

## **GENERAL AWARENESS–CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **MONTH OF DECEMBER-2018**

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

- December 1** - World AIDS Day (Theme - “Know Your Status”)
- December 3** - International Day of Persons with Disabilities. (Theme - “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”)
- December 1-7** - Armed Forces Week
- December 4** - India celebrates 47th Navy Day
- December 5** - World Soil Day. (Theme - “Be the Solution to Soil Pollution!”)
- December 5** - International Volunteer Day (IVD)  
(Theme - “Volunteers build Resilient Communities”)
- December 7** - International Civil Aviation Day  
(Theme - “Working Together to ensure No Country is Left Behind”)
- December 8** - Armed Forces Flag Day / Flag Day of India
- December 9** - International Anti-Corruption Day (Theme - “United Against Corruption”)
- December 10** - Human Rights Day (Theme - “Stand Up For Human Rights”)
- December 11** - International Mountain Day (Theme - “#MountainsMatter”)
- December 14** - World Monkey Day
- December 14** - National Energy Conservation Day
- December 15** - International Tea Day
- December 16** - Vijay Diwas (Victory Day)
- December 16** - 49th anniversary of the 1971 India-Pakistan war
- December 17** - International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers
- December 18** - International Migrants Day (Theme - “Migration with Dignity”)
- December 18** - Minorities Rights Day in India
- December 19** - Goa's Liberation Day
- December 20** - International Human Solidarity Day
- December 22** - National Mathematics Day
- December 23** - Kisan Diwas (National Farmers Day)
- December 24** - National Consumers Day/National Consumers Right Day  
(Theme - “Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints”)

#### **Reserve Bank of India**

- Cross-platform messaging and Voice over IP (VoIP) service **WhatsApp** is seeking a formal approval of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to expand its payment services to all of its users in India.
  - WhatsApp’s partner banks have also submitted a request for formal approval.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has kept the repo rate, the rate at which banks borrow from RBI, unchanged at **6.50%** in its 5th bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19.
  - The **Reverse repo-rate**, the rate at which RBI borrows money from the banks, is **6.25** per cent.
  - **Marginal standing facility (MSF)** rate and the Bank Rate - **6.75%**.

- To provide cost-free mechanism to redress grievances of customers related to digital transactions, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is going to introduce '**Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions**'.
  - The scheme will be notified by end of January 2019.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is going to introduce new modes of customer e-verification, including live video, in financial institutions.
  - RBI is also planning to introduce a digital method that would use XML internet format to extract limited information on customers from the Aadhaar database.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a fine of **Rs.1 crore** on state-owned **Indian Bank** for violating cyber security norms.
- The government announced that the **Public Sector Banks** don't have any plans to shut down their **ATMs**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that it has decided to scale up the amount of liquidity infusion by Rs.10,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore in December.
  - RBI has already injected Rs.20,000 crore through two Open Market Operation (OMO) purchases.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has shortlisted six IT majors to set up **Public Credit Registry (PCR)** for capturing details of borrowers and wilful defaulters.
  - They are: TCS, Wipro, IBM India, Capgemini Technology Services India, Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India, and Mindtree.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will soon introduce **new Rs.20 currency notes** with additional features.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is looking at a **mobile phone-based solution** to help visually impaired people easily identify Indian currency notes.
  - Currently, **intaglio printing**-based identification marks are present in banknotes of Rs.100 and above for helping the visually challenged identify them.
- As per a recent report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Banks recovered bad loans worth Rs.40,400 crore in 2017-18.
  - The loans were recovered through channels like **the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), SARFAESI Act, Debt Recovery Tribunals** and **Lok Adalats**.
- In its annual report, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that the number of **ATMs** has declined marginally to 2.07 lakh in the financial year 2018 from 2.08 lakh in the financial year 2017.

#### **State Bank of India**

- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has offered for sale **three** of its **bad loan accounts** to recover dues worth Rs.2,111 crore.
  - The accounts, which belong to **Sona Alloys, MCL Global Steel and Jayaswal Neco Industries**, will be put up at an e-auction on December 13.

#### **Other Banks**

- Kolkata-based **Bandhan Bank** is going to open **40 branches** by end of December 2018 after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the move.
- **India Post** has started internet facility of the customers of **Post office savings bank account**.
  - The facility was launched by Union Minister for Communication (independent charge) **Manoj Sinha** at National Media Centre, **New Delhi**.
- The **IDFC Bank** has merged completely with the non-banking financial company **Capital First** into a new entity to be called as **IDFC First Bank**.

- 106th foundation day of India's first Swadeshi Bank '**Central Bank of India**' was observed on 21st December.
- Public sector lender **Bank of Baroda** has announced that the '**Alternative Mechanism**' of the finance ministry has accorded in-principle approval for its merger with **Dena Bank** and **Vijaya Bank**.
  - The '**Alternative Mechanism**' (AM) headed by Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** had decided to merge three banks with a view to create global size lender, which will be stronger and sustainable.
- The government has decided to infuse Rs.10,086 crore in the state run **Bank of India**.
  - The move is part of the government's plans to infuse Rs.83,000 crore into state-run banks by March, taking total infusion to Rs.1.06 lakh crore this fiscal.

### Supreme Court

- Supreme Court has approved **Witness Protection Scheme 2018** and directed Union and State Governments to enforce the same.
  - **Aim:** To ensure that investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences does not turn out to be biased as witnesses are intimidated or frightened to give evidence without protection from violent or other criminal recrimination.
  - It was finalized in consultation with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- The Supreme Court has barred **media** from revealing the identity of **sexual assault victims**, even if they are dead or if parents provide their consent.
  - It also said that the names of victims cannot be used at public rallies or on social media platforms.
- Supreme Court has given clean chit to Narendra Modi led BJP government for purchase of **36 Rafale fighter Jets**.

### High Courts and Sessions Courts

- The **Madras High Court** has ruled that **Drivers** don't need to carry physical copies of licence or other vehicle documents as **electronic copies** are valid.
- The **Delhi High Court** has ordered a ban on the sale of online medicines by **E-pharmacies** across the country.
- **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh** states will have **separate High Courts** from January 1, 2019.
- **Delhi High Court** has allowed that **Section 354A** of Indian Penal Code can be used by transgenders to register complaints of sexual harassment.

### Election Commission

- Voting for 119-member **Telangana** Assembly and 200-member **Rajasthan** Assembly began on December 7.

### Central Government

- The Center has rejected **Karnataka** government's request to recognize **Lingayat** as a **separate religion**.
- To spread awareness about **cybercrimes** and normal precautions to be taken, the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** (MHA) has launched **Twitter** account titled **@CyberDost**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of two new **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** at **Tamil Nadu** (Madurai) and **Telangana** (Bibinagar).
- The government is going to launch **Broadband Services Readiness Index** of states based on parameters like infrastructure, approval processes and utilization of high-speed Internet.

- **Aadhaar details for bank accounts or mobile phone connections** will no longer be mandatory as Union Cabinet approved an amendment to the existing law, making Aadhaar details optional for these services.
  - The Supreme Court on September 26 had upheld the constitutional validity of Aadhaar.
- The **Home Ministry** has authorized **10 agencies** to monitor, intercept, and decrypt "any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer".
  - The agencies include the **Intelligence Bureau, CBI, Delhi Police Commissioner, RAW and Narcotics Control Bureau.**
- The Union Cabinet approved a budget of **Rs.10,000 crore** for sending three Indian astronauts to space for up to 7 days by 2022 for the **Gaganyaan Programme**.
  - The programme will help India become the **4th nation** to have a manned mission to space.
- The proposal from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of **Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme** has been approved by the union government.
  - Under the scheme, the Mahila Police volunteer is required to mobilize community to form Mahila and ShishuRakshak Dals (MASRD) to act as community watch groups.

### States

- **Bhopal** observed the **34th anniversary of gas leak tragedy**, one of the worst industrial disaster of the world.
- The '**Rakhi with Khaki**' initiative by **Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur police**, as part of which girls and women tied rakhis to 50,033 police personnel and took selfies, has been acknowledged by the **Guinness World Records**.
- **Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric)** will soon get **Geographical Indications (GI)** tag.
  - Kandhamal Haldi is famous for its healing properties.
- **Maharashtra** Government has launched World Bank assisted **SMART Project** to transform rural Maharashtra.
  - **SMART - State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation**
  - This initiative is in line with Union Government's step towards doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- Union Cabinet has approved implementation of **Shahpurkandi Dam Project** on river **Ravi, Punjab**.
- **Shi Yomi** formally became 23rd district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
  - It was created by bifurcating West Siang district with its headquarters at Tato.
  - Two more districts **Pakke-Kesang** and **Lepa Rada** will be formally inaugurated in the state within taking the total to 25.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** government is going to install a 197-foot-tall statue of former Chief Minister of the state **N T Rama Rao (NTR)** in **Amravati**.
  - Estimated cost of the project is around Rs. 406 crore.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has announced that it will install four new statues in the state, including a 25-foot-tall statue of late Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at Lok Bhawan in **Lucknow**.
  - A statue of **Swami Vivekananda** will be installed at Raj Bhawan, while 12.5-foot-tall statues of **Mahant Aavidyanath and Mahant Digvijayanath** will be installed in **Gorakhpur**.
- **Punjab** Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution for seeking **30% reservation** for **women** in Parliament and State legislative assembly.
  - The resolution was moved by Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh**, urging the Centre to enact it.

- As part of his electoral promise, Telangana Chief Minister **K Chandrashekar Rao** directed officials to begin the process of forming two new districts (**Mulugu** and **Narayanpet**) in the state.
  - Telangana was formed in 2014 with **10** districts and later split into **31 districts** in 2016.
- **Haryana** Government has launched a mobile app named as '**Shiksha Setu**'.
  - The '**Shiksha Setu**' App will help in bringing transparency in the Education Department and in the administration of colleges in the state.
- After a period of 22 years, **President's rule** has been imposed in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
  - This comes after the Centre approved a proposal put forward by the state's Governor **Satya Pal Malik**.
- The **Delhi** Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal**, approved the 103-km-long **Delhi Metro Phase-IV project**.
- **Haryana** Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced the renaming of **Child Care Institutes** being run in the state as **Jagannath Ashrams**.
- The newly-formed **Madhya Pradesh** government announced it is forming an **Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department)** by merging several existing departments.
  - The Anand Vibhag (happiness department) formed by the previous BJP government, a first in the country, would be incorporated into the new department.
- The government has banned **Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF)** under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for its involvement in several killings, bombings and other terror activities during its violent campaign for the secession of Punjab.
- The new government of **Rajasthan** has abolished the condition of a **minimum educational qualification** to contest local body elections.
- To encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts of the state, the government of **Uttar Pradesh** has initiated **One District, One Product scheme**.
  - The scheme aims to capitalize the rich heritage of the Uttar Pradesh by reviving them through modernization and publicisation to enhance the reach of these products.

#### Place in the News

- **India** is set to get its 1st **underwater museum** off the **Puducherry** coast, giving a boost to tourism in the Union territory.
  - **INS Cuddalore**, a Pondicherry-class vessel that was decommissioned in March, will be turned into the country's first underwater museum.
- Union Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal** has dedicated **National Rail and Transportation Institution (NRTI)** to the Nation in **Vadodara**.
  - It is **India's 1st Railway University** and the 3rd in the world after **Russia** and **China**.
- **Tamil Nadu** government has announced the setting up of country's **1st music museum** with assistance from the Central government in **Thiruvaiyaru** which is the birthplace of Saint Tyagaraja, one of the Trinities of Carnatic music.
  - The other two of the Trinity are Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.

#### Personalities

- **South African** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** accepted PM Narendra Modi's invitation to be the Chief Guest for **India's Republic Day celebrations in 2019**.
- Hockey Legend, Major **Dhyan Chand's 39th Death Anniversary** was observed on December 3.
- **Dr Rajendra Prasad, first President of India's** birth anniversary was observed on December 3.
- **63rd Mahaparinirvan Diwas** (Death anniversary) of the architect of Indian constitution **Dr. BR Ambedkar** was celebrated on December 6.

- **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** became the 1st Chief Minister of the state to complete 4 years in office.

### Defence and National Security

- The **Defence Ministry** cleared the proposal for procurement of military equipment worth **₹3,000 crore**.
  - The approved deal includes procurement of indigenous **BrahMos missiles** for two Indian Navy ships that are to be built in **Russia**.
- **India** and **US** Air forces began their 12-day joint exercise “**Ex Cope India-2018**” in **West Bengal**.
- The **Punjab** Cabinet cleared a proposal to set up an **International Civil Terminal** at Air Force Station, **Halwara in Ludhiana** district.
  - The terminal will be jointly developed by the state government and Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- The 1st bilateral air exercise between **Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** titled **SHINYUU Maitri-18** was held in Air Force Station, **Agra**.
  - **Theme:** Joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.
- **Indian Navy** is going to conduct its flagship large-scale coastal defence exercise **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX)** from January to March 2019 to test robustness of entire coastal security apparatus.
  - As part of TROPEX, Indian Navy will conduct large-scale coastal defence exercise ‘**Exercise Sea Vigil**’.
- The **Special Forces of India** and **United States** completed their 3-day tactical exercise titled ‘**Vajra Kayaa**’.
  - ‘Vajra Kayaa’ is a part of the joint military drill ‘**Vajra Prahar 2018**’.
- **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled ‘**Clean Sea-2018**’ at sea off **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&B) Islands**.
  - ICG ships Viswasth, Vijith, Rajveer, Rajshri, 4 interceptor boats and its air assets Dornier and Chetak helicopters participated in the exercise.
- The 2nd edition of service specific exercise **AVIAINDRA** between **Indian Air Force** and **Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF)** was held at Air Force Station **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
- The 10th edition of **INDRA NAVY** maritime exercise between India and Russia is being held at **Visakhapatnam** coast, Andhra Pradesh from December 9-16, 2018.
- Indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile **Agni-5**, which has a strike range of 5,000 km, has been successfully test-fired from **Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast**.
- The **7th Hand-in-Hand Military** exercise between **India** and **China** was held at **Chengdu, China**.
- Indigenously developed **Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)** by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has achieved important milestone of flying at 6 km altitude in **Bangalore, Karnataka**.
  - With the completion of this milestone, LUH can now undertake high altitude cold weather trials planned in January 2019.
- **Indian Navy** inducted its 1st **Submarine Rescue System** with **Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)** along with associated equipment at western naval dockyard in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** (west coast of India).

### Committees/Commissions

- The government has constituted a 6-member committee to oversee the sale of **149 oil and gas fields** of state-owned ONGC, Oil India and other explorers.
  - **Head of this Committee:** Rajiv Kumar (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman)

- **Members:** PK Sinha (Cabinet Secretary) & Subhash Chandra Garg (Economic Affairs Secretary)
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted a committee to propose long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has set up an Advisory committee on human rights, to include 'human rights standards' in Olympic host-city contracts beginning with the **2024 Olympic in Paris**.
  - **Head of this Committee:** Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini (former United Nations commissioner for human rights)
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set up an expert committee to suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government.
  - **Headed of this Committee:** Bimal Jalan (former RBI governor)
  - **Vice Chairman:** Rakesh Mohan (former RBI deputy governor)
  - **Members:** Bharat Doshi and Sudhir Mankad (RBI central board directors), N.S. Vishwanathan (Deputy governor), and Subhash Chandra Garg (Economic affairs secretary).
- The government will soon be appointing a committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the **Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI)** committee.

### Schemes/Initiatives

- Union Government has included **Gangotri** and **Yamunotri** in Uttarakhand, **Amarkantak** in Madhya Pradesh and **Parasnath** in Jharkhand under its PRASAD scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.
  - With the new additions, the number of sites under PRASAD has now reached to 41 in 25 states.
  - **PRASAD - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was inaugurated the **Bogibeel Bridge** on December 25.
  - Falling in the eastern part of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, Bogibeel Bridge is **India's longest railroad bridge**.
- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** and Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the **Kannur International Airport**.
  - This is Kerala's 4th International Airport.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched several development projects worth over **Rs.1000 crore** rupees at **Rae Bareilly** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
  - He also flagged off the 900th coach and a rake of Humsafar train manufactured at Modern Coach Factory in Rae Bareilly.
- The foundation stone for **Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants (IHAMP)** was laid by Union Ministers **Jitendra Singh** and **Shripad Yesso Naik** (Ayush Ministry) at Bhaderwah, Doda district, **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- An **All-women political party** named '**National Women's Party (NWP)**' was launched in **Delhi**.
  - Announcing the launch, party President **Swetha Shetty** announced that the party aims to get 50% reservation for women candidates in Parliament and other places.
- Modi also launched the **City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO)** of Maharashtra's mass housing scheme, which offers affordable homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
  - PM **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of **Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan Metro** and **Dahisar-Mira-Bhayander Metro corridors** in **Maharashtra**.
- The government has approved the revamped **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) scheme**.
  - Under this scheme, Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) will be set up in every block where Scheduled Tribes population is more than 50% and has at least 20,000 tribal persons.

- For the overall development of farmers **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced a Rs.10,000 crore scheme titled KALIA.
  - **KALIA - Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation**
  - This scheme will provide farmers with Rs.10,000 a year at the rate of Rs.5,000 each for Kharif and Rabi season.
  - Additionally, crop loans of up to Rs. 50,000 will be interest-free under the scheme.
- To help 20 lakh small and marginal farmers of the state, **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** announced a Rs.2250 crore scheme titled **Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana**.
  - The scheme will start from 2019-20 financial year.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a Rs.100 commemorative coin in honor of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, who passed away earlier this year.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** Governor **Satya Pal Malik** inaugurated a ropeway from Mata Vaishno Devi to Bhairon Mandir.
  - The **Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway Project** has cost around Rs.85 crore and has a carrying capacity of 800 persons per hour.
- Union Health Minister **J P Nadda** has announced that India's largest cancer hospital, the **National Cancer Institute** will be inaugurated in **Haryana's Jhajjar district** in January.
- Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** has launched the '**Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools**' for students in rural areas.
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated the 26th edition of **National Children's Science Congress** at SOA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
  - **Focal theme of 26th National Children's Science Congress:** "Science, Technology and Innovation for a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation."
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (IRRI SARC)** in Varanasi.
- Union Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin initiative** in **Bhubaneswar**, which will expand women's access to hygiene products and provide them with employment opportunities in every district of the state.
  - The Central scheme will be a counter to the Odisha government's **Khushi scheme**, in which sanitary napkins are provided free of cost to female students of government and government-aided schools in the state.

### Summit/Conference

- **India** is going to host the **G20 Summit** in 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.
  - **Chairman of G20 for 2018:** Mauricio Macri (Argentina)
- The **24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP24)** to the UNFCCC was held at **Katowice, Poland** from 2nd to 14th December 2018.
  - **Indian Delegation at COP 24 will be represented by:** Harsh Vardhan (Union Environment Minister)
- **UN Climate Summit** was held in **Poland**.
- The **80th Session of Policy Commission of World Customs Organization (WCO)** was held **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
  - Hosted by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under Union Finance Minister.
- The '**Asia Pacific Summit-2018**' was recently held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
  - **Theme:** 'Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values'.



- This summit was organized by the South Korea-based 'Universal Peace Federation' and supported by the Government of Nepal.
- The **India Water Impact Summit-2018** was recently held in **New Delhi**.
- The Annual **Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018** was held in **Goa**.
  - **Theme:** 'Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.'
- **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)** was adopted by **164** nations including **India** at Intergovernmental Conference to adopt this compact held under auspices of **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** at **Marrakesh, Morocco**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **4th edition of Partners' Forum** in **New Delhi**.
  - The two day international conference was hosted by the government of India in association with Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and child Health (PMNCH).
- Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **All-India annual conference of the State Directors General and Inspectors General of Police** near the Statue of Unity located in Narmada district of Gujarat.

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

- US President **Donald Trump**, Mexican President **Enrique Peña Nieto** and Canadian PM **Justin Trudeau** signed the new **US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**.
  - This will replace the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**.
- During External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj's** Abu Dhabi visit, **India** and **UAE** signed a **Rs.3,500-crore Currency Swap Agreement**.
  - India and UAE also signed an agreement to undertake development **projects in Africa**.
- **Panama** has become the 1st Latin American country to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
  - Chinese President **Xi Jinping** and Panama President **Juan Carlos Varela** signed more than a dozen deals in this regard.
- The **European Parliament** approved a **free trade deal** between **Japan** and the **European Union**, which is believed to be the world's largest free trade agreement.
- **Russia** confirmed that the **United States of America (USA)** has decided to cancel the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty** signed between both countries in the year 1987.

### **Meet/Visit**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Chinese President **Xi Jinping** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin** met for the **RIC (Russia-India-China) Trilateral Summit** at the leaders' level after 12 years.
  - The meeting took place on sidelines of the G20 Summit.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** met European Council President **Donald Tusk** and European Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker** on the sidelines of the G20 summit in **Argentina**.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** was visited to **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
  - During this visit, she was co-chairing the **12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation** with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Foreign Minister of the UAE).
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** was visited to **Myanmar** for a 4-day visit.
  - During his stay, he visited capital Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, and interact with his counterpart U Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.
- The 18th meeting of the **India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC)** was recently held in **New Delhi**.
  - Indian Defense Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** along with Russian Defence Minister General Sergei Shoigu jointly co-chaired the meeting.

- New **Maldivian** President **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** was visited to **India** for a 3-day visit.
  - After the talks, PM Narendra Modi announced \$1.4 billion in financial aid to **Maldives**.
  - The two nations signed four pacts, including one on visa facilitation.
- The Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, **Admiral Luechai Ruddit**, called on Indian Navy Chief **Admiral Sunil Lanba** at Naval Headquarters, **New Delhi**.
- **India** and **China** held the 1st meeting of the high-level people-to-people exchanges mechanism.
  - This meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and her Chinese counterpart **Wang Yi**.
  - Both the countries agreed on '**10 pillars**' of cooperation to enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- Prime Minister of Bhutan **Lotay Tshering** visited to **India**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his visit to Port Blair officially announced the renaming of three islands in Andaman & Nicobar.
  - They are: **Ross Island** will now be called **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep**
  - **Neil Island** will now be called **Shaheed Dweep**
  - **Havelock Island** will now be called **Swaraj Dweep**

### **Bills**

- The Minister of State for Parliamentary affairs **Arjun Ram Meghwal** introduced **Dam Safety Bill 2018** in Lok Sabha.
  - The bill provides a uniform procedure for the safety of dams in country.
- The **Himachal Pradesh** Assembly passed a resolution to declare **Cow** as '**Rashtra Mata** (mother of the nation)'.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** has passed law to ban **sexual extortion of woman in offices**.
  - With this, Jammu & Kashmir has become the 1st state in India to amend law on Sexual extortion.
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016**, which bans commercial surrogacy.
- The Lok Sabha also passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016**, which seeks to empower the transgender community in the country by providing them a separate identity.
- Aiming to reduce the number of mob lynchings in the state, the **Manipur** Assembly passed the '**Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Bill**'.
  - This bill recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence if it results in the death of a victim.
- The Lok Sabha has passed the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2018**, following a debate.
  - The bill proposes to make the method of Muslim men instantly divorcing their wives by uttering "Talaq" thrice (**Triple Talaq**) as "unconstitutional" and "arbitrary" and suggests a three-year jail term to husbands who follow the method.
- The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**, including the provision for death penalty for "committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime" on children.

### **Fund**

- The **Union Government (Ministry of Finance)** and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed **\$85 million** loan agreement for **Odisha Skill Development Project**.
  - It aims to improve the skill development eco-system in Odisha and establish World Skill Center (WSC), an advanced skill training center in state capital Bhubaneswar.

- The **World Bank Group** announced that it will double its 5-year investments to **\$200 billion** to fight **climate change** between 2021-2025.
- **Germany** has offered Rs.720-crore low-interest loan to support reconstruction of bridges and roads that were damaged in **Kerala** flood.
  - German Ambassador to India **Martin Ney** announced that the country has also offered a technical grant of Rs.24 crore in infrastructure planning.
- The **Government of India (GoI)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a Loan Agreement for **\$31 million** to build-up the **State Tourism Industry** and **boost visitor arrivals**.
- India announced financial assistance of Rs.4500 crore to **Bhutan** for its **12th Five Year Plan**.

### Economy

- **Venezuela's** President **Nicolás Maduro** has ordered a 150% increase in the monthly minimum wage to 4500 sovereign bolivars, worth about Rs.660 at the black market rate.
- Global rating agency **Fitch** lowered **India's GDP** growth forecast to **7.2%** in 2018-19, from 7.8% projected in September, citing higher financing costs and reduced credit availability.
- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** announced that the Centre has decided to increase its contribution to the **National Pension System** for the central government employees to **14%** from 10%.
  - The Centre also made the withdrawal of amount at the time of retirement tax free.
- In its recently released Outlook Supplement, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has retained **India's growth forecast** at **7.3%** for current fiscal (2018-19) and **7.6%** in following financial year (2019-20).

### Companies/Industry

- **US-based** app-based helicopter and small-planes aggregator, **Fly Blade** has announced that it is going to launch services from **Mumbai** starting March 2019.
  - In Mumbai, it will provide connectivity to Pune and Shirdi from the two active heliports in Mumbai, Mahalaxmi and Juhu.
- **Adani Defence and Aerospace** and Israel's **Elbit Systems** jointly inaugurated India's first private **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** manufacturing facility in **Hyderabad**.
  - The 50,000-square feet Adani Elbit UAV complex would also be the first outside Israel to manufacture Elbit's Hermes 900 Medium Altitude Long Endurance UAV.
- **Facebook** is developing '**stablecoin**', a type of cryptocurrency pegged to the dollar, for the payments feature on its messaging platform **WhatsApp**.
  - The social media giant's first focus will reportedly be India, the world's largest remittances market as per World Bank.
- American multinational technology company **Google** has selected 87 news organizations from 23 countries for funding under its **Global News Initiative (GNI)**.
  - Of these 87 organizations selected, 10 are from India.
- **Coal India** for the first time has started using an indigenously-made, 205-tonne **electric dumper**, a critical piece of equipment in mining.
  - This indigenously-made dumper has been developed by state-owned BEML.

### Exports/Imports

- **India** which is the largest producer and consumer of milk has extended the **ban** on import of milk products from **China** for 4 months.

### Taxation/Trade

- **China** has rejected **India's** proposal to carry out bilateral trade in **local currencies**.

- The **US** and **China** have agreed to halt additional trade tariffs with the goal of reaching an agreement within 90 days.
  - This follows a meeting between US President **Donald Trump** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** in Argentina.
- **Pakistan** is going to impose a 'sin' tax on **cigarettes** and **sugary drinks**.
  - The money collected with this Sin tax will be diverted to the health budget.

## Space

- Elon Musk-led startup **SpaceX** successfully launched 64 satellites aboard its **Falcon 9 rocket** into Earth's orbit, setting a new US record.
  - The rocket carried India's first fully private satellite 'ExseedSat-1', built by Mumbai-based startup Exseed Space for less than Rs.2 crore.
- Russian space agency **Roscosmos** has announced the spaceflight **Soyuz MS-11** carrying 3 crew members, successfully docked at the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
  - The members including female NASA astronaut **Anne McClain** will spend over six months on the Earth-orbiting laboratory.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** successfully launched India's heaviest satellite **GSAT-11** from the European Spaceport in **French Guiana**.
  - France-headquartered Arianespace's **Ariane-5 rocket** successfully lifted off with communication satellite Gsat-11 and South Korean geo satellite **Geo-Kompsat-2A**.
  - Weighing 5854 kg, GSAT-11 will boost broadband speeds (at least 16 Gbps) and provide the capacity to meet growing demands for **internet connectivity**.
- **Russian** Ambassador to India **Nikolay Kudashev** announced that Russia is ready to assist India, particularly in training astronauts, for **Gaganyaan** (India's 1st manned mission to space) planned for 2022.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has announced that its **Voyager 2** spacecraft became the second human-made object to leave the Solar System on November 5.
- US-based rocket propulsion company **Rocket Lab** launched 13 cube satellites on its **Electron rocket** from New Zealand into low Earth orbit for NASA's **ELaNa-19 mission**.
  - The rocket lifted off from the world's only private orbital launch pad on the **Mahia Peninsula**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** successfully launched its 35th communications satellite **GSAT-7A** from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has created the coldest known place in the Universe inside NASA's **Cold Atom Laboratory (CAL)** at the International Space Station.
  - The researchers successfully produced clouds of "ultracold" atoms which can reach a fraction of a degree above absolute zero temperature.
- To offer broadband internet services to users worldwide, **China** has launched its 1st communication satellite.
  - The communication satellite was launched using a Long March 11 carrier rocket which took off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China.
  - It is **CASIC's (China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation)** first satellite launch under China's Hongyun project.
- A Chinese space probe, **Chang'e-4**, has entered the elliptical lunar orbit in preparation to land on the dark side of the Moon for the first time.
  - The probe, carried by a **Long March-3B rocket**, had been launched earlier this month.
- China's **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)** has started offering global service.
  - It is touted as a rival to America's **Global Positioning System (GPS)**.

- BeiDou Navigation Satellite System was the fourth global navigation system after US's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.
- **Pakistan** has become the 1st foreign nation to use the BeiDou system ending its reliance on GPS.

### Science and Technology

- **Microsoft Azure** recently launched the **Virtual Assistant Accelerator (VAA)**, which promises to develop conversational bots to enhance personalized content delivery across multiple devices.
- **German** firm **BigRep** and **NOWlab** produced the world's first fully functioning e-motorbike **NERA** using a 3D printer.
- Government policy think-tank **NITI Aayog** is developing a virtual assistant device like **Amazon's Alexa** for **Vernacular users**.
  - This device would be capable of handling queries in 18 languages.
  - **Vernacular**- the language spoken by a particular group or in a particular area.

### Health/Diseases/Drugs

- Calling for elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** launched a media campaign titled "**Heart Attack Rewind**".
  - It will support FSSAI's global target of eliminating trans-fat in India by 2022, a year ahead of global target by World Health Organization (WHO).
- According to a recent report by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, 1 in every 8 deaths in India in 2017 was attributed to **Air Pollution**.
  - The report also stated that air pollution lowered the average life expectancy by 1.7 years.
- **Gujarat**-based cardiologist **Tejas Patel** conducted a heart surgery from 32 km away in the world's first in-human tele-robotic coronary intervention.
- To promote the medical devices sector, the government is going to set up a **National Medical Devices Promotion Council (NMDPC)** under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- The Union Cabinet has given its in principle approval for strategic sale of Central Government's existing **52.63%** of total paid up equity shareholding in **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)** to **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** along with transfer of management control.
  - Both REC and PFC are Central Public Sector Enterprises are under the Ministry of Power.
- **Russia's Akademik Lomonosov**, the world's first **Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP)** has become operational.
  - It was constructed by **Russian** state nuclear power firm **Rosatom**.

### Environment

- The "**Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**" has been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - This project will be funded under the '**Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH)**' scheme which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme

### Education

- The **Cambridge Dictionary** has declared '**Nomophobia**' as the **People's Word of 2018**.
  - '**Nomophobia**' refers to the fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it.

- **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has directed all universities across country to observe December 7 as **Armed Forces Flag Day** to commemorate supreme sacrifices made by country's soldiers during conflicts.
- The **European Union (EU)** has established **India's 1st Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE)** at Department of European Studies (DES) at **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)** in **New Delhi**.
- **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** has declared '**Justice**' as the 2018 **Word Of The Year**.

#### **Transport/Cars/Scooters**

- '**Train 18**', India's first engineless train breached the **180 kmph speed limit** during a test run.
  - The major trials are over and Train 18 is expected to commence its commercial run from January 2019.
- **Indian Railways** flagged off the new **Buddhist Circuit Tourist Train** from New Delhi's Safdarjung Railway Station.
  - The train will cover destinations associated with Lord Buddha's life, including Bodh Gaya, Varanasi, Lumbini, and will end with a tour of the Taj Mahal.
- **Indian firm India Ports Global Limited** formally took over the operations of Chabahar's **Shaheed Behesti port** in **Iran**, which opens a trade route between India and central Asia bypassing Pakistan.
- **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal** officially declared **Train 18** as India's fastest train.
- **Indian Railways** has decided to grant 40% fare concession to transgender citizens aged 60 or above.
- **To check for faults in trains, Indian Railways** has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered robot named **USTAAD**,
  - **USTAAD: Undergear Surveillance Through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid**.'
- **Indian Railways** is building the country's 1st vertical-lift bridge to connect **Rameswaram** to **mainland India**.
  - This new bridge would replace the existing 104-year-old Pamban bridge.
- The **Indian Railways** has devised a first-of-its-kind policy to allow companies to advertise on trains in exchange for their goods and services for passengers.
  - Items like soaps, dispensers and bedrolls can be offered by companies.

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

- Comedian and actor **Kevin Hart**, who was appointed to host the **91st Academy Awards (Oscars 2019)**, announced that he was stepping down as the host after homophobic comments the comedian had earlier made surfaced on social media.
  - The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on 24th February 2019.
- **Star Screen Awards 2018 Winners:**
  - **Ranveer Singh** - Best Actor for 'Padmaavat'
  - **Alia Bhatt** - Best Actress award for 'Raazi'
  - **Sriram Raghavan** - Best Director award for 'Andha Dhun'
  - '**Stree**' - Best Film Award
  - '**Mulk**' - Best Film [Critics] Award
  - **Shabana Azmi** - Lifetime Achievement Award
- A documentary by Guneet Monga titled '**Period. End of Sentence**', which is based on women in India fighting against stigma of menstruation, has been shortlisted by **Oscars** in their Documentary Short Subject category.
- Assamese film '**Village Rockstars**', India's official entry to Oscars 2019, has failed to make it to the Best Foreign Language Film category's new shortlist for the 91st Academy Awards.

### Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- Telecom Minister **Manoj Sinha** announced that new **norms** allowing the **use of mobile phones for making calls and surfing Internet during flights** in the Indian airspace could come by **January 2019**.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has announced that it is going to complete processes for **5G spectrum auction** by August 2019 and the services will be rolled out by 2020.

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

- **David Tait** has been appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **World Gold Council**.
  - He is going to replace **Aram Shishmanian**, who served as CEO over the last 10 years.
- Retired 1980 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Rajasthan cadre, **Sunil Arora** took charge as the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** of India.
  - He has replaced **OP Rawat** who demitted office.
- State-owned **Bank of Maharashtra** appointed **A S Rajeev** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO).
- 1982-batch IAS officer of Manipur Tripura cadre **Ajay Narayan Jha** has been appointed as new **Finance Secretary**.
  - He is going to replace **Hasmukh Adhia** who retired on November 30.
- Private sector lender **Yes Bank** appointed former IRDAI Chairman **T S Vijayan** as an Independent Director for a period of five years.
- The **Indian** government appointed 1995-batch Indian Economic Service (IES) officer **Lalit Kumar Chandel** as its nominee on private lender **ICICI Bank's board**.
  - He is going to replace **Lok Ranjan**.
- Padma Shri awardee **Piyush Pandey** has been appointed as the **Global Chief Creative Officer** of WPP-owned creative agency **Ogilvy**.
- **South African** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** has appointed Indian-origin **Shamila Batohi** as the country prosecutor.
- **Krishnamurthy Subramanian** has been appointed as the new **Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)**.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** appointed Asian Games gold medalist **Swapna Barman** as Brand Ambassador for its digital app **YONO (You only need one)**.
- **Japan's SoftBank** has hired India-born **Kirthiga Reddy** as the 1st Female partner at its \$100 billion **Vision Fund**.
  - Previously she had worked with Facebook in India and the US for eight years, including as Facebook India MD.
- The **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** has appointed **Jon Ridgeon** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- **US** President Donald Trump nominated **William Barr** to be the **new Attorney General**.
  - He will replace the current acting Attorney General, **Matt Whitaker**.
  - Trump also nominated State Department spokeswoman **Heather Nauert** as the **US Ambassador to the United Nations**.
- **Germany's** ruling **Christian Democrat Union (CDU)** elected **Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer** to replace Angela Merkel as the party leader.
- **Manju Baruah** has become the 1st woman tea garden manager in **Assam's** nearly 200-year-old tea industry when she was promoted as the manager of Apeejay Tea's Hilika Tea Estate in Tinsukia.

- **Axis Bank** has inducted **Amitabh Chaudhry** as additional director on its board, three weeks ahead of his taking over as the new Managing Director and CEO of the private sector lender.
  - The board also approved the reappointment of **Samir Barua**, **Som Mittal** and **Rohit Bhagat** as independent directors.
- **Atul Sahai** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of India's largest general insurance company **New India Assurance**.
  - The post had been lying vacant since July 2018 after former chairman and managing director **G Srinivasan** retired.
- **James Quincey** was elected as the 14th chairman of the **Coca-Cola Company**.
  - He is going to replace **Muhtar Kent**, who is going to retire in April 2019.
- **Shalindra Kumar** has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
  - He is going to replace **Shaleen Kabra**.
- **Walmart India**, the U.S. retail major, appointed **Sameer Aggarwal** as its Chief Business Officer (CBO).
- 1980 batch IAS Officer from Tamil Nadu cadre, **Shaktikanta Das** has assumed charge as the 25th **Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, effective December 12, 2018.
- **Walmart**-owned online retailer **Flipkart's** Chief Financial Officer (CFO) **Sriram Venkataraman** has been given additional charge as the company's **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**.
  - The position remained vacant since previous COO **Nitin Seth** resigned in mid-2017.
- **Facebook Inc's** photo-sharing app **Instagram** promoted its director of product management **Vishal Shah** as the head of product, effective immediately.
- **SWIFT India**, the local unit of SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), has appointed former SBI chief **Arundhati Bhattacharya** as its Chairperson.
  - She will replace **M V Nair** who retires after about 5 years of heading SWIFT India.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi** was elected as Vice-Chair of **United Nations (UN) Panel of Auditors** at its annual meeting held in New York.
- **Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)** chief **K Chandrashekar Rao** took oath as the Chief Minister of **Telangana**.
- **Zoramthanga**, who was unanimously appointed as the leader of MNF legislature party in **Mizoram**, sworn-in as the Chief Minister on December 15.
- **Audi** announced that interim CEO **Bram Schot** will become Chairman of the Board of Management of **AUDI AG**, which includes Ducati, Lamborghini, Italdesign Giugiaro and the Audi brand, effective January 1, 2019.
- **TVS Motor** Chairman **Venu Srinivasan** and former Defence Secretary **Vijay Singh** were appointed Vice Chairmen of seven Tata trusts.
  - **Ratan Tata** is the chairman of all the Tata trusts while **R Venkataraman** is the Managing Trustee.
- The French unit of **Air France-KLM Group** named Anne Rigail as its new CEO, making her the 1st woman to lead the airline.
- Creator of Indian TV show 'CID' **Brijendra Pal Singh** has been appointed as the new President of the **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society** and Chairman of Governing Council.
  - He is going to replace former FTII President **Anupam Kher**, who announced in October that he was stepping down due to his "busy schedule".
- **US President Donald Trump** has appointed budget head **Mick Mulvaney** to serve as the acting **White House Chief of Staff**.
  - He will replace General **John Kelly** who is set to step down by the end of the year.



- **Ranil Wickremesinghe** sworn-in as Sri Lankan **Prime Minister** by President Maithripala Sirisena.
- **Bharat Bhushan Vyas** has been appointed as a member of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
  - UPSC Chairman **Arvind Saxena** administered him the oath of office and secrecy.
- Advocate **Madhavi Divan** has been appointed as the **Additional Solicitor General (ASG)** by the central government to represent it in the Supreme Court.
- CBI's Joint Director **M Nageswara Rao**, who is currently the interim CBI Director, was promoted to the rank of **Additional Director** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Karandeep Anand**, an Indian-origin senior Facebook executive, has been named the **Head of Workplace**, the social media giant's communications tool for businesses.
- The newly elected Congress-led **Chhattisgarh** government replaced Director General of Police (DGP) AN Upadhyay with **D M Awasthi**.
- **Nilanjan Roy** has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of **Infosys**.
- Technology giant **Apple** has promoted **John Giannandrea** to the position of **Senior Vice President of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Strategy**.
- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1984 batch, **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, presently India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, has been appointed as the new **Indian Ambassador to the US**.
  - He is going to replace **Navtej Sarna** who'll retire by the end of the year.
- The Executive Director of Canara Bank, **P V Bharathi** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and CEO of state-run **Corporation Bank**.
  - **Birupaksha Mishra** was appointed as Executive Director in Corporation Bank.
- Indian-American **Rajesh Subramaniam**, an IIT Bombay graduate from Thiruvananthapuram, has been named as the President and Chief Executive Officer of US courier delivery giant **FedEx Express**.
- **Sangeeta Verma**, a former Indian Economic Services (IES) officer has joined the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** as a Member.
  - The CCI is now at its full strength with **Ashok Kumar Gupta** as Chairperson, **Sangeeta Verma**, **Augustine Peter** and **UC Nahta** as members.
- Cash-strapped **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)** appointed retired IAS officer **Bijay Kumar** as its Deputy Managing Director (MD).
  - The company also appointed Chartered Accountant **N Srinivasan** as a non-executive director on its board.
- Justice **Chagari Praveen Kumar** has been appointed as acting Chief Justice of **Andhra Pradesh High Court**.
- Star India's Chairman and CEO **Uday Shankar** has been elected Vice President of **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** for 2018-19.
  - He was recently appointed Star and Disney India's Chairman and President of The Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific.

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

- **Indian** cricketer **Gautam Gambhir** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- **Pakistani** all-rounder and former captain **Mohammad Hafeez** announced his retirement from Test cricket at the end of the ongoing third and final Test match of the series between Pakistan and New Zealand in Abu Dhabi.
- **Flipkart**-owned Myntra's CEO **Ananth Narayanan** has resigned from his role with his position set to be abolished.

- The move comes weeks after Flipkart Group CEO **Binny Bansal** resigned after allegations of "serious personal misconduct".
- The Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Urjit Patel** resigned from his post with immediate effect citing personal reasons.
- **Belgium** Prime Minister **Charles Michel** has resigned from the post.
- Ending a 15-year iconic career, renowned Kabaddi Player, **Anup Kumar** (35) announced his retirement from Kabaddi.
  - The Arjuna awardee led India to a memorable **Kabaddi World Cup** title triumph in the year 2016.
  - He led India to gold medal at the **Asian Games**.
- **US** President Donald Trump has appointed Deputy Defence Secretary **Patrick Shanahan** as the acting Defence Secretary.
  - He will replace **Jim Mattis** on 1st January 2019.

### Arrests/Jailed

- Former Coal Secretary **HC Gupta** was sentenced to 3 years in jail by **Delhi's Patiala House Court** in the coal scam case relating to allotment of coal blocks in West Bengal.
- Congress leader **Sajjan Kumar** has been sentenced to life imprisonment in a **1984 anti-Sikh riots case** by the Delhi High Court.
- An accountability court handed ousted Pakistan Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif** 7 years in jail and a fine of \$2.5 million in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case.
- **Pakistan** announced that it would place the name of former President **Asif Ali Zardari** on the **Exit Control List (ECL)**, thereby barring him from leaving the country, over the ongoing money laundering probe against him.

### Deaths

- The 41st President of the US, George **HW Bush** (94) passed away.
- British World War II veteran and political activist **Harry Leslie Smith** (95) passed away.
- Senior Hindi News Reader of All India Radio, **Ashutosh Jain** (60) passed away.
- 7-time national champion swimmer **Arun Kumar Shaw** (82) passed away.
- Congress Lok Sabha MP from Bihar's Kishanganj constituency, **Asrarul Haque Mohammad** (76) passed away.
- Former Colombian president **Belisario Betancur** (95) passed away.
- Former **Kerala** Minister and senior Congress leader **C N Balakrishnan** passed away.
- 'The Zee Horror Show' co-director **Tulsi Ramsay** (77) of the Ramsay Brothers passed away.
- **Colin Kroll** (35), the Co-founder of **HQ Trivia** and **Vine**, died.
- Famous classical singer **Pandit Arun Bhaduri** (75) passed away.
- Veteran Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and former West Bengal minister **Nirupam Sen** (72) passed away.
- Former Mumbai Mayor and Padma Shri awardee **Nana Chudasama** (85) passed away.
- Indian midwife, Padma Shri awardee **Sulagitti Narasamma** (98), who helped deliver over 15,000 babies free of charge in rural Karnataka has passed away.
- Former Union Minister **Captain Jai Narain Prasad Nishad** (88) passed away.
- Padma Bhushan and Dada Saheb Phalke awardee Bengali filmmaker **Mrinal Sen** (95) passed away.

- The 1st-ever woman to hold an executive position at NASA, **Nancy Grace Roman** (93), passed away.

### Awards/Honours

- India's Olympic gold medal-winning shooter **Abhinav Bindra** became the 1st Indian to be honored with the **Blue Cross** by the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** for his contribution to the sport of shooting.
  - The Blue Cross is the highest laurel for shooters given by the ISSF.
- The city of **Paris** will strip Myanmar leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** of her **Freedom of Paris Award** over her failure to speak out against a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.
  - Earlier, Amnesty International stripped Suu Kyi of human rights award.
- Midfielder **Luka Modrić**, who led Croatia to their first-ever FIFA World Cup final, won this year's **Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) 2018 Award**.
  - The 33-year-old was named 2018 FIFA World Cup's best player and had also won this year's **The Best FIFA Men's Player award**.
  - The Female Ballon d'Or, went to **Ada Hegerberg** of Norway.
- **Delhi** Minister of Food Supplies, Environment and Forest and Elections **Imran Hussain** was honored with the '**Hero to Animals Award**' by the **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)-India**, for banning the Chinese manjha, or the glass-coated kite strings, across Delhi.
- **Kenyan** distance runner **Eliud Kipchoge** and **Colombian** long and triple jumper **Caterine Ibarguen** have been named **Male and Female world athletes of the year 2018**.
  - The pair were honored by the **IAAF (The International Association of Athletics Federations)** at a ceremony in **Monaco**.
- **Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon** was crowned **Miss World 2018** by the outgoing pageant winner, India's Manushi Chhillar.
  - **Nicolene Limsnukan** (Thailand) was named the first runner-up.
  - **Anukreethy Vas**, who represented India at the pageant, managed to reach the Top 30, but couldn't make it to the Top 12 winner's list.
- **Mr India Prathamesh Maulingkar** was named **Mr Supranational 2018** during the third edition of the pageant that took place in **Poland**.
  - **Mr Poland** was declared as the first runner up and **Mr Brazil** as the second runner up.
- Bollywood Actor **Salman Khan** won the **Best Entertainment Host Award** for 'Bigg Boss' at the inaugural **Asian Academy Creative Awards** in **Singapore**.
  - Director **Anurag Kashyap** won the **Best Direction [Fiction] Award** for season one of 'Sacred Games'
- Bollywood Actress **Janhvi Kapoor** is going to be honored with the '**Arets Stjerneskudd**' **Rising Talent of the Year** award by the Norwegian Consulate General.
- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India** has been conferred the **Skoch Award for National Significance** at an event held in **New Delhi**.
  - The award was received by Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable Energy, **Anand Kumar**.
- **TIME magazine** has named '**The Guardians**' (a group of journalists and a news paper) as its '**Person of the Year 2018**'. They are:
  - **Jamal Khashoggi**: Washington Post columnist murdered for his criticism of the Saudi crown prince.
  - **Maria Ressa**: Editor of a Philippine news website renowned for its critical coverage of its president's controversially violent policies.
  - **Wa Lone** and **Kyaw Soe Oo**: Two Reuters journalists who were arrested in Myanmar while investigating a massacre of Rohingya Muslims.

- **The Capital Gazette:** The news paper targeted by a gunman who opened fire into the newsroom, killing four journalists and a sales assistant.
- Bollywood Actors **Anushka Sharma** and **Kartik Aaryan** have been named **India's Hottest Vegetarians of 2018** by the animal rights organization **PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)**.
- 23 year old Indian table tennis player **Manika Batra** became the 1st Indian to win the ITTF's '**Breakthrough Table Tennis Star**' award.
- **Uttar Pradesh** based startup **HelpUsGreen** has been honored by the **United Nations** with prestigious **Climate Action Award** for its works to clean River Ganga by recycling tonnes of floral waste.
- Writer **Amitav Ghosh** has been conferred with the **54th Jnanpith Award**, a literary award presented to an author for "outstanding contribution towards literature".
  - With this, Ghosh has become the 1st Indian writer in English to win the award.
- **Spain's Angela Ponce** is the 1st transgender contestant in **Miss Universe's** 66-year history.
  - She started working as a model at the age of 18 and is also the first transgender woman to win the title of **Miss Universe Spain**.
- Indian-American **Shree Saini** has won **Miss India Worldwide 2018** title at a pageant held in the **Fords City of New Jersey**.
  - **Sakshi Sinha** from Australia and **Anusha Sareen** from the United Kingdom were declared first and second runner-ups in the competition respectively.
- Philippines' **Catriona Gray** has been crowned **Miss Universe 2018**, becoming the 4th woman from the country to win the title.
  - **Tamaryn Green** from South Africa was named the first runner-up while Miss Venezuela **Sthefany Gutiérrez** stood third at the pageant which was held in Bangkok, **Thailand**.
  - India was represented by 22-year-old **Nehal Chudasama**, who couldn't qualify for top 20.
- Bollywood Actress **Sonam Kapoor** has been named **India's Person of the Year for 2018**, by animal rights organization **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)**.
- The Chief Minister of West Bengal **Mamata Banerjee** has been awarded the **Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award** for the year 2017.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the institution of '**Sardar Patel Award for National Integration**', which would be given for "outstanding efforts to further national integration".
- The Union Government has announced to confer the **Prime Minister's Shram Awards 2017** to 40 workers across country.
- **Indian Railways** bagged 17 awards at the '**National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018**' held in **New Delhi**.
  - The awards are given by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power to various institutions for adopting energy efficiency measures.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** Government has conferred the annual **Tansen Samman 2018** upon eminent Sitar Player **Manju Mehta** for her contribution in the field of Hindustani Classical Music.
  - The award was presented by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on inaugural function of Tansen Music Festival in Gwalior.
- **Mohammed Rafi Award** instituted by the NGO Spandan Arts was bestowed upon late music composer **Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar** and playback singer **Usha Timothy**.
- Croatia captain Luka Modrić was named **Balkan Athlete of the Year 2018**.
- Former US President **Barack Obama** has been named the **Most admired man** by Americans for the 11th year in a row, according to an annual poll conducted by Gallup.

- Former **Australia** captain **Ricky Ponting** has been formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- British cave diver **Vernon Unsworth** has been awarded the **Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire**.
- A postal stamp dedicated to **Nabin Chandra Das** (inventor of Rosogolla) was launched on the inaugural day of the 3-day festival, Bagbazar-O-Rosogolla Utsob marking the 150th year of its invention.
- The central government has launched **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskaar** annual awards to recognize the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in the country in the field of disaster management.
- **Divya Patidar Joshi** (Madhya Pradesh) was crowned with the **Mrs. India 2018** title at the Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale held in New Delhi.
- PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp on **Maharaja Suheldev**, a semi-legendary king whose references are found somewhere between the boundary of fiction and history.
- **Manipur** Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** was conferred the '**Champions of Change**' Award by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu for exemplary leadership in bringing about transformation in governance.
  - The other awardees are: **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti** (Union Minister of State for Food Processing)
  - **Sudarshan** (Union Minister for Tribal Affairs)
  - **Nishikant Dubey** (Member of Parliament)

## Sports/Game

- **Norway's Magnus Carlsen** retained his title as **World Chess Champion** beating US opponent Fabiano Caruana in a tie-breaker event at the World Chess Championship held in **London**.
- **Varsha Varman** of Madhya Pradesh, has won the **Women's Trap Gold** at the ongoing **62nd National Championship for Shotgun events** in New Delhi.
- India's **Lakshya Sen** won the **Men's Singles** title at the **Tata Open India International Challenge 2018** by defeating Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand).
- 19-year-old **Ashmita Chaliha** defeated eighth seed Vrushali Gummadi in finals to win the **Women's Singles** title of **Tata Open India International Challenge 2018**.
  - This is her 2nd title (On November 19, She won the **Dubai International Challenge**).
- **Indian Premier League (IPL)** franchise **Delhi Daredevils** has been renamed as **Delhi Capitals** ahead of the **2019 IPL season**.
- **Canada's** now-retired weightlifter **Christine Girard** was given the London 2012 Gold Medal and the Beijing 2008 Bronze Medal after the urine samples of the weightlifters finishing above her at the events tested positive for banned substances.
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has submitted a formal expression of interest to bid for **2032 Olympics**.
- **Ullas Narayan** became the 1st ever Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by clinching **Bronze** medal in the **2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships** held in **Taipei**.
  - Narayan bagged the third position, completing 250 km, behind two Japanese runners Yoshihiko Ishikawa (253 km) and Nobuyuki Takahashi (252 km).
- **Paras Dogra**, a 34-year-old batsman who currently plays for Puducherry, set a new record of having the most double tons in **Ranji Trophy** history after slamming his eighth double ton in the competition against Sikkim.

- Breaking an 82-year-old record, Pakistan leg-spinner **Yasir Shah** became the **fastest bowler** in the world to reach the milestone of scalping 200 Test wickets.
  - Earlier, the record was held by former Australian leg-spinner **Clarrie Grimmett** who had scalped 200 wickets in 36 Tests.
- Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore launched the jersey for the 2nd edition of Khelo India, rechristened as **Khelo India Youth Games 2018**.
  - These games will kick-start from 9th to 20th January 2019 in **Pune**.
- **Virat Kohli** has become the 1st Asian captain to win Tests in **England, Australia** and **South Africa** after leading India to a 31-run victory over Australia in Adelaide.
  - Kohli has now led India to 25 victories in 43 Tests.
  - India became the 1st Asian team to win Tests in the three countries in a calendar year.
- Chandigarh based Golfer **Shubhankar Sharma** became the youngest Indian to clinch the **Asian Tour Order of Merit** with a groundbreaking 2018 season.
- Steel Authority of India's **Hockey Academy (SHA)** beat Army XI Danapur 2-1 to clinch the **115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament**.
  - **Jay Prakash Patel** scored the match-winning goal for the SAIL Hockey Academy (SHA) in the final match played at Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium in New Delhi.
- **PV Sindhu** defeated world number five Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to record her 300th career match victory across categories and clinch the **BWF World Tour Finals women's singles title**.
  - With this, Sindhu becomes 1st Indian to lift Badminton World Federation World Tour Finals title.
- Former **England** cricket team spinner **Ashley Giles** will succeed former captain Andrew Strauss as the **Managing Director** of England's Men's cricket in January 2019.
- **Belgium** defeated Netherlands in the final in Bhubaneswar to clinch the **Men's Hockey World Cup 2018** for the first time.
  - This is the second consecutive time that Netherlands finished second in the tournament.
- Indian Premier League franchise **Mumbai Indians** has appointed former India fast bowler **Zaheer Khan** as its Director of Cricket Operations.
- Indian professional squash player **Joshna Chinappa** has won the **National Squash Women's Singles title** by defeating Urwashi Joshi in the final match.
  - It is Chinappa's 16th National title and with this win, she has equalled the record of Bhuvaneshwari Kumari of winning 16 titles.
- Ex-Indian men's cricket team opener **WV Raman** has been appointed as the coach of the **Indian women's cricket team**.
- The **Australian Open** has joined Wimbledon in introducing a final set tiebreak from next year's competition.
- A 20-year-old Pune woman **Vedangi Kulkarni** has become the **fastest Asian to cycle the globe**.
  - She has completed the 29,000 km distance required to qualify as bicycling across the globe.
- Formula One drivers have chosen Mercedes' British driver **Lewis Hamilton** as the **Best Driver of the 2018 season**.
- **Belgium Football team** came at number one position in the End-of-the-year FIFA global rankings.
- For the first time, **Olympics 2020** will use a judging system developed by Japanese IT firm Fujitsu which uses **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **LIDAR technology** found in autonomous cars.
- India fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** has become the highest wicket-taker in international cricket in the year 2018 (78 wickets), overtaking South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada (77).

- **China** is going to punish Athletic doping as criminal offence.

## Report

- **Australia** has become the 1st country in the world to recognize '**Orphanage Trafficking**' as a form of Modern Slavery.
  - Children from smaller countries are recruited in orphanages in the West for the purpose of profit through foreign aid.
  - As per estimates, 80% of children living in the world's orphanages have at least one living parent.
- 4 Indian-origin women have been named in **Forbes 'America's Top 50 Women In Tech' list**.
  - They are: **Padmasree Warrior** - Former Cisco Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
  - **Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan** - Founder, CEO of identity-management company Drawbridge
  - **Neha Narkhede** - Co-founder, CTO of streaming platform Confluent
  - **Komal Mangtani** - Senior Director at Uber.
- **American** multinational technology company **Microsoft** dethroned Apple as the world's **most valuable company** after its market value was above Apple's at the close of trading at \$851.2 billion, compared to Apple's \$847.4 billion.
- As per the ratings released by **Passport Index**, the **United Arab Emirates** has topped the **Global Passport Power Rank 2018**, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world.
  - Top 3: UAE, Singapore, and Germany.
- Bollywood Actor **Salman Khan** has topped the **Forbes Celebrity 100 list of 2018** with Rs.253.25 crore earnings.
  - **Top 5:** Salman Khan, Viraty Kohli, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
- With the earnings of Rs.112.8 crore, Bollywood Actress **Deepika Padukone** is the **highest-earning woman** celebrity in **India**.
  - She is the 1st woman to break into the top 5 of Forbes' Richest Indian Celebrities List since its inception in 2012.
- A recent study by **Global Carbon Project** revealed that **India** is the **4th highest emitter** of carbon dioxide in the world, accounting for 7% of global emissions in 2017.
  - Top 4: China (27%), US (15%), European Union (10%), and India (7%).
- **4 Indians in Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2018:**
  - **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** (Biocon Chairperson)
  - **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (HCL Tech Vice Chairperson)
  - **Shobhana Bhartia** (HT Media MD)
  - **Priyanka Chopra** (Bollywood Actress)
  - The list has been **topped** by **German** Chancellor **Angela Merkel** for the eighth consecutive year.
- With 14.8 million followers, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has emerged as the most popular global leader on social media platform **Instagram**.
  - Modi is closely followed by **Indonesian** President **Joko Widodo** with 12.2 million followers.
- The **World Bank** has announced that **India** will retain its position as the world's **top recipient of remittances** this year with **\$80 billion**.
  - India is followed by **China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt**.
- **4 Indian Public Sector** Undertakings have been placed in **World's top 100 arms producers** according to the recently released rankings by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**. They are:
  - Indian Ordnance Factories (37th)

- Hindustan Aeronautics (38th)
- Bharat Electronics (64th)
- Bharat Dynamics (94th)
- For the fifth consecutive year in a row, Numeric combination '**123456**' has been ranked as the **worst password** in 'Top 100 Worst Passwords of 2018' by US-based Company SplashData which analyzed over 50 million leaked passwords.
  - The **second** spot was taken by '**password**' itself while '**donald**' made its debut at the **23rd spot**.
- With earnings of **\$22.5 million**, American model and television personality **Kendall Jenner** has been named the highest-paid model of 2018 by Forbes.
  - She was followed by **Karlie Kloss**, who has **\$13 million** in earnings and **Chrissy Teigen** who earned **\$11.5 million**.
- **India** has been ranked at 108th in the recently released **Gender Gap Index 2018** by World Economic Forum.
  - **Top 5:** Iceland (for the 10th consecutive year), Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Nicaragua.
- **Gujarat** has emerged as the best performing state in the **Startup Ranking 2018** which was unveiled by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in **New Delhi**.
  - **Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Rajasthan**, with a score of more than 85 percentile, have been adjudged the top performers.
  - **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana** have been recognized as Leaders.
- **India's stock market** has overtaken **Germany's** to become the 7th-largest **Stock Market** the world with a market capitalization of **\$2.08 trillion**.
  - At \$27.07 trillion, **United States** is world's biggest stock market, followed by **China** (\$5.46 trillion) and **Japan** (\$5.41 trillion).
- According to a recent data presented in Indian Parliament, Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** penalized the highest number of employees for their involvement in **frauds** between 2015 and 2017.
  - ICICI was followed by **State Bank of India** (1,287) and **Punjab National Bank** (1,127).
- **Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** and **NTPC** emerged as the Top 3 most profitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in 2017-18.
  - **BSNL, Air India and MTNL** incurred the highest losses for the second consecutive year.
- **HDFC Group** has overtaken Tata Group to become India's largest business house in terms of market value.

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

- The **Congress Party** celebrated its 134th Foundation Day on December 28.
- Congress leader and nine-time Lok Sabha MP **Kamal Nath** take oath as the Chief Minister of **Madhya Pradesh** on December 17 at the Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal.
- Senior Congress leader **Ashok Gehlot** will be sworn in as the Chief Minister of **Rajasthan**.
  - State Congress President **Sachin Pilot** has been selected as the state's **Deputy Chief Minister**.
- **Bhupesh Baghel** took oath as Chief Minister of **Chhattisgarh** at Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in Raipur.

#### **General - National**

- **India** will Chair **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** from 1st January 2018.
  - It was handed Chairmanship by the European Union during KPCS Plenary 2018, which was held in **Brussels, Belgium**.



- The **Indian government** made registration process compulsory for **Drones**.
  - Drones weighing above 250 grams need to be registered on DGCA's website to get a Unique Identification Number (UIN).
- The Cabinet also approved launching of **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**.
  - **Objective:** To addresses ever increasing technological requirements of the society.
- To encourage '**Make in India**' and promote local goods and services, the government has mandated preference to be given to **domestically-manufactured vehicles** with minimum 65% local content in public procurement of automobiles.
- As per a new proposal by **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)**, Patent applications filed by **female innovators** will get examined faster.
  - This move would help in promoting women entrepreneurship in the country.
- The **Kaiga Atomic Power Station** (Karnataka) has created a new world record, with one of its units functioning continuously without any interruption for more than **940 days**.
  - The previous world record was held by Unit 2 of Heysham of the United Kingdom.
- The **NITI Aayog** has unveiled a strategy document titled the "**Strategy for New India@75**" suggesting various reforms to make India a 4-trillion dollar economy by 2022-23.

#### **General - International**

- The **UK government** has confirmed an amendment to a **new weapons bill** going through the Parliament to ensure that it does not impact the right of the **British Sikh community** to possess and supply **kirpans**, or religious swords.
- **Qatar** is going to withdraw from the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** in January after nearly 60 years.
  - Qatar is one of OPEC's smallest producers but the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter.
- **Australia** is going to pass legislation giving police and intelligence agencies access to **encrypted messages** on social networking platforms such as WhatsApp.
  - Technology giants such as Facebook and Google oppose it.
- The citizens of **Cuba** will be able to fully access the **internet** on their **mobile phones** for the first time from on December 6, after the government announced the launch of 3G service.
- **Ukraine** approved a bill to terminate the **Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership** with **Russia**.
- United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres** launched the **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**, a new framework to combat international terrorism by coordinating efforts across peace and security and humanitarian sectors, among others.
  - The framework, known as the '**Global Compact**', is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 UN entities, Interpol and the World Customs Organization.
- Western European country **Luxembourg** is set to become the 1st country in the world to make all its **public transport free**.
- A **UK** court has ruled that 62-year-old fugitive liquor baron **Vijay Mallya** will be extradited to **India** in ₹9,000 crore loan default case.
- **Myanmar** is going to provide visa-on-arrival to **Indian tourists** entering the country through the international airports of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.
- **Japan** has picked the kanji character for "**Disaster**" as its "**defining symbol**" for the year 2018, following a series of natural disasters that struck the country this year.

- The **US Senate** has voted to end US military support for the Saudi-led coalition in **Yemen's civil war**.
  - The **Yemeni government** and **Houthi rebels**, the two warring parties in Yemen's civil war, have agreed to a ceasefire for the port city of Hodeidah.
  - It is the 1st time either chamber of Congress has backed a resolution to withdraw US forces from a military engagement under the War Powers Act.
- Reversing decades of Middle East policy, the **Australian** government formally recognized **West Jerusalem** as **Israel's** capital.
- The **German** Parliament approved '**Diverse**' as a 3rd gender option on official records.
- The **Irish** Parliament passed a bill to legalize **abortions** following a landmark referendum earlier this year.
- To pay homage to Indian soldiers who were martyred in the 1971 war against Pakistan, the **Bangladesh** government has announced that it is going to build a war memorial in **Brahmanbaria**, Chittagong.
- With an aim to end the Afghan war, the **Pakistan** government has organized **peace talks** between the **United States** and **Afghan Taliban**.
  - Representatives from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the UAE are also attending the three-day talks in **Abu Dhabi**.
- **Nevada** became the 1st state in the US with an overall **female majority** in its legislature.
  - Women will hold 32 of the 63 seats in the state's legislature, with over 22 women in the state Assembly and nine women in the state Senate.
- **Pakistan** has rejected **Punjab's** request to make **Kartarpur** (home to Guru Nanak Dev's final resting place) a part of India in a land swap deal.
  - Punjab had planned to offer over 10,000 acres in the Dera Baba Nanak area in exchange for the land.
- **Danish** lawmakers have approved a government-backed proposal to make citizenship applicants **shake hands** with the official conducting the **naturalization ceremony**.
- The **UAE** is going to deposit \$3 billion in **Pakistan's central bank** to support its financial and monetary policy.
  - The UAE's support comes amid the current financial crisis in Pakistan.
- The government of **Burundi** has declared **Gitega** as the country's new political capital.
  - **Bujumbura**, the previous capital of Burundi, will serve as the **economic capital** of the country.
- The **North and South Korea** held a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony with an aim to modernize and reconnect severed cross-border rail and road links.
- **Thailand** has become the 1st Southeast Asian nation to legalize the use of **marijuana for medical use** and research.
- In a bid to tackle animal exploitation and abuse, the **UK** has **banned pet shops** from selling dogs and cats under six months old.
- **Israel's** Parliament, the **Knesset**, voted 102-2 to dissolve the government, triggering early general elections for April 9, 2019.
  - Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** announced earlier this week his decision to disband his coalition.
- **Russia** successfully tested the new hypersonic missile system **Avangard**, which is capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads.
- **Russia** has finished building a 60-kilometre security fence separating annexed **Crimea** from mainland **Ukraine**.

- **German** authorities gave their approval to an \$8 billion rail and road tunnel linking **Denmark** and **Germany**.
- **Saudi Arabia** is going to lift the travel ban on **Lebanon** after a government is formed in Lebanon.

## Books and Authors

### Book's Name

### Author's Name

- A book titled '**Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double afat**' detailing how Modi government's policies have led to a drop in farmers' income and caused rural distress across the country was launched in New Delhi.
  - **Author of the Book:** Yogendra Yadav (President of Swaraj India)
- Admiral **Sunil Lanba**, Chief of the Naval Staff, released a book titled '**Blue Waters Ahoy!**' – chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10.
  - The book has been authored by **Vice Admiral Anup Singh**, who retired as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command in 2011.
- To promote and disseminate selected speeches of the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Directorate of Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting launched 2 books "**The Republican Ethic**" and "**Loktantra Ke Swar**" (Selected Speeches of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India) at Vigyan Bhawan, **New Delhi**.
  - These books have been launched by **Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu** (Vice President of India) in the presence of **Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** (Minister of State (I/C) Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports).
  - Minister of External Affairs, **Sushma Swaraj**, was the Guest of Honor on the occasion.
- A book titled "**Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy**" was recently launched.
  - This book has been authored by **Arvind Subramanian** (Former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India).

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## TO THE POINTS: DECEMBER-2018

- **Uttarakhand** has been adjudged the best state at the 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi.
- The bilateral naval exercise 'Konkan 18' has started between the navies of India and the **UK** at the Goa coast.
- The air force units of India and the **United States** are scheduled to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in West Bengal.
- The South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference was held in **Kathmandu**.
- **Anil Manibhai Naik** has been appointed as the new chairman of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Iravatham Mahadevan, the renowned epigraphist has passed away recently, He was from **Tamil Nadu**.
- The first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference 2018 was held in **Nairobi**.
- **Slovenia** became the first North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Country with the female Army Chief after appointment of Major General Alenka Ermenc to the post of Head of its Army.
- Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave in **New Delhi**.
- India's **Manav Thakkar** settled for a bronze medal in the U-21 Men's singles category in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Belgosstrakh Belarus Open held in Minsk, Belarus.

- The **United States** and the United Kingdom's delegations have wrapped up discussions on a bilateral aviation agreement that would take effect after Brexit.
- **Jharkhand** has announced that the government will provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers to boost agriculture growth.
- The air forces of the **United States** and India are scheduled to participate in a 12-day long joint exercise Cope India 2019 at two air force stations in West Bengal.
- **Abhinav Bindra** has become the first Indian to win the ISSF's highest shooting honor 'Blue Cross'.
- India's first owl festival was held at Pingori village in Purandar taluka of **Pune**.
- **Vashkar Bhattacharjee**, a Bangladeshi disabilities rights advocate, has been chosen for the UNESCO / Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- **United Kingdom** is the partner country at the International CII Agro Tech 2018.
- **Korean wrestling** has been approved under UNESCO's world's most treasured cultural practices.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 19th Hornbill Festival in **Nagaland**.
- **Australia** has become the first country in the world to recognize 'orphanage trafficking' as a form of modern slavery.
- World number one Norwegian **Magnus Carlsen** has retained his World Chess Championship title.
- The World Gold Council announced the appointment of **David Tait** as the incoming Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- The UN Climate Summit (COP24) was held in **Katowice, Poland**.
- The United States has signed trade pact with **Canada and Mexico** to replace the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The Nobel peace laureate & Myanmar leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** is the first leader to lose Freedom of Paris award.
- **Raninder Singh** has become the first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
- **South African** President Cyril Ramaphosa will be Chief Guest at the Republic Day of India 2019.
- In Argentina, the 2nd Russia-India-China (RIC) Trilateral Summit was held in **Buenos Aires** after a gap of 12 years.
- **Nomophobia**, the word has been declared People's Word of 2018 by Cambridge Dictionary.
- In February 2019, India's first international indigenous film festival will take place in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The **UK** government has amended its weapons bill to ensure right to possession of kirpans by Sikhs.
- The **All India Football Federation** (AIFF) will launch a school-level project by March-April 2019 in association with the game's world governing body FIFA.
- **Bank of Maharashtra** appoints A.S. Rajeev as MD and CEO.
- Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018 held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.
- NASA is set to launch VISIONS-2 rocket to get a closer look at the how the earth's atmosphere is leaking into space.
- The **Nagaland** government has recently signed pact with Estonian academy to enlighten the state people on the e-governance models prevailing in the world.

- **LinkSure Network**, the Chinese firm which unveils plans to provide free worldwide WiFi with 272 satellites by 2026.
- **Pradip Batra** was awarded the special ASEAN - India Achievement award for the businessman of year, at the 3rd ASEAN India Business Summit.
- The **Telangana** government and British Council have signed a MoU to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation and support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of Telangana.
- **Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey** took over as the Revenue Secretary in the Finance Ministry.
- Yes Bank appointed **T.S Vijayan** as an independent director on the board of the private sector bank with immediate effect.
- **United Arab Emirates** has topped the Global Passport Power Rank 2018, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world.
- **Imran Hussain**, the Delhi Environment minister, has been awarded the 'Hero to Animals' award by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- The **Bilaspur Police** in Chhattisgarh now holds the Guinness World Records for its 'Rakhi with Khakhi' as part of which girls and women tied rakhis to 50,033 police officials rakhis over a span of ten hours and then uploaded selfies with hashtags #rakhiwithkhaki and #HappyRakshaBandhan.
- The **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** announced the appointment of Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO.
- **Soyuz rocket** carrying Russian, American and Canadian astronauts took off from Kazakhstan and reached orbit on 3rd December in the first manned mission.
- **European Central Bank** has launched TIPS an Instant Payment System.
- **Delhi Capitals** is the new name of Delhi Daredevils.
- The first bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 between Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) began at Air Force Station **Agra**.
- The 80th Session of the three-day Policy Commission of the World Customs Organization (WCO) was held in **Mumbai**.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that **60 thousand crore** rupees would be spent on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, MGNREGA this year.
- India and the **UAE** signed two agreements, including one on currency swap.
- **Panama** has become the first Latin American country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Maharashtra** has launched a unique initiative called "SMART" for agriculture.
- Bihar government has fixed **100 rupees** as the charge for people to get their property registered after division of family's immovable assets.
- Jharkhand Skill Development Mission Society and **FICCI** are jointly organizing a day long Industry Engagement Programme in New Delhi.
- **Indian Overseas Bank** has decided to issue more than 18 crore shares to its staff under the employee stock purchase scheme.
- The government has appointed **Lalit Kumar Chandel**, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, as its nominee-director on the board of ICICI Bank
- Prominent Indian-origin lawyer **Shamila Batohi** has been appointed to head South Africa's prosecuting authority.
- Prominent Kashmiri short-story writer and eminent broadcaster **Mushtaq Ahmad Tantray** bagged this year's Sahitya Academy Award for his collection of short stories "AAKH".

- Noted agriculturalist Jayaraman who passed away recently, he belonged to **Tamil Nadu**.
- The Glasgow-based British artist **Charlotte Prodger** has won the Turner Prize 2018 for her film work examining landscapes and gender identity.
- India's longest rail-road bridge 'Bogibeel Bridge' has built over **Brahmaputra** River.
- India Water Impact Summit (IWIS-2018) was held in **New Delhi**.
- **Ministry of Railways'** National Rail Museum (NRM) has signed pact with Madame Tussauds Wax Museum (MTWM) to foster tourism in Delhi NCR.
- **GSAT-11** is the India's heaviest communication satellite i.e. recently launched successfully from French Guiana.
- Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman has become the brand ambassador for digital banking platform 'YONO'. The app is offered by **SBI**.
- **Anup Singh** is the author of the book 'Blue Waters Ahoy!'.
- Nel Jayaraman, who passed away recently, was the noted personality of **Agriculture**.
- Kandhamal Haldi, which is in news for its GI tag, is produce in **Odisha**.
- **Economic Development Board** signed MoU with the Maharashtra Government to promote Fintech.
- **Mushtaq Ahmad Tantray**, short story writer has bagged 2018 Sahitya Academy Award for the Kashmiri language.
- **Krishnamurthy Subramanian** has been appointed the new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
- The **Delhi** government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' for senior citizens.
- PRASAD Scheme, which is in news recently, was launched on behalf of **Ministry of Tourism**.
- Government think tank Niti Aayog has partnered with Perlin – a **Singapore**-based AI start up – to launch the 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon' for developing solutions aimed at creating social and economic impact in the country.
- According to the study by the Global Carbon Project, India is the **fourth** highest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) in the world, accounting for 7% of global emissions in 2017.
- 2018 Startup India Venture Capital Summit was held in **Goa**.
- **Maharashtra** government has launched SMART initiative for agribusiness & rural transformation.
- **Preeti Saran** has been elected to an Asia Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).
- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance.
- **Luxembourg** is set become the world's first country to make all its public transport free by 2019.
- **Japanese** government has recently enacted controversial law to accept foreign blue-collar workers.
- Kenyan distance runner **Eliud Kipchoge**, and Colombian long & triple jumper **Caterine Ibarguen** have been named male and female world athletes of the year at the IAAF Athletics Awards 2018.
- **Rattan Lal** has won the 'Glinka World Soil Prize 2018'.
- Dr. Rajanish Giri has been awarded the DBT Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018. Dr. Giri is selected for his proposed innovative idea on Zika virus Capsid Folding and inhibitor discovery.
- **Shubhankar Sharma** has become the youngest Indian golfer to win Asian Tour Order Of Merit.

- Military Literature Festival (MLF) 2018 was held in **Chandigarh**.
- **IIT Kharagpur** has won the DSCI Excellence Award 2018 for cyber security education by Data Security Council of India (DSCI).
- **Prathamesh Maulingkar** has won the trophy of Mister Supranational 2018.
- **Kerala** has become the India's first state to have four international airports.
- Ajay Rohera, who has created world record for highest first-class debut score in cricket history, is from **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The Vice President of India **Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu** released Compilation of Selected speeches of the President, Ram Nath Kovind titled, "The Republican Ethic" in English and "Loktantra ke Swar" in Hindi at a function in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- **NABARD** signed USD 100 mn agreement with UNFCC approved Green Climate Fund to boost USD 250 mn worth solar power project.
- **India** will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances in 2018.
- 10th Edition of the bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy held in **Visakhapatnam**.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had approved a \$400 million loan for a Water Sanitation Project in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Urjit Patel** has stepped down from the post of Reserve Bank of India.
- The first International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' was held at Indian School of Business (ISB) in **Mohali, Punjab**.
- India Successfully Test-Fires Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-5 from **Abdul Kalam Island** under Chandipur Interim Test Range.
- Hyderabad-based conservationist Imran Siddiqui has been honoured with this year's Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award.
- Jagdish Thakkar who passed away in New Delhi was a famous **Journalist**.
- 2019 Khelo India Youth Games will be held in **Pune**.
- **James Quincey** was elected as the 14th chairman of the Coca-Cola Company.
- **Tamil Nadu** government launches 24-hour helpline 181 for women.
- Goa's **Prathamesh Maulingkar** has created history by becoming the first Asian/Indian to win Mister Supranational title in a competition held at Krynica-Zdroj, Poland.
- **Indian Air Force** conducted an exercise "Cross Bow 18".
- **Sameer Aggarwal** is appointed as the Chief Business Officer of Walmart India.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has planned to introduce a new software to curb cheating in board exams.
- **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** launched a portal 'ENSURE'- National Livestock Mission-EDEG developed by NABARD and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.
- A conference on the theme 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India – New Paradigm for Stressed Assets' was held at the Indian Consulate in **New York**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs.1 crore on **Indian Bank** for violating cybersecurity norms.

- According to the Yahoo Year in Review list, **Narendra Modi** has retained the position of top newsmaker in India in the year 2018.
- **Kirthiga Reddy** has joined SoftBank as its first venture partner at its \$100 billion Vision Fund.
- Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, launched a National Challenge for Youths, "Ideate for India – Creative Solutions using Technology", in **New Delhi**.
- **Israel** becomes a permanent member of Financial Action Task Force.
- **Sascha Bajin** is the first-ever recipient of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award.
- **Mary Kom** has been honored with the title "Meethoileima" by the Manipur Government.
- World's largest Arabic audio library launched in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- Scientists from **China** developed a "rewritable" paper.
- **Australia** became the world's leading exporter of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for the first time.
- India's first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence was opened at Manipal Academy of Higher Education in **New Delhi**.
- The Twitter handles – @CyberDost – is aimed at enhancing people's basic knowledge about cyber crimes and precautions to be taken for prevention.
- Jamal Khashoggi, who has been named Time magazine's 2018 "Person of the Year", is from **Saudi Arabia**.
- **Rajiv Mehrishi** has been appointed as Vice-Chair of UN Panel of Auditors for 2019.
- **Arundhati Bhattacharya** has been appointed as new SWIFT India Chairman.
- **Kanimozhi** has been selected for the Best Woman Parliamentarian (Rajya Sabha) for 2018.
- **India** signed the 30-member Trans Regional Maritime Network pact in Rome, Italy.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to establish an Umbrella University named after former PM late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Japan** selected the Chinese character for 'disaster' as its defining symbol for 2018.
- Indian Navy launched its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) system in **Mumbai**.
- **Maharashtra** State was recently imposed with a penalty of Rs.1 lakh for not coming up with a new building for the district and sessions court.
- Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration for year 2018 was held in **Marrakech, Morocco**.
- **Surjit Bhalla** resigned from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** developed a Light Utility Helicopter which achieves important milestone of flying at 6 km altitude in Bengaluru.
- Congress party has chosen MP statue unit president Kamal Nath as the chief minister of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Karnataka's **Kaiga Power Station-1** has created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation for 941 days.
- **Route Mobile Limited** (Route Mobile) and a member of Oracle Partner Network (OPN) announced the collaboration with Oracle Marketing Cloud to empower organizations to take a smarter approach to customer experience management.



- An international storytelling festival “BhuFesto” was organized in **Bhubaneswar**.
- **Manika Batra** was awarded the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Breakthrough Star Award 2018.
- **Anushka Sharma** conferred with the title named India's Hottest Vegetarians by PETA.
- The **Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy, and Heat Transport** (InSight) mission is a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars.
- Indian Navy buy for Rs.1000 crore **Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle** (DSRV) from U.K.- based James Fisher Defence (JFD).
- **Sweden** tops in the ranking of Climate Change Performance Index.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its supplement report “Asian Development Outlook (2018)” retained India's FY19 growth forecast at **7.3%** and 7.6% in FY20.
- Finance ministry decided to increase its contribution to NPS for the central government employees to **14 percent**.
- Russia sends 2 nuclear-capable bombers to **Venezuela**.
- Brahm Dutt was appointed as an Interim Chairman of **Yes Bank**.
- **Arun Jaitley** will be the head of the group constituted by the government to vet the recommendations of a high-level panel on stressed power projects.
- **Dharmendra Singh Gangwar** was inaugurated Uncrowned Glory - An exhibition of Ethnic Ornaments of Himachal Pradesh inaugurated in New Delhi.
- **India** has recently signed an ascension pact to the 30- member Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN).
- **Russia** has emerged as the World's No.2 arms producer, as per latest Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPTI) report.
- **Help Us Green**, Indian start up has been honored by UN Climate Action Award at the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24).
- The EU Parliament has recently approved the world's largest free trade deal with **Japan**.
- **Brijendra Pal Singh** has been appointed as the new president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- As per the study of Royal Society Open Science, **Dracula ant** is the fastest animal on earth.
- World's first "floating" nuclear power plant was opened in **Russia**.
- 39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit was held in **Riyadh**.
- Every year India celebrates Vijay Diwas for its victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war on **16th December**.
- The Union Government has notified certain rules that allowing phone calls and internet on flights and ship voyage within India's territory. The rules regarding this will be called as **Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018**.
- **Operation Oliva**, the exercise was launched by Coast Guard along the serene sea waters of Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Odisha to protect the endangered sea turtles.
- The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) terminated the contract of **Larsen & Toubro and Scmi Engineering** (LTSE) for the Mumbai Monorail.
- Haj agreement 2019 was signed between India and Saudi Arabia by Union Minister for Minority Affairs. The present Union Minister for Minority Affairs is **Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**.

- Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants (IHAMP) that is going to come up in Jammu and Kashmir. Its estimated cost is **Rs.100 cr.**
- **Bhupesh Baghel** has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh in the recent elections 2018.
- India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was inaugurated in **Hyderabad.**
- OBOPAY, the global financial technology company, announced the launch of a new generation pre-payment instrument called- OBOPAY Card in partnership with **Federal Bank.**
- According to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Global debt reached **222%** of the GDP in 2017.
- **Amazon** partnered with the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) to encourage MSMEs to sell products online through e-commerce.
- Ranil Wickremesinghe has once again become the Prime Minister of **Sri Lanka.**
- **Uday Shankar** elected to lead the India and Asia Pacific business of The Walt Disney Company once it completes the acquisition of 21st Century Fox' assets.
- The government has constituted a seven-member panel to select managing directors of public sector insurance companies. The panel would be headed by **B P Sharma.**
- The Union Ministry of Agriculture had selected **Jharkhand** for "Krishi Karman" award in the rice category.
- **Catriona Gray** crowned Miss Universe 2018.
- **Amitav Ghosh** has won the Jnanpith Award 2018.
- **PV Sindhu** became the first Indian to win the BWF World Tour Finals.
- **Belgium** wins Hockey World Cup 2018 Title.
- **Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep** have been named as the 2018 International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions by the governing body of global tennis.
- The International Migrants Day observed on 18th December across the world. Theme - **Migration with Dignity.**
- **Chang e-4C**, the first ever space mission was recently launched by China to land a robotic craft on the far side of the Moon.
- Merriam-Webster has declared **Justice** as the 2018 Word Of The Year.
- The Union government has decided to give **\$ 1.4 billion** USD financial assistance to the island nation of Maldives.
- **NPS - National Pension System.**
- The Union government has appointed **Madhavi Goradia Divan** as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) in the government of India.
- **Dr. Rajanish Giri** has been awarded the DBT Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018.
- Catriona Elisa Gray was crowned as the Miss Universe 2018. She belongs to **Philippines.**
- **Prof. Rattan Lal** won the 'Glinka World Soil Prize 2018'.
- Indra Navy is a bilateral naval exercise, between India and **Russia.**
- **Joshna Chinappa** wins National Squash Women's Singles Title.

- The 2023 Cricket World Cup is scheduled to be held in **India**.
- The Union Cabinet approved setting up of two new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). These two AIIMS is goin to come up in **Madurai, Tamil Nadu and Bibinagar, Telangana**.
- The Central Hall of Parliament will soon have a portrait of former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- **Zambia** has joined as a member of International Solar Alliance recently.
- United Arab Emriates President declares 2019 as Year of Tolerance. **H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan** is the president of UAE.
- **Tamil Nadu** government has distributed 200 NavIC- powered satellite-enabled communication devices developed by ISRO to 80 fishing boat groups.
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI), which is also India's largest cancer hospital, opened for public service is going to come up in **Haryana**.
- Cabinet approves construction of New 4 - Lane Bridge across **Ganga River** on NH-19 at Patna in the State of Bihar on EPC Mode.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** becomes first State in India To Bring Law Against Sextortion.
- Global telecom, British Telecommunications giant, said it plans to set up a research centre in **Bangalore**.
- Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Capital First have announced completion of their merger, creating a combined loan asset book of Rs.1.03 lakh crore for the merged entity with **IDFC Bank**.
- **Pranab Kumar Das** has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes.
- **Sonam Kapoor** has been named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018.
- India ranked **108th** in WEF's Gender Gap Index.
- **Singer** Arun Bhaduri passed away at the age of 75.
- International Human Solidarity Day is annually held on **December 20th**.
- The Department of Post has issued a Commemorative Postage Stamp on **Rajkumar Shukla** in New Delhi.
- The **Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences** (RGUHS) announced that it has decided to procure anti-plagiarism software.
- **Russia** has confirmed that the United States of America has decided to cancel the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty signed between Russian and the USA in 1987.
- Nasscom partners with **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** for reskilling students and employees in the Information Technology sector and IT-enabled Services (ITeS).
- **Haryana** Government has launched a mobile app named as 'Shiksha Setu' with an aim to help the students of the state.
- Jaipur Wax Museum, situated at Nahargarh Fort, marked its second anniversary by unveiling a wax statue of cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**.
- Belgium's Prime Minister **Charles Michel** announced his resignation from the post.
- **Ms. Rebeca Gyumi, Ms. Asma Jahangir, and Ms. Joënia Wapichana** has been awarded the UN Human Rights Prize for 2018.

- Mandeep Kaur Sandhu won Mrs.India Worldwide 2018. She hails from **Haryana**.
- **Shaan and Arijit Singh** was given the "Sangeet Mahasamman" award by the West Bengal government at the inaugural session of the Bengal music and folk culture festival held in Kolkata.
- The ninth meeting of the India-Republic of Korea (ROK/South Korea) Joint Commission will be held in **New Delhi**.
- God of Sin: the Cult, the Clout and Downfall of Asaram Bapu "was authored by **Ushinor Majumdar**"
- A mobile application "**Chuppi Tod**" (break your silence) was launched in Patna to fight the rampant social evil of child marriage and sexual harassment.
- The International Tennis Federation announced **Novak Djokovic** as the 2018 ITF World Champion.
- According to an official announcement by Finance Minister, the government of India is going to infuse **Rs.83,000 crore** in public sector banks in the next few months of the current fiscal.
- RBI limits total outstanding ECBs to **6.5%** of Based on the gross domestic product (GDP) figures at March-end 2018.
- Infosys announced that its Board of Directors has appointed **Nilanjan Roy** as the chief financial officer (CFO) of the company.
- **WV Raman**, former Indian cricketer has been appointed as the coach of the Indian women's team.
- Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed new Indian Ambassador to US. He will succeed **Navtej Sarna**.
- **Gujarat** has been awarded as the best performer in Start-up Ranking 2018 by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the 'Asiatic Lion Conservation Project' with an aim to protect and conserve the population of **Asiatic Lion**.
- Karnataka State Cabinet approved a grant of Rs.8,037.87 crore for the development works in the city under **Nava Bengaluru Scheme**.
- 'Strategy for New India @75', the national Strategy for New India released by NITI Aayog, aims to complete Bharat Net programme in **2019** and to complete all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats digitally.
- India celebrates National Mathematics Day on December 22 to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**.
- **Odisha** government announced Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.
- Under **Mukhya Mantri Krishi Yojana** Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced a Rs. 2250-crore to help 22.76 lakh medium and marginal farmers of the state double their income by 2022.
- Recently, UAE government announced that it will deposit **\$ 3 billion** USD in the State Bank of Pakistan to support the country's financial and monetary policy.
- In a recent GST Council meet held on 22 of December Council cut rates of **33** items from 18 per cent to 12 per cent and 5 per cent.
- **NITI Aayog** is going to release SDG India Index - Baseline Report 2018.
- **Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** were the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
- Indian aviation sector maintained the highest safety audit rating in 2018 from global auditors, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), **Montreal, Canada** and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

- The civil aviation ministry along with the Airport Authority of India launched an official mobile app named '**GAS 2019**,' for the global aviation summit to be held in Mumbai next month.
- Telecom regulator TRAI has imposed penalty of **Rs.56 lakh** rupees on telecom operators in the first half of this year for failing to meet call drop.
- Eminent vocalist Dipali Borthakur passed away. She belongs to **Assam**.
- Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu spots in **3rd** position in the recently announced BWF rankings.
- Farmer's Day is celebrated across the nation December 23 every year with the focus on the upliftment of the status of the farmer. The day is celebrated in the honor of the former Prime Minister of India **Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
- Every Year **24th December** is observed as National Consumer Day.
- The President of India inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Genetic Blood Disorders at the **Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences** in Karimnagar, Telangana.
- **Gitega** is officially declared as the new Political Capital of Burundi.
- China launched its first satellite as part of the **Hongyun Project**, a low-orbit broadband communication satellite system.
- The **Manipur** Assembly has passed a bill which recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence.
- **BVP Rao** has been elected as Archery Association of India president.
- **Belgium** spotted World No. 1 in the recently released FIFA rankings 2018.
- Union Minister **Suresh Prabhu** confers Skoch Golden Jubilee Challenger Award at the 55<sup>th</sup> Skoch Summit in New Delhi.
- "Hand In Hand" is the joint military exercise between India and **China**.
- Defense minister launched the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC). IMAC located in **Gurugram**.
- Vedangi cycles around the globe in 159 days. She hails from **Pune**.
- Tulsi Giri passed away. He was the former PM of **Nepal**.
- Ross Island in Andaman and Nicobar is going to be renamed as **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island**.
- **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)**, Indian accreditation body secures recognition in Asia- Pacific Region.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to constitute a board comprising members from the business community and government officials to discuss issues related to GST.
- The 5th Rajasthan International Film Festival organized by RIFF Film Club is going to be held in **Jaipur**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a Rs.100 commemorative coin. The coin features with **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** portrait.
- **Punjab National Bank** has launched a special card for Kumbh Mela 2019.
- According to a Kotak Securities report, **Corporation Bank and Bank of India** to resume lending from FY20 on pick-up in liquidity.
- President Donald Trump announced Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will leave his post on January 1, He stated that deputy Pentagon chief **Patrick Shanahan** will take over as acting secretary to cover the accelerated departure.

- **INHS Sandhani**, the naval hospital ship, that has been commissioned at Naval station Karanja in the Raigad district of Maharashtra recently.
- Famous politician Nirupam Sen passes away. He belongs to **Communist Party of India (Marxist)**.
- Former Union Minister Jai Narain Prasad Nishad passes away. He was a former MP from **Bihar**.
- **Vedangi Kulkarni** has become the fastest Asian to cycle the globe.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Lalitgiri Archaeological Museum in **Odisha**.
- **J&K Bank** was conferred with SKOCH Award in 'Banking and Finance (B&F) Silver Category'.
- Power ministry mandates use of smart prepaid meters from April 2019. The government is procuring smart and prepaid meters from **Energy Efficiency Services Limited**.
- The government is considering an additional soft loan of **Rs.7400 crore** to sugar mills for creating ethanol capacity.
- The Centre has earmarked **Rs.300 crore** for implementation of the upcoming National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for financial year 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- The first meeting of the follow-up committee of Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran was held in **Chabahar**.
- The ban on import of milk products from China first imposed on **September 2008**.
- **Haryana** government announced to name all the Child Care Institutes being run in the state as 'Jagannath Ashrams'.
- **Karnataka** is offering a bonus of Rs.425 per quintal for tur (redgram) growers, over and above the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs.5675 for the pulses crop.
- With an increasing focus on retail customers, **Yes Bank** is now churning data to understand customer behavior and offer a right mix of products based on a predictability model.
- **P.V.Bharathi** has been Appointed as MD&CEO Corporation Bank.
- The theme of the 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019) - **FUTURE INDIA - Science and Technology**.
- **Laxmikant and Usha Timothy** was conferred the Mohammed Rafi Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Famous poet Nirendranath Chakraborty Passes Away. He wrote poems in **Bengali**.
- **Bala Rafique Shaikh** clinched the Indian-style prestigious wrestling championship 'Maharashtra Kesari 2018'.
- According to a report titled "In the Dark:How much do power sector distortions cost South Asia" by World Bank, efficiency gap in India's power sector will cost the Indian economy **4%** every year.
- The government of India has released a gazette notification for the bifurcation of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad into the High Court of Telangana and the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Ramesh Ranganathan** is appointed as the head of the new High Court of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Nepal** imposed a monthly limit on the amount of Indian currency its citizen can spend in India.
- **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** has bagged orders worth nearly Rs.2360 Crore for rural development projects.
- Maersk unit to open India's first green warehouse for chemicals in **Pune**.
- **Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana** has been launched in Uttarakhand which is going to benefit 23 lakh households and cover 1350 critical diseases.

- Depositors of City Co-op Bank allowed to withdraw up to Rs.5000 from accounts. The earlier limit is **Rs.1000**.
- **C A Kuttappa** has taken over as India's chief boxing coach at the ongoing national camp.
- **Bijay Kumar** has been appointed as deputy managing director of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).
- **Manju Mehta** has been conferred with the 'Tansen Samman' for 2018 by the Madhya Pradesh government for her contribution in the field of music.
- **Maclec technical project laboratory pvt. Ltd** has selected for first prize in Air sector in Swachh Bharat Grand Challenge that was organized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- **Bimal Jalan** has been took charge as head for expert panel on Economic Capital Framework.
- **Ricky Pointing** became the 25th player from his country to be inducted into the ICC hall of fame.
- Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee Sulagitti Narasamma passed away. She hails from **Karnataka**.
- Heddaiyamman an annual festival of Baduga tribal community celebrated on 26 December. The tribal community belongs to **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Thailand** became the first country in Southeast Asia to approve the licensed use of marijuana and kratom for medical use and research.
- The Centre has given an extension of **six months** to complete the ongoing exercise for updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.
- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone of 11 projects for Yamuna Rejuvenation under Namami Gange Programme in New Delhi.
- **Maharashtra** government has launched Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools.
- According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Foreign Direct Investment in the non-conventional energy sector totaled **\$ 3,217.43 million** in the April 2015 to June 2018 period.
- Finance Ministry state that the seventh tranche of electoral bonds sale will take place from January 1.
- Tourism Ministry Signs MOU to **ResBird Technologies Pvt. Ltd** for the Develop a Mobile Audio Guide App for Five Iconic Sites.
- NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant released the Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme. **Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu)** has topped in the ranking of Aspirational districts under educational sector.
- 12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) conference commenced in **Mumbai**.
- National Children's Science Congress held in **Odisha**.
- **Rajesh Subramaniam** has been named as the president and chief executive officer of US multinational courier delivery giant FedEx Express.
- Divya Patidar Joshi crowned Mrs. India 2018 title. She hails from **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Dwijing Festival begins in **Assam**.
- Famous personality Hamidi Kashmiri passed away recently. He is professionally a **Poet**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Lalitgiri Archaeological Museum in **Odisha**.

- The Union Cabinet approved **Rs.10,000 crore** budget for the proposed human spaceflight mission (Gaganyaan).
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs.4500 crore financial assistance to **Bhutan** for its 12th five year plan.
- According to Gallup survey **Barack Obama** was named the Most Admired Man in America.
- Andry Rajoelina wins the presidential Election of **Madagascar**.
- Recently, RBI allows **SIDBI** to use existing Rs.1000-crore corpus for funding micro finance institutions.
- According to Reserve Bank of India between 2015 and 2017, **ICICI Bank** penalized the highest number of employees for defrauding bank assets.
- The central bank has launched a 'Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals (SRPHi) to capture retail payment habits in 6 cities. They are **Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Guwahati**.
- **HDFC Group** becomes most valuable business house in the country.
- **ESAF Microfinance** has received the RBI's approval as a scheduled bank.
- **Luka Modric** Wins Balkan Athlete of the Year Award 2018.
- The theme of the 42nd Indian Social Science Congress - **Human Future in Digital Era**.
- **Ambika Prasad Panda** has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).
- Amos Oz, countries most successful and internationally recognized author passed away. He belongs to **Israel**.
- The mechanical branch of Central Railways's **Nagpur** division has introduced a new advanced technology called Automated Train Examination System (ATES) for the enhancement of train safety.

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## MODEL QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of the 2018 World AIDS Day (WAD)?
  - (1) On the fast track to end AIDS
  - (2) Hands up for HIV prevention
  - (3) Know your status
  - (4) My Health, My Right
  - (5) None of these
2. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day of Persons with Disabilities?
  - (1) Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Action in Development
  - (2) Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities
  - (3) Transformation toward sustainable and resilient society for all
  - (4) Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality
  - (5) None of these
3. What is the theme of the 2018 International Volunteer Day (IVD)?
  - (1) Volunteers build Resilient Communities
  - (2) Volunteers Act First
  - (3) Global Applause – give volunteers a hand
  - (4) Your world is changing
  - (5) None of these



4. On which date India Navy celebrated the Submarine Day?  
(1) December 10 (2) December 11 (3) December 8 (4) December 9 (5) None of these
5. On which date, the 2018 International Anti-Corruption Day is observed?  
(1) December 10 (2) December 9 (3) December 11 (4) December 12 (5) None of these
6. What is the theme of the 2018 International Mountain Day (IMD)?  
(1) Mountains Matter (2) Mountain Cultures (3) Mountain Minorities  
(4) Mountain Environments (5) None of these
7. On which date, the 2018 National Mathematics Day (NMD) was observed in India recently?  
(1) December 21 (2) December 23 (3) December 22 (4) December 24 (5) None of these
8. The National Farmers' Day (NFD) is celebrated on which date?  
(1) December 24 (2) December 25 (3) December 22 (4) December 23 (5) None of these
9. What is the theme of the 2018 National Consumer Day (NCD)?  
(1) Alternate consumer disputes redressal  
(2) Healthy environment & healthy food  
(3) Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints  
(4) Combat food adulteration  
(5) None of these
10. Which Indian organization has launched a 'Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals (SRPHi)'?  
(1) SEBI (2) SBI (3) RBI (4) IRDAI (5) None of these
11. Which of the following district Courts will become the first in India to accept e-payments?  
(1) Delhi (2) Pune (3) Kolkata (4) Chennai (5) None of these
12. Which high court has recently banned online sale of medicines across India?  
(1) Bombay (2) Delhi (3) Madras (4) Kerala (5) None of these
13. The Central Government contribution in National Pension Scheme (NPS) has raised to how much percentage from the existing 10%?  
(1) 14% (2) 15% (3) 16% (4) 13% (5) None of these
14. The Union Government has launched iGOT programme for which purpose?  
(1) Hybrid Course on Administrative Law  
(2) Judgments/Orders of Supreme Court, High Courts and CIC  
(3) Training program for Govt. employees  
(4) All of the above  
(5) None of these
15. Government of Nagaland has inaugurated a new Project namely- Development of Tribal Circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. This falls under the ambit of which Central Government Ministry?  
(1) Ministry of Tourism (2) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(3) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (4) Ministry of Cultural Affairs (5) None of these
16. Which state has become the India's first state to bring a law against 'sextortion'?  
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Jammu and Kashmir (3) Manipur  
(4) Arunachal Pradesh (5) None of these

17. The Assam government has recently launched credit subsidy, interest relief scheme for farmers to mark the 125th anniversary of which battle?  
(1) Battle of Itakhuli (2) Battle of Saraighat (3) Battle of Alaboi  
(4) Battle of Patharughat (5) None of these
18. Which state government has launched the 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihar Vajpayee International Schools' for students in rural areas?  
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Maharashtra (3) Haryana  
(4) Assam (5) None of these
19. Which wildlife sanctuary has been declared as National Park by the Madhya Pradesh government?  
(1) Bori Wildlife Sanctuary (2) Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary  
(3) Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary (4) Kheoni Sanctuary (5) None of these
20. Which state government has decided to form a new Spiritual Department?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Odisha (5) None of these
21. India's longest rail-road bridge 'Bogibeel Bridge' has built over which of the following rivers?  
(1) Ganga (2) Godavari (3) Yamuna (4) Brahmaputra (5) None of these
22. Which city is the venue of the 4th Partners' Forum 2018?  
(1) Chennai (2) Hyderabad (3) Chandigarh (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
23. Which city of Tamil Nadu is to be venue of India's first Music Museum?  
(1) Madurai (2) Vellore (3) Thiruvaiyaru (4) Tiruchirappalli (5) None of these
24. Krakatoa island, which is in news recently, is situated in which of the following countries?  
(1) Malaysia (2) Singapore (3) Indonesia (4) New Zealand (5) None of these
25. Mount Etna, which is in news, is located in which country?  
(1) UK (2) Italy (3) France (4) Germany (5) None of these
26. Which of the following is the erstwhile name of Swaraj Dweep in Andaman & Nicobar Islands?  
(1) Ross Island (2) Neil Island (3) Havelock Island  
(4) Viper Island (5) None of these
27. Cyril Ramaphosa, who is expected to be the chief guest at 2019 Republic Day of India is President of which African country?  
(1) Morocco (2) South Africa (3) Ghana (4) Senegal (5) None of these
28. The bilateral naval exercise 'Konkan 18' has started between India and which country?  
(1) Japan (2) Singapore (3) Indonesia (4) United Kingdom (5) None of these
29. The air force units of India & which country are scheduled to participate in exercise 'Cope India 2019 (CI19)'?  
(1) South Africa (2) United States (3) China  
(4) Maldives (5) None of these
30. EX SHINYUU Maitri-2018 has started between India and which country?  
(1) South Korea (2) Sri Lanka (3) Japan (4) China (5) None of these

31. Which Indian Armed Force has recently conducted 'Ex Clean Sea-2018' at sea off Port Blair?  
 (1) Indian Navy (2) Indian Air Force (3) Indian Army  
 (4) Indian Coast Guard (5) None of these
32. Which country has emerged as the World's No.2 arms producer, as per latest Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPTI) report?  
 (1) China (2) Russia (3) United States  
 (4) United Kingdom (5) None of these
33. Who is the head of the newly constituted Group of Ministers (GoM) on stressed power assets?  
 (1) Sushma Swaraj (2) Ananth Kumar (3) Arun Jaitley  
 (4) Nitin Gadkari (5) None of these
34. Who is head of the RBI committee to review the existing Economic Capital Framework (ECF)?  
 (1) Subhash Chandra Garg (2) Bimal Jalan (3) NS Vishwanathan  
 (4) Rakesh Mohan (5) None of these
35. Which Twitter handle has been launched by the Union Government to spread awareness about cyber crimes?  
 (1) @Cyber18 (2) @CyberFriend (3) @CyberVigyan  
 (4) @CyberDostT (5) None of these
36. "One City-One Operator scheme" which was recently in news, is related to which of the following?  
 (1) Traffic (2) Sewage (3) Roads (4) Electricity (5) None of these
37. The Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) has recently launched in which of the following cities?  
 (1) Gurugram (2) Kochi (3) Kolkata (4) Mumbai (5) None of these
38. Which of the following districts has been ranked at the NITI Aayog's Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)?  
 (1) Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu  
 (2) Siddarthnagar in Uttar Pradesh  
 (3) Nuapada district in Odisha  
 (4) Singrauli district in Madhya Pradesh  
 (5) None of these
39. The 6th IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?  
 (1) Patna (2) Guwahati (3) Shillong (4) Varanasi (5) None of these
40. Which of the following cities is the venue of the UN Climate Summit (COP24)?  
 (1) Ottawa (2) Brasilia (3) Katowice (4) Santiago (5) None of these
41. Recently, it was in news that India will host the G20 summit in 2022. Which of the following is not a member of G-20?  
 (1) Spain (2) Canada (3) Saudi Arabia (4) Turkey (5) None of these
42. The 2nd Russia-India-China 'RIC' Trilateral Summit has recently held in which of the following cities?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Beijing (3) Buenos Aires (4) Moscow (5) None of these

43. Which city is the venue of the 80th Session of the Policy Commission of the World Customs Organization (WCO)?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Dehradun (3) Indore (4) Mumbai (5) None of these
44. Which of the following cities is the venue of the International conference on bears?  
(1) Udaipur (2) Patna (3) Agra (4) Pune (5) None of these
45. Which of the following cities is the venue of the India Water Impact Summit-2018?  
(1) Patna (2) Guwahati (3) New Delhi (4) Amravati (5) None of these
46. Which state tourism of India has hosted the first-ever AdventureNext 18 in Asia?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Mizoram (3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Telangana (5) None of these
47. Which city is the venue of the 39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit (GCCS-2018)?  
(1) Baghdad (2) Riyadh (3) Muscat (4) Tehran (5) None of these
48. United States has signed trade pact with which of the following countries to replace North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?  
(1) Venezuela and Cuba (2) Canada and Mexico (3) Chile and Costa Rica  
(4) Uruguay and Bolivia (5) None of these
49. 'Ideate for India' is the joint collaboration between National e-governance Division and which technological giant?  
(1) Infosys (2) Microsoft (3) Facebook (4) Intel (5) None of these
50. Which South Asian country has recently signed an ascension pact to the 30-member Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN)?  
(1) India (2) Bhutan (3) Bangladesh (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
51. Which of the following Pakistani military officer had signed the instrument of surrender on 16 December 1971 after defeat in 1971 Indo-Pak war?  
(1) Yahya Khan (2) Khaled Musharraf  
(3) Mohammad Hamidullah Khan (4) Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi (5) None of these
52. Nasscom has partnered with which IIT for training workforce in digital skills?  
(1) IIT-Kanpur (2) IIT-Bombay (3) IIT-Madras (4) IIT-Indore (5) None of these
53. Which city is the venue of the 9th meeting of India-ROK Joint Commission?  
(1) Hyderabad (2) Pune (3) Shimla (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
54. The first-ever meeting of the newly constituted India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges was held in which of the following cities?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Beijing (3) Shanghai (4) Ahmedabad (5) None of these
55. Under which article of the constitution, the member of UPSC shall be appointed by the President?  
(1) Article-315 (2) Article-318 (3) Article-320 (4) Article-316 (5) None of these
56. India's first private Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) factory has opened in which of the following cities?  
(1) Gwalior (2) Dehradun (3) Hyderabad (4) Kochi (5) None of these
57. What is the name of China mission launched to the far side of the Moon recently?  
(1) Chang 'e-4' (2) Tang 'e-9' (3) Karman (4) Lunar 'e-4' (5) None of these

58. ISRO has successfully launched its military satellite 'GSAT 7A' through which launch vehicle?  
(1) GSLV-F13 (2) GSLV-F14 (3) GSLV-F11 (4) GSLV-F16 (5) None of these
59. The world's first Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP) has become operational in which country?  
(1) Russia (2) France (3) Japan (4) United States (5) None of these
60. What is the name of India's first locomotive-less train, which was recently in news?  
(1) Train 21 (2) Train 18 (3) Train 11 (4) Train 36 (5) None of these
61. Which of the following states has become the India's first state to have four international airports?  
(1) Tamil Nadu (2) Maharashtra (3) West Bengal (4) Kerala (5) None of these
62. Indian Railways has developed which AI-powered robot to check for faults in trains?  
(1) Madad (2) Milap (3) Cris (4) Ustaad (5) None of these
63. Which film has won the Golden Crow Pheasant award at the 23rd International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK-2018)?  
(1) Sudani from Nigeria (2) Taking the Horse to Eat Jilabis  
(3) Ee.Ma.Yau (4) The Dark Room (5) None of these
64. Which Indian American film producer has recently been honored with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit?  
(1) Ashok Amritraj (2) Mira Nair (3) Kal Penn  
(4) Jay Chandrasekhar (5) None of these
65. Which Indian film has been shortlisted for the 91st Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category?  
(1) How Far can you go for your art?  
(2) In Defence of Freedom  
(3) The School Bag  
(4) Period. End of Sentence  
(5) None of these
66. Which city is the venue of the 2018 Military Literature Festival (MLF)?  
(1) Chandigarh (2) Dehradun (3) Hyderabad  
(4) New Delhi (5) None of these
67. Which former Indian diplomat has been elected to an Asia Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)?  
(1) Nirupama Rao (2) Preeti Saran (3) Meera Shankar  
(4) Lalit Mansingh (5) None of these
68. Who is the newly appointed Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?  
(1) Arvind Panagariya (2) Shaktikanta Das (3) Kaushik Basu  
(4) Rajiv Mehrishi (5) None of these
69. Who has been elected as Vice President Of FICCI for 2018-19?  
(1) Ayaz Memon (2) Vikram Chandra (3) Rahul Kanwal  
(4) Uday Shankar (5) None of these
70. Who has been appointed the additional director of Central Bureau Investigation (CBI)?  
(1) Vikram Bahal (2) Prateek Asthana (3) Nageswara Rao@  
(4) Dinesh Verma (5) None of these

71. Who has been appointed the new coach of the Indian women's cricket team?  
 (1) Shantha Rangaswamy (2) Kapil Dev (3) Anshuman Gaekwad  
 (4) W V Raman (5) None of these
72. Who has been elected as the president of the Archery Association of India (AAI)?  
 (1) Rupak Debroy (2) Vijay Kumar Malhotra (3) BVP Rao  
 (4) D K Vidyarthi (5) None of these
73. Who was Tulsi Giri, who recently passed away?  
 (1) Former Union Minister of India (2) A well known Diplomat  
 (3) An well known author (4) Former PM of Nepal (5) None of these
74. Who was popularly known as the "Nightingale of Assam"?  
 (1) Dipali Borthakur (2) Anima Choudhury (3) Beauty Sharma Barua  
 (4) Malabika Bora (5) None of these
75. Mrinal Sen, who passed away recently, was the noted personality of which field?  
 (1) Film Industry (2) Sports (3) Journalism  
 (4) Politics (5) None of these
76. Which state has been adjudged the best state at 2018 IITF Delhi?  
 (1) Jammu & Kashmir (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Uttarakhand  
 (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
77. Which Indian philanthropist has been bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur?  
 (1) Azim Premji (2) Shiv Nadar (3) P. N. C. Menon  
 (4) Kushal Pal Singh (5) None of these
78. Which of the following is the first leader to lose Freedom of Paris award?  
 (1) Aung San Suu Kyi (2) Evo Morales (3) Tabare Vazquez  
 (4) Miguel Díaz-Canel (5) None of these
79. Who has been awarded the PETA 'Hero to Animals' award for banning the Chinese manjha in Delhi?  
 (1) Imran Hussain (2) Arvind Kejriwal (3) Manish Sisodia  
 (4) Rajendra Pal Gautam (5) None of these
80. Which noted artist is the winner of the Turner Prize for 2018?  
 (1) Naeem Mohaiemen (2) Charlotte Prodger  
 (3) Luke Willis Thompson (4) Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (5) None of these
81. Who among the following have won the IAAF Athletes of the Year award recently?  
 (1) Eliud Kipchoge (2) Caterine Ibarguen (3) Both (1) and (2)  
 (4) Valerie Adams (5) None of these
82. Who has won the 'Glinka World Soil Prize 2018'?  
 (1) Aapresid (2) Rattan Lal (3) Augustin Codazzi  
 (4) Konstantin Glinka (5) None of these
83. Who has won the trophy of Mister Supranational 2018?  
 (1) Prathamesh Maulingkar (2) Jitesh Singh Deo (3) Vishnu Raj Menon  
 (4) Kawaljit Anand Singh (5) None of these

84. Which IIT has won the DSCI Excellence Award 2018 for cyber security education?  
(1) IIT Kanpur (2) IIT Kharagpur (3) IIT Indore  
(4) IIT Bombay (5) None of these
85. Which Indian sportsperson has been honored with Meethoileima title?  
(1) Heena Sidhu (2) Mirabai Chanu (3) Mary Kom  
(4) Neeraj Chopra (5) None of these
86. Jamal Khashoggi, who has been named Time magazine's 2018 "Person of the Year", is from which country?  
(1) Saudi Arabia (2) Oman (3) Iran  
(4) Turkey (5) None of these
87. Who has become the first-ever recipient of the WTA Coach of the Year award?  
(1) Brad Gilbert (2) Sascha Bajin (3) Nick Bollettieri  
(4) Boris Becker (5) None of these
88. Which Indian start up has been honored by UN Climate Action Award at the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24)?  
(1) EcoFemme (2) Sustain Earth (3) Help Us Green  
(4) Sustain Earth (5) None of these
89. Who has been honored with Jnanpith Award for 2018?  
(1) Krishna Sobti (2) G. Sankara Kurup (3) Raghuveer Chaudhari  
(4) Amitav Ghosh (5) None of these
90. Which state has been selected for 2018 Krishi Karman award under rice category?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Jharkhand (3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Punjab (5) None of these
91. Who has been crowned Miss India Worldwide 2018?  
(1) Anusha Sareen (2) Sakshi Sinha (3) Shree Saini  
(4) Pragya Jaiswal (5) None of these
92. NITI Aayog has organized the 3rd edition of the Women Transforming India Awards 2018 in collaboration with which international organization?  
(1) WHO (2) UNICEF (3) ILO  
(4) United Nations (5) None of these
93. Which of the following organizations has won the highest number of awards at the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018?  
(1) ISRO (2) India Post (3) Indian Railways  
(4) NABARD (5) None of these
94. The Government of India (GoI) has announced the institution of a new award named after which noted personality for National Integration?  
(1) Subhas Chandra Bose (2) Abul Kalam Azad (3) Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
(4) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (5) None of these
95. Who has been bestowed with the Mohammed Rafi Lifetime Achievement Award?  
(1) Pyarelal Ramprasad Sharma (2) M. S. Subbulakshmi  
(3) Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar (4) Bismillah Khan (5) None of these

96. Which state's chief minister has been conferred the 2018 'Champions of Change' award by the Union Government?  
(1) Assam (2) Jharkhand (3) Manipur (4) Bihar (5) None of these
97. Which sportsperson has won the 2018 Balkan Athlete of the year?  
(1) Luka Modric (2) Novak Djokovic (3) Simona Halep  
(4) Cristiano Ronaldo (5) None of these
98. Who has become the first Indian to win the ISSF's highest shooting honour 'Blue Cross'?  
(1) Gagan Narang (2) Jitu Rai (3) Abhinav Bindra  
(4) Vijay Kumar (5) None of these
99. Who has become the first Indian to be elected as the vice-president of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)?  
(1) Abhinav Bindra (2) Raninder Singh (3) Karan Sidhu  
(4) Yogeshwar Dutt (5) None of these
100. Atlawim Debebe, who won the 2018 Pune International Marathon, is from which country?  
(1) Greece (2) Kenya (3) Ethiopia (4) Jamaica (5) None of these
101. Ajay Rohera, who has created world record for highest first-class debut score in cricket history, is from which state?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
102. Who has become the first Indian to lift Badminton World Federation World Tour Finals title?  
(1) Sania Nehwal (2) PV Sindhu (3) Ashwini Ponnappa  
(4) N. Sikki Reddy (5) None of these
103. Which city is venue of the 37th Senior National Rowing Championship 2018?  
(1) Pune (2) Kolkata (3) Hyderabad (4) Dehradun (5) None of these
104. Which Indian woman has become the fastest Asian to cycle the globe?  
(1) Deborah Herold (2) Vedangi Kulkarni (3) Harsha Mishra  
(4) Savitri Murmu (5) None of these
105. Which police station has acquired the top slot in the list of "Top 10 Police Stations in India for Year 2018"?  
(1) Munsyari, Uttarakhand (2) Periyakulam, Tamil Nadu  
(3) Farakka, West Bengal (4) Kalu, Rajasthan (5) None of these
106. Who has become the 1st Indian youngster to win the Junior Debate Championship at the World Scholar's Cup 2018?  
(1) Anand Rai (2) Jayashree Vijayan (3) Akash Banerjee  
(4) Aadi Sai Vijaykaran (5) None of these
107. Which of the following countries has become the world's first nation to recognize 'orphanage trafficking' as a form of modern slavery?  
(1) Indonesia (2) Spain (3) Belgium (4) Australia (5) None of these
108. Which state has emerged as the best performing state in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking 2018?  
(1) Gujarat (2) Karnataka (3) Chhattisgarh (4) Telangana (5) None of these



109. Which Indian organization has released SDG India Index - Baseline Report 2018?  
(1) Election Commission (2) RBI (3) SEBI  
(4) NITI Aayog (5) None of these
110. Which of the following states have emerged as top performing states in NITI Aayog's SDG India index 2018?  
(1) Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh  
(2) Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu  
(3) Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Assam  
(4) Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh  
(5) None of these
111. Which city was awarded Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management in the Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Hyderabad (3) Pune (4) Dehradun (5) None of these
112. Which Asian country has recently submitted its 6th National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?  
(1) China (2) India (3) Nepal (4) Bhutan (5) None of these
113. Which country will chair the Kimberley Process (KP) from January 2019?  
(1) China (2) Belgium (3) India (4) United States (5) None of these
114. How many monuments have been adopted under the 'Adopt A Heritage' project?  
(1) 13 (2) 10 (3) 12 (4) 15 (5) None of these
115. The European Union has recently announced to become the world's first climate neutral economy by which year?  
(1) 2060 (2) 2050 (3) 2040 (4) 2030 (5) None of these
116. Which country has recently decided to withdraw its membership from OPEC as of January 2019?  
(1) Kuwait (2) Qatar (3) Venezuela (4) Saudi Arabia (5) None of these
117. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has decided to observe which year as the International Year of Millets?  
(1) 2021 (2) 2024 (3) 2023 (4) 2022 (5) None of these
118. Which country's government has recently enacted controversial law to accept foreign blue-collar workers?  
(1) Indonesia (2) South Korea (3) North Korea (4) Japan (5) None of these
119. Which country is set to become the world's first country to make all its public transport free by 2019?  
(1) Laos (2) Venezuela (3) Vietnam (4) Luxembourg (5) None of these
120. Which neighboring country of India has banned all Indian currency notes above Rs 100?  
(1) Nepal (2) Bhutan (3) Bangladesh (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
121. Which country has recently decided to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC)?  
(1) Japan (2) Indonesia (3) France (4) Brazil (5) None of these

122. Which of the following is correct status of Palestine in United Nations as of December 2018?

- (1) Member (2) Former Member  
(3) Non-sovereign Member (4) Non-member Observer (5) None of these

123. Which of the following countries has become the first nation in Southeast Asia to legalize medical use of marijuana?

- (1) Indonesia (2) Thailand (3) Malaysia (4) Vietnam (5) None of these

124. Which Indian politician is the author of the book "Changing India"?

- (1) Manmohan Singh (2) Shashi Tharoor (3) Varun Gandhi  
(4) Pranab Mukherjee (5) None of these

Ans: 1-3, 2-4, 3-1, 4-3, 5-2, 6-1, 7-3, 8-4, 9-3, 10-3, 11-2, 12-2, 13-1, 14-3, 15-1, 16-2, 17-4, 18-2, 19-2, 20-3, 21-4, 22-4, 23-3, 24-3, 25-2, 26-3, 27-2, 28-4, 29-2, 30-3, 31-4, 32-2, 33-3, 34-2, 35-4, 36-2, 37-1, 38-1, 39-4, 40-3, 41-1, 42-3, 43-4, 44-3, 45-3, 46-3, 47-2, 48-2, 49-4, 50-1, 51-4, 52-3, 53-4, 54-1, 55-4, 56-3, 57-1, 58-3, 59-1, 60-2, 61-4, 62-4, 63-4, 64-1, 65-4, 66-1, 67-2, 68-2, 69-4, 70-3, 71-4, 72-3, 73-4, 74-1, 75-1, 76-3, 77-1, 78-1, 79-1, 80-2, 81-3, 82-2, 83-1, 84-2, 85-3, 86-1, 87-2, 88-3, 89-4, 90-2, 91-3, 92-4, 93-3, 94-4, 95-3, 96-3, 97-1, 98-3, 99-2, 100-3, 101-3, 102-2, 103-1, 104-2, 105-4, 106-4, 107-4, 108-1, 109-4, 110-2, 111-2, 112-2, 113-3, 114-2, 115-2, 116-2, 117-3, 118-4, 119-4, 120-1, 121-1, 122-4, 123-2, 124-1.

