

IMPORTANT

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JUNE 2018

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Awards & Honours

Haddad and Nabarro win World Food Prize

- Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro win 2018 World Food Prize.
- The World Food Prize was created by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986 to recognize scientists and others who work towards improving the quality and availability of food.
- The two men have worked to provide nutritious food for children and pregnant women to reduce malnutrition in developing countries.

India's First 'Tribal Queen': Pallavi Darua

- Pallavi Durua, who belongs to Odisha's Koraput district, was crowned as the first Tribal Queen at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap.
- The contest was organised by SC & ST department, Govt of Odisha and the State Tourism Department.
- Tribal population constitutes nearly 22.5% of the Odisha's population.

IIFA Awards 2018

- Indian International Film Awards (IIFA), held in Bangkok, late star Sridevi won Best Actress (posthumously) for MOM.
- Irrfan Khan was given the Best Actor Award for Hindi Medium.
- **Vidya Balan's 'Tumhari Sulu' was awarded the Best Film trophy.**
- Saket Chaudhary was awarded the Best Director for Hindi Medium.
- **Anupam Kher was awarded 'Outstanding Achievement by an Actor in Indian Cinema'.**

'Chief Minister of the Year' Award

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was **conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award** for her remarkable work in e-governance.
- The award was given to her at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.
- Her efforts for implementing the Prime Minister's Digital India campaign for benefit of the common man were appreciated.

Kalki to be Conferred with French Honour

- Kalki Koechlin will be conferred with French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.
- Kalki, who has French roots, has done films such as Dev.D, Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara & Shanghai to name a few.
- The honour comes in recognition of an actor, who has interpreted striking roles in the Indian film industry.

FICCI Awarded at X International IT Forum

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) was awarded at X International IT Forum at Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.
- FICCI was awarded for its support and active participation at the forum, consecutively for two years.
- The forum brought together industry leaders from BRICS and SCO nations to interact in the fields of information technology and digital transformation.

EDMC gets SKOCH Award for Solid Waste Management

- East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) won Order-of-Merit Awards from SKOCH under solid waste management category for its Construction and Demolition waste processing plant.
- The waste plant at Shastri Park processes 500 tonnes of construction waste per day & converts it into products such as bricks, stone, sand, etc.
- The plant is in line with Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart City initiative.

Vishwas Mandalik & Yoga Institute to get Award

- Vishwas Mandalik from Nasik and the Yoga Institute in Mumbai have been selected as recipients of the **Prime Minister's award.**
- They are being awarded for their outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018.
- The selection was done from among 186 nominations received under different categories.

M. Scorsese to Receive Lifetime Achievement

- Veteran director Martin Scorsese will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Rome Film Festival 2018.
- Martin Scorsese is an American director, producer, screenwriter, actor and film historian. He is widely regarded as one of the most significant and influential filmmakers in cinematic history.
- The 13th edition of the famed Rome film festival will run from October 18-28 2018.

Bindeshwar Honoured with Nikkei Asia Prize

- Social reformer & founder of Sulabh Int. Bindeshwar Pathak was **honoured with Japan's prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize.**
- **The award was given under 'Culture and Community' category** for his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.
- Launched in 1996, the award honours people in Asia who have made significant contributions in science, technology & innovation and culture & community.

CRPF Jawan Posthumously Given PM's Medal

- CRPF constable Harvinder Singh has been posthumously honoured with the PM's police medal for saving the lives of Vaishno Devi pilgrims in 2016.

- Singh had been helping pilgrims reach the shrine when he saw some women and children trapped under a landslide.
- While saving them, he was hit by a huge rock. He later succumbed to his injuries.

Best Practices in Payment Security

- HDFC Bank has once again been recognized with the Champion Security Award at the 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit.
- For the second time in a row, the bank has won the award in the India and South Asia category.
- The Award is a mark of excellence reflecting leadership in risk management and payment security performance.

Days & Events

National Statistics Day - 29 June

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu attended the closing ceremony of the 125th birth anniversary of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis on Statistics Day on 29th June.
- The theme of 2018 was - **'Quality Assurance in Official Statistics'**.
- The objective of the celebration is to create public awareness about statistics in socio-economic planning, to acknowledge the contribution of Prof. Mahalanobis.

MSME Day to be Celebrated - 27 June

- The Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), organized a National Conclave (Udyam Sangam) on 27th June 2018 on the occasion of UN MSME Day.
- President Kovind inaugurated the Conclave in Vigyan Bhawan.
- The MSME Ministry disbursed subsidy of Rs. 550 crores to artisans.
- The UN declared 27th June as MSME Day, recognizing the importance of MSME in the country's economy.

International Day against Drug Abuse

- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on 26 June to strengthen global action to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- The theme for the 2018 year was: "Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe."
- This day was first observed by the UN General Assembly in 1987.

National Awards for Prevention on Drug Abuse

- President Kovind presented the 4th "National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" on the

occasion of 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' on 26th June.

- The function organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.
- The Awards were started in 2013 and conferred biennially.

Sindhu Darshan Festival begins in Ladakh

- The 3-day annual 22nd Sindhu Darshan Festival was celebrated on the bank of Indus River in Ladakh region of J&K.
- The Festival organised by Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti & will be inaugurated by RSS General Secretary Bhaiya Ji.
- The programme focused on national integration, communal harmony, and national pride.
- It was started by the former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani in 1997.

International Widows' Day - 23 June

- June 23, the world is commemorating International **Widows' Day as stipulated by the United Nations.**
- **According to UN Women's 2018 Turning Promises into Action:** Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to assist nearly 10% of the 258 million widows globally live in extreme poverty.
- It was formally adopted on December 21, 2010 by the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon.

World Refugee Day - 20 June

- World Refugee Day, is observed June 20 each year and is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
- On 4 December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 55/76 decided that, from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.
- UNHCR host World Refugee Day events in order to draw the public's attention.

Yoga Day Celebrated with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

- Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurated International Day of Yoga in the Netherlands.
- It was held at Museumplein or museum square which was organised by the Embassy of India.
- He was joined by Dutch Minister of Infrastructure Cora van Nieuwenhuizen and Ambassador of India to the Netherlands Venu Rajamouli.

World Blood Donor Day - 14 June 2018

- Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day.
- The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations.
- **This year's slogan is "Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life".**

World Day against Child Labour 2018 - 12 June

- ILO launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.
- Each year on 12 June, the people from around the world come together to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.
- The theme for World Day against Child Labour 2018 was **'Generation Safe & Healthy'**.

World Ocean Day - 8th June 2018

- On June 8th each year, we celebrate the ocean, its importance in our lives, and how we can protect it.
- World Oceans Day helps raise the profile of the ocean and inspire more involvement in helping to conserve this amazing resource we all depend on.
- The main action focus is to prevent plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean.

World Environment Day 2018 - 5 June

- World Environment Day is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.
- World Environment Day is the "people's day" for doing something to take care of the Earth.
- The theme for the World Environment Day 2018 was "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- Every World Environment Day has a different global host country. This year it is India.

World Bicycle Day observed - 3 June

- On June 3, 2018, the first official World Bicycle Day was celebrated.
- It was approved on 12 April 2018 as an official United Nations day of awareness about the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transport and leisure.
- It encourages the Member States to include the bicycle in international, regional, national and subnational development policies and programmes.

International Affairs

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- SCO or Shanghai Pact was founded by alliance of Eurasian countries like China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan for political, economic and security reasons established on June 2001.
- Except Uzbekistan, other countries were members of the **'Shanghai Five', founded in 1996. After the inclusion of Uzbekistan in 2001, the members renamed the organization to 'SCO'.**
- Its headquarters are situated in Beijing, China.
- Its summits take place annually to adopt decisions and guidelines on important aspects of the organization.

- **This year's annual SCO Summit was held in Qingdao, China.**
- In 2017, India and Pakistan were upgraded as full time members of SCO, from an earlier observer status.
- Presently it has 8 members: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- SCO has Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia as observer countries.
- SCO holds observer status in UNGA, EU, ASEAN, CIS.
- Over time, SCO's power and scope have increased to include other areas such as science and technology, education, healthcare, environment, sports, culture, etc.

Important takeaways from 2018 Summit

- PM Modi coined an acronym 'SECURE' (Security for citizens, Economic development, Connectivity in the region, Unity, Respect of sovereignty and integrity, Environment protection).
- Major agreement was signed between India and China with regards to export of non-Basmati varieties of rice and sugar from India.
- Also, India and China signed bilateral agreement on resuming the sharing of hydrological data on the Brahmaputra River - which China stopped last year.
- PM Modi also invited the Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev to join the International Solar Alliance.

12,000-yr-old Rock Painting Found in China

- Archaeologists have confirmed that a rock painting discovered in the Lesser Khingan Mountains in China's Heilongjiang province dates back 12,000 years.
- Several images painted with ochre were discovered on a rock in the city of Heihe.
- Preliminary studies showed that it was a scene of humans hunting, reports Xinhua news agency.

EU pledges 20 mn Euros to Ease Jordan

- European Union announced 20 million euros (USD 23.5 million) in aid for Jordan following a wave of anti-austerity protests that led to the prime minister's resignation.
- Cash-strapped Jordan is struggling to rein in its debt after securing a USD 723-million loan from the International Monetary Fund in 2016.
- The World Bank says Jordan has "weak growth prospects" in 2018.

India Mulls New Group in WTO

- India is considering bringing together a group of 8-10 member countries of the WTO.
- It would be an informal group within the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- The group may include nations like Brazil, China, South Africa, China, Indonesia and Columbia.

Mauritius to Host Global Hindi Meet

- The upcoming 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius is likely to produce directives to increase the popularity of Hindi globally.
- The World Hindi Conference is a major event organised every 3 years by the External Affairs Ministry.
- The World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) supported by India is located in Mauritius.

Leaders sign Qingdao Declaration at SCO

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) **summit concluded with the adoption of the 'Qingdao declaration'**.
- The declaration calls for implementing the 3-year plan to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- It also calls for the implementation of the treaty on long-term good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation.

UNSC Elects 5 Members for 2-year Term

- The UN General Assembly voted to elect Germany, Belgium, South Africa, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia for a two-year term in the Security Council starting on Jan. 1, 2019.
- The council is the only U.N. body that can make legally binding decisions and has the power to impose sanctions and authorize the use of force.
- The General Assembly elects 5 new members in a year.

India, China Set New Bilateral Mechanism

- India and China have decided to set up a new "people to people mechanism" to build on the momentum in bilateral ties from the Wuhan Summit.
- The decision to step up people to people contacts was announced by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.
- It will be headed on the Indian side by the External Affairs Minister and on the Chinese side by the State Council and Foreign Minister.

Indonesia Wins UNSC Vote

- Indonesia was elected a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a 2-year term.
- Maldives and Indonesia had contested for a seat in the UNSC.
- Indonesia won the seat after securing 144 votes against 46 for the Maldives.

- The other newly elected non-permanent members of UNSC are Germany, Belgium, Dominican Republic and South Africa.

World 1st EPR Nuclear Reactor Begins

- A third generation EPR reactor in China carried out its first nuclear chain reaction, an initial start up which is a world first for the much-delayed European technology.
- The European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) in China carried out its first chain and therefore it has started.
- The reactor is not expected to be completed until the mid 2020s.

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Myanmar, UN sign Pact for Rohingyas

- Myanmar and U.N. agencies signed an agreement that might eventually lead to the return of some of the 700,000 Rohingya Muslims.
- **The MoU signed promises to establish a "framework of cooperation" that aims to create the conditions for "voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable" repatriation of Rohingya refugees.**
- The U.N. and U.S. have described the army **crackdown as "ethnic cleansing"**.

Fuego Volcano Erupted

- Guatemala's Fuego volcano erupted by shooting a dense cloud of ash into the sky.
- The death toll in the eruption rose to 62 as rescue workers recovered more bodies from devastated villages.
- Fuego has been erupting since 2002, and was continuously active in 2017.
- Guatemala, a Central American country, is home to volcanoes, rainforests and ancient Mayan sites. Its capital is Guatemala City.

Education Guide on fighting Anti-Semitism

- The UN has released its first-ever guidelines on fighting anti-Semitism in education.
- UNESCO, the UN's cultural body, launched the publication in Paris in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
- Guide provides tools to strengthen the resilience of young people to anti-Semitic ideas and violent extremism.

US Vetoes Arab-backed UN Draft Resolution

- The United States vetoed an Arab-backed UN draft resolution calling for measures to protect the Palestinians.
- Ten countries including China, France and Russia voted in favor of the draft put forward by Kuwait on behalf of Arab countries at the Security Council.
- 4 countries Britain, Ethiopia, the Netherlands and Poland abstained.

Egypt Prez Sworn in for 2nd Term in Office

- In Egypt, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in for a second four-year term in office.
- Sisi won 97% of valid votes in the March presidential election.
- Sisi ousted Egypt's first freely elected president Mohamed Morsi and won his first term in 2014 with an overwhelming majority of the vote.

Cuba, US to Restore Direct Postal Service

- Cuba and the US have agreed to permanently restore the direct postal service between the two countries.
- This service allows the postal delivery of mail, parcels, and express courier deliveries on direct flights between Cuba and the United States, and through post offices in both countries.
- The direct postal service between the two neighbouring nations was suspended by Havana in 1968.

Pedro sworn in as Spain's Prime Minister

- Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez has been sworn in as **Spain's Prime Minister by King Felipe VI**.
- **Spain is the eurozone's No. 4 economy and an influential member of the European Union (EU).**
- **Mr. Sanchez (46) is Spain's seventh Prime Minister** since the return to democracy following the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975.

FIFA Lifts Suspension on Guatemala

- FIFA lifted a suspension imposed on Guatemala over its failure to comply with anti-corruption rules.
- The suspension prevented Guatemalan teams from participating in international competitions such as the Gold Cup, the Central American Games and the CONCACAF Champions League.
- FIFA imposed ban on Guatemala in October 2016.

Economic Sanctions on Russia

- European Union leaders have agreed at a summit in Brussels to extend economic sanctions against Russia over the conflict in Ukraine for further six months.
- The sanctions target whole sectors of the Russian economy including its oil businesses.
- The EU first imposed the sanctions on Russia in July 2014 after Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in July 2014 was shot down over Ukraine.

Putin-Trump Summit in Helsinki on July 16

- U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold their 1st summit on July 16 in Helsinki, Finland.
- The 2 leaders will discuss relations between US and Russia and a range of national security issues.
- Meeting would also entail high-level talks on US sanctions on Russia and Russia's rejoining the Group of Seven industrialised countries to make it the G8 again.

World Bank to Aid \$480 million to Rohingyas

- World Bank decided to provide \$480 million in aid to Bangladesh to address the needs of Rohingya refugees.
- The aid would include health, education, water & sanitation and other spheres.
- Nearly 7 lakh Muslim Rohingya have taken shelter from violence in Myanmar in Bangladesh, making it **the world's fastest-growing** refugee camp.
- There are nearly 40000 Rohingya refugees in India as of 2017.

N Korea: 'Worst Human Trafficking Country'

- According to the annual '2018 Trafficking in Persons Report', North Korea has been ranked as worst human trafficking country in the world, along with China, Russia and Iran.
- The report said that the North Korean govt continued to use forced labour in prison camps.
- South Korea has been ranked at the highest category for the 16th consecutive year, along with US, UK, France and Canada.

FATF puts Pak on 'grey list'

- Global anti-terror financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force has decided to keep Pakistan on its 'grey list'.
- US motion, to have Pakistan added to grey list of countries was reportedly backed by Britain, France & Germany.
- Pakistan was previously on the grey list from 2012 to 2015.
- FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering & terrorist financing.

British Queen approves Brexit law

- **Britain's Queen Elizabeth granted royal assent to Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit legislation on 26th June.**
- The debate over the legislation will formally end the **country's European Union membership.**
- The E.U. (Withdrawal) Bill would repeal the 1972 European Communities Act through which Britain had become a member of EU.
- The Brexit day in British law is slated as March 29, 2019.

President Tayyip Erdogan Returns to Power

- President Tayyip Erdogan of Justice and Development Party has declared victory in Turkey's Presidential election.
- He was earlier President and Prime Minister of Turkey for 15 years. He has now become first executive President of the country.
- He has secured a majority of 52.5% against Muharrem Ince, of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), **received 30.8% of the votes.**

Oil Production to be Increased

- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries & non-OPEC oil producers have agreed to jointly increase the oil production.
- Oil producers have decided to stick to 100% conformity of the oil production cap set in 2016 in which the agreement to cut oil output by a total of 1.8 million barrels per day has been reached.
- OPEC would monitor the market & production cap would be adjusted when needed.

Canada Legalized Marijuana

- Canada has become the 2nd nation in the world the first G7 nation to legalize marijuana.
- **Uruguay was the first country to legalize marijuana's** production, sale and consumption in December 2013.
- Medical marijuana is already legal in Canada.

WHO Releases New ICD 11

- The World Health Organization in Geneva released the latest edition (11th) of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).
- The ICD is the standard disease coding for statistics and information regarding diseases around the world.
- These codes are common for healthcare professionals worldwide and provides a common sharing platform for reporting diseases and condition.

US Withdraws from UN Human Rights Council

- Nikki Haley, the US Permanent Representative to the UN announced the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- She accused the council of bias against US ally Israel.
- Haley also accused the council of maintaining a **"disproportionate focus & unending hostility towards Israel"** that shows it is "motivated by political bias, not by human rights".

7th OPEC International Seminar

- The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan participated in the 7th OPEC International seminar as a special guest in Vienna, Austria on 19th June.

- The visit was crucial as global oil prices are at highest since 2014 and are impacting India's increasing economy.

Yoga Day celebrated in Australian Parliament

- A yoga session was organised in the Australian Parliament for the first time, with over 50 people performing various asanas in the federal legislature.
- This marked celebrations for the fourth International Day of Yoga on June 21.
- Organisers of the session claimed it was the first time that the International Yoga Day was celebrated in any Parliament.

Nepal, China to sign deal for 3 oil depots

- An agreement on building oil storage depots at three locations in Nepal with Chinese assistance is expected to be signed.
- As per the agreement, the building oil storage depots would have a combined capacity of 110,000 kilo litre.
- The construction of the project is expected to be completed by mid 2019. The site for this purpose has been specified.

Peggy Whitson Retires as Astronaut

- NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson, retired after returning from her last and longest spaceflight.
- Whitson was the 1st woman to command the International Space Station, holding the position twice, and the oldest woman ever to fly in space.
- She was also the only woman to have served as chief of NASA's astronaut corps.

Georgia's PM Giorgi Kvirikashvili Resigns

- Giorgi Kvirikashvili, prime minister of Georgia, has announced his resignation amid a disagreement with Bidzina Ivanishvili, the leader of the ruling party.
- Kvirikashvili, 50, has been the country's prime minister since 2015.
- The prime minister's resignation comes amid growing popular discontent over his government's handling of the economy and after mass protests in recent months.

Trump & Kim Sign Agreement On Denuclearization

- US has decided to provide security guarantees to North Korea, in exchange of Pyongyang's firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.
- This is according to the joint document which was signed by US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.
- Both nations commit to establishing new relations in accordance with the desire of the people.

National Affairs

Arunachal to Repeal Anti-conversion Law

- BJP-ruled Arunachal Pradesh is likely to repeal the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act or the Anti-Conversion Law which was passed in 1978.
- The law was adopted to check Proselytism: an act of attempting to convert people to another religion or opinion. But now the govt thinks that it is undermining secularism.
- Arunachal was the 3rd State after Odisha and MP to enact this law.

Govt to link 22,000 Rural Markets to e-NAM

- Centre has announced that 22,000 rural markets would be linked to Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) by 2020 as part of its drive to double the income of farmers.
- These rural markets will be upgraded to Gramin Agricultural Markets & linked with e-NAM to enable farmers to sell directly to potential buyers.
- e-NAM is an electronic unified national market for agricultural commodities

Govt Notifies Electoral Bond Scheme 2018

- Govt has recently notified Electoral Bonds, which may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.
- Political Parties registered under Section 29A of Representation of People Act, 1951 shall be eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.
- Electoral Bonds shall be valid for 15 days from the date of issue & no payment shall be made after the expiry date.

NITI Aayog Released first Delta ranking

- NITI Aayog has launched the first Delta ranking (incremental progress) for the Aspirational Districts.
- The ranking is based on self-reported data of districts across 5 developmental areas of Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development & Basic Infrastructure.
- The ranking is a tool to identify sectors and indicator specific challenges.

Pipeline across Maha Prosperity Corridor

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has proposed setting up a natural gas pipeline along the Maharashtra Prosperity Corridor.
- The corridor will be an eight-lane 701-km hi-speed super communication expressway between Nagpur and Mumbai.
- The Rs. 46,000 crore project is being planned to boost agro-industries and port-led developments in the state.

MP to be Awarded for Reducing MMR

- Madhya Pradesh will be awarded for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign.

- An unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths in Madhya Pradesh has been registered.
- The maternal mortality rate was 221 in the year 2011-13, which has now dropped down further to just 173.

Ayurvedic Medicine as a Subject for Students

- 'Ayush' Ministry is in the process of introducing Ayurvedic medicine as a subject for Sanskrit students.
- This initiative will help in identifying the medicines and ayurvedic practices from the Sanskrit scriptures that are unexplored.
- The Ministry AYUSH is a govt body purposed with developing, education and research in Ayurveda, yoga and homoeopathy.

Fourth National Consultation of Ministers

- The fourth National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States & UTs, in-charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs was held on 29th June 2018 in New Delhi.
- The meeting was chaired by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs.
- Measures for improving consumer protection and welfare including Public Distribution System, etc. were discussed at the meeting.

J P Nadda inaugurates the NIMHANS Academy

- J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the NIMHANS Digital Academy.
- The Academy will train 50 people in the virtual classroom with a cell phone/mobile phone with 3G connection required at the receiver's end.
- It will serve the purpose of mental health care needs and will increase the capacity of human resources for mental health by training doctors, nurses.

WCD Ministry to organise TECH-THON 2018

- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India organized a seminar on technology partnerships for steering POSHAN Abhiyaan called 'TECH-THON' in Delhi.
- The seminar discussed technology and an overview of POSHAN Abhiyaan and combat malnutrition.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the Prime Minister on 8th March 2018 in, Rajasthan.

Govt Proposes to Replace UGC

- Government has unveiled draft of a bill to replace higher education regulator University Grants Commission with a Higher Education Commission.
- The commission will not have grant-making authority, will promote reduced inspection system & will focus on quality outcome at universities & colleges.
- It will be applicable to all higher education institutions established under any act of Parliament.

India to Build 2 Petroleum Reserves

- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for building additional 6.5 Million Metric Tonne Strategic Petroleum Reserves in Odisha & Karnataka.
- India will set up a 4.4-million-tonnes SPR at Chandikhol in Odisha, and a 2.5-million-tonnes facility at Padur in Karnataka.
- It will increase the emergency stockpile cover by 12 days to 22 days and is expected to augment India's energy security.

President Launched the Solar Charkha Mission

- President, Ram Nath Kovind launched the Solar Charkha Mission which will cover 50 clusters and employ 400 to 2000 artisans.
- **A portal of the Ministry of MSME called "Sampark"** was also unveiled by the President.
- **"Udyam Sangam" is a step forward towards** consolidating synergy of all the govt initiatives relating to MSME Sector.

EAM Sushma Swaraj launched Passport Seva app

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched Mobile Passport Application on the occasion of 6th Passport Seva Divas on 26 June 2018 in New Delhi.
- Through mPassportSeva app, people can apply for a passport from any part of the country.
- Police verification will be done on the address, provided by the applicant on the app, another step towards simplification of passport service to people.

Sanitation Plan for Swachh Iconic Places

- Institutions of 10 selected heritage sites of the country created action plans for raising their sanitation standards.
- The plans were formulated at a 2-day consultation in Hyderabad held between Central and State Government agencies, local administrations & the Trusts of the iconic places.
- The Swachh Iconic Places initiative aims to achieve a distinctly higher level of sanitation at places.

TechnipFMC wins special recognition from GCNI

- TechnipFMC has received a special recognition award for their flagship community development initiative in India, 'Seed of Hope', at the 13th National Convention 2018 for developing Suva village in Dahej, Gujarat.
- The convention was held by Global Compact Network India on June 8 at Shangri-La, Bengaluru.
- The theme of the convention is Sustainable Development Goals: Blueprint for action.

India Most Dangerous Country for Women

- According to Thomson Reuters Foundation survey, India is the world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour.

- The data shows reported cases of crime against women rose by 83% between 2007 & 2016 when there were four cases of rape reported every hour.
- The total global crime was worth an estimated \$150 billion a year in India.

Ministry of Health signs MoU with IGNOU

- Health Ministry has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to scale-up short-term healthcare courses and produce over 14 lakh trained manpower by 2025.
- The signing of MoU is under the existing framework of **'Skills for Life, Save a Life' initiative**.
- The ministry will provide for financial assistance to IGNOU for initiating programmes.

Telangana allocates 15 Cr for Bonalu Festival

- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao instructed officials to release Rs. 15 crore for organising Bonalu festival.
- Bonalu is an annual festival of Telangana celebrated in twin cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana. It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam, in July/August.
- The current governor of Telangana is E. S. L. Narasimhan.

35th CSMC Meeting of PMAY

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 3 lakh more affordable houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) at 35th Central Sanctioning And Monitoring Committee (CSMC).
- The total investment is of Rs. 8,692 Cr with central assistance of Rs. 3,782 Cr.
- After including Rajiv Awas Yojana, the total number of houses under PMAY(U) would be 51 lakhs.

National Awards for Prevention on Drug Abuse

- President Kovind presented the 4th "National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of **Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse**" on the occasion of **'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'** on 26th June.
- The function was organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.
- The Awards were started in 2013 and conferred biennially.

India is Largest Borrower from AIIB

- With the total project portfolios of US\$4.4 Billion, India has been the largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) since the time the Bank started its operations.
- The report was released in 3rd AIIB Meet 2018 in Mumbai whose focus was on infrastructure, innovation collaboration.

- AIIB has committed to provide \$200 million for road & energy infrastructure to India.



The graphic is a vertical banner for Testbook's referral campaign. At the top, it shows two cartoon characters, a man and a woman, with the text 'REFER a friend.' and the Testbook logo. Below this, a smartphone screen displays a green checkmark and the text 'You and Your Friend Get ₹40', with the word 'EARN' and 'PayTM Cash' next to it. The bottom section shows three cartoon characters with the text 'REFER MORE Earn More.' and the Testbook logo. At the very bottom, it says 'Use Referral Code TESTBOOK on first purchase & get ₹40 PayTM Cash' and includes the hashtag '#LearnTogetherEarnTogether'.

India Infrastructure Expo 2018

- Union Minister of Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal inaugurated India Infrastructure Expo 2018 at the NCPA, Mumbai.
- The 2-day expo was organised by the Department of Economic Affairs & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- The expo included details on Smart Cities, Sagarmala, Bharatmala, Ganga Rejuvenation Plan & the River Linking project.

FIU Forwarded Highest Over 65K in FY18

- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU), the government agency mandated on terrorist financing and money laundering, has forwarded 65,829 Suspicious Transactions Reports (STRs) during FY18 — the highest in the history.
- This number was over 13% higher than the record 58,223 STRs in FY17.
- The spurt in the number of STRs is initiated under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), 1999.

24°C as the default setting for ACs

- Power Ministry has suggested air-conditioner manufacturers to keep default setting at 24°C in a bid to save energy.
- It has also suggested that manufacturers should carry out labelling indicating optimum temperature setting for benefit of consumers, both from financial & health point of view.
- Having a default setting at 24°C will result in savings of 20 billion units of electricity in a year.

Kannur Int'l Airport to Begin Operations

- Union Minister for Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu has announced the opening of the Kannur International Airport Ltd (KIAL) in September in 2018.
- Kannur aerodrome will become the fourth international airport in Kerala.
- With this, Kerala will be the state with the most number of international airports (4) in the country.

India's 1st robotic telescope launched

- The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh is Indian's 1st robotic telescope & is the one of the world's highest astronomical observatories at 4,500 m.
- It is a part of Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen (GROWTH) program along US, the UK, Japan, Germany, Taiwan and Israel.
- The telescope is designed to observe dynamic events in the universe.

19th All India Conference of Fingerprint

- 19th All India Conference of Directors of Finger Print Bureaux was held in Hyderabad.
- The prominent recommendations concerning issue to modernize Fingerprint Bureaux, creation of database for suspects, amendment of identification of prisoners act.
- It was recommended to change the name of the conference to All India Conference of Fingerprint science.

CEMS Sets Up Labs in Mumbai and Vizag

- The Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS) has announced setting up of 24 labs-6 in Mumbai and 18 in Vizag.
- The labs being set up include Product Design & Validation, Advance Manufacturing, Hull Design, Welding Technology, Virtual Reality & Robotics.
- CEMS aims to provide skill development in manufacturing technologies for shipbuilding/ repair and ancillary sectors.

India Raises Import Duties on Many Items

- India raised import duties on almost 30 items including agricultural and steel products in protest against the US imposing higher levies on products shipped from the country.

- Earlier, US hiked tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products which had tariff implication of \$241 million on India.
- China, EU and other trading partners have also hiked tariffs in protest.

'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme

- NASSCOM unveiled a programme named, 'Women Wizards Rule Tech'.
- It aims to increase the number of women in senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) industry.
- The Women Wizards Rule Tech was announced in March at the Nasscom Diversity and Inclusion Summit in Chennai as a joint initiative by the Nasscom Sector Skills Council and the Data Security Council of India.

Raj, Haryana Get Notice over Deforestation

- NHRC issued notices to the Centre, Haryana, and Rajasthan government over the deforestation in the Aravalli hills.
- Media reports claimed that "massive deforestation" in the mountain range had led to "increasing dust storms and air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region".
- Aravalli Range is a range of mountains running from Delhi and passing through Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

RBI revised Housing Loan limits

- RBI revised the upwards housing loan limits under Priority Sector Lending (PSL).
- Housing loans of up to Rs 35 lakh for residences costing less than Rs 45 lakh will now be treated as PSL to give a boost to the low-cost segment.
- The housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending will be revised to Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres and to Rs 25 lakh in other centres.

Ayushman Bharat to create 1 lakh jobs

- The central government's ambitious public health insurance scheme 'Ayushman Bharat' would create more than 1 lakh jobs.
- The programme's CEO Indu Bhushan said that jobs would be created in health sector, insurance and in construction industries.
- The Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM), aims to provide Rs 5 lakh health cover to 100 million of India's poorest families.

Haryana to Give Star Ranking to Panchayats

- Haryana government has decided to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of 7 social parameters under state's 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme.
- A total 1,120 villages have achieved the rankings & will be awarded Rs.1 lakh for achieving each parameter.

- Ambala topped the star ranking with 407 stars followed by Gurugram with 199 stars & Karnal with 75 stars.

South Central Railway starts Train Captain

- Venkatadri Express which started from Kacheguda towards Chittoor became the first train across South Central Railway (SCR) to have a 'Train Captain'.
- At least 1 train in each of the 6 divisions of the zone will have the concept of a 'Train Captain' who will be in charge of train.
- The captaincy is being handed over to the senior-most among the travelling ticket examiner (TTE) in the train.

Yoga World record created in Kota

- Guinness world record was created by conducting the largest yoga session on International Yoga Day at Kota, Rajasthan where 1 lakh people together performed yogic exercises.
- Yoga guru Ramdev conducted the yoga session attended by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, ministers, officers and local people at RAC ground.
- The previous record was that of 55,524 people performing yoga in Mysore in 2017.

Telangana Police launched "Cop Connect"

- The Telangana police have launched a mobile-based app 'Cop Connect', dedicated to provide real time information to over 60,000 police officers in the State.
- The internal messaging app, developed on the lines of WhatsApp but has no limitation like restricted number of users in a group.
- The app is secure as a separate server for this purpose in the data centre of the IT wing of the department.

Railways to Become net Zero Carbon Emitter

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that the Indian Railways will become a net zero-carbon emitter by 2030 with the current action plans for 100% electrification and renewable strategies.
- Adding that the electrification in 2017-2018 has increased seven times.
- The minister also said that the railways would procure around 100,000 additional wagons over the next five years.

Haryana to give kids ₹50 for planting trees

- The Haryana government has decided to introduce a scheme under which school children will be given ₹50 for planting trees every six months for a period of three years.
- The scheme will cover students from Classes 6 to 12 of both government and private schools.
- It will be launched on July 10.

J&K comes under Governor's rule

- Jammu and Kashmir came under Governor's rule for the fourth time in a decade since Governor NN Vohra assumed the office on June 25, 2008.
- It is also the eighth time the state witnesses the Centre's rule in the last 41 years.
- This comes after the BJP pulled out of the BJP-PDP coalition government in J&K.

Rajasthan ranked No. 1 in Water Conservation

- Rajasthan has been ranked first by the NITI Aayog among all states after it registered a significant increase in groundwater level due to the water conservation structures built under Chief Minister's Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan.
- The state also witnessed an increase of 81% in irrigation capacity.
- As many as 4 lakh structures were built in Rajasthan in the last three years.

Javadekar launched National Digital Library

- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the National Digital Library of India.
- The library will become a single window platform for all educational needs.
- Users can register for free on the National Digital Library from Google Play store.
- The library can be accessed at ndl.iitkgp.ac.in.
- The library is an integrated platform for schools, colleges, universities, teachers and students.

National Health Resource Repository Launched

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR).
- It is country's first-ever national healthcare registry of authentic, standardised and updated geospatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
- The vision of NHRR project is to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for the citizen.

Google to train 8000 Indian Journalist

- Google will provide training to 8,000 journalists in English and six other Indian languages on fact checking.
- Training workshops will be conducted in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Marathi and Kannada.
- Google News Initiative India Training Network will select 200 journalists from cities across India and train them during 5 day train-the-trainer boot camps.

Workshop on Cyber Security Framework 2018

- A workshop on cyber security for Department of Defence was organised by Department Defence Production, MoD. It was inaugurated by Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

- The framework is in line with guidelines for organisations to target the area of cyber security and identify improvements in the area.
- Joint Secretary and Chief Information Security Officer of DDP is Dr Amit Sahai.

11th Common Review Mission report

- Shri Ashwini Choubey, Minister of Health and Family welfare released the 11th Common Review Mission (CRM) report.
- The report stated that the country had registered 22% reduction to 130 from 167 in Maternal Mortality rate (MMR) since 2013.
- The report also focussed on creation and conversion of Sub health centers as health and wellness centers (HWC) to achieve the aim of 150000 HWC by 2022.

Govt Agrees with Google for Flood Forecasting

- **Central Water Commission, India's apex technical** organization in the field of Water Resources, has entered into a Collaboration Agreement with Google.
- CWC would use state-of-the-art advances made by Google in the in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and geospatial mapping for effective management of water resources.
- It will give flood-related information to the masses.

States got ₹10,000 cr Tax Online Post E-gov

- States have collected taxes worth ₹10,000 crore online since the rollout of Transport Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the Centre's e-Governance initiative, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry said.
- Over 19 crore vehicles and 10 crore driving license records have come under the National Register, it said.
- The ministry added that over 50 lakh national permits have been issued online.

Delhi to Run Out of Groundwater by 2020

- At least 21 major Indian cities, including Delhi and Bengaluru, are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020.
- It will affect 100 million people, according to government think tank NITI Aayog report.
- It further stated that 40% Indian population will have no access to drinking water by 2030 and that India will lose 6% GDP by 2050 due to the crisis.

Rs 2,500 Cr fund for Bandra Versova Sea link

- Maharashtra Govt. will provide viability gap of Rs. 2,500 Cr for Bandra Versova Sea link by selling floor space index (FSI) to builders.
- The total cost incurred in creating 39 km sea link would be Rs. 9,500 Cr that will connect Marine lines with Kandivli.
- The govt will invest Rs. 2000 Cr, Rs. 5000 Cr is being raised by loans and the rest of Rs. 2500 Cr by FSI.

US becomes Top FDI Investment Destination

- US has surpassed India to become the top destination for greenfield FDI investment in 2017, says a report.
- The number of greenfield FDI projects in India during the year fell sharply said the FDI Report 2018 compiled by FDI Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd.
- In the Asia and Pacific region, China was on top in terms of FDI.

Tripura Starts 24x7 mobile Policing Service

- The Tripura government launched the GPS (Global Positioning System) and wireless-based 24x7 mobile policing service.
- It will help in curbing crime, especially against women.
- To operate the 'mobile policing' service, a police van or a small vehicle with police personnel would keep patrolling round-the-clock in their assigned zone.

India's First Carbon Fibre unit

- Reliance Industries Ltd. is investing in setting up **India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs.**
- It will also make low-cost and high-volume composite products like modular toilets, homes and composites for windmill blades and rotor blades.
- Carbon fibre is made by heating lengths of rayon to extremely high temperatures in an oxygen-deprived oven.

Panel to Vet Insurance Marketing Firm Norms

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a committee to review regulations governing the Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF).
- Such firms, which serve as a distribution channel for insurers, are governed by regulations announced about three years ago.
- IRDAI had approved IMF in 2015 as a measure to increase insurance penetration in the country.

Bellandur Largest Septic Tank of Bengaluru

- A committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has said that the Bellandur lake in Bengaluru has become the "largest septic tank of the city".
- **The report states that the lake's water-holding capacity has shrunk due to the dumping of garbage and construction waste, among other things.**
- Agara and Varthur were the other water bodies inspected by the panel.

PhD must for Directly Recruiting Teachers

- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar has announced PhD degree will be

mandatory for direct recruitment to the post of assistant professors in central universities from 2021.

- However, Masters degree with National Eligibility Test would continue to be the minimum criteria.
- The ministry has also decided to scrap Academic Performance Indicator system, used to promote teachers.

National Tribal Museum to be Built

- A National Tribal Museum along with a National Level Tribal Research Institute is proposed to be set up at Delhi by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram said that the Museum will showcase the rich tribal culture and heritage using state-of-the-art technologies.
- The proposal to set up the Museum and TRI has already been sent to the Niti Ayog.

New Incredible India Website Launched

- Minister of State for Tourism Shri K.J. Alphons launched the new Incredible India website.
- The website showcases India as a holistic destination, revolving around major experiences, such as, spirituality, heritage, adventure, culture, yoga, wellness and more.
- The website follows the trends and technologies of international standards with an aim to project India as a **"must-visit" destination.**

10th Smart City Centre in Naya Raipur

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **country's 10th Smart City Integrated Command and Control Centre** at Naya Raipur.
- Naya Raipur is the upcoming capital city of **Chhattisgarh and the country's first smart greenfield city.**
- Nine other cities under Integrated Command and Control Centre are in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Pune, Nagpur, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Bhopal and Kakinada.

Rajasthan Discontinues Guard of Honour

- Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh has discontinued the ceremonial guard of honour and has become the first to do so.
- The practice was discontinued during his recent visit to Jodhpur between June 9 and 11 when he did not take the guard of honour.
- Kalyan Singh had expressed his desire to **discontinue the ceremony for the Governor's office in a letter to the Home Department on January 1.**

Regional Road Corporation in Northeast

- The northeast is the only region in India for which the Centre has formulated a Regional Road Corporation to boost development.
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced this in a meeting of the Consultative Committee for the

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

- The eight states of the northeast will now receive 100 per cent funding for central schemes.

Composite Water Management Index out

- NITI Aayog has released a Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) of Indian states comprising 9 broad sectors with 28 different indicators covering various aspects.
- Gujarat topped the list while Jharkhand has been adjudged as the worst performer.
- Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have been placed after Gujarat respectively.

KVIC Distributes 2330 Bee-Boxes In Kashmir

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has created a world record of distributing the maximum number of bee-boxes in one day.
- This was achieved by the KVIC in the Zangalee Army area at Kupwara in Kashmir.
- It had beaten its previous best of 1000 bee boxes distributed in Kaziranga forest area among the Mishing tribe on the occasion of World Honey Bee Day (18 August).

1st BEL Representative Office In Vietnam

- Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first Representative Office of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Smt Sitharaman handed over the symbolic key of the Representative Office of BEL at Vietnam (VIRO) to Chairman of BEL.
- **The Representative Office will aim to promote BEL's exports in areas such as Weapon Systems, Radar Systems, Naval Systems etc.**

Flood Preparedness Exercise In UP

- The National Disaster Management Authority conducted a table-top exercise at the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The exercise was held in the run-up to a State-level mock exercise on flood preparedness to be held in 23 flood-prone districts of Uttar Pradesh tomorrow.
- The exercise is being held in collaboration with State Disaster Management Authority.

2 Women Battalions to be Raised in J&K

- To enhance the representation of women in the State Police, the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved raising two women Battalions for Jammu & Kashmir Police.
- One battalion each would be raised for Jammu region and Kashmir region.
- 60% of posts would be kept reserved for women of 10 border districts namely, Jammu, Samba, Kathua,

Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Kargil and Leh.

Cabinet Approves Re-positioning of NEC

- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the nomination of the Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC)
- NEC is a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member.
- NEC implements various projects through the State and Central agencies.

Railways to cut 11,000 redundant posts in FY19

- The Railway Board has set a target of shedding 11,040 redundant posts in different railway zones in 2018-2019.
- The posts have been identified to be included in the "pool of surrendered posts", which have either been vacant for long or rendered redundant due to technological advancement.
- Last year, the number of such surrendered posts was around 10,000.

IMD to Commission 27 Doppler Radars

- At least 27 doppler radars would be soon commissioned across the country covering coastlines and major cities.
- It would provide severe weather warning to stakeholders as much as six hours in advance.
- Providing information in advance about thunderstorms like the one recently reported in Bihar and Bengal helps in reducing the damage and loss of lives.

Haryana Raised Age Limit for Government Service

- Haryana government has raised the upper age limit of entry into government service from 40 to 42 years.
- The spokesperson said a circular to this effect was addressed to all administrative secretaries, heads of departments, chief administrators and managing directors of all boards, among others.
- Manohar Lal Khattar is CM of Haryana.

10 New Swachh Places under Swachh Bharat

- Ten new iconic sites have been taken up under Phase III of the flagship project Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Places are: Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Hazarduari Palace, Brahma Sarovar Temple, Vidur Kuti, Mana village, Pangong Lake, Nag Vasuki Temple, ImaKeithal/market, Sabarimala Temple and Kanvashram.
- The project is under Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

India to Host First BIMSTEC War Games

- India will host the first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September.
- The aim of the exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism.
- The exercise is scheduled to be held in Pune.

Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018

- The Ministry of HRD along with AICTE, Persistent Systems, i4C and IIT Kharagpur hosted the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018, Hardware edition from Jun 18-22, 2018.
- **Smart India Hackathon 2018 is in line with 'Make in India' initiative.**
- Hardware edition is the first of its kind innovative initiative to provide a national platform to young technical minds of India.

Indian Railways launched 'Rail MADAD' App

- In a bid to ease the travelling experience of the passengers Ministry of Railways launched Rail MADAD mobile app.
- Rail MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) registers a complaint with

minimum inputs from passenger and issues unique ID instantly

- Rail MADAD also displays various helpline numbers (eg. Security, Child helpline etc) and provides direct calling facility.

IMD Tool to Predict Flash Floods

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use flash flood guidance system for the first time in the country to forecast floods.
- Currently, the Central Water Commission issues flood warnings.
- The national weather agency is preparing to launch this service from July.
- The state and district-level farmers' bodies and disaster management agencies will be given guidance for flood preparedness.

India to make Lithium-Ion batteries

- India will soon start producing first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries.
- **A MoU for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project was signed between CSIR's Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd.**
- At present India depends on countries like China, Japan and South Korea for import of Lithium Ion batteries.

Maharashtra Most Vulnerable State

- Maharashtra has been ranked the most vulnerable state in the draft National Disaster Risk Index, followed by West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh.
- States like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh that are prone to natural calamities have been ranked relatively lower.
- Few factors taken into consideration were exposure of population, agriculture and livestock, environmental risk & economic vulnerabilities.

India to Get its 1st Police Museum in Delhi

- India will get its 1st national police museum in Lutyens Delhi.
- The museum will depict the history of central and state police forces. It will come up as an underground facility in the premises of the National Police Memorial.
- It will be inaugurated on Police Commemoration Day, which is held on October 21.

IGI Airport Expansion Plan gets Clearance

- The Union Environment Ministry has approved the proposal for the expansion of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- The expansion will increase the overall capacity of the airport to 85 million per annum as against the current 70 million per annum.

- Further, phase two of the expansion will include the construction of a new terminal.

Facial Recognition System: Varanasi Airport

- Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport will become India's first airport to have an automated smart facial recognition system at its entry, security and boarding points.
- The initiative, which is part of the DigiYatra scheme, will ensure quicker entry into airports by facilitating automated check-ins.
- It will be functional within the next 4 months as per Airport Director AK Rai.

Tree Museum in Vadodara

- A landfill site in Gujarat's Vadodara has been converted into a tree museum.
- The municipal corporation planted over 12,000 saplings of nearly 100 varieties in an area of 50,000 square metres.
- Gardening on the site, which is reportedly worth ₹250 crore, began in 2016 after locals complained of the bad smell emanating from the landfill.

HP to Scrap Semester System in UG courses

- The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system.
- HP Govt had set up a review committee headed by former vice-chancellor to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and it has recommended reverting back to annual examination system.
- The RUSA was introduced in the state in 2013.

Sikkim got its Longest Tunnel

- Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Subhash Bhamre has dedicated a highway tunnel at Theng near Chungthang in north Sikkim to the nation.
- The tunnel will benefit the tourism and rapidly propel the growth of the state.
- The double-lane tunnel stretching about 600 meters has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation at cost of over 42 crore rupees.

Uranium in Rajasthan Groundwater

- Many parts of Rajasthan may have high uranium levels in their groundwater.
- The main source of uranium contamination was "natural," but human factors such as groundwater table decline and nitrate pollution could be worsening the problem.
- Uranium is not included in the list of contaminants monitored under the Bureau of Indian Standards' Drinking Water Specifications.

Andhra Pradesh now Open-Defecation Free

- Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu declared the state open-defecation free after achieving the goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets.
- "We've completed the task of constructing toilets but they have to be used by every individual. For that, the administration has to take up some awareness programmes," Naidu said.
- Notably, the state's urban areas were declared ODF in 2016.

Indian Government Sent Notice to Facebook

- The Indian government has sent a notice to Facebook, demanding an explanation to reports that claimed the platform shared users' personal data with 60 companies including Apple and Samsung.
- "The Government of India is deeply concerned about reports of such lapses/violations," an official statement said.
- The company has been given time till June 20 to respond to the notice.

Solar Car to Protect Taj from Pollution

- Students of ACE College of Engineering & Management in Agra have developed a four-seater solar car to help reduce air pollution which is damaging the Taj Mahal.
- Priced at ₹50,000, the car can attain a maximum speed of 30 kmph.
- The vehicle can be used at night and is also sturdy enough for rural areas, college officials said.

FDI Inflows to India fall by \$4 bn Last Year

- FDI to India fell to 40 billion dollars last year from 44 billion dollars in 2016.
- But outflows from India, the main source of FDI in South Asia, doubled to USD 11 billion.
- According to the World Investment Report, 2018 by the UNCTAD global foreign direct investment flows fell by 23% in 2017, to USD 1.43 trillion from USD 1.87 trillion in 2016.

Google Rolls Out Free WiFi to Railway Stations

- Google announced that the company has successfully rolled out free public WiFi at 400 Indian railway stations in collaboration with RailTel.
- Dibrugarh railway station in Assam has become the 400th station to go live, Google said in a statement.
- The initiative was first announced in 2015 by the company's CEO Sundar Pichai and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Election Commission Launches RTI Portal

- The Election Commission of India launched an online RTI portal to help applicants seeking information under the Right To Information Act.
- The portal can be accessed on the home page of the commission's website 'eci.nic.in'.

- The portal also facilitates online reply to applications and also for making first appeal and reply thereto.

India Ranks 137th on Global Peace Index 2018

- India has moved up four places to the 137th rank among 163 countries on the 2018 Global Peace Index.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008.
- New Zealand, Austria, Portugal and Denmark also sit in the top five most peaceful rankings.
- Syria remains the least peaceful country in the world, a position it has held for the past five years.

Outstanding power Bill Waiver in MP

- The Madhya Pradesh government has announced a waiver scheme for outstanding power bills for labourers and poor families.
- The scheme is expected to benefit around 77 lakh people in the state.
- The state government also approved a scheme to subsidise electricity for registered labourers of the unorganised sector and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

'Fund of Funds' to Ensure Startup Funding: PM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government's ₹10,000-crore 'fund of funds' will ensure that startups get fundings.
- He further said as of now the fund has provided an assistance of ₹7,000 crore to startups.
- In the long term, the fund is expected to provide a funding of ₹1 lakh crore for startups.

Geo-Intelligence Asia - 2018

- The Eleventh edition of GeoIntelligence Asia 2018 was held in New Delhi.
- **The theme of Seminar was 'GeoSpatial: A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security'.**
- The seminar brought together BSF, Police Forces, Government and industry together to examine the latest technology solutions and on the critical role of geospatial technology in military and security applications.

Govt Forms 3 Key Panels for PM's Museum

- In a major push towards setting up a unique museum in Delhi on the 'Prime Ministers of India', the Culture Ministry has formed 3 high-powered panels that will work to implement the project.
- One committee will focus on project implementation.
- While the other two will concentrate on choice and development of content for museums.

Permits Key to Claim Insurance: SC

- Insurance companies are not liable to compensate accident claims for public transport vehicles plying without permits, the Supreme Court said.

- 'Permits' are authorisations given by State authorities to use motor vehicles as transport vehicles.
- The verdict came on an accident involving a truck which fatally hit a two-wheeler rider in February 2013 at Pathankot.

TRAI Moots Network to Help in Disaster Relief

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended setting up of a pan-India broadband public protection disaster relief (PPDR) communications network based on 3GPP PS-LTE technology.
- **It will be used for an 'advanced, reliable, robust and responsive communication networks' to be used during disasters.**
- PPDR communication supports services such as maintenance of law and order.

Prasar Bharati Signs MoU with I&B Ministry

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Prasar Bharati, which runs Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR), have inked MoU required for the release of financial allocation.
- The MoU was signed in the last week of May.
- Autonomous bodies getting grants-in-aid from the government are required to sign a MoU with the ministry concerned for the release of the financial allocations.

India Among Top 5 in E-waste Generation

- India is among the top 5 e-waste generating countries in the world besides China, the US, Japan and Germany, according to a report.
- Among states, Maharashtra contributes the largest e-waste of 19.8% but recycles only about 47,810 tonne per annum (TPA), the report released by ASSOCHAM and NEC.
- Tamil Nadu with e-waste contribution of 13% recycled about 52,427 TPA.

Copper-Bronze age Chariots Discovered

- The "first ever" physical evidence of chariots dating from 2000 BC - 1800 BC have been found by the Archeological Survey of India.
- It was found during a trial excavation in Sonauli village near Baghpat.
- Decorated with copper motifs, the findings of the Copper-Bronze age have opened up further research opportunities into the area's civilisation and culture.

Heli-Taxis Between Shimla-Chandigarh

- Himachal Pradesh CM Jairam Thakur flagged off a helicopter taxi service that will reduce the travel time between Shimla and Chandigarh to 20 minutes.
- The service, operated by Pawan Hans, can accommodate 19 persons and will charge ₹2,999 per person.

- The government is also planning to start heli-taxi service between Chandigarh and Manali and sortie service from Manali to the Rohtang Pass.

Funds for Special Courts to Try Lawmakers

- The Centre has released a fresh tranche of funds for 11 states to run special courts to try the over 1,500 cases related to lawmakers.
- The Department of Justice in the Law Ministry has released the funds.
- Last November, the Supreme Court had directed the government to come up with a scheme to set up 12 special courts to try 1,581 criminal cases pending against elected MPs and MLAs.

SEBI Cuts Expenses Charged by MFs

- SEBI has slashed the 'additional expense' charged by Mutual Funds to just 5 basis points to help increase the penetration of such products among investors.
- The move will help reduce the cost of investing in MFs.
- MF is an investment vehicle made up of a pool of money collected from investors for the purpose of investing in securities such as stocks, bonds, money market instruments.

Ministries of MSME and Ayush Sign MoU

- Ministry of MSME and Ministry of AYUSH signed a MoU.
- The MoU will create synergies through the institutions and schemes of both ministries for the development of AYUSH enterprises in the country.
- The objective of this partnership is to position India as a **world leader in "Holistic Healthcare"**.

Ambulance Service for Infants

- The Gujarat government has decided to launch a dedicated ambulance service to shift critically ill infants to better equipped hospitals.
- Under the 'Neonatal ambulance service project for inter-hospital transfer', the government would deploy 10 specially-equipped ambulances across the state.
- This facility will be linked to the '108' service.

BBB to Hold Interviews for MDs and EDs

- Newly constituted Banks Board Bureau, headed by former DoPT Secretary B P Sharma, will shortlist candidates for about 30 top-level vacancies in the public sector banks.
- The BBB has its genesis in the recommendations of The Committee to Review Governance of Boards of Banks in India, May 2014.
- The Bureau started functioning from April 01, 2016 as an autonomous recommendatory body.

Humsafar Jodhpur Bandra Express flagged off

- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal flagged off Humsafar Jodhpur Bandra Express at Bhagat Ki Kothi Railway Station in Jodhpur.
- Adequate arrangements have been made in the trains, including mobile charging points, CCTV and Bio Toilets.
- Railway projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore has been undertaken in Rajasthan.
- Humsafar Express are completely 3-tier AC sleeper trains.

Financial Literacy Week - June 4

- The Reserve Bank of India chose 'customer protection' as the theme for the Financial Literacy Week that started on June 4.
- The event that ended on June 8 focussed on creating awareness among customers of banks about financial products and services, good financial practices and going digital.
- Bankers, Financial Literacy Counsellors and other stakeholders participated to create awareness.

FPI Outflows Hit 18-month High

- Foreign investors pulled out ₹29,714 crore from the capital markets in May, making it the biggest outflow in 18 months, primarily due to a surge in global crude prices.
- This comes following an outflow of ₹15,561 crore from the capital markets (equity and debt) in April.
- Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.

IRCTC Roped In Trapigo for Food Delivery

- IRCTC has rolled out the facility of delivering food to passengers on their train seats.
- For the food delivery, Indian Railways has roped in Trapigo which provides last-mile logistics services for food products and other amenities such as medicines, travel, kits, handicrafts etc.
- Trapigo is unique as it has specialized the technology to deliver articles to the traveling customers.

Water Crises in Shimla

- Himachal Pradesh's CM Jai Ram Thakur said the tourist season and the increasing population led to water scarcity in Shimla.
- Water available in traditional sources has gone down this year, he added.
- Shimla is facing acute water shortage for over 10 days, prompting residents to request tourists to not visit the city.

Deccan Queen Completes 88 years of Service

- India's first superfast train, Deccan Queen Express, from Mumbai to Pune completed 88 years on June 1, 2018.

- Also known as 'Queen of Deccan' the train started on June 1, 1930.
- This was the first deluxe train introduced on the railway to serve 2 important cities of the region.

Nasscom to set up cyber security CoE

- The Data Security Council of India (DSCI), an arm of the Nasscom, signed an agreement with the Telangana government to set up the Centre of Excellence for cyber security.
- **The CoE will accelerate Telangana's cyber security momentum and make the State a hub for cyber security in the next 5 years.**
- **This CoE will help increase State's cyber security preparedness.**

Env Ministry to have Resource Efficiency Cell

- Environment Ministry signed an MoU with TERI for setting up a resource efficiency cell.
- MoU to set up the cell at the ministry aims to provide mainstream resource efficiency in public policy.
- An industry consortium on 'Waste-Proofing the Future' to identify the institutional and policy interventions needed to sustainably manage waste was also launched at the event.

EESL, Telangana Partner to Adopt E-mobility

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) signed up to lease electric vehicles and install EV chargers.
- The vehicles will be procured by EESL under the **Centre's National E-Mobility Programme.**
- This will not only reduce the costs of hired cars, but also substantially reduce emissions.

Tata Motors inks MoU to deploy 1,000 EVs

- Tata Motors has inked a pact with Maharashtra government to deploy 1,000 electric vehicles (EVs) from its range of passenger and commercial vehicles across the state.
- Tata Motors along with Tata Power will also facilitate setting up of EV charging stations in the Maharashtra.
- The MoU boosts the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy, 2018.

Ordinance for Sports University Approved

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in Manipur.
- The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance on 23rd May in this regard.
- The University, first of its kind, will promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching.

NTPC Adopts Charminar in Hyderabad

- NTPC adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the 'Swachh Iconic Places' Projects of India.
- The 'Swachh Iconic Places' is an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- It is a special clean-up initiative focused on select iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in the country.

India Improves its Childhood Index Ranking

- India has improved its ranking in the world childhood index but stays at a poor 113th position in the list of 175 countries indexed by global child rights group, Save the Children.
- The report, titled "End of Childhood", commends India's achievements in reducing the rate of child marriages.
- Nutrition, infant mortality and child labour remained issues of grave concern in India.

Railways Organizes Workshop 'Mission Raftar'

- Ministry of Railways conducted a one day workshop **"Mission Raftar" aimed at raising the average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi.**
- Issues such as punctuality, rolling stock, removing bottlenecks in terms of traffic, elimination of

unmanned level crossings were discussed at the workshop.

- Mission Raftaar' aims at doubling the average speed of freight trains.

Facebook to Offer Digital Literacy Programme

- Facebook partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a digital literacy programme in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).
- As part of the digital literacy programme pilot, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women.
- The training will be conducted in local languages.

Press Council of India Reconstituted

- The government has reconstituted the Press Council of India for a three-year term.
- According to the Press Council Act, the council shall consist of a chairman and 28 other members.
- The Press Council of India is a statutory body with a mandate to act as a watchdog to oversee the conduct of the print media.
- It was reconstituted for 3 years in October 2014 and its term ended in October 2017.

India & World

Suresh Prabhu Launches Mobile App 'ReUnite'

- Union Minister of Commerce, Suresh Prabhu launched a Mobile App called ReUnite which helps to track and trace missing children.
- The app provides facility to parents and citizens where they can upload pictures of children, and provide detailed description like name, birthmark.
- This initiative comes under *Bachpan Bachao Andolan*, the movement for the protection of children.

Agriculture JWG Between Gujarat and Israel

- Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani and Israel's Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Uri Ariel announced a joint working group in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors.
- The initiative is taken as a step to double the farmers' income by 2022.
- This Agriculture Plan would also explore opportunities for using the hi-tech protective cultivation and precision farming methods of Israel.

IISc to Boost Science Start-up Incubation

- Indian Institute of Science plans to open a research park at its Bengaluru facility within the next three years to incubate sci-tech companies.
- These parks would include simulators used for endoscopy, microsatellites to access the Internet at lower costs, a medical diagnostic kit.
- The institute collaborations with companies such as TCS, Volvo, Google, General Motors, Boeing, etc.

TAC Security Launches ESOF

- India and USA-based cyber security solutions provider TAC Security has announced a new platform, ESOF (Enterprise Security on One Framework).
- It would provide organisations to manage their entire IT security and risk assessment needs in one single platform.
- According to the latest reports the cyber security market in India is projected to grow at a CAGR of 19% during 2018-2023.

India-Nordic Partnership to Curb Pollution

- Sweden to come up with innovative technology to address the issue of stubble-burning in parts of north India that leads to pollution.
- Finland & India are also working on converting rice paddy to fibre that can be used for making clothes.
- Nordic countries include Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
- The partnership comes after India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm in April 2018.

India and Uzbekistan to Boost Ties

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Suhrob Rustamovich Kholmuradov in New Delhi.
- Both sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including Agriculture, Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Construction, Information and Communication Technology, innovation and tourism.
- The current President of Uzbekistan is Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

India Signed JDI with Germany in Aviation

- The Cabinet signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany on Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation.
- The Declaration will lead to the promotion of the effective and efficient development of air transport between India and Germany.
- It would cover Aviation Safety and Air Traffic Management, Helicopter Emergency Medical Services and Training and Skills Development.

Cabinet Approves MoU with Denmark

- The Cabinet gave approval for memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Denmark in the field of animal husbandry and dairy.
- Under this, a joint working group consisting of representatives from both the countries will be created to formulate joint programmes.
- This will facilitate the exchange of knowledge & expertise in the areas of animal breeding, animal health.

India Votes Against the Draft at OPCW meet

- India voted against the draft addressing the threat from chemical weapons use at a conference of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- The conference had been called by the UK, the US & the West to have discussions on upholding the global ban against the use of chemical weapons.
- India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OPCW is Venu Rajamony.

Cabinet Approves MoU between India & Singapore

- Union Cabinet has given its nod to a Memorandum of Understanding between India & Singapore for cooperation in urban planning and development.
- The agreement will facilitate government agencies to tap into expertise offered by Singaporean agencies in urban development and management.
- MoU aims to facilitate government bodies like municipal corporations to help in rejuvenation of urban areas.

India Pledges \$5 Million for Palestinian Aid

- India has pledged USD 5 million in assistance to UN agency working for welfare of Palestinian refugees to help bolster its severe funding crisis.
- A total of 20 countries, including India, announced contributions to the 2018 budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.
- UNRWA relies entirely on voluntary contributions from states & US is the largest contributor.

China Cuts Tariffs on Soybean from India

- China cut import tariffs on soybean and some other goods from India and four other Asian nations from July 1.
- China reduced tariffs on soybean imported from India, South Korea, Bangladesh, Laos, and Sri Lanka from 3% to zero.
- This comes as a step to escalate ongoing trade war as the US is a major supplier of soybeans to China.

15th India-Australia Ministerial Commission

- The 15th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was held on 25th June 2018, in Canberra, Australia.
- The meeting was chaired by Minister of Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu & Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism & Investment Steven Ciobo.
- A MoU was signed between Austrade and Invest-India in order to facilitate bilateral investment flows.

India, Seychelles to Work on Assumption Island

- India & Seychelles agreed to work together on a project to develop a naval base at Assumption Island keeping each other's concerns in mind.

- India is keen on developing the Assumption Island in the Indian Ocean to expand its footprint in a strategically-key region where China has been trying to enhance its presence.
- An agreement for the same was inked in 2015 between India & Seychelles.

India Cuts Export Quotas for Maldives

- India has lowered the limits on the export of certain essential commodities such as potatoes, onions, and eggs to the Maldives.
- According to a bilateral pact that came into effect in 1981, India exports essential commodities in line with the requirement as communicated by the govt of Maldives.
- Maldives was lowered to 9,892.03 MT for 2018-19 compared with the 10,259.59 MT exported in 2017-18.

Chabahar Port to made Operational by 2019

- According to a government statement, India will make sure that Chabahar Port in Iran becomes operational by 2019.
- The port is being developed as part of a new transportation corridor for land-locked Afghanistan and is expected to open way for millions of dollars in trade and cut its dependence on Pakistan.
- India's statement came after the US threatened to renew sanctions against Iran.

PM Modi Inaugurates Nature Center in New York

- PM Modi inaugurated the 'YO1 Nature Cure Center' in the Catskills area of New York on the occasion of 4th International Day of Yoga.
- YO1, which means youthful in Sanskrit, is the first of its kind nature cure center in America located in Monticello in the scenic region of Catskills.
- The centre will be a wellness destination that will offer therapies based on ancient Indian Yoga and Pranayam.

India and Cuba sign MoU to Strengthen Ties

- India and Cuba have signed 2 MoUs in the field of biotechnology, traditional medicine and homoeopathy between President Ram Nath Kovind and his Cuban counterpart Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel.
- India also offered a soft loan for the solar projects under the framework agreement of the ISA, of which Cuba is a founding member.

US Dismisses 3rd Party Role in Kashmir Dispute

- The US administration dismissed a third-party role in resolving the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.
- "We believe the pace, scope and character of any discussion on Kashmir are for the two sides to determine," it said.

- This came after Chinese Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui said trilateral cooperation between India, China and Pakistan could help resolve the issue.

India & Tajikistan to Enhance Cooperation

- India & Tajikistan have reaffirmed their commitment to promote bilateral relations & agreed to enhance economic cooperation, particularly in sustainable water development.
- Nitin Gadkari held wide-ranging talks with Sirodjiddin Muhridin, Foreign Minister of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.
- The two leaders underlined the need to give further impetus to the ongoing bilateral cooperation in various fields

India to Construct War Memorial in France

- India will construct a war memorial at Villers Guislain to honour the valour and sacrifice of its soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought for peace in the World War-I.
- During the World War I, Villers-Guislain had witnessed a fierce battle in which the British Indian cavalry regiments were heavily involved.
- This will be the second such memorial in Europe after Neuve-Chapelle Indian Memorial.

7,400 Indians Sought Asylum in the US in 2017

- At least 7,400 Indians sought asylum in the US last year, the UN refugee agency said.
- The UNHCR revealed in its annual Global Trends report that the US received the largest number of asylum requests, while the highest number of claims were filed by Afghan nationals.
- Wars, persecution and other violence led to the displacement of 68.5 million people globally.

Pakistan has more Nuclear Warheads than India

- Pakistan, with 140-150 nuclear warheads, is ahead of India which has 130-140 warheads, according to a report by global think-tank SIPRI.
- "India and Pakistan are both expanding their nuclear weapon stockpiles as well as developing new land-, sea- and air-based missile delivery systems," the report stated.
- Meanwhile, US and Russia are on top with 6,450 and 6,850 warheads, respectively.

President visits Monument of Unknown Soldier

- President Ram Nath Kovind paid respect at the "Monument of Unknown Soldier" at Athens, Greece during his visit.
- The cemetery is made as a tribute to 74 Indian soldiers who lost their lives during World War II in Greece.
- He met PM Alexis Tsipras of Greece and emphasised on strong relations between the 2 nations.

India to Open 4 New Air Gateways to Nepal

- India has agreed to open 4 new air gateways to Nepal in the eastern and western part of the country, aimed to facilitate international traffic.
- The eastern part would connect Patna and Kolkata of India with Kathmandu and Dhaka while the western part would connect Kathmandu with Delhi.
- The routes will be operational till 2019.

Fadnavis visited Virgin Hyperloop test site

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis visited one of Virgin Hyperloop One's test sites in the US.
- The visit followed the MoU signed by the state government with the Virgin Group to build the Mumbai-Pune Hyperloop at an estimated cost of ₹20,000 crore.
- The Hyperloop is expected to reduce the travel time between the two cities to 25 minutes.

India Excluded from UK's Relaxed Student Visa

- India has been excluded from the UK's new list of countries considered "low risk", whose applicants will undergo reduced checks while applying for student visas.
- The countries on the list include the US, Canada and China among others.
- Students from these countries would face reduced checks on educational, financial and English language skill requirements to study at UK universities.

Maharashtra government, Quebec Ink Pact

- The Maharashtra government and Canada's Quebec province have signed a pact to increase the economic cooperation especially in areas like information technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and welfare of the tribal community.
- The pact was signed between Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Philippe Couillard, Prime Minister of Quebec province of Canada.

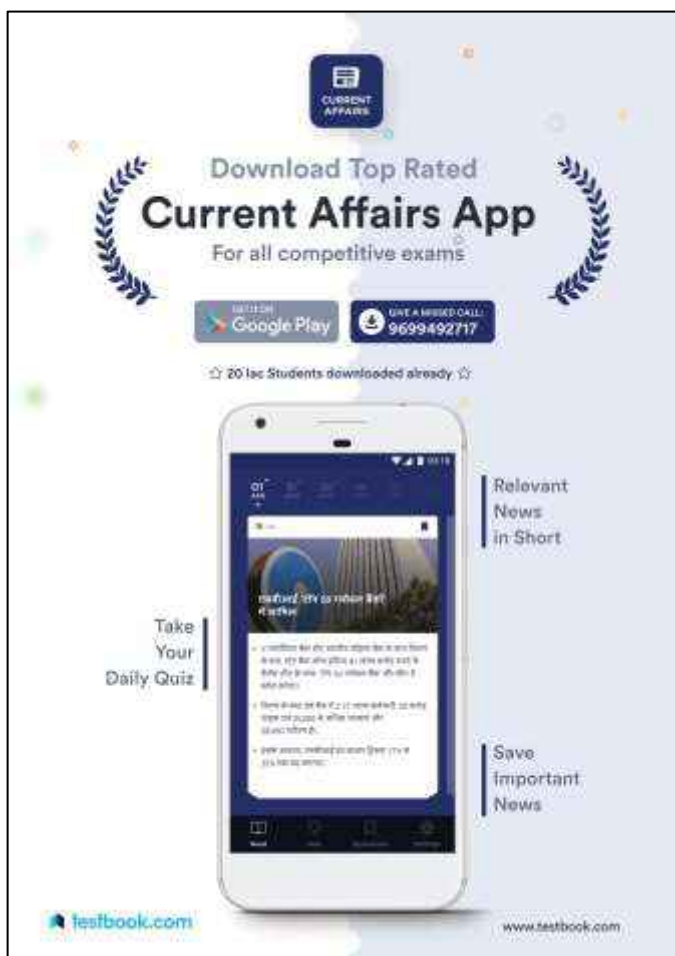
New Report on Paid Paternity Leave

- According to a new UNICEF analysis, India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies.
- Almost two-thirds of the world's children under one-year-old, nearly 90 million, live in countries where their fathers are not entitled by law to a single day of paid paternity leave.

India to Host European Union Film Festival

- The European Union Film Festival will premiere in New Delhi on 18th June, 2018.
- With a selection of 24 latest European films from 23 EU Member States, this year's film festival will bring some unusual stories for the world cinema enthusiasts.

- The European Union Film Festival is organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and EU.



India, US to Hold Trade Talks

- India and the US have agreed to hold official-level comprehensive talks to address trade and economic issues.
- This development comes as crucial after President Donald Trump accused New Delhi of charging 100 per cent tariff on some of the US' goods.
- The meeting was held in this regard between Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu had with US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

Softbank to Invest \$100 bn in India

- SoftBank Group Corp has decided to invest \$60 billion-\$100 billion in a solar power project in India.
- The company is expected to make the investment through a fund backed by Saudi Arabia's government.
- SoftBank through its Vision Fund would invest in creating the world's biggest solar power project in Saudi Arabia.

MoU between the ICMR and INSERM, France

- Union Cabinet has been apprised of a MoU which was signed in March 2018 between the ICMR and INSERM, France.
- The MoU aims at cooperation in areas of common interest within the medical, life sciences and health research fields.
- The scientific excellence on two sides will help to successfully work on health research in specified areas.

Cabinet Approved Agreement b/w India & Peru

- Cabinet has approved an agreement between India and Peru which was signed in May 2018 at Lima, Peru.
- The agreement aims to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable issues on the basis of mutual benefit equality and reciprocity.

India Gives Rs 99 mn to Nepal

- India extended a financial aid of Rs 99 mn to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems in 12 districts of the country.
- The assistance has been extended as part of the final payment for the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project, which was launched to boost growth to the Himalayan nation's agricultural sector.
- Manjeev Singh Puri is India's Ambassador to Nepal.

India is 2nd Highest Sender of Foreign Student

- With 1,86,000 Indian students currently studying in the United States, India is the second highest sender of foreign students to the US, next only to China.
- US consul general in Kolkata, Craig Hall, stated that the United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide.
- The number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

Rise in India-ASEAN Naval Games

- India is instituting a series of bilateral and multilateral naval exercises with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.
- The Navies of India and Indonesia will hold their first bilateral exercise in the Java Sea.
- The bilateral with Indonesia is in addition to the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) that the two sides conduct.

India, China to Jointly Identify Project

- India and China agreed that they will jointly move forward in identifying a specific project in the area of capacity building in Afghanistan.
- Detailed discussions with China were held on bilateral and global issues on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

- India and China have agreed that they will move forward in identifying a specific project initially.

China begins Sharing Data on Brahmaputra

- China resumed sharing hydrological data on the Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers with India.
- For the Brahmaputra river, data was shared by China from May 15, while it started sharing data for the Sutlej from June 1.
- Data will be shared twice daily until October.
- Sharing hydrological data is very important for generating information on floods for the northeastern states.

Agreements Between India and China

- India & China have signed 2 bilateral agreements on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.
- Under the MoU, China would provide hydrological information to India regarding Brahmaputra River during the flood season.
- 2006 Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Rice from India to China was amended to include export of non-Basmati varieties of rice from India.

Peace Mission 2018

- India and Pakistan will take part in a joint military exercise for the first time, courtesy the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- The exercise, which is aimed at countering terrorism and will be conducted in Ural region of Russia.
- Member states of the SCO will participate in the joint military drill 'Peace Mission 2018' to promote mutual trust, cooperation and coordination against terrorist

India Not Ready to Sign Hague Treaty

- The government is not yet ready to sign the Hague treaty on intercountry abduction of children by parents fleeing a bad marriage.
- The Hague Convention is a multinational treaty that seeks to protect children wrongfully removed by one of the parents from the custody of the other parent.
- It also recommended setting up of a Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority to act as a nodal body.

Swaraj Unveils two-faced Gandhi bust in SA

- Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj unveiled a two-faced Mahatma Gandhi bust at South Africa's Pietermaritzburg railway station.
- The bust depicts Gandhi's younger version on the front and older version on the back side.
- Notably, it is the same station where Mahatma Gandhi was thrown out of a 'whites-only' train compartment in 1893.

India and Norway sign MoU

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a MoU with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to extend the cooperation within health sector through the Norway India Partnership Initiative.
- This cooperation is aligned with the goals of Government of India as outlined in its National Health Policy 2017.
- The cooperation shall also focus on global health issues of common interest.

India-Denmark MoU on Sustainable Development

- The Union Cabinet apprised the MoU signed between India and Denmark.
- The objective of this MoU is to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable and smart urban development on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit through an exchange of knowledge, institutional cooperation, research.
- Under this MoU, a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be set up to strategise.

Cabinet Approves MoU Between India and Oman

- The Union Cabinet approved a MoU signed between India represented by the ISRO and Oman represented by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
- The MoU on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space was signed in February 2018 at Muscat.
- This MoU shall enable cooperation in space science, technology, and applications including remote sensing of the earth.

Issue of Postage Stamp Between India & Russia

- Cabinet has approved the agreement signed in connection with release of Joint Stamps between Department of Posts, India and Russia Post (MARKA) to establish postal cooperation.
- Bilateral relations between India and Russia are marked by broad understanding on issues of mutual interest.
- India and Russia enjoy enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationship.

China and India Meet for Fighting Corruption

- A six-member delegation of senior Chinese officials will meet their counterparts in Indian agencies.
- It is to deepen cooperation between the two countries on people wanted for corruption and asset recovery.
- During the Chinese presidency of G20 in 2016, the "High Level Principles on Cooperation on Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery" was initiated. India supported the initiative.

Cabinet Approved Agreement b/w India & Peru

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- The agreement aims to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable issues on the basis of mutual benefit equality and reciprocity.
- The Agreement will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation.

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Personalities in News

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw Elected to MIT Board

- India's biotech queen Kiran Mazumdar Shaw has been elected as a full-term member of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- Shaw is also ranked among the world's most influential people in bio-pharma by Forbes magazine.
- Shaw was elected a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences in 2006.

Nerella Venumadhav Passes Away

- Father of Indian mimicry, Nerella Venu Madhav died after a brief illness at his home in Mattewada in Warangal city in Telangana.
- Venumadhav served as an MLC in 1971 in the undivided Andhra Pradesh.
- He rose to international fame after his enthralling performance at the United Nations.
- He has been conferred scores of awards, including the Padma Shri in 2001.

ICICI Bank gets new part-time chairman

- ICICI Bank has appointed former bureaucrat Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its non-executive part-time chairman.
- Chaturvedi is a 1977-batch IAS officer, who retired as the Oil Secretary in January 2013.
- The term of M K Sharma, the previous chairman of ICICI Bank, ended on June 30.

B Sriram Resigns as SBI MD

- SBI managing director B. Sriram has resigned from his post after being appointed as the chief executive of IDBI Bank.
- The news assumes significance amid reports that Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is weighing acquiring a majority stake in the debt-ridden IDBI Bank.
- Sriram is the longest-serving public sector bank MD and has wide experience, including in stressed assets management.

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S Ramesh appointed as Chairman of CBIC

- S Ramesh has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes.
- Ramesh, an officer of the Indian Revenue Service had mandated with the responsibility of implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The CBIC, which works under the Finance Ministry, is headed by a Chairman and can has 6 members.

Sanjay Kumar quits Indigo

- IndiGo's Chief Commercial Officer Sanjay Kumar resigns from the office.
- S. Kumar has been associated with the organisation from past 12 years.
- His resignation would be effective from July 15. Willam Boulter, the current Chief Strategy Officer, would be taking over from him.
- Interglobe Aviation is the parent company of Indigo.

Sunil Mittal becomes Honorary Chairman of ICC

- Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder & Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, will step down as the Chairman of International Chamber of Commerce.
- He will now function as the Honorary Chairman of ICC commencing July 1, 2018.
- He will be succeeded by Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, as ICC Chairman.
- Mittal was only the 3rd Indian to have been appointed the chairman of the ICC since it was constituted in 1919.

Ramdev gets Wax Statue at Madame Tussauds

- Baba Ramdev will soon have a wax replica at the Madame Tussauds museum of London.
- Baba Ramdev will be the second saint to be depicted at the notable wax museum after Swami Vivekananda.
- Madame Tussauds is a major tourist attraction in London, displaying the waxworks of famous and historic people and also popular film characters.

Second Youngest Chess Grandmaster

- R Praggnanandhaa made history by becoming the 2nd youngest chess grandmaster in the world by earning his 3rd GM norm during Gredine Open.
- Praggnanandhaa who is just 12 years, 10 months and 14 days old is also the youngest Indian Grandmaster.
- Ukraine's Serget Karjakin remains the youngest ever Grandmaster.
- Viswanathan Anand, India's first ever GM, was 18 years old when he earned his 3rd norm

Arjit Basu: New MD of State Bank of India

- The appointments committee of the cabinet has appointed Arijit Basu as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India till October 31, 2020.

- Prior to this, Basu was heading the corporate accounts group as the Deputy MD.
- SBI's Managing Director B. Sriram will take charge as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank after existing Chief MK Jain got recently appointed as the RBI Deputy Governor.

MK Jain Takes charge as RBI deputy governor

- M.K. Jain has assumed charge as the fourth Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Jain has come in place of SS Mundra who retired last year.
- Jain was the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank before being appointed as Deputy Governor for a term of three years.
- The other 3 deputy governors are N S Vishwanathan, Viral V Acharya and B P Kanungo.

Chief Economic Advisor Subramanian resigned

- The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India, Arvind Subramanian had resigned from the post and will return to the US because of "pressing family commitments".
- The announcement was made by Mr Arun Jaitley.
- Subramanian was appointed as CEA to the finance ministry in October 2014, for the period of three years.
- In 2017 his term was extended for a year.

M. Scorsese to Receive Lifetime Achievement

- Veteran director Martin Scorsese will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Rome Film Festival 2018.
- Martin Scorsese is an American director, producer, screenwriter, actor and film historian. He is widely regarded as one of the most significant and influential filmmakers in cinematic history.
- The 13th edition of the famed Rome film festival will run from October 18-28 2018.

Sikkim appoints AR Rahman as Brand Ambassador

- Music composer AR Rahman has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Sikkim government, an official notification issued by Chief Secretary AK Srivastava stated.
- Rahman will promote and project Sikkim's achievements nationally and globally.
- Earlier this year, he was made the state's Brand Ambassador of tourism and business.

Anukreethy Vas crowned Miss India 2018

- Tamil Nadu's Anukreethy Vas was named Miss India at the 55th Femina Miss India 2018.
- Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, who won the title last year, crowned Anukreethy, who will go on to represent India at Miss World.

- Haryana's Meenakshi Chaudhary stood second while Andhra Pradesh's Shreya Rao Kamavarapu ranked third.
- Malaika Arora and Irfan Pathan were among the judges.

ICICI Bank Names Sandeep Bakhshi As COO

- The ICICI Bank board has appointed ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO Sandeep Bakhshi as whole-time director and chief operating officer (COO).
- It is a new top position at **India's second largest** private bank, to steer all its businesses.
- **Chanda Kochhar, ICICI Bank's managing director and CEO** will remain on leave until a committee investigating allegations of impropriety completes its work.

Jeff Bezos becomes Richest man in the World

- Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos becomes the richest man in the world with a net worth of USD 141.9 billion according to the Forbes world's billionaire list.
- Bezos beat the principal founder of Microsoft Corp. Bill Gates, who is the second richest man with a total wealth of USD 92.9 billion.
- Bezos' company Amazon has now become the second most valuable company in the world after Apple.

Ivan Duque became Colombia's President

- Colombia has chosen Ivan Duque to be its next president after a long and divisive campaign that often centred on a controversial peace process with leftist rebels the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
- Duque, who will turn 42 just before taking office will be Colombia's youngest ever President.
- Bogota is the capital of Colombia.

Smriti Mandhana's maiden Kia Super League

- Indian T20I vice-captain Smriti Mandhana is set to become the first Indian to play in the **Kia Super League (KSL), England's domestic women's T20** competition.
- Mandhana was selected by the "Western Storm" as their second overseas player.
- In 2017, Harmanpreet Kaur was picked by the Surrey Stars.

Veteran journalist Adiraju passes away

- Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away in Hyderabad.
- He worked for several Telugu and English dailies and news agencies including Andhra Jyothi, Udayam, Deccan Chronicle, Indian Express, Himachal Times and Hindustan Samachar at Hyderabad and Delhi.
- He played an active role in the separate Telangana agitation in 1969.

Omar Al-Razzaz sworn in as Jordan PM

- Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz was sworn in as Jordan's Prime Minister after King Abdullah issued a decree approving the new government.
- The 58-year-old, who studied at Harvard University, was tasked with reviewing the country's disputed tax system.
- Omar succeeded Hani al-Mulki who resigned following mass protests over price hikes and other government economic policies.

Inderjit Singh became Secretary, Min of Coal

- Dr. Inderjit Singh, assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Coal at Shastri Bhawan office, New Delhi.
- Dr. Jit Singh took over the charge of Secretary which fell vacant after superannuation of Shri Susheel Kumar on April 30 this year.
- Dr. Jit Singh was posted as Secretary (Coordination) in Cabinet Secretariat, he is a Ph.D in Economics from Punjab University.

Dhivya: 1st Female CFO at General Motors

- Dhivya Suryadevara has been named the chief **financial officer of the United States' largest** automaker, General Motors.
- Dhivya will report to chief executive officer (CEO) Mary Barra who is also the first woman in the auto industry.
- **Suryadevara earned her bachelor's and master's** degrees in commerce from the University of Madras in Chennai, India.

Saxena appointed acting UPSC chief

- UPSC member Arvind Saxena has been appointed as the acting Chairman of the commission from June 20.
- Saxena, a 1978-batch Indian Postal Service officer, will take over the charge from incumbent Vinay Mittal who completes his term at the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on June 19.
- **Saxena joined the UPSC in May, 2015** after he completed his stint in the Aviation Research Centre (ARC).

Vettel claims 50th win

- Sebastian Vettel claimed the 50th win of his career and reclaimed the lead of this year's world championship at the Canadian Grand Prix.
- It was also Vettel's second win in Canada where he won in 2013 for Red Bull.
- Vettel's third victory this season lifted him to 121 points ahead of Hamilton on 120 after seven races.

Sharad Kumar appointed Vigilance Commissioner

- Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar was on June 10 appointed vigilance commissioner in the probity watchdog Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

- Mr. Kumar has been appointed vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission for a term of four years or till he attains the age of 65.
- The Commission comprises of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two vigilance commissioners.

Brazilian Tennis great Maria Bueno dies

- Brazilian tennis great Maria Bueno passed away after a battle with mouth cancer, according to a statement by the hospital. She was 78.
- Bueno was a former top-ranked player who spent most of her career on the court before the professional era.
- She won 19 Grand Slam titles overall, seven in singles, 11 in doubles and one in mixed doubles, between 1959 and 1966.

Shantaram Naik passes away in Goa

- Former Congress MP Shantaram Naik passed away in Goa, after suffering a heart attack while being shifted to Trimurti hospital.
- The 73-year-old was a one-time North Goa Lok Sabha MP and a two-time Rajya Sabha MP.
- He successfully contested the North Goa Lok Sabha seat in 1984 and was instrumental in the passage of the Statehood Bill that consequently granted statehood to Goa on May 30, 1987.

Virat Kohli among highest-paid athletes

- India cricket captain Virat Kohli is among the world's highest-paid athletes, according to a Forbes' report.
- Kohli, the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the list, is ranked 83rd with earnings of USD 24 million.
- The 'World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2018' list is topped by 41-year-old Mayweather, with USD 285 million earnings.

Bengali litterateur Indramitra passes away

- Noted Bengali litterateur Arabinda Guha, who is also known by his pseudonym Indramitra, passed away.
- The author was a recipient of Rabindra Puraskar, instituted by the West Bengal Government, twice for his books 'Karunasagar Vidyasagar' and 'Dekha Sakhat', a collection of poems.
- His first book of poems was 'Dakshin Nayak' and the last one, 'Prasthan Samay Upasthit' was published in 2014.

Giuseppe Conte sworn in as Italian PM

- Giuseppe Conte was sworn in as prime minister of Italy's new populist government.
- Conte will head a government of ministers from the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the far-right League Party.
- The first populist coalition in a founding EU member has raised concerns in some European quarters.

Padma Shri award given to Tommy Koh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the **Padma Shri award, one of India's highest civilian awards**, to former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh in Singapore.
- Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award.
- **Koh has served as Singapore's ambassador to the US and the UN.**

Kerala Cartoonist Wins International Award

- Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony has won an international award, in the best caricature category.
- Antony, currently working as Executive Artist of Malayalam daily 'Metro Vaartha', is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards.
- The awards are given to the best works published in 2017 in newspapers and magazines from around the world.

Environment

World Bank: Maha Most Vulnerable to Climate

- **Maharashtra is among the states where people's standards of living are most vulnerable to climate change**, says a World Bank study released, titled **"South Asia's Hotspots"**.
- The study projects that India could shave off 2.8% of GDP by 2050 if greenhouse gas emissions continue unmitigated.
- Many districts will see 9% - 11% decline in standards of living with Chandrapur district topping at 12.4%.

BHEL and Korean Firm Work on Curbing Emission

- BHEL has inked a pact with South Korean firm NANO Co. Ltd for design and manufacture emission control devices.
- The Technology Collaboration Agreement (TCA) with NANO Co is for design and manufacture of SCR Catalysts for De-NOx application in coal-fired plants.
- In India, there is a 32% increase in SO₂ levels and 34% rise in PM_{2.5} levels.

Climate Change May Cost India 2.8% of GDP

- According to a World Bank report, changing monsoon patterns & rising temperatures driven by climate change could cost India 2.8% of GDP.
- Climate change could depress the living standards of **nearly half of India's population by 2050, which now lives in vulnerable areas.**
- The worst hit would be people in 10 districts in Central India, which have been identified as severe hotspots by the report.

1st Inter-state Translocation Proj. of Tigers

- **In the country's 1st inter-state translocation of tigers project**, a female cub was shifted from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, MP to Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha.

- India has a population of 3891 tigers, according to 2016 census.
- The ambitious project is conceived by the Ministry of Environment, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India to boost tiger population.

Delhi HC Orders Halt on Cutting 17000 trees

- A controversial project that requires the cutting of 17,000 trees in Delhi.
- The NBCC also deposited Rs. 8 crores with the tree authority of the Delhi government for permission to cut trees.
- Petitioner KK Mishra, asks the court to stop the central government project to cut thousands of trees for the redevelopment of 7 colonies in south Delhi.
- HC halts the cutting of trees till July 4 2018.

Swachh Bharat Survey 2018

- According to Swachh Bharat survey 2018, Jharkhand is the cleanest state in India followed by Maharashtra and Chattisgarh.
- Among the cities, Indore is the cleanest followed by Bhopal & Chandigarh.
- Tripura was at the bottom of the list of cleanest states, followed by Puducherry, Nagaland and West Bengal.
- 18 out of 25 dirtiest cities in India with population of over 1 lakh are in West Bengal.

Plastic Ban in Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra government has imposed a ban on manufacture, use, sale, distribution and storage of all plastic materials across the state.
- As per the notification, violators will be fined Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 for the first and second-time offence.
- With this Maharashtra becomes the 18th state of the country to impose a complete ban on plastic.

Two Frog Species Discovered

- In a significant discovery, two species of frogs have been recorded in the Indian peninsular — Fejervarya kalinaga from the Eastern Ghats and Fejervarya krishnan from the Western Ghats.
- The Eastern Ghats species of Fejervarya kalinaga attains significance since it is endemic to moist high altitude forest of the region.
- These new species are habitat specialists.

U.S. Team to join Indian Ocean study

- A team of 20 scientists, along with a key vessel of the United States NOAA, is arriving in Goa.
- It will mark the expansion of U.S.-Indian collaboration in the study of the Indian Ocean.
- Subtle changes on the surface and deep below in the western Indian Ocean have significant impact on

weather in India in days, and in the United States, two to four weeks later.

Nitrogen emissions going up

- Nitrogen particles make up the largest fraction of PM_{2.5}, the class of pollutants closely linked to cardiovascular and respiratory illness, says the first-ever quantitative assessment of nitrogen pollution in India.
- The burning of crop residue is a key contributor to winter smog in many parts of North India.
- Indian NO_x emissions grew at 52% from 1991 to 2001 and 69% from 2001 to 2011.

539 species Discovered in India in 2017

- 539 new species of plants and animals were discovered by scientists in the country in 2017, say publications from ZSI and BSI.
- Animal Discoveries, 2017 lists 300 new species of fauna.
- Plant Discoveries, 2017 lists 239 new flora species.
- Besides these discoveries, the biodiversity in the country recorded another 263 species with 174 new records of animals and 89 of plants found.

Global Efforts to Address Plastic Pollution

- The United Nations Environment unveiled its report on the state of plastic pollution in 2018.
- The report, titled "Single-use Plastics: A roadmap for Sustainability", was developed in cooperation with the Centre and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The report was launched on the occasion of World Environment Day.

Haryana Banned single-use water bottles

- On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Haryana government has banned single-use water bottles in all government offices in the state.
- Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that a five-point programme would be implemented for maintaining ecological balance in Haryana.
- It will include plantation of 20 lakh saplings and using LED bulbs.

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Centre to Start Measuring Green GDP of States

- The government will begin a 5-year exercise to compute district-level data of the country's environmental wealth.
- The numbers will eventually be used to calculate every State's 'green' Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- The metric will help with a range of policy decisions, such as compensation to be paid during land acquisition, calculation of funds required for climate mitigation, and so on.

Forest Cover Stood at 21.34% in 2015

- India's forest cover stood at 21.34% in 2015, an increase of 1.29 percent from 2009, according to a government report on the environment.
- The 'Status of Environment Report, India 2015', was released by Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan.
- Mizoram with 89% has the highest forest cover among the states and Union territories in the country.
- Assam's forest cover at 35% was the lowest.

Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution

- A 'Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution' was adopted. Efforts would be made to make the 500-metre area around the 17th-century monument litter-free.
- Steps would also be taken to phase out single-use plastic there.
- Minister of State for Environment Mahesh Sharma said India and the whole world was grappling with pollution due to plastics.

Government Policies & Schemes

UP Passes Stringent Crime Control Bill

- The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has passed a stringent bill to curb organised crime and deal strictly with terrorism.
- The UPCOC Bill seeks to act against those using explosives or firearms or any other violent means or damaging life and property or involved in anti-national or destructive activities.
- The bill provides punishments from minimum 3 years' imprisonment to Capital Punishment.

Ministry of Power partners with Skill India

- Ministry of Power partnered with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states for speedy implementation of its Saubhagya Scheme.
- The scheme aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country.
- To support the scheme, the training program has been launched in Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

IM-PDS approved for implementation

- A new central sector scheme namely "Integrated Management of Public Distribution System" has been

approved for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- The key objectives of the scheme are to integrate PDS systems of States/UTs with Central System, the introduction of National Portability etc.
- The new scheme will bring more transparency and efficiency in distribution of the food grains.

NITI Aayog Signs SOI with SAP

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission signed a Statement of Intent with SAP to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- SAP will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories for 5 years to nurture the science, technology, engineering and maths learning among school children.
- This will enable students to learn advanced topics relevant to digital transformation and the Internet of Things.

3.21 lakh houses under PMAY(U)

- The Centre has approved construction of over 3.21 lakh houses for urban poor under its flagship Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- Haryana was sanctioned the highest number of houses for construction, followed by West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Mizoram.
- The projects were sanctioned across 523 cities in various states.

"E-Tribes India" Launched

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India's (TRIFED) websites-www.tribesindia.com, www.trifed.in and Retail Inventory Software and M-commerce app.
- TRIFED has developed its own website i.e., tribesindia.com for sale of all its products and to tap m-commerce.
- 'Tribes India' Banners at Amazon, Snapdeal, Paytm & GeM will be launched.

Mission Sambhav launched in Assam

- Assam Chief Minister launched the 'Mission Sambhav' campaign, which aims at spreading the message of toilet construction in 33 districts of the state.
- The central theme of the campaign is to reach out to more than 1 lakh families without a toilet, on a single day.
- The scheme aims to promote mass mobilisation through public representatives, local units of security forces, NGOs, and colleges.

High Courts to have 'Justice Clocks'

- The Centre will soon install 'Justice Clocks' — LED message display boards — in all 24 High Courts.

- The clocks will display the daily rate of disposal of cases, the number of pending cases and the individual rank of each of these courts.
- **A model of this 'clock' was first installed in the Delhi office of the Justice Department.**
- The aim is also to create a competition among the courts.

UIDAI to Roll Out Face Recognition for AADHAR

- The Unique Identification Authority of India has announced to roll-out face authentication feature by July 1, 2018, to add another layer of security for inclusive authentication of Aadhaar card holders.
- It will provide additional choice to those facing issues with their fingerprint or iris authentication.
- Face authentication will only be used along with the previous authentication tool.

MHRD has Approved 'Study in India' programme

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has **approved 'Study in India' programme.**
- **The 'Study in India' programme's primary objective is to target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.**
- The move is aimed to improve the global ranking of Indian educational institutes.
- Under the programme, meritorious students will be provided with fee waiver and scholarship.

MEA's 'Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar' launched

- The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of the External Affairs ministry launched an initiative, "*Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar*" in Hyderabad.
- The initiative is part of the enhanced public diplomacy outreach to take the objectives of the foreign policy to the common people.
- The initiative involves MEA's engagement with the regional media based in different cities across India.

AAP govt presented its first 'Green Budget'

- The AAP government presented its Rs 53,000 crore budget for 2018-19 in the Assembly, which laid emphasis on environment, health, education and water.
- **This is the first "Green budget" of the government for effective containment of pollution in the city.**
- They also proposed to set aside Rs 1000 crore for repair and maintenance of smaller roads owned by the municipal corporations of the city.

Govt. to Fully Fund Education of Martyrs' Children

- The government will now fully fund the education of martyrs' children.
- Before this, the education of these children was funded, but only up to Rs 10,000 a month.
- The concession applies to the children of officers from the armed forces, 'persons below officer rank'

missing in action, and those disabled or killed in action.

- This scheme covers around 3,400 children.

'Indian Sign Language Dictionary' Launched

- **"First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words" was launched by Government of India on 23rd March.**
- The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The basic aim of developing the Indian Sign Language Dictionary is to remove communications barriers between the deaf and hearing communities.

Assam to Start NRC Verification from April 2

- The verification of citizenship documents of 29 lakh married women for updating the 1951 National Register of Citizens, will begin in Assam on April 2.
- Each woman will be asked to produce whatever evidence she can gather, oral or written.
- The other major process of verifying the family tree of those yet to be included in NRC had begun on February 17.

One app, 1000 services: mKeralam

- Kerala government has launched "mKeralam", an app that will serve as a single window for accessing thousands of government services.
- The app has been developed by the Kerala State Information Technology Mission and will initially offer 100 citizen-oriented public services of 20 departments.
- The services accessible via mKeralam are available through 'www.kerala.gov.in'.

Payment of Gratuity Amendment Bill Passed

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) bill.
- The bill would enhance the ceiling of tax-free gratuity to Rs 20 lakh from existing Rs 10 lakh for employers under the Payment of Gratuity Act.
- It is applicable to employees, who have completed at least five years of continuous service in an establishment that has 10 or more persons.

Govt Launches Free wi-fi service in Udvada

- The government has launched free wi-fi service for Sansad Adarsh Gram, Udvada in Valsad district of Gujarat.
- The village has been adopted by Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Smriti Irani under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- The free wi-fi service will be provided by BSNL in partnership with QuadGen.
- The wi-fi service will cover nearly 90% of the village.

India to open 18 Missions in Africa

- The Union Cabinet on 21st March has approved the opening of 18 new Indian Missions in 18 African countries.
- This will enhance India's diplomatic outreach in the African continent and allow India to engage with Indian diaspora in African countries.
- The 18 missions will be opened over a four-year period between 2018 to 2021.

IRCTC introduces Billing through PoS in Train

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced billing through Point of Sale (POS) hand-held machines in trains to check overcharging by vendors.
- IRCTC has already introduced POS machines in New Delhi-Karnataka Express on a pilot basis.
- The POS billing machines will be introduced in trains in a phased manner.

Integrated Scheme for Silk Industry Approved

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry.
- The core objective of the scheme is to improve the productivity and quality of silk through R&D intervention.
- The approved proposal includes provision for the brand promotion of Indian silk through quality certification by "Silk Mark".

Cabinet Approves Ayushman Bharat – NHPM

- The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).
- The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year.
- The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database.

Cabinet Approves NEIDS 2017

- The Union Cabinet has approved the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017.
- To promote employment in the North East States, Government is incentivizing primarily the MSME Sector through this scheme.
- The newly introduced scheme shall promote industrialization in the States of the North Eastern Region and will boost employment and income generation.

Delhi Launched app to find Singing Talent

- The Delhi government launched a mobile app called "Delhi's Date with Democracy".
- Its aim is to allow applicants from all parts of the city to showcase their talent.
- "There is no age limit and interested candidates can start sending their entries in both categories- singing

and dancing, from tomorrow onwards," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

Govt extends Fixed Term Employment Facility

- The government has extended the facility of hiring workers on fixed-term employment to all sectors for improving the ease of doing business for companies.
- This facility was available only to the apparel manufacturing sector as per the Industrial Establishment (Standing Order) 1946.
- The fixed term employment was defined as a workman who is employed on a contract basis for a fixed period.

Plastic Park in Jharkhand Approved

- The Government of India has approved the setting up of a 'Plastic Park' in Deoghar District in Jharkhand.
- A range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc. would be manufactured in this plastic park.
- A plastic recycling unit will also be set up at Deoghar to tackle the menace of plastic waste.

Kerala to get Tribal Instructors for Literacy

- In a first, Kerala government will rope in qualified tribal instructors to impart literacy in their respective settlements in a bid to improve literacy rates among tribal populations.
- The instructors will teach people who are above 15 years of age, Director of Kerala literacy mission PS Sreekala said.
- Around 370 instructors for 100 villages have been appointed for the initiative.

First National Workshop on POSHAN Abhiyaan

- The first National workshop on POSHAN Abhiyan involving all the states and union territories was held at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organising the day-long workshop with participation from all the states/UTs.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 by the Prime Minister in Jhunjhunu.

Odisha to Collaborate with RIMES

- The Odisha State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA) will collaborate with the Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services and enhancing preparedness for management of hazards in the State.
- OSDMA and RIMES would forge a partnership in the field of drought monitoring.
- RIMES is already working with the Tamil Nadu.

LaQshya Programme Launched

- The Union Health Ministry announced the launch of LaQshya, a programme aimed at improving quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatre.
- The programme will improve the quality of care maternity operation theatres, and obstetrics Intensive Care Units and High Dependency Units.
- **The programme aims at implementing 'fast-track' interventions for achieving results within 18 months.**

NITI Aayog to Release SATH-E Roadmaps

- NITI Aayog will release comprehensive roadmaps **and detailed timelines for its initiative 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education'** project at NITI Aayog.
- SATHE will introduce System-wide Governance Transformation in School Education.
- These roadmaps present customized, action-oriented programmes, outlining interventions at the individual, district and State level.

Urea Subsidy to Continue till 2020

- The Cabinet has approved the continuation of the urea subsidy till 2020. The government also approved the implementation of direct benefit transfer (DBT) for disbursement of fertiliser subsidy.
- The Centre subsidises the difference between the cost of delivered fertilisers at the retail store and the MRP paid by farmers.
- The subsidy scheme will ensure that urea is available to the farmers.

HRD Ministry to set up 'Innovation Cell'

- The Human Resource Development Ministry would soon set up "innovation cell" that would explore ideas to strengthen innovation efforts in education.
- **The "Innovation Cell" would be headed by a scientist** and would be comprised of a senior ministry official and young professional.
- **The move comes after India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index Ranking moved up to 60 in 2017 from 66 in 2016.**

NCRB launches Mobile App useful for Citizens

- The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has introduced Citizen Services Mobile App, which is a bouquet of 9 police related services.
- These services will provide a smooth interface between Citizens and Police.
- Another feature of the App also enables a complainant to download FIR.
- States/UTs can host this App on their platform through which citizens can register Police Complaint.

Switch to e-vehicles: Govt to all departments

- The Power Ministry has directed all central government departments and PSUs in the National Capital Region to switch to e-vehicles for local use.

- The move comes as the government plans to have 30% of the total vehicle fleet in the country running on batteries by 2030.
- Charging facilities for such vehicles are being installed at various locations, the ministry added.

Delhi Women Safety App Fail to Serve Purpose

- The women safety App 'Himmat' has failed to serve its purpose as it has only 30,821 registered users out of Delhi's population of 1.9 crore, a parliamentary panel said.
- The panel identified the App's complex registration process and non-availability in Hindi as the reasons for its limited number of users.
- 'Himmat' App was launched by the Delhi Police in 2015.

M.P. to map 'Happiness Quotient'

- Madhya Pradesh will carry out a study to find how happy people are.
- **The 'happiness quotient' of people became a global talking point when Bhutan came out with a 'happiness index' and linked it to development, which is otherwise based on GDP numbers.**
- The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government had **set up the 'Anand Vibhag',** or the happiness department, in 2016.

National e-Mobility Programme launched

- The objective of the National e-Mobility Programme is to provide an impetus to the entire e-mobility ecosystem including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure companies, fleet operators etc.
- The Programme will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) which will procure electric cars.
- The electric cars will replace existing diesel and petrol vehicles.

Karnataka Flag Unveiled

- The Karnataka Chief Minister unveiled the State flag (nada dhwaja) for Karnataka.
- The yellow-white-red flag has the State emblem "*Gandaberunda*" at the centre.
- If approved by the Centre, Karnataka will be the second State to have a flag after Jammu and Kashmir.
- The proposal will be now sent to the Union Home Ministry for approval since a State has no powers to announce its own flag.



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Union govt to set up Arbitration Council

- To make India a global hub for arbitration, the government will set up an Arbitration Council that will grade institutions that offer alternative dispute resolution mechanism for commercial disputes.
- The proposal to set up council is a part of the Arbitration and Conciliation Amendment Bill, 2018.

- The proposed council will be headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.

'Freight village' in Varanasi

- The government is planning to develop a "freight village" in Varanasi.
- The freight village to be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) would reduce logistics cost in the eastern transport corridor and its influence zone.
- It envisages the establishment of multimodal logistics hub in Varanasi to promote the use of waterway transport on river Ganga.

Government launches 'SUVIDHA'

- The government announced the launch of 'Suvidha', the 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- SUVIDHA napkins would be physically available at all Janaushadhi Kendras in the country by May 28, 2018 – World Menstrual Hygiene Day.
- It would ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women of India.

'WINGS INDIA 2018' Event

- The four-day biennial event from 8th to 11th March - 'WINGS INDIA 2018', jointly organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India and FICCI took off in Hyderabad.
- WINGS INDIA 2018 is a platform for interactions, forging alliances, investments and air connectivity between the States and the global aviation players & stakeholders.
- The theme of the event is 'India-Global Aviation Hub'.

Udyam Sakhi Portal Launched for women

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched Udyam Sakhi Portal for women entrepreneurs of India on International Women's Day.
- The portal's aim is to nurture entrepreneurship and create business models for low-cost products and services to empower women.
- The portal aids with entrepreneurship learning tools, providing mentors etc.

Coastal Berth Scheme

- The Government has extended the period of Coastal Berth Scheme beyond 12th Five Year Plan i.e. from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020.
- The scope of the scheme has also been enlarged to cover the cost of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and capital dredging at Major Ports.
- The Scheme provides financial assistance to Major/Non-Major Ports/State Maritime Board/State Governments.

PM expands Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- On International Women's Day, the PM expanded "National Nutrition Mission" (NNM), and *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (BBBP), at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.
- The BBBP programme has been expanded from the existing 161 to 640 districts of India.
- NNM aim is to reduce under-nutrition, low birth weight, anaemia among young children, women and adolescent girls.

DA hiked to 7% for central govt employees

- The Cabinet approved a hike in Dearness Allowance to central government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners from 5% to 7%, with effect from January 1, 2018.
- It represents an increase of 2%.
- The hike is expected to benefit 48.41 lakh central government employees and 61.17 lakh pensioners.
- The impact on the exchequer over the DA hike will be ₹6,077 crores per annum.

Women SHGs to be Trained in Making LED Lights

- Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a programme for women self-help groups at Thanou.
- The 5-day programme named LED Gram Light Training programme will train 50 women from 10 SHGs in making LED bulbs, tube lights and chandeliers and help them stand on their own feet.
- It will boost the sale of local products and will also help in stopping sale of Chinese items of home decor.

Delhi's Women's Day gift: Panic Buttons

- On the International Women's Day, the Delhi government has announced a project under which state-run buses would be installed with Panic Alarm Systems.
- Each bus is equipped with 4 panic buttons that cover the entire length of the vehicle.
- A loud beeping alarm will be activated for 40 seconds on pressing the button.
- On hearing the alarm, the driver would stop the bus and identify the problem.

Fighting Air Pollution

- To support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to address air pollution.
- Cabinet approved a scheme for the promotion of agricultural mechanisation for in-situ management of crop residue.
- The key component of this scheme is to establish a Farm Machinery Bank for Custom Hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery.

Swachh Shakti 2018

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, in association with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is organizing a Women's Convention – called *Swachh*

Shakti 2018 on International Women's Day on 8th March at Lucknow.

- Uttar Pradesh will be hosting *Swachh Shakti 2018* as the largest State in the country.
- *Swachh Shakti 2018* will provide momentum to the sanitation coverage in Uttar Pradesh.

Kollam to Bring all Food Biz under FSSAI

- Kollam will become the first district in India to bring all food business operators under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI).
- Bakeries, auditoriums, hospitals, schools, charity organisations, public distribution chains, hostels have been included.
- Factories operating in the cashew sector and ice plants in the fishing sector have been put through the license process.

Rs. 5600 Cr Sanctioned Under Darshan Scheme

- Rs. 5638.87 cr was sanctioned since 2014-15 till date under the *Swadesh Darshan* Scheme of Min of Tourism.
- Under the scheme, 13 thematic circuits have been identified for development.
- Under PRASHAD scheme, 23 projects have been sanctioned to 15 States for a total amount of Rs.687.92 cr.
- The objective of the PRASHAD is of holistic development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destination.

MP announces ₹12,000 on Childbirth for Poor

- On his 59th birthday, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the state government will give ₹12,000 on the birth of a child in a poor family.
- Chouhan said ₹5,000 will also be provided for the last rites of a poor person.
- Government will also provide Rs 2 lakh through insurance to people who died a natural death before reaching 60 years of age.

Karnataka Unveils 'Arogya Karnataka'

- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah unveiled a healthcare scheme named 'Arogya Karnataka' aimed at benefiting about 1.43 crore households in the state.
- It will provide quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to both BPL and above-poverty-line (APL) families in the state.
- Through the scheme, all the BPL households will get free treatment at government hospitals while for APL households.

Odisha launches 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' Prog

- Odisha has launched a Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.

- CM flagged off wi-fi enabled mobile video wall vans through which people can send their grievances **directly to the CM's office.**
- With this initiative the administration will solve the the grievances of the people quickly.

1st Mega Food Park Inaugurated In Maharashtra

- The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra, Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Village Degaon, District Satara was inaugurated by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries.
- This is the 10th Mega Food Park being operationalized in the country.
- Satara Mega Food Park has been set up in 64 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 139.30 crore.

e-com portal, Mobile App for Fishermen

- CMFRI has come up with a solution to help fishermen fetch better price for their catch without depending on middlemen.
- The institute has developed a multi-vendor e-commerce website & mobile app to help fish farmers & fishermen sell their catch directly to customers online.
- The website, www.marinefishsales.com, and mobile app, marine fish scales, were developed under NICRA project of the CMFRI.

Cops Eye: New app to help Police

- **Madurai police have come up with a new app "Cops Eye."**
- Based on face recognition feature, it would help them detect people with criminal backgrounds by clicking photographs.
- The data of 2,000 criminals has their names, photographs and details of criminal cases. Taking photograph of any person whose data is available with the centralised criminal analysing system will give all particulars.

Art & Culture

Famous Madhavpur Mela Held in Gujarat

- The famous 'Madhavpur Mela' began at Madhavpur Ghed of Porbandar district in Gujarat on 25th March.
- In a unique initiative, the four-day-long Mela saw its first-ever cultural integration with the North-East with which it is said to share its roots.
- This Mela of Gujarat shares its connection with the Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

Silver Jubilee of Losar Festival

- Buddhist Community of Itanagar celebrated the silver jubilee of the Losar Festival.
- The festival was full of cultural presentations from across the state, including the colourful Bhutanese and Gorkha cultural programs.

- For the Buddhist community, this festival is termed as the 'New Year' in accordance with the Buddhist Calendar.

World's 1st Hand-Painted Film

- 'Loving Vincent' is the world's 1st animated feature film entirely painted by hand.
- The film is based on a probe into Van Gogh's untimely death.
- With 65,000 frames to be exact, all paintings are in the distinct style of Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh.
- Shot with a shoestring budget of 5.5 million dollars, Loving Vincent was made with the help of 125 artists.

Science & Technology

TAC Security launches ESOF

- India and USA-based cyber security solutions provider TAC Security has announced a new platform, ESOF (Enterprise Security on One Framework).
- It would provide organisations to manage their entire IT security and risk assessment needs in one single platform.
- According to the latest reports the cyber security market in India is projected to grow at a CAGR of 19% during 2018-2023.

World's 1st Medicine Made from Marijuana

- **Epidolex is the World's First Medicine made from Marijuana.**
- The drug does not cause intoxication or a high and is approved by US FDA.
- It is created by GW Pharmaceuticals. It is an oral solution of cannabidiol (OSC) will be used to cure severe forms of epilepsies in children.
- The New England Journal of Medicine had first provided the evidence that marijuana can cure epilepsy.

Oxytocin Formulations Ban from 1st July 2018

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has restricted the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only from 1st July 2018.
- Only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL), a public sector company, would be manufacturing this drug for domestic use.
- Oxytocin helps with birth & milk production not only in humans but also in cattle such as buffalo, cows.

Jai Hind 1-S: World's Lightest Satellite

- **Four students of Chennai build the world's lightest and cheapest satellite** weighing just 33.39 grams.
- The name of the satellite is 'Jai Hind 1-S' and would be launched in August 2018.
- It analyses data like temperature, UV density and **vapour pressure, at various points of the satellite's upward journey.** This will help in research and the better understanding of the environment in outer space.

ISRO to Find Nuclear Fuel on Moon

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a rover in October 2018 through Chandrayaan 2 to explore virgin territory on the lunar surface & analyze crust samples for signs of water & helium-3.
- The isotope is abundant on the moon and could meet global energy demands for 250 years.
- The rover is powered by solar energy & will collect information for 14 days on the surface of the moon

NASA's Webb Telescope to Study Great Red Spot

- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope will use infrared capabilities to study Jupiter's Great Red Spot.
- The plan is to use Webb's mid-infrared instrument (MIRI) to create multispectral maps of the Great Red Spot and analyse its thermal, chemical and cloud structures.
- The Great Red Spot is a storm has been monitored since 1830 and has existed for more than 350 years.

NASA's ECOSTRESS to Correct Water Imbalances

- ECOSTRESS, an instrument on the International Space Station (ISS) will measure the temperature of

plants from space to determine plant water use & to study how drought conditions affect plant health.

- ECOsystem Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station (ECOSTRESS) will monitor evapotranspiration.
- It is a part of NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder program.

World's 1st Manta Ray Nursery Discovered

- Researchers have identified the first recognized giant manta ray nursery in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico.
- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration has recognised them as endangered species and is working on providing a natural habitat.
- Manta rays live in deep tropical and subtropical waters, making the study of the sea creatures quite difficult.

Curiosity Rover Takes Photo of Storm in Mars

- NASA's Curiosity rover has sent pictures of a dust storm in Mars over the last 2 weeks while NASA's Opportunity rover to suspend operations.
- The Curiosity rover is powered by Nuclear energy and Opportunity is powered by sunlight are studying Martian soil at Gale Crater.
- The atmospheric haze blocking sunlight is called "Tau".
- The 2 rovers are a part of NASA Science Lab Mission.

Russia Launches New GLONASS Spacecraft

- Russia has launched a replenishment satellite for its GLONASS navigation system with Soyuz-2-1b rocket from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome.
- GLONASS uses a constellation of 24 satellites to broadcast navigation signals. It is the Russian analogue to US Global Positioning System. It was started in 1982.
- The name of satellite system is 'Uragan' meaning Hurricane made by ISS Reshetnev.

ISRO Clears GSAT - 11 for Launch

- ISRO has cleared GSAT - 11 for launch, which was recalled from Kourou in French Guinea for checks, after another satellite GSAT 6A, had lost contact which was launched earlier.
- The 5,700 Kg Satellite was to launch on 26 May 2018 from Kourou, site in South America which India uses to launch heavy satellites.
- Arianespace is the space agency that launches India's Satellite from this site.

Over 100 Exoplanets Identified

- Scientists have identified more than 100 giant planets outside our solar system that may potentially host moons capable of supporting life.
- The finding will guide the design of future telescopes that can detect these potential moons and look for

tell-tale signs of life, called biosignatures, in their atmospheres.

- There are currently 175 known moons orbiting the 8 planets in our solar system,

Scientists Seek to Find Mass of Ghost Particle

- Researchers in Germany with Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino experiment have started collecting data to **determine the mass of the universe's lightest particle- neutrino.**
- **Those are sometimes called "ghost particles" because they're so difficult to detect.**
- KATRIN measures the neutrino mass in a model-independent way via ultrahigh precision measurements of the kinematics of electrons from beta-decay.

Mars had Organic Compounds, Methane

- Curiosity rover has detected organic compounds on the surface of Mars and seasonal fluctuations of atmospheric methane.
- The findings released on June 7, mark some of the strongest evidence ever that Earth's neighbour may have harbored life.
- Curiosity also measured an unexpectedly large seasonal cycle in the low levels of atmospheric methane.

Milky Way Disc Much Bigger than Thought

- Scientists say it will take us 2,00,000 years to cross the disc even if we travel at the speed of light.
- Spiral galaxies, such as the Milky Way, have discs which are really thin, in which the major fraction of their stars are found.
- These discs are limited in size so that beyond certain radius there are very few stars left.

ISRO's Scientists Discover an 'EPIC' Planet

- A team from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, has spotted for the first time a distant planet six times bigger than Earth and revolving around a Sun-like star about 600 light years away.
- Both the planet and the star have been named EPIC.
- EPIC 211945201b (or K2-236b) is the name given to the planet and the host star is named EPIC 211945201 or K2-236.

Scientists in India Discover a Planet

- Scientists at Ahmedabad's Physical Research Laboratory have discovered an exoplanet, propelling India into a select group of countries which have found planets outside the solar system.
- The 'super-Neptune' is about 27 times the mass of Earth and six times its radius.
- It is most likely 'uninhabitable' due to the proximity to its star, 600 light-years away from Earth, scientists found.

IISc Developed 'LifeBox' to Transport Organs

- Researchers at IISc Bangalore have developed a 'LifeBox' that can extend the preservation time of organs, specifically the heart, and allows for increased travel time and distances.
- Researchers said that transport of organs using drones could cut down the transportation time by at least 50% compared to green corridors.
- The technology was used to transport a payload for 10 km.

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Traces of Water, Metal Found In Exoplanet

- Scientists have identified traces of multiple metals, along with possible signs of water, in one of the least dense exoplanets ever found.
- The team used the Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) to observe WASP-127b, a giant gaseous planet with partly clear skies and strong signatures of metals in its atmosphere.
- WASP-127b has a radius 1.4 times larger than Jupiter but has only 20% of its mass.

3D Printed Human Corneas Created

- Scientists have created 3D printed human corneas in order to solve the shortage of eye donors.
- This would help millions of blind people gain sights and also prevent corneal blindness because of diseases such as Trachoma.

- The dimensions of the printed cornea were taken from an actual human cornea to match its shape and size.

IMD Launched New Ensemble Prediction Systems

- India Meteorological Department has launched a new Ensemble Prediction Systems to provide probabilistic weather forecasts up to the next 10 days.
- Ensemble forecasting provides localized predictions of a 12 km resolution compared to 23 km in the earlier system.
- It has been developed jointly by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology & National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting.

India's First Advanced Forensic Lab

- Maneka Gandhi has laid the foundation stone of an advanced DNA forensic laboratory at the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab in Chandigarh.
- The 'Sakhi Suraksha' lab will assist in investigation and prosecution of crimes including those committed against women and children.
- It will contribute in addressing the gap in forensic DNA analysis of pending sexual assault cases in the country.

Methane Dunes Found on Pluto

- Pluto is covered with surprising dunes made of methane ice, which have formed relatively recently despite the frigid dwarf planet's very thin atmosphere, international researchers have said.
- Pluto's atmosphere has a surface pressure 100,000 times lower than Earth.
- The dunes were spotted with NASA's New Horizons spacecraft.

Places in News

Hyderabad to Have UAE Consulate

- CM Rao has discussed with Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs to come up with a consulate in Hyderabad.
- The consulate will further strengthen ties between Telangana and UAE.
- The minister also lauded various achievements of Telangana government by creating Asia's biggest lift irrigation project at Kaleshwaram.

Research Institute to Come up at Maghar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a public rally and lay the foundation stone of a research institute at Maghar in Uttar Pradesh.
- This will mark the 500th death anniversary of Kabir Das, the mystic poet and saint.
- PM will visit the Sant Kabir cave and unveil a plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone of the Kabir Academy.

Haryana Makes LED bulbs Mandatory in Offices

- The use of LED bulbs and tube lights has been made mandatory in all offices of Haryana.
- In this direction, Head of Departments and Managing Directors of Boards, Corporations, and Public Undertakings have been directed to replace lighting with LED lamps or tube lights by August 15.
- These halogen & sodium bulbs will be replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs and tube lights.

'No Toilet, No Bride' Resolution in Haryana

- Haryana village - Godikan has passed 'No Toilet, No Bride' resolution.
- The village apparently was inspired by the super hit Hindi movie starring Akshay Kumar - 'Toilet - Ek Prem Katha'.
- The resolution is aimed at ensuring the security of their daughters in addition to hygiene.
- Godikan has already been declared an Outdoor Defecation Free (ODF) panchayat.

Surat Selected for Best Smart City Award

- Surat city has been awarded best city award under the **Smart City Mission's award for implementation** of projects in urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development.
- Bhopal and Ahmedabad have been selected as joint winners under innovative idea award category.
- The Ministry of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs issued the award.

5th National Standards Conclave

- The 5th National Standards Conclave was held in New Delhi.
- It was organised by Department of commerce and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The theme of conclave was '**Implementing the Indian National Strategy for Standardization**'.
- 2 reports were released by the Commerce Minister, Suresh Prabhu Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS) and CII-ASL Study on TBT/SPS Notifications.

7th India Mineral & Metals forum in New Delhi

- 7th India Minerals and Metals forum was inaugurated in New Delhi. The forum seeks to come up with solutions to leverage in the mining sector with the changing global scenario.
- The focus was on utilizing low grade minerals to reduce burden on high end minerals.
- The concerns on metal recycling was also looked upon and exploration of deep seated minerals was also expressed.

World's 1st Humanitarian Forensics Centre

- The world's 1st International Humanitarian Forensics Centre was launched at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- It is a joint venture of International Committee of the Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives.
- The Centre will conduct various academic and professional programmes, training, research and provide technical expertise to support operations in the field of humanitarian forensics.

KVIC Adopts Jagatpur for Swachhata Abhiyaan

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has adopted Jagatpur village in Delhi for its Swachhata Abhiyaan. The sanitation drive by KVIC began with a plantation drive and ended with cleanliness drive along the bank of the Yamuna river.
- Under KVIC's Swachhata Mission, the next cleanliness drive will be in Mumbai's Juhu Beach.
- The current KVIC Chairman is Vinai Kumar Saxena.

Telangana to Set Up Special Turmeric Cell

- The Union Commerce Ministry along with Telangana government would set up a special cell for turmeric in Nizamabad.
- The proposed move would help in improving the production, quality, marketing and export of turmeric.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. The export volume is of 80,400 tons worth Rs. 778.07 Crore.

Govt. to set up 5th Data Centre in India

- The govt will set up the country's biggest data centre in Bhopal with a capacity to host 5 lakh servers.
- The data centre will be set up by the National Informatics Centre and will be 5th National Data Centre (NDC) after Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad & Pune.
- These NDC host government websites, services and applications. The government also expanded BPO scheme to 1 lakh seats from 48,000 seats

Yoga Ambassador tour in Kerala

- Around 60 yoga exponents from 22 countries would participate in yoga ambassador tour in Idukki district of Kerala.
- The tour has been organised by Association of Tourism Trade Organisation, India (ATTOI) in association with Ministry of Ayush and Kerala tourism and will conclude on 21st June.
- The tour was inaugurated by Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State, Ministry of AYUSH.

Goa and Hawaii to sign Sister Agreement

- The government of Goa and US state of Hawaii will sign a sister agreement as the draft was cleared by State Cabinet.
- This would enhance the cooperation between Goa and Hawaii and would include areas such as trade, tourism, sports, technology, yoga, skill development, agriculture and Ayurveda.

- This would also boost the infrastructure project such as Mandovi river project & Zuari river bridge

4th Meeting of Governing council - NITI Aayog

- The 4th meeting of governing council of NITI Aayog was held in New Delhi chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
- The meeting aimed to double the farmers' income and progress of flagship scheme such as Ayushman Bharat, National Nutrition Mission and Mission Indradhanush.
- It planned for a 3 year action plan to develop a new agenda for "New India 2022".

AP's Largest Petroglyph site at Kandanchi

- Dr. Raghu of Yogi Vemmana university has discovered Andhra Pradesh's largest petroglyph site at Kandanchi.
- The site has nearly 200 engravings, peckings that belong to Mesolithic, Neolithic period.
- The petroglyph at Kandanchi reveal the presence of the Boya community divided into groups - Mandla (herdsmen) and Yenubothula (buffalomen).

Acid Leak at Sterlite plant in Thoothukudi

- A Sulphuric acid leak is detected at Sterlite Copper plant, a Vedanta group company in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- The leak was detected in one of the storage units but as the plant was non-operational nobody was harmed.
- The evacuation from the sulphuric acid plant would take a day with assistance of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Inspectorate of Factories.

Macedonia Signed Pact to Change its Name

- Macedonia has signed a pact to change its name which would end a three-decade dispute with Greece.
- After the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece's northern neighbour took the name Macedonia but Greece refused to accept it implying it had territorial claims over Greek province of Macedonia.
- Both Countries agreed to rename it as "The Republic of North Macedonia" which requires a referendum.

Mobile Internet Suspended in Meghalaya

- The Meghalaya government suspended mobile internet services in 6 districts over the "serious law and order situation", days after it was resumed.
- A curfew was imposed and internet was suspended for several days after clashes started between two groups over a parking dispute.
- The situation turned into a crisis after social media rumours claimed that a minor had been killed.

Telangana Banned plastic Items in Offices

- The Telangana government directed all urban local bodies and civic municipal bodies to ban usage of single-use plastic in the offices.
- Use of plastic below 50 microns of thickness is already banned as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The government plans to make Hyderabad a single-use plastic-free city by 2022.

Punjab to Install Dust Collectors

- Punjab is set to counter dust pollution in grain markets across the state with the installation of dust collectors on nearly 50,000-grain cleaning machines.
- It will provide relief to 3,00,000 directly-affected workers.
- The pollution is the main cause of respiratory and lung diseases among labourers, farmers, and commission agents, as well as those living in the vicinity of the grain markets.

CM Inaugurates Green Mizoram Day

- Green Mizoram Day was observed on 11 June across the Mizoram state.
- CM Lal Thanhawla inaugurated the Green Mizoram Day, 2018 at a function attended by his cabinet colleagues, legislators and senior government officials where they undertook ceremonial planting of trees along the river Chite in Aizawl.
- It is being organised every year on June 11 since 1999.

Blast Furnace-1 of Rourkela Plant inaugurated

- The Union Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Nation.
- Parvati is the first Blast Furnace of SAIL that was dedicated to the nation on 3rd February 1959 by the first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad.
- The Blast Furnace was put down on 6th August 2013 for total rebuilding.

Queen Pineapple Became Tripura's 'State Fruit'

- President Ram Nath Kovind declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit.
- The state holds good potential in world trade.
- Export of the pineapple to foreign countries is a major step in connecting with world trade.
- Tripura exported its first consignment of one-tonne pineapples to Dubai earlier this month.

Asia's first 13 'Blue Flag' Beaches

- Environment-friendly, clean & equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists, 13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification.
- Beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra & other coastal states will be the 1st in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.

- The Indian beaches are being developed by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM).

Bengaluru's IISc Makes it to Top 100

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has made it to the top 100 universities in the Times Higher Education's World Reputation Rankings 2018.
- Ranked in the 91-100 band, it is the only Indian institution to make it to the prestigious list this year.
- The list topped by American universities Harvard, MIT & Stanford, with the United Kingdom's Cambridge & Oxford completing the top 5.

Committees & Recommendations

Panel to lay down Standards for Metro Systems

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of setting up of a committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in India.
- The committee will be headed by retired Indian Engineering Service (IES) officer E Sreedharan, also known as "Metro Man".
- Sreedharan served as the managing director of Delhi Metro between 1995 and 2012.

Bank heads to Appear before Parliament Panel

- Heads of 11-state owned banks will apprise a parliamentary committee about the problems of mounting bad loans and increasing fraud cases.
- They will be appearing before the standing committee on finance, headed by veteran Congress leader M. Veerappa Moily, which is looking into issues relating to banking sector.
- The rising number of frauds and NPAs have become a serious cause of concern.

BBB Recommends Elevation of 22 GMs at PSBs

- Banks Board Bureau (BBB), the advisory body formed by the government for selection of candidates for top level board appointment, has recommended 22 general managers to be elevated as executive directors at the various public sector banks.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet will take the final decision in this regard.
- This is the first major exercise undertaken by the BBB.

Committee to Spread Mahatma Gandhi's legacy

- Government has set up an executive committee under the chairpersonship of Narendra Modi to "spread Mahatma Gandhi's legacy" among the people at national & international level.
- Committee comprises of cabinet ministers, renowned Gandhians, social activists & public figures.

- Panel was formed after the 1st meeting of National Committee to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Business & Economy

Mumbai Costlier than Washington and Melbourne

- According to a Mercer survey, Mumbai is the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates as compared to Washington and Melbourne.
- Hong Kong is ranked as the world's costliest city to live in for expatriates, followed by Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, and Seoul.
- Bengaluru, which has a high population of expatriates is getting more reasonable on cost of living.

Oil India Discovered Hydrocarbon in KG Basin

- Oil India Limited (OIL), a state-owned PSU has made its second hydrocarbon discovery in Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin.
- Thanelanka-1 is the first high pressure-high temperature (HP-HT) well drilled by OIL.
- Earlier, the company made a gas discovery at Dangeru-I well in the block.
- In 2017-18, OIL produced 3.39 metric million tonnes (MMT) of crude oil and 2.93 billion cubic meters (BCM) of gas.

41 lakh new jobs created in 8 months: CSO

- Central Statistics Office (CSO) released the employment-related statistics in the formal sector for eight months beginning from September 2017.
- The year witnessed new payrolls of over 6.8 Lakhs **were recorded by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).**
- The estimated total number of new National Pension Scheme subscribers during the same period is over 5 lakhs.

NIIF to Roll out \$2 Billion Fund

- The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) unveiled a \$2-billion long-term fund to finance megaprojects.
- The NIIF already has 2 operational funds - the NIIF master fund that invests directly in companies & a fund of funds that invests in funds that are managed by 3rd parties.
- The 3rd fund would cater to India's long-term infra needs.
- NIIF's MD and CEO is Sujoy Bose.

Online Shoppers to Surpass 120mn: ASSOCHAM

- ASSOCHAM - Resurgent joint study said that online shopping is expected to grow by 115% in 2018 from 108mn.
- This is aided by fast-increasing data consumption and improvement in logistics, along with a number of offers presented by e-commerce platforms.

- The frequency of purchase was higher for categories like apparels & accessories (54%), beauty and personal care (43%) and electronics (33%).

PRC, India and ROK see Wealth Loss of \$1.4 tn

- China, India and South Korea, which are the three biggest Asian markets, excluding Japan, have seen erosion in market capitalisation of \$1.4 trillion in 2018.
- The US, UK & France have fared much better, indicating global funds could be shifting their preference away from riskier emerging markets.
- This is attributed to rising bond yields, improved economic outlook & strengthening currency.

FIU Forwarded Highest over 65K in FY18

- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU), the government agency mandated on terrorist financing and money laundering, has forwarded 65,829 Suspicious Transactions Reports (STRs) during FY18 — the highest in the history.
- This number was over 13% higher than the record 58,223 STRs in FY17.
- The spurt in the number of STRs is initiated under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), 1999.

BBB recommends for promotion of 22 PSB GMs

- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended 22 general managers to be elevated as executive directors at various public sector banks.
- Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by PM will take the final decision in this regard.
- BBB was set up in February 2016 as an autonomous body— based on the recommendations of the RBI-appointed Nayak Committee. It was the part of Indradhanush Plan.

Kaiga Generating Systems Sets New Record

- The 220 MW Unit-1 of Karnataka's Kaiga Generating Systems (KGS-1) set a new record of the continuous operation of 766 days.
- It surpassed the earlier record of 765 days set by the Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) in 2014.
- The unit KGS-1 has been in operation since May 13, 2016. The 220 MW KGS-1 is an indigenous PHWR fuelled by domestic fuel.

RBI Alters 'relative' Definition

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives to check the flow of funds.
- Hence, funds under the 'maintenance of close relative' category can be sent** only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
- This has brought about by defining 'relatives' under** the Companies Act, 2013 instead of the same act of 1956.

SAARC Launches Social Enterprise Programme

- SAARC Development Fund launches a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across eight-member states.
- SDF was established in April 2010 and its council comprises finance ministers of these eight SAARC countries. The SDF CEO is Sunil Motiwal
- SDF has already committed \$73.74 million for social window projects out of which it has disbursed \$47 million.

Brazil & India firm Most Vulnerable to Hikes

- According to a report from McKinsey Global Institute, a 200 basis-point increase in interest rate would spark a sharp price in corporate debt especially in case of Brazilian and Indian firms.
- This is seen as central banks of many emerging economies have raised interest rates, a similar thing done by RBI.
- It also said advanced economies would be protected from such increase of interest.

Bank Credit rises 3.4% in Dec. 2017 quarter

- Bank credit grew 3.4% on a sequential basis in the December 2017 quarter.
- It was due to better performance by private sector banks and an uptick in industrial credit after two successive quarters of declines, according to the Reserve Bank data.
- At the end of the December quarter, bank credit stood at ₹80.62 trillion compared with ₹77.95 trillion in the Sept 2017 quarter as per the RBI data.

IRDAI set up Panel to Review marketing firms

- IRDAI has formed a panel to review the regulations pertaining to insurance marketing firms.
- The committee is headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director, IRDAI, with nine more members.
- The new distribution channel of insurance marketing firms was introduced in 2015 by IRDAI, with the objective of increasing insurance penetration in the country through an area-wise registration approach.

US Pips India as Top Greenfield FDI place

- The USA has surpassed India as top greenfield FDI destination with a total FDI of USD 87.6 billion.
- The number of greenfield FDI projects sharply fell by 21% during this year in case of India as compared to previous year.
- China received a total FDI of USD 50.3 billion in the year 2017 while India received an FDI of 25.1 billion in 2017.

Northeast India's First Small Bank Opened

- Northeast India's first small bank, North East Small Finance bank (NESFB) started its services.
- Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (North East) Microfinance Limited received the Small Finance

Bank License from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 31, 2017.

- Tata Trust chairman Ratan Tata and Assam's finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the first 28 branches of the bank.

SEBI set to amend buyback regulations

- SEBI plans to revise the regulations for share buybacks wherein more clarity would be provided on various aspects, including on the requirement to make public announcements.
- SEBI has carried out a review of the current buyback norms in order to simplify the language and remove inconsistencies.
- A company can undertake buyback of shares out of its free reserves and securities premium account.

Muthoot Fincorp, NSDC to train 10,000 Youth

- Muthoot Fincorp Limited announced its partnership with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Under the scheme, Muthoot Fincorp targets to train over 10,000 people over the next three years and make them job ready under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- NSDC has approved a target of 3,000 candidates in the first year and 3,500 each in the subsequent two years.

TCS Close Trading with over Rs 7 trillion

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the first company to close the trading session with a market valuation of over Rs 7 trillion.
- The Mumbai-headquartered TCS had in April became the first Indian company to close the trading session with over \$100 billion market valuation.
- TCS is the country's most valued firm followed by Reliance Industries Ltd, HDFC Bank, HUL and ITC in the top 5 list.

Fitch Revises Axis Bank Outlook to Negative

- Fitch Ratings affirmed the long-term issuer default ratings (IDRs) and viability ratings of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank at 'BBB-' and 'bbb-', respectively.
- IDRs refers to the relative vulnerability of a company to default on its financial obligations.
- The global rating agency also revised the outlook on Axis Bank to negative from stable but maintained ICICI Bank's outlook as stable for now.

India's exports Hit 6-Month High in May

- India's exports grew 20.18 percent to \$28.86 billion in May, recording the highest number in six months.
- India's trade deficit widened to a four-month high of \$14.62 billion in May as imports surged nearly 15%.
- Even though exports outpaced imports, higher oil import bill wiped away the benefits of a contraction in gold imports.

RBI Eases Norms for FPIs to Invest in Debt

- The Reserve Bank has eased investment norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in debt.
- The move can help attract more overseas flows and thereby help arrest the recent fall in the rupee on one hand and also lift the recent fall in demand for corporate bonds.
- FPIs are allowed to invest in various debt market instruments such as government bonds, treasury bills.

HDFC, 5th Biggest Consumer FSC: Forbes

- Housing finance major HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest **public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category'** on a list compiled by Forbes magazine.
- **HDFC's rank has moved up from 7th place last year.**
- American Express has topped this category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.

Fitch ups India Growth Forecast To 7.4%

- Fitch Ratings raised India growth forecast for 2018-19 to 7.4% from 7.3% but cited higher financing costs and rising oil prices as risks to growth.
- For 2019-20, it estimated the country to grow at 7.5%.
- The economy grew at 6.7% in 2017-18 and 7.7% in January-March quarter.

Fed Reserve Raises Rates

- In raising its benchmark overnight lending rate a quarter of a percentage point to a range of 1.75% to 2%, the Fed Reserve of US marked a milestone in the **U.S. central bank's shift in monetary policy.**
- After the rate-setting, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said that the US economy is doing very well.
- The rate hike marks a shift in US policies used to battle the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

Millionaires Own Half of Global Wealth

- According to a report released by Boston Consulting Group, The growing ranks of millionaires and billionaires now hold almost half of global personal wealth.
- Personal wealth around the globe reached \$201.9 trillion last year, a 12 per cent gain from 2016 and the strongest annual pace in the past five years.
- In North America, 42 percent of investable capital is held by the richest people.

PhonePe ties up with Ola

- Flipkart-owned digital payments firm PhonePe has tied up with homegrown cab aggregator Ola.
- Now, users will be able to book a cab or an auto using a micro-app built on its payments platform.
- The company has gone live with three such micro-apps, including that of redBus and Metro services,

and plans to go live with 5 to 10 more in the ongoing quarter.

'KBL Deposit Only Card' Unveiled

- Karnataka Bank has unveiled a novel card variant 'KBL Deposit Only Card'.
- The card aims to enable hassle free cash deposit transaction at Bank's 24x7 e-Lobby services.
- This card is specially meant for Bank's Current/Overdraft customers.
- By using this card they can perform card based cash deposit transactions even with higher deposit limit.

GST Funds to be Split b/w Centre-state

- Centre and the 'concerned state' will equally share the amount deposited by erring businesses in the consumer welfare fund.
- These funds are deposited in the national anti-profiteering authority set up as part of the GST anti-profiteering rules to penalise erring businesses.
- In case the customer is not identifiable, the money has to be deposited in the consumer welfare fund.

Unlisted Firms to Dematerialise Share

- The government is planning to make it compulsory for unlisted companies to get their shares dematerialised by September 2018.
- Additionally, corporate affairs ministry has instructed all unlisted companies with paid-up capital of more than Rs 50 million to digitalise shares by June 2018.
- The aim is to make transactions in more than 70000 unlisted companies more transparent.

Share capital of HDFC Bank to Increase

- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for grant of permission to M/s. HDFC Bank Ltd. to raise additional share capital of up to a maximum of Rs. 24,000 crore.
- The composite foreign shareholding in the Bank shall not exceed 74% of the enhanced paid-up equity share capital of the bank.
- The proposed investment is expected to strengthen the capital adequacy ratio of the bank.

Low Recoveries of NPAs: RBI data

- While public sector banks have claimed a ₹1,50,960 crore reduction in their non-performing asset levels over 2017-18, only 27% was actual recoveries, according to data provided by RBI Governor Urjit Patel.
- Public sector banks saw a ₹1,50,960 crore reduction in their NPA levels from the start of financial year 2017-18 till December 31, 2017.
- NPA refers to loans or advances that are in default

Platform to Facilitate Repo in Corporate debt

- NSE launched 'Tri-Party Repo Market' platform in its debt segment to facilitate repurchase of corporate debt securities.
- The platform is a kind of repo contract where a third entity, apart from the borrower & lender, called tri-party agent acts as an intermediary.
- It facilitates services like collateral selection, payment and settlement, custody & management during the life of transaction.

SEBI Panel to Study Direct Overseas Listing

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an expert committee to examine the possibility of allowing unlisted Indian companies to do a direct equity listing overseas.
- The expert committee will comprise 9 members.
- Currently, Indian companies can only use the depository receipts route to list on the overseas exchanges.

Guidelines to Enhance Loan for Large Borrowers

- In a move to enhance credit discipline among larger borrowers, the RBI proposed a "minimum level of loan component" of 40 percent for borrowers having an aggregate fund-based working capital limit of Rs. 150 crores and above from the banking system.
- It will be proposed to be effective from October 1, 2018.
- The 40 percent loan component will be revised to 60 percent from April 1, 2019.

SBI NPAs Surpass Rs 1 Lakh Crore In FY18

- State Bank of India, recorded its highest non-performing asset (NPAs) of Rs. 1.1 lakh crore in 2017-18, almost equal to what it had registered in the decade before.
- This is available through RTI and the bank's annual report.
- The gross NPAs of the bank went up from Rs. 1.12 lakh crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 2.23 lakh crore in the last fiscal.

PSBs Suffered Losses of over Rs. 87,000 cr

- The combined losses posted by public sector banks (PSBs) in financial year 2017-18 were over Rs. 87,357 crore.
- Scam-hit Punjab National Bank (PNB) topped the list with a hit of nearly Rs. 12,283 crore followed by IDBI Bank.
- Out of 21 state-run banks, only two -- Indian Bank and Vijaya Bank -- posted profits during the year under review.

Retail Inflation Jumped further in May

- Retail inflation jumped further in May to a four-month high, primarily driven by a surge in energy prices, according to a Reuters.

- Economists, suggest more policy tightening from the central bank is coming.
- On June 6, RBI raised the repo rate for the first time since 2014, by 25 basis points to 6.25%, as recent data showed significant increases for both inflation and growth.

RBI Seeks Update on Payments Data Storage

- The RBI have asked payment services firms to provide an update, on action taken by them to store transaction data in India, every fortnight.
- RBI wants payment system operators to store payment-related data in the country by October 2018.
- **RBI had said that at present "only certain" payment system operators store the payment system data either partly or completely in the country.**

FinMin may transfer 5 Sick CPSE shares

- The Finance Ministry is planning to transfer shares of five sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to the SNIF fund to meet Sebi's minimum 25 per cent public shareholding.
- These companies have time till August 21 to meet the 25% public share holding norm.
- Shares would be transferred on a proportionate basis to the fund to bring down government stake in these CPSEs to 75 per cent.

NSE IFSC Issues 'Omnibus' Trade Framework

- NSE IFSC, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange, has put in place a framework for 'omnibus' trade.
- It will help overseas investors escape direct registration process and go through authorised brokers.
- The move will also help in smooth transition of liquidity from Singapore Exchange (SGX) to Indian offshore exchange at Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City.

Committee to set up Asset Reconstruction Comp

- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announced setting up of a committee to give recommendations on formation of an Asset Reconstruction Company.
- The committee will give recommendations in two weeks for faster resolution of stressed accounts.
- The committee will be formed under Sunil Mehta, non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank.

2.25 lakh Sell Firms to Struck off

- Centre said it has identified 2,25,910 companies whose names are to be struck off from the register of companies during the current financial year 2018-19.
- This comes on the top of the removal of 2,26,166 companies from the register during the previous financial year.

- Task Force on Shell Companies, which had, so far, met eight times, was set up in February 2017 by the Prime Minister's Office



The graphic is a vertical banner for Testbook's referral program. At the top, it says 'testbook.com' and 'REFER a friend.' with an illustration of two people. In the middle, it says 'EARN PayTM Cash' with an illustration of a smartphone showing a ₹40 cash reward. At the bottom, it says 'REFER MORE Earn More.' with an illustration of three people. A large text at the bottom reads 'Use Referral Code TESTBOOK on first purchase & get ₹40 PayTM Cash'. A hashtag '#LearnTogetherEarnTogether' is at the very bottom.

'FDI rose to \$61.96 billion in 2017-18'

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India increased by about 3% to \$61.96 billion in 2017-18.
- FDI inflows stood at \$60 billion in the previous fiscal. The figure includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.
- In the last four years, the government has liberalised FDI norms in sectors such as defence, medical devices, construction development, retail and aviation.

L&T's Nabha Power shuts 700 MW unit

- L&T Group firm Nabha Power Ltd. (NPL) said it had been forced to shut a 700 MW unit of Rajpura thermal power station due to shortage of coal.
- The present crisis was triggered by disruption in the supply of coal rakes to the plant.
- NPL has been facing coal crisis since last year, forcing it to operate the plant at critical levels of coal stocks i.e. less than seven days.

HDFC Bank increases lending rate by 10 bps

- HDFC Bank, the second largest private sector lender of the country, increased its marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points (bps) across various loan tenures.
- As a result, its one-year MCLR is now at 8.4%.
- The move comes after all major banks, including State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank, increased MCLR by an equal amount.

Subsidised crop loan to be under DBT mode

- The RBI said that the interest subsidy scheme on short-term crop loans of up to Rs 3 lakh will be implemented through the DBT mode.
- The Centre has earmarked 15,000 crore rupees for 2018-19 towards interest subvention for short-term crop loans.
- As per the scheme, farmers can avail of short-term crop loans of up to three lakh rupees at subsidised interest rate of 7%.

RBI amends Gold Monetisation Scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to make it more attractive.
- The revamping of the scheme is aimed at enabling people to open a hassle-free gold deposit account.
- In 2015, the government launched the GMS with the objective of mobilising the gold held by households and institutions in the country.

RBI to set up Public Credit Registry

- In a bid to check loan defaults, RBI said that a Public Credit Registry (PCR) will be set up containing information on all borrowers to ensure financial stability.
- Following a report by Yeshwant M Deosthalee headed High Level Task Force, RBI said it has considered the recommendations and decided to set up a PCR.
- The PCR will serve as a registry of all credit contracts.

RBI allows banks to spread MTM losses

- The Reserve Bank allowed banks to spread their mark-to-market (MTM) losses for the June quarter as well.
- The central bank had also asked banks to build an Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) of 2% of their holdings.
- In April, RBI had given banks an option to spread provisioning for MTM losses recorded on their investment portfolio

RBI hikes repo rate to 6.25%

- The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25%.

- This is the first rate hike in four-and-a-half years; the last was in January 2014.
- The MPC arrived at the unanimous decision as the **outlook for inflation had become 'uncertain'** following a surge in international crude oil prices.

RBI tweaks norms to boost housing lending

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the eligibility limit for a loan to classify as priority sector lending in a bid to boost affordable housing.
- The move is aimed at giving a fillip to low-cost housing for the economically weaker sections and lower income groups.
- For metropolitan areas, loan limits have been raised from Rs. 28 lakh to Rs. 35 lakh.

Co-op banks can become small finance banks

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow urban co-operative banks (UCB) to convert into small finance banks (SFB).
- The move is aimed at bringing these entities into mainstream banking.
- UCBs currently face regulation by both the RBI and the respective State governments.
- By turning into SFBs, they will be regulated only by the RBI.

SEBI moves to ease corporate insolvency

- **SEBI amended its 'Takeover Code' to remove capital infusion hurdles** in companies with approved resolution plans under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- The SEBI move is expected to smoothen the implementation of successful resolution plans.
- **The 'Takeover Code' barred acquirers of shares in a company from entering into any transaction.**

Fitch downgrades PNB on credit profile

- Fitch Ratings has downgraded the Viability Rating (VR) of **Punjab National Bank to 'b' from 'bb-'** and maintained negative ratings.
- The two-notch downgrade is a reflection of the significant deterioration in its standalone credit profile.
- Fitch said the deterioration in its core capitalisation was caused by a sharp increase in its non-performing loans (NPLs).

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee began meeting

- RBI's Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel began its 3-day meeting in Mumbai on June 4.
- Due to certain administrative exigencies, the six-member committee is meeting for three days instead of the usual two days.
- It was in January 2014 that the RBI had last raised the short-term lending rate to 8% since then it has either reduced it or maintained status quo.

Infosys completes acquisition of WongDoody

- **The country's second largest IT services firm Infosys** has completed the acquisition of US-based WongDoody.
- WongDoody Holding Company is a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency.
- WongDoody has clients across industries like telecommunications, consumer electronics, healthcare and consumer packaged goods.
- WongDoody is headquartered in Seattle and has an office in Los Angeles.

Retail inflation for industrial workers falls

- Retail inflation for industrial workers fell to 3.97% in April.
- Labour Ministry said the fall is mainly due to lower prices of food items.
- All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) is issued by Labour Bureau.
- The index is used for working out dearness allowance for central government employees and dearness relief for central pensioners.

Manufacturing PMI growth slows in May

- **Activity in India's manufacturing sector grew at a weaker pace in May** according to the Nikkei India **Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).**
- This index is based on the survey conducted among purchasing executives in over 400 companies.
- The report also mentioned that the latest upturn signalled a marginal improvement in the manufacturing sector.

Intra-State e-waybills to be implemented

- The e-waybill system for intra-State movement of goods will be implemented for the final eight States.
- The new system would be implemented for intra-State transport in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and in West Bengal.
- E-way bill operations are compulsory for inter-state movement of goods throughout the nation and intra-state movement.

Government Meets Fiscal Deficit Target

- Government has met its fiscal deficit target for 2017-18 at 3.53% of the Gross Domestic Product.
- Government in the Budget had revised the fiscal deficit target for 2017-18 to 3.5% from the earlier estimate of 3.2%.
- For the current fiscal year, government estimates to trim the deficit to 3.3% of GDP.
- Fiscal deficit is the difference between total revenue & total expenditure of the government

Indian Economy Grew 7.7%

- The Indian economy grew 7.7% in the January-March quarter of 2017-18 on account of robust performance

in manufacturing, construction and service sectors as well as good farm output according to the Central Statistics Office.

- However, the economic growth slowed to 6.7% in 2017-18 compared to 7.1% in 2016-17.
- The previous high GDP growth of 8.1% was recorded in April-June quarter of 2016-17.

India, World Bank signed \$500 Million Loan

- India has signed a USD 500 million loan pact with World Bank to provide additional financing for PMGSY rural road projects.
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
- World Bank has supported PMGSY since its inception in 2004 & so far it has invested over \$1.8 billion in loans & credits.

Sports

Dutee Chand Sets New National Record in 100m

- Dutee Chand broke her 100m national record at 58th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships at Guwahati.
- The 22-year-old Dutee, representing Odisha, ran 11.29 sec in the semifinal race to better her national record of 11.30sec and later clinched the gold in 11.32sec.
- She has already qualified the 2018 Asian games which will be held in Jakarta and Palembang.

Chaudhary Sets World Record at ISSF 2018

- Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary set a new world record on the way to winning a gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 in Suhl, Germany.
- Saurabh shot a total of 243.7 in the 10m air pistol event at International Shooting Sports Federation tournament.
- The junior world record prior to this was 242.5 by Chinese shooter Wang Zhehao at the first ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney.

Lewis Hamilton Won French Grand Prix 2018

- Lewis Hamilton reclaimed the world championship lead with a victory in the French Grand Prix 2018.
- Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE (born 7 January 1985) is a British racing driver who races in Formula One for Mercedes AMG Petronas.
- The Mercedes driver led from start to finish other than one lap around his pit stop to move 14 points ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who finished fifth.

Sejwal Won Gold at Singapore Championships

- Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal put up an impressive performance to clinch the gold medal in **men's 50m breaststroke** event at the Singapore National Swimming Championships in Singapore.

- Sandeep broke the Singapore meet record with a timing of 27:59 sec to win the gold. He bettered his own time of 27.68 seconds in the semi-final by 0.09 sec.
- The SCNS was organized between 20 to 23rd June 2018.

Mandeep Jangra Won Gold at Ulaanbaatar Cup

- Mandeep Jangra has won the boxing gold at the Ulaanbaatar Cup 2018 in Mongolia.
- The Indian contingent amassed a total of 9 medals - 1 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze medals.
- Himanshu Sharma and Sonia Lather won the silver medal in their respective events.
- Mandeep Jangra earlier had won Commonwealth Games silver medal in 2014.

Borna Coric Wins Halle Open 2018

- Croatia's Borna Coric defeated Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer in the final of the Halle Open 2018.
- Coric, 21, won 7-6 (8-6) 3-6 6-2 to end the Wimbledon champion - Roger Federer's run of 20 consecutive victories on grass.
- With this Spainard, Rafael Nadal took over as World No. 1
- Coric became only the sixth player to defeat Federer in a grass court final.

Deepika Won Gold at Salt Lake World Cup

- Archer Deepika Kumari won her first individual gold medal in six years at the Salt Lake World Cup following a **7-3 win over Germany's Michelle Kroppen** in the recurve final.
- The last time she won at a stage event on the international circuit goes back to Antalya in 2012.
- She had won a gold medal in the 2010 Commonwealth games in the women's individual recurve event.

Amit Wins Gold at World Para Athletics

- India's Amit Kumar Saroha has clinched the gold medal in the men's club throw F51 event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Tunisia.
- The wheelchair-bound Indian athlete produced the season's best performance of 29.42m to bag the gold.
- Amit Saroha is an Asian Para Games medalist and an Arjuna Awardee, competing in the F51 category in Discus throw and Club throw.

England Women Make Highest T20 Total

- England made the highest total of 250-3 in women's Twenty20 internationals as they beat South Africa by 121 runs.
- They overtook the previous record set by New Zealand of 216-1 against South Africa a day before.
- Tammy Beaumont hit 116 off 52 balls and made the second fastest century off 47 balls.

England set a New ODI World Record with 481/6

- England made the highest one-day international total of 481-6 as they defeated Australia by 242 runs at Trent Bridge. The England broke their own record of 444-3 set against Pakistan in 2016 at same venue.
- With this the England captain, Eoin Morgan became the highest ODI run scorer for his country.
- This is England's biggest ODI win and Australia's heaviest defeat in terms of runs.

Brooks Koepka wins US Open 2018

- Brooks Koepka wins US Open 2018 by defeating Tommy Fleetwood at Shinnecock Hills becoming first player in 3 decades to successfully defend his title.
- Earlier the record was in name of Curtis Strange who won back to back titles in 1988 and 1989.
- The victory comes less than 2 months after Koepka returned from left wrist injury that kept him out of action since Jan 2018.

Roger Federer wins Mercedes Cup

- Roger Federer wins Mercedes Cup 2018 in Stuttgart by beating Milos Raonic of Canada.
- He had already secured number one in the world ranking by defeating Nick Kyrgios in the semi-final and this is his 98th tour title.
- He will be competing at Halle Open in June 2018

Chess Player Withdraws from Competition

- Indian Grandmaster Soumya Swaminathan has withdrawn from the Asian Team Chess Championship to be held in Hamadan, Iran due to its hijab policy.
- According to country's hijab policy, women are required to cover their head in public places, including at a sporting event.
- Previously, Indian pistol shooter Heena Sidhu had boycotted sporting championships due to the hijab law.

2018 FIFA World Cup Begins

- The 2018 FIFA World Cup kicks off in Russia on June 14.
- Thirty-two teams from around the world will compete in the month-long tournament that concludes on July 15.
- Qatar will be the next host nation in 2022, a highly contested choice.
- This year's World Cup mascot is a soccer-playing wolf named Zabivaka.

India Bagged 3 Medals At Boxing Tournament

- Indian boxers bagged one Gold and two Silver medals at the Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in the Russian city of Kaspysk.
- Saweety Boora won the coveted yellow metal in the **Women's 75 kg category after beating Anna Anfinogenova** (Russia) in the Final.

- **In the Men's section, Brijesh Yadav in the 81 kg division and Virender Kumar in 91 kgs** lost their Final bouts to settle for Silver medals.

Murali Became 2nd Fastest Indian in 10,000m

- Young long-distance runner Gavit Murali Kumar bagged a gold in men's 10,000 m race at the Gouden Spike meeting in Leiden, Netherlands.
- He became the second fastest Indian in this event.
- The 21-year-old Kumar, a bright talent from Gujarat, clocked a personal best of 28 minutes 43.34 seconds, the best by an Indian in the ongoing season.

Simran-Ritika Win Mauritius Open

- **India's young women's doubles pair of Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker** won the Mauritius International title.
- This was just the second international tournament that Singhi and Thaker had participated in this year.
- Singhi and Thaker had won the All India Junior Ranking Tournament in Tirupur, which secured them **a spot in India's squad for the Badminton Asia Junior Championships.**

India Win 2018 Intercontinental Cup

- The Indian national team lifted the 2018 Intercontinental football Cup by defeating Kenya 2-0.
- Both the goals were scored by India skipper Sunil Chhetri.
- Organised by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the quadrangular tournament also featured New Zealand and Chinese Taipei.

Nadal won 11th French Open Title in 14 yrs

- World number one Rafael Nadal defeated world number eight Dominic Thiem in the men's singles final to clinch his record-extending 11th French Open title in 14 years.
- With this, Nadal equalled former world number one female player Margaret Court's record of winning a single Grand Slam singles title 11 times.
- Overall, it was Nadal's 17th Grand Slam title.

Anu Kumar Wins Men's 800m for Athletics

- Middle distance runner Anu Kumar claimed a gold in the men's 800m and Arpandeep Kaur Bajwa grabbed a bronze in the women's discus throw at the Junior Asian Athletics Championships.
- Indian athletes have already won three gold medals, one silver and nine bronze medals at the event.
- India won their third gold of the competition through Uttarakhand based runner Anu.

New Zealand Women Make Record ODI Score

- New Zealand Women's Cricket Team posted the highest ever total in one-day cricket by scoring an

incredible 490 for four against Ireland in the first match in Dublin.

- The total posted by the women's team is the highest ever in ODIs including men's matches.
- In men's cricket, the highest total in ODI is 444 for three, made by England against Pakistan in August 2016 at Nottingham.

Simona Halep Beats Sloane Stephens

- World number one Simona Halep has claimed her maiden grand slam title winning the French Open.
- She is the 2nd Romanian woman to win a Grand Slam title, after Virginia Ruzici's victory at Roland Garros in 1978.
- Halep won the Roland Garros girls' singles in 2008 and is only the 6th player to do so, then win the Women's Title.

Jakhar Claimed Hammer Gold

- India won four medals a gold, a silver and two bronze on the first day of the four-day event in Gifu, Japan at the 2018 Asian Junior Athletics Championships.
- Ashish Jakhar set a new national record en route to winning a gold medal in the men's hammer throw event.
- Jakhar, a former gold medalist at the 2016 Asian Junior Championships, threw the 6 kg iron ball and chain to a distance of 76.86m.

Mithali Becomes 1st to Score 2000 Runs in T20

- Star batswoman Mithali Raj became the first Indian cricketer to amass 2000 runs in Twenty20 Internationals (T20I).
- Mithali is the seventh woman to reach 2,000-runs, a list which is being headed by Charlotte Edwards, followed by Stafanie Taylor and Suzie Bates.
- India men's team captain Virat Kohli is the next Indian on the list, followed by Rohit Sharma and Suresh Raina.

ICC added 4 Teams to the ODI Team Rankings

- Netherlands, Nepal, UAE & Scotland have been added by ICC to the list of ODI-Test playing nations, expanding the teams from 12 to 16.
- Netherlands secured its ODI status by winning the ICC World Cricket League Championship last year.
- Whereas, UAE, Nepal and Scotland earned it in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2018, by finishing as the three leading Associates.

Defence

Naval Exercise RIMPAC to Begin in Hawaii

- The world's largest biennial multilateral naval exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) will begin on 27th June off cost Hawaii in the Western Pacific Ocean.

- Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri will participate in the 26th edition of RIMPAC exercise.
- **India's participation in the exercise provides a platform for increased interoperability and understanding of maritime security operations.**

BRO Opens Bridge from Leh to Siachen

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on opened a vital 35-meter bridge in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir that will ease vehicular movement to the base camp of Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.
- The 35-meter long 'Chamesahn' bridge is under Project HIMANK.
- The BRO develops road networks in border areas & maintains over 32,885 km of roads & 12,200 m of bridges.

India and Seychelles Signed 6 Agreements

- India and Seychelles signed six MoUs in areas of naval cooperation, cybersecurity, culture, development projects.
- India extended a line of credit worth 100 million USD for Seychelles.
- India would also provide special grants in civilian infrastructure projects and enhance defence and maritime capabilities.
- PM also handed over a replica of Dornier Aircraft to President of Seychelles.

Navy Chief Admiral Lanba to Visit Bangladesh

- Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Lanba will be on a five day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.
- The visit is aimed at consolidating bilateral defence relations between India and Bangladesh and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation.
- The Admiral Lanba will inaugurate the first edition of Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT).

US & South Korea Suspend Training Exercises

- The United States and South Korea have agreed to indefinitely suspend two exchange program training exercises.
- The announcement comes on the heels of the summit in Singapore between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.
- Freedom Guardian along with two Korean Marine Exchange Program training exercises have been suspended.

Indian Peacekeepers in Sudan Awarded UN Medal

- The 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group was awarded the United Nations Medal for selfless service in the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.
- Indian Battalion played an active and decisive role in ensuring peace and stability in Jonglei State.

- India is a leading contributor to the United Nations Peacekeeping missions. India contributes over 6,000 troops in 14 missions across the world.

Dhanush Artillery Gun Clears Final Trials

- The indigenously upgraded artillery gun Dhanush has successfully completed final user trials and is ready for induction into the Army.
- Dhanush is an upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun procured by India in the mid-1980s.
- This was the third and final phase of user exploitation firings in which six Dhanush guns were fired in battery formation at the Pokhran field firing range.

Year of Disabled Soldiers In Line of Duty

- To honour soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty, while serving the Nation and to celebrate the **undying spirit of 'Soldiering', Indian Army is observing the year 2018 as the 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty'**.
- The primary focus is towards alleviating the sufferings of these soldiers
- The endeavour this year is to provide a one-time financial assistance to disabled soldiers.

South Korean War Games in Dokdo Island

- South Korea began a 2-day war game on 18 June 2018 to defend disputed Dokdo island against Japan which involves 6 warships and 7 aircraft.
- Seoul Controls the islands in the sea of Japan since the end of Japanese colonial rule on the Korean peninsula.
- Tokyo also claims the islands which are known as Takeshima in Japan and accuse Seoul of occupying them illegally.

Malabar 2018 to Conclude on June 16

- The 22nd edition of the Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan and India kicked off on June 7 at Guam in the Pacific Ocean and will continue till June 16.
- This is the first time that the prestigious Malabar exercise is being conducted off Guam, a major US Naval Base in the Western Pacific.
- The Malabar exercise started in 1992 between the Indian Navy and the US Navy.

Pinaka Rocket Turned into Guided Missile

- The indigenous Pinaka rocket system of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is being evolved into a precision-guided missile.
- Pinaka rocket system is known for firing a salvo of 12 rockets in just 44 seconds, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.
- The rocket has been developed by the Armament cluster of the DRDO.

US Approves Sale of Apache Choppers to India

- The US government has approved a deal to sell six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India for \$930 million.
- The US will also provide night vision sensors, control radars, Hellfire Longbow missiles and Stinger air-to-air missiles to India under the deal.
- "(The helicopters) will increase India's capability to counter ground-armoured threats and modernise its armed forces," the US said.

India-Nepal Joint Ex SURYA KIRAN-XIII

- Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII, a joint military training exercise between India & Nepal culminated at Pithoragarh.
- The troops of both Armies participated in 14-day long joint training based on counter-terrorist operations.
- The training culminated with a 72-hour outdoor exercise in which troops of both contingents carried out a Cordon and Search Operation in a mock counter-insurgency village.

1st Indian-Made Artillery Gun Ready

- India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun 'Dhanush' has cleared its final test and is ready to be inducted into the Indian Army.
- Earlier this month, fifty rounds of shells each were fired from six Dhanush guns, which are reportedly called 'desi Bofors'.
- The gun also passed the tests in cold, humid, and hot conditions.

CAG to Audit Rafale Procurement after Payment

- CAG will audit the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets from France only after the "deal is fully executed and the payments are completed".
- The ₹59,000 cr deal became controversial after the Congress claimed that the current deal is more expensive than the one struck during the UPA government.
- The Dassault Rafale is a French twin-engine, multirole fighter aircraft.

DAC Approves Procurement of Radars

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of high powered radars for the Indian Air Force and air cushion vehicles for the Army and the Coast Guard together worth over Rs. 5,500 crore.
- The 12 high power radars will be procured **indigenously under the 'Buy (Indian) IDDM' category**.
- The radars will have the capability to scan 360 degrees without mechanical rotation of Antenna,

India, US, Japan to Begin Naval War Game

- India and its two strategic partners - the US and Japan - held the Malabar Naval exercise from next week off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea.

- It will aim to deepen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region where China has been expanding its military footprint.
- Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.

India Test-Fires Nuclear Capable Agni-5

- India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable long-range ballistic missile Agni-5 from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- Unlike other missiles of the series, Agni-5 is the most advanced with new technologies in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.
- The missile has been developed by DRDO and has a strike range of 5,000 kilometers.

Malabar 2018 to be Held Off Coast of Guam

- Naval ships, aircraft & personnel from India, Japan & US participated in the 2018 Malabar exercises off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea.
- Malabar for the first time was conducted off the coast in the Philippine Sea which included both ashore & at-sea training.
- Training was focused on high-end warfighting skill sets, medical operations & anti-submarine warfare among others.

Polity

Delhi Accepted full Statehood Proposal

- Delhi Vidhan Sabha accepted the resolution on full statehood to the city.
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said that the capital has been deprived of its basic rights unlike other states, which has affected the development of the city.
- Kejriwal promised that if Delhi gets statehood then every family will get one home, people will have jobs.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Ordinance 2018

- The President gave assent to promulgate the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.
- The Ordinance provides significant relief to home buyers by recognizing their status as financial creditors.
- This would give them due representation in the Committee of Creditors and make them an integral part of the decision making process.

Govt to have quota in promotions for SC/ST

- The Supreme Court has allowed the Centre to provide reservation in promotions for SC/ST employees in all government departments till the issue is disposed of by the bench.
- A Bench of Justices A.K. Goel and Ashok Bhushan said nothing prevented the government from promoting employees in accordance with law.

- SC's 2006 judgment in the M. Nagaraj case was applicable to reservation in promotion.

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