at 72.44 against the US dollar.
- **British** bank **HSBC** has executed India's first overseas financial transaction using **blockchain** by making a payment for Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries** in an export deal involving an American client.
- Complying with US sanctions, global provider of secure financial messaging services, **SWIFT**, has cut several **Iranian banks**, including the country's central bank, off from its services.
- **Fitch Ratings** retained India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of '**BBB-**' with a stable outlook, same as that of **Standard and Poor's**.
 - Fitch last upgraded India's rating from BB+ to BBB- with a stable outlook in 2006.
- **Ohio** will become the 1st US state to accept payment of taxes by businesses in **Bitcoin**.
 - Businesses can pay 23 different taxes with Bitcoin.
- **American** business and financial services company **Moody's** has downgraded **Yes Bank's** ratings to non-investment grade and changed outlook to negative citing corporate governance concerns.
- The government on released **revised GDP data** for the 7 years from 2004-05 to 2011-12 under a new base year.
 - The new back series data showed growth at 8.5% in 2010-11 compared to the estimate of 10.3% under the old series.
- In order to simplify the **GST calculations** for tax payers, Japanese electronics company '**CASIO**' has launched world's first Goods and Services Tax (GST) calculator in **India**.
 - The company has two variants of GST calculators **MJ-120GST** and **MJ-12GST** in the Indian market.

Companies/Industry

- American online social media and social networking service **Facebook** announced that the **Messenger** will soon allow its users to **unsend** a message from a chat.
 - **WhatsApp** already allows users to delete a sent message in over an hour of sending.
- Bangalore-based cab aggregator **Ola** has officially launched operations in **New Zealand**, offering ride services in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.
 - Ola already launched its operations in **Australia** and the **UK** in January and August respectively.
- The **American** multinational financial services corporation, **American Express** won approval to clear card payments in **China**.
 - With this, the company became 1st foreign payments company allowed to build a network in China.
- **American** payments processor **Visa** announced that it is taking a minority stake in Indian payment gateway **BillDesk**.
 - Mumbai-based BillDesk processes digital payments worth over **\$60 billion** a year and provides customers with payment options like cards and e-wallets.

- **Walmart**, which bought a 77% stake in **Flipkart** for **\$16 billion** in May, has increased its stake in Flipkart to 81.3%.

Stock Market

- Asia's oldest bourse **BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange)** has decided to snap ties with **S&P Dow Jones**, which manages and operates benchmark Sensex.
- The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has announced the creation of a new division within its **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** segment to list startups.

Exports/Imports

- **India** is going to export 2 million tonnes of raw **sugar** to **China** from next year.
 - Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and COFCO, a Chinese state-owned company, have signed an initial deal for 50,000 tonnes of sugar.
- The government has announced that it will give a subsidy of **5%** for **Non-basmati Rice exports** for the four months to March 25, 2019.
 - Bangladesh, a leading buyer, cut purchases due to a bumper harvest.

Taxation/Trade

- The **United States** has **removed** at least **50 Indian products** from the list of items eligible for **duty-free treatment** under the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** the largest and oldest US trade preference programme.
 - **India** is the largest beneficiary of GSP.
- A **World Trade Organization (WTO)** dispute settlement panel upheld **Japan's** complaint against safeguard duty imposed by **India** on imports of hot-rolled flat steel products for two-and-a-half years.
 - The ruling said India had violated core global trade rules and urged India to take corrective action.
- The **38th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF)** was held in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan.
 - The 14-day annual event was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Culture **Mahesh Sharma**.
 - **Theme:** 'Rural Enterprises in India'
 - For this year's fair, **Afghanistan** is the Partner Country, while **Nepal** is the Focus Country while **Jharkhand** is participating as a Partner State in the event.
- The **Income Tax Department** announced that quoting of father's name in **PAN** application forms will not be mandatory in cases where the applicant's mother is a single parent.
 - The new rules will come into effect from **5th December 2018**.

Space

- **China** unveiled a model of its '**Heavenly Palace**' **space station**, as the International Space Station (ISS) is set to retire in **2024**.
- A United Nations' study has revealed that the **Ozone layer**, which shields the Earth against cancer-causing solar rays, will be completely healed by **2060**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has invited international proposals for scientific payloads for its **2nd interplanetary mission to Venus** in mid-2023.
 - India will send 12 scientific payloads aboard the satellite, including a thermal camera, mass spectrometer and cloud monitoring camera.
- The **Indian Space Research organization (ISRO)** successfully launched **GSAT-29 satellite** from **Sriharikota**.
 - This is India's heaviest satellite. It is boosted by two powerful strap-on solid rocket motors, the nearly 143-foot-tall (43.5-meter) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk.3 (GSLV Mk.3).

- Elon Musk-led space exploration startup **SpaceX** has launched Qatar's **Es'hail-2 telecommunications satellite** aboard a Falcon 9 rocket.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has announced a 3.6 billion-year-old crater called **Jezero Crater** as the landing site for its **2020 rover mission** to **Mars**.
 - The crater was chosen after a five-year search that examined some 60 other sites on Mars.
- **Morocco** successfully launched its second earth observation satellite named **Mohammed VI-B** on board of Arianespace Vega rocket from launch pad at Guiana Space Center in **Kourou**, French Guiana in South America.
- Astronomers at **Hawaii's Keck Observatory** announced that they have **detected water** in the atmosphere of a planet 129 light-years away from the Earth.
 - The discovery was made while studying a young giant gas planet called **HR 8799c**, which is about 7 times the mass of Jupiter and has a radius that is 20% larger.
- **NASA's InSight spacecraft** landed on **Mars** after nearly a seven-month, 458-million-kilometre journey.
 - The 360-kg lander also shared its first photo from Mars, showing an area called **Elysium Planitia**, where it will dig five metres below the surface.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** successfully launched India's **Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS)** along with 30 Micro and Nano satellites.

Science and Technology

- The researchers of **IIT, Madras** have designed India's first indigenously developed **microprocessor** titled "**Shakti**".
 - The 'Shakti' family of processors was fabricated at ISRO's Chandigarh semi-conductor laboratory, making it the first 'RISC V Microprocessor' to be completely designed and made in India.
- Scientists have developed a **web-based tool** to help monitor the prevalence of **fake news on social media** platforms like **Facebook** and **Twitter**.
 - Developed by researchers at the **University of Michigan** in the **US**, the tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the **Iffy Quotient**, which draws data from two external entities: NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.
- The world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer **SpiNNaker**, which was designed and built to work like a **human brain**, has been switched on for the first time.
 - Made up of one million processors, SpiNNaker can complete over 200 million-million actions per second.
- **Chinese** press agency **Xinhua** unveiled the 1st ever **AI-based anchor** in the World that can read the news in English and Chinese.
 - The system, developed with Beijing-based search engine operator **Sogou**, produces realistic-looking speech, lip movements and facial expressions.
- **Chinese** Scientists announced that their **Nuclear fusion reactor** (famously known as **Artificial Sun**) reached **100 million°C**, the temperature required to carry out fusion on Earth.
 - This record-high temperature is 6 times the temperature of Sun's core (15 million°C).
- Researchers from **IIT Kharagpur** have devised **Decision Support System (DCS)** to help maximize LPG connections in BPL (Below Poverty Line) households under **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**.
- The **26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)** was recently at Palais des Congrès, Versailles, **France**.
 - This meeting was very special and historic as the members have voted for the redefinition of 130 years old "**Le grand K** – the SI unit of kg" in terms of the fundamental **Planck's constant (h)**. The changes will come into effect from **May 20, 2019**, World Metrology Day.

Energy/Gas/Oil

- The cabinet approved the filling of **Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)** at Padur, **Karnataka** by overseas **National Oil Companies (NOCs)**.
 - India has built emergency storage in underground caverns at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur to hold 36.87 million barrels of crude.
- The government is planning to combine two state-run power sector lenders, **Rural Electrification Corporation** and **Power Finance Corporation**.
 - The government has a 65.6% holding in Power Finance Corporation.

Environment

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has developed **Less Polluting Firecrackers** which are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones.
- The **Environment Pollution Control Authority** is planning to place a **ban on private vehicles on Delhi streets** to control air pollution.
 - Cities like **Colombian capital Bogota** and **Germany's Hamburg** have implemented such bans earlier.
- The **India Meteorological Department** has issued a **red alert** for areas in coastal Tamil Nadu as Cyclone **Gaja**, a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal, was set to make landfall on November 15.
 - **Minister for Disaster Management: R B Udhayakumar**

Education

- The **Medical Council of India** has decided to change the syllabus of **MBBS undergraduate courses** with more classes on mental health, public health, and communication skills.
 - The new course will be implemented from the academic year **2019**.
- English word '**Toxic**' has been chosen as the '**Word of the Year 2018**' by Oxford Dictionaries.
 - **Meaning of Toxic** - Poisonous
- The **HRD Ministry** instructed all states and Union Territories the maximum weight of school bags for Class 1 and 2 students can't exceed **1.5 kg**.
 - For Classes 3 to 5, the limit is **2-3 kg** and it's 4 kg for Classes 6 and 7.
 - For Classes 8 and 9, the limit is **4.5 kg**, and 5 kg for Class 10.

33. Transport/Cars/Scooters

- To enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets including season tickets and also platform tickets all over Indian Railways, the **Union Ministry of Railways** has launched **Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility (UTS on Mobile)**.
 - UTS on Mobile aims to promote three C'.
 - Cashless transactions (Digital payment)
 - Contact less ticketing (no need to physically visit the point of sale)
 - Customer convenience and experience
- The 1st **passenger train** to run on broad gauge between **India** and **Nepal** is likely to run from **December** this year.
 - The train will run from **Jaynagar in Bihar** to **Kurtha** in Dhanusa district in Janakpur Zone of south-eastern Nepal.
- **China** and **Pakistan** launched a bus service passing through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**.
 - The bus service connecting **Pakistan's Lahore** and **Kashgar in China** is a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.
- By the end of this year, the **Indian Railways** is going to install at least **100-foot-tall national flags** on the premises of **75** of the busiest stations in the country.

- The **Shri Ramayana Express**, a train covering key destinations associated with Lord Ram's life, was flagged off from the Safdarjung Railway Station in **Delhi**.
- The trial run of India's first engine-less train, **Train 18**, was successfully conducted on a standard railway track of Bareilly-Moradabad section, **New Delhi**.
- The **Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway**, also known as **Western Peripheral Expressway**, became fully operational after PM Narendra Modi inaugurated its Kundli-Manesar stretch in **Gurugram**.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has approved the sale of **Quadricycles** for personal use.
 - **Bajaj Auto** is the only Indian automaker that makes a quadricycle, which it exports to other countries.
- **Indian Railways** unveiled a new software titled '**eDrishti**'.
 - This software will help Union Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country.
 - The software has been developed by **Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS)** to help Minister keep track of all information related to Indian Railways, one of the world's largest rail networks.

Films and Film Festival

- **24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** was began at Netaji Indoor Stadium, **Kolkata**.
 - This festival was inaugurated by Bollywood Actor **Amitabh Bachchan** in the presence of West Bengal chief minister **Mamta Banerjee**.
- **49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was held in **Panaji, Goa**.
 - **Theme:** New India through a variety of genres of cinema, including history, action, romance and sports.
 - **Jharkhand** is focus state for this year, with Jharkhand Day was celebrated on 24th November as part of festival.
 - **Israel** is the focus country for this year.
- Filmmaker **Nandita Das** to be honored with the **International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award** at 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Brisbane.
- The 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was concluded in **Panaji, Goa**.
 - **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Dan Wolman (Israeli Director)
 - **IFFI Special Award:** Salim Khan
 - **Best film (Golden Peacock) Award:** Donbass (Ukrainian movie) directed by Sergei Loznitsa.
 - **Best Director (Silver Peacock) Award:** Lijo Jose Pellissery (Malayalam film-India).
 - **Best Actor (Male) Award:** Chemban Vinod for his role in 'Ee.Ma.Yau' (Malayalam-India)
 - **Best Actor (Female) Award:** Anastasiia Pustovit for her role in 'When the Trees Fall' (Ukrainian)
 - **Centenary Award for Best Debut Feature Film of Director:** Alberto Monteras II for 'Respeto' (Filipino)
 - **ICFT -UNESCO Gandhi Medal:** 'Walking with the Wind' directed by Praveen Morchhale

Festival

- Meghalaya's capital **Shillong** was host the 3rd edition of the **India International Cherry Blossom Festival** from 14th to 17th November 2018.
- **Gujarati New Year**, also known as **Bestu Varas**, which marks the beginning of the **Kartik month** of the Hindu calendar, was observed on 8th November.
- The 3rd edition of the **Singapore Fintech Festival** started on November 12.
 - The Conference will focus on 9 key themes across 70 sessions.
- The **14th edition of JashneBachpan**, a theatre festival for children was held in **New Delhi**.

- The annual **Sangai Festival** was celebrated in northeastern state of **Manipur**.
– **Aim:** To promote Manipur as world class tourism destination.
- **Guru Nanak Jayanti** or **Gurpurab** and **Kartik Purnima** celebrated with religious fervour on November 23.
– The day marks the birth of the first Sikh Guru, **Guru Nanak**, who laid the foundation of Sikhism.
- The **International Gita Festival 2018** will be organized in Kurukshetra in **Haryana** from December 7 to 23, 2018.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- **Reliance Jio** will replace Airtel as the telecom service provider for **Indian Railways** from 1st January 2018, after it emerged as the lowest bidder.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- The **State Bank of Mauritius (SBM)**, which has received a license as a scheduled commercial bank in India, has appointed **Sidharth Rath** as its Managing Director (MD).
- Justice **Vijai Kumar Bist** was sworn in as the Chief Justice of **Sikkim High Court**. He replaces Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri.
- The **ACC** has approved the appointment of **S. S. Deswal** as Director General, **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.
– He took charge from **Shri R K Pachnanda**, the outgoing DG of ITBP.
- Lieutenant General **P.S. Rajeshwar** took over as **12th Chief of Integrated Defence Staff**.
- **Atul Kumar Goel** assumed charge as Managing Director and CEO of **UCO Bank**.
– He is going to replace **R. K. Takkar**, who completed his three-year tenure on November 1, 2018.
- Olympic bronze medalist and five-time World Champion, **M C Mary Kom** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** of the 10th edition of the **Women's World Championship** in New Delhi.
- Senior-most judge of the Hyderabad High Court, Justice **Ramesh Ranganathan** was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the **Uttarakhand High Court**.
– He has replaced Justice **K M Joseph**, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court earlier this year.
- 4 judges **MR Shah, Hemant Gupta, Ajay Rastogi** and **R Subhash Reddy** were sworn-in as the **Supreme Court Judges**.
- **Bank of Maharashtra's** board restored the functional responsibilities of MD and CEO **R P Marathe** and Executive Director **R K Gupta**.
- Private sector lender **RBL Bank** appointed **Vikas Muttoo** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its subsidiary **Swadhaar Finserve**.
- **Dinkar Asthana** appointed as the next **Ambassador of India to Lao People's Democratic Republic**.
- US carmaker **Tesla** has announced **Robyn Denholm** will replace Elon Musk as the **Chairman** of the company's board of directors with immediate effect.
- **Uzbek** businessman and sports administrator **Gafur Rakhimov** has been elected as President of **International Boxing Association (AIBA)**.
- The **India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA)** has appointed **Rajesh Ram Mishra** as its new **President**.

- Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS) of 1990 batch **Gaddam Dharmendra** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of **Iran**.
- Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS) of 1988 batch **Sanjay Kumar Verma** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Japan**.
- Indian-American Sikh businessman **Harry Singh Sidhu** has been elected as the **Mayor of the Anaheim city** in **California, US**.
- **American** transportation technology company **Virgin Hyperloop One** announced it has hired **Jay Walder**, former CEO of bike-sharing operator Motivate, as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- **Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem**, chairman and CEO of the United Arab Emirates shipping and logistics company **DP World**, will replace **Richard Branson** as the company's new chairman.
- Former IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre **Ashok Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as Chairperson of **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
 - He has replaced the acting chairperson Sudhir Mital.
- 3 senior IRS officers **K Dash**, **Akhilesh Ranjan** and **Neena Kumar** have been appointed as new members of **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
 - The two other members of CBDT are IRS officers **Aditya Vikram** and **P C Mody** while the board's Chairman is **Sushil Chandra**.
- **US** technology giant **Apple** has appointed Finnish company Nokia's Chief Customer Operations Officer (CCOO) **Ashish Chowdhary** as the new Country Manager for India.
 - He is going to replace Michel Coulomb.
- The **Nepal** government nominated **Nilambar Acharya**, the former Law Minister and senior politician, as **Ambassador to India**.
 - He will replace Deep Kumar Upadhyay who resigned October last year.
- Union Ministers **Narendra Singh Tomar** and **D V Sadananda Gowda** got charge of additional portfolios, following the demise of Union Minister Ananth Kumar.
 - **Sadananda Gowda** - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
 - **Tomar** - Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- **US** President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American lawyer **Neomi Rao** to replace Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit**.
- The **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** has appointed **Siddharth Tiwari** as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.
 - He is going to replace **Eli Remolona**, who was Chief Representative of the Asian Office from 2008 to 2018.
- Asian Games gold medalist **Hima Das** to be appointed as **UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador** at a special event.
- India's second largest IT services firm **Infosys** named **Jayesh Sanghrajka** as its interim **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
 - He is going to replace **Ranganath** who has stepped down on November 16.
- **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** sworn-in as the new President of the island nation **Maldives**.
- Justice **Govind Mathur** took oath as the Chief Justice of the **Allahabad High Court**.
- 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer **Sanjay Kumar Mishra** has been appointed as full-time Director of the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**.
 - He is going to replace Karnal Singh.
- Indian electronic commerce company, **Flipkart** has appointed **Smriti Singh** as its new **Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO)**, a position which has been vacant for the past 18 months.

- **Stephen Barclay**, Junior Health Minister who voted to leave European Union in the 2016 referendum has been appointed as the **new Brexit Secretary** by British Prime Minister Theresa May.
 - Mr. Barclay replaced **Dominic Raab** who resigned over Theresa May's draft plan for leaving EU.
- Oracle's ex-product chief **Thomas Kurian** will head **Google's** cloud division.
 - He is going to replace Diane Greene.
- 1985-batch IAS from West Bengal cadre **Sumanta Chaudhuri** has been appointed as the new **Coal Secretary**.
 - He replaced **Inderjit Singh**.
- **Sruthi Palaniappan**, a 20-year-old Indian-American woman, was elected as the Student Body President of the **Harvard University**.
- 1984 batch IAS officer, **Jalaj Srivastava**, has been appointed the Chairman of the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**.
- Facebook-owned **WhatsApp** has named merchant payments platform Ezetap's Co-founder and CEO **Abhijit Bose** as its 1st India head.
- 14 year old **Millie Bobby Brown**, who stars in the Netflix series 'Stranger Things', has been named as the **UNICEF's youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador**.
- **South Korea's Kim Jong-yang** has been elected as the new President of **Interpol** (International Criminal Police Organization).
 - He was elected by the Interpol's 194 member states at the organization's annual congress in **Dubai**.
- **SoftBank** is going to appoint venture capitalist **Sumer Juneja** as its India head.
- Online travel portal MakeMyTrip has appointed former PepsiCo executive **Vipul Prakash** as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of **MakeMyTrip** and its subsidiary **Goibibo**.
- Volkswagen Group has announced that **Gurpratap Boparai**, Managing Director of Skoda Auto India, will also become MD of **Volkswagen India** with effect from 1st January 2018.
- IT services major **Wipro** has appointed former IBM executive **Bill Stith** as the **Senior Vice President and Global Head** of the company's healthcare and life sciences division.
 - He is going to replace Jeff Heenan-Jalil who resigned in August.
- Incumbent **Fijian** Prime Minister **Voreqe Bainimarama** was sworn in for a second term after his ruling Fiji First party won this year's general elections.
- **Tanzanian** national **Joyce Msuya** was appointed as acting Executive Director of **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** following resignation of the executive director Erik Solheim.
- The Centre appointed **Vijay Kumar Dev**, a 1987-batch IAS officer, as the Chief Secretary of **Delhi**.
- Popular singer **Nahid Afrin** of **Assam** has been appointed as the 1st '**Youth Advocate**' of the north eastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.
- 1980-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, **Sunil Arora**, has been appointed as the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)**.
 - He will replace **O P Rawat** on 2nd December 2018.
- **LG Electronics** has replaced the President of its mobile business Hwang Jeong-hwan with **Brian Kwon**.
- Hospitality startup **OYO** has appointed Max Healthcare Executive Director **Rohit Kapoor** as the CEO of its new real estate business.

- The 1978-batch Indian Postal Service officer **Arvind Saxena** has been appointed as the new Chairman of **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- Union Government has appointed **Anil Manibhai Naik** as Chairman of **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- **Salome Zurabishvili** has become the 1st Female President of **Georgia**.
- Ex-Team India captain **Mohammed Azharuddin** has been appointed as the working president of **Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee**.
- Justice **Pranoy Kumar Musahary**, who retired as a judge of the Gauhati High Court, was sworn in as the Chairperson of **Meghalaya's 1st Lokayukta**.
- 1984 Maharashtra-cadre IAS officer, **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has been appointed as the **next Revenue Secretary**.
 - He is going to replace **Hasmukh Adhia**, who will retire on November 30.
- Tyre maker, **Apollo Tyres** has appointed cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** as its new brand ambassador.
 - He was the former brand ambassador of MRF Tyres.
 - Apart from Apollo Tyres, he is also the brand Ambassador for **BMW** in India.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- Senior **Pakistan** batsman **Azhar Ali** (33) announced his retirement from limited overs cricket in order to concentrate on Test cricket.
- Indian professional cricketer **Ambati Rayudu** has retired from 1st-class cricket to focus on 50-over and T20 cricket.
- Former **Australia** captain **Mark Taylor** resigned from Cricket Australia's (CA) board of directors.
- **US** President Donald Trump fired the country's Attorney General **Jeff Sessions**, a year after he recused himself from an inquiry into the President's links to **Russia**.
 - **Matthew Whitaker**, a critic of the Russia investigation, has been appointed the acting Attorney General.
- 35 year old Pacer **Munaf Patel**, who was a part of India's 2011 World Cup winning squad, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- **Flipkart** Group CEO **Binny Bansal** announced his resignation from the role.
- **English** professional footballer **Joe Cole** announced his retirement after making more than 700 appearances for seven clubs including West Ham and Chelsea.
 - Cole was part of England's "**Golden Generation**", playing alongside David Beckham, Wayne Rooney etc.
- **Yes Bank** independent director **Rentala Chandrashekhar** resigned from the post, marking the third exit from the private lender's board in a week.
 - On November 14, the bank's Non-Executive Chairman **Ashok Chawla** and another independent director **Vasant Gujarathi** tendered their resignations.
- **English Premier League** side Chelsea's former striker **Didier Drogba**, who hails from the Ivory Coast, has announced his retirement from professional football.
- British-Dutch transnational consumer goods company **Unilever's** CEO **Paul Polman** is going to retire on 31st December after serving in the position for a decade.
 - Unilever's beauty and personal care division head, **Alan Jope** is going to replace succeed Polman.
- India's second-largest heavy truck maker **Ashok Leyland** announced the resignation of its Managing Director and CEO **Vinod K Dasari** effective March 31 next year.

Deaths

- Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-S) chief **Maulana Sami-ul-Haq** was killed by unknown assailants in **Pakistan's Rawalpindi**.
 - Sami-ul-Haq was known as the '**Father of Taliban**' for having taught some of the Afghan Islamist movement's leaders.
- Renowned Bhajan singer **Vinod Agarwal** (63), who gave over 1500 live performances both in India and abroad, passed away.
- Veteran Marathi actress **Lalan Sarang** (79) passed away.
- Senior BJP leader and Union Minister **Ananth Kumar** (59) passed away.
- **American** comic-book writer and Marvel Comics co-creator **Stan Lee** (95) passed away.
- Brigadier **Kuldip Singh Chandpuri** (78), who served as a Major during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, passed away after battling cancer.
- Indian theatre personality and Padma Shri awardee Ad film maker **Alyque Padamsee** (90) passed away.
 - He is widely called the **Brand Father of Indian advertising**.
- Asia's 1st woman neurosurgeon, **T.S. Kanaka** (86), passed away in Chennai after a brief illness.
- Former MP and writer **Baishnab Parida** (77) passed away.
- Former Indian hockey player, **Sandeep Michael** (33), who captained the Indian junior team to a Gold at the Asia Cup 2003, died after battling an unspecified neurological problem.
- Classical music stalwart **Ustad Imrat Khan** (83), who dedicated his life to propagating the Sitar and the Surbahar worldwide, passed away.
- **Kannada** actor and former union minister **MH Ambareesh** (66) passed away.
 - The three-time MP popularly known as "Rebel star", had acted in around 200 films in a career spanning over four decades.
- Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister **CK Jaffer Sharief** (85) passed away.
 - Sharief, who has been out of public life was preparing an Urdu translation of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's book '**India Wins Freedom**'.
- The Chairman of **InterGlobe Aviation**, which operates the country's largest airline IndiGo, **Devadas Mallya Mangalore** passed away.
- Veteran Bollywood playback singer **Mohammad Aziz** (64) passed away.
- Animator **Stephen Hillenburg** (57), who created the cartoon series **Sponge Bob SquarePants**, has passed away.

Awards/Honours

- Indian filmmaker **Satyajit Ray**'s epic masterpiece '**Pather Panchali**' has been included in the **BBC's 100 Best Foreign Language Films List**.
 - Pather Panchali which was ranked **15th** in the list, is the only film from India to feature in the list.
 - The list has been **topped** by **Akira Kurosawa's 'Seven Samurai'**.
- Nobel Prize Winner **Malala Yousafzai** will be honored with the **2018 Gleitsman Award** for her work promoting girls' education.
- Former India captain **Rahul Dravid** received the **ICC Hall of Fame Commemorative Cap** from former captain Sunil Gavaskar ahead of the fifth India-Windies ODI at Thiruvananthapuram's Greenfield International Stadium.

- Noted **Malayalam** novelist and short story writer **M Mukundan** (76) has been selected for the Kerala government's highest literary award '**Ezhuthachan Puraskaram**' for the year 2018.
- Bollywood Actor **Anupam Kher** has been honored with **Distinguished Fellow Award** at the 3rd India Global Summit held at MIT Sloan School of Management in **Boston**.
- **Marathi** actor **Jayant Sawarkar** will be honored with the **Maharashtra** government's **Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement** award in the field of theatre.
 - Tabla artist **Vinayak Thorat** will be honored with the **Sangeet Acharya Annasaheb Kirloskar Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- **Indian** educational program **Super 30** founder **Anand Kumar** honored with prestigious **Global education award 2018** in **Dubai**.
 - He was honored for his 'pioneering' contributions to the field of education.
- Renowned **French** scholar **Jawahar Lal Sarin** was presented with France's highest civilian honor **Chevalier de la Lgion d'Honneur**.
- The restoration of an aristocratic house project from partial ruin state in **Ladakh** undertaken by **LAMO (Ladakh Arts and Media Organization)** has won **2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for Cultural Heritage conservation** in Award of Distinction category.
- **ATP World Tour Awards 2018 Winners List:**
 - **ATP World Tour No 1 (determined by ATP Rankings):** Novak Djokovic
 - **Comeback Player of the Year:** Novak Djokovic
 - **Newcomer of the Year:** Alex de Minaur
 - **Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award:** Rafael Nadal
 - **ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favorite presented (Singles):** Roger Federer
- **Indian** freelance journalist, **Swati Chaturvedi**, famous for her investigative reports, has bagged the **2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage**.
 - She was honored with this award for her work in exposing the '**IT cell**' within the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for keeping an army of angry trolls.
 - She is the author of the book '**I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army**'.
- Young writer-critic **Dr Debabhuson Borah** has been honored with the prestigious **Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018** in Assam for his book on literary criticism titled '**Nirbochon**'.
- **Barcelona** forward **Lionel Messi** was declared the **Spanish football league's best player of the 2017-18 campaign** by Marca at an awards ceremony in Barcelona.
 - Messi also won the **Pichichi Trophy** at the ceremony, an award given to the **top scorer in La Liga** each year.
 - Atletico Madrid's goalkeeper **Jan Oblak** was named the **goalkeeper of the year**.
- On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the **Infosys Science Foundation (ISF)** has announced six winners of the **Infosys Prize 2018**.
 - **Engineering and Computer Science:** Navakanta Bha
 - **Humanities:** Kavita Singh
 - **Life Sciences:** Roop Mallik
 - **Mathematical Sciences:** Nalini Anantharaman
 - **Physical Sciences:** S K Satheesh
 - **Social Sciences:** Sendhil Mullainathan
- On the occasion of the National Press Day (16th November 2018), Finance Minister Arun Jaitley conferred the '**Raja Ram Mohan Roy**' Award to eminent journalist and former Editor The Hindu, **N Ram**.
 - **Ruby Sarkar** (Chief Correspondent, Deshbandhu, Bhopal) and **Rajesh Parshuram Joshte** (Daily Pudhari, Ratnagiri) were given the '**Award for 'Rural Journalism**'.

- **V S Rajesh** (Deputy Editor, Kerala Kaumudi) was awarded in the '**Development Reporting**' Category.
- **Subhash Paul** (Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi) was given the award for '**Photo Journalism-Single News Picture**'.
- Eminent Indian classical sarod player **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan** was honored with '**Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement**' at Kamani Auditorium, **New Delhi** for his immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of Indian Classical Music.
- **Delhi-based** environment think-tank **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** will be awarded **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2018** for its work in environmental education and protection.
- **8 Indian-American women** have been honored in the **United States** in recognition of their achievements in diverse fields ranging from politics and business to civil rights activism and astrophysics.
- **United Nations Environment Program** has selected **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** and its enforcement officer **RS Sharath** for 2018 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards.
- **Mexican** government has honored Indian academician **Shyama Prasad Ganguly** with "**Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca**" (**Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle**) for the year 2018.
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education** won the **International Green Apple Award for environmental best practice 2018 (Silver)** at a ceremony held at the Houses of Parliament in **London**.
- Bollywood Actor **Amitabh Bachchan** was awarded the **3rd Sayaji Ratna Award**, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.
- **Azim Premji**, chairman of Wipro, has won **Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018, Lifetime Achievement**.
 - The Forbes India Leadership Awards, India's most prestigious honor for the top executives, was held in **Mumbai**.
- **National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) SCOPUS Young Scientist Awards 2018 Winners List:**
 - **Agriculture, Plant Sciences and Rural Development:** Jitender Giri, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi.
 - **Biomedical Research and Healthcare:** Maddika Subba Reddy, Group Leader and Staff Scientist- V, CDFD, Hyderabad.
 - **Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development:** Vimal Chandra Srivastava, Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee, Roorkee.
 - **Innovation in Engineering and Physical Sciences:** Ajay S. Karakoti, Associate Professor, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad.
 - **Women in Science:** Zhumur Ghosh, Bose Institute, Kolkata.
- World number one singles tennis player **Simona Halep** has been awarded an **honorary doctorate** in her homeland **Romania**.
- State-run **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** has won the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award**.
- Senior artist **A. N. Patil** will be honored with the **Kuncha Kala Tapasvi Award 2018**, in the category of **Lifetime Achievement**.
- Wipro Chairman **Azim Premji** received the highest French civilian honor, **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour)** from French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler.

Sports/Game

- **Romanian** professional tennis player **Simona Halep** has become the 1st recipient of the **Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy**.
 - This trophy has been named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.
- 19-time world champion **Pankaj Advani** became the 1st Indian to win an **Asian Snooker Tour event** after defeating **China's** Ju Reti in the final held at **Jinan, China**.
- **India** defeated **Windies** by 9 wickets in the fifth ODI at Thiruvananthapuram to clinch the five-match series 3-1.
 - This is India's 8th consecutive ODI series win against Windies.
- **AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships** was hosted by **India** from 15th to 24th November 2018 at **New Delhi**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir's** 30-year-old pacer **Mohammed Mudhasir** has become the 1st bowler in professional cricket history to dismiss four batsmen LBW in four successive deliveries and becoming only the second player to take four wickets in four balls in Ranji Trophy.
- Indian batsman **Shikhar Dhawan** is going to play for **Delhi Daredevils** in the 2019 Indian Premier League after being traded by SunRisers Hyderabad.
- 31-year-old India opener **Rohit Sharma** smashed a 58-ball century in the second T20I against Windies at Lucknow to become the 1st cricketer in history to reach four hundreds in T20I cricket.
- A day before the second T20I between India and Windies, UP government renamed Lucknow's Ekana International Cricket Stadium as '**Bharat Ratan Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium**'.
- Captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the 1st ever Indian woman to smash a hundred in T20I cricket, achieving the feat against New Zealand in the Women's World T20 2018.
- Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medalist **Bajrang Punia** has become the **world number one** wrestler in the **65-kg category**.
 - The 24-year-old, who won silver in World Championships recently, is on top of the United World Wrestling rankings with 96 points, 30 points ahead of the second-placed wrestler.
- The **66th Nehru Trophy Boat Race** (also known as Vallam Kali) was recently held on the **Punnamada Lake**, near Alappuzha, **Kerala**.
 - **Payippadan Chundan** of Pallathuruthi Boat Club has won the race.
- **India** defeated **Windies** by 6 wickets on the last ball in the final T20I at Chennai to register a 3-0 series whitewash.
 - **Rohit Sharma**, who led India to a 3-0 T20I series whitewash against Sri Lanka in 2017, became the 1st Indian captain to achieve two T20I series whitewashes.
- The **Indian women's football team** qualified for the Olympic Qualifiers second round for the first time.
- The **Pakistan Cricket Board** is going to conduct a 3 match test series trophy titled '**Oye Hoya Cup 2018**' between **Pakistan** and **New Zealand**.
 - This trophy was named after Pakistani potato chips brand Oye Hoya chips.
- India's **Pankaj Advani** won his 3rd straight **IBSF billiards crown** in the 150-up format by defeating Myanmar's Nay Thway Oo.
- India's top two women's tennis players, **Ankita Raina** and **Karman Kaur Thandi**, won their 1st doubles title together as they lifted the **OEC Open trophy** in **Taipei**.
- Music composer **A R Rahman's** the **Anthem** for **Hockey World Cup 2018** was released.
 - The theme track titled "Jai Hind, Jai India".

- India's **Lakshya Sen** won a **Bronze medal** in the **BWF World junior badminton championship** at Markham, **Canada**.
- **Germany's Alexander Zverev** has won his maiden **ATP World Tour Finals title** by defeating world number one Novak Djokovic.
 - With this, Zverev became the 1st German to win the season-ending tournament since Boris Becker in 1995.
 - Doubles title of the tournament has been won by **Mike Bryan** and **Jack Sock** of United States.
- India's **Shubhankar Sharma** became the 1st Indian to emerge as the **Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year** on the European Tour.
- **New Zealand** became the 1st cricket team to win a Test match with a margin of four runs in the format's 141-year history.
- Veteran first-class cricketer **Wasim Jaffer** became the 1st Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the **Ranji Trophy**.
- India's **Mary Kom** has become the 1st ever boxer to win **six AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship** titles.
 - She achieved the feat by defeating **Hanna Okhota** (Ukraine) in the final of the 48-kg category in **Delhi**.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced that the World T20 will be called **T20 World Cup** from the 2020 edition onwards.
- Playing in her first AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship, India's 21-year-old boxer **Sonia Chahal** won **Silver** medal after losing to Germany's OG Wahner in the 57-kg category.
- Mercedes' British driver **Lewis Hamilton** has won the season-ending **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix**.
- India's **Sameer Verma** has won **Syed Modi India Grand Prix Gold badminton title 2018** in men's singles category.
 - Women's singles title was won by **Han Yue** (China) after defeating India's Saina Nehwal.
- The **Netherlands** women's hockey team won its 7th **Women's Hockey Champions Trophy** at the Wujin Hockey Stadium in **Changzhou, China** by defeating Australia.
- **Haryana's Manu Bhaker** has won a double Gold in junior sport pistol while **Ravi Kumar** and **Rahi Sarnobat** were crowned national champions in the men and women's events respectively in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
- Telangana based 13-year-old shooter **Esha Singh** beat the likes of Manu Bhaker and Heena Sidhu to win **3 Gold medals** in women's air pistol events at the **62nd National Shooting Championships**.

Report

- **India** has jumped 23 places to secure the **77th position** out of 190 countries in the **World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking**.
 - India, which ranked **137** in the starting a business category and **52** in dealing with construction permits category, is the highest-ranked South Asian country.
 - **Top 5:** New Zealand, Singapore, Denmark, China, and Korea.
- According to recently released **Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas** prepared by **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, **India** among nations that face **grave danger to soil biodiversity**.
 - The atlas was released as part of WWF's bi-annual **Living Planet Report (LPR) 2018**.
- According to data released by the **International Society of Women Airline Pilots**, **India** has the highest percentage of **Female Airline Pilots** in the world.
 - India employs a total of 8,797 pilots of which 1,092 (12.4%) are women while globally, women pilots account for 5.4% of pilots employed.

- **Natural gas** is expected to overtake **coal** as the world's **second largest energy source** after oil by **2030** due to a drive to cut air pollution and the rise in liquefied natural gas use, the International Energy Agency has announced in its recent report.
 - It further said that global gas demand would be **45% higher** by **2040**.
- The **International Energy Agency** in its latest report titled '**World Energy Outlook**' stated that **India** will overtake the **U.S.** to become the world's 2nd-biggest **emitter of carbon dioxide** from the power sector before **2030**.
 - **China** will remain the biggest emitter.
- **Mangal Prabhat Lodha**, the founder of Lodha Group, has topped the **Grohe Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2018** with a wealth of Rs.27,150 crore (\$3.8 billion).
 - **Top 3: Mangal Prabhat Lodha** - Founder, Lodha Group, **Jitendra Virwani** - Chairman, Embassy Group, **Rajiv Singh** - Vice Chairman, DLF Limited.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has topped the list of states with the highest employability as per the **India Skills Report 2019**.
 - **Top 3: Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana.**

General - National

- The **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** has organized a **Seminar on Gandhian thoughts and Swachhta** to make India a **Swachh Bharat** by **2019** -150 the birthday celebration of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - **Theme:** Swachh evam Swawalambhi Sankul
- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** issued a show-cause notice to RBI Governor **Urjit Patel** for "dishonoring" Supreme Court judgment on disclosure of the wilful defaulters' list.
 - Patel denied information on the list that names wilful defaulters who took loans of Rs.50 crore and above.
- After United States President Donald Trump rejected India's Republic Day invite citing scheduling conflicts, **India** is now planning to invite **South African** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** as the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations 2019.
- The **Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) 2018** was recently held in **New Delhi**.
- The **Boards of Governors** of the **20 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)** would be reconstituted by December 15, as per IIM Act 2017, with the HRD Ministry approving the process.
- The **Women and Child Development Ministry** has approved setting up over **1000 Fast Track Special Courts** to dispose off pending cases of rape and POCSO Act across the country.
- The **Environment Ministry** has given the final clearance for a project to build **Duplex flats for Members of Parliament (MP)** at a cost of Rs.676.5 crore in **New Delhi**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has authorized **Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)** of **Public Sectors Banks** to request for **lookout circulars** against wilful defaulters in order to prevent them from **leaving the country**.
 - This comes after a recommendation from a committee headed by Financial Services Secretary **Rajiv Kumar**.
- A ministerial panel led by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has decided to sell **100% of Air India's** ground handling arm **Air India Air Transport Services (AIATSL)**.
- The **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC)** has been conferred with the status of Miniratna: Category -I by the Government of India.

General - International

- **Brazil's** President-elect **Jair Bolsonaro** has announced that he is going to move the **country's embassy in Israel** from **Tel Aviv to Jerusalem** once he assumes office.
 - The **US, Guatemala and Paraguay** have already moved their respective embassies to Jerusalem, although Paraguay later announced that it will shift its embassy back to Tel Aviv.
- **Eight** countries namely, **India, China, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan** and **Turkey** have been granted temporary waivers from the **US' sanctions on Iranian oil**.
 - After this waiver, **India** is going to sign an initial agreement with **Iran** to settle all oil trade in rupees through UCO Bank.
- **China** has backed **Pakistan's** bid for membership to the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**, praising its "anti-nuclear proliferation record".
- **Britain** allowed foreign nationals from **Commonwealth nations** to join the **Armed Forces** despite them having never lived in the country.
- The **United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA)** has issued special stamps with Diyas lamps (special event sheet) to commemorate Indian festival of **Diwali**.
- In a bid to boost tourism, **Thailand's** cabinet has approved a measure to temporarily waive the **visa-on-arrival fees** for visitors from **India** and 20 other countries.
- For the 1st time in the world, the **Scotland** government has **mandated** a curriculum that will teach about **LGBTI rights** at all public schools.
 - **LGBTI** - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
- For the first time, **Bangladesh** is going to use **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** on a limited scale in the country's general elections to be held on December 23.
- The **Maldives** is going to rejoin the **Commonwealth** after 2 years following the cabinet's approval backing the move.
- The Third Committee of the **UN General Assembly** has adopted a **resolution on sexual harassment**.
- As per the draft agreement reached between **Britain** and the **European Union (EU)** on post-Brexit relations, the transition period of **Brexit** due to end in December 2020, can now be extended until 2022.
- The **United Kingdom's** withdrawal agreement from the **European Union (EU)** has been approved by the bloc's 27 heads of state.
- **Taiwan** voters have rejected **same-sex marriages**.
- The **UK** government has announced plans to launch its 1st **Driverless public transport services** by 2021.
- **Pakistan** is going to invite Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit**, as per local media reports quoting Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- UN cultural agency **UNESCO** has added **6 new elements** into its coveted List of "intangible heritage" for the world to treasure.

Books and Authors

Book's Name

Author's Name

- Oscar winning musician **A R Rahman's** biography "**Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman**" was recently launched.
 - This book has been authored by **Krishna Trilok**.
- The Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** released a book titled '**Radio Kashmir - In Times of Peace & War**' written by **Dr Rajesh Bhat**.

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TO THE POINTS: NOVEMBER-2018

- India invited **Italy** to participate in the defence sector under the "Make in India" scheme.
- Ukraine's **Elina Svitolina** won WTA Finals in Singapore.
- The Executive Committee (EC) of the National Mission for Clean Ganga approved **12** projects worth Rs.929 crore under the Namami Gange programme.
- Nobel Prize Winner **Malala Yousafzai** will be honored with the 2018 Gleitsman Award by Harvard University.
- Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone of new Science Centre, the "Technology Facility Centre" (TFC) in **Jorhat, Assam**.
- The researchers at **IIT-Madras** have launched India's first indigenously-developed microprocessor.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has conferred with the Amir Amanullah Khan Award, the highest civilian honour of Afghanistan.
- **IIT Kharagpur** has recently organized a science and technology competition 'Young Innovators Programme YIP 2018' for students of class 8 to 10.
- The Kingdom of **Netherlands** will be the Partner Country of 25th DST - CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019.
- **China** will build the country's first permanent airport in the South Pole which will provide logistical support to scientists and enhance airspace management in the resource-rich Antarctic.
- **India** has jumped 23 places to secure the **77th position** out of 190 countries in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking.
- The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** of India had acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance Limited (IDFC-IFL).
- Nineteen-time world champion **Pankaj Advani** has won the second leg of the Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China.
- **China and France** jointly launched the Oceanography Satellite.
- India signed a \$950 million deal with **Russia** for inducting two new warships equipped with Brahmos missiles in the India Navy.
- The 1st edition of North East Olympic Games 2018 was held at Main Stadium Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, in **Imphal, Manipur**.
- Saura Jalanidhi scheme was launched in **Odisha**.
- The Uttar Pradesh government in assistance from Japanese government will develop 'Food Value Chain' in the state.
- **Vishal Rajveer Shah** won the gold medal in the 2018 Egypt Junior & Cadet Open table tennis tournament.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Formula One drivers' world championship 2018.
- Entrepreneurship scheme Samruddhi launched in **Karnataka**. The main objective is to impart skill development and benefit aspiring, young citizens from rural and tier II cities.
- Jharsuguda Airport was renamed as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsugudas". It was located in **Odisha**.
- The first ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property has been launched in **Delhi** to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.
- **Qatar** will host the 23rd edition of the World Corporate Games 2019.

- **S S Deswal** has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- Noted Malayalam writer **M Mukundan** has been selected for 2018 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literacy prize of the Kerala government.
- Former India captain **Rahul Dravid** was officially inducted into International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the Government's Support and Outreach Initiative for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** (MSMEs) in New Delhi.
- India and Japan signed a Rs.1817 crore loan agreement for the construction of the Turga pumped storage hydel power project at Purulia in **West Bengal**.
- **Vietnam** will host a Formula One race in April 2020. Vietnam will be only the third Southeast Asian country to host a Formula One race, after Malaysia and Singapore.
- The Maharashtra state cabinet cleared the **INS Viraat** to be converted into India's first-ever moored maritime museum-cum-marine adventure centre.
- The first joint military exercise named "Dharma Guardian" between India and Japan was held in Mizoram.
- **Bangladesh** team won the 5th SAFF U-15 Championship 2018 title in Nepal.
- **Kirloskar Capital** has received a license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- Researchers have taught an Artificial Intelligence (AI) bot named "**ClaRAN**" to identify galaxies in deep space.
- Air Marshal **MSG Menon** has taken charge as Director General (Wks & Cer) of Indian Air Force (IAF).
- To boost the Malabar tourism, the **Kerala Tourism Department** launched a 'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide' site for the region in north Kerala.
- SMiLE - 'Small and Medium Industries Leveraging Experiential' Tourism.
- 1st 'Annual Senior Care Conclave - Igniting Industry for India's Ageing Sector' was held in **New Delhi** on 1 November 2018.
- Chola MS General Insurance and **IndusInd Bank Ltd** renewed their corporate agency arrangement for a period of five years.
- Vision Document 2030 is long-term vision for the **Department of Forest**.
- A new offshore patrol vessel called ICGS Varaha was launched by Indian Coast Guard in **Chennai** on 3 November 2018.
- India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 was held in **Shillong**.
- The National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda was started at Dr. Ambedkar International centre in **New Delhi**.
- PCR - **Public Credit Registry**.
- V. Rathinam, veteran freedom fighter and member of Indian National Army (INA) has passed away. He belonged to **Tamil Nadu**.
- The first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health was held at World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in **Geneva**.
- India's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge "Signature Bridge" has recently inaugurated in **Delhi**.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has awarded the **Assam Police** for “good practices” under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), an e-governance project.
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** gets a contract of USD 200 bn solar power project in Saudi Arabia, recently.
- Atul Kumar Goel assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **UCO Bank**.
- India's first 'Justice City' was developed by **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The fifth World Buddhist Forum held in **Putian, China**.
- Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of I&B **Shri Ashok Kumar Parmar** inaugurated the India Pavilion at Videocitta, 2018 in Rome Film Festival.
- **China** launched a high-orbit satellite to boost its BeiDou global satellite navigation system.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port** is planning to host an edible oil refinery.
- India and **Malawi** has signed three MoUs on matters relating to Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver.
- India signed a loan pact of Rs.18.17 crore with **Japan** for the construction of the Turga Pumped Storage in West Bengal.
- **Nagaland** records highest school dropouts in India.
- **UK** unveiled sculpture to honor Indian soldiers who fought during World War I.
- **Dinkar Asthana** is appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Lao Peoples Democratic Republic.
- India got **12th place** in the web-borne threats as per the report of Kaspersky Lab.
- The world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer **SpiNNaker** ('Spiking Neural Network Architecture' machine) switched on for the first time.
- **Reliance Industries** receives India's first LC payment via blockchain.
- **N Ram** was chosen for Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by Press Council of India (PCI).
- World Bank and Centre and Andhra govt signed an MOU to **\$172 million** loan to make farming viable in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Lucknow's Ekana International Cricket Stadium** has been recently renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a day before India-WI T20I.
- Bangalore-based cab aggregator Ola has officially launched operations in **New Zealand**.
- **India** re-elected as member of ITU council till 2022.
- **ICICI Bank** launched co-branded credit card with Amazon pay.
- **GSAT-11** satellite is used for faster Internet connectivity.
- Over 20 countries committed to the **Changsha Declaration** at the end of a forum on international development cooperation in Changsha, China.
- **Oil Marketing Companies** (IOCL, HPCL & BPCL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited signed an MOU for collaboration in LPG services.
- **Singapore** has been ranked as number one Asian city in the Sustainability Index by engineering firm Arcadis.
- **Simone Biles** became the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals, by winning her 13th gold medal at the world gymnastics championships in Doha, Qatar.
- The 24th edition of the India-Italy Technology Summit was held in **New Delhi**.

- Citigroup has appointed **John Dugan** as its new chairman.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s **Hubble Space** telescope has spotted a formation of galaxies that look like a smiling face in the sky.
- Allahabad Bank has said the government had infused **Rs.3,054 crore** into the state-run lender.
- **BBC** has launched fake news fight-back with global campaign.
- **Meghalaya** has announced Rs.378 crores investment in Aqua Mission 2.0 starting April 2019.
- Electric carmaker Tesla has appointed **Robyn Denholm** as the Chairman of the company's board of directors, replacing Elon Musk.
- **Samay Godika** won the fourth annual "Breakthrough Junior Challenge" for 2018, a US-based global science video competition.
- **China** unveiled new 'Heavenly Palace' space station, which is set to become the replacement of the International Space Station (ISS).
- The **Decision Review System (DRS)** technology will be used in ICC Women's T20 tournament for the first time.
- **Chinese** press agency Xinhua unveiled AI-based anchor that can read the news in English and Chinese.
- India plans to resume exporting raw sugar to **China** from early 2019.
- **Bihar** has approved funds worth Rs.25000 for girls graduating from 2018 onwards.
- The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a Central Tribal University in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018 was held in **New Delhi**.
- ICC Women's T20 tournament held in **West Indies**.
- Mahila-E-Haat online portal to promote women farmers and entrepreneurs launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- **Anand Kumar** was conferred with the Global Education Award.
- **China** unveils 'most advanced' stealth drone - UAV - CH7 recently.
- Gaddam Dharmendra has been appointed India's new Ambassador to **Iran**.
- Several Asian member countries of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have offered **India** a concession on the extent to which it needs to open up its markets.
- Marathi actor **Jayant Sawarkar** will be awarded the Maharashtra government's Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement award.
- **Arunima Sinha** was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde of United Kingdom in Glasgow, Scotland.
- **Vilnius** and Kochi signs MoU with the cooperation of urban planning, corporate planning, transport, solid water management and water management.
- Empire State Building is located in **New York** that was lit in orange for the first time to celebrate Diwali.
- **Karen Khachanov** won the 2018 Men's Singles title at the Rolex Paris Masters.
- The 5th World Internet Conference (WIC) held in **Wuzhen, China**.
- **Swati Chaturvedi** has won the 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage.
- **Goa** bans importing of fish officially for 6 months.

- Finnish mobile telecom network maker Nokia and Indian IT services firm **Infosys** joined hands to work in AI and machine learning driven solutions.
- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee**, have developed fluorescent carbon nanodots for simultaneous detection and destruction of cancer cells.
- **Tripura** government to acquire 26% shares of Palatana thermal project from IL and FS.
- India got **2nd** position in the largest smart phone market as per the report of Canalsys.
- The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the certificate of registrations of as many as **31** nonbanking finance companies (NBFCs) for unspecified reasons.
- NASA's **Ralph**, a space instrument, will travel with the Lucy mission to Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, in 2021.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) gave nod to **Tamil Nadu** for launching its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.
- **Abhay Kumar** was appointed the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Madagascar.
- 34th National Junior Athletics Championships 2018 was held at the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.
- **Narendra Singh Tomar** has taken over additional charge of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- Indian Army officials and Chinese PLA troops organized a high-level meeting at **Bumla, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The inaugural edition of **Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy** Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was held in Surabaya, Indonesia.
- **Nagaland** Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched GPS Mapping of Government Schools and Personnel Location System in Kohima.
- **Tripura** Chief Minister has dropped the May Day from the list of holidays in the State.
- **Saurabh Netravalkar**, a former Mumbai medium pacer and India U-19 cricketer, has been appointed captain of the United States national cricket team.
- **Ashok Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as new chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- After the demise of Union Minister Ananth Kumar, Union Minister **DV Sadananda Gowda** has got the additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- **West Bengal** cabinet decided to set up development boards for the Matua and Namasudra communities.
- The joint military exercise between Indian and Russia EXERCISE INDRA 2018 was conducted at Babina Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** was hosted a conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018 in New Delhi.
- 2 Startup India Investment Seminar was recently held in **Beijing**.
- **Ministry of Human Resource Development** launched 'LEAP' and 'ARPIT' programme.
- The 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) was held at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**.
- **Odisha** government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- 2018 is decided as the Year of the Disabled Soldier by **Indian Army**.

- Indian Revenue Service officer **Sanjay Mishra** was appointed as the new Enforcement Directorate Director (ED).
- The **Indian Space Research Organization** (ISRO) has taken its first step towards its mid-2023-planned mission to Venus.
- **Google** will be implemented a Transparency Policy for Buying Political Adverts ahead of Indian Elections.
- **Orissa** government has provided free smart phones for women self help groups.
- According to report by International Energy Agency (IEA) titled World Energy Outlook 2018, natural gas is expected to overtake coal as the world's second largest energy source after oil by 2030.
- Delhi Police has launched an e-learning portal '**Nipun**' to impart training and provide up to date information to police officers.
- Asian Games gold medalist **Hima Das** appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador.
- **Czech Republic** won the 2018 Fed Cup Trophy for the 6th time in eight years, in Czech Republic.
- India and **United Kingdom** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in cancer research.
- Ashish Chowdhary was appointed as the operation head of **Apple**.
- Vodafone Group appointed **Sanjiv Ahuja** as a non-executive director with immediate effect.
- Young writer-critic **Dr Debabhuson Borah** has been honored with the prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
- The 9th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 was held in Gandhinagar. Theme- '**Shaping of a New India**'. Partner Country - United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The 2018 Global Digital Content Market was held in **India**.
- O.P. Bhatt quits from the search and selection committee of **Yes Bank**.
- Famous singer Chitta Jena was passed away recently. He belongs to **Odisha**.
- India's IT services firm **Infosys** named Jayesh Sanghrajka as its interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- The regional meeting of the World Customs Organization has started in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a historic support and outreach programme for the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** (MSME) sector.
- Union minister of state for Ayush Shripad Naik laid the foundation stone for the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy at Dhargal, **North Goa**.
- The 26th edition of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) Conference was held in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Toxic**, word named 'Word of the Year 2018' by Oxford Dictionaries.
- India's first specialized hospital for elephants will be opened in **Mathura**, Uttar Pradesh.
- Universal Children's Day was observed on **November 20**.
- The 49th International Film Festival of India held in **Goa**.
- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister EK Palaniswamy has announced a relief package for people affected by Cyclone Gaja.
- The **West Bengal** Tourism Department has decided to launch an interactive mobile app.

- **Eight** Indian-American women have been honored in the US in recognition of their achievements.
- The RBI board decided to set up a high-powered committee to examine issues related to **Surplus capital**.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** is the first small finance bank in India launched personal loan facility for salaried professionals.
- **Karur Vysya Bank** has partnered with the Rotary Foundation to set up low-cost dialysis facilities in Tamil Nadu.
- **Alexander Zverev** won the ATP World Tour Finals title 2018.
- The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping.
- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** has won the prestigious 2018 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development.
- The Africa Industrialization Day (AID) was observed every year on **November 20**.
- **Lakshya Sen** from India has recently won bronze in men's singles at the Li Ning World Junior Badminton Championship 2018.
- **Tripura** was hosted the 7th International Tourism Mart from 22nd November 2018 at Agartala.
- India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University will set up in **Haryana**.
- The 14th edition of JashneBachpan, a theatre festival for children was held in **New Delhi**.
- Israel's Cabinet approved **Amir Yaron** as the next governor of the Bank of Israel for 5 years.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has recently launched Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan.
- Dr. Thanjavur Santhanakrishna Kanaka (86), who was Asia's first & world's third female **neurosurgeon**, has passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Indo-Japan Business Council's Business Festival recently held in **Pune**.
- **Amjad Ali Khan** has been honored with the 2018 Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Vasundhara Raje** won the Universal Acceptance Thought Leader award from UASG (Universal Acceptance Steering Group).
- **SBICAP Ventures (SVL)** has launched two funds for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and affordable housing sectors.
- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** launched a mobile application and web-based platform for retail investors to buy government securities (G-Secs).
- First transgender Chandramukhi Muvvala to Contest Assembly Election in **Telangana**.
- **Kim Jong Yang**, a South Korean police officer, has been elected the new President of Interpol.
- The researchers at **IIT Kharagpur** have devised a Decision Support System (DSS) to boost LPG distribution in households below poverty line.
- The Union Ministry of Environment has recently approved a project led by scientists at the Indian **Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** to induce artificial rain via cloud seeding to clear smog in Delhi.
- In China, the world's first underground hotel "the InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland" has opened in **Shanghai**, which is buried almost 90 metres deep in an old quarry.
- **Sikkim's** eco-friendly policy has led to an increase of its forest cover by over four per cent since 1993.

- The International Cricket Council has rejected **Pakistan**'s compensation claim against India.
- Saudi and UAE have announced USD 500 million in aid to **Yemen**.
- The United States has suspended its 1.66 billion dollar security assistance to **Pakistan**.
- The International prototype of kilogram was hosted by **France**.
- **Gujarat** government launched a Rs.351-crore project for the conservation of the Gir lions.
- **Upma Chowdhry** has been appointed as the Secretary of Department of Youth Affairs.
- Chandigarh based Young Indian golfer **Shubhankar Sharma** became the first Indian to win Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the year in DP WORLD TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP held in Dubai.
- India got **53rd** place in the survey of IMD World Talent Ranking 2018.
- Central government of India plans to sets an Animation, Gaming & Visual effects Institute in **Mumbai**.
- The 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Theme - "**Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas**".
- Voreqe Bainimarama has Sworn in as **Fiji's** Prime Minister after winning an election with a reduced majority.
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education** won silver in the International Green Apple Award for Environmental best practice 2018.
- **Himachal Pradesh** gets an approval to implement Sashakt Mahila Yojana in the state with a vision to empower rural women, recently.
- The **Bangladesh** Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) clinched the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2018.
- The 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was chaired by **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.
- The United Nations children's agency UNICEF appointed **Millie Bobby Brown** as its youngest ever goodwill ambassador.
- State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) has inked an agreement with the **US Trade and Development Agency** (USTDA) to develop a roadmap for modernization of its air traffic services.
- Veteran first-class cricketer **Wasim Jaffer** became the first Indian player to touch the 11,000 run figure in the Ranji Trophy.
- **Maldives** is rejoining Commonwealth after 2 years of withdrawal.
- The 4th edition of Intex South Asia held in **Colombo**.
- **Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi** won the women's doubles title of WTA Taipei Open Championship held in Taipei, Taiwan.
- The researchers at **IIT-Hyderabad** have developed a smart phone-based system to detect adulteration in milk.
- India has rank **53rd** among 63 nations at the 5th edition of the IMD World Talent Ranking 2018.
- **Shubhankar Sharma** has become the first Indian golfer to win European Tour 'Rookie of the Year' Award.
- **UNDP** has been launched India Skills Report 2017 on employment scenario in the country.
- **IIM Calcutta Innovation Park** (IIMCIP) has recently signed pact with Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to promote the startup enterprises in East and Northeast India.

- The **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** has been brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) act of 2009, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) guidelines and the State Legislature.
- **Twelve children's** books have been shortlisted for The Hindu Young World-Goodbooks Awards.
- **Renault** has appointed its Chief Operating Officer (COO) Thierry Bollore as deputy CEO to ensure day-to-day management of the company.
- Azim Premji has won Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018. He was the chairman of **Wipro**.
- The **Ujjivan small finance bank** introduced a new personal loan scheme for salaried individuals.
- **Abhijit Bose** has been appointed as the head of WhatsApp India.
- Bollywood superstar **Amitabh Bachchan** was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award.
- Expedia Vacation Deprivation Report 2018 was released that stated that India is among the most vacation deprived nation in the world ranking **5th** among the 19 surveyed countries.
- The second edition of the India-UAE Strategic Conclave will be held in **Abu Dhabi**.
- The Maharashtra government has appointed **Dr Jagannath Dixit** as the Brand Ambassador of its anti-obesity campaign.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved **10 sewerage projects** worth Rs 1573.28 crore to address Yamuna's pollution issues in Agra.
- Centre approved additional assistance of Rs.546.21 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to **Karnataka**.
- Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited) has partnered with the **Life Insurance Corporation of India** (LIC) to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform.
- A National Institute of Inter-Faith Studies to be set up in **Punjab** to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Government.
- India and **Russia** signed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy.
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was observed on **November 25**.
- National Constitution Day was observed on **November 26**.
- The government will give a subsidy of **5 percent** for non-basmati rice exports for the four months to 25 March, 2019.
- The government launched "PAiSA -Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access". This portal is a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana**.
- Jharkhand Day was celebrated at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in **Goa**.
- The **UK** government has announced plans to launch its first driverless public transport services by 2021.
- The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held at **St. Petersburg** in Russia.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has cleared the plans to build a 221-metre-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, which will be the world's tallest statue.
- Simona Halep has been awarded an honorary doctorate in her homeland Romania, Simona Halep related to **Tennis**.
- The master writer **Salim Khan** would be honored by the IFFI Special Award for his lifetime contribution to cinema, at the closing ceremony of the 49th edition of the International Film Festival of India.

- German financial services major Allianz has tied up with logistics developer e-Shang Redwood (ESR) to jointly invest around \$1 billion in India's logistics sector.
- **Australia** has lifted the Women's World Twenty-20 title for the fourth time.
- Boxing great M C Mary Kom became the first ever woman boxer to win **six** World Boxing Championship gold medals.
- Sonia Chahal related to **Boxing**.
- **Saina Nehwal** bagged silver at Syed Modi International Badminton women's singles Championships 2018.
- India's **Bhavani Devi** won the gold medal in the Sabre event in the Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2018 held in Canberra, Australia.
- **Sameer Verma** won the Syed Modi International Badminton Championship men's singles title.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix title 2018.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been named as captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI.
- Ambareesh who passed away recently, he was a famous **Actor and Politician**.
- Popular Assamese singer, **Nahid Afrin** was appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the north eastern region by the United Nations Children's Fund, (UNICEF).
- State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) has appointed **Sidharth Rath** as the Managing Director & CEO of SBM Bank (India).
- 2019 Union World Conference on Lung Health will be hosted by **India**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched month-long Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan or Women Empowerment campaign in Lucknow.
- **Google's** Next Billion Users (NBU) team announced the national roll-out of its Neighbourly app in Delhi and Bangalore.
- As per the 6th edition & 2019 version of India Skills Report, **Andhra Pradesh** topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana.
- The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the **IIM Calcutta** Innovation Park to help facilitate incubation of start-ups primarily in the Eastern and North Eastern states.
- **Starship**, the SpaceX's Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) which had been Renamed recently by its CEO Elon Musk.
- **Morocco** launched the second earth observation satellite "Mohammed VI-B" recently.
- **Nicolas Orellana, Yaseen Noorani** pair won a International James Dyson award 2018 for designing a 'Urban wind turbine' called O-Wind Turbine.
- The 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine 2018 has started in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- Sandeep Michael (37), the former international **hockey** player, has passed away in Bangaluru, Karnataka.
- **IIT Kharagpur** has recently signed an MoU with Auckland University to foster academic exchange and research collaboration, faculty exchange and student mobility.
- In Kenya, the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference 2018 was held in **Nairobi**.
- **Varsha Varman** from Madhya Pradesh has won the women's trap gold at the 62nd National Shotgun championship 2018 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- **Karnataka** has launched the 'DataCity' to foster innovation and solve global challenges.

- Renowned flautist Pandit **Keshav Ginde** will be conferred the 2018 prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement (LTA) Award for Classical Music.
- The International Gita Festival 2018 will be held at **Kurukshetra in Haryana**.
- '9th Indian Organ Donation Day' was organized by the **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization** (NOTTO) in Delhi.
- **Tamil Nadu** bagged the Best State Award in cadaveric organ donation from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization.
- **Azim Premji** has been conferred with the highest French civilian award.
- Theme of the 2018 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women- **Orange the World: #HearMeToo**
- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has nominated **12** movies for this year's International Council for Film, Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
- **Allahabad Bank** developed the PaiSA portal for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under DAY-NULM.
- **Anupam Roy** has been conferred with the FICA Emerging Artist Award 2018.
- From the 2018-19 season, any cricketer who is found guilty of tampering his/her date of birth will be disqualified and barred from participating in any BCCI tournament for a period of **2 years**.
- **Donbass**, a Ukrainian film directed by Sergei Loznitsa, won the coveted Golden Peacock award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) at Panaji, Goa.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of Rs.5 crore on the **West Bengal** government as it failed to take steps to improve the air quality of Kolkata and Howrah.
- **Vijay Varma and P. Rajkumar** were honored as the 'Asian of The Year' awards 2018 at Singapore.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) served a notice to **SpiceJet** asking it to pay Rs.20 crore by 30th November to partially clear its dues.
- Himachal Pradesh became the first state to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112' where all kinds of immediate help can be sought in urgent matters.
- 'Logix India 2019', which will be held from January 31 to February 2, 2019, in **New Delhi**.
- Graduates of Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IIT-B) who are Co-founders of a startup called Emotix have launched India's first advanced personal robot **Miko 2** for Kids.
- The 2018 G20 Summit began on November 28, 2018 in the city of Buenos Aires, **Argentina**.
- The Union Government has launched a unique initiative called **Bhasha Sangam** to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages.
- The **European Union** urged government, businesses, citizens and regions to join it in an ambitious plan to cut emissions and make the bloc carbon neutral by 2050.
- Punyasloke Bhaduri was awarded the prestigious Swarnajayanti Fellowship by the central government for 2017-18 in the discipline of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.
- A section of stairs from the Eiffel Tower in Paris was sold for almost 170,000 euros, around three times the pre-sale estimate.
- India and **China** signed a protocol on hygiene and inspection requirements for the export of fish oil and fish meal in New Delhi.

MODEL QUESTIONS

- e of the 2018 campaign of World Diabetes Day (WDD)?
 breakfast (2) Eyes on Diabetes (3)
 and Diabetes (5) None of these
- e of the 2018 World Pneumonia Day (WPD)?
 nia: Invest in Child Health
 mise, Stop Pneumonia Now
 Counts: Stop Pneumonia Now
 ess to pneumonia prevention and care

10. The Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD-2018) was observed on which of the following dates?
(1) November 27 (2) November 26 (3) November 29
(4) November 30 (5) None of these
11. RBI has recently permitted banks to provide PCE to NBFC bonds. What does 'PCE' stands for?
(1) Premium Credit Enhancement
(2) Personal Credit Enhancement
(3) Prone Credit Enhancement
(4) Partial Credit Enhancement
(5) None of these
12. Which of the following banks has launched the India's first interactive credit card with buttons?
(1) ICICI Bank (2) IndusInd Bank (3) Bandhan Bank
(4) Axis Bank (5) None of these
13. Which bank has been brought under the purview of RTI, CVC and State Legislature?
(1) J&K Bank (2) Gujarat State Co-operative Bank
(3) Kotak Mahindra Bank (4) Nainital Bank (5) None of these
14. Supreme Court has recently given nod for a separate High Court for which of the following states/UTs?
(1) Nagaland (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Mizoram
(4) Andaman and Nicobar Islands (5) None of these
15. Which union territory falls under jurisdiction of Calcutta High Court?
(1) Puducherry (2) Lakshadweep (3) West Bengal
(4) Andaman and Nicobar Islands (5) None of these
16. Which of the following cities is the principal seat of the Madhya Pradesh High Court?
(1) Gwalior (2) Bhopal (3) Indore (4) Jabalpur (5) None of these
17. Which state government has recently rolled out the technology-driven & citizen friendly 'Mo Bus' service?
(1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Karnataka (3) Odisha
(4) Kerala (5) None of these
18. Which state police has launched e-learning portal 'Nipun' for training its personnel?
(1) Tamil Nadu Police (2) Mumbai Police (3) Delhi Police
(4) Kolkata Police (5) None of these
19. Which state government has launched the 'Gau Samridhi Plus scheme' for dairy farmers?
(1) Odisha (2) Jharkhand (3) Uttar Pradesh (4) Kerala (5) None of these
20. The Maharashtra government has recently granted reservation to which community under a new category called 'Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC)'?
(1) Dhangar (2) Lingayat (3) Buddhist (4) Maratha (5) None of these
21. Which of the following state governments has legally banned hookah parlours after Gujarat and Maharashtra?
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Punjab
(4) West Bengal (5) None of these
22. Which state government has rolled out open online learning programme 'KOOL'?
(1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Karnataka (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these

23. India's first National Institute of Inter-Faith Studies will be set up in which state?
(1) Punjab (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) West Bengal
(4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
24. The Jharsuguda Airport of Odisha will be renamed after which eminent freedom fighter of the state?
(1) Jagabandu Hota (2) Surendra Sai (3) Salegram Bariha
(4) Trilochan Panigrahi (5) None of these
25. The newly-built Ekana cricket stadium is located in which of the following cities?
(1) Udaipur (2) Lucknow (3) New Delhi (4) Pune (5) None of these
26. The 5th edition of World Buddhist Forum (WBF -2018) was recently held in which country?
(1) India (2) Nepal (3) Sri Lanka (4) China (5) None of these
27. Where is the headquarters of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)?
(1) Chennai (2) Kolkata (3) New Delhi (4) Pune (5) None of these
28. Which state government has come out with lexicons of 21 rare tribal languages to preserve vanishing native languages in State?
(1) Tamil Nadu (2) Kerala (3) Karnataka (4) Odisha (5) None of these
29. Kerch Strait, which is in news recently, connects the Sea of Azov from which of the following seas?
(1) Mediterranean Sea (2) Caspian Sea (3) Red Sea
(4) Black Sea (5) None of these
30. Which Indian Sculptor designed the world's 'tallest statue' Statue of Unity?
(1) Ram V. Sutar (2) Vivan Sundaram (3) Jitish Kallat
(4) N. N. Rimzon (5) None of these
31. Who has become the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea?
(1) Raj Singh Dharmshaktu (2) Sivangi Pathak (3) Taka Tamut
(4) Satyarup Siddhanta (5) None of these
32. Which of the following international personalities will be chief guest at the 2019 Republic Day parade of India?
(1) Mauricio Macri (2) Cyril Ramaphosa (3) Ashraf Ghani
(4) Petro Poroshenko (5) None of these
33. The 25th maritime exercise "SIMBEX-18" has started between India and which country?
(1) Saudi Arabia (2) Seychelles (3) Sri Lanka
(4) Singapore (5) None of these
34. M777 Howitzers, which are recently inducted into Indian Army, are procured from which country?
(1) United States (2) South Korea (3) Russia
(4) Italy (5) None of these
35. The INDO-Russian joint exercise "INDRA 2018" has started in which of the following cities?
(1) Pithoragarh (2) Amritsar (3) Kochi
(4) Jhansi (5) None of these

36. IMAI has constituted which AR/VR Committee to promote the technologies in India?
(1) Kumar Yadav committee
(2) Mahesh Prabhu committee
(3) Ajit Kumar committee
(4) Namrita Mahindro committee
(5) None of these
37. Recently, the first-ever India-US Dialogue On Intellectual Property (IP) was launched in which of the following cities?
(1) New York (2) New Delhi (3) London (4) Pune (5) None of these
38. 'Little India Gate', which is in news recently, is inaugurated in which of the following cities?
(1) Medan (2) Jakarta (3) Banten (4) Depok (5) None of these
39. India's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge "Signature Bridge" has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?
(1) Mumbai (2) Kolkata (3) Chennai (4) Delhi (5) None of these
40. India's first multi-modal terminal has recently inaugurated on which of the following rivers?
(1) Yamuna (2) Ganga (3) Brahmaputra (4) Godavari (5) None of these
41. What is the objective of Bhasha Sangam initiative launched by HRD ministry recently?
(1) To provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages
(2) To provide financial support to authors of Indian languages
(3) To provide an online platform to of Indian language authors
(4) To encourage Indian diaspora to promote Indian languages
(5) None of these
42. Which city is the venue of the National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda?
(1) Guwahati (2) Chennai (3) Pune (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
43. The first WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health was held in which city?
(1) New York (2) Geneva (3) New Delhi (4) Paris (5) None of these
44. The first-ever solutions-focused event "Global Cooling Innovation Summit" will be held in which country?
(1) Brazil (2) India (3) South Africa (4) UK (5) None of these
45. Which city is the venue of the International Conference on Yoga for Public Health?
(1) Kolkata (2) Panjim (3) Agartala (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
46. Which city is the venue of the 2018 South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure?
(1) Kathmandu (2) New Delhi (3) Naypyidaw (4) Bangkok (5) None of these
47. What is the theme of the 26th Conference of Central and State Organizations (COCSSO)?
(1) Agriculture & Farmers' Statistics
(2) Administrative Statistics
(3) Quality Assurance in Official Statistics
(4) Agriculture & Quality Statistics
(5) None of these
48. Which city is the venue of the 8th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP)?
(1) Patna (2) Kanpur (3) Ranchi (4) Shimla (5) None of these

49. Which of these cities is the venue of 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine?
 (1) Kathmandu (2) New Delhi (3) Chennai
 (4) Colombo (5) None of these
50. Which country to host 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in 2019?
 (1) Brazil (2) Japan (3) India (4) United States (5) None of these
51. Which of the following cities is the venue of the first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue?
 (1) St. Petersburg (2) Bangaluru (3) New Delhi
 (4) Moscow (5) None of these
52. During INSPIRE 2018, EESL and ADB signed pact for \$13 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant to set up an EERF. What does EERF stands for?
 (1) Environment Efficiency Revolving Fund
 (2) Ecology Efficiency Revolving Fund
 (3) Eco Efficiency Revolving Fund
 (4) Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund
 (5) None of these
53. Which of the following cities is the venue of the 18th IORA Council of (Foreign) Ministers Meetings (COM)?
 (1) Santiago (2) Durban (3) Brasília (4) Harare (5) None of these
54. Under the provisions of which article of the constitution, the President appoints judges of Supreme Court (SC)?
 (1) Article 125 (2) Article 124 (3) Article 126 (4) Article 127 (5) None of these
55. Under which schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act - 2014, the Central Tribal University will be set up in the state?
 (1) 10th (2) 13th (3) 11th (4) 12th (5) None of these
56. Which article of the Constitution provides free legal assistance to the poor and weaker sections of the society?
 (1) Article 39A (2) Article 38A (3) Article 37A
 (4) Article 36A (5) None of these
57. The chairman of UPSC is appointed by President under which of the following articles of constitution?
 (1) Article 317 (2) Article 316 (3) Article 315 (4) Article 320 (5) None of these
58. Which of the following organizations has launched India's first sewer cleaning machine to put an end to the unsafe manual scavenging?
 (1) Sulabh International (2) Smile Foundation (3) Goonj
 (4) Uday Foundation (5) None of these
59. The Government of India (GoI) has recently approved operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens for which of the following crops?
 (1) Tomato, Onion and Potato (2) Onion, Carrot and Peas
 (3) Tomato, Peas and Chilli (4) Potato, Wheat and Onion (5) None of these
60. Which of the following is the global satellite navigation system of European Union?
 (1) BeiDou (2) GPS (3) Galileo (4) GLONASS (5) None of these

61. ISRO has successfully launched GSAT-29 satellite into space from which launch vehicle?
 (1) GSLV Mk III (2) GSLV Mk I (3) GSLV Mk II
 (4) GSLV Mk IV (5) None of these
62. The researchers at which IIT have developed smart phone-based sensor to detect adulteration in milk?
 (1) IIT-Bombay (2) IIT-Hyderabad (3) IIT-Madras
 (4) IIT-Kanpur (5) None of these
63. Which Indian organization has developed a new technology 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach' to monitor impact of rain & deal with natural disasters?
 (1) IMD (2) DRDO (3) ISRO (4) BARC (5) None of these
64. India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University will come up in which of the following states?
 (1) Jharkhand (2) Haryana (3) Assam (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
65. The researchers at which IIT have devised a Decision Support System (DSS) to boost LPG distribution in households below poverty line?
 (1) IIT Indore (2) IIT Kanpur (3) IIT Madras (4) IIT Kharagpur (5) None of these
66. Which is the only Indian film has been included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list of the 21st century?
 (1) Pather Panchali (2) Aparajito (3) The World of Apu
 (4) The Big City (5) None of these
67. Which of the following films was the India's lone entry at the Rome Film Festival 2018?
 (1) Sui Dhaaga (2) Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran (3) Raazi
 (4) Mare Pyare Prime Minister (5) None of these
68. Which of the following movies has won the Best Film award at the 24th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF-2018)?
 (1) The Third Wife (2) Sun goes round the Earth (3) Judgement Day
 (4) Widow of Silence (5) None of these
69. Which Indian actress is awardee of FIAPF Award at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) 2018?
 (1) Priyanka Chopra (2) Aishwarya Rai (3) Deepika Padukone
 (4) Nandita Das (5) None of these
70. Which filmmaker is the recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2018?
 (1) Kalpana Lajmi (2) Dan Wolman (3) Adrian Sitaru
 (4) Tom Fitzpatrick (5) None of these
71. Which of the following are two Indian movies nominated for 2018 ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal?
 (1) Baaram and Walking with the Wind
 (2) Gold and Paarka Thonuthe
 (3) Hichki and Bangistan
 (4) Saranalayam and Raazi
 (5) None of these
72. Which state government is celebrating the "Jashn-e-Virasat-e-Urdu" festival?
 (1) Telangana (2) Uttarakhand (3) Delhi (4) Jharkhand (5) None of these

73. The 14th edition of International theatre festival for children "Jashne Bachpan 2018" has started in which city?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Kochi (4) Bangalore (5) None of these
74. Who has been named the Brand Ambassador of 2018 Women's World Boxing Championships (WWBC)?
 (1) Sarjubala Devi (2) Yogeshwar Dutt (3) Mary Kom
 (4) Pinki Jangra (5) None of these
75. Who has been appointed India's new Ambassador to Iran?
 (1) Saurabh Kumar (2) Gaddam Dharmendra (3) N K Saxena
 (4) Priti Jindal (5) None of these
76. Who has been elected the new President of International Boxing Association (AIBA)?
 (1) Thomas Bach (2) P S Bopanna (3) Gafur Rakhimov
 (4) Will Smith (5) None of these
77. Who has been appointed the new Secretary General of Lok Sabha?
 (1) Snehlata Shrivastava (2) Anup Mishra (3) Rama Devi
 (4) Nischal Jain (5) None of these
78. Who has been appointed the new chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)?
 (1) Ajay Kumar Pandey (2) Rachit Kulbhushan (3) Jalaj Srivastava
 (4) Nirmal Jain (5) None of these
79. Kartarpur corridor, which was recently approved by Union Cabinet, is located in which district of Punjab?
 (1) Bathinda (2) Gurdaspur (3) Ferozepur (4) Amritsar (5) None of these
80. Who has been named the youngest-ever UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador?
 (1) Hima Das (2) Sonam Wangchen (3) Millie Bobby Brown
 (4) Hinna Asefi Wardak (5) None of these
81. Which renowned scientist has been appointed as Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)?
 (1) D.K. Shukla (2) Nageshwara Rao Guntur (3) G.K Rath
 (4) Devang V.Khakhar (5) None of these
82. Ntozake Shange, who passed away recently, was the acclaimed playwright and poet of which country?
 (1) New Zealand (2) Brazil (3) United States
 (4) South Africa (5) None of these
83. Lalan Sarang, who passed away recently, was the noted theatre personality of which regional cinema?
 (1) Marathi (2) Odia (3) Tamil (4) Telugu (5) None of these
84. Ananth Kumar, who passed away recently, was in charge of which of the following union ministries?
 (1) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
 (2) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
 (3) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
 (4) Ministry of Labor and Employment
 (5) None of these

85. Ad Guru Alyque Padamsee, who passed away recently, created which of the following Indian ad campaigns?
(1) Cherry Charlie (2) TV detective Karamchand (3) Hamara Bajaj
(4) All of the above (5) None of these
86. Playback singer Mohammed Aziz, who passed away recently, was from which state?
(1) West Bengal (2) Assam (3) Telangana
(4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these
87. The Union government has awarded which state police for citizen services under an e-governance project "CCTNS"?
(1) Haryana (2) Assam (3) Jharkhand (4) Kerala (5) None of these
88. Which renowned personality has been honored with 'Distinguished Fellow Award' by India Global in Boston?
(1) Sachin Tendulkar (2) Sudha Murthy (3) Anupam Kher
(4) Piyush Goyal (5) None of these
89. Which Indian mountaineer has recently been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious University of Strathclyde?
(1) Bachendri Pal (2) Premlata Agarwal (3) Arunima Sinha
(4) Malavath Purna (5) None of these
90. Which India's restoration project has won the 2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation in Award of Distinction category?
(1) LAMO center (2) Rajabai Clock Tower (3) Agra Fort
(4) Ruttonjee Muljee Jetha Fountain (5) None of these
91. Who has been honored with the 2018 Munin Barkotoki Literary Award?
(1) Arupa Kalita Patangia (2) Homen Borgohain (3) Debabhuson Borah
(4) Dhruvabjoti Bora (5) None of these
92. Which Indian personality has been conferred with the Global Education Leaders Award 2018?
(1) Saroj Suman Gulati (2) Sujoy Ghosh (3) Gopal Das Banerjee
(4) Trilok Chaudhry (5) None of these
93. Which of the following organizations has won the 2018 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development?
(1) ISRO (2) UNHCR (3) UNESCO (4) CSE (5) None of these
94. Which Indian musician has been honored with the 2018 Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement Award?
(1) Girija Devi (2) Hariprasad Chaurasia (3) Amjad Ali Khan
(4) Kishore Amonkar (5) None of these
95. Who is the recipient of the FICA Emerging Artist Award 2018?
(1) Rakhi Peswani (2) Anupam Roy (3) Latika Gupta
(4) Shirana Shahbazi (5) None of these
96. Who has been awarded the prestigious Swarnajayanti Fellowship by the central government for 2017-18?
(1) Nageswara Rao (2) Punyasloke Bhaduri (3) Sumit Bhattacharjee
(4) A Prasanna Kumar (5) None of these

97. Which Indian company has been named an Official Partner of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2018?
 (1) Tata Steel (2) Reliance (3) Infosys (4) Wipro (5) None of these
98. Simone Biles, who has become the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals, is from which country?
 (1) United States (2) Brazil (3) South Africa (4) Chile (5) None of these
99. Who of the following lifted the 2018 Men's Singles title at the Rolex Paris Masters?
 (1) Milos Raonic (2) Juan Martín del Potro (3) Karen Khachanov @
 (4) Novak Djokovic (5) None of these
100. Which Indian shooter has won the historic men's skeet gold at the Asian Shotgun Championship 2018 in Kuwait?
 (1) Saurabh Chaudhary (2) Arjun Babuta (3) Hriday Hazarika
 (4) Angad Vir Singh Bajwa (5) None of these
101. Who has won the 2018 Fuzhou China Open Badminton tournament?
 (1) Huang Yuxiang (2) Lin Dan (3) Kento Momota
 (4) Chou Tien-chen (5) None of these
102. Which Indian wrestler has been ranked world No. 1 rank in 65 Kg category?
 (1) Sushil Kumar (2) Sanjeet Kumar (3) Yogeshwar Dutt
 (4) Bajrang Punia (5) None of these
103. Which country's team clinched Under-17 boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2018?
 (1) Afghanistan (2) Nepal (3) Bangladesh (4) India (5) None of these
104. Who has become the first player to score 11,000 runs in Ranji Trophy cricket?
 (1) Shivam Chaudhary (2) Wasim Jaffer (3) Himanshu Asnora
 (4) Almas Shaikat (5) None of these
105. In which year, Mary Kom won her first gold in the Women's World Boxing Championship?
 (1) 2003 (2) 2005 (3) 2006 (4) 2002 (5) None of these
106. Who has become the first Indian to win gold in Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2018 in Canberra?
 (1) Husnapreet Kaur (2) Bhavani Devi (3) Sundaraj Soumya
 (4) Shivani Barode (5) None of these
107. Which Indian sportswoman has been named captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI?
 (1) Harmanpreet Kaur (2) Poonam Yadav (3) Smriti Mandhana
 (4) Mithali Raj (5) None of these
108. Which sportsperson has clinched women's trap gold at the 62nd National Shotgun championship 2018?
 (1) Varsha Varman (2) Soumya Gupta (3) Shagun Chowdhary
 (4) Shreyasi Singh (5) None of these
109. Which city has topped the Ola Mobility Institute (OMI)'s 'Ease of Moving Index 2018' in public transport?
 (1) Chennai (2) Hyderabad (3) Kolkata (4) New Delhi (5) None of these

110. As per latest US-based National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) report, which of the following cities is the India's most congested city?
 (1) Bengaluru (2) Delhi (3) Chennai (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
111. Which music director has composed the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup-2018 anthem?
 (1) Ilaiyaraaja (2) Pritam Chakraborty (3) A R Rahman
 (4) M M Keeravani (5) None of these
112. Which state has topped the highest employability rate, as per latest India Skills Report 2019?
 (1) Haryana (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Rajasthan
 (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
113. Which state has been adjudged the Best State in Organ Donation at the 9th Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD-2018)?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Punjab (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
114. The All-India 'Unreserved Mobile Ticketing' facility (UTS on Mobile) has been developed by Indian Railway- CRIS. Where is the headquarters of CRIS?
 (1) Pune (2) New Delhi (3) Kolkata (4) Chennai (5) None of these
115. For which term, India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council?
 (1) 2020 to 2023 (2) 2019 to 2022 (3) 2021 to 2024 (4) 2018 to 2021 (5) None of these
116. India is hosting the "Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities 2018" in collaboration with which country?
 (1) South Korea (2) Spain (3) Japan (4) France (5) None of these
117. Which country has launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond?
 (1) United Kingdom (2) Mauritius (3) Japan
 (4) Seychelles (5) None of these
118. Which of the following countries has become the world's first nation to ban reefkilling toxic sunscreen?
 (1) Nauru (2) Republic of Palau (3) New Guinea
 (4) Vanuatu (5) None of these
119. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has recently lifted sanctions against which African nation after 9 years?
 (1) Eritrea (2) Burundi (3) Somalia (4) Egypt (5) None of these
120. Which sports journalist is the author of the book "The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India"?
 (1) Jatin Sapru (2) Karunya Keshav (3) Mayanti Langer
 (4) Boria Majumdar (5) None of these

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

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